

dealings he is thoroughly honorable, reliable and progressive, so that his rest is well deserved and none can envy him his success, so honorably has it been won and so worthily used.

RACINE SHOE MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

Among the important business enterprises of Racine which have contributed in large measure to the substantial development of the city is the Racine Shoe Manufacturing Company, which was organized in 1902 with Sands M. Hart as president, L. J. Elliott, secretary and treasurer, and Fred C. Goff as general manager. The plant of the company was located originally at the corner of Wisconsin and Seventh streets, but with the demand for larger quarters, a removal was made in 1906 to 1320 Clark street. In 1914 Mr. Goff was elected president of the company and in 1916 Jens Jensen became president, with Fred C. Goff as secretary and treasurer and L. J. Elliott as vice president. The plant includes thirty-five thousand square feet of floor space, occupying a building three stories in height, with basement. They manufacture a special line of men's fine Goodyear welt shoes and the product is sold extensively over this country and is sent to many points abroad, including Denmark, France, Australia, South America and Africa. They employ from one hundred and eighty-five to two hundred operators in the factory, mostly skilled labor, and their plant is equipped with the most modern machinery for the making of shoes and is operated by steam and electric power. They sell to the retail trade and are represented upon the road by fourteen traveling salesmen, who thoroughly cover American territory. The business has gradually grown and developed during the fourteen years in which it has been conducted under the present organization.

FRED C. GOFF.

For forty years Fred C. Goff has been continuously connected with the shoe trade and is now secretary and treasurer of the Racine Shoe Manufacturing Company. The thoroughness with which he has mastered every phase of the business has been one of the strong forces in his growing success and he has earned for himself an enviable reputation as a careful business man who, in all of his dealings, is known for his prompt and honorable methods, which have won for him the deserved and unbounded confidence of his fellowmen.

Mr. Goff was born in Steuben county, New York, November 13, 1858, a son of Warren W. and Lucina (Pixley) Goff, who were likewise natives of the Empire state, where the father carried on business as both a farmer and contractor. His father was William W. Goff, who built the first brick house in Steuben county, where he was a pioneer settler and became an extensive land owner. He also owned a large carding mill and was prominently associated with the early development and progress of that section.

Fred C. Goff supplemented a public school education by a course in the high school at Hornellsville, New York, and for two years read law, but decided that he preferred other business pursuits rather than law practice and in 1876 made his initial step in the shoe trade. In 1895 he came to Racine and organized the Racine Shoe Company, becoming superintendent of the factory. In time this was merged into the Jones-Earl Shoe Company which in 1902 was taken over by the Racine Shoe Manufacturing Company, with Fred C. Goff as the general manager. He continued as such until 1914, when he was elected president of the company and in 1916 he became secretary and treasurer. This is one of the large manufacturing interests of the state and its output not only covers a large territory in the United States, but is also sent extensively to foreign lands. Under the guidance of Mr. Goff in his various official relations the business has rapidly developed along substantial lines until employment is now furnished to about two hundred operatives in the factory, while the house is represented upon the road by fourteen traveling salesmen. With the growth of the business Mr. Goff has taken over more and more of the stock until he is now the heaviest stockholder.

In 1882 Mr. Goff was united in marriage to Miss Ella S. Burrell, of New York, and to them have been born two daughters: Mary E., the wife of George S. Bliss, of Racine; and Fannie, at home. Mrs. Goff is a daughter of Allen Minor Burrell, a second cousin of General Benjamin Butler. Her father has in his possession the watch that was taken from Benjamin Arnold, the Revolutionary war traitor, when he was captured. Both Mr. Goff's family and his wife's family are of English lineage and both were established on American soil in colonial days. Politically Mr. Goff is a republican and his broad reading enables him to support his position by intelligent argument. He belongs to the Commercial Club and the National Chamber of Commerce, while his fraternal relations are with the Masons and the Elks. His position, established by the consensus of opinion on the part of his fellowmen, is that of one of Racine county's most prominent, capable and respected citizens. In no sense a man in public life he has, nevertheless, exerted an immeasurable influence on the city of his residence; in business life as a promoter of extensive manufacturing and commercial enterprises; in social circles of Racine as a man of a charming personality and unfeigned cordiality; in politics by reason of his public spirit and devotion to the general good, as well as by his comprehensive understanding of the questions affecting state and national welfare.

LOUIS H. ROHR.

Louis H. Rohr, an attorney of Burlington, Racine county, Wisconsin, was born on a farm in the town of Franklin, Milwaukee county, Wisconsin, on the 25th day of April, 1864, and is a son of Jacob Rohr, a native of Switzerland, who came to this country with his parents in the year 1832. The family settling in Rochester, New York, where he grew to manhood and married Sophia Roehrig, a native of Prussia. In 1857 they moved to Wisconsin and purchased a farm, whereon Louis H. Rohr was born. In 1866 the family

moved to the town of Raymond, Racine county, where Louis H. Rohr grew to manhood, acquiring his education in the public schools of this state. He afterward taught school, studied law and was admitted to the bar of Wisconsin in 1892, and formed a law partnership with the Hon. Thomas M. Kearney, at Burlington. In 1893 the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Kearney removing to Racine and Mr. Rohr continuing in the practice of the law at Burlington, where he has gained a gratifying measure of success, having been engaged as counsel on one side or the other in most of the important litigation arising in the western part of Racine county.

Besides being actively engaged in the practice of the law, Mr. Rohr has at various times become interested in many of the important business and manufacturing interests in his city and county, and is now a director and vice president of the Bank of Burlington, one of the largest and soundest financial banking institutions in Racine county; he is also one of the founders and is a director and the secretary and treasurer of the Wisconsin Condensed Milk Company, the largest and most important manufacturing corporation in Burlington; he is also a director and secretary of the Burlington Brass Works, a large brass foundry located at Burlington, in all of which institutions he is financially interested. On the 23d of November, 1893, Mr. Rohr was united in marriage to Miss Ella Davis, of Milwaukee, a daughter of Charles M. Davis, a well known lake captain. To Mr. and Mrs. Rohr has been born a son, Charles Davis Rohr, who is now a student at Beloit College.

Mr. Rohr supports the candidates and measures of the republican party, as he believes its policies to be based upon sound principles of government, and he has served as city attorney and as a member of the school board but has not been a candidate for other office. He is identified with the Masonic lodge, chapter and commandery and the beneficent teachings of the craft find expression in his life. He has always remained a careful student of matters relating to jurisprudence and also of subjects of general interest and has an unusually fine library which affords him much enjoyment. He has not only gained recognition as an able and conscientious member of the bar but he has also gained a high place in the regard of his fellow citizens, because of his willingness to work for the general good.

ARTHUR J. JONAS.

Arthur J. Jonas, dealer in automobiles and proprietor of a garage in which he does both repairing and experimental work, was born in Racine, October 3, 1881, a son of Fred and Julia (Novatny) Jonas. The father, a native of Prague, Bohemia, came to Racine when twenty-four years of age. Fifty-two years ago he established the Bohemian paper *Slavie*, which he continued to edit and publish until 1904, when he retired and has since lived in Racine, enjoying a well earned rest.

Arthur J. Jonas, spending his youthful days in his parents' home, pursued his education in the graded and high schools of Racine to the age of nineteen years, when his textbooks were put aside and he made his initial step in the

business world. For two years he was employed at the engine works of F. J. Green and then embarked in the manufacture of dental supplies, building up a good business which eight years later he sold to eastern parties. He then organized the garage and bicycle business and he not only does repair but also experimental work in connection with automobiles. He possesses marked mechanical skill and ingenuity and in addition has that executive force which has enabled him to build up a good trade.

In 1906 Mr. Jonas was married to Miss Nora Larson, of Racine, and they have two children: Arthur O., nine years of age; and Dorothy Jeanette, who is in her fifth year. Mr. Jonas has always lived in Racine and by reason of his substantial qualities he has gained many friends among his numerous acquaintances in this city.

HENRY L. WRATTEN.

The welfare of a city does not depend so much upon the machinery of its government or even upon the men that occupy its offices as it does upon the business enterprises which promote its material growth and development, and each legitimate enterprise wisely conducted adds to the upbuilding of the city. In this connection, therefore, mention should be made of Henry L. Wratten, who was one of the organizers and from the beginning has been the president of the Racine Boiler & Tank Company, which started in business in October, 1913.

Mr. Wratten was born in Racine, January 17, 1860, a son of Jacob and Harriett (Biggs) Wratten, both of whom were natives of England, whence they emigrated to the new world. They established their home in New York and were married in Utica, that state, where they lived until 1844, when they came to Racine. The father was a carpenter contractor and became foreman of the car shops for the Western Union Railway, remaining active in industrial circles in this city up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1868. His widow survived for a long period, passing away in 1885.

Henry L. Wratten was the tenth in order of birth in a family of twelve children and after pursuing a public school education he learned the boiler making trade, giving close attention to every phase of the work and thus promoting his efficiency, which won him advancement from time to time until he became superintendent for the S. Freeman & Sons Mfg. Co. He was with that company for thirty-two years, acting as superintendent for twenty-six years—a fact which stands in incontrovertible evidence of his capability and trustworthiness and his marked devotion to the interests of the house which he represented. Ambitious, however, to engage in business on his own account, in October, 1913, he organized the Racine Boiler & Tank Company, of which he became the president, with James Fahey as the vice president and William Teubner as secretary and treasurer. They employ twelve men and do general contracting and job work in their line. Their plant is located in the Satterly building at Racine Junction and the business is proving a growing and profitable concern.

On the 15th of July, 1883, Mr. Wratten was united in marriage to Miss Stasia Santry, of Racine, who passed away December 5, 1893. On the 26th of April, 1896, Mr. Wratten was again married, his second union being with Miss Nettie Fahey, a daughter of Michael Fahey, an early settler of Racine. By this marriage there were born six children, namely: Harriet, who is deceased; Henry, Isabel, Mary, who has also passed away; Wendell and Frances.

Mr. Wratten casts an independent ballot, his vote being determined by the capability of the candidate. He is a member of the Commercial Club, which indicates his interest in the city's business welfare and development. He belongs to the Elks Lodge and in Masonry has attained the Knights Templar degree, being a worthy exemplar of the craft which is based upon a recognition of the brotherhood of man. He has long figured prominently in industrial circles in the city and his ability has brought him prominently to the front in this connection.

JOHN P. BARRY.

On the 1st of January, 1915, John P. Barry assumed the duties of the office of register of deeds and at the same time he is engaged in the abstract business in Racine, with which he has long been connected. He was born in Newton, Iowa, August 31, 1881, a son of David T. and Katherine (Flynn) Barry, the former a native of Westmoreland, Virginia, while the latter was born in Ireland. They were married in Chicago and in the year 1872 became residents of Iowa. The father's business was that of railroading for some years and afterward he became an iron molder, working at that trade until the time of his demise on the 7th of November, 1913. His widow now makes her home with her son, John P. The family has resided in Racine since 1891.

John P. Barry was a lad of but ten years when the family home was established in this city, so that he continued his education here as a public and high school pupil. Subsequently he entered the E. L. Casterton Business College, from which he was graduated in 1900, and he completed a course in the Racine City Business College by graduation with the class of 1902. On the 1st of February of the same year he secured a position in the Knight & Peck abstract office, where he remained until May 1, 1911, becoming during that period familiar with every phase of the abstract business. He then opened an abstract office on his own account and still continues. He has a complete set of books and has gained a large clientage in this connection, his business bringing him now a substantial return.

On the 26th of December, 1915, Mr. Barry was married to Miss Eleanor Agnes Graef, who was a registered nurse of St. Mary's Hospital. She was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a daughter of Peter and Katherine Graef, who were residents of Port Washington, Wisconsin, but have now passed away.

Mr. and Mrs. Barry both held membership in St. Patrick's Catholic church and he also belongs to the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Royal Arcanum. His political endorsement is given to the



JOHN P. BARRY

principles and candidates of the republican party. In 1904 he was a candidate for alderman in the fourth ward but was defeated by the Socialist League by a vote of seventeen. In the fall of 1914 he became the candidate of his party for the office of register of deeds and received the indorsment of the public at the polls, assuming the duties of that position on the 1st of January, 1915. His previous business experience had made him well qualified for this work and he is proving an able official.

WALLIS TRACTOR COMPANY.

The Wallis Tractor Company, of Racine, was organized about 1912, with H. M. Wallis as president and treasurer; H. M. Wallis, Jr., secretary, and Oliver P. Conger, director. Later there were added to the directorate W. C. Quarles, of Milwaukee, and P. H. Batten, of Racine. The company manufactures farm and road tractors which were designed by R. O. Hendrickson. The factory was at first located at Cleveland, Ohio, but was later moved to Racine to be closer to the J. I. Case Plow Works, who are the distributors of its product in the United States. The chief distinctive characteristic of its tractors is the frame construction, which consists of steel plate rolled up into a U shaped boiler construction in which all of the working parts of the tractor are mounted and run in a constant oil bath. Thus the frame of the tractor serves the dual purpose of being a frame and also the housing for the motor base, transmission and differential. The company has been fortunate enough to obtain a basic pattern on this original construction. By reason of its box girder frame construction the machine is unusually light for its strength and develops more horse power than any other tractor in the world. Its motor burns either kerosene or gasoline successfully, and the tractor can turn in a radius of its own wheel base, which is eight feet four inches. The tractor is today being sold all over the United States, for its value and efficiency are at once recognized by both the experienced and the inexperienced in the use of such machines. The factory contains seventy-five thousand square feet of floor space, is supplied with the best labor-saving machinery and devices and employs two hundred people, all skilled mechanics. The plant has a sprinkler system and there is every convenience for the development of the work, while the business management constitutes a splendid basis for the development of the trade.

H. M. WALLIS, JR.

H. M. Wallis, Jr., manager of the Wallis Tractor Company, which was organized in 1912, was born in Racine on the 24th of January, 1888, a son of H. M. and Jessie (Case) Wallis. He pursued his education as a student in Racine College, the Manor School at Stamford, Connecticut, and in the Hotchkiss School of Salisbury, Connecticut, and when his school-days were over he

returned to Racine, where he secured employment in the J. I. Case Plow Works. He advanced through all departments in the shop, gaining comprehensive knowledge of the business, and afterward traveled for the corporation out of the Dallas (Texas) office, representing the company in all for about five years. On the expiration of that period he was made manager of the Wallis Tractor Company, which was organized in 1912 for the manufacture of farm and road tractors. This business has rapidly developed and the value of its output has become widely known, so that the sale now extends widely over American territory.

In 1912 Mr. Wallis was married to Miss Gertrude Allen, of Stamford, Connecticut. He is identified with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and he has membership in the Country Club. He also belongs to the Commercial Club and in politics is a republican. He has neither time nor inclination to seek public office, however, as the development of his business claims his entire attention. He is a young man of keen discrimination and sound judgment and his executive ability and excellent management have brought to the concern with which he is connected a large degree of success.

GEORGE W. DROUGHT.

George W. Drought, who carries on farming on section 1, Norway township, is a worthy representative of one of the honored pioneer families of Racine county. His birth occurred in Norway township, October 18, 1869, his parents being William Beasley and Mary (Curren) Drought. The mother had been previously married, her first husband being Werley Drought, who was in the war. The father was born in Canada and was a son of George Drought, who brought his family to Racine county in 1838 from his old home in the Dominion. He was one of the earliest settlers of this locality and his first home here was a sod house. This was afterward replaced by a log dwelling and subsequently a frame house was erected. Amid pioneer scenes William Beasley Drought grew to manhood and in Norway township was married to Mrs. Mary (Curren) Drought, whose birth occurred in Raymond township, of which her father, Frank Curren, was one of the early settlers. The young couple took up their residence upon a farm in Norway township and Mr. Drought continued to follow agricultural pursuits throughout the remainder of his life. The first eighty acres which he owned was given him by his father, but as time passed and he prospered in his farm work he was able to extend the boundaries of his place until at the time of his death he owned five hundred acres. He served on the school board for a number of years and took a commendable interest in public affairs, supporting the men and measures of the republican party. Both he and his wife were faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church. To them were born five children: George W., Ernest F., who is engaged in running a sawmill in Waterford; Ira E., who lives on the old homestead; A. B., a resident of Raymond township, and Lucy, the wife of David Codfish, a farmer of Raymond township.

George W. Drought pursued his studies in the district schools of his native

township and on starting out in life for himself continued to follow the occupation to which he was reared, becoming a successful farmer. He is the owner of one hundred and ninety acres of excellent land and in connection with its operation follows dairying, keeping on hand full blooded Holstein cows for this purpose. In 1899 he erected a good residence and has also built a large barn and silo upon his place, which is known as the Pioneer Farm.

In 1899 Mr. Drought married Miss Delia M. Olsen, who was born in Waterford and is a daughter of Halver Olsen, one of the early settlers of Norway township now residing in Waterford. Mrs. Drought received an excellent education, attending the Rochester Academy and also the State Normal at White-water. For two years she taught school at Waterford and for the same length of time at Yorkville. For five years she was in charge of the Drought school and for two years held a position in a graded school at Waterford. She was a very successful teacher, having the ability to impart clearly the knowledge that she had acquired. To Mr. and Mrs. Drought were born four children, those still living being Merle Irene, George Delwing and William Donald.

Mr. and Mrs. Drought hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which they take an active interest, and politically Mr. Drought favors the prohibition party. He has served on the school board for many years and has done much to promote the moral, intellectual and material welfare of his community. He well merits the confidence reposed in him by his fellow citizens and wherever known is held in high regard.

JOHN O. JONES.

John O. Jones, conducting an extensive contracting business under the name of the Western Improvement Company, has built up a business of large and gratifying proportions in street paving, a business that extends over many adjoining states. Mr. Jones was born in Llanfairfechan, Wales, on the 23d of June, 1856, and is a son of Owen and Ann (Jones) Jones, both representatives of old families that have lived in that section of Wales for hundreds of years. The family on one side were farmers and on the other were granite quarrymen. The parents of John O. Jones spent their entire lives in Wales and in that country the son was reared and educated. He became a granite worker and was thus employed until 1883, when at the age of twenty-six years he left home and sailed for the United States.

Making his way at once to Wisconsin, Mr. Jones settled in Green Lake county and secured employment at a granite quarry, where he worked for about nine years. He then came to Racine and entered the business of street paving under his own name. Later he was joined by his sons under the style of John O. Jones & Sons and in 1908 the business was reorganized under the name of the Western Improvement Company, with John O. Jones as the first president and his son and namesake secretary and treasurer. This company operates in Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan and the Dakotas and confines their attention exclusively to street paving. This is the largest concern of the kind in Racine and the business has now reached gratifying proportions. Mr.

Jones is a self-made man who started out empty handed but has steadily worked his way upward along progressive lines and is now doing a business of about three hundred thousand dollars per year.

In 1887 Mr. Jones was married to Miss Mary Jones, who was born in northern Wales in 1858, and they have become parents of five children: Hugh, deceased; Anna, the wife of A. F. Donald, of Stockton, California; John O., who is secretary and treasurer of the Western Improvement Company; Susan, the wife of George W. Jones, cashier of the Western Improvement Company; and Beatrice, at home.

Mr. Jones and his family are all members of the Welsh Presbyterian church and for a number of years he has been chairman of its board of trustees. In 1911 he erected one of the finest homes of the city, so that his family is most comfortably located and their beautiful residence is attractive not only by reason of its pleasing architecture and tasteful furnishings but also by reason of its warm-hearted hospitality. In his political views Mr. Jones is an earnest republican and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day although not ambitious to hold office. Fraternally he is a Mason of high rank, having attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite, and for twenty years he has been a loyal member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. From early manhood a resident of Wisconsin, he has throughout the entire period so directed his interests that success in large measure is his and at the same time his business methods may well set a standard for integrity as well as enterprise.

THE E. C. TECKTONIUS MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

The E. C. Tecktonius Manufacturing Company is a corporation, established in 1891 and incorporated in 1904, with office and factory buildings at 1224 Thirteenth street, and 1231-1233 Washington avenue, Racine, Wisconsin.

This company, like all other enterprises that have stood the test, was established in a small way in the rear of the residence of E. C. Tecktonius, and by his careful management has made possible a fastener for connecting or joining the two ends of a band on anything circular. This simple device is now in use throughout the entire United States and Canada, and many shipments have been made into foreign countries. This fastener is used exclusively by tank and silo manufacturers, also by tile, brick, and terra cotta manufacturers, railroads, and on trunk sewer lines.

The name "Tecktonius" is synonymous with this article and many specifications of the United States government, wherein this device is used, specify "Tecktonius" fasteners.

Since May, 1915, they have added to their line silo hardware, making it possible for every lumber dealer throughout the United States (54,000 of them in number), to sell silos to farmers with the same ease as they would sell a bill of lumber for a barn or house. The silo business, when summed up properly, is nothing more than lumber and hardware assembled, and with the E. C. Tecktonius Manufacturing Company's method it is possible for any

lumber dealer to engage in the sale of silos without a dollar of investment, saving the farmer, in turn, from fifty dollars to one hundred dollars on a silo that he would otherwise be obliged to pay if purchased from a silo manufacturer by reason of such manufacturer's selling and overhead expense.

FREDERICK A. TECKTONIUS.

Frederick A. Tecktonius, active, energetic, alert and progressive, is winning success for the E. C. Tecktonius Manufacturing Company as one of its officers. With this business he has been connected since his school days were over and, concentrating his efforts upon the further development of their trade, he is now contributing much to the success of the undertaking. He was born in Kenosha, September 19, 1878, a son of Emil C. and Bridget Ann (Hoye) Tecktonius, who were married August 15, 1867, in Kenosha. The father was a native of Sweden, born in 1846, and came to the United States when seventeen years of age, while the mother was born in Ireland and was brought to America during her infancy. For the past thirty years Mr. Tecktonius has devoted his energies to manufacturing and has made steady progress in that field, being the promoter of the E. C. Tecktonius Manufacturing Company, which has developed its business largely along the line of manufacturing hardware and specialties for silo building. In 1882 he removed with his family to Racine and has since occupied a creditable position in business circles but at the present time is largely leaving the control and management of his interests to others, while he is practically living retired.

To him and his wife have been born six sons and six daughters: Emil S., of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Margaret, deceased; George C., of Chicago; Agnes, who married Bror Johaneson and is living in Sweden; Frederick A. of this review; Leo, of Paris, France; Mary, the wife of Frederick Stern, of Kenosha; Jane, living at home; Edward, at home, and Clara, the wife of Harold Loebel, of Chicago. The other two children are also deceased.

Frederick A. Tecktonius obtained a public school education and also attended commercial college, and when the time came for him to start out in business he joined his father and is now manager of the E. C. Tecktonius Manufacturing Company, which is mentioned at length above. He has studied every phase of the business, knows wherein the output is superior to manufactures of similar character and is constantly striving to improve and develop the product as well as to extend the trade relations of the house. In addition to his activity along this line Mr. Tecktonius engaged quite extensively in raising Buff Leghorn chickens, of which he was a fancier and which he sold all over the world but has now disposed of his business in that connection.

On the 23d of June, 1901, Mr. Tecktonius was united in marriage to Miss Julia M. Crandle, of Racine, by whom he has a son, Cornelius. Mr. Tecktonius has membership with the Elks and also with the Commercial Club. He has always been a resident of southern Wisconsin and his fellow citizens in this part of the state have ever known him as an enterprising, wide-awake and progressive business man, ready to meet any emergency and never fear-

ing to venture where favoring opportunity points out the way. He is fortunate in that he possesses character and ability which inspire confidence in others, and the simple weight of his character and ability has carried him into important business relations. It is true that he entered upon a business already established, but in enlarging and controlling this many a man of less resolute spirit would have failed. His record illustrates, therefore, that success is not a matter of genius, as held by some, or of fortunate circumstances, but is rather the outcome of clear judgment and experience.

CHRIS SCHROEDER.

Chris Schroeder, who upon the foundation of broad, practical experience in agriculture has built his life work—that of disseminating useful knowledge concerning improved methods of farming and live stock breeding—is now live stock editor of the Wisconsin Agriculturist, published at Racine. He was born in Kewaunee, this state, December 31, 1880, a son of Frederick C. and Margaret (Hoeltz) Schroeder, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father was born in 1842 and with his parents came to the United States in 1853, the family home being established in Manitowoc county, Wisconsin, where they followed the occupation of farming. The life record of Frederick C. Schroeder covered seventy-two years, his death occurring in 1914. His wife was born in 1846 and was brought by her father to the new world in 1850, the Hoeltz family being also established in Manitowoc county. Three years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Frederick C. Schroeder removed to Kewaunee county, where they became pioneer settlers and farmers. Previous to his marriage Mr. Schroeder served for three years as a federal soldier in the Civil war, from 1862 until 1865, fighting in the Western Army at Vicksburg, along the Rio Grande and at Mobile.

Chris Schroeder, reared on the old homestead farm, obtained his education in the public and high schools of Kewaunee and afterward followed the profession of teaching for two years. A contemporary biographer, writing of his youthful days, said: "He received his early farm training under the guidance of his thrifty parents, and too, by working primarily before and after school hours. Many a 5 a. m. alarm saw the boy at chores and milking, and it is not unusual for him today to show visitors the sixty-acre farm where stood the young forest which was leveled to the ground with the help of his axe during vacation time. There was comparatively little so-called recreation for the boy Schroeder. The farm was paid for through the thrift of his parents and older brothers, but there were improvements necessary. He was anxious to help make it a success and he loved farming and work too much to idle long. The outdoors seemed to call him continually. He thrived behind the plow and mowing machine—the live stock seemed to know they were being handled by one who appreciated their qualities. His constant desire for knowledge led him into teaching at the rural school, for he has always contended that to know a thing one must be able to teach it. Then again it gave him the opportunity of trying out his theory that farm children

should be taught by one who knows farming and could intelligently interpret the lessons in a language they understood. Two years of this and he became hungry for a college training, so in 1902 he entered the Long Course in agriculture at the University of Wisconsin, graduated with honors, and remained at the university farm for a year, specializing in the care of beef cattle and breeding horse stock, assisting also in class work and live stock judging. Still intent upon making the teaching of better live stock his vocation, he accepted the position as instructor in animal husbandry at the Minnesota Agricultural College, and in June, 1908, assumed the responsibility of live stock editor with the Wisconsin Agriculturist, in which connection he has since continued, making his department of the paper one of extreme interest and value to the breeders and raisers of live stock. In this connection he has also served as the secretary of the Holstein-Friesian Breeders' Association of Wisconsin since March, 1913.

On the 9th of June, 1908, Mr. Schroeder was united in marriage to Miss Lillian Jordens, of Milwaukee, who passed away on the 2d of March, 1912. On the 1st of July, 1913, Mr. Schroeder was again married, his second union being with Beulah R. Sherburne, of Palmyra, Wisconsin. By his first wife he had one child, Gerda Leone, who was born on the 10th of December, 1909.

Mr. Schroeder exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party and, while not an office seeker, keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He belongs to the Equitable Fraternal Union and his life standards are drawn from the teachings of the Congregational church, his membership being now in Plymouth church of Racine. He belongs to the Commercial Club and is deeply interested in all of its proposed plans and projects for the improvement and development of the city. Of him it has been said: "All through his life a tireless worker, a consistent thinker and a loyal friend, he numbers among his acquaintances most of the best farmers of the state. He seeks no glory other than that which is the natural result of helping others, and is acknowledged by many as being one of the best posted young men in animal husbandry in the state." Advancement has been his watchword and his entire life has been a stimulating influence for benefit in connection with every work that he has undertaken.

CLINTON SKEWES.

Clinton Skewes, who is operating the family homestead in Yorkville township, has a number of good dairy cows and ships milk extensively to Chicago. He is also doing considerable truck gardening and raises some grain. His birth occurred upon the farm which he is now cultivating, on the 14th of August, 1880, and he is a son of Hannibal and Eliza (Phillips) Skewes, natives of Cornwall, England, born in 1838 and 1840, respectively. The mother was brought to this country by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Phillips, who were among the first settlers of Racine county, Wisconsin. The father came to the United States when twenty years of age and joined an uncle living in Yorkville township. Later he engaged in farming on his own account and

became the owner of one hundred acres of fine land. He was a republican with prohibition tendencies and was for years a local preacher in the Methodist Episcopal church. He and his wife were married in Yorkville township in 1864 and passed the remainder of their lives here, his death occurring in 1912 and hers in 1903. Of their six children four survive, namely, Edward Henry, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work; Manly, who is train dispatcher in the employ of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad at Minneapolis; Clinton and Lillie, the wife of Darriek West, a farmer of Raymond township.

Clinton Skewes obtained his education in the district schools of Yorkville precinct and is indebted to his father for his early and thorough training in agricultural work. He has continued to farm and now owns the home place, to which he has added forty acres, thus bringing his holdings up to one hundred and forty acres, and not only is the land fertile and highly cultivated but the buildings upon the place are modern and up-to-date. He has a large dairy and ships milk to Chicago, finding this business very profitable. He also raises cabbage for the city markets and likewise grows corn and other grain. He manages all branches of his work well and receives a gratifying financial return from his land.

Mr. Skewes was married on the 26th of June, 1912, to Miss Grace Vyvyan, a daughter of William Vyvyan, a pioneer of Racine county. He followed the butcher's trade for many years, accumulating a competence, and was widely known.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Skewes are prominent in the work of the Methodist Episcopal church and he is now serving as president of its board of trustees. He is a republican in politics and is also a firm believer in the wisdom of prohibiting the liquor traffic. Although he gives the greater part of his time and attention to his farm work he finds opportunity to co-operate with others in furthering movements for the general good and his public spirit is generally recognized.

MORRIS JORGENSEN.

Morris Jorgensen, who is successfully engaged in dairying and stock raising in connection with the production of grain in Yorkville township, was born in Denmark on the 30th of July, 1867. His parents, Hans Mikkel and Lena (Anderson) Jorgensen, were also natives of that country, where they passed their entire lives. The father, who was born June 27, 1822, engaged in farming for many years, dying in February, 1909, upon the homestead, which is now in possession of one of his sons. There are eight children living, namely: Richard, who is farming the home place in Denmark; Morris; Antonia, the wife of Christ Sorensen, of Somers township; Hans and Edward, both residents of Yorkville township; Annie, the wife of James Johnson, a tailor of Kenosha; and Laura and Mary, both of whom are still residing in Denmark.

Morris Jorgensen was educated in the district schools of his native coun-



MR. AND MRS. MORRIS JORGENSEN

try but when fourteen years of age left home and began his independent career. A number of years later, in 1890, he emigrated to America and made his way to this country, where he arrived in March. He worked for a farmer in Yorkville township for some time and later rented land for eight years, but at the end of that time purchased the property, which he subsequently sold. He then bought his present farm, which comprises one hundred and twenty acres in Yorkville township, and he has erected good buildings upon the place and otherwise added to its value. The prosperity which he enjoys is doubly creditable because it is the direct reward of his labor and good management. He has a number of Holstein and Durham cattle and in addition to raising cattle for the market also feeds other stock. He is also engaged in dairying to some extent.

Mr. Jorgensen was married in 1894 to Miss Christine Anderson, who was born in Raymond township, Racine county, and is a daughter of Peter and Karen (Nelson) Larsen, natives of Denmark, who in 1869 crossed the Atlantic to the United States and located in Racine county, Wisconsin. The father farmed in Raymond township until his demise late in 1873. It was on the 4th of May, 1874, that his daughter, Mrs. Jorgensen, was born. In the same year the mother became the wife of Jorgen Anderson and the children of that marriage are: George, who died when nineteen years of age; Annie, the wife of James Christensen of Raymond; Mary, the wife of William Peterson, also of Raymond; James, who is superintendent of a farm in Yorkville township; Emma, the wife of James Gabrielsen; and Ida, the wife of William Peterson, of Yorkville. Mr. and Mrs. Jorgensen have two children, Florence and Edward, both at home.

Mr. Jorgensen supports the republican party at the polls but has never been an aspirant for political preferment. He was reared in the Lutheran church and has conformed his life to its teachings. During the quarter of a century in which he has been a resident of Racine county he has won a high place in the estimation of his fellow citizens and has many personal friends.

F. B. SWINGLE.

F. B. Swingle, who since 1912 has been associate editor of the Wisconsin Agriculturist, although he began writing for publication long prior to that date, was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, March 8, 1876, a son of Warren W. and Frankie (Bell) Swingle. The parents were also natives of Rock county and the mother was a daughter of Adam Bell, one of the early pioneer settlers of the state, who on removing westward from New York in 1838, passed through Racine and established his home in Rock county, having made the trip to Racine by water, and farther west with an ox team. The paternal grandfather, Justice Cobb Swingle, was a native of Pennsylvania and he arrived in the Badger state in 1835. He married Maria Clark, a native of Vermont, and they shared in all of the hardships and privations incident to life on the frontier and contributed to the pioneer development of the state which has constituted the preliminary step toward present day progress and prosperity.

After attaining his majority Warren W. Swingle took up the occupation of farming in Rock county, making his home near Clinton, and became recognized as one of the representative agriculturists of the community.

F. B. Swingle supplemented his public school training by study in the State Normal School at Whitewater and afterward took up the profession of teaching, which he followed successfully for ten years in Kenosha and Racine counties. On the expiration of that period he was appointed to a position in the Racine postoffice, where he remained until 1912, when he was made a member of the editorial staff of the Wisconsin Agriculturist. He had long been deeply interested in the development of the state in connection with its farming and educational interests and in early manhood had taken up literary work, contributing various articles to farm journals. He is now concentrating his entire attention upon his duties as associate editor and has contributed to the success won by the Agriculturist, which has today scarcely a peer in farm journals in the country.

On the 14th of November, 1899, Mr. Swingle was united in marriage to Miss Anna Bose Wensing, of Kenosha county, Wisconsin, by whom he has two children, Esther and Everett. The family attend the Methodist Episcopal church, of which the parents are members, and Mr. Swingle gives his political allegiance to the republican party. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons and his interest in local affairs and municipal progress is shown by his hearty co-operation with the work of the Commercial Club, in which he holds membership. He is alert and enterprising and stands as a high type of American manhood and citizenship.

NELS CHRISTENSEN.

Nels Christensen, senior partner in the firm of N. Christensen & Son, conducting a real estate, insurance and loan business, was born in Denmark on the 25th of March, 1869, his parents being Nels C. and Mattie K. (Nielsdatter) Christensen, who spent their entire lives in Denmark. The son pursued his education in the schools of that country until seventeen years of age, when he came to the United States, after which he spent a year as a pupil in a country school. He afterward began work as a laborer and later learned the moulder's trade, which he followed through much of the time for fifteen years. In 1903, however, he turned his attention to the real estate business in connection with Jacob Anderson and the partnership existed until about seven years ago. Following its dissolution Mr. Christensen organized the present firm of N. Christensen & Son and still conducts a real estate, insurance and loan office, each department of his business proving profitable as the result of the liberal clientele which he has won. His business methods are thoroughly progressive and reliable and have gained for him unqualified confidence and regard. In addition to negotiating property transfers he has done some speculative building, erecting houses which he sells on the installment plan.

In 1890, when twenty-one years of age, Mr. Christensen was married to Miss Elsie Johanna Christensen and they have become parents of four children :

Emma, the wife of Roy Leonard, of Racine; Harold, in business with his father; Cora, a teacher in the Gilbert Knapp school; and Elizabeth, who is assisting in her father's office.

In his political views Mr. Christensen has been a republican since securing the right of franchise and for a term and a half was supervisor from the ninth ward. He is a member of the Congregational church and also of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Racine and he is supreme secretary of the Danish Society, a position which indicates his high standing among his fellow countrymen in this state. His determination to come to the new world has received its indorsement in the success which he has won and in the position to which he has attained, and there is no more loyal resident of Racine than this adopted son of America.

PETER MAURICE.

Peter Maurice, a successful dairyman, living in Yorkville township, is entitled to the credit which is given a self-made man, for he has depended entirely upon his own resources for advancement. He was born in Yorkville township on the 13th of December, 1868, a son of Phillip and Mary (Gudenkauf) Maurice, both of German birth. The father's natal year was 1825 and the mother was born on the 13th of July 1838. Phillip Maurice came to America with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Maurice, in 1846, and the family located in Racine county, where Edward Maurice died soon afterwards. The son, Phillip, devoted his time to agricultural pursuits for many years and acquired a large tract of land, most of which, however, he sold to his sons before his demise, which occurred in 1912. He was a member of the Catholic church and in politics was a democrat. He was married in this county to Miss Mary Gudenkauf, a daughter of John Gudenkauf, who came to Racine county in the '60s, but later went to Iowa, where he farmed until his death. Mrs. Maurice is still living. Of their family of five children only two survive: Edward Emerson, who is farming in Nebraska; and Peter.

The latter was educated in the district and parochial schools and after putting aside his textbooks concentrated his energies upon farming, working with his father until he attained his majority. He then went to Racine, where he was employed in a factory for three years, after which he farmed in Minnesota for one year. He then removed to Nebraska and for a year conducted a pool room, but at the end of that time purchased the homestead of one hundred and thirty-three acres in Yorkville township. He does general farming, but pays greater attention to dairying than to any other phase of his business. He has high grade cows, has thoroughly equipped and sanitary barns and is careful to see that the milk is not contaminated in any way. He keeps everything about the place in excellent condition and has made a number of improvements upon the farm, including the remodeling of his residence.

Mr. Maurice was married in 1900 to Miss Matilda Stollenwerk, a daughter of Hubbard and Magdalena Stollenwerk, of Paris township. There were six children in the Stollenwerk family, four sons and two daughters: Mary, de-

ceased; Michael; Joseph; John; Matilda; and Oscar, all living in Paris township, Kenosha county, Wisconsin. To Mr. and Mrs. Maurice eight children have been born, namely: Lorenzo, Olga, Eleanor, Mary, Vera, Alvin, Esther and Helen.

Mr. Maurice casts a non-partisan vote, refusing to follow the dictates of a party leader, but supporting the candidates whom he deems best fitted for the office in question. In religious faith he is a Roman Catholic. A man of industry, he possesses excellent business ability and his continued success seems assured.

WILLIAM P. HECKEL.

The history of a city is not the record of any one enterprise, important and extensive as it may be, but is the outcome of the aggregate effort of many who are controlling various lines of trade and commerce. Every new undertaking adds to the commercial activity and therefore to the consequent development of the city. Among the newer business concerns of Racine is the Racine Welding & Cutting Company, which was organized June 1, 1915, by William P. Heckel and William H. Larkin, with plant at No. 229 Wisconsin street. This firm does acetylene welding and cutting, both heavy and small work, and job work for factories, and the business is growing along substantial lines.

Mr. Heckel was born in Milwaukee, September 19, 1890, and after obtaining a public school education learned the welding trade in the establishment of A. O. Smith of Milwaukee, there remaining for six years, a fact indicative of his efficient workmanship and his fidelity. In September, 1914, he came to Racine and for a short period was employed in the garage of M. E. Laux. He then established business on his own account by forming a partnership with William H. Larkin on the 1st of June, 1915, when they opened their present establishment. In addition to doing job work for factories and other work they manufacture to some extent and employ four people who are skilled in this particular line. Their trade has already reached gratifying proportions and their success is steadily growing.

Mr. Heckel, being a young man, realizes that it is necessary to concentrate his efforts closely upon the upbuilding of his trade and win success through worth and energy. Those who have met him in business relations speak of him in terms of high regard, and those who know him socially entertain for him warm friendship.

WILLIAM H. LARKIN.

William H. Larkin, who dates his residence in Racine from 1914, is now a partner in the Racine Welding & Cutting Company, in which undertaking he is associated with William P. Heckel. He was born in Maywood, a suburb of Chicago, April 5, 1890, and obtained his early education in the public schools

there, after which he entered the Lewis Institute of Chicago and was graduated in 1909 on the completion of a course in electrical engineering. He received mechanical training also and for two years was employed by the American Can Company of Chicago at their factory in Maywood. He later went to Janesville, Wisconsin, where for three years he engaged in the produce business, and in 1914 came to Racine. Here he entered the employ of the Siverkrop Engine Company, with which he continued until February 3, 1916, when he joined William P. Heckel in organizing the Racine Welding & Cutting Company. In this business he has since engaged and the growth of their trade is now indicated by the fact that they employ four skilled workmen. They do acetylene welding and cutting and among their patrons are many of the factories of the city.

FRED H. SCHULZ.

Fred H. Schulz, who in the conduct of a real estate business has aided in the development of important additions and in negotiating many important property transfers in Racine, his native city, was born on the 17th of March, 1885, a son of John and Minnie (Teske) Schulz, both of whom were natives of Germany. They came to the United States in 1866, establishing their home in Racine, where the father engaged in business as a carpenter contractor, being identified with building operations for a number of years, but now living retired.

After passing through consecutive grades in the public schools Fred H. Schulz was graduated from the Racine high school with the class of 1901, giving considerable attention during his high school days to the commercial course and later pursuing a commercial course in the Wisconsin Business College. He has been identified with the insurance business since 1901 and in 1907 he entered into partnership with L. O. Mann for the conduct of a real estate and insurance business. That association was maintained until 1912, when the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Schulz organized the F. H. Schulz Company to operate in the same line in which he had formerly been engaged. While associated with Mr. Mann he was active in putting upon the market the Mound addition in 1911. He now conducts a general real estate, insurance and loan business and deals in mortgage bonds and other commercial paper. He has built up the business to large proportions, necessitating the employment of several men, and his career is actuated by a spirit of indomitable energy and enterprise. His high position in the regard of those devoting their energies to similar lines is indicated by the fact that he is now secretary of the real estate board of Racine, while in 1914 he was honored with the presidency of the Wisconsin Association of Real Estate Brokers. Neither has he confined his attention alone to this line, for he became one of the organizers and the secretary of the Call Publishing Company, which is now the Times-Call Company, and he still retains the position of secretary. He is also the secretary of the insurance board and his comprehensive knowledge of insurance and real estate

business, resulting from broad, practical experience and wide study, enables him to speak with authority upon these questions.

Mr. Schulz is well known in fraternal circles as a member of Belle City Lodge No. 92, F. & A. M., and Racine Chapter, R. A. M. He belongs also to the Royal Arcanum, the Knights of Pythias and the Dramatic Order of the Knights of Khorassan. He is likewise a member of the Commercial Club and in politics is a republican, while his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the German Baptist church, of which he is now the treasurer. For the past two years he has been a member of the library board of Racine and in many other ways has given tangible evidence of his deep interest in the welfare and progress of the city, being ever among the first to respond to any call to further municipal interests.

RUDOLF M. SORENSEN.

Rudolf M. Sorensen, conducting a large and profitable moving and storage business, with warehouse at No. 516 Center street in Racine, was born in Denmark, August 30, 1886, a son of Rasmus and Mary Sorensen, who came to the United States nine years ago and are now living in Racine.

Rudolf M. Sorensen was reared and educated in Denmark and there learned the butcher's trade, at which he worked in his native country until he came to this city. Following his arrival here he again followed the butchering business for three years, after which he became associated with the moving and storage business, with warehouse at No. 516 Center street. He utilizes two big auto trucks, one of which is the largest in Racine, and he also has two teams. Something of the growth and volume of the business is indicated by the fact that in a single week in July, 1916, he took three loads to Chicago and also three to Milwaukee. He has long distance telephone connection with the cities as well as the local telephone lines to aid in facilitating his business, and careful and intelligent management of his interests has brought to him substantial and well deserved success.

In 1912 Mr. Sorensen was married to Miss Theresa Sorensen and they have two children, Leonard and Arnold. He maintains a non-partisan attitude in politics and has never been a seeker for office. He is a member of the Danish Society and is much interested in efforts to promote the welfare and progress of the district in which he lives.

HENRY SHUMAN.

The rich farming district of Racine county furnishes splendid opportunities to the agriculturist and dairyman, and among the enterprising and prosperous farmers of the locality is numbered Henry Shuman, who is now comfortably situated in life. He makes his home near Franksville and is numbered among the native sons of Raymond township, his birth having there occurred June 21,

1867. His parents, Fred and Margaret (Hansen) Shuman, were natives of Denmark, the former born August 26, 1833, and the latter August 15, 1826. They were married in Raymond township, Racine county, where Mr. Shuman had located at a very early period in its development. He had been a sailor of Denmark and sailed the seas for years, visiting almost every point of the globe. At length he determined to retire from that life and became a resident of Racine county, purchasing a farm of forty acres in Raymond township. At length he disposed of that property and bought another farm of sixty acres. Still later he sold that tract and invested in a farm near North Cape. In 1881 he purchased his present farm, comprising eighty acres. He belonged to the Lutheran church, while his wife was a member of the Baptist church. She died May 9, 1889, and left behind her many warm friends. In politics Mr. Shuman is a democrat, but has never been an aspirant for office.

Henry Shuman, their only child, obtained his education in the district schools and took up the occupation of farming. He came into possession of his father's old homestead and has always carried on general agricultural pursuits. He also does considerable dairying, milking ten cows, keeping high grade Holsteins. His home is a commodious, pleasant and attractive farm residence and he has built upon his place an excellent barn and good silo. In a word, his is a well improved property and he is now most comfortably situated in life.

In January, 1891, Mr. Shuman was united in marriage to Miss Anna Christensen, a sister of Martin Christensen, who is mentioned on another page of this work. To them have been born six children, namely: Elmer, who died at the age of twenty years, and Edna, Russell, Ralph, Jeannette and Lorain, all of whom are still under the parental roof. The eldest daughter is a member of the Baptist church and the family help to maintain three neighboring churches, as they are all church workers. They are widely and favorably known in their part of the county, the hospitality of the best homes being cordially extended them.

WILLIAM H. HETZEL.

William H. Hetzel, conducting a general contracting electrical business, has been a lifelong resident of Racine, his birth having occurred in this city June 19, 1873, his parents being David and Mary L. (Wilken) Hetzel, who were pioneer residents here, the family having long been represented in Racine, where they have ever stood for substantial development and improvement. Passing through consecutive grades in the public schools, William H. Hetzel devoted one year of study in the high school and then started out in the business world, taking up carpentering, which he followed for a year. He next turned his attention to electrical work and thoroughly mastered various phases of the business, while in the employ of others. He early recognized the fact that industry wins and industry became the beacon light of his life. Earnest, persistent labor has brought him advancement and after working his way upward in the employ of others he embarked in business on his own account in

1897 at No. 321 Sixth street, where he remained until July, 1915, when he sought more commodious and convenient quarters at No. 511 Sixth street. Here he is now located, carrying on a general contracting electrical business, and the efficiency which he has attained in this line insures to him a liberal and growing patronage.

On the 6th of January, 1915, Mr. Hetzel was married to Miss Amanda Race, of Racine, and they have many friends here, occupying an enviable position in the social circles in which they live. Mr. Hetzel holds membership with the Knights of Pythias and also with the Spanish American War Veterans, for at the time of the war with Spain he enlisted for service in defense of American interests, becoming a member of Company F, First Wisconsin Infantry. In politics he maintains an independent attitude, voting for men and measures rather than for party. He has always lived in Racine and that his is a well spent life is indicated in the fact that many of his staunchest friends are those who have known him from his boyhood to the present time.

LAVINE GEAR COMPANY.

The Lavine Gear Company, which was organized in Detroit, removed its headquarters from that city to Wisconsin in March, 1912. Its plant was at first located at Corliss, Wisconsin, for eight months and at the end of that time a removal was made to Racine. The plant is located in the Satterly building and the company is engaged in the manufacture of auto steering gears for trucks and pleasure cars, these being built after their own design. They also manufacture a special steering gear for customers. Today the plant employs one hundred men who are skilled mechanics and its capacity amounts to one hundred and twenty-five gears per day, which are now used by seventy per cent of the trucks of the United States. Their shop is equipped with all modern machinery for gear making and theirs is the second largest concern of the kind in the United States. Its officers are Herman Uihlein, president and general manager; P. B. Wohlrab, vice president, superintendent and engineer; Fred Westfall, secretary and treasurer. The executive offices are maintained at Racine and E. M. Caskey acts as sales manager and D. L. Robertson as office manager.

PAUL B. WOHLRAB.

Paul B. Wohlrab, who is vice president, superintendent and engineer of the Lavine Gear Company, at Racine, has worked his way upward through the wise use of time, talents and opportunities and is now one of the executive officers in a business which ranks second in extent and importance in that line in the country. He was born in Germany, May 1, 1873, and was liberally educated, receiving both high school and technical training in his native country. He was a young man of seventeen years when in 1890 he made the voyage



P. B. WOHLRAB

to the new world, remaining a resident of Philadelphia for about one year, following which he came to Racine in 1891.

Mr. Wohlrab here entered the employ of the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company, with which he was associated for fifteen years, gaining constantly broadening experience and knowledge along lines which have qualified him to take up his present work. When he severed his connection with that corporation he became superintendent and manager of the Wisconsin Engine Company and so continued for eight years. He was next with the Maryland Steel Company at Baltimore, Maryland, as superintendent of all mechanical departments for about a year and then went to Detroit, where he accepted the position of general superintendent of the Lozier Motor Company and so remained for a year. He next became superintendent of the Racine Manufacturing Company and withdrew from that position to become one of the members of the Lavine Gear Company, which was established in Racine in 1912. He was elected vice-president, superintendent and engineer of the plant and in that official connection has since bent his energies to the further direction and control of the business. The positions which he has occupied and the testimony of his colleagues and contemporaries establish him as one of the best posted mechanical men of the country.

On the 29th of December, 1896, Mr. Wohlrab was united in marriage to Miss Annie Breitsprecher, of Racine, by whom he has four children: Verna, Helen, Arthur and Ethel.

Mr. Wohlrab is a member of Racine Lodge No. 18, F. & A. M., and Racine Council No. 12, R. & S. M. In politics he maintains an independent course, voting for the candidate whom he regards as best qualified for office. He concentrates every effort upon the development of his business and his marked ability enables him to speak with authority upon many lines of mechanical construction. He believes in the maxim, "There is no excellenee without labor," and has ever followed it closely. Practical experience and broad study have gained him wide knowledge and his scientific attainments establish his position in the foremost rank of mechanicians and engineers in the country.

DAVID HETZEL.

It is seldom that a man of eighty years is found still actively engaged in business, but David Hetzel still figures in the commercial circles of Racine and for almost forty years has conducted business at one location as proprietor of a men's furnshing goods and tailoring establishment. He was born on the 5th of Mareh, 1836, so that he is now an octogenarian. In the home of his parents, John and Barbara Hetzel, he spent the days of his boyhood and youth to the age of sixteen years, when he determined to try his fortune in the new world and bade adieu to friends and fatherland, sailing for the United States. For two years thereafter he remained a resident of Cincinnati, Ohio, and in 1854 came to Racine, where he began work at the tailor's trade, which he had previously learned in his native Germany. He was then a young man of eighteen years and through all the intervening period he has been connected with

the tailoring business in this city—a period longer than that of any other representative of the trade here. Desiring that his labors should more directly benefit himself, he carefully saved his earnings until industry and frugality brought him a sufficient sum of money to enable him to embark in business on his own account when, in 1877, he opened a tailoring shop on Sixth street, and here he has since remained in the same block, covering a period of thirty-nine years. He not only conducts a tailoring business, but also handles men's furnishing goods, and in both departments enjoys a satisfactory trade. He has kept abreast with changes in style, material and modes of workmanship as the years have passed and his ability has always secured to him a gratifying patronage.

In 1860 Mr. Hetzel was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Wilken, of Racine, a daughter of Frank and Mary Wilken, who emigrated to this country from Germany in an early day. By this marriage there were born seven children, as follows: Fred E., who is a resident of Racine; George, deceased; Emma, the wife of Buell B. Dutton, who conducts a machine shop in Oak Park, Illinois, and by whom she has two children; Otto; Clara; William; and Linda, who is the wife of Menzel Waite, a musician, residing in Racine.

After taking out his naturalization papers Mr. Hetzel did not ally himself with any political party, but has maintained an independent course, reserving the right to form his own judgment concerning the questions and issues of the day and the men whom he prefers to support for public office. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for here he found the business opportunities which he sought and in their utilization has made steady progress toward the goal of success. He has found, too, pleasant associations with many friends both of his own and other nationalities and he has deep attachment for the land of his adoption.

L. F. NELSON.

The firm of Nelson & Company, incorporated, general contractors, has done much for the improvement of the city along the line of architectural adornment since starting in business in 1895. L. F. Nelson, president of the corporation, is among the foreign-born citizens who have found in America the land of opportunity, enjoying the advantages offered in a country where labor and ambition are not hampered by caste or class. He was born in Denmark, June 29, 1868, and in 1887 arrived in Racine, being then a young man of nineteen years. He afterward engaged in farming for three years, although in his native land he had learned and followed the mason's trade. He did not find agricultural pursuits as congenial as he had anticipated and, returning to Racine, he again took up work at his trade, which has led him through the steps of an orderly progression to his present position of prominence and prosperity. He began general contracting in partnership with Robert P. Nelson in 1895 and that the firm stands foremost among the builders of the city is indicated in the important nature of the contracts that have been awarded them. They have done most of the building for the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Com-

pany for the past fifteen years, for the Belle City Malleable Iron Company and the Racine Rubber Company. They were the builders of the Elks Club, the First National Bank building, the West Racine school and many other large and fine structures of the city. During the busy season they employ from fifty to eighty men. In February, 1914, the business was incorporated under the name of Nelson & Company, Inc., of which L. F. Nelson is the president, with Robert P. Nelson as secretary and treasurer. The operations of the company have constantly broadened in scope and importance and there is no phase of the building contracting business with which they are not familiar.

On the 14th of September, 1893, Mr. Nelson was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Peterson, of Racine, who is a native of Indianapolis, Indiana, and a daughter of J. P. Reistrup. They now have three children, Elmer F., Harriet and George W. The family hold membership in the Bethany Lutheran church and Mr. Nelson belongs to the Dania Society. He is likewise a member of the Elks, while his identification with the Commercial Club is a manifestation of his deep and helpful interest in the city's welfare, its upbuilding and improvement. Diligence, energy and ambition have been guiding elements in his career and have enabled him to pass many others on the business highway and cross the threshold of success.

JOHN W. HAY.

Since 1901 John W. Hay has resided upon his present farm of one hundred and forty acres in Yorkville township, and has concentrated his energies upon the dairy business, shipping milk to Chicago. He was born in Raymond township, this county, on the 24th of August, 1853, a son of William and Mary (Coad) Hay, the former a native of Cumberland, England, and the latter of Cornwall. The paternal grandfather, Adam Hay, became a resident of Racine county and passed his last days here, but the grandmother died on the voyage across the Atlantic. The maternal grandfather was an early settler of Yorkville township, this county. William Hay was educated in England, but accompanied his parents to the United States and became a resident of Racine county, where he engaged in farming for many years, at the time of his death owning one hundred and eighty-five acres of good land. He was a member of the local Methodist Episcopal church which first held services in a mud house in the early days and he served as a church official. In politics he was a staunch republican, but never aspired to official preferment. He was married in Yorkville township to Miss Mary Coad and they became the parents of two children: John W. and a daughter, Jane, deceased. After the death of Mr. Hay the mother became the wife of James Hay, a brother of her first husband, and to this union was born a daughter, Elizabeth, also now deceased.

John W. Hay received his education in the district schools of Raymond township and was reared upon the home farm. He has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits and now holds title to one hundred and forty acres of well improved land. He has a full blooded Holstein bull and a number of high grade Holstein cows and he largely concentrates his energies upon dairy-

ing. He takes great care to insure the cleanliness of the milk which he sells and secures a good price for in Chicago. For a number of years he resided upon the family homestead, but fifteen years ago disposed of that place and purchased his present farm.

Mr. Hay was married in 1879 to Miss Mary Phillips, a daughter of Thomas Phillips, an early settler of Yorkville township. Mrs. Hay was born in this county and has resided here during her entire life. She has become the mother of three children: Stella E., the wife of Ernest Fivian, a farmer of this county, by whom she has three children, John Merrill, and Geraldine M. and Shirly R., twins, deceased; Phillip Thomas, who is at home and is nineteen years old, and William, who died at the age of nineteen years.

Mr. Hay is independent in politics and is now filling the office of supervisor. He is connected fraternally with the Foresters and both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church in the work of which they are active and in which he has held office for a considerable period of time. His success as a farmer and dairyman has been due entirely to his enterprise, the careful attention which he has given his business and his wise management of his affairs and he ranks among the able and prosperous residents of his township.

THOMAS F. MCGRAW.

Thomas F. McGraw, who for the past twenty-three years has conducted business as a retail shoe merchant at his present location, is one of the oldest representatives of trade interests on Sixth street, most of the merchants having come into active connection with the commercial life of Racine since he opened his store. A progressive spirit has at all time ruled his activities and sound judgment has guided his business transactions. He was born in Racine, December 15, 1869, a son of John C. and Julia (Powers) McGraw, both of whom were natives of Ireland. The father arrived here when a lad of but fourteen years and the mother also settled in Racine during the period of its early development. Mr. McGraw was a moulder by trade and utilized his skill in that direction to provide for the support of his family. Both he and his wife are now deceased.

After attending the public and high schools of Racine, Thomas F. McGraw started out in the business world as an employe of L. W. Philbrook, a shoe manufacturer, with whom he remained for ten years. His first position was a most humble and unimportant one, but gradually he worked his way upward through efficiency and fidelity until he was given charge of the shipping department. His desire to engage in business on his own account reached its fulfillment when, in 1893, when a young man of twenty-four years, he opened a retail shoe store which he has since conducted, remaining at the same location for almost a quarter of a century. There is today on Sixth street scarcely a merchant who was in business here when he opened his store and throughout all the intervening period he has maintained an unassailable reputation for progressiveness, reliability and enterprise.

On July 2, 1893, Mr. McGraw was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Baltes, of Racine, her parents being George and Lucy Baltes, who were early settlers of this city. Mr. and Mrs. McGraw now have three children, namely: Lucile, a high school graduate; Vincent, who is pursuing the engineering course in the University of Wisconsin, and Marcella, a high school student. The family are communicants of St. Rose Catholic church and Mr. McGraw is identified with the Knights of Columbus, which draws its membership from those of the Catholic faith. In the order he is past grand knight. His political opinions are not coerced by party affiliation, as he votes independently. He belongs to the Commercial Club and is ever ready and willing to co-operate in any movement that has for its object the benefit and betterment of the city. Here he has always lived and the circle of his friends includes many who have known him from his boyhood, a fact indicative of a well spent life.

HIGGINS SPRING & AXLE COMPANY.

The Higgins Spring & Axle Company is successor to the Ansted & Higgins Spring Company, which was established in 1884 by Michael Higgins and E. W. Ansted. Their plant was located at Racine Junction and there they began the manufacture of springs, putting upon the market a product which found immediate favor, as indicated by the continued growth of their business. This led to the establishment of a branch plant at Connersville, Indiana, which was afterward taken over by Mr. Ansted, and the partnership was then dissolved, Mr. Higgins remaining in charge of the Racine establishment. The company was incorporated under its present form in 1892, with Mrs. Mary Higgins as the president, James Higgins as secretary and Michael Higgins as treasurer. They are engaged in the manufacture of springs and axles, doing special work for various companies, and their output is sold all over the United States. The business has become one of large proportions, as indicated in the fact that employment is now given to from one hundred and seventy-five to two hundred people, mostly skilled labor. The plant covers about half a block, most of the building is two stories in height and the equipment of the shop includes the latest improved machinery necessary for their line. Their business methods have ever commended them to the confidence and support of the public and they are just in their treatment of debtor and creditor alike, while to their employes they are considerate, advancing those in their service in recognition of talent and fidelity whenever opportunity offers.

MICHAEL HIGGINS.

Michael Higgins, treasurer of the Higgins Spring & Axle Company, mentioned above, was born near Oswego, New York, June 28, 1855, a son of Michael and Bridget (Malone) Higgins, who were natives of Cork and County Limerick, Ireland. The former was a son of Patriek Higgins, Jr., and a grandson of

Patrick Higgins, Sr., and it was Patrick Higgins, Jr., who, in 1840, crossed the Atlantic to the new world and founded the family on American soil. After a residence of two years at Little Falls, Herkimer county, New York, he met an accidental death, being struck by the falling branch of a tree. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Nancy Condon, survived him until 1866 and passed away at an advanced age. They had six children: James; Patrick; Joanna, who became the wife of Michael Lannan; Michael; Mary, who died in infancy, and Elizabeth, the wife of Martin Geany, who remained in Ireland.

Michael Higgins, Sr., was born in Young Grove, County Cork, Ireland, in February, 1834, and was but six years of age when his parents came to the United States. His residence in New York covered twenty-one years and in 1856 he removed to Chicago. The following year, however, he returned to the east and about 1863 became a resident of Canada, where he spent thirteen years. On the expiration of that period he removed to Missouri, where he engaged in farming until 1889, when he came to Racine. In early manhood he wedded Bridget Malone, who passed away December 7, 1897, at the age of sixty-three years. Her parents, Cornelius and Nancy (Cliffe) Malone, settled near Kingston, Ontario, on coming to the new world. To Mr. and Mrs. Michael Higgins, Sr., were born the following named: Michael; Mary, the wife of Judge Daniel Murphy, of Mexico, Missouri; John, of Manila, Philippine Islands, where he is employed by the United States government; Elizabeth, the wife of Timothy Connolly, of Racine, and Agnes, the deceased wife of James Welsh.

When about five or six years of age Michael Higgins, whose name introduces this review, was taken by his parents to Gananoque, Canada, where he pursued a common school education and grew to manhood. After spending several years as an employe on steamers on the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes he secured a situation in a spring factory in Gananoque and afterward spent five years as an employe in spring factories in Kalamazoo, Michigan, during which time his knowledge of and experience in the business was constantly broadening and winning for him deserved promotion. He then went to Bridgeport, Connecticut, where he was employed for four years, becoming foreman of a factory. It was with this experience that he came to Racine in 1884 and joined E. W. Ansted in organizing the Ansted & Higgins Spring Company, mentioned above. The business continually grew and developed along substantial lines and following the establishment of a branch house in Indiana the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Ansted taking over the Indiana establishment, while Mr. Higgins retained the ownership of the Racine business. From the beginning the enterprise has grown and developed until between one hundred and seventy-five and two hundred workmen are employed in the factory, which is three hundred and twenty by one hundred and eighty feet in dimensions. Mr. Higgins has long been recognized as one of the capable and foremost business men of the city and his co-operation has been sought along other lines which have led to the city's commercial growth and development as well as to individual success.

Mr. Higgins was married January 5, 1879, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, to Miss Mary Fitzgibbon, daughter of David and Catherine (Sullivan) Fitzgibbon, natives of Ireland, the former of Limerick and the latter of County Cork. David

Fitzgibbon was a railroad man, and on coming to America met, in Buffalo, New York, Miss Sullivan, and there they were married. For some time they were located at various points in Michigan and lived for some time in Kalamazoo. He died in 1895, aged seventy-six years, and his wife in March, 1904, in her eighty-second year. They had three children: David, of Grand Rapids, Michigan; John, and Mrs. Mary Higgins. Six children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Higgins, Jr., namely: James; George; Agnes; Joseph; Frank; and Leo, who died November 24, 1904. Of this family, James is secretary of the Higgins Spring & Axle Company, while George is employed in the axle plant. Mr. and Mrs. Higgins are communicants of St. Rose Catholic church and he belongs also to the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Order of Foresters, the Royal League and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He has long been a recognized leader in democratic circles and has on various occasions been called to public office, serving for two terms as alderman in the city council from the sixth ward, beginning in 1889, while in 1899 he was elected mayor of the city, being continued in the office for four years through his re-election in 1901. His administration was characterized by various plans that prevented useless expenditure, that promoted progress along beneficial lines and that introduced needed reforms and improvements. In 1905-06 he served as president of the park board and his activities for the benefit of the city have been far-reaching, his labors contributing much to municipal progress and to the material development and upbuilding of Racine. He belongs to that class of substantial American citizens who owe their progress to personal effort, diligence and determination and his life record should serve to inspire and encourage others, indicating what may be accomplished by persistent, earnest effort intelligently directed.

JAMES HIGGINS.

James Higgins, secretary of the Higgins Spring & Axle Company, was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, September 6, 1880, while his father, Michael Higgins, mentioned above, was a resident of that city. He supplemented his public school education by study in Niagara University, in which he spent two years, and later he engaged in business with his father, entering into active connection with the Higgins Spring & Axle Company, in which he is now holding a position of administrative direction and executive control as secretary and manager. He has acquainted himself with every department of the work and is familiar with the business in principle and detail, so that he wisely directs the work of employes and as wisely controls the introduction of the products to the markets, being thus active in the management of one of the important industrial concerns of Racine.

On the 21st of November, 1911, Mr. Higgins was united in marriage to Miss Florence M. Malone, a native of Janesville, Wisconsin, and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bartholomew Malone, who came to Racine several years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Higgins have one daughter, Helen Jean. The family attend St. Rose Catholic church and James Higgins holds membership with the Knights of

Columbus and also with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He was but four years of age when brought to Racine, so that practically his entire life has been passed in this city, where he has a wide acquaintance and where he is accorded a creditable and enviable position as a business man.

A. ARTHUR GUILBERT.

A. Arthur Guilbert, whose high rank and undeniable skill as an architect enables him to command a most liberal patronage and the evidence of whose ability is found in many of the leading structures of this city, was born in Racine, August 8, 1869, a son of Albert W. and Celia M. (Pease) Guilbert. The father, also a native of Racine, was a son of Albert W. Guilbert, who was born on the isle of Guernsey and who in 1838 arrived in Racine, ere the admission of the state into the Union and ere the little village which is now the county seat and a populous manufacturing center had entered in any way upon its period of modern development and progress. In an early day he was a sea captain, commanding a vessel engaged in the coffee trade. In his later years he retired and was known as one of Racine's capitalists. Albert W. Guilbert, reared in Racine, became manager for the Western Union Telegraph Company and so continued for many years. Eventually he became connected with the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company and remained with that corporation until his death. His wife, who has also passed away, was a daughter of Henry and Mary (Warburton) Pease, who were pioneer settlers of Albany, Illinois.

A. Arthur Guilbert after attending the public and high schools of Racine, from which he was graduated with the class of 1888, became a student in Lehigh University of Pennsylvania and still later matriculated in the University of Michigan. In further preparation for a professional career he entered the Chicago School of Architecture, from which he was graduated in 1901. Well qualified by broad and thorough training, he returned to Racine and entered upon the active practice of his profession. Monuments to his skill and ability are to be seen on every side, for his firm designed the McMynn school, the Welsh Methodist Episcopal church, the First Methodist church, the Grange Avenue Methodist church, the First National Bank building, the Commercial Savings Bank building, the N. D. Fratt school, Elks Club House, Racine Country Club, park refectories, the No. 1 and No. 6 engine houses and many other public buildings, together with a large number of fine residences. His work is of the highest class, combining the elements of comfort, utility and artistic workmanship. At one time he was in partnership with Herbert B. Rugh under the firm style of Guilbert & Rugh and after the dissolution of that partnership he was joined in 1906 by E. B. Funston, who sold out in 1915. Since that time Mr. Guilbert has been alone in business but employs several assistants. He is today accounted one of the foremost architects of the state, and is a member of the architects' arbitration committee of the state board of control.

In 1895 Mr. Guilbert was married to Miss Bessie M. Bull, a daughter of Stephen Bull, who was one of Racine's most distinguished citizens and business men. The children of this marriage are: F. Warburton, nineteen years



A. Arthur Guiltax

of age, who is a talented musician and is now a student in Princeton University; Gordon McKenzie, seventeen years of age, who is attending the Hill School at Pottstown, Pennsylvania, and Ellen Katherine Kellogg, seven years of age.

Mr. Guilbert has attained high rank in Masonry, belonging to lodge, chapter, council, commandery, consistory and the Mystic Shrine. He is also identified with the Elks and is very popular and prominent in club circles, having membership in the Somerset Club, the Country Club, of which he was president during 1915 and 1916, the Wisconsin State Golf Association of which he is now president, the University Club of Milwaukee and the Racine Commercial Club. He belongs to the Episcopal church and in politics maintains an independent course. Broad study has made him thoroughly familiar with the great scientific principles which underlie his profession, as well as with every practical phase of the business. He is familiar with the best examples of ancient and modern architecture as seen in the notable places of Europe and he is quick and skillful in adapting any idea to modern American needs. Ruled by more than ordinary intelligence, his progressive spirit is guided by good judgment and he has been a persistent, resolute and energetic follower of his profession.

RACINE CARRIAGE COMPANY.

The Racine Carriage Company is one of the most recent additions to the corporations which are doing business in Racine and which promote the commercial and industrial activity and consequent prosperity of the city. This company was organized in December, 1914, and succeeded to the vehicle business of the Racine-Sattley Company and also to that of the Richardson-Kennedy Company. W. H. Richardson became the president of the new concern, with J. O. Kennedy as vice president and J. C. Lund as secretary and treasurer. All three are well known to the vehicle trade throughout the United States, for Mr. Richardson and Mr. Lund were old time employes of the Racine Wagon & Carriage Company, the service of which they entered in a humble capacity but gradually worked their way upward to official positions, while Mr. Kennedy had also for many years been connected with the old company and his experience had been wide. The Racine Wagon & Carriage Company was organized about 1866, and manufactured a full line of spring vehicles of all kinds, including farm wagons. The new company continues in the same line save that they discontinued the manufacture of farm wagons and they occupy the same quarters used by their predecessors for a half century. The factory, however, has been remodeled and equipped with thoroughly up-to-date machinery and tools and in addition to the vehicle manufacturing plant they have opened a first class repair department that fills a long felt want of the local trade in this branch of industry. It includes retrimming and painting with special attention to automobiles. They employ a number of skilled workmen and the plant is now thoroughly modern in construction and equipment and is supplied with sprinkler system. The business has steadily

grown, for the three men at its head are all men of long and wide experience, familiar with every phase of the trade and knowing the business thoroughly in principle and detail. The concern is one of value as a factor in Racine's manufacturing interests, contributing in substantial measure to the further industrial development of the city.

WILLIAM HENRY RICHARDSON.

W. H. Richardson, president of the Racine Carriage Company, is one whose long experience in this line of trade well qualified him for the important position which he now occupies as executive official, directing the policy and shaping the course of the business. One of the elements of his success is the fact that he has always continued in the line in which he embarked as a young tradesman, never dissipating his energies over a broad field but concentrating on the mastery of every task that has devolved upon him and thus gaining a most comprehensive and exact knowledge of the work in all of its phases. He was born in Mt. Pleasant township, this county, February 13, 1868, a son of John Strong and Caroline (Butterworth) Richardson, natives of Ireland and New York, respectively. The latter was a daughter of Henry Butterworth, who was born in Manchester, England, and became a resident of Racine county in the early '40s, casting in his lot with its first settlers who laid broad and deep the foundation upon which has been built the later progress and prosperity of the district. It was in the '60s that John Strong Richardson arrived in Racine county, where he followed the blacksmith's trade, which he had previously learned in England.

W. H. Richardson acquired a public school education and a business college training which further qualified him for life's practical and responsible duties. His initial step in the business world was made as a clerk in the hardware store of George Conroe on Sixth street and afterward he accepted the position of bookkeeper with the Racine Wagon & Carriage Company. Later he was advanced to the sales department and the capability and fidelity which he displayed won him promotion to assistant secretary and treasurer of the company and for over twenty years he was sales and advertising manager, thus having control of the output in its introduction to the market. When the Racine Carriage Company, in 1914, was organized and took over the vehicle business of the Racine-Sattley Company and the Richardson-Kennedy Company he was elected president of the new organization. Their business is now one of growing volume and importance, necessitating the employment of a number of skilled workmen and the output, which includes all lines of spring vehicles, finds ready sale in the home markets and in the west and south west. Their patronage is now most gratifying. They have ever maintained high standards in workmanship, in durability and in the style of the product and have ever realized that satisfied patrons are the best advertisement.

On the 25th of June, 1896, Mr. Richardson was married to Miss Emily Olson, of Racine, a daughter of S. Olson, and they have one son, William H.,

now in school. Mr. Richardson maintains an independent political attitude but is neglectful of none of the duties of citizenship, heartily endorsing and supporting plans and measures that work for the benefit of Racine or upholds the high status of state and nation. In fraternal circles he is well known, having membership with the Elks and Royal Arcanum, while in Masonry he has taken the degrees of club, lodge, chapter, council and commandery, exemplifying in his life the beneficent spirit of the craft and adhering loyally to its teachings. He is also an active member of the Racine Commercial Club. His is the notable record of the self-made man. Starting out in life empty-handed, the salary which he at first received was small and the position he occupied was insignificant but like many other brainy, energetic men who have left their impress upon the magnificent development of this western manufacturing center, he did not wait for a specially brilliant opening. Indeed he could not wait and his natural industry would not have permitted him to do so, even if his financial circumstances had been such as to make it possible. His mental and physical activity—the only capital that he brought with him to the starting point of his business career—made immediate employment a necessity and at that time he showed conspicuously the traits of character which have brought him prosperity, for he performed all his duties, however humble and however small the recompense, conscientiously and industriously and thus step by step he worked his way upward until he stands today at the head of an enterprise of growing proportions, the interests of which he is most capably directing.

GOLD MEDAL CAMP FURNITURE MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

The Gold Medal Camp Furniture Manufacturing Company had its inception in a business started by R. B. Lang in 1890 and incorporated in 1892, its first officers being R. B. Lang, president; W. G. Gittings, vice president; and J. G. Teall, secretary. This company manufactures all kinds of camp furniture and outing outfits, although at the beginning the output included only six or seven articles, among which was the Gold Medal Cot invented by Louis Latour. Since that time the output has been extended in its scope until there is no accessory to camp furnishings that cannot be supplied by this establishment. About 1894 they removed to their present location from their old quarters on Thirteenth street. They now occupy about two entire blocks, which includes the lumberyard. Their buildings, two and three stories in height, are of modern construction, supplied with sprinkler system, are well lighted and ventilated and are supplied with the latest improved machinery to facilitate their manufacturing interests. They employ one hundred and twenty-five people, mostly skilled labor, and their product is now shipped all over the world, about one-third being called upon for the export trade. The Gold Medal Cot has been adopted as the standard by the United States army and navy, also a chair bathtub and stool used by the medical department of the United States army. The company furnishes the National Guard with its cots and it also supplies a large trade that equips camping parties with their

outfits. This is a close corporation, of which the present officers are: C. C. Gittings, president; E. E. Bailey, vice president; W. G. Gittings, secretary; and Ward Gittings, treasurer. The name of Gittings has ever been a synonym for progressiveness and reliability in Racine business circles and it has become known in the same connection throughout the country.

WILLIAM G. GITTINGS.

Along well defined lines of labor, guided by sound judgment and controlled with a view to maintaining a high standard of business ethics, William G. Gittings has reached the goal of success, being now manager of the Gold Medal Camp Furniture Manufacturing Company. Racine county claims him as a native son. He was born October 6, 1858, his parents being William and Elizabeth Gittings, who were natives of the north of Wales. The latter was a daughter of Thomas Gittings who followed farming in Wales and there spent his entire life. William Gittings, in 1840, crossed the Atlantic from Wales and for fifteen years made his home in the vicinity of Utica, New York, while in 1855 he arrived in Racine county. He purchased a farm of one hundred and forty acres in Caledonia township and the place has since been in possession of the family. After devoting his energies to general agricultural pursuits for a number of years William Gittings and his wife took up their abode in the city of Racine where Mrs. Gittings passed away in 1903 at the age of seventy-four years. Death came to Mr. Gittings when he had passed the eighty-ninth milestone on life's journey and was on a visit to his old home in Newtown, North Wales. He had been prominent and influential in public affairs in Racine county and was one of its most honored and respected citizens, while both he and his wife were devoted members of the Congregational church. Their family numbered the following named sons and daughters: William G., Christopher C., engaged in law practice in Racine; Mrs. John Pugh, of Racine; John T., of Union Grove; Mrs. Charles Kittinger, deceased; and Ward R. and Elizabeth A., both of Racine.

After attending the public schools William G. Gittings continued his education in McMynn's Academy and for a year he engaged in teaching school, while for seven years he occupied the position of county superintendent of schools, the educational interests of the county being greatly promoted through his management and through the adoption of methods leading to improvement and progress. On coming to Racine he was appointed to the position of assistant postmaster and occupied that office for nearly five years. Later he was made manager of the Gold Medal Camp Furniture Manufacturing Company, of which extended mention is made above, and in this connection he is active in control of one of the important productive industries of the city. He has not confined his attention, however, to a single line, for his co-operation has been sought in other directions and has proven an element in Racine's further business development. In 1907 he became one of the organizers of the Racine City Bank and one of its heavy stockholders and from the beginning has filled the office of president. Mr. Gittings is also interested in agricultural pursuits.

being the owner of two fine farms in Racine county, both of which are stocked with high grade dairy cows, the entire product of his dairy going to the Gifford Brothers Sanitary Milk Company.

In 1890 Mr. Gittings was united in marriage to Miss Jennie L. Bailey, of Racine county, and they have a son, W. L., who is a graduate of the Wisconsin University. Fraternaly Mr. Gittings is connected with the Masons and has passed up through both routes, being a Knight Templar and a thirty-second degree Mason. He is also identified with the Knights of Pythias and the United Commercial Travelers. He belongs to the Commercial Club and attends the Universalist church. His political allegiance is given to the republican party, but he does not seek nor desire office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs. He is a member of the Industrial School board commissioners and his co-operation can always be counted upon to promote public interests.

WILLIAM H. KRANZ.

For more than seventy years the name of Kranz has been associated with the business development of Racine and has long been a synonym for progressiveness and reliability in commercial circles. The wholesale paper and stationery business conducted under the name of Kranz was established by John Kranz and since his death has been conducted by his son, William H. Kranz, whose name introduces this review. The latter was born in Racine, July 18, 1856, and the former in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany. Having arrived at years of maturity, he wedded Elizabeth Ritchie, a native of Lensburg, Switzerland. It was in the year 1844 that he came to the United States, settling first at Rochester, New York, but in 1845 removing to Racine, where in 1850 he established business on his own account as a dealer in paper and groceries. His trade grew and with its substantial growth he developed the wholesale paper and stationery business which is now conducted by his son, who joined him in the enterprise in 1881. The father remained active in the management and control of the business until 1898, when he retired to spend his remaining days in the enjoyment of a well earned rest, his death occurring in this city in 1904. His wife was a daughter of August Ritchie, who, on coming to the United States with his family, settled first at St. Louis, Missouri, but afterward removed to Walworth county, Wisconsin; where he cast in his lot with the pioneer settlers.

William H. Kranz is therefore a representative of two of the old families of this part of the state. Reared in Racine, he mastered the branches of learning taught in the public and high schools and also pursued a commercial course, which qualified him for the responsibilities that devolved upon him when he entered business life. He was a youth of nineteen when, in 1875, he entered the employ of the firm of Gorton & Buffham, with whom he continued until 1881, when, as previously stated, he became assistant to his father in the conduct of the wholesale paper and stationery business which John Kranz had developed. The son acquainted himself with the trade in every particular, more

and more largely relieving his father of the management of the business, which he took over entirely upon his father's retirement in 1898 and of which he became sole owner upon the father's death, six years later. This is the oldest commercial business in Racine and probably the oldest business enterprise of any character. In 1913 the company removed to a new building, where Main street crosses the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul tracks. This is today the largest wholesale paper house in Wisconsin. The building is seventy-one by eighty feet, three stories in height with basement, supplied with elevators and is of mill construction. It was erected for this business exclusively. The vicinity of the St. Paul railway tracks affords direct shipping facilities and they use auto trucks for local delivery. In 1881, when the wholesale business was started, it was predicted that such a business would not succeed. The banks refused to loan money, but the enterprise and determination of the promoters never faltered and time has justified their wisdom and their methods. The trade has now grown to extensive and gratifying proportions and the proprietor may well feel proud that this establishment o'ertops any other of the kind in the state. Its success has been built upon the foundation of enterprise, progressiveness and commercial integrity. Their methods are such as have at all times borne the closest investigation and scrutiny and measured up to the highest commercial standards and ethics.

Mr. Kranz exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party, but is without ambition for office. He belongs to the Commercial Club and his high standing in the business circles of the city is indicated in the fact that for six years he was retained in the presidency of the Racine Business Men's Association. He early displayed conspicuously the traits of character which have made his life brilliantly successful. At the outset of his career he performed all the duties that devolved upon him, however humble and however small the recompense might be, conscientiously and industriously, and since he came into active connection with the wholesale paper and stationery business a splendid prosperity has steadily been his. It is true that, like other business men, he may not have found all the days equally bright. Indeed in his commercial experience he has seen the gathering of clouds that threatened disastrous storms, but his rich inheritance of energy and pluck has enabled him to turn defeats into victory and promised failures into successes. His strict integrity, business conservatism and judgment have always been so uniformly recognized that he has enjoyed public confidence to an enviable degree.

JOHN J. DAHL.

John J. Dahl, whose home is on section 26, Norway township, is engaged in general farming, but makes a specialty of dairying. He was born on the 8th of October, 1856, in Norway, and is a son of John and Olena (Johnson) Johnson. His parents were lifelong residents of Norway, and of the nine children born to them only two came to the United States, these being our subject and his brother, Ole, who is employed in the shops of Racine. Eight of the family are

still living and the others reside in Norway. The father, who was employed as a laborer, was born in 1824 and died in 1913. The mother's birth occurred in 1826 and she passed away in 1896. Both were faithful members of the Lutheran church.

John J. Dahl was reared and educated in his native land and it was in 1880 that he crossed the Atlantic and became a resident of Racine county, Wisconsin. He spent two years working on a farm in Raymond township and then followed the carpenter's trade for many years. He was in debt thirty-six dollars on his arrival in this county, but being industrious and enterprising, he steadily prospered and met with success in carpenter work. In 1899, however, he retired from that business and purchased eighty acres of land in Norway township, where he now resides. He has erected thereon a good residence and made other substantial improvements, including good outbuildings, and at the present time follows general farming. He has dairy interests, however, and keeps on hand full blooded Holstein cows, shipping his milk to Yorkville. He has cleared much of his land and made all of the improvements thereon, having an up-to-date residence, a good silo and a windmill upon his place.

In 1882 Mr. Dahl married Miss Mary Johnson, a daughter of Johannes Johnson, also a native of Norway, in which country Mrs. Dahl was born. She came to the United States in 1880 and took up her residence in Raymond township, this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Dahl were born five children: Lovina, now the wife of Ed Overson, a resident of Yorkville township; Inga, the wife of Oscar Gunderson, of Norway township; Anna and Clarence, both at home; and Olaf, deceased. Mrs. Dahl died in 1909, leaving many friends to mourn her loss. She was a member of the Lutheran church, to which Mr. Dahl also belongs, and by his ballot he supports the men and measures of the republican party. The family is one of prominence in the community where they reside.

FREDERIK RASMUSSEN.

Frederik Rasmussen is now living retired in Racine, but for many years he engaged in business as a teaming contractor and won so liberal a patronage that the success which he achieved now enables him to rest from further labor and yet enjoy many of the comforts of life. His is the record of the foreign-born citizen who recognizes the opportunities which America offers and, coming to the new world, so utilizes his chances that success in substantial measure becomes his. He was born in Denmark, September 3, 1838, a son of Rasmus and Christine (Carlson) Hansen. The father spent his entire life in Denmark, but the mother came to the United States in 1873 and here lived until her death.

Frederik Rasmussen was educated in the schools of Denmark and engaged in farming until twenty-two years of age, when he went to Copenhagen, where he was employed in breweries until 1872, when he decided to try his fortune in the new world and came to Racine. Here he began teaming and gradually became a teaming contractor. He went to Tennessee in 1872, but returned to Racine the following year and again entered the teaming contracting business. As the years passed his patronage steadily increased and his business became

an extensive and important one, bringing to him a substantial profit, which now places him among the well-to-do citizens of Racine. He made promptness and reliability the chief feature of his dealings with others and thus won confidence and support. Four years ago he retired to private life and is now enjoying a well earned rest, with a competence sufficient to supply him with all the necessities and comforts and some of the luxuries of life.

Mr. Rasmussen was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran church. He is now a member of the Masonic fraternity and belongs to the Danish Society and Danish Brotherhood as a literary member. He enjoys the warm friendship and regard of those with whom he is associated. He has always been glad that he came to the new world for he here found opportunities which he utilized and which have brought him deserved success.

HARRISON FELLOWS.

Harrison Fellows, who figured in business circles of Racine as a dealer in coal and wood and who was also identified with shipping interests as part owner of lake vessels, passed away on the 1st of April, 1887. He had scarcely yet reached the prime of life, his birth having occurred in Williamstown, Vermont, July 2, 1840, and he was a son of George D. and Louise (Olds) Fellows. The family is of English lineage although established in Connecticut at an early period in the colonization of the new world, representatives of the name living there before the Revolutionary war. In the fall of 1840 Mr. and Mrs. George D. Fellows left New England and came by team to Wisconsin, settling in Racine, where Mr. Fellows had previously lived for two or three years. He helped to build the first bridge at the foot of Main street, also built a dock and operated a sawmill. He also owned some vessels and shipped wood to Chicago, continuing in active connection with the business interests of the city until his death, which occurred February 26, 1857, when he had reached the age of forty-four years, six months and twenty-four days. He was a whig in his political faith until the dissolution of that party, when he joined the ranks of the newly organized republican party, and upon the incorporation of the city of Racine he was elected a member of its first board of aldermen. His widow survived him for only a brief period, passing away April 10, 1859.

Harrison Fellows was educated in Racine and after his school days were over went upon the lakes when nineteen years of age, thus continuing until 1873. In that year he engaged in the wood and coal business in connection with a Mr. Higgie, who some time afterward withdrew from the partnership. In the same year A. W. Cogswell became associated with Mr. Fellows and so continued until the spring of 1884, after which Mr. Fellows carried on the business alone until his death, which occurred on the 1st of April, 1887. In addition to his other business connections he was interested in shipping and owned a two-thirds interest in the schooner Z. G. Simmons and a half interest in the schooner J. B. Newland, while of the seow Forrest he was sole owner. He was also the owner of the seow Sea Star, which was lost prior to his death and



HARRISON FELLOWS

upon which he carried no insurance. Both his commereial and shipping interests proved important and profitable.

On the 1st of August, 1861, Mr. Fellows was married in Racine to Miss Jane M. Higgie, a daughter of Frank and Mary (McQueen) Higgie. She was born in Newbury, Scotland, and came with her parents to Wisconsin when but five years of age, the family home being established in Kenosha, while three years later they came to Racine. Her father was a sailor and vessel owner connected with navigation interests until his death, September 16, 1859. For seven years he had survived his wife, who passed away September 5, 1852. Mr. and Mrs. Fellows were the parents of three children: Viola Jane, who is the wife of James Kent and has two children, William Harrison and Jessie Marion; Harrison A., who married Miss Augusta Majenske and has four children, Aliee Louise, Edith Irene, Harrison Edward and Gladys; and Plennie Louise, who resides with her mother.

While almost thirty years have come and gone since Mr. Fellows passed away, he is yet remembered by many friends who knew him through business or social relations. He did not seek to figure prominently in any public connection but he had many substantial qualities which were appreciated by those who recognize true worth and the success which he achieved was the merited reward of earnest and well directed labor.

GEORGE B. VYVYAN.

George B. Vyvyan owns eighty acres of good land in Yorkville township and is extensively engaged in buying and selling stock, which business he has found highly profitable. A native of Racine county he was born in Yorkville township, on the 20th of September, 1885, and is a son of William and Sarah (Beaumont) Vyvyan, the former born in Raymond township, this county, in 1854, and the latter in Dover township, in 1860. The paternal grandfather, William Vyvyan, emigrated from England to Racine county and located in Raymond township. He conducted a meat market in Union Grove for a number of years and gained a substantial measure of prosperity. The maternal grandfather, George Beaumont, was also a native of England, but settled in Dover township, this county, in pioneer days. William Vyvyan, Jr., the father of George Vyvyan, was a butcher and stock man and also owned two hundred and forty acres of fine land. He was a republican in politics and served as a member of the school board for a considerable period. Both he and his wife were identified with the Yorkville Methodist Episcopal church, whose teachings governed their conduct. He passed away on the 25th of March, 1916, and her demise occurred on the 9th of August, 1915. They were married in Dover township and to their union were born four children: Grace, the wife of Clinton Skewes; Perry, who is residing upon a farm in Yorkville township and is also engaged in the butchering business; and Earl, a farmer and butcher of Yorkville.

George B. Vyvyan, the other member of the family, acquired a common school education and also attended business college at Racine. For a number

of years he conducted a butchering business in connection with operating a farm, but is now chiefly engaged in buying and shipping stock of all kinds. He gives some time, however, to the cultivation of his farm of eighty acres in Yorkville township, which he purchased from his father in 1907. The place is well kept and the buildings are commodious and substantial. He watches the market carefully and derives a good profit from his transactions.

On the 12th of June, 1907, occurred the marriage of Mr. Vyvyan and Miss Malinda Shunk, who is a daughter of Wesley and Louise (Kollander) Shunk, both natives of Washington county, Wisconsin. Her father has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits and has resided in Racine county since March, 1892. He owns a good farm here and in 1901 erected a fine modern residence. He has taken an active part in public affairs and is well known and highly esteemed. Mrs. Vyvyan, who is one of a family of three children, has become the mother of a son, Wesley William, whose birth occurred on the 2nd of June, 1913.

Mr. Vyvyan supports the republican party at the polls, believing firmly in its policies, but has never been an aspirant for office. Both he and his wife belong to the Yorkville Methodist Episcopal church and their genuine worth has gained them the warm friendship of all who have been closely associated with them.

WILLIAM J. RENDALL.

William J. Rendall, who is engaged in the foundry business as a maker of brass, bronze and aluminum castings, is one of the substantial citizens of Racine who claims Scotland as the land of his birth. He was born at Westra, Orkney Islands, June 22, 1879, his parents being Thomas and Ann (Reed) Rendall, who, in the year 1887, arrived in Racine. The father was a fisherman in Scotland and engaged in the same business in this country for a short time, at the end of which period, however, he turned his attention to the molding trade, in which he has since been engaged.

William J. Rendall was a youth of eight years when the family bade adieu to the land of hills and heather and sailed for "the land of the free." Spending his youthful days in his parents' home in Racine, he attended the Franklin school and when nineteen years of age began learning the molder's trade as an employe of the Lakeside Malleable Iron Company, with which he remained for twelve years. In that connection he steadily worked his way upward, thoroughly acquainting himself with every phase of the business, and his excellent workmanship and fidelity won him promotion until he became foundry foreman. He severed his association with that company to engage in business on his own account, establishing his foundry at Seventeenth street and Morton avenue on the 20th of June, 1910. He there erected two buildings sixty by eighty feet and the foundry is supplied with all of the latest equipments and modern appliances for the manufacture of brass, bronze and aluminum castings. He has now secured a liberal patronage and employs from six to eight men.

On the 31st of October, 1908, Mr. Rendall was united in marriage to Miss Jessie Scatter, who is also a native of Westra, Orkney Islands. They have four children, namely: Jessie Ann, Elizabeth Marion, Thomas Scatter and David Williams.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Presbyterian church, and Mr. Rendall is a member of the Caledonian Society. In his business activity he has laid the foundation for his success. Whatever he has achieved or enjoyed has been won through his earnest labor, and diligence has ever been one of his marked characteristics. He has never sought to figure prominently in any public light, but has concentrated his efforts upon industrial pursuits and has thus contributed to the material development and business activity which have made Racine a great manufacturing center.

KNUTE THOMPSEN.

Knute Thompson was born in Denmark in 1871 and two years later was brought to this country by his parents. Mr. Thompson entered the foundry as an apprentice in his youth and after years of hard work in 1913 he organized the Wisconsin Cylinder Foundry Company, which has been operating very successfully ever since its organization. The office and foundry are located at No. 1308 Eighteenth street; the output consists chiefly of cylinder and piston castings for motoreycle, small marine and aeroplane motors, and the officers are: K. Thompson, president; Laura Schneider, vice president; Mary L. Thompson, secretary-treasurer; and Roland J. Scheuss, assistant secretary-treasurer.

ROLAND J. SCHEUSS.

Roland J. Scheuss, assistant secretary-treasurer of the Wisconsin Cylinder Foundry Company, has been one of the most active young men of Racine in efforts to benefit the city along various lines and his work has at all times been prompted by a most public-spirited devotion to the general good. He was born in Racine, December 21, 1889, a son of Jacob and Anna Marie (Goedeke) Scheuss, the former a native of Switzerland and the latter of Germany. His ancestry in the maternal line has been traced back to 1463. The parents came to Racine in childhood and the father has always been identified with shoe manufacturing interests here.

Roland J. Scheuss obtained a public school education, and since entering business circles has spent eight years in the employ of the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company and now holds the office of assistant secretary-treasurer of the Wisconsin Cylinder Foundry Company. He is regarded as an energetic and reliable young business man and his sterling characteristics are such as make for business progress.

Aside from this Roland Scheuss is much interested in the future develop-

ment of Racine, has studied the question of city building and of civic improvement and has labored effectively and earnestly to promote interests of that character. He has sought to give to Racine certain restricted residential districts, limiting the space devoted to business houses in those districts which are preëminently residential. He has also put forth earnest effort to segregate the factory buildings instead of allowing factories to be built in residence sections and also segregate factories in districts relative to their respective trades. The results of such work are most far-reaching. If such a plan would be adopted, it would cause a stability in real estate values such as cannot be known under present-day conditions, when the building or establishment of a factory in a district can bring about a great depreciation in the worth of property. The value to the factories, too, would be immense if this idea of segregation were carried out, thus localizing centers and saving time and space. While working toward high ideals his methods are most practical. He is also interested in community social centers and the splendid work which is being done through such organizations for the benefit of all concerned. For many years he has been a member of the local Young Men's Christian Association, Racine Lodge, No. 18, F. & A. M., the Racine City Club, the Racine Commercial Club, the Eighth Ward Booster Club and the Racine Law and Order League, is a charter member of the Wisconsin Boys' Camp at Phantom Lake, Wisconsin, Camp No. 30, and a committeeman, Jefferson School Boy Scouts of America and for five years has been the treasurer of the First Baptist church. He attended the Civilian Military Training Camp at Plattsburg, New York, in September, 1916.

PETER HANSON.

Peter Hanson, who, in 1911, purchased eighty acres of land on section 25, Raymond township, has since engaged in farming and dairying with good success. He belongs to that class of men who are termed self-made, for from early age he has depended entirely upon his own efforts. He was born in Denmark, June 28, 1870, and was one of a family of fourteen children. The parents, however, never left Denmark.

In the schools of his native country Peter Hanson pursued his education and in 1891, about the time he attained his majority, he came to the new world and made his way to Racine county. He first took up his abode in the city of Racine, but soon afterward went to Union Grove, where he was employed as a farm hand for four years. He then removed to Corliss and worked on the section for four years, but he was ambitious to engage in farming on his own account and at length invested in land at Corliss, which he purchased entirely on credit. As the years went on he kept adding to his income by reason of his unfaltering industry and careful management and in 1911 he purchased his present farm of eighty acres on section 25, Raymond township. There, in connection with general farming, he makes a specialty of dairying and keeps twelve cows, selling the milk in Racine.

On the 20th of November, 1896,¹ Mr. Hanson was married to Miss Emma

Jacobson, a daughter of Christ and Marie Jacobson, who were natives of Denmark and came to Racine county in 1879, settling in Raymond township. There the father followed farming for a number of years and met with substantial success, so that eventually he retired from active business life. Mr. and Mrs. Hanson have become parents of five children, as follows: Katie, who lives in the home of her grandfather; Carrie, who is employed, and Elvina, Harvey and Esther, who are under the parental roof. In politics Mr. Hanson is a republican and bases the exercise of his right of franchise upon a clear understanding of the questions and issues of the day.

RACINE RUBBER COMPANY.

The Racine Rubber Company was organized March 12, 1910, its first officers being C. F. U. Kelley, president; Frank L. Mitchell, vice president; Stuart Webster, treasurer, and J. H. Dwight, secretary. Mr. Kelley severed his connection with the business in 1912, at which time George B. Wilson became the president and so continued until January, 1914, when he, too, withdrew from connection with the business. At that date H. L. McLaren became president and advertising manager and in that position so continues, with Stuart Webster as vice president, general manager and treasurer; H. C. Severance, secretary; L. B. Patterson (Chicago), director; Joseph Wiessenbaeh (Chicago), director; and L. T. Vance, director and general factory manager.

The work of building the factory was begun on the 6th of June, 1910, and was completed April 1, 1911, since which time further additions have been made, thus enlarging the plant, which now covers three and one-half acres. The buildings are all modern in construction, three stories in height and are supplied with a sprinkler system. The volume of business is increasing continually and the house is now represented upon the road by two traveling salesmen. The output of the factory includes automobile, bicycle and motorcycle tires, which are sold all over the United States. The "Racine Tire" has become famous and the output now amounts from twelve to thirteen hundred tires per day. They buy the crude rubber from brokers and sell through distributors, and something of the extent of the enterprise is indicated in the fact that they employ between eight hundred and one thousand people. The undertaking has grown almost by leaps and bounds and its development has been directed and prompted by men of keen business discernment and indefatigable enterprise.

STUART WEBSTER.

Stuart Webster, vice president, general manager and treasurer of the Racine Rubber Company, was born in New York in 1870 and after pursuing his preliminary education in private schools entered the preparatory school at Andover, Massachusetts. Still later he matriculated in Yale University, where

he won the Bachelor of Arts degree upon his graduation with the class of 1892. He then went abroad for further study and is a graduate of the medical department of the University of Vienna. He never gave his attention to the practice of the profession, however, but with his return to America entered commercial circles.

His business career has been one of continuous advancement and throughout the entire period he has been identified with the middle west, having accompanied his parents on their removal to Chicago when he was a youth of fourteen years. He was with the Diamond Match Company for four years, connected with its various departments, and in 1900 he embarked in the importing business in Chicago, there remaining until 1910, when he came to Racine and entered into association with C. F. U. Kelley, Frank L. Mitchell and J. H. Dwight in organizing and promoting the Racine Rubber Company. The history of the business and its development is given above, the record indicating the marvelous growth of the enterprise, which within a short space of six years has built up a business that necessitates the employment of between eight hundred and one thousand men. Throughout the entire period Mr. Webster has been watchful of every indication pointing to success, has utilized forces to the best possible advantage and has shown marked ability in coordinating various elements into a unified and harmonious whole, producing results that tell for success.

On the 4th of October, 1904, Mr. Webster was joined in wedlock to Miss Marie Mitchell, a daughter of Henry G. Mitchell, of Racine. To them have been born three children, namely: Natalie; Henry M., who is deceased; and Janet. Mr. Webster gives his political allegiance to the republican party and is conversant with the vital political problems of the country, but has never been ambitious to hold office. He belongs to St. Luke's Episcopal church and in fraternal circles is connected with the Masons and the Elks. He also belongs to the Commercial Club of Racine and puts forth effective effort in cooperation with those well defined plans and projects which have been instituted by the club for the further development of the city and the upholding of civic interests. He belongs as well to the Country Club and to the University Club of Chicago and is popular among his associates of those organizations.

PERFEX RADIATOR COMPANY.

The Perfex Radiator Company, of Racine, established business in Chicago in 1910 and was removed to this city on the 12th of October, 1912, a location being secured on Fifteenth street, at the Northwestern railway tracks, where they occupy a three-story brick building one hundred and twenty by one hundred and ten feet. The business was established in Chicago under the name of the Aero Sheet Metal Works and afterward was incorporated there under the name of the Automobile Radiator & Parts Manufacturing Company in 1911. With the removal to Racine the name was changed to the Perfex Radiator Company, under which style operations have since been continued. The company is now erecting a new building along the St. Paul railway tracks, on the

block bounded by Holmes avenue, Eighteenth street, Flett avenue and the railroad. This building is two hundred and fifty-five by sixty-five feet, a one-story saw-tooth structure of modern construction. It is a cement building erected about a steel frame and was planned for the purpose used, so that it meets the needs of the company in every particular. The company manufactures a patented radiator used on any internal combustion engine, farm tractors, commercial trucks and automobiles. The radiator was invented by F. M. Opitz and the patent was transferred to and has been perfected by the company. With the completion of the new building the plant will have a capacity of four hundred radiators per day and will employ two hundred or more men, mostly skilled labor, the remainder being semi-skilled. The product is marketed by selling direct to manufacturers and is used by every representative manufacturer of farm tractors in the United States. It is best known perhaps through its use by truck manufacturers, including the Jeffery Quad and others. When the business was removed to Racine it was in its infancy and the plant has doubled every year since the removal was made, the trade growing with most satisfying rapidity. The company was incorporated upon coming to Wisconsin and the present officers are as follows: F. M. Opitz, president; Edgar P. Wolf, vice president and treasurer; and J. P. Wolf, secretary.

FRED M. OPITZ.

Fred M. Opitz, in whom inventive genius has combined with executive ability to make a most enterprising and successful business man, is numbered among the recent valuable additions to the manufacturing circles of Racine, where he has operated since 1912 as the head of the Perfex Radiator Company. A native of Germany, he was born in Berlin on the 24th of October, 1886, and pursued his education there, receiving thorough training along mechanical lines. He was, as it were, "to the manner born," for his father, Herman Opitz, had been engaged along mechanical lines as a manufacturer of bathtubs, and F. M. Opitz has had practical experience in mechanical work from his early boyhood. Hoping to find still broader business opportunities in the new world, he came to the United States in 1906, when a young man of twenty years, settling in New York, where he was connected with leading radiator manufacturers of the east, thus gaining several years of practical experience along the line to which he is now devoting his energies. Arriving in Chicago in 1911, he organized the Aero Sheet Metal Works, in which undertaking he was joined by A. B. Modine. They conducted the largest repair shop for radiator repair work in Chicago and did all kinds of sheet metal repair work. Having gained extensive knowledge of all kinds of radiators through his connection with different companies in the east, Mr. Opitz began studying radiator construction with a view to improving those upon the market and at length his investigation, thought and experimentation resulted in the invention of a radiator which would do away with the faults of others, the result being today known to the world as the Perfex radiator. This has been improved from year to year and is today the standard radiator upon the

market. In order to engage in the manufacture of this radiator Mr. Opitz and the company removed from Chicago to Racine and incorporated the business under the name of the Perfex Radiator Company, erecting here a large plant, since which time the business has grown steadily. The history of the enterprise is given above and indicates not only the high standard of the output but also the capable business management of the promoters.

On the 10th of May, 1916, Mr. Opitz was united in marriage to Miss Alice Paulsen, of Racine, a daughter of Martin and Henrietta (Kirby) Paulsen, who became early residents of this city. Mr. Opitz has never become an active factor in public life nor has his ambition centered along that line. He feels that his time is fully occupied with his business affairs, and that his efforts are resultant is indicated in the establishment and conduct of the splendid industrial enterprise of which he is now the head.

JOHN F. KOVAR.

John F. Kovar, a well known farmer living on section 27, Caledonia township, was born January 26, 1877, in the township in which he still resides, his parents being Frank and Mary (Zachar) Kovar. The father was born in Austria in 1849 and in that country his parents spent their entire lives, but in 1866, when a youth of seventeen years, he crossed the Atlantic to the United States and settled in Racine, where he was employed in a harness store, having previously learned the harness maker's trade in his native country. He afterward worked on farms as well as at his trade and carefully saved his earnings until his economy and industry had brought him sufficient capital to enable him to purchase land. Although he came to the new world practically penniless, he won a place among the prosperous farmers of his district, his life record showing what can be accomplished when energy and determination point out the way. He was also recognized as a valued citizen in other connections and for four years acceptably filled the office of town treasurer. He wedded Mary Zachar, who was born in Caledonia in 1853, a daughter of John Zachar, who was one of the early settlers of that locality, where he purchased land and carried on farming up to the time of his death. Mr. and Mrs. Kovar became the parents of three children: Anna M., the wife of Ernest Frudenwald, a resident farmer of Caledonia township; John F., and Frank, who is farming in Oklahoma. The old home place comprised sixty-six acres of land and there the father established a good home for his family. His political allegiance was always given to the republican party and he manifested marked loyalty in citizenship. His death occurred in 1881, while his wife, surviving him for a number of years, passed away in 1894.

John F. Kovar obtained a district school education and afterward attended a commercial college in Racine. He did not at once settle down to the farm, but was employed in different places and in different ways. He worked at the printer's trade for a time and after pursuing his commercial course he engaged in bookkeeping and in stenographic work, but is now concentrating his energies upon farming and dairying, having become owner of sixty-five



JOHN F. KOVAR AND FAMILY

acres of land which responds readily to the care and labor which he bestows upon it. He carries on general agricultural pursuits and also does considerable dairying, shipping milk to Racine. He owns a registered Holstein bull and has full blooded Ayrshire cattle. He has built a nice barn and silo upon his place and has all modern equipments, including the latest improved machinery. He owns a Studebaker car and everything about his home and farm breathes an air of prosperity and progress.

In September, 1903, Mr. Kovar was married to Miss Mary Peterka, who was born in Caledonia township, is a graduate of the Racine high school and taught school for a number of years in Racine county. They have five children: Edith, Myrtle, Alice, Marjorie and Kenneth, all at home. Mr. Kovar is independent in politics, voting according to the dictates of his judgment without regard to party ties. He is town clerk, which position he has filled for six years. He stands at all times for public progress and improvement and cooperates in many measures for the general good. His has been an active and useful life, for at the age of seventeen years he began working and has since been dependent entirely upon his own resources. His employer paid him one hundred and forty dollars per year, and that he was faithful and capable is indicated by the fact that he remained with the same man for three years and eight months. From that point he has steadily progressed and is now numbered among the substantial agriculturists of his community.

ANGUS R. CALLENDER.

Angus R. Callender, secretary and treasurer of the Badger Foundry Company, was born in Racine county, August 4, 1876, a son of Richard Callender, who was one of the early residents of this section of the state. After obtaining a high school education he entered the employ of the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company, with which he spent nineteen years, thoroughly acquainting himself with every phase of the work intrusted to him and winning promotion from time to time until he became chief clerk of the manufacturing department. He severed that connection in order to enter into active association with the Badger Foundry Company, which was organized in July, 1910. The present officers of the company are: William H. Schroeder, president; Frank F. Moore, vice president; and A. R. Callender, secretary and treasurer. The plant occupies a half block, three hundred and thirty by two hundred and forty feet, and is mostly two stories in height. They make high grade castings for general machine work and employ from one hundred to one hundred and twenty men, most of whom are skilled for the particular duties which devolve upon them. They ship castings as far east as Philadelphia and Cleveland and the establishment is numbered among the factories of Racine which are continually sending forth their output into various sections of the country, establishing the city's reputation as a great manufacturing center. Mr. Callender's experience with the Case Company made him well qualified for the active work which has devolved upon him since becoming one of the officers in this concern, in which connection he is bending his energies to

administrative direction and executive control, knowing the demands and the possibilities of the trade.

In 1905 Mr. Callender was united in marriage to Miss Emma Hess, a daughter of Phillip and Ella (Bailey) Hess, who were early residents of Racine. Our subject and his wife have three children, Richard, Mary and Geraldine. In his fraternal relations Mr. Callender is a Mason, having taken the degrees of blue lodge and chapter. In his life he loyally adheres to the teachings of the craft and he has the high regard of his brethren in the order as well as of his colleagues and contemporaries in business circles.

JOHN F. MOYLE.

John F. Moyle, secretary of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company and a resident of Yorkville, has long been actively and successfully identified with the business interests of his locality and well deserved success has crowned his efforts. His plans are well defined and carefully executed and the wise management which he displays in the conduct of his business affairs has brought financial success. He was born July 28, 1841, in Cornwall, England, his parents being Thomas and Susan (Foxwell) Moyle, who are also of Cornish birth and lineage. For several generations the male members of the Moyle family had been veterinary surgeons, the profession claiming ten representatives of the family. The paternal grandfather, John Moyle, devoted his life to the practice of veterinary surgery and passed away at the age of seventy years.

His son, Thomas Moyle, who was one of a large family, followed in his father's business footsteps. On coming to America he made his way around the Great Lakes to Kenosha, Wisconsin, where he arrived in May, 1842. He established his home in Yorkville township, Racine county, purchasing three acres of land, on which the village of Yorkville now stands. On that place he erected the first frame dwelling in this section of the country. To his original purchase he added from time to time until he became the owner of two hundred acres of land in Yorkville and Raymond townships. He was the first veterinary surgeon of Racine county and he continued to practice the profession throughout his entire life, being very successful. A contemporary biographer has said of him: "He was public-spirited and a man of good education so that he naturally became one of the leading and influential men of the region and was often called upon to administer the estates of deceased friends. He also held various public offices, such as assessor, clerk and treasurer, and he did much to promote the best interests of the township." He died on the old homestead November 23, 1868, when fifty-six years of age, while his wife survived until January 10, 1876, reaching the age of sixty-nine years. Both were Methodists in religious faith and were charter members of the church of Yorkville, of which Mr. Moyle was for years a lay preacher. Their family numbered four children, of whom three are living: John F.; William, who is a preacher of the Methodist Episcopal church; and Thomas, who, following in the professional footsteps of the family, is now a veterinary surgeon at White-

water, Wisconsin. A daughter, Mary, became the wife of Thomas Price, of Chicago, and has now passed away.

The maternal grandfather of John F. Moyle was William Foxwell, a native of Cornwall, England, where he owned a large estate, being well known as a country gentleman of means and a man of liberal education. After his death his widow, who bore the maiden name of Ann Harris, came to the United States and passed away at the home of her son-in-law, Thomas Moyle, when in her eightieth year.

John F. Moyle, whose name introduces this review, has been a lifelong resident of Yorkville save that the period of his infancy was passed in his native land. He has lived, however, in this county for seventy-four years, a period exceeding that of most of its other citizens. His education was acquired in a district school and he was also given the opportunity of developing his musical talent which was marked. For a number of years he taught singing schools and music has always constituted one of the delights of his life. He worked upon his father's farm until nineteen years of age and then turned his attention to carpentering and building, being employed along those lines for thirty-seven years and taking active part in promoting the building activity of the county. He was engaged in that work for some time in Racine, but eventually he turned his attention to the insurance business and for twenty-two years has been the capable and efficient secretary of the Yorkville & Mount Pleasant Farmers Mutual Insurance Company.

In 1866 Mr. Moyle was united in marriage to Miss Susan Foxwell, who was born in Caledonia, Wisconsin, a daughter of John and Lucy Foxwell. Her father, now deceased, was for more than four decades successfully identified with the interests of Racine county. He was born in Cornwall, England, as was his father, William Foxwell, who spent his entire life in that country, where both he and his father, John Foxwell, were country gentlemen, owning good estates. William Foxwell received a medal from the Royal Society of England for saving the crew of the troop ship Royal George, which was wrecked off the coast of Cornwall when returning from India. He died when about seventy-five years of age and was survived by his wife, Ann Harris, a daughter of John Harris, a farmer who died in England. After her husband's death Mr. Foxwell came to America with her family and lived in Yorkville township, Racine county, until her demise, which occurred when she was in her eightieth year. A contemporary biographer has given the following account of the father of Mrs. Moyle:

"John Foxwell came from England to America in 1840, and located in Racine county, Wisconsin. He took up land from the government at one dollar and a quarter per acre, buying what is now known as the Thomas Shepard farm, but in less than a year he sold out and moved to Caledonia township, buying a farm there. After some fifteen years residence there he returned in March, 1856, to Yorkville township, where he purchased a large farm, on which he lived until the day of his death. Mr. Foxwell was a man of more than ordinary mental attainments, and, having received a liberal education in his native land, became a valuable acquisition in this new community. With a musical and artistic temperament, and deep religious convictions, he was a power among his neighbors for good, and was one of the founders and a life-

long supporter of the church and society at Yorkville, his best endeavors being freely given as a lay preacher, as long as he was able to build it up. Politically, before and during the Civil war, Mr. Foxwell was an abolitionist, and when that question was settled espoused the cause of the prohibition party. He was without political ambition, but never indifferent to the welfare of the state. He died at his home March 20, 1882, at the age of seventy-five years. John Foxwell chose for his wife Miss Lucy P. Briggs, daughter of Ansel and Susanna (Alton) Briggs, born in Zanesville, Ohio, August 30, 1820. They were married September 13, 1841, and Mrs. Foxwell is still living in their old home. They were the parents of twelve children, namely: William, of Lincoln, Nebraska; Susan M., deceased wife of John F. Moyle; Avis, wife of Wells M. Cook, of Des Moines, Iowa; Lydia, who married Jerome McLaughlin, of Hartford, Michigan; Mary Ann, wife of Thomas F. Moyle, of Waterford, Wisconsin; Philander, deceased; John, of Wapello, Iowa; Mark, of Manitoba; George, of Waterford; Lucy, wife of George Richards, of Waukesha; and Paul and Elsie, who did not outlive infancy. Mrs. Lucy P. Foxwell is in the seventh generation from the first of the Briggs family to come to America. There were three brothers, who came to Massachusetts early in the sixteen hundreds, possibly among the Pilgrims. Her paternal grandfather, Zedock Briggs, a native of Massachusetts, and a farmer by occupation, bore arms in the Revolution. He married Miss Harriet Palmeto, and both lived to a good old age, her death occurring only six weeks prior to his. They had five daughters and seven sons. Their son, Ansel, father of Mrs. Foxwell, was born in Massachusetts, and grew up and married there, but in 1814 went with his wife to Ohio. He settled first on a farm on the Muskingum river, but afterward moved to Medina county, and finally, in 1837, went to Wisconsin, settling in Caledonia township, Racine county, where he remained about thirteen years. Then he again sought a new home further west, finally locating in Iowa, in Illyria township, Fayette county, where he and his wife died. They were buried in the cemetery at Lima. At the time of his death, May 8, 1855, Mr. Briggs was sixty-five years old, and his wife, Susanna (Alton) Briggs, died June 10, 1853, aged fifty-eight years. They had ten sons and two daughters, ten of whom grew to maturity. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Foxwell, Amasa Alton, came to this country as a Hessian soldier, fought against the colonists, was wounded, and was taken prisoner at the battle of Saratoga. On parole, becoming better acquainted with the object of the colonists, he espoused their cause, and renouncing his allegiance to king and country, became an American citizen. When the strife was over he lived and died as a farmer in Massachusetts. He was twice married, first to Miss Rachel Blood and second to Miss Philena Rice. By the two marriages he became the father of six children, all daughters. Mrs. Lucy P. Foxwell made the journey from Ohio to Wisconsin with her father's family in 1837, and she well remembers the trip, which was made by wagon. A resident of Wisconsin for seventy-nine years, she has seen the country develop from a wilderness, and can recall Racine when there were only four houses on the east side of Main street. One of the interesting characters in this sketch, she still lives at the age of ninety-six years, in her own home, and in the full possession of all her faculties. Her reminiscences of the early settlement of Racine county are highly prized by

her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, by all of whom she is duly loved and honored and whose great pleasure is to gather annually at her home and celebrate her birthday."

To Mr. and Mrs. Moyle were born eight children, of whom six are yet living: Walter, who is engaged in the nursery business in Yorkville; Lydia, the wife of Professor Seederstrom, of St. Cloud, Minnesota; Nellie, the wife of Roy Blackburn, a dairyman of Texas; Cecil; Amy, and Mary, the wife of Leonard Kellogg, who is engaged in the nursery business in Texas. The wife and mother of this family passed away April 13, 1904, in the sixty-first year of her age, and in 1909 Mr. Moyle married Lydia Foxwell, a sister of his first wife and the widow of Jerome McLaughlin.

In his political views Mr. Moyle is a prohibitionist, which indicates his attitude on the temperance question and his loyal support of whatever he believes to be right. For thirty years he has filled the office of justice of the peace and his decisions have ever been strictly fair and impartial. He has served as town clerk for seven years and was clerk of the school board for twenty-five years. He has also been secretary in the Mutual Fire Insurance Company for twenty-two years and has been connected therewith for forty years. He still owns seventy-two acres of land, which, however, he rents and this brings to him a substantial income. His has been an active and well spent life and those who know him esteem him for his sterling worth. He has a wide acquaintance and high regard is entertained for him wherever he is known and most of all where he is best known.

EDGAR P. WOLF.

Edgar P. Wolf, the treasurer of the Perfex Radiator Company and one of the wide-awake, alert and enterprising young business men of Racine, was born in Chicago, October 6, 1891, a son of J. P. and Emily J. (Augustus) Wolf. The father was engaged in the stone business and in the building and real estate business. He afterward served for ten years as United States marshal, retiring from that position on the 1st of January, 1916. He is not now actively connected with any business affairs, although he is financially interested in the Perfex Radiator Company and holds the office of secretary.

E. P. Wolf, after attending the public schools of Chicago, became a student in the University of Chicago and after his textbooks were put aside was engaged in various manufacturing and commercial lines in different capacities until the organization of the Automobile Radiator & Parts Manufacturing Company, in which he was associated with F. M. Opitz and others. They developed the largest enterprise of this character in Chicago and Mr. Wolf became one of its directors. At length plans were perfected to remove the business to Racine and the company took over the invention and patents of F. M. Opitz, who had brought forth a radiator which was an improvement on all others that had hitherto been manufactured for internal combustion engine use. The plant was established at Racine, the business was reorganized and the company incorporated and Mr. Wolf at that time became treasurer of the

company and is still active in the management and control of the business, which from the beginning has grown steadily and rapidly. Improvements have been made on the radiator each year and it is now accepted as a standard product. Something of the growth of the business is indicated in the fact that there are now two hundred employes and the plant is working to its full capacity, the trade steadily growing until the output is now sent to all parts of the country, being used largely by tractor and automobile manufacturers.

On the 28th of October, 1914, Mr. Wolf was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Vera Smith, of Boston, Massachusetts, a daughter of George B. and Jennie Smith. They now have one child, George Byron. Mr. Wolf is a devoted and consistent member of the First Methodist Episcopal church. In social circles of the community he and his wife are held in high esteem and Mr. Wolf has won a most creditable position among the progressive business men of his adopted city.

LAWRENCE R. LARSEN.

Lawrence R. Larsen, accounted one of the enterprising young business men of Racine, was born in this city, March 23, 1897, a son of Martin and Johanna Larsen, who are natives of Denmark. In early life they crossed the Atlantic to become residents of the new world, hoping to enjoy better business opportunities on this side the water than the father could hope to secure in his native land. Making their way to Racine, they have since resided in this city and Mr. Larsen is now engaged in the furniture business.

Spending his boyhood and youth in Racine, L. R. Larsen is indebted to its public and high schools for his educational opportunities, supplemented by a course in a business college, which qualified him for the responsibilities that now devolve upon him. In 1915 he came to the Perfex Radiator Company, where he occupies the position of general office man. He is making it his purpose to thoroughly master every phase of the business and render his service of much value to the corporation which he represents. He is ambitious and energetic and his friends do not hesitate to prophesy for him a successful future.

RACINE AUTO TIRE COMPANY.

The Racine Auto Tire Company was organized as a partnership February 1, 1910, by L. J. Elliott and Clarence H. Wright and was incorporated November 28, 1914, with Mr. Elliott as president, J. H. Wright as vice president and Clarence H. Wright as secretary, treasurer and manager. The plant is located at No. 1220 Fourteenth street. They started with small space and three employes, while the output amounted to three tires per day. Something of the growth of the business within the short space of less than six years is indicated in the fact that they now employ one hundred and twenty-five men and manu-

facture two hundred and twenty-five tires per day, their output being known to the market as the Racine Horseshoe tire. They manufacture all sizes and weights of tires for various machines and these are sold to dealers and jobbers throughout the middle west and to the Pacific coast. They use excellent material and employ skilled labor, as is evidenced by the rapid increase in their output. The product is of very high grade and the growth of the business is indicated in the fact that it is now profitable to maintain branch houses at Des Moines, Milwaukee, Minneapolis and Chicago. Their plant covers a space of seventy-five by one hundred and seventy-five feet, the building being two stories in height and they expect to erect a new factory at an early date. By the 1st of June, 1916, their shipments reached an amount equal to all shipments made in 1915. The growth of the business has been particularly rapid since 1914 and is due to careful organization, judicious advertising, excellent workmanship in manufacturing and the marked executive power of the officials.

CLARENCE H. WRIGHT.

Clarence H. Wright, the secretary, treasurer and manager of the Racine Auto Tire Company, was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, June 14, 1883, a son of J. H. Wright, who, in 1893, removed with his family to Racine and became general superintendent of the Fish Brothers Wagon Factory, which position of responsibility he acceptably filled for sixteen years. He then resigned and built a large wagon manufacturing plant in Canada and in March, 1915, he again became identified with the business interests of Racine as vice president of the Racine Auto Tire Company.

After leaving the high school, in which he completed his education, Clarence H. Wright entered the employ of the Fish Brothers Wagon Company as timekeeper in the factory and various promotions brought him to the position of foreman of the wheel department. In 1907 he organized the Racine Compressed Air Cleaning Company, conducting business at both Racine and Kenosha and was associated therewith until 1910, when he entered into active relations with the Racine Auto Tire Company, which was organized on the 1st of February, of that year, Mr. Wright becoming one of its founders. The business gradually developed until 1914 and since then has gone forward with leaps and bounds until the establishment, which originally employed but three men and made but three tires per day, is now giving employment to one hundred and twenty-five workmen while its output is two hundred and twenty-five tires daily.

On the 10th of June, 1909, Mr. Wright was married to Miss Jessie Elliott Deacon, a daughter of Walter F. and Louise E. Deacon of Racine. They now have two daughters: Mary Virginia and Jane Elliott. Mr. Wright votes with the republican party, strongly endorsing its policy and principles, and is interested in local affairs, as evidenced in his membership in the Commercial Club. He also belongs to St. Luke's Episcopal church, in which he has served as vestryman for many years and in its work he takes an active and helpful part. In an analysis of his life work it will be seen that he has been ac-

tuated by high principles, both in business and in other relations, for he has continually reached toward lofty attainment, making his service of great worth in community interests relative to the material, civic and moral development of his city.

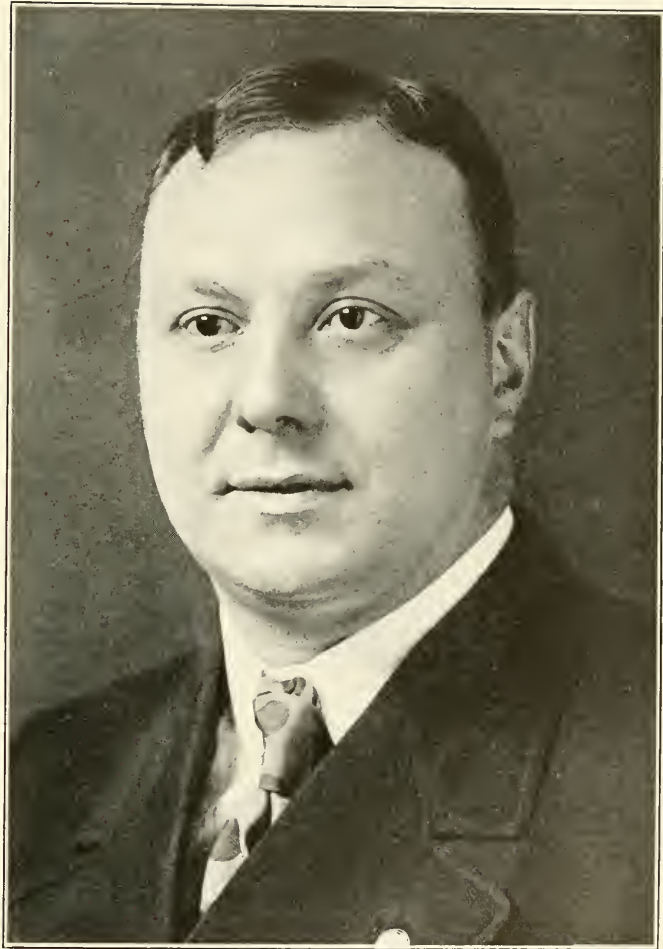
RACINE ELECTRIC COMPANY.

The Racine Electric Company is one of the more recently established enterprises of the county, having been in existence for four years. It was organized in 1912 with Toulie Tolfson as president; John Ruggaber as secretary, treasurer and manager, and William Nelson as director. In the year 1913 Messrs. Tolfson and Nelson sold out and Herbert Van Bree, purchasing an interest in the business, was elected to the presidency. The business was started on Douglas avenue, in a small place, there remaining until the increasing trade caused a removal when larger quarters were secured at the corner of Prospect and Superior streets, where they occupied the third floor of the building with the Racine Iron & Wire Works. They manufacture electric motor specialties, vacuum cleaners, vibrators, motors, fans, drink mixers and grinding motors, and the product is sold in all parts of America and in Canada. Mr. Ruggaber, a man of marked inventive genius and ingenuity, has taken out patents on most of the articles manufactured. Thirty-six employes are on the payroll and the output is sold largely to dealers, manufacturers' agents and jobbers. With the acceptance of electricity as a motive power and rapid development of electrical business their output has come into general use and their patronage has steadily grown. The company will build a three-story brick factory on the North Side on Yout street near Douglas avenue.

JOHN WILLIAM RUGGABER.

John William Ruggaber, secretary, treasurer and manager of the Racine Electric Company, was born on the 26th of July, 1882, in the city of Racine, his parents being Joseph and Theresa (Brick) Ruggaber, the former a native of Ottawa, Illinois, while the latter was also born in Racine. The Ruggaber family was early established in this section of the state and as the name indicates they come of German ancestry. The father, Joseph Ruggaber, died in the year 1894, but the mother still survives. They had a family of four sons: Frank, John W., Ed and Albert, all of whom are yet living.

John William Ruggaber obtained a public school education while spending his youthful days under the parental roof. He was early trained to habits of industry and from boyhood days has depended largely upon his own resources for a living. He first secured employment in the plating works of William Brown and afterward occupied a position in the Bee Bee Bicycle Works. Still later he was with the Racine Wagon & Carriage Company and afterward with the J. W. Spence Jewelry Manufacturing Company. He has



JOHN W. RUGGABER

occupied positions in various departments of the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company with which he remained for seven years, spending five years in the boiler works, while later he was for two years with the Case Plow Works. All these different connections have brought him broad experience, resulting in increased skill and ability. Entering the service of the Standard Electric Works he was made assistant foreman of the assembling department for a few months and later was given charge of the assembling department. He became associated with the Hamilton-Beach Company on its organization and remained with that company for two years, having charge of the assembling department. At the end of that time he became one of the organizers of the Racine Electric Company, of which he was made secretary, treasurer and manager, and he has since been the active head of this business, mention of which is made above.

On the 29th of May, 1904, Mr. Ruggaber was married to Miss Lucy Cook, of Racine, a daughter of Theodore and Margaret Cook, and they now have five children: Lucile, Leon, Kermet, Louis and Lavern. The family are communicants of St. Patrick's church. In politics Mr. Ruggaber maintains an independent attitude when casting a local ballot but at national elections favors the republican party. He has membership with the Fraternal Order of Eagles and with the United Commercial Travelers. There have been no unusual chapters in his life's record; his career has been an orderly progression, consistent in its advance and ruled by that sound judgment which takes into consideration needs and opportunities as well as individual capability.

L. C. CHRISTENSEN.

L. C. Christensen is one of the extensive land owners of Racine county, his holdings embracing more than five hundred acres, much of which he now rents, but gives personal supervision to the further cultivation and improvement of a tract of eighty acres, on which he conducts a large wholesale and retail live stock business. There is something stimulating in the life record of such a man as Mr. Christensen, who owes his success to his own efforts, his record proving what may be accomplished when energy and ambition point out the way. He was born in Norway township, this county, April 13, 1883, a son of N. M. and Marie (Larson) Christensen, both of whom were natives of Denmark. The father arrived in Racine county when a young man, and purchased land in Norway township, whence he removed to Raymond township in 1884, becoming owner there of an excellent tract of one hundred and eighty acres, of which he cleared and developed one hundred and fifty acres. He built good buildings upon the place and added other modern improvements. He was married twice, Marie Larson becoming his second wife, and when he married a second time he had only money enough to pay the preacher. His success was all acquired after that, yet before his death he had become one of the substantial and prosperous citizens of his community. His life, moreover, was ever upright and honorable, being in consistent harmony with his profes-

sions as a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he was a republican.

Reared to farm life, L. C. Christensen pursued his education in the public schools and when but fifteen years of age began dealing in live stock, since which time he has continued active in that business. He slaughters and sells meat to the Racine market and is also a large shipper to Chicago. For fourteen years he has made weekly trips to Racine with dressed meat. His life has been one of unfaltering industry and as the years have gone on he has won a very substantial measure of success, owing to his careful management and keen business sagacity. From time to time he has made judicious investments in property until his holdings now embrace five hundred and two-thirds acres of land. From the greater part of this he derives a substantial rental and upon the eighty-acre tract, which he reserves for personal cultivation and improvement, he raises the crops best adapted to soil and climatic conditions here. He conducts an extensive dairy business on a farm of two hundred and fifty-seven acres at Franksville, Wisconsin, and the remainder of his farm lands is used for live stock purposes. In business affairs he displays sound judgment and unfaltering enterprise and whatever he has undertaken he has carried forward to successful completion.

In 1905 Mr. Christensen was married to Miss Bertha M. Fredrickson, a daughter of Peter Fredrickson, an early settler of Raymond township, arriving there in his boyhood, so that a part of his education was there acquired. He became a successful and well-to-do farmer and is now living retired in Racine. Mr. and Mrs. Christensen have become parents of two sons: Norman, ten years of age, and Harold, aged six.

The family attend the Baptist church and Mr. Christensen gives his political support to the republican party. He is yet a young man, but many a one twice his years might well envy the position to which he has attained and the success which he has acquired. He seems to readily recognize the correct value of any business situation and he has so used his time and opportunities that he has gained a place among the most substantial farmers of Racine county.

ARNOLD ELECTRIC COMPANY.

The Arnold Electric Company was organized April 19, 1904, as the United States Standard Electrical Works and business was started in a small way on the fourth floor of the Secor building, in Racine, where they occupied one room. They manufactured electrical devices under the trade name of Arnold and from the beginning the business grew very rapidly and developed its scope to include a line of motor operated devices. This company was the first to place on the market the small type of vacuum cleaners for household use and they were also the originators and developers of the portable massage vibrators, electric hair dryers, electric drink mixers, washing machines, electric signs and phonograph motors. They manufacture small power motors for various uses.

On the 20th of November, 1914, the name was changed to the Arnold Electric Company and the capital stock was increased to one hundred thousand dollars, fully paid up. In 1907 the business was removed to a small building known as the Collier building, at Washington avenue and the Northwestern tracks, but in 1909 still more space was required and they purchased an entire city block, on which they erected a three-story and basement brick mill construction building, giving them fifty thousand square feet of floor space. They have their own tool making department and they employ about two hundred and fifty people, most of whom are skilled laborers. Their output is today sold all over the world and the business is recognized as one of the rapidly developing and profitable manufacturing concerns of Racine. Its officers are George C. Schmitz, president and manager, and J. A. Schmitz, secretary and treasurer.

GEORGE C. SCHMITZ.

It has been said that a successful corporation is not only a "maker of money but a maker of men." It is true that opportunity calls forth latent powers and stimulates the energy and ambition of the individual, but it is equally true that the individual must have in him those inherent qualities which make for success, and then the combination of opportunity and industry will bring its results. This has been manifested in the career of George C. Schmitz, president and manager of the Arnold Electric Company, which in a period of twelve years has developed its interests into one of the important industries of Racine.

Mr. Schmitz is a native of Racine, born November 7, 1878, his parents being Nicholas and Catherine (Arnold) Schmitz. The father, who was born in the year 1824, in Germany, arrived in Racine in 1850 and here followed the wagon-maker's trade which he had previously learned in his native land. For a considerable period he was connected with the Mitchell Wagon Company and afterward with the Winnship Manufacturing Company, but he is now living retired at the very venerable age of ninety-two years. It was in February, 1861, that he wedded Catherine Arnold, who has reached the age of seventy-eight years. She, too, was born in Germany, and about 1848 came to the United States with her parents, the family home being established in Milwaukee.

Entering public school at the usual age George C. Schmitz passed through consecutive grades until he had entered and spent one year in the high school. He started in business life as a manufacturer's agent and entered into business on his own account in 1904, when he with others organized the United States Standard Electrical Works, manufacturing all kinds of motor devices and having today one of the large and important manufacturing plants of the city. He has proved adequate to the situation and the opportunity, his ability enabling him to squarely face the former and utilize the latter, and each forward step he has taken in his business career has brought him a broader outlook.

Mr. Schmitz is a valued member of the Benevolent Protective Order of

Elks and also a popular representative of the Country Club of Racine and in this city, where his entire life has been passed, he has a most extensive and favorable acquaintance.

J. A. SCHMITZ.

J. A. Schmitz, secretary and treasurer of the Arnold Electric Company, was born in Racine, March 9, 1862, a son of Nicholas Schmitz, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work in connection with the sketch of his son, George C. Schmitz. The educational opportunities afforded J. A. Schmitz were those to be obtained in the public and parochial schools of Racine and upon attaining his majority he went, in 1883, to St. Paul, Minnesota, where he accepted a position and also pursued a course in a business college. Later he opened a real estate office in that city and after continuing for a short time in that field turned his attention to the wholesale cigar and tobacco business. Eventually he became manager of the mail order department of the firm of Field, Schliek & Company.

It was in August, 1910, that Mr. Schmitz returned to Racine to become secretary and treasurer of the Arnold Electric Company and to his duties in that connection he has since bent his energies, contributing to the development and upbuilding of the business, which in the last few years has made rapid strides, becoming one of the large and important manufacturing concerns of the city, placing upon the market a large line of motor devices. Its inventions have met a want in household appliances, greatly lessening labor in many particulars and a record of the company is given at length on another page of this work.

In 1890 Mr. Schmitz was married to Miss Helena Schliek of St. Paul, a daughter of Frank and Coelestine (Forester) Schliek, of St. Paul, in which city they were pioneer residents and the father was engaged in business as a contractor and builder. Mr. and Mrs. Schmitz have but one child, Helena, at home. The parents are members of St. Rose Catholic church. Ability has brought Mr. Schmitz to the front in manufacturing circles. With energy and determination he has overcome the obstacles and difficulties in his path and advancing step by step has reached a creditable place as a forceful and resourceful business man.

L. W. SMITH.

L. W. Smith, who, in the conduct of a real estate, loan and insurance business has devoted considerable attention to building and selling of homes and has thus contributed in notable measure to the development of the southwestern section of Racine, was born in this city December 8, 1888, a son of Henry L. and Mary Ann (Fennell) Smith, the former a native of New York and the latter of Trowbridge, England. The mother was a daughter of John and

Martha Fennell, who came to Racine in 1879, her father becoming foreman of the molding department of the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company, which position he acceptably filled for twenty-one years. Later he was called to the offices of city treasurer and city assessor and at the present time he is living retired, enjoying a rest which his former activities have fully merited. The paternal grandfather of L. W. Smith was Lawrence Smith, who brought his family to Racine in 1863. He was a seaman, who sailed on both the ocean and the lakes. He became captain of vessels and was well known in that connection. His son, Henry L. Smith, took up the trade of a molder and is now with the Wisconsin Cylinder Foundry Company.

Completing his education by study in the high school, supplemented by a course in the agricultural department of the Wisconsin University, L. W. Smith then entered the employ of the United States government and for about a year was connected with the department of commerce and labor. In 1910 he opened a real estate office at 1514 Washington avenue and now has his office in the adjoining building, at No. 1516. He not only handles real estate but also writes insurance and places loans and in the conduct of his real estate interests he negotiates property transfers for others and also builds houses for sale. He has confined his operations largely to the southwest side of Racine and has been instrumental in the development and improvement of that section of the city, where he has transformed unsightly vacancies into attractive residence districts and thereby has greatly enhanced property values and promoted prosperity in that region. He is also a director of the Home Mutual Building & Loan Association and a member of the Racine real estate board.

On the 11th of October, 1911, Mr. Smith was married to Miss Gertrude Weber, a daughter of Adolph and Theresa Weber, who were early residents of Racine, where the father now lives retired. The children of this marriage are: Philip, and Robert and Richard, twins. The family attend St. Rose Catholic church and Mr. Smith belongs also to the Knights of Columbus. He is likewise identified with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and is a member of the Junction Advancement Association. He has never become an active factor in politics, casting an independent ballot, but he puts forth every effort—and his labors are most effective—for the benefit and improvement of the city in which he lives.

CHARLES V. McAVOY.

Charles V. McAvoy, secretary-treasurer of the Wisconsin Auto Top Company, was born in Racine, April 12, 1889, a son of Anthony and Alice (Bowers) McAvoy. The father, who was a native of Ireland, came to Racine in 1866 and for a long period was connected with the industrial development of the city as proprietor of a wagon and carriage plant, but later lived retired to the time of his death, which occurred March 11, 1914. His widow still survives. Mr. McAvoy was for a number of years supervisor and was otherwise prominently connected with public affairs in the community. He held membership in St. Rose Catholic church, to which Mrs. McAvoy still belongs, and he was a

member of the Royal Arcanum, the Royal League, the Knights of Columbus, the Knights of America and the Knights of Wisconsin.

Charles V. McAvoy, educated in the public and high schools of his native city, afterward spent two years in newspaper work and in January, 1910, became one of the organizers of the Wisconsin Auto Top Company, its first officers being: Anthony McAvoy, president; E. P. McAvoy, vice president; C. V. McAvoy, secretary; and M. I. McAvoy, treasurer. Upon the death of Anthony McAvoy Mrs. McAvoy was elected president of the company. Their plant is located at Seventeenth and South Hamilton avenue, where they have two buildings, each forty by one hundred and twelve feet. They manufacture a full line of covers for automobiles and the plant turns out equipment for thirty thousand automobiles per year, its output being twice that of any other factory of similar size in the United States. The product is sold all over this country and abroad and the covers are mostly made from rubberized fabrics. They sell to the jobbers and dealers, keeping no traveling salesmen, and they have shipped their goods to every country in the world. Today they employ about sixty people and the business is one of the growing manufacturing concerns of the city. In addition to the Wisconsin Auto Top Company Charles V. McAvoy and his two brothers, F. J. and H. S., are managers of the London Auto Supply Company of Chicago, manufacturers of automobile bodies, the business being managed by the two brothers of C. V. McAvoy. Another brother, J. A. McAvoy, is owner of the London Limousine Company, of New York, manufacturers of limousine bodies, and all of these brothers have branched out in their business interests through the old carriage manufacturing business, keeping up with the changes in the times brought about through the supplanting of the carriage by the motor car. They have been ready to recognize and grasp an opportunity and thus have advanced to the goal of success.

On the 25th of March, 1915, Mr. McAvoy was married to Miss Josephine Artmaier, of Racine, a daughter of John and Marie Artmaier. Mr. and Mrs. McAvoy are members of St. Rose Catholic church and Mr. McAvoy holds membership with the Elks.

THEODORE C. HEGNER.

With the organization of the Monarch Shoe Company in 1909, Theodore C. Hegner became its first president and treasurer and has so continued to the present time, concentrating his efforts and attention upon the development of the business, which in its ramifying trade connections now covers a very broad territory, making this one of the profitable manufacturing concerns of the city. Mr. Hegner was born in Racine, May 21, 1876, the son of John P. and Angeline (Weins) Hegner, who were natives of Germany. The father came to the United States in 1863 and was connected with the leather business in Chicago for a period, but in 1873 established a grocery store in Racine, where he carried on business for many years, becoming one of the leading merchants in his line. He was accorded a liberal patronage, which he merited because his business methods were at all times honorable and straightforward.

while progressiveness and industry characterized him in all of his business relations. He died in the year 1898, having for sixteen years survived his wife, who passed away in 1882.

Theodore C. Hegner obtained a public and high school education in Racine and early in his business career became connected with the Badger Electric Company, with which he remained for several years. He was afterward with the Fish Brothers Wagon Company for eleven years and at the end of that period, in 1909, organized the Monarch Shoe Company, of which he became the president and treasurer, with Charles Bernhard as vice president and Henry Oehmen as secretary. There has been no change in the personnel of the company from the beginning. The plant was at first located at Sixth and Villa streets and in 1913 a removal was made to the corner of Hamilton avenue and Seventeenth street, where the factory has twenty-five thousand square feet of floor space in a building two stories in height, employment being furnished to from seventeen to twenty-five people. They manufacture sporting goods of various kinds, including baseball, gymnasium and hunting boots and shoes; also shoes for bowlers, golfers, tennis players and in fact athletic shoes of every description, which are put upon the market under the Monarch brand and are of excellence that the product finds a ready sale from coast to coast. In fact the trade not only covers the United States but extensive shipments are also made to the American possessions. The business has constantly developed along gratifying lines. Every department is thoroughly systematized, the work is carried on most methodically and there is no useless expenditure of time, labor nor material. In its output the company keeps in touch with modern day needs and demands and in fact anticipates the demand so that it is ready to meet the trade at the call.

On the 27th of September, 1912, Mr. Hegner was married to Miss Ella Krill, of Milwaukee, and to them have been born two children, John and Theodore. The parents are members of St. Rose Catholic church and Mr. Hegner is also identified with the Knights of Columbus. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party and he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day, but has never been an aspirant for office, as he feels that his time and attention are fully occupied by his business interests. He has worked his way upward and as the architect of his own fortunes, has builded wisely and well. Within seven years he has developed an enterprise of importance in his community, its success being of a most substantial character, while its methods commend it to the further confidence and support of the public.

JOHN VYVYAN.

John Vyvyan, of Yorkville township, had no capital when he began farming on his own account, but possessed enterprise and good judgment and as the years have passed has prospered. He has given land to each of his children, but still holds one hundred and sixty acres, on which he is engaged in general farming. His birth occurred in Raymond township, this county, on the 15th of November, 1850, and he is a son of William and Matilda Vyvyan,

both of whom were born in Cornwall, England. They came to America, however, in young manhood and womanhood and their marriage occurred in Yorkville township, Racine county. The father followed the butchering business during the greater part of his life, but also was interested in farming and held title to a large tract of land. He had a wide acquaintance and was recognized as a public-spirited and valuable citizen. In politics he was a republican and his religious faith was that of the Methodist church. His demise occurred in 1901.

John Vyvyan, who is one of three children surviving of a family of six, was educated in the common schools of Raymond township and also early became familiar with agricultural work. After farming for several years he conducted a butcher shop in Union Grove for three years, but at the end of that time, or in 1871, bought his present farm, which comprises one hundred and sixty acres, in Yorkville township. He has erected a fine modern residence and out-buildings and has made many other improvements upon the place, which is one of the most valuable properties in the locality. The old house, in which he lived for several years after first taking up his residence upon this farm, is still standing. He also formerly owned other tracts of land, which he has given to his children. He is still actively engaged in stock raising and dairying and his well directed labor yields him a good financial return.

Mr. Vyvyan was married in 1868 to Miss Agnes Hunter, who was born in Scotland, but was brought by her parents to the United States when only three years of age. The family located in Raymond township, and there the father, William Hunter, is still living. To Mr. and Mrs. Vyvyan were born seven children: William, Benjamin, Walter, John E. and Roy, all residents of Yorkville township; Mary, the wife of C. Roeky, who is engaged in the cement business in Racine, and Margaret, the wife of George Christensen, a merchant of Racine. The wife and mother passed away in August, 1914, and her demise was deeply regretted not only by her family but also by her many friends.

The republican party has a staunch supporter in Mr. Vyvyan and he takes commendable interest in everything affecting the public welfare, although not an office seeker. He belongs to the Yorkville Methodist Episcopal church, with which his wife is also identified, and in all relations of life has measured up to high standards of conduct. He has passed his entire life in Racine county and the fact that those who have known him intimately since boyhood are his warmest friends is proof of his genuine worth.

FRED W. GUNTHER.

That perseverance and effort intelligently directed may overcome all obstacles and difficulties is illustrated in the history of Fred W. Gunther, now conducting an extensive canning business and sauerkraut manufactory, a business that brings to him excellent profit although at the outset it seemed that failure would follow the venture. Born in Buffalo, New York, on the 18th of February, 1854, Fred W. Gunther is a son of Henry A. and Caroline Gunther, who in the year 1856 came to Racine. The father, who was a machinist



FRED W. GUNTHER

by trade, died in 1912 but the mother is still living and has reached the age of eighty-five years.

Brought to this city when but two years of age, Fred W. Gunther obtained a public school education and afterward learned the machinist's trade which he followed for sixteen years. In 1882 he began putting up sauerkraut in the back end of the machine shop, it being his desire to make something for sale. In that year there was little cabbage to be had. A St. Louis man came to Racine and purchased practically all the market supply of cabbage after which he began manufacturing sauerkraut. Mr. Gunther and his father were running a little machine shop and they made a machine for the man to cut cabbage. He left without paying for the machine so that Mr. Gunther took over the machine and himself started in the sauerkraut business. He and his father borrowed six hundred dollars from the bank in order to embark in the undertaking. The first year their output was two hundred barrels and the kraut was advertised at eight dollars per barrel. It was worth, however, only three dollars per barrel on the market, but Mr. Gunther did not know this. He sent thirty barrels to Baltimore and the buyer failed. His plant was erected on Villa street at the corner of Sixth street. In the early days of the undertaking Mr. Gunther realized but little, selling his output at a figure that brought him practically no return. He was ready to abandon the business, but he had in his possession over one thousand empty barrels which he had purchased at a bargain. The next year he again manufactured sauerkraut and then prices were good so that he made money and his output was such that he not only used all of the barrels which he had on hand but bought more. He then built a plant with a capacity of two thousand barrels per year at a cost of fifteen hundred dollars, but the following year the market went flat and he again lost money. He had been paying for cabbage by the head and he originated the idea of buying it by the ton, being the first man to do so. That year he had kraut all over Racine, in steamboat docks, in freight depots, in cellars and other places. In the spring the odor began to permeate and everyone insisted that the kraut be moved. He could not sell it, so took one hundred and fifty barrels out in the lake and fed it to the fish. A week later it was reported that a wreck must have occurred, for sauerkraut was coming in all along the shore of Lake Michigan and the farmers finding it were peddling it. Times changed, however, and with the next year Mr. Gunther had better luck. He removed his plant to Asylum avenue and the St. Paul tracks, leasing the property from Mrs. Murray, and later he purchased the property. His plant now covers about an acre of ground. The first year in his present location he again met almost insurmountable difficulties and hardships and disaster threatened him. Over one thousand tons of cabbage spoiled and was dumped along the right of way of the St. Paul tracks for miles. During the second year at the present location the business fared better and the equipment was so arranged that the cabbage would not spoil. After that the company rented land and raised their own cabbage, starting with from thirty to forty acres. Something of the growth of the business is indicated in the fact that they now plant over five hundred acres per year and Mr. Gunther individually owns a farm of three hundred acres which is planted to cabbage and beans. They contract with the farmers for the balance of their needs. In

1904 he began a general canning business and now puts up nearly one million cans of beans and sauerkraut annually and also about twelve thousand barrels of sauerkraut, employing five hundred people during the rush season. This has become an important industry of Racine and the business now brings to him a very substantial income upon his investment.

On the 14th of June, 1877, Mr. Gunther was married to Miss Susanna Horner, a native of Racine and a daughter of John F. and Mary Horner. Their children are Henry A., Fred J. and Royal F., all of whom are in business with their father. In 1893 the business was incorporated with Henry A. Gunther, Sr., as president; Emil Gunther, vice president, and Fred W. Gunther, secretary and treasurer. In 1911 Henry A. Gunther, Jr., Fred J. and Royal F. Gunther, the sons of our subject, purchased the interests of Henry A. Gunther, Sr., and Emil Gunther, and the present officers are: Fred J. Gunther, president; Royal F. Gunther, vice president; Henry A. Gunther, secretary, and F. W. Gunther, treasurer and manager. In addition to his important interests in this connection Mr. Gunther has become identified with the Helmuth Cooperage Company of Chicago, is vice president of the Racine City Bank and is a large realty owner, holding much city property. He has opened a large tract for factory sites on the St. Paul Railroad, within the city limits, and at the present time he is financing the building of the new Perfex radiator factories, which are being constructed on a part of this addition, and is thereby adding to the industrial development, growth and prosperity of the city.

Mr. Gunther belongs to the United Commercial Travelers and he gives his political support to the republican party, but has had little time for outside interests, always concentrating his efforts and energies upon his private business affairs. On many occasions he has been unable to meet his notes to the farmers, but he has always managed to work out some solution for the difficulty and his creditors, knowing his honesty and intense industry, have given him time. Today he is at the head of one of the big manufacturing concerns in the city and his course is an illustration of what energy, determination and perseverance will accomplish. He possesses a saving sense of humor and at all times is able to see the fun in any situation. This undoubtedly has been one of the elements in his success, enabling him to tide over the hard times, and he is always ready to meet anyone with a smile, while many a humorous story from his lips entertains his auditors. Today he has reached a position of notable success, directing and controlling important interests of wide scope, and his record is one which should serve to encourage and inspire others, proving that there are no obstacles and difficulties in the business world that cannot be overcome by persistent, honorable and intelligently directed effort.

RACINE PAPER GOODS COMPANY.

The Racine Paper Goods Company was organized in 1894 by Lucius J. Elliott, Byron B. Blake, Richard T. Robinson and O. L. Parmenter. This was started as a partnership affair, the plant being located at No. 612 Wisconsin street. They manufacture paper cigar pockets, patented by O. L. Parmenter.

The company was incorporated in 1902 with L. J. Elliott as president; R. T. Robinson, vice president, and O. L. Parmenter, secretary and treasurer. The company also manufactures packages for putting up silk, chocolates and other kinds of candy, etc. Their product is sold all over the world and this business has done as much as has any other company in the city to make the name of Racine known throughout the length and breadth of the land. The policy maintained is fruitful of most excellent results. The company has ever taken a great interest in its employes, assisting them in every possible way. The product is sold to jobbers, retailers and manufacturers and the business has ever been conducted in recognition of the fact that satisfied patrons are the best advertisement. Seventy-five employes are in the Racine factory, one-half of whom are skilled workmen, and the company has another factory in Toronto, Canada. They also have their own printing plant and the factory uses special machinery, all of which has been invented and manufactured by Mr. Parmenter. The three officers of the company have been continuously associated in business since the establishment of the undertaking, but Mr. Parmenter is the only one who is in active charge. They have become particularly well known through their wax-lined coupon cigar pockets, which are impervious to either moisture or heat and are therefore equivalent to miniature pocket humidors. The pockets have a triple fold, making each pocket elastic, so that they can hold a large or small cigar equally well. Each cigar is therefore thoroughly protected. The business has grown rapidly and has now reached very gratifying proportions, while the sales of the house along other lines are equally gratifying.

ORVILLE L. PARMENTER.

Orville L. Parmenter, secretary and treasurer of the Racine Paper Goods Company, was born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1846, a son of Austin W. and Sarah (Calkins) Parmenter, both being representatives of old families of that city. The father was a pioneer lime manufacturer. Reared in Cleveland, the son attended the public schools there and after arriving at years of maturity was married in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1872, to Miss Jennie McBride, of Wooster, Ohio, a daughter of Henry and Martha (Spink) McBride, of New York, the latter a daughter of General Spink, of Revolutionary war fame. To Mr. and Mrs. Parmenter have been born four children: Henry A., who is in business with his father; James McMillan and O. A., who are also with their father, and Elsie, who died at the age of ten years.

The family are members of the Methodist church and take an active and helpful interest in its work. In his political views Mr. Parmenter is a republican and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day, so that he is able to support his position by intelligent argument, but he does not seek nor hold public office. He is a believer in Racine and has worked earnestly and effectively to promote its interests and uphold municipal standards. His entire life has been a busy, active and useful one and his inventions are now furnishing employment to over ten thousand people. Who, therefore, can

measure the far-reaching influences of his life work; all must acknowledge that his contribution to commercial progress has been a very important one. It was Mr. Parmenter who invented one of the first practical egg cases and introduced the same and this has been a valuable asset in many localities. Other results of his inventive genius, too, have awakened widespread attention and indorsement. In a word, his has been a valuable contribution to the world's work. Not alone along material lines, however, have his efforts been put forth, for he is guided in all that he does by a Christian faith that has found expression in church work and in his active connection with the Young Men's Christian Association, he having been a charter member of the Cleveland (Ohio) Institution.

JOSEPH O. KENNEDY.

Joseph O. Kennedy, vice president of the Racine Carriage Company, came to his present position after long connection and broad experience with the Sattley Company, carriage manufacturers, of this city. He is now concentrating his efforts upon the further development of the trade, reaching out along modern commercial lines for that success which is the direct outcome of close application, unfaltering diligence and unremitting energy. Mr. Kennedy was born in Franklin county, Missouri, June 24, 1877, a son of W. H. and Virginia Kennedy, who are still occupying the farm upon which they have lived for a half century, near St. Clair, Missouri.

Joseph O. Kennedy obtained a public school education and afterward pursued a normal course and in early manhood took up the profession of teaching, which he followed successfully for seven years, but in 1898 entered commercial circles at Moline, Illinois, where he accepted the position of shipping clerk with the Moline Plow Company. He had been reared to agricultural life and thus brought practical knowledge to the business so far as understanding of the practical value of the product of the house was concerned. This led to his promotion to the position of field expert and subsequently he was sent to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as territorial manager for the district comprising south-eastern Wisconsin and northeastern Illinois, remaining there from 1900 until 1903. He was next sent to Des Moines, Iowa, as territorial manager for the central part of that state and after a brief period there passed came to Racine in the fall of 1904 to enter upon the duties of traveling salesman with the Sattley Company, with which he continued until 1915, when the Racine Carriage Company was organized, taking over the business of the Sattley Company and the Richardson-Kennedy Company. Into the new field came men of long experience, thoroughly equipped for important work of this character. Mr. Kennedy was chosen vice president of the company and Mr. Richardson as president. Their united efforts are manifest in tangible results, for their business has gradually grown and developed and is today one of the large industrial enterprises of Racine. The work is splendidly systematized, so that maximum results are secured at a minimum expenditure of time, labor and material.

On the 30th of September, 1903, Mr. Kennedy was united in marriage to

Miss Louise Armstrong Wilson, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a daughter of Joseph B. and Caroline Wilson. They now have four children, namely: Marion, Robert Franklin and Gordon. Fraternally Mr. Kennedy is identified with the Masons, belonging to Belle City Lodge, No. 92, A. F. & A. M.; Orient Chapter, No. 12, R. A. M.; Racine Commandery, K. T., and the Eastern Star. He also has membership with the Elks and the United Commercial Travelers, of which he is a past councilor. He gives his political allegiance to the republican party and he attends the First Methodist Episcopal church. He is greatly interested in the public schools and at the present time is president of the Parent-Teachers' Association of the Stephen Bull School, where his children attend. His interests are broad and his activities have been so directed that he has not only promoted his individual interests but has contributed to public progress and improvement by throwing the weight of his influence to those causes which work for public benefit and to which he has also given earnest, active support.

RACINE HOSIERY COMPANY.

Racine is constantly drawing to it new industrial and commercial enterprises. Its development along manufacturing lines within the past few years has been notably rapid and among the concerns which have been started in the city in less than a half decade is that operating under the name of the Racine Hosiery Company, with W. R. Anderson as president, A. R. Anderson as manager and treasurer and J. H. Brinsley, secretary. The success of this undertaking was insured from the beginning, for its officers are men of long and broad practical experience in connection with every phase of the knitting business. W. R. Anderson has had forty years' experience as a dyer and is now the highest salaried man in that line of work in the country, having charge of the finishing and dyeing department of the Chicago-Kenosha Hosiery Company. His son, A. R. Anderson, brought to his present duties the lessons learned from twenty years' training in all departments of the mill, including the office work, and, moreover, he based his advance in business upon a thorough technical training in chemistry received in the Northwestern University. The secretary of the company has had fifteen years' experience in the knitting end of the business, and thus the combined ability of the officers is adequate to every phase of the business and every situation that may arise.

The plant is located at Fifteenth and Clark streets and has eight thousand square feet of floor space. Its machinery was set in operation on the 3rd of September, 1912, the company having a paid-up capital of fifteen hundred dollars. The capacity of the plant was forty-two thousand pairs of stockings annually, the output of three knitting machines and three operatives, and from that beginning the business has increased until the machines now number twenty-nine, with a production of eight hundred and twenty thousand pairs of stockings annually, while thirty-five employes are on the pay rolls of the company. The production of this mill consists of pure thread silk and artificial silk and the product is finding a ready market from coast to coast. All of the hosiery

is made with the latest and most up-to-date improvements known to the trade of knitting, such as French welt top, reinforced transfer, expanded heel, narrowed ankle, double sole and advanced toe. The incorporation of these features allows the manufacturers to give the broad guarantee which is sent out with every pair of stockings—satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. The methods of manufacture and the business policy of the house insure a continuance and promise a development of the trade, and Racine has reason to congratulate herself upon this accession to her manufacturing circles.

ALEXANDER R. ANDERSON.

Alexander R. Anderson, manager and treasurer of the Racine Hosiery Company, has back of him twenty years' experience in all departments of the mill and is therefore most competent to control the enlarging and developing interests of this concern. The work is thoroughly systematized and everything done in a most methodical manner, so that there is no useless expenditure of time, labor nor material. It is a well recognized fact that this economy of forces is the basis of all modern business success.

Mr. Anderson was born in Lewiston, Maine, April 16, 1878, a son of Walter R. and Margaret (Murray) Anderson, both of whom are natives of Scotland, and on leaving the land of hills and heather came to the United States in the spring of 1867. The father has always been engaged in the knitting business save for a period of five years, which he spent in the manufacture of blankets. In 1894 he became a resident of Kenosha, Wisconsin, and has been with the Chicago-Kenosha Hosiery Company for the past twenty-two years, occupying a position of large responsibility, in charge of the finishing and dyeing department. Through the steps of an orderly progression he has worked his way up in business circles and is now a leading figure in the manufacturing interests of Kenosha. Both he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church and in the public life of the community he has taken an active and helpful part, serving as alderman of the city and exerting considerable influence over public affairs.

Alexander R. Anderson was a youth of sixteen years at the time of the removal of the family to Kenosha and his education, begun in the schools of the east, was continued in that city. After pursuing a course in the high school he spent two years in the Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, devoting his attention to chemistry. His attention was naturally directed into the field in which his father had been so long active and he resolved to qualify for important work of that character by thorough scientific training. He became connected with the Chicago-Kenosha Hosiery Company, with which he continued until 1905, working his way upward through all departments in the mill save the knitting department. In that year he removed to Mankato, Minnesota, where for five years he was in charge of the dyeing and finishing department of the Mankato Mills Company. In 1910 he came to Racine and since the organization of the Racine Hosiery Company, which began operations on the 3rd of September, 1912, he has been the manager and treasurer of the

company. From the beginning the new enterprise has prospered. It adopted as its policy that of giving full value and the product of the mills has found a ready sale, owing to the wise management and careful direction of its officers and owners. Mr. Anderson's father being president of the company, with forty years' experience back of him to contribute to its success.

On the 16th of June, 1906, Mr. Anderson was united in marriage to Miss Elsie Margaret Fuller, of Kenosha, her father being William W. Fuller, who is deceased. They now have three children, Elsie Margaret, Walter Willard and Edith Elizabeth. Fraternaly Mr. Anderson is identified with the Masons, while his political allegiance is given to the republican party. He has comparatively little time for outside interests, yet he is never neglectful of his duties of citizenship nor of his obligations in other connections and is appreciative of the social amenities of life. He has won a large circle of warm friends in Racine, as he did in Kenosha and in the other localities where he has lived, and while all appreciate his geniality and unfeigned cordiality, business men also speak of him in terms of the highest regard because of his straight-forward methods, which conform in the highest degree to modern ethical, commercial standards.

NELS K. JENSEN.

Nels K. Jensen, farmer and dairyman, makes his home on section 11, Norway township, where he has a well improved property, everything about the place indicating his progressive spirit, which is fraught with substantial results as manifest in excellent crops and in the fine appearance of his place. Mr. Jensen was born in Denmark, January 3, 1854, a son of Jans P. Larsen and Christina Petersen, who were also natives of Denmark, the former born in 1809 and the latter in 1812. They were married in that country and spent their entire lives there, the father successfully carrying on the occupation of farming. He died in the year 1884, having long survived his wife, who passed away in 1868. They had a family of ten children, of whom six are living, of which number Nels K. is the youngest. The others are: Carl C., a resident of Racine; Peter S., who is engaged in the real estate business in Racine; Dorothy, the wife of J. Nelson, of Denmark; Stina, the wife of E. Polson, of Denmark, and Bolette, who is the widow of B. Knutsen, and is engaged in dressmaking in Evanston, Illinois. The religious faith of the family is that of the Lutheran church, to which the parents belonged.

Nels K. Jensen pursued his education in the schools of his native country and was a young man of twenty-eight years when, in 1882, he came to Racine. For three years thereafter he was employed in wagon works of the city, but on the expiration of that period turned his attention to the occupation to which he had been reared and for a few years cultivated a rented farm. In 1906 he purchased his present property—a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of fine land situated on section 11, Norway township. The methods which he employs in developing and caring for his property are most practical and are attended with excellent results. In connection with general farming

he does considerable dairying and for this purpose keeps full blooded Holstein cows. Upon his place are substantial and commodious buildings, furnishing ample shelter to grain and stock, and he has recently erected a silo himself.

In 1883 Mr. Jensen was married to Miss Anna Jensen, who was born in Denmark, and they have become the parents of seven children who are yet living: Jennie, at home; Louie, who is employed in a factory in Racine; Walter, who is working upon the farm; and Willie, Robert, Roy and Emma, all yet under the parental roof.

In politics Mr. Jensen is an independent republican, usually voting for the candidates of the party, yet not regarding himself as bound by party ties. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and their influence is always on the side of those forces which work for righteousness and truth. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for here he has found the business opportunities which he sought and by reason of his indefatigable effort and persistent energy he has gained a place among the substantial and well-to-do residents of Norway township.

F. J. POPE, M. D.

Dr. F. J. Pope, a graduate of Rush Medical College of the class of 1875, has continuously engaged in the practice of his profession in Racine for forty years and has long occupied a prominent position as one of the leading surgeons of the city. He was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November 2, 1852, and is a son of C. A. and Emily (Hagan) Pope, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Germany. The father went to Germany to attend school in Bavaria, becoming a student in a theological college there, and while in that country he met and married Miss Hagan. He became a missionary of the church and afterward went to Quincy, Illinois, where he accepted a pastoral charge. Subsequently he was at Warsaw, Illinois, for six years, at Bethlehem, Effingham county, for three years, and at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, for a short time. Later he engaged in preaching in the Lutheran church in Kenosha and afterward in Wrightstown, Wisconsin, where he passed away in 1907. He had devoted his entire life to moral teaching and his labors resulted largely in the uplift of those who came under his guidance and influence. His wife survived him until 1910 and was laid to rest at Green Bay, Wisconsin.

F. J. Pope largely spent his boyhood in Quincy and Warsaw, Illinois, where he pursued his public school course. He studied the drug business at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and there remained for three years, after which he determined to make the practice of medicine his life work and began reading under the direction of Dr. J. Copp Noyes of Oshkosh, who remained his preceptor for two years. At the end of that time he entered Rush Medical College of Chicago and completed his course with the class of 1875. For a year thereafter he practiced in that city and then came to Racine, where he has since remained, his ability bringing him to the front among the medical prac-



DR. F. J. POPE

titioners of this city, where for forty years he has been honored as an able and conscientious representative of the profession.

In 1877 Dr. Pope was married to Miss Eugenie Wolfhügel. They have nine children: Edgar, who is in charge of the office of the Case Threshing Machine Company at Columbus, Ohio; F. W., who has become a physician and is associated with his father in practice; Rosa, at home; Louis, who is a graduate of the State University of Wisconsin and is now a civil engineer, practicing his profession in Madison; Eleanore, the wife of G. M. Goepfert, of Racine; Charles, a student of agriculture, and three who died in infancy.

Dr. Pope is a member of the Knights of Pythias lodge of Racine and his family are identified with the First Congregational church. In politics he is a democrat and has served on the United States pension board under Presidents Cleveland and Wilson. He has likewise been a member of the school board and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. Along strictly professional lines he has connection with the City Medical Society, the Racine County and Wisconsin State Medical Associations and the American Medical Association and he keeps thoroughly informed concerning all the scientific investigations and advances made by the profession in their efforts to find the key to the complex mystery which we call life. Few, if any, of Racine's physicians have so long been actively engaged in practice here as Dr. Pope, and he is greatly beloved in many a household to which he has been called for professional service.

A. C. MEHDER.

A. C. Mehder, secretary, treasurer and manager of the Mehder Dry Goods Company, occupies a prominent position among the alert, enterprising and progressive merchants of Racine and his life history is indicative of the opportunities that are offered in the new world to the young man of foreign birth who, prompted by ambition and guided by sound judgment, puts forth earnest effort to win prosperity. Mr. Mehder was born in Denmark, October 20, 1870, a son of L. T. H. and Caroline Mehder, who spent their entire lives in Denmark, where the father conducted business as a merchant tailor.

Through the period of his minority A. C. Mehder remained in his native land, but in 1892 crossed the Atlantic and established his home at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where he remained for a year. In 1893 he arrived in Racine and has since been actively connected with the dry goods business in this city. For ten years he was associated with the Schroeder Dry Goods Company, in which connection he worked his way upward until during the last four years he occupied the responsible position of manager. At the end of that decade he embarked in business on his own account, becoming a partner in the Nelson-Mehder Dry Goods Company, but later he disposed of his interest and started in business alone, organizing the Mehder Dry Goods Company on the 20th of April, 1909. It was formed with L. F. Mehder as the president and A. C. Mehder as secretary, treasurer and manager. The business was established at No. 1412 Washington avenue and in 1913 a removal was made to 1408 and

1410 Washington avenue where he occupies a building thirty-eight by ninety feet, carrying a general line of dry goods and having the largest store in his part of the city. His stock is attractive, thoroughly modern and up-to-date and his business methods are such as win patronage and support. He has always recognized the fact that satisfied customers are the best advertisement and has made every effort to please. He demands courteous treatment from his employes to his patrons and maintains the policy of one price to all, seeking only to realize a legitimate profit on his investment.

On the 1st of August, 1898, Mr. Mehder was united in marriage to Miss Maggie L. Lamp, of Racine, a daughter of Jorgen and Hannah Lamp. They now have two children, Alice and Clyde. Fraternaly Mr. Mehder is identified with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He has various other membership associations, being identified with the Commercial Club and the City Club, also the Junction Advancement Association, and in these connections he is active in efforts to upbuild and improve the city along many lines. In politics he is a republican. That he gives thought yet to his native land through maintaining association with the native sons of Denmark is indicated in his membership in the Dania Society. That the spirit of humanitarianism is strong within him is shown in the fact of his active service as a director of the Central Association, which is the Associated Charities organization of Racine. He is ever willing to extend a helping hand where aid is needed and to speak a word of encouragement where disheartenment has blocked individual progress.

JAMES CAPE.

James Cape, occupying a prominent position in municipal organization as chief of the Racine fire department, was called to his office on the 1st of June, 1900, and his splendid qualifications for the position are seen in the fact that he has been for forty years in fire department service. He was born in New York city, January 3, 1855, a son of James and Elizabeth (Jones) Cape, both of whom were natives of Bristol, England, whence they came to the United States in 1853. The father was a shoemaker by trade and for about two years was employed in that way in New York city, after which he sought the opportunities of the developing middle west, arriving in Racine in 1857, after which he followed his trade here for a time. Still later he engaged in the contracting business, organizing the firm of Cape & Sons, but both he and his wife have now passed away.

James Cape, after attending the public schools of Racine, first started in the Miller shoe factory, where he remained for twenty-five years. During that period he was a member of the call fire department and served as truckman on the Racine team, on the 1st of July, 1882, he was advanced to the position of captain of hook and ladder company No. 1 and on the 1st of May, 1894, was made assistant chief, in which position he continued for six years or until the 1st of June, 1900, at which time he was chosen chief of the fire department, and resigned his position in the shoe factory. He has thus been connected with the service for forty years and during that period marked changes

have been made. When he was called to the position of chief, sixteen years ago, there were only sixteen men in the service, and today there are forty-three. Formerly eight teams were in use and now only two, for nearly the entire department uses motors. The new central station has been built and three new engine houses during the administration of Chief Cape. His record is one of notable efficiency. It is to his credit that he has taken three hose wagons, the chief's car and a hook and ladder truck, put out a fire a mile distant and returned in twelve minutes! Mr. Cape installed a system to inspect all factories, schools, churches and theatres, all stores and business places every three months, employing eight men to do that work, and since the system has been inaugurated there has been a big reduction in the number of fires. He believes at all times in prevention and preparedness and has so directed, guided and manipulated the work of the fire department as not only to greatly reduce losses but also to greatly reduce the possibility of fire. He has attended nearly all of the Fire Chiefs conventions, thereby keeping in touch with the most advanced, modern equipment and latest improvements in fire service. Today ninety-five per cent of the fire alarms come in by telephone.

On the 22nd of June, 1882, Mr. Cape was united in marriage to Miss Jane Eagan, of Waukesha, Wisconsin, by whom he had ten children, as follows: Henry, who is deceased; James, who is in the service of the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company; Bessie, who is the wife of Paul Cook, of Racine, and has two daughters, Romaine and Frances, and a son, Eugene; Carrie; Winifred, who married Ervin Dunham, of Racine, and has one child, Charles; Lorretta, who is in a training school for nurses; Marie, a teacher by profession; Lulu, who is attending the State Normal School at Milwaukee, and Clarence and Charles, both of whom are high school students. The family attend St. Rose Catholic church and Mr. Cape is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. Politically he votes independently, considering the capability of the candidate rather than his party ties. He is one of the well known citizens of Racine today, having for fifty-nine years made his home in this city. Everywhere he is spoken of in terms of high regard and his fellow citizens feel a sense of gratitude toward him for the efficient work he has done in his public connection. His is indeed a splendid record. He is always cool and calm in periods of excitement, so that he is able to direct the efforts of the men to the best possible advantage, losing not a moment of time or making a false or inadequate move.

ALEXANDER A. FISK.

Alexander A. Fisk, in charge of the park system of Racine, is actuated in all of his work by broad humanitarian principles. It is not his object merely to develop a park system in Racine that will be a thing of beauty. He has the higher and broader purpose of making it as well a place of recreation to meet the demands of the public needs in this regard, knowing that ninety-five per cent of the people never have, in vacation periods, the opportunity to leave home. He is closely and thoroughly studying modern problems relative to

the welfare of the individual and his ideas are at once practical and resultant. Mr. Fish is a native of Michigan, born February 14, 1877, his parents being Sydney and Rose (Aird) Fisk, natives of Canada, who, in the year 1877, came to the United States. The father was a shoemaker in early life, but on removing to Michigan settled on a farm in Tuscola county, where he still resides, having long been identified with the agricultural interests of that locality.

Alexander A. Fisk obtained his education in the public and high schools of Caro, Michigan, and in the Michigan Agricultural College, from which he was graduated with the class of 1905. His entire life work has been along the line in which he is now engaged, his primary service and activities being initial steps toward this end. He was first employed by the D. M. Ferry Seed Company in expert work for a year as a horticulturist and afterward spent two years in that connection in the employ of the Cuban government. Later he was for five years with the West Chicago park system, in charge of one of the largest parks, and in 1910 came to Racine to take charge of the parks of this city. The official reports show the splendid work that he has done. He has beautified the park system, which is today most attractive in its appearance, presenting broad spaces of green lawn, adorned with the art of the landscape gardener, with beautiful flowering shrubs and fine trees, presenting attractive vistas and enchanting sheltered retreats, but all this is, in his mind, subservient to the higher purpose of making the park a recreational center. He has given deep thought to human interest problems, the reasons for parks and what they can do for the city, where ninety-five per cent of the people must take their vacations at home. He builds parks for the people's use, building with the idea of utility and, basing his work upon the truth that true art never conflicts with utility, he therefore makes the place useful as well as ornamental and he has been consulted by many who are making close study of the question of converting the parks into great public playgrounds. He believes that today the greatest recreation problem is that of bringing to the attention of the park commissioners of the country the necessity of developing their park areas more along recreational lines and in adopting this policy he does not have in mind the elimination of the landscape features nor any of the beauty which has marked park development in the past. In a communication to H. S. Braucher, of New York, secretary of the Playground & Recreation Association of America, Mr. Fisk said: "Some time during the last ten or fifteen years, Public Parks, as an institution, have undergone a very radical change so far as their functions are concerned. This is not altogether appreciated nor is it understood by a lot of people who are actively engaged in park work. They still maintain that the beautiful lawn, which is a beautiful thing to look upon, is quite the ideal. It very frequently happens that large lawns can be used for some form of recreational activity without in any sense marring their beauty. Park systems can be so designed that all of their areas are used for recreational purposes of some sort or other and yet those structural features so prominent in the children's playground are so hid from view or screened in such a way that they do not stand out too prominent in the landscape. All of these features have received from time to time a considerable amount of discussion, yet I feel that the normal growth of public recreation depends largely upon the uses to which park areas are dedicated. The park

commissions of this country have in the past and will continue to have jurisdiction over the large open areas, developed and maintained by the municipalities, and it is through work and co-operation with these park commissions that the purpose of the recreational movement can be best served. On many occasions I have discussed this problem with one of your field secretaries, Mr. L. H. Weir. He told me that he very frequently finds park commissions a very difficult body to work with, due to the fact that they have so many antiquated ideas concerning the proper uses of parks and their relation to the people, etc. I maintain that notwithstanding this condition of affairs, yet it still remains that the general public is quite educated to the idea of the park commissions acquiring certain lands for public parks and playgrounds. There is more or less aversion to the creation of a new commission, sometimes called the recreation commission, working out the recreational problems alone. When such a commission is created, it becomes necessary for them to acquire certain tracts of land for playgrounds. Oftentimes the work of such a commission overlaps the work of another commission which has been doing work in the same city. I could without difficulty give you a large number of specific instances where playgrounds have been duplicated within a few blocks of one another, leaving large areas in another section of the city unprovided for. There is another problem which has impressed itself upon my mind as I have gone from one city to another during the last ten years. There are only a few large cities in this country. It is true that they have done marvelous work in the recreational field. They have built elaborate playgrounds, and the field houses oftentimes which have been built on the playgrounds run up into thousands of dollars. All this work, of course, has been given wide publicity. Everyone in the country who is engaged in this line of work has in a general way become more or less familiar with the fine equipment that has been supplied through the various park commissions of these large cities. They have all availed themselves of the opportunity when afforded to visit these places so that they might get some idea for their own home city. While it may furnish them an example of what might be done had they the funds, yet I question whether there is a single suggestion that they may get and take home to their own city because of its elaborations. The great bulk of playground work of this country must take place within the confines of a city very much smaller than the half dozen or dozen cities which have been doing this work on such a large scale, and the appropriations of these smaller cities is so very small that they hesitate about attempting these problems even on a smaller scale because they seem to have the idea that this splendid equipment is necessary in order that they may do the work required. I think this contention is proven by the fact that you will find very few cities of from fifty to seventy-five thousand that have built field houses where winter activities are carried on. The necessity for winter work is just as great as for summer work, even more so, because they seem to have the idea that this splendid equipment is necessary in the summer time. People will, to a more or less extent, get out doors in the summer time and in some form or other if no other than walking get outdoor exercise. Then, too, in the winter time we find that it is possible and much easier to organize the community for social work. We built one of these field houses on our Lake View playground. It was an experiment, and I was at

quite a loss to know exactly how to design such a building, the cost of which all told did not exceed seventy-five hundred dollars. This building has a gymnasium forty by sixty-five feet, twelve shower baths, locker rooms, reading room, which can be used as a dining room, kitchen and comfort stations for both men and women. The place is heated with steam and we have a hot water plant for heating water for the shower baths. This entire equipment, to be exact, cost seven thousand three hundred and twenty-four dollars and eighty-five cents. This figure comes within the reach of cities of approximately fifty thousand. They could even build two or three of these buildings. So the time will come, with the proper kind of a policy in vogue, when every section of the city will be well served. It would be quite a lengthy story, of course, to tell you the results that we received when this building was opened, and the dances and social programs which were instituted during the winter months far surpassed anything that we had anticipated. If we could make a list of all the cities in the United States and Canada large enough to have quite extensive park systems, we would find that by far the largest amount of money and by far the largest area was comprised in cities ranging from fifty to one hundred thousand population and perhaps a little larger, leaving only a very few cities of major size which, of course, can afford these elaborate institutions. But the national recreational problems are not going to be solved in the larger cities. Seventy-five per cent of it must take place within the cities of second and third class. During the last two or three years I have been making some analyses concerning the ages of the boys and girls who participate in some form of public recreation. Along with that I have been gathering data from various cities concerning the predominant age of the population. I think you will find on investigation that the population of any city, of those past thirty years of age, is not less than sixty and sometimes approaching seventy per cent of the entire population. It is also a fact that everyone who has passed the age of thirty discontinues what we call strenuous games, such as baseball, football, basketball, and a great many even discontinue tennis, which is entirely unnecessary if they play with some degree of regularity. We find that when one passes the age of thirty that he ceases to take part in any systematic and regular form of recreation. This is one of our big problems. Our American people have not as yet come to a full understanding and appreciation of the necessity of outdoor exercise, and no national habit has yet been formed, such as we find quite true with the English people. We are busy and it is commercial problems that take up the most of the American man's time. It seems to me that we have got to provide those forms of recreation which the man or woman past the age of thirty can enjoy with pleasure and without detrimental fatigue. Such games as golf, boating and canoeing, bowling on the green, and there are a great number of games that are not thoroughly understood which would fit in very admirably in a public recreational policy and which would work out the recreational problems for the adult population. It is also true that the adult population forms the public opinion, and it is safe to conclude that an adult population, which is a 'playing' population, actually taking part in some form of recreation, will more readily see the importance and necessity of building up public recreation institutions and will foster and support commissions which are trying to build up these institutions

than an adult population only passively interested. I, therefore, feel that too much stress cannot be placed upon providing adequate recreation for the adult population." The value of his service in this connection cannot be over-estimated and he is fast setting standards which are attracting to his work wide public attention, while his methods are being adopted elsewhere.

In 1908 Mr. Fisk was married to Miss Helen Mackay of Chicago, a daughter of J. C. and Jessie Mackay, and they now have one child, Jessie Louise. In politics Mr. Fisk has always maintained an independent course, casting his ballot according to the dictates of his judgment as regards the questions which are before the public for settlement. Fraternally he is connected with the Elks and he belongs to the National Association of Park Superintendents.

JAMES E. BUSH.

Success in this age of marked business activity and competition depends upon wide knowledge of the line to which one directs his energy, combined with unfaltering diligence. There is no one more competent to speak with authority upon the question of varnish in the entire United States than James E. Bush., who has long occupied a position as traveling salesman in that connection and is now vice president of the Chicago Varnish Company. He is among the native sons of Racine county whose business records reflect credit upon the district which gave them birth. Mr. Bush was born at Ives Grove, March 5, 1850, a son of John and Charlotte N. (Ives) Bush, the latter a daughter of Roland Ives, who came to Racine county in the period of its pioneer development and was the founder of the town of Ives Grove. In the east he had engaged in business as a manufacturer of whips and after removing to the west became identified with agricultural interests and was classed with the capitalists of this section. John Bush was born at Westfield, Massachusetts, and came to this county in the early '40s, bringing with him the first fine horses owned in this locality. He had racing stock and he raised Bellfounder, one of the first high bred trotting horses in the west, and he was also owner of Angeline. He became well known all over the United States as a breeder of fine horses, his stables being particularly noteworthy. His political allegiance was given to the democratic party. In 1855 he removed with his family to California, but in 1860 returned to this county, where he continued his residence until his death, which occurred about 1880. His widow long survived him, dying in 1903 at the age of eighty-three years.

James E. Bush supplemented his public school training by a course in the Commercial College of Racine, from which he was graduated. He started to earn his living as a sailor on the lakes, was advanced to the position of mate and was offered the command of a vessel, but decided to abandon marine life, and took up the work of a traveling salesman. He also became interested in the Bee-Bee Cart Company of Racine and likewise engaged in the manufacture of bicycles. At a subsequent date this business was merged into the Mitchell Motor Car Company.

Mr. Bush's experience as a traveling salesman has been broad and has

brought him to a foremost position as a representative of the varnish trade in the country. In 1889 he began traveling for the Chicago Varnish Company, which he has since represented, and as the years have passed he has acquired stock in the organization and in 1911 was elected its vice president. He has sold more varnish than any two men in the United States, his sales having averaged over two hundred and fifty thousand dollars per year. Such a record is one of which he has every reason to be proud, for it is indeed something worthy of pride when one has reached the topmost position in any line of trade or useful activity. He is also interested in orange and grapefruit groves in Florida and his business investments have been wisely and judiciously made, bringing him substantial return.

Mr. Bush has been married twice, his first wife bearing the maiden name of Anna Belle Addis, of Massachusetts, and passing away in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. For his second wife he chose Emma (Stevens) Hathaway, of Connecticut. By the first marriage there were three children: Walter J., a broker, who in recent years has resided in Florida on account of his health; James Irving, who studied mechanical engineering at the Wisconsin State University, is on the board of the Second Ward Savings Bank of Milwaukee and is now manager of the Branch office in Chicago, of the Guarantee Trust Company of New York city; and Charlotte Eleanor, at home. The second son made a wonderful record in athletics during his college days, establishing records in many athletic sports and becoming famous as an all-round athlete. The daughter is a graduate of the Penn Hall College of Pennsylvania and has advanced far in musical studies. The family attend the Baptist church and in social circles of the city occupy a very prominent and enviable position.

Fraternally Mr. Bush is identified with the Masons, having attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite and belonging to the blue lodge, chapter, commandery and Mystic Shrine. He is likewise a charter member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and a life member of the Knights of Pythias. In organizations of a more strictly social nature he is identified with the Country Club and he also belongs to the Illinois Athletic Club of Chicago. He is widely known in the metropolis as well as in the city and his residence through his business and social connections, and nature has well qualified him for leadership for, mentally alert, he has developed his powers and adds to his ability geniality, unfeigned cordiality and ready appreciation for the rights, privileges and the excellent qualities of others.

BERNARD BREHM.

Bernard Brehm was closely identified with the business interests and civic progress of the city of Burlington for a period of nearly sixty years. He was born in Baden, Germany, in 1844, the son of Frank and Agnes Brehm, also natives of Baden, and with his parents, brother and sister, came to America in 1854, reaching Burlington by ox team from Racine. The father, Frank Brehm, was a weaver and musician and engaged in various occupations until his death in 1889, having survived his wife for five years.



BERNARD BREHM



WILLIAM F. BREHM



ALBERT M. BREHM



JOSEPH B. BREHM

Bernard Brehm received but a limited education, but being possessed of a shrewd mind and a sterling integrity he early acquired a business education, in the school of experience, which enabled him to build up a prosperous business and to acquire a comfortable share of this world's goods. In early life he learned the shoemaker's trade, but, ill health forcing him to seek other employment, in the year 1868 he purchased a team and engaged in the draying business. From this small beginning he developed the large and successful business to which he later admitted his sons, W. F., Albert M. and Joseph B. The great secrets of his business success were "energy" and "efficiency." No job was too small or too large for him to undertake, and the smallest order received the same prompt and careful consideration accorded to the largest. During the more than forty years he was actively engaged in the draying business many competitors entered his field, but could not win away his business, and he of them all remained permanently established. He was quick to grasp a business opportunity or to encourage a worthy home enterprise. His drayage business was from time to time enlarged to include the dealing in coal, salt, oil and other commodities, and the buying and selling of draft horses. Upon the organization of the Burlington Blanket Company in 1891 he gave his financial support to the new enterprise and remained a director and vice president of the company to the time of his death, seeing it grow to be the largest enterprise of its kind in the United States. He was also a large stockholder in the Security Lightning Rod Company and the Burlington Advancement Association.

In January, 1868, Mr. Brehm was united in marriage to Miss Margreta Griebel, who was born in Germany. Twelve children were born of this union, of whom nine survive, namely: Anna M., now Mrs. A. Zwiebel, Jr.; William F.; Albert M.; Emma M.; Joseph B.; Frank N.; Theresa, now Mrs. Edward N. Furman; Laura D., and Louis H. In his wife Mr. Brehm found a true helpmeet who made his home life happy and care free, and to her he gladly attributed a large measure of his success.

After nearly sixty years of active life in the city of Burlington Bernard Brehm passed away on the 18th of June, 1912. He will long be remembered by those who knew him, because of his reliability in business, his enterprise in citizenship and his fidelity in friendship, and his impress on the business life of the community will long remain through the enterprises he developed and fostered.

WILLIAM FRANK BREHM.

William Frank Brehm, president of the Brehm Brothers Company at Burlington, was born August 21, 1870, in the city in which he still resides, a son of Bernard Brehm, mentioned elsewhere in this work. Spending his boyhood days in Burlington, William F. Brehm attended the parochial and public schools and when a lad joined his father in the draying business, working in the summer seasons and attending school in the winter. When sixteen years of age he made his first trip to buy horses and the first pair which he purchased

were prize winners at the Walworth county fair the previous year. The trip was a successful one and gained the confidence of the father in the son's business judgment and ability. After this trip he was given a free hand and he has continued buying since that time, remaining always the buyer for the firm, his investments representing from fifteen to twenty thousand dollars annually for draft horses. His ability in judging draft horses is widely acknowledged and he has been called upon to act as judge in a number of public horse shows. When twenty-one years of age he was admitted to a partnership in his father's business under the firm style of B. Brehm & Son and later they were joined by his brothers, Albert M. and Joseph B.

William F. Brehm held the record for the highest priced team sold during the six weeks of the big horse sale in Chicago in 1910. He is vice president of the Burlington Blanket Company, of which he has been a director for many years, and he is also vice president and one of the directors of the Security Lightning Rod Company. He has interests outside of Burlington, but he neglects no opportunity to advance the welfare, upbuilding and prosperity of the city.

On the 8th of January, 1896, Mr. Brehm was married to Miss Emma Johnson, of Burlington, a daughter of Frederiek Johnson, and their children are: George, who was educated in the Burlington schools and is now a carpenter; Frederiek, a high school student, and Florence and Helen, also in school.

Mr. Brehm served as a trustee of the village before its incorporation and he has always been interested in its progress and improvement, giving active aid and support to all measures which he deems of public worth and benefit. He represents one of the old and valued families here and is accounted one of the representative business men and citizens of his city.

ALBERT M. BREHM.

Albert M. Brehm, secretary and treasurer of the Brehm Brothers Company, was born in Burlington in 1874 and secured his education in the parochial schools, in the Burlington high school and in the Valparaiso (Ind.) Business College. He assisted his father in business until 1893 and then entered the employ of the Bank of Burlington, in which he continued for over six years, when failing health obliged him to make a change. In 1899 he again became associated with his father in business under the firm style of B. Brehm & Sons and took charge of the National Express business, the firm being agents for that corporation. He then continued in outside work until his father's health failed, when he took charge of the inside work and as one of the officers of the company has since been active in directing the policy and activities of the business.

On the 21st of April, 1903, Albert M. Brehm was married to Miss Catherine Lehrman, of Silver Lake, Wisconsin, a daughter of Joseph H. Lehrman, a representative of one of the old families of Kenosha county. Mr. and Mrs. Brehm have four children, Harold, Lawrence, Margaret and Eugene.

In addition to his other interests Mr. Brehm is a director of the Bank of

Burlington, with which he has been associated in one way or another since 1893, being today the oldest stockholder and director now connected with the bank. He is also a director of the Security Lightning Rod Company and in addition he has interests outside of Burlington. His religious faith is that of the Catholic church and he is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus, in which he has been recording secretary for the past three years. The name of Brehm has long been prominently associated with the business activity and enterprise of Burlington and has ever been a synonym for progressiveness and successful achievement.

JOSEPH B. BREHM.

Joseph B. Brehm, vice president of the Brehm Brothers Company, was born in Burlington, April 9, 1879, and acquired his education in the parochial schools. Throughout his business career he has been connected with the enterprise which now claims his attention, for when his textbooks were put aside he began assisting his father, and in 1909, when the business was incorporated under the style of the Brehm Brothers Company, he became one of the stockholders and after his father's death he was elected vice president and still continues in that capacity.

Mr. Brehm is a member of the Roman Catholic church and his political allegiance is given to the democratic party, but he has no desire for office and concentrates his energies upon his business affairs and personal interests. He is one of the well known young business men of Burlington, highly esteemed by all.

BREHM BROTHERS COMPANY.

Brehm Brothers Company is one of the oldest and most prosperous business concerns of Burlington, doing a storage, draying and heavy teaming business and also dealing in coal and salt. Another feature of the business is the sale of heavy draft horses and the quality of their horses is acknowledged by expert judges to be the best in southern Wisconsin. The business was founded in 1868 by Bernard Brehm, a sketch of whom appears above. In 1891 the firm name was changed to B. Brehm & Son, when the father was joined in the partnership by his eldest son, William F. Brehm, and in 1899, when Albert M. Brehm was admitted to partnership, the firm style became B. Brehm & Sons. In 1909 the business was incorporated with Bernard Brehm as the president, in which connection he continued until his death, when he was succeeded in the presidency by W. F. Brehm, while Joseph B. Brehm became vice president and Albert M. Brehm secretary and treasurer. In their draying business the company uses from fifteen to thirty horses and they are also largely engaged in buying and selling heavy draft horses, doing business with Racine, Chicago and local points. They have a warehouse forty by sixty feet and two stories in height

on the "Soo" Line and accessible by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. Mr. Brehm became connected with the Wilbur Lumber Company early in the '70s in the retailing of coal, and the Brehm Brothers Company are the pioneer coal dealers of the city. They also do a large jobbing business as salt merchants. In their teaming they are equipped to haul the heaviest machinery, monuments, etc., and in fact they can handle anything in the draying line, having wagons that can carry ten tons. Until 1914 they represented the Standard Oil Company, having handled oil previous to the introduction of Standard Oil products into Wisconsin. During his early connection with the draying business the father had many competitors but he alone continued. His sons, too, have been successful and their business is conducted along progressive lines. They maintain the most sanitary conditions in their stables, which furnish ample shelter for thirty-five horses and which are situated at the corner of State and West streets—a location which they have occupied for forty-five years. The present offices of the company are at Geneva and Pine streets, at which point the business has been conducted since April 1, 1900.

RACINE TRAVELING BAG COMPANY.

Another of the business enterprises which have to do with the attainment of Racine's present greatness and prosperity is the Racine Traveling Bag Company, which was established in 1890 by Herbert Van Bree, Theodore Van Bree and other stockholders. The business was at that time incorporated with Theodore Wadewitz as president and with Herbert, Theodore and H. Van Bree and Herman Wadewitz as directors. The present officers of the company are: Herbert Van Bree, president; Mrs. Joseph Van Bree, vice president; and Mrs. H. Van Bree, secretary and treasurer. The factory is fifty by eighty feet and is three stories in height. They manufacture traveling bags and suitcases and sell direct to the trade, their output going to all parts of the United States. Twenty-five skilled workmen provide the necessary labor for the conduct of the business and the establishment adds to the continuous hum of industry which characterizes Racine and has made it one of the busiest manufacturing centers of the upper Mississippi valley.

HERBERT VAN BREE.

Herbert Van Bree, president of the Racine Traveling Bag Company and also of the Racine Electric Company, is numbered among Wisconsin's native sons, his birth having occurred at Barton on the 25th of June, 1861, his parents being Jerry and Johanna Van Bree, both of whom were natives of Holland. They were reared in that country, but immediately after their marriage crossed the Atlantic and made their way to Wisconsin, settling at Barton. The father was a miller by trade and followed that pursuit in order to provide for the support of his family, but he and his wife are now deceased.

Herbert Van Bree is indebted to the public school system of Barton for the early educational advantages which he enjoyed. He came to Racine when a youth of thirteen years and since that time has been dependent largely upon his own resources, working his way upward through diligence and perseverance. For a short time he was employed by the Secor Trunk Company and afterward spent thirteen years with the S. Freeman & Sons Manufacturing Company. On the expiration of that period he embarked in business on his own account, becoming one of the organizers of the Racine Traveling Bag Company, which is a close corporation, the stock being owned by members of the family. During the twenty-six years of its existence the business of the company has grown steadily and as the executive head of the undertaking, Mr. Van Bree has contributed in large measure to its success. He studies the trade, its needs and demands, knows the market and bases his success upon the standard of goods turned out. Aside from his connection with the Racine Traveling Bag Company he is the president of the Racine Electric company, manufacturers of motors, fans, drink mixers, vibrators, etc., its plant being located at Superior and Prospect streets. This company was organized in 1912 with Mr. Van Bree as the president and with John Rugaber as secretary, treasurer and manager. They employ seventy men. Still other activities claim the attention of Mr. Van Bree, who is now dealing in real estate, buying, selling and renting property. He has become thoroughly conversant with market values and has negotiated many important realty transfers.

Mr. Van Bree married Miss L. Bohn, of Racine, a daughter of Paul and Anna Bohn, representatives of old pioneer families of this part of the state. Two children have been born of this marriage: Lena, the wife of Paul Buchman, of Racine; and Addie, who married John Peterson, also of this city.

Mr. Van Bree holds membership with the Moose and he attends St. John's Catholic church. In politics he votes independently, nor has he ever been an aspirant for political honors and emoluments. Well defined purpose has brought him from a humble starting point to a position of considerable prominence in the manufacturing circles of the city. He has never counted upon fortunate circumstances to aid him or placed his dependence upon a turn in the wheel of fate, but has worked diligently, knowing that the rewards of labor are sure.

J. A. DOBSON.

J. A. Dobson, devoting his energies to the further development and improvement of a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Dover township, not only tills the soil but also engages to some extent in dairying and raises considerable stock, his life being thus a busy and useful one. He was born in Rochester township, March 3, 1859, a son of Richard and Jane (Cockroft) Dobson, natives of England, the former born in Lincolnshire and the latter in Huddersfield. It was in the year 1842 that Richard Dobson came to the United States and in Rochester he married Jane Cockroft, whose father, Joseph Cockroft, a native of England, became the founder of the family in the new world,

but he died when a comparatively young man. Richard Dobson started out in life a poor boy and whatever success he achieved was attributable entirely to his own efforts. He learned and followed the blacksmith's trade and also became the owner of a farm of forty acres. His interest in political affairs was manifest in his loyal support of the democratic party. To him and his wife were born five children, of whom four are yet living: Mary H., the wife of Joseph Squire, a retired farmer, of Rochester; Emeline, the wife of W. Steinhouse, a retired farmer, of Storm Lake, Iowa; Lawrence H., a retired farmer, living in Waterford, Wisconsin; and J. A., of this review.

The last named after obtaining a district school education became associated with his brother in the purchase of their grandmother's farm, at which time J. A. Dobson was a lad of but fourteen years. He has since carried on general farming save for seven years, when he was engaged in the milling business at Rochester, and his activities have been well directed, bringing him a substantial measure of prosperity. He carries on general farming, raising the cereals best adapted to soil and climate, does some dairying and also gives considerable attention to stock raising. He has one hundred and twenty acres of excellent land and has made every dollar himself, a fact that is indicative of a well spent and industrious life.

In 1886 Mr. Dobson was married to Miss Mina Mead, a native of Dover township, where her father, Burr Mead, settled in an early day. Mrs. Dobson passed away in 1888 and on the 17th of June, 1896, Mr. Dobson wedded Anna Baneroft, a daughter of George Baneroft, a farmer of Dover township. Mr. Dobson has five children: Lueile, who is teaching in Dover township; Alice, who is attending high school at Waterford; Walter and Lulu, who are pupils in the district school; and Russell, four years of age.

The parents are members of the Congregational church at Rochester and Mr. Dobson belongs also to the Odd Fellows lodge, in which he has filled all of the chairs. In politics he maintains an independent attitude, but in matters of citizenship manifests the same spirit of loyalty which his father displayed when, in response to his country's call for aid, he served throughout the war as a Union soldier. The Dobsons have always been loyal to the best interests of the community and their name is a synonym for all that is honorable and progressive in business.

RACINE IRON & WIRE WORKS.

With a trade that extends to all parts of the United States, the industry conducted under the name of the Racine Iron & Wire Works is manufacturing household supplies, chemical fire extinguishers, and wire and iron railings and fences. Wherever man has felt a need, ingenuity has sprung into the breach and genius has brought forth something that has met the need. Thus in our constantly developing and complex civilization the manufacturing interests have multiplied and here and there have sprung up cities that are largely given over to supplying the world's demand for labor saving devices. Such a concern is that conducted at the corner of Prospect and Superior streets under

the style of the Racine Iron & Wire Works. This business was organized and established in 1870 by Charles Goehner and after a number of years a corporation was formed, which bought out Mr. Goehner in April, 1906, G. L. Buck being elected president and treasurer of the company, with J. P. Hoehgurtel as vice president and Charles W. Peck as secretary. There has been no change in the officers since that time. The company occupies a building one hundred and twenty-nine by forty-five feet and three stories in height and a basement. This is all mill construction, and the equipment of the plant is most modern. The company manufactures chemical fire extinguishers, weaves brass and copper cloth, makes wire and iron rails and fences, wire protections for machinery and also manufactures various household specialties. On the pay roll are found the names of from forty to fifty men, most of them are skilled laborers. They sell to jobbers and their output is sent to every part of the country. They manufacture under the name of the Buck hardware specialties and use as a trade mark a buck's head. Their household specialties include broom holders, wonder hooks, plate scrapers, food stirrers, can openers, ironing sheet holders, pie lifters, potato mashers, fly swatters, coat hangers, trouser hangers, skirt hangers, wardrobe hanger rods, flower brackets, hanging baskets, window shelves, carpet beaters, lamp guards, sewing bag frames and many other useful articles made of wire. These meet many a need in the household and the output is therefore growing in popular favor.

GEORGE L. BUCK.

George L. Buck, president of the Racine Iron & Wire Works, is actuated in all that he does by a spirit of indefatigable enterprise and during the decade in which he has been at the head of his present interests has so directed the course of his activities that his labors have spelled success. One of New England's native sons, he was born in Bennington, Vermont, in 1865, a son of David and Charlotte (Olin) Buck, the former of Welsh descent, while the latter was of Scotch lineage, although both families have long been represented in the United States. The father has always devoted his life to the occupation of farming.

When a little lad of six years George L. Buck became a pupil in the public school near his father's home and still later entered the Fort Edward Institute of New York, from which he was graduated with the class of 1884. In early life he took up the profession of teaching, which he followed for six years, and later was employed as a railway postal clerk between Chicago and Minneapolis, remaining upon that run for ten years. He afterward occupied the position of postoffice inspector for two years, with headquarters in Cincinnati, and he entered the business world in Racine in 1903 as a retail merchant. He had previously come to this district to teach school and for two years had taught in a district school of Racine county and had made his home in the city while serving as railway postal clerk. However, desirous of engaging in business on his own account he began merchandising. This city, however, is pre-eminently a manufacturing center and into the manufacturing vortex he was

drawn. He saw his opportunity when, in 1906, he became one of the incorporators of the Racine Iron & Wire Works, which thirty-six years before had been established by Charles Gochner. Under the present management the output has been enlarged in its scope and the trade has proportionately increased. A history of the business is given above.

In addition to his other interests Mr. Buck was active with the committee that organized the American Trades and Savings Bank of Racine, with a capital stock of two hundred thousand dollars. The bank was opened for business July 17, 1916. This institution assumed the remaining assets of the old Commercial Savings Bank, in order to pay in full the balance due each depositor, and to save a financial loss to a number of industries in Racine.

In 1902 Mr. Buck was united in marriage to Miss Laura Manderson, of Racine, and they have many friends in the city, the hospitality of the best homes being freely accorded them. They hold membership in the Methodist church and their influence is always on the side of progress and improvement. In politics Mr. Buck is a republican, believing that the principles of the party are most conducive to good government. Fraternally Mr. Buck is a Mason, belonging to the lodge, chapter and commandery and in the chapter he has filled all of the chairs. His life is an exemplification of the teachings of the craft in regard to helpfulness and brotherly kindness, for he is ever ready to extend a helping hand where aid is needed.

HERMAN F. MUELLER.

Starting in the grocery trade as a clerk when fifteen years of age, Herman F. Mueller has since been connected with this line of business, covering a period of forty-three years, and for the past thirteen years has confined his attention solely to the wholesale trade. He is now senior partner in the Mueller-Kuehn Company, operating wholesale houses in both Racine and Kenosha, with Mr. Mueller in charge of the Racine plant. He was born in Germany on the 16th of August, 1857, and is a son of Gustave and Augusta Mueller, who left the fatherland in 1866 and brought their family to the United States, establishing their home in Racine. Gustave Mueller was a gardener and followed that business until advanced age necessitated his retirement. He passed away at the ripe old age of ninety-four years, while his wife reached the age of eighty-three years.

Herman F. Mueller was a little lad of five summers when brought to the United States in 1863 by his uncle, Herman Mueller, who settled in Racine, and it was not until three years later that his parents reached the new world. He pursued his education in parochial and public schools and when fifteen years old put aside his textbooks to make his initial step in the business world, securing a clerkship in a grocery store. He found the occupation congenial and has always continued in this line until now his connection with the grocery trade of Racine covers forty-three years. He clerked until his industry and economy had brought him sufficient capital to engage in business on his own account and on the 1st of May, 1876, he opened a retail grocery store at No.



HERMAN F. MUELLER

1017 St. Clair street, at which location he continued for six years. He afterwards spent five years at the corner of Superior street and Douglas avenue and in 1887 came to his present location at Nos. 1400-1410 Douglas avenue. For a long period he sold to the retail trade but for the past thirteen years has confined his attention to the wholesale grocery business and is supplying many merchants not only of this city but of the surrounding territory and in more remote districts. Something of the growth of his business is indicated in the fact that a branch house has been established in Kenosha and the annual sales of the firm amount to six hundred thousand dollars.

In 1878 Mr. Mueller was united in marriage to Miss Frederica Schuneman, who was born in Freeport, Illinois, and is a daughter of Henry and Johanna Schuneman, who became early settlers of Freeport, crossing the Atlantic from Germany and establishing their home in that city in the early '50s. Mr. and Mrs. Mueller have become the parents of six children: Alma, the wife of Charles E. Gundlach, who is connected with the Mueller-Kuehn Company at Kenosha; Clara, the wife of William Erick, who is a salesman with the Mueller-Kuehn Company in Racine; Minnie, who is private secretary for her father in the business; William, who died November 9, 1908; Elsie, the wife of William Kaiser, who is a bookkeeper for the Mueller-Kuehn Company, and Herman, who died in infancy.

Mr. Mueller and his family are members of the English Lutheran church, to which they give generous support. Mr. Mueller belongs to the United Commercial Travelers and his political allegiance is given to the republican party. He is now serving as president of the board of cemetery commissioners. He is deeply interested in all the questions which have to do with municipal welfare, staunchly advocating and supporting those interests which are a matter of civic virtue and civic pride. His is the record of a well spent life, notable in its honorable purpose, its unfaltering diligence and indefatigable energy. He was fortunate that at the outset of his career he chose an occupation which he found congenial and which afforded him opportunity for the exercise of industry and perseverance—his dominant qualities. He has followed constructive methods in the conduct of his business affairs and in the upbuilding of his trade recognized that satisfied patrons are the best advertisement.

WILLIAM MONROE PHELPS.

William Monroe Phelps, a farmer of Union Grove, was born in Genesee county, New York, February 21, 1869, a son of Charles and Lugene (Monroe) Phelps. The father, who was born in the state of New York in 1839, passed away in February, 1902. The mother, whose birth occurred in Racine county, Wisconsin, in 1845, died April 9, 1905. They were married in this county and later Mr. Phelps returned with his family to New York. For a time he was employed in hotels and later took up the occupation of farming. In 1871 he again came to Wisconsin, settling on a farm in this county, a tract of eighty acres, which he continued to cultivate and improve throughout his remaining days. In the family were seven children: Mary, who became the wife of

Christ Moore and afterward married a Mr. Cameron, her home being now in Kenosha, Wisconsin; William Monroe; Cora, the wife of George Van Wie, of Mount Pleasant township; Roy, a teamster, of Racine; Ada, the wife of S. Becker, living in Elgin, Illinois; Cassie, the wife of A. Ketchuman, of Racine; and Fred, a machinist, of Racine. The parents were members of the Baptist church and Mr. Phelps gave his political allegiance to the republican party. The maternal grandfather of William M. Phelps was Orlando Monroe, a native of Vermont, who became one of the early settlers of Mount Pleasant township, where he acquired several hundred acres of land in the vicinity of Racine.

William M. Phelps obtained his education in the district schools and started out in life as a farmer. For seven years he engaged in the milk business in Racine, but during the greater part of his life has followed agricultural pursuits. He came to his present place in 1902, purchasing his farm of eighty acres, on which he is engaged in the cultivation of the cereals best adapted to the soil and climate, while he also does considerable dairying. He keeps twenty cows, which are Holsteins of good grade.

On the 24th of June, 1895, Mr. Phelps was married to Miss Eva Kelly, a native of Waterloo, Wisconsin, and a daughter of Noyes and Philuria (Davis) Kelly. The father was born in Seneca county, New York, and when but four years of age was brought to Caledonia township, this county. His wife was born in Livingston county, New York, and they were married at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, in 1868. They lived at Lake Geneva and in Racine and Mr. Kelly devoted his life to portrait and landscape painting. At the time of the Civil war, however, all other interests were put aside that he might respond to the country's call for aid. He served with the Twenty-second Wisconsin Regiment for almost five years, was captured and spent some time in Libby prison, so that he became familiar with all of the hardships and privations of military life.

In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Phelps are four sons, Russell, Stanley, Leslie and Charlie, aged respectively nineteen, seventeen, fourteen and nine years. Mrs. Phelps is a member of the Episcopal church. Mr. Phelps gives his political allegiance to the republican party and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day, but does not seek nor desire office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs, which are carefully and systematically conducted and are bringing to him well deserved success.

ARTHUR C. HARRIS.

Arthur C. Harris, manager at Racine for the Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Company, was born in Jackson, Michigan. He passed through consecutive grades in the public schools until he became a high school student and took his initial step in the business world as an employe of the Commonwealth Power Company in his native city. He afterward worked his way upward, becoming sales manager of the power department. His entire life experience has been along this line, bringing him constantly broadening knowledge and efficiency. He was also with the Grand Rapids-Muskegon Company of Grand

Rapids as sales manager in the commercial power department and in 1910 he came to Racine to accept the position of sales manager at this point for the Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Company. He has since acted in that capacity as representative of the company in the commercial department and, moreover, is manager for the company at this point. The Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Company operates the street car system of Racine, also the city light and power systems, besides furnishing power for many private business concerns and corporations. Mr. Harris is thoroughly acquainted with every phase of the business, owing to his long experience in this line, and the fact that he has been promoted from time to time, each change in his connections marking a forward step, is indicative of his marked ability and appreciation of his worth on the part of the corporation which he now represents.

Mr. Harris has made Racine his permanent home with his wife and three children, Eleanor, Welton and Gordon. Fraternally he is identified with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. He keeps informed concerning the political situation of the country, but maintains a non-partisan attitude, directing his thought according to the exigencies of the case and the capability of the candidates. He has never sought to figure in political circles or in any public light outside of his business connections, for the field which he entered in early manhood has made call to his ambition and his energy, a call to which he has promptly responded, and the legitimate result of close application and trustworthiness has come to him in his present responsible but remunerative position.

ALBERT J. DRUSE.

Albert J. Druse is the secretary and treasurer of the Hamilton-Beach Manufacturing Company, an enterprise that is notable even in Racine, a city of rapidly developing business interests, for within a notably short space of time this company has become one of the foremost productive industries of the city, increasing the number of its employes from three workmen until the names of four hundred now appear upon the pay roll. Mr. Druse was born in Waukesha county, Wisconsin, in 1870, a son of Charles and Mary Druse, who were early residents of the state, later moving to Milwaukee, where the father followed carpentering.

At the usual age Albert J. Druse entered the public schools and afterward continued his studies in a business college in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He then started out in life as a stenographer and in 1890 came to Racine, where he entered the employ of the Case Plow Company in connection with the advertising department. That his capability was recognized and appreciated is indicated in the fact that he remained with that concern until the 1st of September, 1912, when he became an active factor in the promotion and conduct of the Hamilton-Beach Manufacturing Company, of which he was elected secretary and treasurer. This company is engaged in the manufacture of electrical supplies and is mentioned at length in connection with the sketch of Frederick J. Osius, on another page of this work. In the first place the success

of the business has been founded upon the fact that the company supplies public needs; in the second place attractive advertising has been employed to bring its wares to public notice, and in the third place the officers of the company are continually alert to their opportunities and ever ready to utilize every legitimate advantage.

In 1893 Mr. Druse was united in marriage to Miss Helen Steinhofel, of Racine, and they have a daughter, Florence. They are members of the First Evangelical church and Mr. Druse also holds membership with the United Commercial Travelers. In politics he is a republican, but while he does not seek nor desire political office, he is not remiss in the duties of citizenship and co-operates heartily in the well defined plans to further the interests of the city, which are put forth by the Commercial Club, of which he is a member.

JOHN JONAS.

John Jonas, who is engaged in general farming and stock raising on section 8, Raymond township, was born in Prussia, June 4, 1839, and has therefore passed the seventy-seventh milestone on life's journey. He has led a busy and useful life and still keeps in touch with the work of the farm, personally supervising the activities that are there carried on. He is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Schwartz) Jonas, the former born in 1800 and the latter in 1803, both natives of Prussia, in which country they were married. On coming to the new world in 1854 the family settled in Raymond township, Racine county. The following year the father purchased a farm of sixty-eight acres, which he afterward sold, purchasing another farm near his son's place. In the family were six children, but John Jonas is the only one now living. The father departed this life in 1877, having long survived his wife, whose death occurred in 1845. Both were communicants of the Catholic church and Mr. Jonas was a democrat in his political views. Before coming to America he served for three years in the German army. The hope of bettering his financial condition led him to come to the new world and in the years of his residence in Racine county he won substantial success.

John Jonas was educated in Germany and when a youth of fifteen years accompanied his parents to the new world. He here turned his attention to farming, and in the course of years purchased three hundred and seventy acres of land in Raymond township. He has since sold a portion of this, but still retains two hundred and twenty acres, and as the years have passed he has won success. He certainly deserves great credit for what he has accomplished, for he had but ten cents when he started out to make his own way in the world. His life record is proof of the fact that success is not a matter of genius or of fortunate circumstances, as some believe, but is the outcome of industry, clear judgment and experience. He carries on general farming and also milks several cows, keeping high grade Holsteins. He also has a Switzer bull. His home is a substantial and commodious residence and there are many other good improvements upon his place, his being one of the valuable and attractive farms of Raymond township.

In 1863 Mr. Jonas was married to Miss Katherine Shields, who was born in Franklin township, Milwaukee county, a daughter of Mathias Shields, who settled in that county in 1840. In Germany he served as a member of the army for fourteen years and participated in the Napoleonic wars. Mr. and Mrs. Jonas have become parents of ten children, of whom eight are living: Christine, the wife of Charles Kraiger, of Raymond township; Mathias, who owns and cultivates forty acres of land in Franklin township, Milwaukee county; Stephen, living in Raymond township, Racine county; Mary and Angeline, who are working in Milwaukee; Rosa and Nick, at home; and Anna, the widow of John Drought.

The parents are members of the Catholic church and have been generous contributors to its support. In politics Mr. Jonas is a democrat, and while he has never held political offices, he has served as a member of the school board for nine years. For sixty-two years he has been a resident of Racine county, so that he has witnessed the greater part of its growth and development, and in its progress along agricultural lines he has taken an active and helpful part. He is well known as one of the early settlers of the county and his life record should serve to inspire and encourage others, showing what may be accomplished even though one has to start out in life empty handed.

FRED KRENZKE.

Fred Krenzke has built up and is successfully conducting an extensive dairy business, which he started in 1901 and which has grown steadily since. He was born in Racine, February 20, 1876, a son of August and Minnie (Reinke) Krenzke, both of whom were natives of Pommern, Germany. In early life they crossed the Atlantic to the new world and became residents of Racine about 1868 or 1869, their marriage being celebrated in this city. The father is a wagon maker by trade, but during the past thirty years has been engaged in farming near Racine, conducting his place now as a dairy farm.

Fred Krenzke obtained his education in a parochial school conducted in connection with St. John's Lutheran church and through the period of his boyhood, youth and early manhood he worked with his father upon the farm, so that he became thoroughly acquainted with the dairy business. It was in 1901 that he opened his present dairy in Racine and in November, 1910, he established his present office at No. 1800 Douglas avenue. The steady growth of his business places him among the leading dairymen of this section, for he now utilizes five wagons in the delivery of milk and handles seven hundred gallons per day. The utmost care is taken in regard to cleanliness and sanitation in connection with the dairy and the high quality of the product and honorable business methods on the part of Mr. Krenzke also insure a continuance of the liberal patronage.

In March, 1900, Mr. Krenzke was married to Miss Julia Schmidt, of Milwaukee county, Wisconsin, who passed away July 18, 1905. On the 9th of May, 1909, he was again married, his second union being with Hattie Herzog, a daughter of William Herzog, a farmer of Racine county, who settled here at

an early period in the development of this section of the state. By his first marriage Mr. Krenzke had a daughter, Freida, and by the second marriage there are two children, Paul and Marie.

The family attend St. John's Lutheran church and in politics Mr. Krenzke votes independently, considering the capability of the man for the office which he seeks rather than his party affiliation. His entire life has been passed in Racine county and his life history is an open book which all may read.

CHICAGO RUBBER CLOTHING COMPANY.

The Chicago Rubber Clothing Company, with its plant at the corner of Albert street, the Northwestern tracks and Forest avenue, controls one of the largest establishments of this kind in the United States. The company has about four acres of ground space, its buildings covering two acres. Two of these are three stories in height, one is two stories and two are one story structures and all are of brick construction, adequately supplied with a sprinkler system. The buildings are well lighted and ventilated and the employes work under sanitary conditions. They employ over two hundred people, fifty per cent of whom are men. They manufacture rubber raincoats for men, women and children and their output represents a wide range of style and price. They also make inner tubes and retreads for automobile tires. This is one of the large and profitable manufacturing concerns of Racine and the goods are sold to jobbers and large dealers. The gradual and substantial growth of the business has made this one of the largest establishments in the manufacture of rubber clothing in the country and their trade is constantly increasing. It is with no difficulty that they hold their patrons, owing to the excellence of their product and the thoroughly reliable business methods which are always maintained.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

The work among the Catholic people of the district now comprised in St. Mary's parish began in 1838 and for four years thereafter they were visited by mission priests, including the Rev. Thomas Morrissy, who first visited Racine in 1838, at which time there was no Catholic church in the county. Following the arrival of Rev. Martin Kundig in 1842, the Catholics began the erection of a little frame church on Fifth street, on the present site of the Times building and the telegraph bureau. The church was completed in 1843 and dedicated in May of that year by Father Kundig with the permission of the Bishop of Detroit, and over the church Father Kundig presided for three years. To this church came the Catholics from all parts of southern Wisconsin, so that at the end of two and one-half years the Racine church proved too small and Mr. Reardon, a member of the congregation, donated two building sites at the southwest corner of Eighth street and Lake avenue for the erection of a larger structure. The old church was removed to this site in the spring of

1845 and was remodeled and enlarged to accommodate more than three hundred persons. It served the entire Catholic population of the district until 1852. It had been dedicated as St. Ignatius church in the fall of 1845, and in September, 1846, the Rev. Franz Prendergast became the first resident pastor. He was unfamiliar with the German language and in June, 1847, was succeeded by the Rev. Kundig, who in turn in the following December was succeeded by the Rev. Fander, who continued in charge until August 20, 1849.

It then seemed advisable to separate the German and English speaking members of the congregation and Archbishop Henni named a committee to select a site for a new church. They chose the present location of St. Mary's, at the corner of Eighth street and College avenue. A good residence and a practically new business block occupied the property. The residence served as a parish house from 1849 and the other structure was remodeled for school purposes. The schoolhouse was twenty by forty feet and was first opened in 1850. Because of the poverty of the parishioners, the erection of a new church for the Germans was not undertaken until 1852. In August, 1849, Rev. Fander was succeeded by the Rev. Carl Sehraudenbaeh, who served until the appointment of Rev. W. Norris November 15, 1851, the latter continuing to serve St. Ignatius parish until August, 1852.

In January of that year Archbishop Henni named Rev. Simon Bartoseh as pastor of St. Mary's and in April of that year the erection of St. Mary's church was begun, the corner stone being laid by Archbishop Henni, June 27th. In August, 1852, Rev. Martin Kundig was appointed priest of St. Ignatius and of St. Mary's and served both congregations until December, 10, 1853. He completed the new church and in November, 1853, was succeeded by Rev. J. N. Peiffer, who served both congregations until January, 1854, when Rev. Kundig was again installed. In February of the same year the Rev. Franz Fusseder was appointed pastor of the two congregations and so continued until June, 1855, when the Rev. Fabian Bermadinger became pastor of St. Mary's church. He so continued until September, 1857, when he was succeeded by the Rev. F. X. Sailer, whose pastorate continued until September, 1862. He was followed by the Rev. Franz Uhlemayr, who continued until July, 1867, and under his direction was erected a new schoolhouse, fifty by thirty feet and three stories in height. His successor, Rev. F. X. Etschmann, continued until April, 1870, and the Rev. J. A. Birkhauser until September 8, 1873. The latter purchased two building lots at the corner of Eighth and Wisconsin streets in order to erect a new parish house. On the 10th of September, 1873, Rev. George Strickner became pastor of St. Mary's and it was during his pastorate, which extended until August 1, 1877, that St. Joseph's congregation was separated from St. Mary's. From the end of July until the beginning of September, 1877, Rev. J. A. Birkhauser again served St. Mary's for the Rev. Peter DeBerge, who had been named pastor in June of that year. The latter took charge in August and under his direction the present handsome parish house was erected in 1878. In December, 1877, he celebrated his silver jubilee, but in November, 1880, illness caused his resignation. Rev. William Engel, who was appointed, died soon afterward and was succeeded by the Rev. Joseph M. Albers, under whose pastorate a new church building was erected, one hundred and thirty-five by sixty feet, at a cost of twenty-eight thousand dollars, and was dedicated

August 15, 1886. After sixteen years' faithful service Rev. Albers resigned August 22, 1896, and the church was then supplied by different priests until Rev. Theodore B. Meyer took charge in November of that year, remaining as pastor to the present time, covering a period of twenty years. During this period a number of improvements have been made on the church and school buildings. A new roof has been put on the latter, sidewalks have been laid, in 1913 a fine new heating plant was installed in the church and school, the church was frescoed at a cost of six hundred dollars and in 1915 new seats were provided for the schoolhouse. In 1908 the church was damaged to the amount of sixteen hundred dollars by lightning.

REV. THEODORE B. MEYER.

Rev. Theodore B. Meyer, pastor of St. Mary's church at Racine, has done effective work among the Catholic families of this locality since October, 1896, and his labors have been most effective in advancing the growth of the parish. He is a native son of Racine county, his birth having occurred in Caledonia, February 13, 1853. The family name, however, indicates his German lineage. His grandfather was a native of Kaltenborn, Germany, where he engaged in farming and mining, his death resulting from a mine accident. He married a Miss Jungmann and their large family included Peter Meyer, who was born near the city of Treves, in the Rhine Province, Prussia, and was there reared and educated. In May, 1845, he crossed the Atlantic and after a brief period spent in Racine secured employment on a farm at Milton Junction, Rock county, Wisconsin. In 1847 he returned to his native land, but in the spring of 1848 again came to the new world, accompanied by his sisters, Mary and Magdalene. In 1850 he established his home upon a farm of eighty acres in Caledonia township, Racine county, and became one of the organizers of St. Ludwig's Roman Catholic church of that locality, giving two acres of ground from his farm as a site for the church and cemetery. He was also prominent in community affairs, serving as town clerk, town treasurer and supervisor. After coming to America he studied English at Milton, Wisconsin, and taught one of the first schools in Madison and also one term near that city. He married Angeline Epper, who was born near Trier, in the Rhine Province, a daughter of Jacob and Susan (Huss) Epper, who came to America in 1848, settling in Paris, Kenosha county, where her father engaged in farming. Her mother reached the advanced age of ninety-two years. They had a large family and it is said the eldest son, a Prussian soldier, was the strongest man in that army.

Rev. Theodore B. Meyer, one of a family of thirteen children, was reared in Caledonia and from 1858 until 1865 attended the first Catholic school there. In the fall of 1868 he became a student in St. Francis Seminary at Milwaukee and was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Henni on the 24th of June, 1877. He became assistant to Father Reindl at the Vincent de Paul church in Oshkosh, where he remained from July until December, 1877, when he was transferred to become pastor of St. Catharine's and St. Michael's church at



Rev. Theo. B. Meyer

Granville, Milwaukee county, there continuing until December, 1880, when Archbishop Henni assigned him to Wilson, Wisconsin, to take charge of the two churches of St. George and St. Rose. His duties there continued until September, 1887, and during that time he had the interior of both churches beautifully decorated and also made extensive repairs on the parish school-houses, while in 1886 he erected a fine parish home in Wilson in connection with St. George's church.

For nine years, from September 16, 1887, until October, 1896, Father Meyer was pastor of St. Mary's church in Saukville, Wisconsin. When he began his labors there the indebtedness of the parish was four thousand dollars. He set to work to liquidate this and not only did so, but in 1889 made extensive improvements and in 1891 decorated the church in fitting style. In 1896 the school building was enlarged and yet he left the parish practically free from debt, having himself collected eight thousand dollars.

Through appointment of the Most Rev. Archbishop F. X. Katzer, Father Meyer came to Racine as pastor of St. Mary's in November, 1896. The church here had an indebtedness of seventy-five hundred dollars, there was little interest manifest in the different societies and conditions on the whole were rather discouraging, but Father Meyer brought courage and optimism to the work and soon his presence was felt in renewed co-operation and vigor in the church work. In this connection a contemporary writer has said: "On January 6, 1897, he changed the Woman's Sodality to a Christian Mothers' Association, under the direction of the church. The reception of members on that day was one hundred and thirty-seven, while now there are one hundred and ninety-four active members. In May, 1897, he founded the Sodality of the Immaculate Conception, which now has a membership of one hundred and seventy-two. On St. Aloysius Day, 1897, the St. Aloysius Society, which now has ninety members, was organized. The St. Bonifacius School Society, which now has one hundred and fifty members, was also put upon a solid basis. During July, 1898, under the auspices of the different societies, a successful fair was held to raise money for the discharge of the debt. The profits were two thousand four hundred and sixty dollars, this lessening the debt considerably.

"In 1900, through the influence of Father Meyer, the parish house, which is located at No. 800 Wisconsin street, was renovated at an expense of one thousand eight hundred dollars. A story was added over the kitchen, and the whole house was equipped with hot water heat and all modern improvements. As the schoolhouse was in very bad condition it was resolved at a meeting held in June, 1901, to build an addition to the building and also to repair the old school. The resolution was passed unanimously, and the new building was commenced at once according to plans made by D. R. Davis. The contractors were Louis Tharinger, carpenter, and John Siepler, mason, both of whom fulfilled their obligations to the utmost satisfaction of all concerned. The cost of putting up the new structure and completely equipping the old one with modern improvements amounted to six thousand two hundred dollars, and the work was finished by the beginning of November. The dedication, by Rev. J. A. Birkhauser, assisted by various priests of the city, took place on Thanksgiving Day, and that evening an entertainment and supper were given in the

building, which netted a profit of one hundred and eighty dollars. The church is located at the corner of Eighth street and College avenue, and the school adjoins it on the south. All the buildings of the parish are now complete and in good condition, and although the current expenses are heavy the congregation can look forward to a future of great prosperity and contentment. The church now has a membership of about two hundred families, and one hundred and seventy pupils are enrolled in the school.

“On July 2, 1902, Rev. Theodore B. Meyer celebrated the silver jubilee of his entrance into the priesthood. He had no intention originally of specially observing the day, but at the solicitation of his friends he decided to hold appropriate services, and the occasion resolved itself into one of great festivity. Over seventy priests were present at the ceremony, among them the vicars general of Milwaukee and La Crosse. The spirit displayed by his own parishioners is worthy of special notice. Young and old vied in honoring their spiritual guide and wishing him future joy, and the various societies, all of which owe their present flourishing condition to his untiring labors, took advantage of the opportunity to show their appreciation and affectionate esteem for one who has given his best effort in their behalf. Thanksgiving Day of 1902 (November 27th) was the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of St. Mary's congregation, and under the auspices of Father Meyer, on that day, was celebrated the golden jubilee of the event. The services were impressive and largely attended, Archbishop Katzer being among the distinguished dignitaries who lent their presence to the religious festival.”

Father Meyer was one of the organizers of the Gonzaga Union of the Catholic young men of Wisconsin, was its first president and for fourteen years was director and manager. Adolph Weber and Henry Broecker, of Racine, and Lucas Riedl, of Milwaukee, were also connected with the organization of the Union, which now has over three thousand members.

MUELLER-KUEHN COMPANY.

The Mueller-Kuehn Company, which was organized in 1907, owns and controls one of the important wholesale grocery establishments of Racine and is enjoying a constantly increasing business. The firm succeeded to the business of H. F. Mueller, who established the undertaking on the 1st of May, 1876, as a retail store at No. 1017 St. Clair street. He continued to retail groceries until 1903, but in 1882 removed to the corner of Superior street and Douglas avenue, where he continued until 1887, when a removal was made to Nos. 1400-1410 Douglas avenue. There the business has since been continued and has been a strictly wholesale affair for thirteen years. Its ramifying trade relations now cover a broad territory and in 1903 a branch house was established in Kenosha. In 1910 the company erected a modern business block in Kenosha, forty by one hundred and thirty feet and two stories in height, adjacent to the railroad, so that excellent shipping facilities were thus secured. Mr. Kuehn has charge of the Kenosha plant, while Mr. Mueller remains in charge of the Racine plant. The company is now erecting a three-story building on Liberty

street and the Northwestern Railroad tracks, a fireproof structure especially designed for its purposes. The business has grown rapidly and the sales of the company now amount to about six hundred thousand dollars annually.

ADELMER A. BISHOP.

Active and energetic through all his business career, Adelmér A. Bishop has worked along the lines of success and that he has achieved what he has purposed is indicated in the fact that he is now proprietor of a profitable laundry business, which includes a plant erected at a cost of thirty-five thousand dollars. Always a resident of southeastern Wisconsin, he was born in Kenosha county, September 4, 1871, a son of the Honorable Isaac T. and Lydia Jane (Clemmons) Bishop. The father was born in Somers, Kenosha county, June 6, 1844, and is a son of Jacob Bishop, a native of New England who, in the pioneer epoch of Wisconsin's development, settled in Kenosha county. Isaac T. Bishop was there reared and at the time of the Civil war responded to the country's call for aid, enlisting in Company F, Fifty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Regiment, and serving for three years in defence of the Union, during which period he participated in the battles of Arkansas Post, Raymond, Champion's Hill and Vicksburg. After the war he turned his attention to farming, becoming one of the representative agriculturists of this part of the state. His fellow townsmen appreciative of his worth and ability and recognizing his patriotic devotion to the general good, frequently called him to public office. He served as township chairman for five years, was justice of the peace for eleven years and in 1906 was elected to the state senate while in 1910 he was re-elected a member of the upper house of the general assembly, receiving a majority vote of five thousand, three hundred and nineteen against his majority of fourteen hundred and fifty-three in 1910. This fact certainly indicates how efficient was his service during his first term, winning the unqualified confidence of the great majority of the citizens of the senatorial district. In addition to conducting agricultural interests for many years he was for thirty-three years secretary of the Somers Mutual Fire Insurance Company, but is now living in Kenosha county—honored and respected wherever known and most of all where he is best known. His wife died in the year 1912. They had a family of five children: John C., now deceased; Adelmér A.; Edward S., a teacher in science in Chicago University; Isaac T., who has departed this life; and Benjamin H., who occupies the old homestead farm.

Reared under the parental roof Adelmér A. Bishop had the usual training and experience of the farm bred boy. He obtained a public school education and attended the State Normal School at Whitewater and the College of Commerce at Kenosha. As he approached the time when he believed he should provide for his own support he determined to enter the commercial field and for nine years was employed as bookkeeper by the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company. In 1901 he incorporated the West Side Laundry Company, taking over the company by that name which had been organized about fifteen years before, and opened a plant at No. 1025 State street, where he continued until

1916, when he removed to State and Silver streets, having erected a new plant at a cost of thirty-five thousand dollars. This is one of the best in the state. is supplied with modern equipment and the machines are all individually motor driven. Employment is furnished to thirty people and three wagons are operated in connection with collections and deliveries. Most approved methods of laundry work are used by him and the excellence of the work is indicated in his increasing patronage. He was one of the organizers and is a director of the Farmers & Merchants Bank.

On October 17, 1900, Mr. Bishop was married to Miss Emma Maude Thompson, a daughter of Frank W. Thompson, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and they have one child, Gordon A. Mr. Bishop exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party and while he does not seek nor desire office in reward for party fealty he is loyal and progressive in matters of citizenship and gives active support to the Commercial Club, of which he is a member and which is putting forth every effort for the benefit and upbuilding of the city. He was one of the organizers and a director of the Racine Retail Merchants Association. He belongs to the Plymouth Congregational church, of which he is a trustee, and to the Young Men's Christian Association and heartily indorses and advocates all plans and measures for advancing the moral progress of the community.

THOMAS H. McKEE.

Thomas H. McKee is a representative of farming interests in Dover township, his home being near Burlington. It was in that township that he was born, May 16, 1854, his parents being James and Rebecca (Wilson) McKee. The father was born in Belfast, Ireland, in 1808 and the mother in Donegal, Ireland, in 1839. In early life they came to the new world and were married in Dover township, Racine county, where their remaining days were passed, the father's death occurring in 1873, while the mother survived until 1909. At the time of his arrival the country was wild and undeveloped, there being still evidences that at a not very remote period the Indians had occupied the district. The homes were primitive and were widely scattered but progressive men from the east and other parts of the country were making their way into the district and bringing about a marked transformation. James McKee secured two hundred acres of land from the government and with characteristic energy began to break the sod, turning the first furrows in the fields. He was a poor man when he came but as the years passed he won success and when his death occurred was in very comfortable circumstances. He was also a well educated and well read man and was widely and favorably known. He belonged to the Presbyterian church and he gave his political allegiance to the republican party, being a firm believer in the efficacy of its principles as factors in good government. Mr. and Mrs. McKee were the parents of eight children, of whom six are yet living: John, a blacksmith of Munising, Michigan; Thomas H.; David, a farmer residing near Richmond, Illinois; Robert, of Twin Lakes and Billings, Montana, holding extensive landed interests at both places;

Nancy, the wife of A. J. Hill, a contractor, of Highmore, South Dakota; and Anna, the wife of Fred Esterbrook, a lumberman, of Washington.

At the usual age Thomas H. McKee became a district school pupil and afterward spent a winter's term in study at Wilmot, Wisconsin. Following the death of his father he began to earn his own living as a farm hand and his youth and early manhood were a period of earnest and unremitting toil. At length he accumulated twenty-two hundred dollars by his own labor and in this way he bought his farm of one hundred and sixty acres, the productiveness of which he enhanced by tiling the place. The work of improvement has been steadily carried forward, including the erection of a good residence and substantial outbuildings, his place being one of the best in Dover township. He carries on general farming and also does considerable dairying. He likewise makes a specialty of raising sugar beets, to which he has given his attention for ten years, and throughout the period he has been agent for a sugar beet company. His cows are all of good grade, so that his dairy products measure up to high standards and he holds to advanced ideals in all that he does.

On the 29th of April, 1890, Mr. McKee was married to Miss Emma Raymond, a daughter of John and Mary (Janachek) Raymond, both of whom were natives of Austria-Hungary. About 1856 they became residents of Waterford, where the father engaged in the business of harness manufacturing. Mrs. McKee was there born and by her marriage has become the mother of fourteen children: Grace, born November 18, 1892; Mabel, born October 17, 1893; Ernest, November 1, 1894; Alice, November 11, 1895; Sylvester, January 23, 1897; Floyd, July 21, 1898; Lucille, December 14, 1904; Evelyn, February 12, 1906; Thelma, February 21, 1907; Robert, October 18, 1909; Donna, January 14, 1911; Phyllis, July 24, 1912; Lois, November 1, 1914; and Marjorie Pauline, March 19, 1916. The children are all at home except Ernest, who travels, and Mabel, who is now teaching in the district schools.

The family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. McKee gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He is now serving as town assessor, which office he has filled for two terms. His fellow townsmen speak of him as a citizen of genuine worth, as a reliable business man and as a faithful friend.

WILLIAM HAIGH.

A well improved farm of one hundred and forty acres, situated near Corliss, is the home property of William Haigh, who has always resided upon this place. He was actively engaged in its cultivation for many years, but in 1904 he retired from active farm work and now rents his land. He was born in this county, August 25, 1845, a son of George and Anna (Butterworth) Haigh. The father was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1810 and died January 28, 1890, while the mother, a native of Lancashire, England, passed away in 1867. They were married in Racine county, where Mr. Haigh had arrived in 1842, at which time he took up school land from the government. Later he secured forty acres more, becoming the owner of a farm of one hundred and twenty acres.

and as the years passed he carefully and systematically developed his place, converting it into richly productive fields.

William Haigh was one of two children, but is now the only survivor of the family. The father gave his political allegiance to the republican party but took no active part in politics as an office seeker, as his entire attention was given to his farm work. He had but limited school advantages in his youth, but was very quick at figures and he possessed sound judgment and shrewd common sense. He died on the old homestead and in his passing the community lost a substantial and respected citizen.

Mr. Haigh of this review pursued his education in the district schools and was reared to the occupation of farming, early assisting in the work of the fields on the old home place. In 1874 he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Jane Myrick, who was born in New York in 1848, a daughter of John Myrick, who in an early day arrived in Racine county, where he engaged in farming. His death occurred at Union Grove in 1890. Mr. and Mrs. Haigh have become the parents of three children: Luminada, the widow of Boyd Fell, and now a resident of the state of Washington; Esther J., the wife of Jonathan Parsons, a farmer in Racine county; and George, who follows farming near Yorkville.

Throughout his entire life William Haigh has resided upon the farm, which is still his place of residence, and he now has one hundred and forty acres of good land, of which eighty acres has been brought to a high state of cultivation, while the other is wood and pasture land. He carried on general farming with success for a long period and also did some dairying, but at length retired from active farm life and for the past twelve years has lived retired, enjoying a good rental from his land. He and his family attend the Methodist Episcopal church and his political indorsement is given to the republican party. He has lived a quiet and unassuming life, but his worth as a man and citizen is recognized and acknowledged by all who know him and throughout the neighborhood in which he lives he has many warm friends.

GEORGE H. LAUGHTON.

Death often removes from our midst those whom we can ill afford to lose and such was the case when George H. Laughton was called to his final rest. He had for a number of years been active in the management of the Chicago Rubber Clothing Company, of which he was one of the founders, and thus he instituted an important productive industry of Racine. He was born in Platteville, Wisconsin, November 20, 1845, a son of George R. and Mildred (Durley) Laughton, the former a native of London, England, while the latter was born in Maryland. They became early settlers of Wisconsin and Mr. Laughton was well known in this state as a capitalist.

After mastering the branches of learning taught in the public schools George H. Laughton became a pupil in the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, which he attended for two years. He afterward embarked in the agricultural implement business in Chicago and continued active in that line until the fire of 1871. He became closely associated with the manufacturing

interests of Racine in 1886, when he aided in organizing the Chicago Rubber Clothing Company, of which he became general manager, with L. S. Blake as the president and Mrs. E. V. Laughton as secretary and treasurer. The factory was built in Racine in 1887 and Mr. Laughton and his family removed to this city so that he might be in close touch with the business. The present officers are: David G. Janes, president; Mrs. E. V. Laughton, treasurer; and G. G. Bryant, secretary and manager. The plant employs about two hundred and fifty people and the product is sold all over the United States. Mr. Laughton continued active in the conduct and management of the business until his demise, which occurred July 30, 1893.

It was June 5, 1867, that Mr. Laughton was united in marriage to Miss Emma L. Virgin, who was born in Platteville, Wisconsin, a daughter of Noah H. and Pamela (Weed) Virgin, who were pioneer residents of Wisconsin, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Connecticut. Mr. Laughton attended the Universalist church and his life was ever upright and honorable, exemplifying the teachings of the Masonic fraternity, in which he held membership. He enjoyed the respect and goodwill of all who knew him and he had a large circle of warm friends by reason of his geniality and unfeigned cordiality. His admirable qualities endeared him to all and his memory is yet revered by those with whom he came in contact. Mrs. Laughton is treasurer of the company and is well known in the business world and socially she belongs to the Woman's Club and is also an active worker in the Universalist church and its different societies.

E. G. H. WENDT.

A large proportion of Racine's citizens have received business training in the J. I. Case Threshing Machine works and that the training is thorough is indicated in the fact that success has attended the efforts of many since they started out independently. Such has been the record of E. G. H. Wendt, who conducts a real estate, insurance and loan agency, in which connection he is accorded a liberal patronage. He was born in Germany, July 22, 1860, a son of Robert and Augusta Wendt, who arrived in Racine on the 29th of November, 1869. The father had been a forester and gardener in Germany and after coming to the new world he turned his attention to blacksmithing and gardening, being thus engaged up to the time of his demise. His widow survives at the age of eighty-six years.

E. G. H. Wendt was a little lad of but nine years when the family came to the new world and in Racine he attended a parochial school conducted in connection with St. John's Lutheran church. He afterward learned the trade of cigar making and subsequently was employed by the M. M. Secor Trunk Company, with which he continued for seventeen years. He was afterward with the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company in the woodworking department and later was connected for a time with the Racine Trunk Company. On severing that connection he became superintendent of Mound cemetery and so continued for six years. His active identification with the real estate business

dates from 1898, in which year he bought out C. J. Thiesen. His office is at No. 920 State street and he not only handles real estate but also conducts an insurance and loan agency, handling both fire and life insurance and representing a number of the old line companies. He writes a large amount of insurance annually, places many loans and negotiates many important realty transfers and his business is now a source of gratifying and merited success.

On the 20th of May, 1891, Mr. Wendt was united in marriage to Miss Anne Thiesen, a native of Germany, and they have become the parents of a daughter and a son: Louise, now the wife of Russell G. Cooke, a resident of Racine; and Herbert C., who is a student in the University of Wisconsin, pursuing the chemistry course.

Mr. Wendt has always been deeply interested in the cause of education and has served as a member of the Racine school board, doing all in his power to further the standard of public instruction. He votes with the republican party and he is a member of St. John's Lutheran church, in the work of which he is actively and helpfully interested. It will thus be seen that he does everything in his power to promote the material, intellectual, social and moral progress of his community and his labors in this connection are accounted a valuable asset for the benefit of the city.

JOHN HENRY GOEBEL, M. D.

Dr. John Henry Goebel, physician and surgeon, practicing at Franksville, was born in Raymond township, March 24, 1883, a son of John and Christiana (Roethe) Goebel, both of whom are natives of this state. The paternal grandparents were John and Margaret Goebel, who were born in Prussia, Germany, and for some time the former sailed the seas. At length he came to the new world, settling at Kilbournville, Wisconsin, where he built a log house. He followed the trade of harness making, which he had learned in his native country, and he also conducted a store for a number of years. He passed away in Racine in 1915 at the age of eighty-two. The maternal grandfather, Henry Roethe, was born in Germany and came to the new world in early life. He is now living at Husher, Wisconsin, at the age of eighty-seven. John and Christiana (Roethe) Goebel were married in Caledonia township in 1882. The father was the proprietor of a general store for a number of years and was one of the early postmasters of Kilbournville, Wisconsin. For twenty-seven years he conducted business as a merchant and won substantial success in that connection. In his family were eight children, of whom four are yet living: John H.; Edward, who is an engineer on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad and lives at Milwaukee; Frank, a laborer residing in Raymond, and Irene, who has graduated from the Oakwood high school and expects to enter the normal school in the fall. The family are identified with the Catholic church and Mr. Goebel is a member of the Catholic Knights. In politics he is a democrat and he served as town treasurer for two terms. He is now living retired, making his home in Thompsonville.

John Henry Goebel attended the St. Louis Catholic school of Caledonia



DR. JOHN HENRY GOEBEL AND FAMILY

and for six months was a pupil in the district schools. He was graduated from the Oakwood high school with the class of 1900 and for two years he was a rural route mail carrier. He afterward worked in his father's store, but in 1905, desiring to become a member of the medical profession, he entered the Wisconsin College of Physicians & Surgeons, there pursuing a four years' course, which he completed by graduation with the class of 1909. He began practice at Raymond Center, where he remained for four and a half years, and in September, 1913, came to Franksville, where he opened an office and has since followed his profession. His broad reading keeps him in touch with the advanced thought and methods of the medical fraternity and he is ever careful in the diagnosis of his cases and successful in the results achieved.

On the 19th of July, 1910, Dr. Goebel was married to Miss Helen Hahn, a daughter of Jacob and Helen (Brunn) Hahn, both natives of Milwaukee county. The former was a son of George and Salome (Beck) Hahn, the former a native of Alsace-Lorraine, whence he removed to Milwaukee county in 1822. There he took up a claim and became the owner of fourteen hundred acres of land, being the most extensive farmer of the county at that date. He was not only active along agricultural lines but also did much to influence public thought and opinion and several times represented his district in the state legislature. He had a wide acquaintance and was popular with his fellow townsmen. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Goebel was Rudolph von Brunn, who married Sophia Zimmerman. He was born in Pomerania and was a nobleman of that country, while his wife was born in Bavaria. On account of the liberal views which he held he left Germany and became a resident of Milwaukee county, Wisconsin, in 1848. He there turned his attention to the occupation of farming and he also occupied an office in the courthouse in Milwaukee for a number of years. By reason of his liberal views he lost his estate in Germany and when he came to the United States he obtained one hundred and sixty acres of land, winning substantial success as the years passed. He was a man of broad education and wide culture who left the impress of his individuality for good upon the community in which he lived. His personal worth aided in establishing standards of intellectual, moral and cultural values and his leadership constituted an element for public progress. His daughter, Helen Brunn, became the wife of Jacob Hahn, who was born in 1852 and is still living. Mrs. Hahn, whose birth occurred in 1854, passed away in 1913. They were married in Milwaukee county, Wisconsin, July 4, 1876. Mr. Hahn is extensively engaged in farming, making his home near Oakwood, Wisconsin. In his family were eight children, of whom five are living: George, a street car conductor residing in Milwaukee; Julius, who is farming in Milwaukee county; Emma, at home; Mrs. Goebel, and Allen, who is engaged in farming and also resides at home. At one time Mr. Hahn was the owner of over four hundred acres of land, but sold two hundred acres. His property remains a valuable and attractive one, well improved and equipped with all modern accessories. In politics he is a republican and he attends the Lutheran church. His daughter, Mrs. Goebel, was educated in the district schools and in the Oakwood high school, from which she was graduated. She afterward took up the profession of teaching, which she followed for seven years in Milwaukee county.

Dr. and Mrs. Goebel have become the parents of a son, Eugene John, who

was born October 20, 1914. Dr. Goebel is a member of the Catholic church. In politics he is a democrat, but is independently inclined. He has served as health officer and school clerk but has never been ambitious to hold positions of public preferment. Fraternally he is connected with the Catholic Order of Foresters. At the time of their marriage Dr. and Mrs. Goebel started with very little, but today they have a beautiful home with all modern improvements and he enjoys a good practice, which is constantly increasing.

BEFFEL FURNITURE & UNDERTAKING COMPANY.

The Beffel Furniture & Undertaking Company has succeeded to the business established by Mathias Beffel, the enterprise having been in continuous existence for forty-one years. The store is located at No. 610 Sixth street, Racine, and the interests of the concern are managed by William J. Beffel, who is president of the company, and Edward Beffel, secretary and treasurer. It was on the 26th of September, 1914, that the business was organized under the present name. The original establishment was located at the corner of College avenue and Sixth street and after two years a removal was made to the present location, Mathias Beffel purchasing the property and building a single store. He conducted the business alone for twenty-six years, or until 1901, when he retired, and his sons, William J. and Edward Beffel, purchased the business, which they conducted under partnership relations until the incorporation in 1914, thirteen years later. In 1911 a new building, three stories in height and fifty by one hundred and twenty feet, was erected. They carry a large line of furniture, rugs and household furnishings and in the adjoining building have funeral parlors. This establishment is one of the finest in the state, the undertaking department occupying what was the old furniture store but which was rebuilt at a large expense in 1914. There is every convenience and modern equipment with a large sanitary embalming room unsurpassed in the state, which is light, cool and airy. The furniture trade is large and the business is most gratifying. Theirs is one of the oldest establishments of the kind in Racine and it is conducted by energetic young business men whose purposes are high and honorable and who accomplish what they undertake.

WILLIAM J. BEFFEL.

Racine is lacking in none of those advantages which offer a broad field to the energetic young business man and William J. Beffel is among the native sons who in legitimate lines of trade have worked their way upward to success. He became the successor of his father, Mathias Beffel, and reorganizing the business, is now the president of the Beffel Furniture & Undertaking Company, in which connection he controls an important commercial concern of the city. He was born July 27, 1873, a son of Mathias and Johanna (Brehm)

Beffel. The father was born in Chicago in 1837 and the mother, a native of Germany, was brought to the United States in her girlhood by her parents, Frank and Agnes Brehm, who became residents of Burlington, Wisconsin, at an early period in the settlement of Racine county, arriving here in the opening years of the '40s. The paternal grandfather of William J. Beffel was John Beffel, who in the '40s became a resident of Kenosha, Wisconsin, and in 1854 removed to Racine, where he followed the cooper's trade. In the year in which the family home was established in Racine, Mathias Beffel entered the employ of the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company, with which he continued for twenty-one years, or until 1875, when he embarked in business on his own account, establishing a retail furniture and undertaking business, which he successfully managed and conducted until 1901, when he retired, being succeeded by his two sons. He was one of the founders of St. Mary's Catholic church and is a member of the German Catholic Young Men's Association. He and his wife still reside in Racine.

On the 19th of June, 1895, W. J. Beffel was united in marriage to Miss Josephine Salentine, who was born in Sacramento, California, a daughter of M. J. and Clara (Arnold) Salentine, who removed with their family from the Pacific coast, to Milwaukee and later to Kenosha, but have now returned to Milwaukee. Mr. and Mrs. Beffel have become the parents of a son, Robert M., now seventeen years of age.

The parents are members of St. Mary's Catholic church and Mr. Beffel is identified also with the Knights of Columbus. He likewise has membership with the Modern Woodmen of America, the Moose and the Royal Arcanum and in politics he is non-partisan, voting for the man and not for the party. He gives his undivided attention to his business interests. He supplemented his public school education by three courses in undertaking and is an expert embalmer. He belongs to the Wisconsin State Funeral Directors' Association and the Wisconsin Retail Furniture Dealers' Association and in trade circles is prominent and popular, his contemporaries and colleagues recognizing him as an alert, energetic man, who expresses in his interests and activities the spirit of modern business progress.

EDWARD BEFFEL.

Edward Beffel, secretary and treasurer of the Beffel Furniture & Undertaking Company, was born in Racine, April 13, 1879, and is a brother of W. J. Beffel, mentioned above. He pursued his education by attending St. Mary's parochial school and the public schools of Racine, taking a high school course. When his student days were over he entered the furniture business and has since been active along that line. He joined his brother as successors to their father and in 1914 the business was reorganized under the present name. Theirs is a large establishment, well equipped in both the undertaking and furniture departments, so that they are able to give the best possible service and to furnish to the trade all that is attractive in the line of modern furniture both of domestic and foreign manufacture.

In November, 1912, Mr. Beffel was married to Miss Martha Osius, of Racine. They are communicants of St. Rose Catholic church and Mr. Beffel belongs to the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Order of Foresters and the Deuteher Club. He does not hold to party affiliation but votes independently, nor has he ever been an aspirant for public office, concentrating his energies upon his business interests in a manner that results in success.

RACINE MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

The business now conducted under the name of the Racine Manufacturing Company was organized about 1910 under the present form but was established about 1902 under the name of the Racine Novelty Company by George W. Jagers. The business was thus conducted until December, 1909, when the plant was destroyed by fire, and in 1910 the company was reorganized with George W. Jagers, F. K. Bull and Fred F. Blandin' as the incorporators. Since that time changes in ownership have occurred and the present officers are: John Reid, Jr., president; C. F. Barndt, vice president, and F. J. Kidd, secretary and treasurer. The plant, located at Sixth and Mead streets, is devoted to the manufacture of automobile bodies, which are sold all over the United States. The factory contains five hundred thousand square feet of working space and there are three four-story buildings, all modern in construction, supplied with sprinkler system and thoroughly equipped for the conduct of the business. The latest improved machinery has been installed and the work has been so organized and systematized that there is no waste of time, labor or material. Co-operation is maintained between the various departments and the completion and assembling of the parts is accomplished in the shortest possible time. Something of the magnitude of the establishment is indicated in the fact that they have nine hundred employes upon the payroll and most of these are skilled laborers. The greater part of the output consists of automobile bodies for high grade cars and these are used by a score or more of the leading automobile manufacturers of the country. The plant is usually operated to its full capacity and within its walls the hum of industry is constantly heard, the undertaking being one of the important factors in the commercial activity and upbuilding of Racine.

F. J. KIDD.

F. J. Kidd, secretary and treasurer of the Racine Manufacturing Company, is thus connected with one of the leading manufacturing interests of the city and that he has a large share in the control and management of the undertaking is indicative of his initiative and resourcefulness. He is constantly alert to opportunities which bring to him a broader outlook and he carefully utilizes every chance for advancement. Moreover, his business interests are of a character which contribute to public prosperity as well as to individual

success. Mr. Kidd was born at St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, July 16, 1880, a son of A. J. and Minnie (Reynolds) Kidd, who crossed the border into the United States in 1881 and became residents of Buffalo, New York, where the father engaged in business as a furniture manufacturer.

F. J. Kidd obtained a high school education in Buffalo, his training being that of the city bred boy who constantly hears the call of commercial life. He became identified with the iron business in Buffalo, securing a position in the Snow steam pump works, with which he continued until his removal to Corliss, Wisconsin, where he was made secretary and treasurer of the Wisconsin Engine Company. His previous training and experience had well qualified him for duties of this character and he remained active in the successful management of the business until 1913, when he resigned to become secretary and treasurer of the Racine Manufacturing Company, which is today one of the large and important business concerns of the city, furnishing employment to nine hundred workmen in the manufacture of automobile bodies.

On the 29th of June, 1904, Mr. Kidd was married to Miss Harriett Maltby, of Buffalo, New York, and they have two children, Alan J. and Helen H. In Racine the family is widely and favorably known, the parents occupying an enviable position in social circles, while the warm-hearted hospitality of their own home is enjoyed greatly by their many friends. Mr. Kidd is a republican in politics and is a Mason, loyal to the fraternity, its purposes and its teachings.

JULIUS T. FOSTER.

Julius T. Foster, chief engineer of the waterworks of Racine, his native city, was born September 16, 1849, his parents being John and Elizabeth (Haythorn) Foster, the former a native of London, while the latter was born in Ireland. They were married, however, in England and in 1845 crossed the Atlantic to the new world, becoming residents of Racine. The father was proprietor of the Western Hotel and so continued up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1863. The business was then continued by the mother and her sons, who conducted the hotel for a long period, and Mrs. Foster passed away in the year 1894.

Julius T. Foster acquired a public school education and afterward learned the machinist's trade, which he followed in various factories here. With his increasing ability and experience he won advancement from time to time and for eleven years occupied the responsible position of chief engineer of the Case Plow Works. Later he was master mechanic for the Northern Wisconsin Lumber Company for four years and in 1893 he was given charge of the power house for the Racine Street Railway. In 1898 he became chief engineer of the Racine Waterworks and has so continued to the present time, covering a period of eighteen years. It is a splendid record of capability and fidelity, his long connection with the position standing in incontrovertible evidence of his worth in the office.

In 1882 Mr. Foster was united in marriage to Miss Cornelia Hayden, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a daughter of George L. and Mary Hayden. The children of this marriage are: Frank, who is manager of the Battery Service Company of Racine; Ruby, the wife of W. H. Van Duser, a traveling man representing the Chicago Creamery Package Company; George, who is chief engineer for the Racine Trunk Company; and J. R., who is engaged in the oil business under the name of the J. R. Foster Oil Company.

In politics Mr. Foster is a republican but never seeks nor desires the rewards of office in recognition of his party fealty. Fraternally he is connected with Racine Lodge, No. 18, F. & A. M., and has also taken the Chapter degrees in Masonry, while of the Eastern Star he is a past patron. He is likewise past chancellor of Racine Lodge, No. 32, K. P., is a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and is a past president of the National Association of Stationary Engineers. Marked ability has brought him prominently to the front in this connection. He understands every phase of his work both in principle and detail, having comprehensive knowledge of the scientific phases of engineering as well as the practical elements of the business, and there is perhaps no official of Racine who has been so long in public office, while the record of none has been more faultless in honor and stainless in reputation.

HENRICKSEN & JACOBSON.

Henricksen & Jacobson is the firm name of a well known commercial enterprise of Racine, organized on the first of October, 1910, by H. M. Henricksen and Jacob Jacobson. Although it has been in existence for but a few years its business has grown steadily and has now become of a very substantial character. The business was first located at No. 1309 Mound avenue. On the first of September, 1915, a removal was made to No. 1200 State street. The firm are wholesale jobbers in groceries of which they carry a large line, including butterine, butter, eggs and cheese, and their trade now extends over Racine and Kenosha counties. They have one traveling representative and the members of the firm are themselves busily engaged in promoting the trade relations of the house, the business already having reached very satisfactory proportions.

HENRY M. HENRICKSEN.

Henry M. Henricksen, the senior partner of the firm of Henricksen & Jacobson, wholesale jobbers in groceries, in Racine, is classed with the progressive young business men of this city in which his entire life has been passed. He was born in Racine, September 12, 1888, and is a son of Peter and Cena (Nielsen) Henricksen, both of whom were natives of Denmark, in which country they remained until 1886 and then crossed the Atlantic to the new world, settling in Racine. During the early period of his residence in this country the

father followed farming and lived on the Rapids road conducting a berry farm, but for the past twenty years he has been connected with the Horlick Malted Milk Company.

Reared under the parental roof Henry M. Henriksen began his education in the district schools and afterward continued his studies in the public schools of Chicago. He started in the business world as clerk in a grocery store and was thus engaged until he began business on his own account as a jobber in groceries. In this connection he has built up a trade of large and gratifying proportions being senior partner in the firm of Henriksen & Jacobson, wholesale jobbers, handling groceries, butterine, butter, eggs and cheese, with a trade that covers both Racine and Kenosha counties.

On the 27th of April, 1914, Mr. Henriksen was married to Miss Edna L. Christensen, and they have a son, George Milton. Mr. Henriksen votes independently and in matters of citizenship maintains a progressive attitude, supporting all those plans and measures which are of most value to his community. He holds membership with the United Commercial Travelers and with the Commercial Club and that he is deeply interested in the moral development of the city is indicated in his membership in the Trinity Methodist Episcopal church and in the Young Men's Christian Association. His life is an expression of high and honorable principles and his purposes find practical fulfillment.

JACOB JACOBSON.

Jacob Jacobson, a member of the wholesale jobbing firm of Henriksen & Jacobson, of Racine, was born on the 31st of October, 1887, in the city in which he still makes his home and comes of Norwegian ancestry, representing in his life many of the sterling traits of the people of the land of the midnight sun. His parents were Andrew and Mary E. (Kittilsen) Jacobson, both of whom were natives of Norway. When young people they came to Racine, arriving in 1883 and here they were married. The father was always a seaman and became captain of the G. Ellen and later of the Henry Cowles. He was also mate of the Minnie Mueller and was captain of the J. B. Newland. Of each of these boats he was part owner and he sailed all over the lakes, continuing to sail up to the time of his death, which occurred November 12, 1911. His widow survives and still makes her home in Racine.

After obtaining a public school education in this city Jacob Jacobson started in the business world as an employe at the plant of the Fish Wagon Company and was with that concern until the business was closed out in the year 1914. He had become interested in the jobbing grocery business, entering into partnership with H. M. Henriksen, and now concentrates his efforts upon the further development of their trade, which has grown rapidly and points to further success.

On the 4th of March, 1914, Mr. Jacobson was united in marriage to Miss Gertrude Amundsen, of Milwaukee, daughter of Ed and Hannah Amundsen. They have one child, Mildred Edna. The parents hold membership in the

Trinity Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Jacobson's further activity in behalf of the moral progress of the community is indicated in his membership in the Young Men's Christian Association. In politics he votes somewhat independently, preferring the republican principles, with the belief that the platform of the party contains the best element of good government. He has membership with the United Commercial Travelers and is also a member of the Commercial Club. He is a typical American citizen possessed of commendable ambition along business lines and at the same time recognizing his duties and obligations in citizenship so that he lends active aid and support to those branches which are working for the further development and upbuilding of city, state and country.

F. J. GREENE ENGINEERING WORKS.

There are not many hours in which the ring of hammer and steel does not waken the echoes in Racine and the name of the city has become to the outside world a synonym for unflagging industry. Various successful industrial concerns have contributed to the reputation of the city in this regard. The F. J. Greene Engineering Works have been in existence since 1892, when the business was established by Fred and George Hodges under the firm style of Hodges & Son. Two years later, or in 1894, F. J. Greene purchased an interest in the business and about 1902 he bought out George Hodges, at which time the firm style of Hodges & Greene was assumed. That relation was continued until 1904, when Mr. Greene purchased the interest of Fred Hodges, since which time the business has been carried on under the style of the F. J. Greene Engineering Works. The plant is located at the corner of Douglas and Prospect streets. The property is two hundred and fifteen by two hundred and twenty feet and the three story buildings are all mill construction, supplied with sprinkler system. They have sixty or more employes and they manufacture special machinery, also fabricate structural iron work. In addition they do general job work and repairing, having a completely equipped machine shop. Their business also includes electric plating of all kinds, stamping and screw machine work and they contract for the fabrication and erection of steel buildings. They have furnished steel and erected most of the steel buildings in Racine that have been erected in the past few years and also important structures in this part of the state.

FREDERICK J. GREENE.

For twenty-two years Frederick J. Greene has been an active representative of the industrial life of Racine and in his business career he has eagerly embraced the opportunities leading to success. Never content to wait for the favors which fortune might bring, he has worked diligently and has earned the rewards of earnest, self-denying labor. Racine county numbers him among

her native sons. He was born at Berryville, this county, March 15, 1869, a son of Melville R. and Elizabeth (Collins) Greene, who were natives of Vermont and New York, respectively. Removing westward they became early residents of Racine county, where for many years the father followed the occupation of farming, but he has now departed this life. His widow, however, still survives.

Frederick J. Greene acquired a public school education in the district schools near his father's home and was reared to farm work, but thinking to find other pursuits more congenial than the tasks of plowing, planting and harvesting, he began learning the machinist's trade, working in the plant of the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company until 1894, when he purchased an interest in the firm of Hodges & Son. From that time forward he has been active in the management and control of the business and gradually he took over the interests of his partners, first buying out the father and afterward the son. The business is now conducted under the name of the F. J. Greene Engineering Works and Mr. Greene is most busily employed in planning, managing and controlling the interests of this establishment.

On the 5th of April, 1898, occurred the marriage of Mr. Greene and Miss Minnie McClellan, of Racine, and to them have been born four children: Carlyle, Bernice, Grace and Jeanette. The family attend the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Greene belongs to the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and to the Royal League. His political endorsement is given to the republican party and he studies thoroughly those questions which are of vital interest in settling the affairs of the commonwealth, but he does not seek nor desire office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business interests. However, he served on the board of supervisors at one time.

JENS C. JENSEN. ✓

Jens C. Jensen, president and treasurer of the Jensen Brothers Dry Goods Store, was active in incorporating this business in 1912, but for many years before had been closely associated with commercial activity in this city. He had come to the United States in 1872 when a young man of nineteen years and in the spring of 1875, when twenty-two years of age arrived in Racine. His birth occurred in Denmark, September 11, 1852, his parents being C. and Maria Jensen, who were natives of that country and there spent their entire lives. Reared and educated in Denmark, Jens C. Jensen determined to seek his fortune in the United States when nineteen years of age and in 1872 sailed for the new world. He spent six months in Connecticut and then removed westward to Kenosha where he obtained a clerkship in a dry goods store, continuing there until the spring of 1875 when he arrived in Racine. Here he also engaged in clerking until 1881 but it was his firm purpose to engage in business on his own account and with that end in view he carefully saved his earnings until he was able to form a partnership and establish a store. He became associated with Jacob Stoffel under the firm style of Jensen & Stoffel and they opened a store, which they conducted until 1887. In that year Mr. Jensen disposed of his interest to his partner and removed to California, where

he spent five years as a dry goods clerk. In 1892 he returned to Racine and again opened a store on his own account at No. 1006 State street, being joined by his brother H. P. Jensen as a partner. Their relations continued until 1910 when the brother sold out and retired from active business. In 1902 the firm erected a building fifty-two by one hundred feet at No. 1012 to 1016 State street. This is a two-story structure. The dry goods business occupies a store with thirty feet frontage, while the remainder is rented to the Farmers & Merchants State Bank. In 1912 the business was incorporated under the name of the Jensen Brothers Dry Goods Company with Jens C. Jensen as the president and treasurer; George Jensen as the vice president and Kate Jensen as the secretary. They carry a large line of dry goods, carpets and rugs and their patronage has been steadily growing as the years have gone by, their business being now large and profitable.

In 1880 Mr. Jensen was married to Miss Maggie Williams, of Racine, a daughter of Owen Williams, who was one of the pioneer residents of this city and of Welsh descent. Mrs. Jensen passed away in California in 1888 leaving three daughters: Jessie C., Louise M., and Kate, all yet at home. Mr. Jensen belongs to the Danish Society of Racine and for the past forty-three years has been a loyal member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He votes with the republican party when national questions are involved, but at local elections where there is no political issues before the people he casts an independent ballot. He is a loyal American citizen. There is none of the "hyphenated" spirit in his allegiance to his adopted country. He feels that he owes much to this land and its opportunities and it has been through the wise and earnest use of these opportunities that he has been enabled to work his way upward to success, being now one of the prosperous merchants of his adopted city.

CHARLES O. JOHNSON.

Charles O. Johnson, who is engaged in farming on section 14, Norway township, is classed as one of the popular and highly esteemed residents of his community and his friends have reason to know that he merits their regard, for his entire life has been spent in this locality. He was born March 4, 1857, in Norway township, a brother of H. F. Johnson, in connection with whose biography on another page of this work there appears mention of their parents and the family.

Charles O. Johnson obtained a district school education and then took up the occupation of farming, at first purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land following his father's death. Subsequently he bought two hundred and eighty acres more, eighty acres on the marsh and one hundred and sixty acres in South Dakota. He has made most of this through his own effort and has erected all of the buildings upon his place, now having one of the most attractive and best improved farm properties in Norway township. He has carefully cleared the land and tilled the fields. The place is rolling, thus furnishing ample drainage, and he utilizes the most modern methods in the care and development of the property. Stock raising and dairying are features of his

place. He owns a registered Holstein bull and milks seventeen cows, sending the milk to the Farmers Creamery. There is a large silo upon his place, so that his stock are provided with green food through the winter months. He studies the most progressive methods of caring for his herd and also of developing his fields and his success is a demonstration of the value of modern scientific farming.

Mr. Johnson lives with his two sisters, Caroline Julia and Sarah Elizabeth, and theirs is an attractive and well kept home. In his political views Mr. Johnson is a republican, well informed on the questions and issues of the day, but he has never held nor sought office. He is, however, a well read man upon all current questions and, moreover, he is well liked—a fact which indicates the possession of sterling traits of character. His success is justly merited, for it has come to him as the reward of persistent, earnest and intelligently directed effort.

HENRY F. MOERS.

Henry F. Moers is the senior partner of the Moers-Brandow Company, dealers in paints and wall paper and contractors in painting and decorating. In this connection they are widely known, for their work is of an important character, representing some of the finest specimens of decorative art in this section of the state. Increasing ability has brought Mr. Moers to the creditable and enviable position which he now occupies. He was born in Freeport, Illinois, October 31, 1868, and is a son of Henry and Louisa (Meyer) Moers, both of whom were natives of Germany. They came to the United States in the '40s and the father worked at the trade of horseshoeing, which he had previously learned, but both he and his wife are now deceased.

Spending his youthful days at the family home in Freeport, Henry F. Moers there pursued his education through consecutive grades in the public schools until he became a high school pupil. He started out in the business world as a clerk in a paint and wall paper store in Freeport and thus became acquainted with the trade. In 1892 he removed to Racine and secured a position in the Buffham paint store, there remaining for nine years. He next established a paint shop of his own, which he conducted for a few years, and on the 1st of May, 1908, he joined James Pritchard and W. H. Brandow in purchasing the Tieknor paint and wall paper house at 313 Sixth street. This partnership was continued until 1910 when Mr. Pritchard sold out and the business has since been conducted under the name of the Moers-Brandow Company, carrying a general line of paints and wall paper and doing contract work in painting and decorating. Their work is of a most artistic character, agreeable to the eye and displaying correct taste. They did the decorating for the Bijou theatre, the Palace theatre, the Welsh church and in nearly all of the best residences of the city, and they employ from eighteen to thirty men in the busy season.

On the 8th of October, 1903, Mr. Moers was married to Miss Estella Austin, who was born in Wyocena, Wisconsin, and they have one child, Alice Jeanette. Mrs. Moers attends the First Baptist church. They are well known socially

and the hospitality of their home is greatly enjoyed by their many friends. Mr. Moers belongs to the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Knights of Pythias, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Royal Arcanum and is also a member of the Commercial Club, while along the line of his business activities he has connection with the Retail Merchants' Association, the Master Painters' Association and the Builders' Club. He has directed his efforts along those lines for which he is well equipped. He has taste and talent in his chosen field and his inherent powers have not only been carefully cultivated but have also been supplemented by the knowledge which study and experience bring.

CHARLES F. BARNDT.

Charles F. Barndt is considered a valuable addition to the business circles of Racine, with which he became identified in October, 1913, when he removed to this city and entered into active trade relations here as the vice president and factory manager of the Racine Manufacturing Company. He was born in a suburb of Philadelphia on the 6th of April, 1876, a son of John G. and Annie M. (Clymer) Barndt. The father was a carriage builder who for many years was connected with the business but is now living retired at the age of seventy-eight years. He has long been a race horse fancier and still has a stable of fine horses. He formed an acquaintance with J. I. Case through their mutual interests in race horses and they became firm friends. In tracing the ancestry of the Barndt family it is seen that they are descended from two brothers of Scotch birth, one of whom remained in Philadelphia, while the other came to Wisconsin in the days of Indian occupancy in this state, securing land from the government about twelve miles northwest of Milwaukee. The journey westward was made with teams and the two families, the one of Pennsylvania and the other of Wisconsin, did not know each other until a recent date.

After mastering the branches of learning taught in the public schools. Charles F. Brandt also attended a private school of Philadelphia, spending three years as a student in Brunner's Seminary. Later he pursued a course in mechanical drafting in New York and he received practical business training as an apprentice to the carriage maker's trade in his father's factory, where he mastered the business with thoroughness, acquainting himself with the trade in principle and detail. He afterward went to Wilmington, Delaware, where he entered the employ of the F. F. Clymer Company as a designer and draftsman, continuing there for a year and a half. He next entered the employ of the Columbus Buggy Company at Columbus, Ohio, as a designer and superintendent of construction and for ten years was thus connected with that establishment. In October, 1913, he came to Racine as vice president and factory manager of the Racine Manufacturing Company. His thorough understanding of the business in its various departments has been one of the potent forces in the success of this undertaking. He has had broad practical experience and knows the business in every phase and detail; therefore,

working along well defined lines, he lays his plans carefully and directs his efforts successfully.

On the 27th of February, 1900, Mr. Barndt was married to Miss Bertha T. Rosenberger, of Philadelphia. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the United Commercial Travelers. He studies the conditions and questions of citizenship and votes independently, not caring to ally himself with any party and pledge his allegiance thereto. Thoroughness characterizes him in every undertaking and what he purposes he accomplishes. He early learned to be a correct judge of materials and workmanship and is thus able to direct the efforts of those who are in his service, knowing what each man should accomplish and the manner in which the work should be done. He is thus especially well qualified to control the factory interests and he also has the executive power which makes his judgment a valued asset in the management of the business.

EDWARD BRICE.

Edward Brice is the owner of an excellent farm situated on section 7 of Raymond township and thereon he is successfully engaged in general agricultural pursuits and dairying. His birth occurred in Raymond township, December 2, 1858, his parents being Thomas and Alice (Drought) Brice. The mother was a native of Ireland but was only two weeks old when she was brought by her family to the new world. Her parents first settled in Canada, where they remained until she was twelve years of age. Mrs. Brice then came to Racine county with her brother, making the journey in an ox cart. The entire district was wild and undeveloped and the Indians were still numerous in the neighborhood. There was much wild game to be had and the entire district was covered with its native growth of timber and grasses. The brother built a log house and prepared the place for his parents who came the following year. Thomas Brice, the father of our subject, was born in Ireland and on coming to the new world spent a year at Coney Island, after which he removed to Racine county. He was about sixty-five years of age at the time of his death, his birth having occurred in 1824 while in 1889 he passed away. His wife, who was born in 1825, died in 1908, having reached the ripe old age of eighty-three years. In their family were eleven children, of whom the following are yet living: Emily, the widow of Joseph Field and a resident of Manistee, Michigan; Jane, who married John Mathias and after his death was married to Wesley Ash but is again a widow and makes her home in Raymond township; Eliza, the widow of William Killips, of Waukesha county; Amelia, Edward; Sherman, who married Eliza West and after her death married Matilda Christensen, his home being in Raymond township; and Frank. In his political views the father was a stalwart republican, always giving earnest support to the party. He belonged to the Baptist church while his wife was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Both were early pioneers in this district although Mrs. Brice was here for some years before her husband's arrival, coming in 1838

almost before the seeds of civilization had been planted in the district. There was no phase of frontier life with which she was not familiar—the log cabin with its fireplace and tallow candles and the uncut forests. All these were features of the district when she arrived and her father, George Drought, who came the following year, bore an active part in promoting the pioneer development of the region.

Edward Brice obtained his education in the district schools and worked on the farm through the summer months, the winter seasons being devoted to the acquirement of his education. When his textbooks were put aside he gave his entire attention to farming and following his mother's death he and his sister and brother purchased the old home place on which he yet makes his home. The farm comprises one hundred and six acres of rich and productive land which he has brought to a high state of cultivation where his practical and progressive methods are manifest in the excellent crops which he annually raises. He has put up new buildings and part of the modern equipment of his place is a large silo. In connection with general farming he does some dairying and both branches of his business are proving profitable. In fact in all matters relating to the farm he displays sound judgment and unfaltered enterprise and his success is the result of his labors. In politics he is a republican but is inclined to the independent forces and he has never sought nor desired office, preferring to concentrate his entire time and attention on his chosen occupation.

A. H. THOMAS.

A. H. Thomas, occupying an attractive and beautiful residence at the corner of Ninth street and Grand avenue, in Racine, is widely known throughout the middle west in connection with engineering and contract work, and in fact his reputation in this connection extends much farther than the states of the Mississippi valley. His pronounced ability and indefatigable energy are the basic principles of his success. He was born in Detroit, Michigan, October 1, 1871, and is a son of John P. and Emma (Vogel) Thomas. The father, a marine engineer, devoted his life to that business, but both he and his wife have now passed away.

After acquiring a public school education A. H. Thomas turned his attention to the heating and ventilator business and eventually became an engineer and contractor. He was associated with the firm of B. F. Sturtevant & Company of Chicago as superintendent of construction for about twelve years and as their representative did work throughout the middle west. In 1906 he came to Racine and was with the O. C. Davis Company for two years, at the end of which time he embarked in business on his own account and has so continued since 1908. He does factory, school and public building work and his services are in demand throughout the middle west. He has his main office at No. 708 Ninth street, Racine, and he employs as many as twenty skilled workmen. He takes only large contracts and did more than one hundred thousand dollars worth of work for the state of Michigan on the State University and

the Traverse City Hospital. His contracts have taken him as far west as Dakota and east to the Atlantic coast and his work is ever of the highest grade.

In April, 1896, Mr. Thomas was married to Miss Mary McCabe, of Detroit, and their children are Norman and Raymond, who are in business with their father. Mr. Thomas has never become a partisan politician but maintains an independent attitude in the exercise of his right of franchise. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity, in which he has taken the degrees of lodge and chapter, and he is also identified with the Elks, the Knights of Pythias and the Eagles. An analyzation of his life work shows that diligence and determination have been the basis of his success and by perseverance and determination he has overcome the obstacles which have barred his path to prosperity.

RELIANCE AUTOMATIC LIGHTING COMPANY.

With the development of the electrical industry there have sprung up various enterprises having to do with lighting equipment and such a concern is the Reliance Automatic Lighting Company, which was organized in Warren, Ohio, in 1909, but removed its business to Racine in 1911. The concern is owned and operated by Benjamin F. Flegel, who is engaged in the manufacture of an automatic time switch, a clock apparatus for turning lights on and off at prearranged times for store signs, windows and apartment house hall lights, etc., operating on one, two or three circuits. The device is most simple and reliable and is the cheapest machine of the kind on the market. The plant has had an average annual increase of forty per cent in its business. Mr. Flegel embarked in this undertaking with a borrowed capital of five hundred dollars and something of the rapid and substantial growth of the business is indicated in the fact that he is now clearing over ten thousand dollars annually. He has invented and perfected a number of other articles which are proving of worth and his skill, ingenuity and business enterprise are proving the substantial basis upon which he is building his prosperity.

BENJAMIN F. FLEGEL.

Benjamin F. Flegel, the organizer and promoter of the Reliance Automatic Lighting Company of Racine, was born near Portage, Wisconsin, August 28, 1878, a son of Ferdinand and Alice (Neef) Flegel. The father was a carpenter by trade but the family lived upon a farm during the early boyhood of Benjamin F. Flegel, who began his education in the district schools. In 1887, the father removed with his family to Tomahawk, Wisconsin, so that he continued his education there as a public school pupil. When fourteen years of age, however, he started out to earn his own living and secured employment as a watchmaker and for fifteen years was connected with the jewelry business. In 1899 he came to Racine and worked for Charles Lovell, a jeweler, with whom he continued for two years. In 1901 he bought out Mr. Lovell and continued in the

jewelry business until 1908, after which he went east and was engaged in the manufacturing business as a manufacturer of fishing tackle. He is himself a noted disciple of Izaak Walton and holds the world's record for long distance casting. The record, which he made on the 5th, 6th and 7th of September, 1914, was for a half ounce, two hundred and twenty-two feet and one inch; for a quarter ounce, one hundred and seventy-seven feet and five inches, both being for an average of five casts. Both of these are world's records. He used tackle of his own design and his tackle is now manufactured on a royalty basis. In 1909 he organized the Reliance Automatic Lighting Company in Warren, Ohio, and in 1911 removed the plant to Racine. The plant for the switch has a capacity of eighteen hundred machines per year and shipments are made all over the United States and to various points abroad.

On the 2nd of July, 1901, Mr. Flegel was married to Miss Helen Basinger, of Racine, a daughter of Volney and Mary (Burdick) Basinger, who were early settlers of this city, where her father engaged in the livery business. To Mr. and Mrs. Flegel have been born two children: Volney Benjamin, whose birth occurred in June, 1902, and who died aged one year and ten months; and Dean Franklin, who was born in Ohio in September, 1907.

Mr. Flegel occupies an enviable position in business circles of Racine and also has a most extensive acquaintance among sportsmen who make fishing their chief source of recreation. Cordial and genial in disposition, he wins friends wherever he goes and has the high regard of all with whom he has been associated.

JOHN MARTIN.

John Martin, who passed away in Racine in 1900 at the age of seventy-four years, devoted the greater part of his life to carpentering. He was born in England on the 13th of April, 1826, and at an early age came to America with his parents, the family locating in New York city. There he attended school and learned the carpenter's trade, in which he became unusually proficient. At the age of twenty-one years he came to Racine county, Wisconsin, and purchased eighty acres of land in Yorkville township, on which he resided for eight years. He then removed to Racine, where he made his home until his death in 1900. He erected many buildings in this county and gained an enviable reputation for fine workmanship and reliability. He was a poet of some note and many of his poems have been published.

Mr. Martin was united in marriage to Miss Mary De Hule, and they became the parents of eleven children, namely: Thomas, deceased; William, a resident of California; Samuel, deceased; Emily, who is now Mrs. Willis Collins of Minnesota; Anna Maria, now Mrs. Buckley; Mary S., the wife of Edward Connor, of Kansas City, Missouri; Thirza Jane Alice, deceased; Frances Rosaltha, the wife of Robert Green, of Racine; Lilly Eliza, the wife of Edward Thorpe, of Marshfield; Harriet Le Roy, the wife of George B. Freeman; and Genevieve Annette, deceased.



MRS. ANNA M. BUCKLEY

Mr. Martin supported the republican party at the polls and took a commendable interest in public affairs, although not an office seeker. He held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, to the teachings of which he conformed his life. He had a wide acquaintance, and his genuine worth is attested by the fact that those who were most intimately associated with him were his warmest friends. His wife died in 1871.

His daughter, Anna Maria, was born on the 26th of April, 1855, and acquired her education in the district schools of Racine county. She remained at home until her marriage when, on the 7th of November, 1871, she became the wife of Armitage Buckley, a son of James and Sarah Buckley. For many years Armitage Buckley was a well known agriculturist of this county, but is now living retired in Racine. In politics he is a republican. He is a man of excellent character and is well known for his sterling qualities throughout Racine and Kenosha counties. Mrs. Buckley possesses marked literary ability and has written in all about two hundred poems, eighty-three of which were published in book form. She generously gave the proceeds of the sale of these volumes to charity. She received the inspiration for her writings from her life in the country, being sensitive to the beauty of her surroundings. Her sisters, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Thorpe and Mrs. Freeman, have also written poems of merit. Among Mrs. Buckley's poems the following is one of her favorites:

DREAMS OF MY CHILDHOOD.

Oh, the home of my youth in my fancy I see,
 Still dear in my memory to me,
 The bright flowing stream with its borders of green,
 As it sped gently on to the sea.

'Neath the blue vault of Heaven stood the old cabin home—
 'Twas there I in infancy played—
 Through the half-open door and vine-covered porch
 Stood a form that now sleeps 'neath the shade.

'Twas the form of my mother, so loving and true,
 Still young in my memory today;
 Through that half-open door her form I still see,
 And the path where so often we strayed.

And the sweet singing bird at morning's first dawn,
 As then would my slumbers awake,
 Would thrill me with joy and unspeakable love,
 Which from me no mortal can take.

No harp half so sweet as the Bobolink's call,
 No music so soothing and dear,
 As the Robin's sad note and Bluebird's song,
 As when they first fall on our ear.

But the pride of my youth was the forest so wild,
 When often with joy I have strayed,
 For the fairest of flowers that nature yields
 Are the blossoms that bloom in the shade.

Oh, why must I leave you, dear scenes of my youth,
 And why not forever abide
 Where the song bird warbles his earliest note
 While praising its maker who died.

Farewell, then, dear home, and scenes of my youth,
 Farewell till we meet home at last.
 Where sorrow and tears shall never be known,
 And trouble a thing of the past.

ALEXANDER SUMPTER.

Alexander Sumpter, residing in Union Grove, devotes his attention to general farming and to the raising of chickens and his business has assumed extensive proportions, bringing a good financial return. He was born in Yorkville, Wisconsin, September 6, 1864, and is a son of John and Mary Ann (Cheasman) Sumpter, both of whom were natives of Lincolnshire, England, born in 1818 and 1821 respectively. They were married in their native county and in 1850 came to the United States, making their way to Yorkville township, Racine county. For a few years Mr. Sumpter was there employed at farm labor and afterward went to the town of Dover, where he purchased a tract of land, becoming the owner of two hundred and five acres. He afterward bought land quite extensively in Yorkville but eventually he removed with his wife to Alabama, where Mrs. Sumpter passed away in 1897, while his death there occurred in 1905. They were consistent and faithful members of the Congregational church, in which Mr. Sumpter served as deacon for many years. He was also chairman of the board of trustees and was a local preacher of the church. He could work all day and would then walk ten miles in order to preach, such was his deep interest in the work of spreading the Gospel among men. He was well known and well liked, honest and reliable, and in his business undertakings he prospered. When he reached Yorkville he had but twelve dollars and as the years passed he so directed his business affairs that he gained a very gratifying competence. He had for fourteen years been a sailor in England before he crossed the Atlantic to the new world and he was son of William Sumpter, who died in England, and a relative of Captain Sumpter. His political allegiance was given to the republican party and he served on the board of supervisors in his township and also as assessor. His life was fraught with good deeds and actuated by high purposes and commanded the respect and confidence of all.

In the family of Mr. and Mrs. John Sumpter were twelve children, of whom six are living: Mary Ann, who is the wife of Gus Beacher, a resident farmer of Dover township; John, a retired farmer living at Cedar Falls, Iowa; Fannie, the widow of John Murgatroyd, who was a brickmason, his wife being now a resident of Vesper, Wisconsin; Alfred, a resident farmer of Union Grove; George, who is janitor of the St. James public school in Racine; and Alexander, at home.

The last named obtained a district school education and on starting out in life on his own account became interested in the manufacture of tile, being associated with his father in the ownership of a tile works at Union Grove. He afterward drilled wells for two years and later he purchased from his father a farm in Dover township. After cultivating this for a time he sold out and invested in his present farm of fifty-two acres in Yorkville township. Here he has a nice residence, in the rear of which are good barns and other necessary outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock, while these in turn are surrounded by highly cultivated fields. Everything about the place indicates his careful supervision and progressive management. He devotes the greater part of his attention to his farm, on which he is now engaged in raising garden produce and chickens, being one of the extensive chicken raisers in this part of the state. He has a large incubator, has greatly increased his business and expects to raise in the present year about six thousand chickens. He handles brown and white Leghorns and his opinions are accepted as authority upon many questions relating to chicken raising.

On the 11th of March, 1890, Mr. Sumpter was united in marriage to Miss Sophia Matilda Savage, a daughter of William Savage, a retired farmer living in Union Grove. They became the parents of a son, Howard Sumpter, who was born March 13, 1891. He was graduated from the Union Grove high school, after which he spent one year as a student in Beloit College and one year as a student in Northwestern University of Chicago. He was made a member of the Scribblers, a college fraternity, and he was also on the basket ball team at Northwestern University for a year. He is now at home, giving his energies to assisting his father in the conduct of a growing and important business.

The parents and the son are members of the Congregational church and Mr. and Mrs. Sumpter have long been members of the choir, in which Mr. Sumpter has sung for thirty years, being leader most of the time. Their son is president of the Southeastern Wisconsin Christian Endeavor Union. Their influence is always on the side of right and progress, truth and reform, and their work has been an element in advancing moral interests in this part of the state, while as a business man Mr. Sumpter also occupies a very prominent and gratifying position.

J. I. CASE PLOW WORKS.

The story of the growth of the J. I. Case Plow Works from a small, obscure blacksmith shop in the rear of a fanning mill factory to the present large concern occupying over twenty acres of space, is a story of constant progress based upon quality and service. From the beginning the policy of the company has been to make every tool that bore its trademark a little better than any other similar tool and to co-operate to the fullest extent with the dealer handling its products. The business was organized in 1876 by J. I. Case under the name of the Case-Whiting Company, his partner, Mr. Whiting, being the inventor of the center draft walking plow. Two years later Mr. Whiting sold

his interest in the concern and the name was changed to the J. I. Case Plow Company, which remained the firm style until 1884, when the business was reorganized, the capital increased and the name changed to the J. I. Case Plow Works. In 1890 J. I. Case withdrew from the business and his son, Jackson I. Case, succeeded him as president of the company and held that office for two years. In 1892, however, H. M. Wallis, who became general manager of the business in 1885, was made president and treasurer and he is still serving as chief executive of the corporation. The other officers are: William Sobey, vice president; L. N. Burns, secretary and general sales manager; and William M. La Venture, treasurer. The company is now one of the largest independent implement concerns in the world and its products are sold from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, throughout the Dominion and in other foreign countries. The company employs over six hundred men, all of them skilled mechanics who are expert in their particular work, and there is a system of rigid inspection which begins when the raw material is brought into the factory and which is continued until the completed tool is pronounced worthy of the "Plow in Hand" trademark, which has become associated in the minds of dealers and farmers with the highest quality possible in farm implements. If at any stage of the process of manufacture poor material or faulty workmanship is found the implement is rejected, for the slogan "Quality goes in before the name goes on" is the actual standard of work in the company's factory.

One of the most important departments of the company is the experimental department, in which expert mechanical engineers are constantly seeking to design more efficient farm machinery. They keep in mind in working out new implements the need of simplicity, light draft and ease of handling and their ideas have been worked out in tools which do the work for which they are intended thoroughly in the shortest time possible and with the least effort and expense on the part of the farmer. The determination of the officials of the company to make its product the last word in up-to-date farm machinery is further indicated by the fact that every new implement designed by the engineers is thoroughly tested in actual operation before it is finally adopted. It is recognized that factory forecasts cannot determine the efficiency of a plow or harrow or other farming tool as well as its actual use and therefore a large three hundred acre farm south of Racine is used for experimental purposes. If a machine fails to do efficiently the work for which it was designed it is returned to the factory, where the defects are corrected and it is then tested and re-tested until it gives absolute satisfaction. Practical and experienced men operate the machines and in determining upon their worth nothing is overlooked, the draft, accuracy and durability all being carefully taken into consideration. The performance of the machines in various kinds of soil is also carefully noted and these observations greatly help in designing and adapting implements to the requirements of various localities. The dealer and farmer know that every Case implement has been subjected to repeated field tests before it is placed on the market, whether it be the smallest J. I. Case walking plow or a power lift tractor gang, a cultivator, harrow or planter.

The J. I. Case Plow Works not only takes the greatest care to insure the high quality of its product but has also given a great deal of attention to the

problem of aiding its dealers in increasing their sales and has been very successful in securing their hearty co-operation. The company has worked out plans for intensified, direct as well as general advertising campaigns and newspaper cut service which have been very effective in building up the trade even in spite of adverse general business conditions. The corporation gives its dealers the benefit of its wide experience in advertising and supplies them with free movie slides and with signs of various kinds, either free or at a very low figure, and its salesmen are expected to co-operate with the dealers in every way possible.

The factory buildings are up-to-date in construction, are protected from fire loss by a modern sprinkler system and the machinery is adequately guarded so as to prevent accidents. There is also a fully equipped emergency hospital and many minor injuries are cared for there during the year. The factory ranks among the most modern and best conducted industrial plants in the country.

H. M. WALLIS.

The rapid and steady growth of the business of the J. I. Case Plow Works and the enviable standing of the Company's products are due in large measure to the personal force, the executive ability and the high business standards of H. M. Wallis, who for twenty-four years has been president of the corporation. He was born in White Pigeon, Michigan, on the 24th of June, 1861, a son of T. O. and Eliza A. (Mitchell) Wallis, born respectively in Culpeper Courthouse, Virginia, and in Kenosha, then Southport, Wisconsin. The father engaged in the real estate business in Detroit, Michigan, for many years and met with gratifying success in that connection.

When a child H. M. Wallis lost his father and accompanied his mother to Racine, Wisconsin, when six years old. After completing the course offered in the public schools he entered McMynn Academy, from which he was graduated. When sixteen years of age he went to work in the office of the Mitchell-Lewis Wagon Company and six years later was made receiver of the Fish Brothers Wagon Company. He gave evidence of so much administrative ability and possessed such a thorough grasp of the implement business that he was made general manager of the J. I. Case Plow Works, becoming at that time a member of the company. In 1892 he was elected president of the concern and has since filled that responsible position. He keeps in close touch with the various departments, requires the greatest possible efficiency and insists that the Case watch words, quality and service, be lived up to in all the work done. Moreover, he possesses to a marked degree the power to quickly and surely recognize the essential points of a situation, to decide promptly and wisely, and is seldom at fault in his judgment of men. He is also president and treasurer of the Wallis Tractor Company, which was organized in 1912, and which manufactures a full line of tractors. William Quarles is vice president and H. M. Wallis, Jr., is secretary of the corporation.

In April, 1883, at the old home of J. I. Case—now the residence of Mrs. Per-

cival Fuller, Mr. Wallis was united in marriage to Miss Jessie Fremont Case, a daughter of J. I. Case, and they have two children: Lydia E., at home; and H. M., Jr.

Mr. Wallis takes a helpful interest in public affairs but has not been active in politics. He has given his entire time and attention to his duties as head of the J. I. Case Plow Works and through his foresight, his constructive ability and his business acumen has gained a foremost place in manufacturing circles of the middle west.

WILLIAM M. LA VENTURE.

The fact that William M. La Venture, although still a comparatively young man, holds the important position of treasurer in the J. I. Case Plow Works is proof of his enterprise, his knowledge of modern business methods and his financial acumen. He was born in Davenport, Iowa, in 1875, a son of William and Margaret La Venture, the former of whom was for about fifty years with the Rock Island Railroad and for a considerable portion of that time its tax commissioner.

W. M. La Venture received his education in the public and high schools of Davenport and on beginning his independent career secured a position with the Rock Island railroad. He remained with that corporation for ten years, but in 1905 became assistant purchasing agent for the Moline Plow Company and two years later was made purchasing agent for the J. I. Case Plow Works, with which company he has remained. He at once demonstrated his ability and in time was promoted to manager of the purchasing and traffic department and in 1911 was elected a director of the company. Three years later he was chosen treasurer and has since served in that capacity.

Mr. La Venture was married in 1898 to Miss Bessie Anderson Burrows of Davenport, and they are the parents of two children: Mildred, fourteen years old, and William, eleven years of age, both attending school. Mr. La Venture endorses the principles of the republican party and supports its candidates at the polls. He holds membership in the First Presbyterian church of Racine and in all relations of life conforms his conduct to high standards. All who have been associated with him have the utmost confidence in his ability to successfully solve intricate business problems and in his uncompromising integrity.

LOUIS N. BURNS.

Louis N. Burns, who holds the offices of secretary and sales manager in the J. I. Case Plow Works, has been connected with the manufacture of farm implements continuously since he was sixteen years of age with the exception of one year, and his thorough knowledge of the business, his aggressiveness and sound judgment have been among the most important factors in his suc-

cess. As sales manager he has developed in the sales organization a fine spirit of co-operation and loyalty to the company and has based the selling policy of the company upon a businesslike and convincing presentation of the superior merits of its products. He was born in Tazewell county, Illinois, on the 16th of January, 1866, and his parents were Louis H. and Julia H. (Hildebrand) Burns. The father was by occupation a farmer and both are now deceased.

After completing his public school course L. N. Burns attended a business college at Peoria, but when sixteen years old began his career, entering the employ of the Kingman Plow Company at Peoria. He remained with them for twenty-nine years and rose through intermediate positions to manager of their St. Louis branch. During the year 1885 he was bookkeeper for the Bank of Dwight, at Dwight, Illinois, but decided that the implement business was more to his liking and accordingly returned to the Kingman Plow Company. He displayed so much ability in the management of their St. Louis branch that on the 2d of January, 1913, he was chosen sales manager of the J. I. Case Plow Works at Racine, and has since served in that capacity. He is constantly on the outlook for new ideas and methods and has brought his department up to a high standard of efficiency. In 1914 he was further honored by election as secretary of the company.

On the 4th of May, 1887, Mr. Burns was united in marriage to Miss Florence Bethard, of Peoria, Illinois, and they have the following children: Ray Alexander, who is living in St. Louis; Gladys, at home; Julia, who is attending the State University of Wisconsin; Robert; Florence, and Donald.

Mr. Burns is independent in politics, voting for the best man without regard to party allegiance. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and fraternally is identified with the Masonic order and the Elks. All who come in contact with him recognize his ability, his keen insight and his determination and, moreover, he is popular personally.

WILLIAM SOBEY.

William Sobey, the vice president of the J. I. Case Plow Works, has been connected with the implement business for fifty-six years and for a third of a century has been with the Case Company. He entered its employ in a comparatively unimportant capacity but his industry, knowledge of the business, and his power to direct the work of others, led to his advancement from one position to another and for about fourteen years he has held the office of vice president. The greater part of his work has been done as superintendent and designer and he has taken out over thirty different patents on plows all of which are in the name of the company.

His birth occurred in Plymouth, England, on the 4th of January, 1849, and his parents were William and Elizabeth (Harvey) Sobey, the former of whom engaged in farming in England until his demise in 1851. In 1857 his wife and children went to Canada in company with her brother and she passed away in the Dominion in 1892. When nine years old William Sobey began working

upon a farm on his own account and at the age of fourteen learned the blacksmith's trade. In 1865 he removed to Loda, Iroquois county, Illinois, and for two years worked at his trade. In 1867 he became blacksmith on an immense farm comprising forty-five thousand acres of land in Livingston and Ford counties, Illinois, and belonging to Mike Sullivan. While there Mr. Sobey took apart the plows which had been used and studied them carefully in order to discover why they had not given good satisfaction and found that they were ill-fitted for use in the kind of soil found upon the farm. He designed a new plow and rebuilt the old ones according to the new plans and found that they worked much more efficiently. This accomplishment gained him considerable note and in the spring of 1868 he secured a position in the Decatur Agricultural Works, devoted to the manufacture of plows and from that time until the fall of 1883 was employed in various plow shops. He then accepted a position as foreman in the blacksmith shop of the J. I. Case Plow Works and three years later was promoted to superintendent. He served in that capacity until about 1902 when he was made general superintendent and vice president, which positions he is now filling. He has not only been very successful in supervising the operation of the shops and in securing the co-operation of the men under him, but is also the inventor of many of the improvements found on the Case plows. He has taken out in all thirty patents, all of which are owned by the company.

Mr. Sobey was united in marriage at Decatur, Illinois, on the 19th of September, 1872, to Miss Mary Keane, a daughter of Morris and Hannah (Doyle) Keane. Mrs. Sobey passed away in October, 1913.

Mr. Sobey supported the republican party until 1872 and then became a democrat, but in 1896 took issue with some of the policies of that party and again became a supporter of the republican party. He votes a republican ticket when national issues are at stake but in other elections votes independently. He is well known in local fraternal circles, belonging to the Elks, the Knights of Pythias and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is unassuming in manner but those who have been closely associated with him appreciate his loyalty in friendship, his consideration of the rights of others, his sincerity and his unswerving integrity, and there are few men in Racine who have a larger number of true friends than he.

BERT EDWARD DUNN.

Bert Edward Dunn, one of the proprietors of the Elite Laundry, has proven in his life record that success is not a matter of genius or the result of fortunate circumstances, but is the outcome of indefatigable industry, clear judgment and experience. He was born in Dalton, New York, June 28, 1869, a son of Albert and Nellie (Gearhart) Dunn, the former a farmer by occupation. He obtained a public school education and then turned his attention to cheese making, in which business he engaged for three years. In 1890 he arrived in Chicago and was engaged in railroading for four years, but in 1894 turned his attention to the laundry business as an employe of the Indiana



BERT E. DUNN



JOHN G. EAGER

Steam Laundry Company of Chicago. Later the name of this concern was changed to the Harvey Laundry and its location was at No. 89-91 Indiana street. After three years Mr. Dunn became connected with the Star Laundry and later with the Wabash Hand Laundry. In 1909 he came to Racine and formed a partnership with John G. Eager for the purchase of the Elite Laundry, which they have since conducted. Their business has enjoyed a substantial growth. It is based upon broad practical experience and scientific knowledge, a knowledge that embraces not only the important features of the work, but also includes a thorough understanding of many textiles, so that they know how to handle the work which comes to them.

On the 11th of February, 1900, Mr. Dunn was united in marriage to Miss Lulu Sokup of Chicago. He is well known in fraternal circles, being a member of the Masons, the Knights of Pythias, the Dramatic Order of the Knights of Khorassan, the Moose, the Eagles, the Royal Arcanum and the Modern Woodmen. He is also identified with the Commercial Club and with the Racine Junction Improvement Association and he stands for progress in all those things which promote the public welfare as well as advance individual interests.

JOHN G. EAGER.

John G. Eager is classed with the most enterprising business men of Racine. He is a partner of Bert E. Dunn in the ownership and conduct of the Elite Laundry and in this connection they have developed a business of extensive proportions. Their life history in its unfolding shows steady and consecutive development and cannot fail to prove of interest as it indicates the opportunities that lie before the American youth. Mr. Eager was born in Matamoras, Pennsylvania, September 5, 1876, and is a son of Charles L. and Roxana (Price) Eager, who in the year 1891 removed westward to Chicago, where the wife and mother passed away October 10, 1905. The father, who is a retired railway engineer, is now living in Racine.

John G. Eager, when a lad of fifteen years, began driving a delivery wagon for a laundry and was afterward employed in various laundries of Chicago, where he gained a comprehensive knowledge of the business, winning that broad experience which has constituted the foundation of his present success. In 1899 he came to Racine, entering the W. L. Hagman Laundry as an employe. He was afterward employed by the Model Laundry on Sixth street and subsequently became manager of a clothing business, but embarked in business on his own account on the 3rd of May, 1909, when he became one of the proprietors of the Elite Laundry. He has since bent every energy toward the development of the business, with the result that the trade has rapidly increased. The firm has never deviated from the high standards which it set up at the beginning. They have won their patronage through the excellence of their work and the honesty of their methods and today theirs is one of the profitable industrial concerns of Racine.

On the 30th of September, 1912, Mr. Eager was married to Miss Jean Lindsay, of Chicago, and they have a son, Frank, three years of age. Frater-

nally Mr. Eager is connected with the Knights of Pythias, in which he is a past chancellor; with Racine Lodge, No. 437, L. O. O. M., in which he is dictator; with the Royal Arcanum, in which he is grand orator, and with the Dramatic Order of the Knights of Khorassan, in which he is serving as imperial deputy for Wisconsin. He is also president of the Association of Live Secretaries of the last named order and adjutant of the Wisconsin Brigade of the Uniform Rank of Knights of Pythias. He is likewise a Mason, an Elk and an Eagle and he has membership in the Commercial Club and the Racine Junction Advancement Association. He is president of the Wisconsin Laundrymen's Association and is now serving his second term. These interests and connections as well as his business have brought him a wide acquaintance and he is popular wherever he is known. Firm purpose is one of his marked characteristics and he never falters in the performance of a task to which he has set himself. His business methods are such as invite investigation and his course receives the indorsement of all.

J. E. PRITCHARD.

J. E. Pritchard has in various ways been connected with the interests of Racine, having previously served as postmaster, while in business affairs his activity has contributed to the general commercial development. Since 1915 he has been engaged in the real estate, insurance and loan business. He was born in this city, March 18, 1872, a son of Elias J. and Martha (Evans) Pritchard, the former a native of North Wales and the latter of South Wales. The paternal grandfather, David Pritchard, who came to Racine in 1845, was a woodworker by trade. He established his home on Grand avenue, between Eighth and Ninth streets, and there resided until his death, which occurred when he was eighty-six years of age. The maternal grandfather, James T. Evans, arrived in Racine in 1850 and worked at the molder's trade in the employ of the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company. Elias J. Pritchard was also a molder and for many years was employed by the Case Threshing Machine Company, but at the time of the Civil war he put aside all business and personal considerations and responded to the country's call for troops, enlisting as a member of Company F, Twenty-second Wisconsin Regiment, with which he served from 1862 until 1865. On retiring from the service of the Case Company he secured an appointment as letter carrier in Racine and so continued from 1885 until his death, which occurred in March, 1886. His wife, who was born in 1845, died in February, 1914.

When a little lad of six years J. E. Pritchard became a pupil in the public schools of Racine and passed through consecutive grades until a high school education qualified him for life's practical and responsible duties. He started in the business world as a machinist in the shops of the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company, there remaining for five years, and his initial experience in insurance lines was received as an employe of the David G. Janes Company between the years 1895 and 1897. In the latter year he was appointed assistant postmaster of Racine and so served for four years under J. I. Case and for

four years under H. J. Smith. He resigned under Postmaster Gittings and in 1909 entered into the retail paint and oil business as a member of the firm of Moers, Pritchard & Brandow. On the 1st of November, 1910, he was appointed postmaster of Racine and sold his interest in the paint company, continuing to serve as postmaster for more than four years. On his retirement from that office, in which he made a most creditable record, he opened an insurance, real estate and loan office at No. 852 Washington boulevard and is now active along that line, having won a liberal clientage that already makes his business a profitable one.

On the 19th of June, 1903, Mr. Pritchard was married to Miss Harriet Klinkert, a daughter of E. Klinkert, who was one of the early settlers of this county. He was born in Germany, November 11, 1844, a son of J. and Mary Klinkert, who spent their entire lives in the fatherland. E. Klinkert came to the United States in 1866 and settled at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In Germany he had learned the brewing business and when in 1873 he removed from Milwaukee to Racine he here opened the Klinkert brewery on the 1st of March of that year, the location being at Nos. 800-832 Washington boulevard. He started the business in a small way but his patronage has steadily grown and the sales now cover a broad section. In 1871 he was united in marriage to Miss Sophia Walter, a native of Germany, the wedding being celebrated in St. Louis. They became the parents of the following named: Louis, who is now foreman in the brewery; Harriet, now Mrs. Pritchard; Frank, who is with his father in business; Mrs. Ella K. Von Bories, a resident of Chicago; George, who is with his father in business; and Jennie, the wife of R. T. Williams, living in Kenosha. Mr. Klinkert is a member of the Deutscher Club and also of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while in politics he maintains an independent course, never allying himself with any party.

Mr. Pritchard is identified with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and is a prominent Mason, belonging to lodge, chapter and commandery. His father was eminent commander of Racine Commandery, No. 7, at the time of his death and he was the leader of the Belle City male chorus, being recognized as one of the prominent musicians of the state. J. E. Pritchard holds membership in the Baptist church, of which his grandfather was one of the founders, and his political allegiance is given to the republican party. He stands for those things which are most worth while in the life of the community and his influence is on the side of progress, reform and improvement.

MARTIN LARSEN.

Martin Larsen, one of the partners in the business conducted under the name of the Junction Furniture Company at No. 1326 Washington avenue, was born in Denmark, January 22, 1869, a son of Lars and Maria Hansen. He obtained his education in his native country and in the year 1886 arrived in Wisconsin, settling at Neenah. He had previously learned the cigar maker's trade and he followed that business in Neenah for a year, after which he was employed in a similar capacity in Oshkosh for four years. He arrived in

Racine in 1891 and here followed his trade for several years, but desirous of engaging in business on his own account, he embraced the opportunity in 1910 of purchasing an interest in the furniture store of Peter Christiansen, whereupon was organized the firm of Christiansen & Larsen. They are conducting business under the name of the Junction Furniture Company at No. 1326 Washington avenue and are accorded a liberal patronage which is well merited. They carry an attractive line of goods, which they sell at reasonable prices, and their business methods are such as will at all times bear close investigation and scrutiny.

On the 5th of November, 1895, Mr. Larsen was united in marriage to Miss Johanna Hansen, who was born in Denmark and is a daughter of Rasmus Hansen, who established his home in Neenah, Wisconsin, in 1883. To Mr. and Mrs. Larsen were born three children: Lawrence, who is a bookkeeper and stenographer in the employ of the Perfex Radiator Company; and Harold and Elmer, who are attending school.

Mr. Larsen is a member of the Danish Brotherhood and has been identified with the supreme lodge for eight years. He was chairman of the building committee when the hall was erected in Racine in 1910 and he has held all the offices in the order, serving as trustee for four years and as vice president of the supreme lodge for four years. He is also a member of the Danish Society of Racine and he does all in his power to aid his fellow countrymen who come to this section of the state to seek the opportunities offered by the new world. At the same time he is a most loyal American citizen and willingly co-operates in all well defined plans and measures for the upbuilding of Racine and the promotion of its interests.

W. H. BRANDOW.

W. H. Brandow is a member of the firm of Moers & Brandow, conducting a painting contracting business in Racine. Michigan numbers him one of her native sons, his birth having occurred in Pontiac, that state, on the 2d of January, 1858, his parents being Frederiek and Lucy (Crandall) Brandow, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Kenosha, Wisconsin. The maternal grandfather was one of the pioneer settlers of Kenosha county where he served as sheriff in an early day. It was in the year 1864 that Frederiek Brandow left Michigan and removed with his family to Kenosha, Wisconsin, where he conducted business as a baker and confectioner, having early learned those trades. In 1871 he arrived in Racine and here he also followed his trade, working for George and Charles Bliss. Both he and his wife have now passed away.

W. H. Brandow was a lad of thirteen years when he accompanied his parents to Racine and in the public schools of this city he completed his education. In his youth he learned the painter's trade which he has always followed and he entered into business on his own account as a partner of H. F. Moers under the style of Moers & Brandow. The firm is located at 313 Sixth street.

On September 27, 1883, Mr. Brandow was united in marriage to Miss Emma

Crotsenburg, of Racine, a daughter of Peter and Ann Crotsenburg, who were early settlers. To Mr. and Mrs. Brandow have been born two children: Bertha, who is the wife of August Johnson, a machinist residing in Racine and by whom she has three children—two daughters and a son; and Earl, who is with his father in the shop.

Politically Mr. Brandow maintains an independent attitude, voting for men and measures rather than party. He is well known in fraternal circles, holding membership with the Masons, the Elks, the Moose, the Royal Arcanum and the Woodmen of the World. Among his brothers of these fraternities he is held in high regard for he is loyal to the teachings of the orders and in his life exemplifies the beneficent spirit upon which such organizations are based.

E. C. WILSON.

The old adage that "a prophet is never without honor save in his own country" does not find support in the life record of E. C. Wilson, for in the county in which his entire life has been passed Mr. Wilson has gained recognition as a representative business man, now occupying the responsible position of general superintendent of the J. I. Case Plow Works. He was born in Caledonia township, Racine county, on the 6th of September, 1870, and is a son of James and Mary Jane Wilson. The father removed to Wisconsin about the time of the Black Hawk war and settled in this county, becoming one of its early pioneer residents. He conducted an inn on the old plank road and later turned his attention to farming. He became active in the public life of the community and served as township supervisor and in other local offices during the early days of his residence in the county. Following his removal to Racine in 1876 he became alderman and in many ways he was active in support of projects and measures for the general good. As the years passed he prospered in his undertakings and became the owner of large property interests. Eventually he retired, his income being sufficient to supply him with all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life. He passed away in the year 1901 but his widow still survives.

E. C. Wilson was reared under the parental roof, entered the public schools at the usual age and completed his education as a high school pupil. He has continuously been identified with the J. I. Case Plow Works since starting to work on the 19th of November, 1886, at which time he was assigned to a position in the shipping room. Step by step he has advanced, his fidelity and increasing ability and resourcefulness gaining him promotion from time to time until he is now active in control of the plow works, occupying the position of general superintendent.

On the 23d of April, 1891, Mr. Wilson was united in marriage to Miss Katherine Erk, a native of New York, and they have become the parents of a son, Harry E., who is now married and is manager of the engraving and electrotyping departments of the Western Printing and Lithographing Company, of Racine. Mr. Wilson gives his political allegiance to the republican party, but has never been an aspirant for office. He belongs to the Equitable Fra-

ternal Union and the guiding principles of his life are indicated in the fact that he is a member of the Congregational church. He has always lived in Racine county and his entire career is one which commends him to the confidence and good will of the general public. For thirty years he has been connected with the J. I. Case Plow Works, entering the establishment when a youth of sixteen. Step by step he has advanced, prompted by a laudable ambition, and his entire career is characterized by the spirit of the old Greek epigram, "Earn thy reward, the gods give naught to sloth."

GEORGE SCHNEIDER.

George Schneider, one of the wholesale liquor merchants of Racine, was born February 18, 1869, in the city in which he still lives, his parents being Henry and Charlotte (Beyer) Schneider, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father crossed the Atlantic to Canada when a youth of thirteen years and soon afterward came to the United States, making his way to Racine where he continued to reside until called to his final rest in 1889. During the period of his residence in this city he engaged in the grocery business and was well known as one of the enterprising merchants here. It was in Racine that he wedded Charlotte Beyer, who had come to this city with her brothers and sisters in early girlhood. Mr. and Mrs. Schneider became the parents of seven children, of whom George is the youngest and four of the number are yet living.

At the usual age George Schneider entered the public schools of Racine and therein obtained his education. He established a wholesale liquor business in 1898 at No. 509 Sixth street and has since been active in that line, building up a business of large and profitable proportions.

In 1898 Mr. Schneider was united in marriage to Miss Fannie Gundlach, a native of Racine county and a daughter of Charles Gundlach, one of the early settlers of this part of the state where he followed the occupation of farming through the period of his early manhood but is now employed by the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company. Mr. and Mrs. Schneider are well known in Racine where they have spent their entire lives. In politics he maintains an independent course, voting for the candidates who stand in his favor rather than supporting a nominee because he is a representative of a certain party.

HENRY AUGUST HILKER.

Watchful of every opportunity pointing to success, wide-awake and alert, Henry August Hilker has so directed his efforts that success in substantial measure is now within his grasp and his business activities furthermore are of a character that contribute to public prosperity as well as to the advancement of personal interests. He is today manager of the Red Seal Oil Company and for a long period has been connected with the manufacture and sale

of brick in Racine. At the present time he is platting and developing a fine summer resort.

Racine claims Mr. Hilker as a native son; he was born August 18, 1869, in this city, his parents being Adolph Frederick and Caroline (Broeker) Hilker, both of whom are natives of Germany. The former was a son of Frederick Hilker, who died in Germany when in middle age. His wife, Mrs. Henriette Hilker, lived to the advanced age of eighty-one years and passed away in Racine, October 27, 1889. Their son Adolph F. Hilker, who was one of the family of four sons, early learned the business of manufacturing brick and followed that pursuit in Germany until after his marriage. In September, 1867, he came to the new world settling in Racine and here again he was employed at brick making until he was able to engage in business on his own account. In 1872 he formed a partnership with his brother William Hilker, Fred Haumersen, Christie Minzer and Mr. Meidinger and established a brickyard at Cedar Point. The enterprise prospered from the beginning and about 1885 they bought out the Morris Brothers brickyard at Wind Point, later selling two acres of their land to the government as a site for a lighthouse. At a later date they were joined by J. F. Wadewitz and in 1893 the business was incorporated under the name of the Hilker Brothers Brick Manufacturing Company, the two brothers having purchased the interest of their former partners in the undertaking. Another yard known as the Lake Shore yard had been established two years before and they thus became proprietors of three different yards, making their output very extensive. Adolph F. Hilker continued in the business up to the time of his death which occurred May 22, 1899.

His wife was a daughter of Frederick and Minnie (Brand) Brocker, the former of whom died in Germany when over fifty years of age, their family numbering two daughters and a son. Mr. and Mrs. Hilker became the parents of eight children: Adolph W., Henry August, Henry, Pauline, Gustav, Emma, Edward and John T. The daughter, Emma, is now the wife of Dr. P. Brown. The parents were members of the Evangelical Association and were devout christian people, Mr. Hilker serving in various offices of the church.

Henry August Hilker was reared under the parental roof, obtained his education in the public schools and after putting aside his textbooks became associated with his father in the business of brick manufacturing. He also had a business college training after he made his entrance into industrial life. He continued with his father until he reached the age of twenty years and then went to Chicago where he was bookkeeper for the Garden City Wire & Spring Company serving in that capacity for four years. He then returned to Racine and took charge of the North Point brickyard of which he was manager for a number of years. Upon the death of his father in 1899 all the business was taken over by the sons with the following officers: William Hilker, president; H. A. Hilker, vice president; and A. W. Hilker, secretary and treasurer. In 1914 the company discontinued the manufacture of brick although they still engage in its sale. About this time the two brothers, H. A. and A. W. Hilker, formed a partnership under the style of the Hilker Brick Company and in this connection they handle a full line of brick, buying Chicago high grade facing brick which they retail upon the market. In 1915 they became agents for the Red Seal Oil Company and A. W. Hilker now controls

the brick business of the firm while H. A. Hilker handles the oil business. Their North Point yard is now being converted into a summer resort. The tract comprises about eighty acres of land with a half mile of beach and they have about fifty-seven acres for sale. This is being platted into lots of one hundred feet frontage facing the road and the lake. All the tract has rock bottom so that it cannot wash away and there is an excellent beach. It is thus being developed into a very attractive resort and is proving an important branch of their business.

Henry A. Hilker was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Sheriff, of Racine, a daughter of Edward and Elizabeth (Thompson) Sheriff, who removed to Racine in 1855. Her father came from England and her mother from Iowa, in which state they were married. He engaged in farming in Racine county but both he and his wife have passed away. To Mr. and Mrs. Hilker have been born two children: Pearl Helen and Margaret Elizabeth. Mr. Hilker is now active as administrator of the Sheriff estate. In politics he is a staunch republican and his religious faith is evidenced in his membership in the German Evangelical church on Park avenue. Its teachings guide him in all his relations and his fellow townsmen bear testimony to the fact that he is a most upright and honorable gentleman as well as a progressive man, having in all his business pursuits followed constructive methods, his success never being won at the price of another's failure.

JOHN H. BROECKER.

While a well known and successful manufacturer of Racine, John H. Broecker is perhaps equally well known in musical circles and also through his connection with the public interests of the community. He was born in Germany, April 7, 1850, a son of John and Elizabeth Broecker, who came to Racine in 1854. The father was a cabinetmaker and became a contractor with the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company, retaining that connection for many years, but both he and his wife are now deceased.

John H. Broecker attended the parochial and public schools of Racine and for fifteen years was employed by the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company in its woodworking department. In 1878 he began traveling for C. Altringer, whom he thus represented upon the road until 1899, or for a period of twenty-one years. He was most popular with his patrons and regarded as one of the most valued representatives of the house. On severing that connection in order to engage in business on his own account he began the manufacture of paper boxes and for two months continued the business in the Secor building, but at the end of that time removed to the corner of Villa and Fourteenth streets. Here he has since continued in business. The Broecker Paper Box Company was incorporated about 1910, being a reorganization of the Racine Paper Box Company. Its officers are: J. H. Broecker, president; M. U. Broecker, vice president, and C. A. Broecker, secretary and treasurer. The company employs twenty-five workmen, most of whom are skilled operators. The plant was rebuilt in 1911 of mill construction. The product is sold to manufacturers of this district and Mr. Broecker enjoys the distinction of being



JOHN H. BROECKER

the only man who has made a success of the paper box manufacturing business in Racine.

In musical circles Mr. Broecker has also been prominent and active. In 1868 he organized one of the first bands in Racine, and since that time he has figured largely in connection with the development of musical interests in the city. He is proficient as a pipe organ player and as such has been connected with the St. Joseph's, St. Mary's and Holy Name Catholic churches.

On the 22nd of October, 1878, Mr. Broecker was united in marriage to Miss Mary Altringer, the only child of C. and Mary (Hoscheit) Altringer. Her father came to Racine in 1847 and engaged in business here as a fanning mill manufacturer. To Mr. and Mrs. Broecker have been born eight children: Christopher A., who is in business with his father and who was married on the 18th of April, 1912, to Miss Josephine Mohrbacher, of this county; Henry J., also in business with his father; Mamie, at home; Joseph, who is connected with the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company; Herman, of Racine, who married Mary Koenig and has one child, Dolores; Rose, at home; John, who is associated with his father in business, and Frances, at home.

The family are all members of the Holy Name Catholic church and in politics Mr. Broecker maintains an independent course. For five years he served as alderman from the third ward and was chairman of the finance committee and also of the judiciary committee and exercised his official prerogatives to further the best interests of his city in every way. He is a self-made man and deserves much credit for what he has accomplished. He began his education in one of the little log schoolhouses where methods of instruction are very primitive, but he early recognized the fact that the lack of early advantages is no bar to progress. He has learned many valuable lessons in the school of experience and has continuously worked his way upward, reaching out along constantly broadening lines for the benefit of others as well as for the attainment of individual success.

JOSEPH J. WILKE.

Joseph J. Wilke, sales manager for the Red Star Yeast Company, and since 1907 general agent for Racine county, was born in Austria, August 19, 1882, the son of John and Fannie (Vlenovsky) Wilke, who were also natives of that country. The father died in 1883 and the mother afterward married Antone Keller. In 1894 they came to the United States, settling in Racine, at which time Joseph J. Wilke was a lad of twelve years. He had previously attended school in Vienna, Austria, and in 1893 he came to the United States with an aunt. They made their way to Duluth, Minnesota, and for eight months he remained in that city and for a year in Chicago. He then joined his mother in Racine in 1894 and began work in a machine shop, being thus employed until 1898, when he removed to Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he spent three years on a farm.

On the expiration of that period Mr. Wilke returned to Racine in 1901 and for two years was employed at the Alschuler Overall Factory. In 1903 he

began work for the Red Star Yeast Company and occupied the position of salesman for four years when in 1907 he was made general agent for Racine county and thus manages and controls the business of the company in this county, selling to both the wholesale and retail trade, his patrons being grocers and bakers of this part of the state. He now has about two hundred customers and supplies each with yeast three times a week or more. He has developed a business of large proportions, his enterprise and determination bringing to him well earned success.

On the 1st of June, 1910, Mr. Wilke was united in marriage to Miss Rosa Keykal, a native of Racine and a daughter of Antone and Barbara Keykal, of Austria, who came to the United States in 1880 and in 1882 established their home in Racine. The father was employed as a trunk maker by the Secor Trunk Company. The mother of Mr. Wilke is also living and makes her home in Buffalo, New York.

Mr. Wilke is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters and for the past four years has been secretary of St. Mary's Court, No. 211. He is also a past councilor of the United Commercial Travelers and was formerly president of the Racine Trades & Labor Council, and a member of the state executive board of the Federation of Labor. He is likewise a past vice president of the State Federation of Catholic Societies and he belongs to the St. Rose Catholic church. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party and for one term he filled the office of supervisor while on other occasions he has been candidate for clerk of the court and alderman from the sixth ward. His has been a busy life for from the age of twelve years he has depended upon his own resources and whatever success he has achieved is attributable entirely to his own labors.

CARL D. SKOW.

Among the growing and important business enterprises which have converted Washington avenue into a busy mart of trade is the dry goods establishment owned and conducted by Carl D. Skow, one of the enterprising citizens that Denmark has furnished to Racine. He was born in that country February 5, 1863, his parents being T. N. and Ursula Skow, who spent their entire lives in Denmark. The son came to the United States in May, 1882, when a young man of nineteen years, and settled first at Racine, Wisconsin, where he became a clerk in the dry goods house of J. C. Hansen, who was his brother-in-law and was one of the highly esteemed merchants of the place. Five years later Mr. Skow returned to Denmark, where he visited for a month, renewing the friendships of his earlier years, and then returned to Racine. He is a printer by trade and for eight months he followed that business in Minneapolis, but in the spring of 1889 returned to Racine and here embarked in the dry goods business, opening a store at No. 1314 Washington avenue. This is thirty by ninety feet, four stories in the rear and one story in front.

In addition to carefully and successfully managing the dry goods business Mr. Skow has extended his efforts along other lines. In connection with three

others he formed the Danish-American Lutheran College Investment Association, which was incorporated in 1897 by Mr. Skow, J. C. and M. C. Hansen and Lars Morgensen. They purchased the property now called Kinzie Park, containing about thirty-five acres, platted and sold the lots, the proceeds of which were used to found and build Luther College, of which Mr. Skow has continuously been one of the directors and which he has been very active in developing and upbuilding. The land was taken over in 1902 by the Luther High School & College Association.

It was in 1890 that Mr. Skow was united in marriage to Miss Marie Anna Nielsen, a native of Denmark, who in 1889 came to Racine with her mother. Mr. and Mrs. Skow are the parents of nine children: Anna, the wife of George J. Due, a resident of Racine; Esther, at home; Aage V., who is an artist and is now studying at the Art Institute in Chicago; Charles T., an electrician living in Racine; Ruth, who is a graduate of the Racine high school; Harold, attending high school; and George, Helen and Paul, who are also under the parental roof.

Mr. Skow maintains an independent political course, never allowing himself to support any political party. He and his family are members of the Danish Lutheran church, in the work of which he is very active, doing everything in his power to promote its growth and extend its influence. His life is at all times guided by high and honorable principles, making him a man whom to know is to honor and esteem.

REV. JOHN M. NAUGHTIN.

Rev. John M. Naughtin, pastor of St. Rose Catholic church at Racine, assumed his duties in this connection in 1909 and has here remained for a period of seven years, during which time his labors have been faithful and fruitful. He is a native of Ohio, his birth having occurred in Zanesville in June, 1854, his parents being Thomas P. and Bridget Naughtin, who were natives of Ireland. On coming to the new world they made their way to Ohio, settling there at an early period. The father has been spoken of as a man of modest means but of the strictest integrity. He became a representative merchant of Mauston, Wisconsin, where for many years he filled the position of postmaster, his service in that connection continuing up to the time of his death.

At an early age Father Naughtin determined to enter the priesthood and all of his studies were directed with that end in view. He spent considerable time as a student in Watertown, Wisconsin, and afterward continued his studies at St. Bonaventure in Allegany, Cattaraugus county, New York, where he remained for about five years. He completed his preparation for the priesthood at St. Francis, Wisconsin. He was then ordained by Archbishop Michael Heiss June 25, 1882, and his first assignment was to the position of teacher at Pio Nono College near Milwaukee, where he continued from 1882 until 1884. In the latter year he was made assistant at St. John's Cathedral in Milwaukee, where he continued for eight years. He then founded St. Mathew's church

at Milwaukee, remaining there three years, and his next charge was at Madison, Wisconsin, where he continued his labors for fourteen years, and on the expiration of that period he came to Racine October 25, 1909, having been appointed pastor of St. Rose Catholic church. Here his work has been fraught with good results in the upbuilding of his church and in the organization of the work. He possesses a fine private library and has been a close student of sociological and economic conditions. He has been enabled to advise his people wisely and well upon many questions of vital importance to them and he has the highest respect of his parishioners.

ST. ROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

St. Rose Catholic church, of which Rev. John M. Naughtin is now pastor, was established October 6, 1885, when the corner stone was laid, and the church was dedicated January 31, 1886. This was regarded only as a temporary structure, however, and the growth of the congregation soon led to a demand for a larger church. The corner stone of the present edifice was laid May 24, 1903, and the church was dedicated February 14, 1904. It is an excellent structure, well appointed and beautifully adorned, and the work of the church has been carefully organized through its various societies and steady progress is being made.

ADOLPH W. HILKER.

Adolph W. Hilker is a partner in the firm of Hilker Brothers, of Racine. The name has long been synonymous with business enterprise in this city and the record of A. W. Hilker fully sustains the enviable reputation which has ever been associated with the commercial and industrial enterprises conducted by the Hilker family. He was born in Racine, December 25, 1867, and is a son of Adolph and Caroline (Broeker) Hilker, who are mentioned at length on another page of this work in connection with the sketch of his brother, H. A. Hilker. After attending the public schools A. W. Hilker continued his education in the Marsh Business College and when his textbooks were put aside he became associated with his father in the brick manufacturing business with which he became thoroughly familiar in both principle and detail. After the death of his father he was associated with his brother in organizing the firm of Hilker Brothers Brick Manufacturing Company, of which he became secretary and treasurer, with Henry August Hilker as vice president and William Hilker, Sr., president. They employed about seventy-five men and their annual output exceeded six million bricks, including cream colored pressed and common brick. That Adolph W. Hilker ranked high in the regard of others in the same line of business is indicated in the fact that he was for two years honored with the presidency of the Brick Manufacturers' Association of Wisconsin. In 1914 the company discontinued the manufacture of

brick but still engaged in its sale, handling a fine Chicago product. In 1915 they accepted the agency of the Red Seal Oil Company, Adolph W. Hilker remaining active in the management of the brick business, while his brother, Henry A. Hilker, has the management of the oil trade. The former is also connected with the Fox-Hilker Shoe Company, manufacturers of men's fine shoes, and is now chairman of the board of directors. For five years he has been president of the Wisconsin Clay Workers' Association. At the present time they are developing a summer resort along the lake having eighty acres with a frontage of half a mile on the beach.

On the 7th of November, 1895, Mr. Hilker was married to Miss Amelia Buscher, who was born in Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, and they now have a daughter, Luella Dorothy. The parents are members of the First Evangelical church, in which Mr. Hilker is serving as a trustee. In politics he is an earnest republican and for a year filled the office of supervisor. He has taken an active interest in both political and church affairs and has been a co-operant factor in many well defined plans and measures for the public good. His life work has been fruitful of substantial results and he has added new laurels to the fair name of Hilker in Racine county.

JUNCTION HARDWARE COMPANY.

The Junction Hardware Company is one of the well established and successful mercantile enterprises of Racine, the business being now carried on by Frederick T. and William G. Maxted. These brothers are sons of Frederick William Maxted, who was born in England and in 1881 came to Racine. In 1891 he established a hardware business at No. 1330 Washington street, which was one of the first in that part of the town, and in 1894 he erected the present building, a two-story structure, thirty by eighty-seven and a half feet. Since that time the hardware business has been conducted at the present location. In March, 1910, the business was turned over to the two sons, William G. and Frederick T. Maxted, who have since been active in control of the trade.

Mr. Maxted was married to Miss Ellen Arthurs, a native of Canada, and to them were born three children, but Ella, the first born and the only daughter, died in infancy. The elder son, William G. Maxted, was born in Racine, September 13, 1884, and obtained a public school education, later becoming connected with his father in business, the association being thus maintained until he and his brother took over the business, which they now manage and conduct. He married Mabel Catherine Meyers, of Racine, on the 5th of September, 1911. She was born in Union Grove, Wisconsin, and is well known in this part of the state. Frederick T. Maxted was born March 24, 1889, and attended the public schools, after which he became his brother's associate in the ownership and conduct of the business which they now carry on. The firm are members of the Retail Merchants' Association and also of the Junction Business Men's Association, of which William G. Maxted is the vice president. He is also identified with the Woodmen of the World, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Musicians' Union. He possesses much native musical

talent, which he has cultivated, and he is now a member of the Eagles' band and orchestra. The members of the family are connected with the Episcopal church and in politics William G. Maxted maintains an independent course. His brother Frederick is a member of the Elks lodge. He enlisted in Battery C, Wisconsin Battalion, Wisconsin National Guard, as a private and he is also active in athletic circles, having been a member of the football and basket ball teams for the past ten years. It was the Maxted brothers who organized the last city football team and Frederick has been captain of this team for the past four years, during which time it has held the state championship, while William G. is manager of the team. This is a non-professional team, financed by its own members. The basket ball team is the Horlick-Racine basket ball team. The two brothers are very prominent figures in athletic circles and they have done much to further clean sport and raise the public standard in this connection. At the same time they are enterprising and progressive business men and their success is well merited.

THE HARTMANN TRUNK COMPANY.

Joseph S. Hartmann, president of the Hartmann Trunk Company, of Racine, was born in Germany, in 1846, and was a youth of sixteen years when he made the long voyage across the briny deep to the United States in 1862. He first settled in New York but afterward made his way westward to Wisconsin, establishing his home in Milwaukee. A few years later he embarked in the trunk business there under the name of Carpeles-Hartmann & Company, and later removed to Chicago although he established his business in Racine.

The Hartmann Trunk Company was organized in November, 1889, and the plant opened at Hamilton and Railway avenues. The promoter of the business was Joseph S. Hartmann, of Chicago, and his son Henry S. became his partner and has since resided in Racine. The present officers are Joseph S. Hartmann, president; Henry S. Hartmann, vice president; Samuel J. Hartmann, treasurer; Hugo Hartmann, secretary; and George H. Wheary, factory manager. The business was established on a small scale but today the buildings constituting the plant cover three acres and they are three stories in height with basement and all of mill construction. The plant is supplied with sprinkler system throughout and employment is given to three hundred people, most of whom are skilled in their line. The general sales offices of the company are in Chicago and New York, the wholesale branch in Chicago being maintained at No. 207 W. Jackson boulevard, and the retail stores at No. 626 South Michigan avenue, and No. 119 North Wabash avenue. The wholesale salesrooms in New York are situated in the New Waldorf building at 16 West Thirty-third street and the company has agencies in all parts of the world. They manufacture the Hartmann wardrobe trunk and the company has over one hundred patents issued and others pending. This trunk received the grand prize at the California exposition. The company sells direct to all dealers and is represented upon the road by twelve traveling salesmen. They also manufacture a line of traveling luggage. Their wardrobe trunks bear the

trade-mark names of Rite-Hite and Berth-High. The Rite-Hite is the standard upright trunk, the Berth-High is a steamer wardrobe trunk. In their employ are a number of men who have been with them for twenty-five years or more, which speaks volumes in behalf of the relation of employer and employe. They have always paid good wages to their workmen, who recognize the fact that faithful service on their part means promotion and advancement.

Joseph S. Hartmann was united in marriage to Miss Laura Heller, of New York, and they have five children: Sam J., a resident of Chicago; Henry S., who was born in New York and is now residing in Racine; Hugo, who is living in Chicago; Mrs. A. W. Bensinger, also of Chicago; and Mrs. A. M. Wolfson, of New York. The son Henry is a member of the Elks lodge and is also a chapter Mason.

In his political views Henry S. Hartmann is a republican and his social nature finds expression in his membership in the Racine Country Club, the Ravislow Country Club, of Chicago, and the Standard Club, of Chicago. He is likewise a director of the Racine public library, of the Central Association and of the Cleveland Orphan Asylum, of Cleveland, Ohio. He is interested in local progress and co-operates in many plans and measures which have to do with the substantial upbuilding and development of this city. At the same time the major part of his attention has been given to his business affairs. He was trained to the work of the establishment under the direction of his father and mastering every branch of the trade has become vice president of the company and his father's able assistant in the conduct and management of the business, largely relieving him of cares and responsibilities in connection therewith. The labors of the son efficiently supplement and round out the experiences of the father and both are regarded as progressive and representative business men of Racine.

Geo. H. Wheary, who is factory manager and a director of the company, was born in Petersburg, Virginia, June 21, 1875. He came to Racine in 1902 and became associated with the Hartmann Trunk Company as designer. He was the patentee of the Hartmann wardrobe trunks and later became superintendent and is now factory manager. He married Mamie Gebb, of Racine, and they have three children, George, Eugene and Virginia. He is a member of the Elks, the Moose, the Eagles, the Racine Commercial Club and the Racine Country Club.

PETER CHRISTIANSEN.

Peter Christiansen, a member of the Junction Furniture Company, owes his success to the fact that he has always been a willing worker, not afraid of that laborious attention to business which is the basis of all honorable success. He was born in Denmark, May 10, 1869, and is a son of H. P. and Anna Marie (Stage) Christiansen, both of whom spent their entire lives in Denmark.

It was in the fall of 1889, when a young man of twenty years, that Peter Christiansen came to the United States. He sailed for eight months on the

Atlantic as a seaman and then became connected with the Fall River line, plying between New York and Boston. He had previously been a sailor and fisherman in Denmark and in 1891 he returned to his native country but after remaining there for a short time he once more came to the new world and arrived in Racine in 1892. He afterward made a few trips on the Great Lakes and for six months he was connected with the Racine life saving station. He started in the furniture business in Racine in 1893 but in 1896 went to Tacoma, Washington, although he returned in the same year. He was afterward with the Racine Boat Company until 1901, when he established a furniture store at No. 1326 Washington avenue. Here he was afterward joined by K. F. Jacobson, who a year later sold to Lund Hensen. After three years William Lemke also bought an interest in the business. The two latter sold to Martin Larsen. The business was organized and incorporated in 1902 under the name of the Junction Furniture Company. There has been no change in the partnership since Mr. Larsen became his associate and under their direction the trade has constantly grown. The business was started on a very small scale, Mr. Christiansen having at the time a capital of but seven hundred and fifty dollars. In 1908 he rebuilt his plant, which he converted from a frame to a brick building, and the business is now well housed, while the line of goods carried is extensive and attractive.

On the 18th of September, 1895, Mr. Christiansen was united in marriage to Miss Anna J. Hansen, who was born in Denmark and in early womanhood came to Wisconsin. By her marriage she has become the mother of three children, Anna, Laura and Peter.

Mr. Christiansen is not allied with any political party but he belongs to the Danish Brotherhood, the Danish Society and the Danish Lutheran church and he stands for those things which are most worth while and of greatest value to the community. The spirit of progress which prompted him to seek a home in the new world in his early manhood has characterized his entire life. He has gained a wide acquaintance in Racine and those who know him entertain for him high regard, recognizing that his salient characteristics are sterling.

R. M. WALKER.

R. M. Walker resides upon a farm on section 19, Mount Pleasant township, where he has made his home continually since 1878. All the buildings have been erected by him, all the trees planted by him and the work of improvement has been carried steadily forward, indicative of his progressive spirit. He is a worthy representative of an honored pioneer family that has been identified with the growth of Racine county for eighty-one years. Mr. Walker was born in Byron, New York, June 7, 1836, a son of Nelson A. and Lucinda Walker, the former removing to the west in 1835, while the latter arrived in 1836. Making his way to Wisconsin, Nelson A. Walker secured a claim at Ives Grove, where he lived for a year. He then purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Mount Pleasant township and occupied that farm



R. M. WALKER

altogether for about forty years, transforming it into a rich and productive tract. He also bought forty acres more and at one time he was the owner of two hundred acres now situated in the very center of Racine, but after a time he disposed of that property, which today would make any man very wealthy if it were in his possession. The death of Nelson A. Walker occurred in Chicago, November 11, 1886, and his remains were brought back for interment in Mound cemetery. He had for a decade survived his wife, who died on the 14th of October, 1876. They were both consistent members of the Baptist church at Mygatts Corners and Mr. Walker gave his political allegiance to the republican party.

It was during his infancy that R. M. Walker was brought by his mother to Wisconsin to join the husband and father in the home which he had prepared. He was reared to farm life, early becoming familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist, and in the common schools of Mount Pleasant township he pursued his early education. He afterward went to Racine College and in due time was graduated from that institution. Following the outbreak of the Civil war he responded to the country's call for troops, enlisting as a member of Company K, Eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, with which he remained until honorably discharged at the close of the war in 1865. He then returned and resumed farming, remaining upon the old home place until 1878, when he purchased eighty acres of land from his father and upon that tract has lived continuously since. His labors have wrought a marked transformation in its appearance, for he has erected all of the buildings there, has planted fine shade trees, has developed an excellent orchard and has a splendid grove. There are none of the accessories and equipment of a model farm that are lacking and for many years Mr. Walker was busily and actively engaged in the further development and improvement of the place.

On the 17th of December, 1866, Mr. Walker was married to Miss Minerva A. Secore, a daughter of Gordon Secore, and to them have been born three children: Nelson A., Mortimer E. and Mabel E. The daughter is the wife of Stanley Tallman and resides in Janesville, Wisconsin.

In his political views Mr. Walker is a republican and he has served as path-master, but has never been a politician in the usually accepted sense of office seeking. He has, however, been officially connected with the schools and has labored to raise the standard of public education in this district. His religious faith is that of the Baptist church.

NELSON A. WALKER.

Nelson A. Walker, the elder son of R. M. Walker, was born on the old family homestead in Mount Pleasant and attended school until fifteen or sixteen years of age. He was early trained to habits of industry in connection with the work of the farm and for twenty years he operated his father's dairy. During the past five years his time and energies have been devoted to the further cultivation of his father's eighty-acre tract of land, which he has brought to a

high state of development, rendering it very productive. His methods are at once practical and progressive and excellent results follow his labors.

On the 19th of August, 1914, Nelson A. Walker was married to Miss Gertrude F. Chamberlain, a daughter of George H. and Ida L. (Draper) Chamberlain, the former a native of New York and the latter of Massachusetts. Nelson A. Walker has followed in the footsteps of his father in various ways. Like him, he is a republican and also a member of the Freewill Baptist church. Three generations of the family have been identified with the agricultural progress of the community and with the growth and development of the county for eighty-one years.

FRANCIS W. DICKEY.

Francis W. Dickey is president of the Central Storage Company and is also prominently identified with other business interests. He was formerly secretary and treasurer of the E. P. Dickey Racine Fanning Mill Company. He was born in Racine, February 6, 1863, a son of Edwin P. and Gertrude L. (Fratt) Dickey. The former, a native of Geneseo, New York, came to Racine in the fall of 1844, joining his uncle, A. P. Dickey, who had arrived in this city in 1840. For a short time he worked for his uncle and then began the manufacture of fanning mills under his own name, while later the business was reorganized under the style of the E. P. Dickey Fanning Mill Company. Before leaving the east Edwin P. Dickey had engaged in the manufacture of fanning mills in New York. In 1840 he became a resident of Marshall, Michigan, where he turned his attention to the manufacture of wire cloth. In 1844, as previously stated, he arrived in Racine and here he was connected with wire cloth manufacturing, principally for Case & Company, until 1850, when he resumed the fanning mill business. To him, perhaps, belongs the credit of the invention of the process of separating grain in the sieve, for Mr. Dickey invented the adjustable grader for grading and hurdle for separating oats from barley. In 1881, yielding to the necessity of more room and more extended operations, the corporation was formed with a capital of five thousand dollars, with E. P. Dickey as president and F. W. Dickey, secretary and treasurer. In addition to fanning mills the company took up the manufacture of the Badger State milk safe and the Improved Star feed cutters and further extended the scope of their activities by buying out the right and title to the Little Chief fanning mill, formerly the property of Daniel Bull. The capacity of the plant was twenty-two hundred machines a year and these were shipped throughout the United States and also supplied a large export trade. The proprietors gave their personal attention to each article sent out and based the growth of their business upon the substantial quality of their product. E. P. Dickey, the founder of the business, died in 1896, after which the business was carried on until 1911, when the company ceased the manufacture of fanning mills and entered the storage business.

Francis W. Dickey, who had been the active associate and became the successor of his father in the fanning mill business, obtained a public school

education and received his business training in connection with the fanning mill manufactory. He was active in the management and control of that business until 1911, when he ceased the manufacture of fanning mills in order to concentrate his energies upon the storage business. The Central Storage Company was organized by him in 1890 and is now conducting business at Nos. 517-21 Center street. The building is of mill construction, forty by sixty feet, three stories and basement. They furnish storage for household goods, merchandise, pianos, automobiles, etc., and the business has now reached extensive and profitable proportions. He owns much valuable improved realty, including apartment houses and other properties.

On the 6th of January, 1895, Mr. Dickey was married to Miss Ida A. Fuller, a daughter of William Fuller, who for many years was a conductor on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. The three children of this marriage are Alice G., Doris and Edwin. Fraternaly Mr. Dickey is connected with the Royal Arcanum, while his religious belief is indicated in his membership in the Presbyterian church. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and he is neglectful of none of the duties of citizenship, but he concentrates his time and energies upon his business and by close application and unremitting energy is meeting with well deserved success.

ELITE LAUNDRY.

The Elite Laundry is an expression of Racine's enterprise and business ability. It is the property of the firm of Eager & Dunn and the rapid development of its business is indicative of the progressive methods of the owners. In 1905 the firm of Chapman & Anderson established the Elite Laundry at No. 612 Sixth street, but after two years the business failed. Several months later the plant was sold to Hess & Williams, who a year later sold to Eager & Dunn. Something of the growth of the business is indicated in the fact that at that time the pay roll was less than forty dollars a week and today it is more than four hundred and fifty dollars. The only wagon then in use has been supplanted by a collection and delivery system that utilizes six wagons and two automobiles. The number of employes in the laundry has been correspondingly increased. The latest improved machinery has been introduced, including a Troy collar ironer with a capacity of twenty-five thousand collars per day. The enterprise of the firm is further indicated in the fact that they now have three independent telephone lines under the number 282 and employ a girl merely to answer calls. They have installed a Troy Trojan forty-eight by one hundred and twenty flat work ironer which is the largest in the state. Their plant is always open to the public and in fact they invite and solicit inspection, knowing that when their methods are seen they will be appreciated and that business will accrue.

Both partners were experienced laundrymen before entering into their present relation. They have made an attempt to educate the people to the value of their business methods by issuing a paper called Clean Clothes and their progressiveness has resulted in a continuous and substantial growth in

the business. After a year they were forced to secure the second floor of the building at No. 612 Sixth street and at the end of two years they leased the Bffel building adjoining, thus securing the largest floor space for laundry purposes in Racine. In the next two years, however, they again outgrew their quarters and they purchased land at Nos. 931-37 Carroll street, where they erected a building sixty by one hundred feet. After occupying this for three years they found it necessary to put up a sixteen foot addition on the east side of the building in order to enlarge their work-room. They have installed a wet wash department, returning clothing wet to patrons, who can then hang their clothes in the open air for drying. They now do over three tons of wet wash every week besides six tons of family and flat work, in addition to the shirt and collar work. The firm does not claim to have attained perfection but it does claim to do everything within its power to make the work as nearly perfect as possible and it is putting forth every effort for the further improvement of its service. It employs over fifty people and pays the highest wages in the city, so that it is able to secure the most competent help. The laundry is clean and sanitary and presents none of the appearance of the "blue Monday" of the home. The wash-room methods sterilize as well as cleanse and the goods are given just the treatment demanded by the condition of their coloration or other modification of the original fibers. The seven years of the firm's existence has been a period of continuous development and progress and the character of the men at the head insures that this will be kept up.

GRIFFITH G. JONES.

Griffith G. Jones, merchant and manufacturer, has been associated with the Mohr-Jones Hardware Company from the age of sixteen years and successive promotions have brought him to official connection with the house. Since 1907 he has been vice president of the company, having charge of the shop work of the factory at Eleventh street and the St. Paul Railway tracks. He was born in Racine, August 28, 1873, a son of Griffith P. and Ellen (Williams) Jones, both of whom were natives of Wales. The father arrived in Racine in 1855 and the mother in 1856 and they were married in this city. Mr. Jones devoted his life to the business of a stationary engineer, but both he and his wife have now passed away.

At the usual age Griffith G. Jones became a public school pupil, pursuing his studies to the age of sixteen years, when he made his initial step in the business world, and his success in the intervening years is attributable in large measure to the fact that he has always continued in the line in which he embarked as a young tradesman, never dissipating his energies over a broad field. He entered the employ of the Mohr-Jones Hardware Company and his fidelity and enterprise won him promotion from time to time until he became vice president of the company, remaining as the second executive of the firm since 1907. His thorough understanding of the business well qualifies him to have charge of the shop work at the factory, where are employed from forty to sixty men, doing all kinds of sheet metal work.

In 1901 Mr. Jones was united in marriage to Miss Nettie Williams, of Racine, a daughter of William and Ellen (Long) Williams. They are the parents of a son and daughter, Robert and Doris. Politically Mr. Jones maintains an independent course, considering the capability of the candidate for the office which he seeks rather than his party affiliation. Fraternally he is well known in Masonic circles, belonging to lodge, chapter and commandery, and he also has membership with the Royal Arcanum. He exemplifies in his life the beneficent spirit of the craft and a well spent life has commanded for him the respect, confidence and good will of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

A. J. WILLIAMS, M. D.

Rush Medical College of Chicago has sent several of its alumni to Racine and in the field of active practice they have won success and by their careers have conferred honor upon their alma mater. Such is the record of Dr. A. J. Williams, who, since 1900, has practiced continuously in Racine. He is a native son of this city born November 18, 1872, his parents being Thomas R. and Eliza (Williams) Williams, the former a native of Wales and the latter of Racine. She was a daughter of William J. Williams, who was also born in the little rock-ribbed country of Wales and who, on coming to Racine as one of its pioneer settlers, established a grocery and dry goods store and was connected with its mercantile interests for a number of years. Thomas R. Williams figured in railway circles, being for many years an employe of the St. Paul Railway Company. He died in the year 1911, while his widow still survives.

Their son, Dr. Williams, after mastering the branches of learning taught in the public schools and in the Racine College grammar school became a student in Trinity College at Hartford, Connecticut, where he was graduated in 1896 with the Bachelor of Science degree while later the Master of Science degree was conferred upon him. For two years he engaged in teaching in Mrs. McMynn's Ladies Academy in Racine and subsequently he was instructor in mathematics in Catherton's Business College of Racine. He regarded all this, however, merely as a preliminary step to other professional labor for he became imbued with the determination to enter upon the active practice of medicine and in carrying out that purpose attended the Rush Medical College of Chicago, from which he was graduated with the class of 1900. He then came to Racine where he has since practiced and his ability has brought him to the front in professional circles. He served as city physician for two years and was also a member of the board of health for several years.

On the 18th of November, 1906, Dr. Williams was married to Miss Ruth M. Boyce, of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, and they have two children, Catherine and Bovee. Dr. Williams belongs to the Masonic fraternity in which he has attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite. He became a charter member of the fraternal order of Eagles, at Racine, was the first president of the order following its organization in 1912 and is now physician of the

order, in which he has been most active. He likewise belongs to the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and he has membership in the Phi Beta Kappa, a college fraternity. His political allegiance is always given to the republican party but he has never sought nor held office outside the strict path of his profession. He regards the pursuits of private life as in themselves abundantly worthy of his best efforts and his professional service is performed with a thoroughness and care that has given him rank among the ablest physicians of the city.

AMERICAN SKEIN & FOUNDRY COMPANY.

The American Skein & Foundry Company is one of the enterprises that has won for Racine its well established reputation as an industrial and manufacturing center. This business was established in 1900 under the name of the Racine Steel & Iron Works but was reorganized under the present style in 1904. The business was established by G. N. Prentice and others, while the present officers are: Walter F. Walker, president; and W. B. Mitchell, secretary and treasurer. The plant is located at Twenty-third and Racine streets and covers five acres. The buildings, one and two stories in height, are all modern in construction and equipment and their output includes the skeins for wagons and drop-forging. They also make a line of jackscrews and anvils, and piano plates which are complete and ready for use in the piano. They employ one hundred and seventy people, mostly skilled labor, and their product is sent to manufacturers and jobbers. The output is sold all over the United States and the business has now reached very gratifying proportions, the house maintaining an enviable reputation for the value and worth of its product and for the business methods which govern the relations between manufacturer and patron.

WALTER F. WALKER.

Walter F. Walker, president of the American Skein & Foundry Company, has developed the business to substantial proportions and has won a place among the representative manufacturers of the city during the eleven years of his residence in Racine. He was born in Dundee, Illinois, December 6, 1871, a son of William E. and Mary C. (Foster) Walker. The father has now retired from active business but still makes his home in Dundee.

In the public schools of his native city Walter F. Walker pursued his education and also attended business college. His activity throughout his business career has always been along the line in which he is now engaged. When a young man of nineteen years he began work in a foundry at Dundee and that he was trustworthy, capable and industrious is indicated in the fact that he was there employed for fifteen years and worked his way upward to the position of assistant manager. In July, 1905, he came to Racine

and entered into active connection with the American Skein & Foundry Company as its president. The business had been established five years before under the name of the Racine Steel & Iron Works and on its reorganization the present name was assumed. Mr. Walker is thoroughly acquainted with every phase of the business, both in the practical work of the plant and in the control of the trade relations. Along well defined lines of labor his success has been achieved and he is now one of the substantial manufacturers of his adopted city.

In 1903 Mr. Walker was married to Miss Ida Gaarder, of Janesville, Wisconsin, and they have three children, Elizabeth, Robert and Walter. Mr. Walker votes with the republican party and closely studies the political issues and questions of the day, so that he is able to support his position by intelligent argument. He is a member of the Plymouth Congregational church and he always upholds those forces which work for the benefit and uplift of the individual and of the city at large.

JAMES CALLEN.

James Callen, who is conducting a mercantile establishment and saloon in Caledonia, was born September 15, 1862, in the township where he now resides, his parents being James and Mary (Duffy) Callen. The paternal grandfather was Nicholas Callen, who in 1849 arrived in Caledonia township, Racine county, and died at the home of his son. The maternal grandfather, Patrick Duffy, died in Ireland. James Callen, Sr., was born in County Louth, Ireland, in 1833, and came to America in 1849, when a youth of sixteen years. He worked on different farms for a time, during which period he carefully saved his earnings, and at length he purchased eighty acres of land. He afterward sold his farm and purchased a saloon and store on the Kilbourn road. His business there proved profitable and he gained therefrom a substantial income. He died in February, 1916, having long survived his wife, who was born in County Meath, Ireland, in 1836 and died at the comparatively early age of forty-two years, in 1878. In their family were twelve children, of whom ten are living: Thomas, who is engaged in the real estate and insurance business in Milwaukee; Mary, a dressmaker residing in Milwaukee; William, of Chicago, who is in the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad Company; James; Lizzie, who is keeping house for her brother in Milwaukee; Kate, living in that city; George, of Milwaukee, who is in the employ of the St. Paul Railway Company; Ella, who is the widow of Emil Otto, of Milwaukee, and has one child, Raymond; Jennie, who resides with her brother James; and Agnes, who is connected with the Wisconsin Telephone Company, of Milwaukee. The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church and Mr. Callen is a democrat in his political views. He has been prominent in community affairs, serving for sixteen years as chairman of Caledonia township, and he has ever been ready and willing to aid in all matters relative to the public good.

In his youthful days James Callen became a pupil in the district school

near his father's home and when his textbooks were put aside he took up the occupation of farming, which he followed until he reached the age of twenty-two years. He was afterward with the St. Paul Railway Company and also with the street car company and while thus engaged carefully saved his earnings until the sum was sufficient to enable him to engage in business on his own account. He then established a store and saloon at Caledonia in 1894 and through the intervening period of twenty-two years has built up a substantial and profitable business.

On the 19th of September, 1894, Mr. Callen was married to Miss Elizabeth Larkin, who was born in Elgin, Illinois, and they have become the parents of five children: William and Thomas, who are with their father in business at Caledonia; Walter, who intends to study medicine; and Esther and Raphael, both at home.

The family are members of the Catholic church and Mr. Callen gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. He has never based his advancement upon any false standards of business nor has he ever entertained the idea that success could be won without persistent and earnest effort. He has put forth the qualities necessary to gain advancement and by attempting to please his patrons has secured a liberal trade.

THOMAS HENRY ACKLAM.

Thomas Henry Acklam, who has been a lifelong resident of Racine county, now makes his home on section 35, Mount Pleasant township, and since 1892 has resided upon this place, which comprises one hundred and thirty-five acres. Its improvements are all the work of his hands and its excellent appearance indicates his careful supervision and progressive methods. From early boyhood his attention has been given to the work of the fields. He was born in Racine, August 29, 1852, and is a son of George W. and Harriett (Bean) Acklam. In his youthful days he attended the common schools and when not busy with his textbooks worked upon the home farm with his stepfather until he reached the age of twenty-one. Starting out in life on his own account, he was employed as a farm hand for three years, but ambitious to engage in business for himself, he rented land in Mount Pleasant township. Fifteen years were passed in the cultivation of land belonging to others and during that period he saved sufficient money to enable him to purchase his present farm of one hundred and thirty-five acres in Mount Pleasant township. In the intervening period of almost a quarter of a century he has made many excellent improvements upon his place, which is now most attractive in appearance and which responds readily to the care and labor he bestows upon the fields, for he keeps his land in good condition through the rotation of his crops and cultivates the place according to modern methods.

In 1877 Mr. Acklam was united in marriage to Miss Martha E. Roskelley, a daughter of Richard and Jane (Rule) Roskelley. To them have been born nine children, as follows: Edmond, living in Racine, who wedded Miss Maud Osborn and has one child; Alice May, who is the wife of John A. De Moulpied



THOMAS H. ACKLAM AND FAMILY

and has two children; Elmer W., who married Miss Annie Davis, by whom he has two children; George W., who wedded Miss Charlotte Dean; Jane Esther, the wife of William Davis, by whom she has one child, and Clarence Stanley, Harriett McKinley, Herbert Lester and Ella Elizabeth, all at home.

In his political views Mr. Aeklam is an earnest republican and for twenty years has served as pathmaster, doing much to keep the roads in good condition. For a similar period he has been a member of the school board and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. He likewise attends the Congregational church, which indicates his interest in the moral development and progress of the community. That his has been a well spent life is attested by the fact that his fellow townsmen speak of him in terms of high regard.

W. W. KRADWELL.

W. W. Kradwell, secretary and general manager of the Kradwell Drug Company of Racine, is bending his energies to the successful direction of a business that is growing steadily in volume and importance and takes rank with the chief commercial enterprises of this city. He was born in 1875, a native of Boseobel, Wisconsin, although of Austrian and Swiss lineage. His paternal grandfather, Albert Kradwell, was a native of Austria, while his maternal grandfather, Benjamin Weibel, was born in Switzerland. After following farming for many years in Austria the former became a resident of Grant county, Wisconsin, following the arrival of two of his sons there, and in that locality he continued to engage in farming until his advanced years caused him to put aside the active work of the fields. He and his wife reared a large family and he passed away at the age of eighty-eight. His son Vandy, to escape service in the Austrian army, ran away from home when but twelve years of age and accompanied his brother Charles to the United States, after which he was reared in Grant county, Wisconsin, where he learned the shoemaker's trade. He was afterward successfully engaged in that business as a boot and shoe merchant there for a number of years. Under appointment of President Cleveland he became postmaster of Boseobel, in which position he was serving at the time of his death in 1895, when he was fifty-five years of age. He was a member of the Catholic church although he joined the Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges. His widow, who survived him for a number of years, held membership in the Lutheran church.

In their family of four children W. W. Kradwell was the fourth child and third son. His youthful days were spent under the parental roof in Boseobel and he supplemental his public school training there received by a course in a business college at Marinette, Wisconsin. He afterward turned his attention to general merchandising and became connected with the firm of Mead & Kradwell at Marinette. He put aside all personal considerations, however, at the time of the Spanish-American war, when he joined Company I, Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and took part in the invasion of Porto Rico, serving with the rank of sergeant until the close of hostilities.

the period of his enlistment extending until the close of the war in the fall of 1898, when he was honorably discharged.

Mr. Kradwell continued in Marinette until 1902, when he went to Denver, Colorado, where he spent three years in the employ of the postoffice. In 1905 he arrived in Racine and became connected with the Kradwell Drug Company as general manager. The business proved congenial and called forth his latent powers and talents and he manifested marked ability in that connection. In April, 1910, he was elected secretary, adding the duties of that office to those of general manager, and to the dual position he now gives his undivided time and attention.

On the 20th of October, 1915, Mr. Kradwell was united in marriage to Miss Dorothy Nelson. He gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and while he does not seek nor desire political office, he co-operates in organized effort for the city's benefit as a member of the Commercial Club. His social nature finds expression in his membership in the Deutscher Club and he is also identified with the United Commercial Travelers, with the Spanish-American War Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He has membership with the Loyal Order of Moose, belongs to Lodge No. 252, B. P. O. E., at Racine, and has advanced to high rank in Masonry, being now a Knight Templar and a thirty-second degree Mason of the Consistory, while with the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine he has crossed the sands of the desert as a member of Tripoli Temple. In these interests and associations are found the needed balancing element to concentrated business activity, making his a well rounded character. The advancement which he has made in commercial circles has brought him to a prominent place in the business life of Racine, where as secretary and general manager of the Kradwell Drug Company he is one of the owners of six of Racine's drug establishments, together with a well appointed drug store in Kenosha.

RICHARD R. BIRDSALL.

Richard R. Birdsall, a contractor of Racine whose business has reached gratifying proportions, was born in Toronto, Canada, February 12, 1864, and is a son of William and Mary Jane (Arthurs) Birdsall, the former a farmer by occupation. He obtained a public school education and in his youthful days worked on a farm in Streetsville, Ontario, Canada, but in 1882 arrived in Racine, where he remained for about a year. He then returned to Toronto, where he continued for another year and on the expiration of that period he again came to Racine, where he was married. Once more he returned to Toronto and for the third time came to Racine in 1890 and for two years thereafter was engaged in the hardware business. He then took up street paving as a contractor and has continued in that line since or for a period of twenty-four years. He has done much work in this connection paving North Main, High and Sixteenth streets, Kinzie avenue, North Wisconsin street, Barber street, Marquette, Eleventh, Tenth streets and Asylum avenue. He has also executed other contracts of a more minor character. He has

likewise done much work in street paving in Delavan, Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Green Bay, De Pere, Port Washington and other places and has had contracts for similar work on some country roads. He employs from forty to one hundred men. He does nothing but contract work and from the beginning his business has steadily increased.

On the 28th of December, 1887, Mr. Birdsall was married to Miss Harriet Jones, a daughter of Richard and Martha Jones, of Union Grove. The children of this marriage are: William R.; Athaleen, who married Harrold D. Mann of Racine; Nettie E.; and Richard R. The family are members of the Plymouth Congregational church and Mr. Birdsall gives his political allegiance to the republican party, but has never sought nor desired office, preferring to give undivided attention to his business affairs. He is very well known through his fraternal connections for he is a Knight Templar and thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Royal League, Modern Woodmen of America, and the Eastern Star. His deep interest in the welfare of the city is indicated by the fact that he is a member and a director of the Commercial Club, and he co-operates heartily in all plans of that organization to further the upbuilding of the city.

LYMAN WOOD.

The history of Lyman Wood presents an interesting connection with the manufacturing and commercial affairs of Racine, for during a long period he engaged in the manufacturing and jobbing of hardware specialties, not a few of which were his own invention, for he possessed a marked ability along that line. His initiative spirit was displayed in many ways and he came to rank with the foremost residents of Racine. Moreover he had back of him an ancestry honorable and distinguished and was fortunate in that his lines of life were cast in harmony therewith. He was born in Syracuse, New York, August 22, 1849, a son of Samuel B. and Almira (Delano) Wood. The mother's people were descendants of the royalty of France, the ancestral line being traced back to Philippe de Lannoy, whose mother, a Huguenot, built the homes for the Pilgrim Fathers at Leiden, Holland. This line could be traced back to 476 A. D. Philippe de Lannoy came to America in 1621, landing at Plymouth, Massachusetts, a passenger on the "Fortune." He was the first Huguenot in New England to found a house and leave descendants. His seventh son, Jonathan, married a Miss Meroy Warren, whose parents had come to the new world as passengers on the Mayflower, and it was from this ancestry that Lyman Wood traced his lineage on the maternal side. Philippe de Lannoy was only two generations removed from the reigning house of France and the Delanos were among the originators of the Order of the Golden Fleece, consisting of twenty-five knights of noble blood when founded by Philippe "le Bon." The house de Lannoy had seventeen knights of the Toison d'Or, three of whom were Founders and four were in the order at the same time (a greater number than any other family). Some of the Delanos fought for American independence. Among the descendants of the

Delano family was General Grant, while connected with branches of the Wood family were Presidents Fillmore and Taft. Howard Delano, an uncle of Lyman Wood, was an inventor of note and became interested in many factories in Syracuse. It was he who invented the stove that was used in heating railroad cars in an early day and his nephew, Lyman Wood, also became an inventor of hardware specialties, possessing the same strain of genius displayed by his uncle. The Wood family was originally of Norman-French descent, but in the eleventh century representatives of the family went from France to England with William the Conqueror. An ancestor of the Wood family came to America from England in 1640 and his descendants lived in Massachusetts and New York, some of the number serving with the Colonial army in the Revolutionary war.

Samuel Wood, father of Lyman Wood, was born in Syracuse, New York, April 10, 1811, and was educated in both law and medicine. In 1849 he went to California, going and returning by the way of the Horn, acting as ship's surgeon on the return trip. In 1850 he came to Racine from Buffalo, New York, by the way of the Lakes, and after looking around for a suitable location took up his abode in Paris township, Kenosha county, developing a farm upon which he spent his remaining days. He was married to Almira Angelina Delano of Skaneateles, New York, daughter of Jesse and Mary (Howard) Delano, August 28, 1835, and died October 21, 1863. The children from this union were: Henry Gardner; Benjamin Samuel, who died in the Civil war; Adelpia Almire; Alpha; Lyman; Aaron; and Mead.

Lyman Wood remained upon the home farm through the period of his boyhood and youth, assuming the management of the place when but fourteen years of age, owing to his father's death, and continuing in charge until he reached the age of twenty-four. He then engaged in the hardware business in Union Grove, continuing until 1881, when he removed to Racine and opened a hardware store in the old Blake Opera House, continuing there until the building was completely destroyed by fire. He next engaged in the manufacture and jobbing of hardware specialties and continued actively and successfully in the business until his death, which occurred February 3, 1909, his remains being interred in Mound cemetery, while his parents were laid to rest in the Plank Road cemetery, Kenosha county.

Mr. Wood was a devoted husband and father. It was on the 20th of August, 1874, that he married Miss Savilla E. Jarvis, who was born at Wilmot, Stark county, Ohio, a daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Mesner) Jarvis, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, born near Philadelphia. The Jarvis family was founded in the United States between 1700 and 1725 and the name figures in connection with the annals of the Revolutionary war. Of the marriage of Lyman and Savilla Wood were born two children. Walter A., who was born in Union Grove, June 5, 1877, obtained a public school education, was graduated from the Racine high school with the class of 1898 and then joined his father in the business of manufacturing hardware specialties, in which he still continues under the name of Lyman Wood Manufacturing Company. He has also devoted considerable time during the past eight years to compiling a genealogy of the Wood family in America, which he has almost completed and which he will publish in 1916. He is a member

of the Sons of the American Revolution, being descended from sixteen ancestors who fought for the independence of the nation. He is also a member of the Chicago Chapter of the Sons of the War of 1812, a member of the Milwaukee chapter of the Mayflower, Society of the New England Historic & Genealogical Society of Boston, and has membership in the First Presbyterian church of Racine, as do the other members of the family. The daughter, Arminda Wood, attended the public schools of Racine and graduated from the Racine high school. She also attended Milwaukee-Downer college and was an art student in Chicago. Her artistic skill is largely manifested in original ceramic designs, some of which have been published in a leading art journal. For the past four years she has devoted her time to newspaper work. She is a member of the Racine Woman's club, and she belongs to the Daughters of the American Revolution, as does her mother. The family have long figured prominently in business, art and social circles of Racine and has done much to establish standards in the city.

Mr. Wood belonged to the Travelers' Protective Association of America and in every relation of life which brought him in contact with his fellowmen he won warm friendship, for his salient characteristics were such as ever to command regard and goodwill. A thorough gentleman, he stood as a high type of American manhood and chivalry.

FRANK E. KING.

Frank E. King, who has long been identified with farming interests in Mount Pleasant township, his home being on section 10, was born at St. Charles, Kane county, Illinois, April 27, 1860, a son of Edmund and Mary A. (Rice) King. The father was a native of Canada, born June 2, 1820, and his father, Edmund King, Sr., was a native of Massachusetts. The family is of Scotch descent and was planted on New England soil at an early day. Edmund King, Sr., was a young man when he removed from Massachusetts to Vermont, where he met and married Lucy Lathrop, who was born in that state. He followed shoemaking and by trade was a tanner and currier. On removing to Canada he took up the business of tanning and the manufacture of shoes and continued active along those lines until his death, which occurred in 1827, his wife having passed away about a year before.

Their son, Edmund King, was a boy of seven years when he left Canada and went to New York. He was employed at farm work in the vicinity of Syracuse, there remaining until 1844, when he arrived in Racine county, where for several years he cultivated a rented farm. He afterward removed to Kane county, Illinois, where he carried on general agricultural pursuits until 1868. That winter he conducted a grocery store in Brodhead, Wisconsin, and in the spring of 1869 again became actively identified with farming interests in Racine county, settling upon an unimproved tract of land in Mount Pleasant township about four miles from Racine. His labors wrought a marked transformation in the appearance of the place, which he converted into productive fields, and as the years passed success attended

his efforts so that in his later years he was able to live retired without further recourse to labor. He passed away in 1904, while his widow survived until 1906.

It was in Ottawa, Illinois, on the 25th of January, 1849, that Mr. King wedded Miss Mary A. Rice, who was born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, but was educated in Princeton, Illinois, and in Racine. She was a daughter of William W. Rice, a native of Rhode Island, who, however, was reared in Pennsylvania, and in New York wedded Susan Tozer, a native of the Keystone state. He died during the childhood of his daughter, Mrs. King, and about 1836 her mother removed to Illinois, where she afterward became the wife of Ezra F. Weed, who was born in New York and in 1838 became a resident of Wisconsin, settling near Racine. Mr. and Mrs. Edmund King became the parents of two sons and two daughters: Clara G., who died at the age of ten years; Fred L., who makes his home in Racine county; Frank E., of this review; and Nellie J., the wife of Charles Martin, of Union Grove. The father always gave his political allegiance to the republican party and was several times called to local office, serving as supervisor and as a member of the school board. Both he and his wife belonged to the Baptist church and during the long years of their residence in Racine county they enjoyed the goodwill and high regard of all who knew them.

Frank E. King attended the common schools of Mount Pleasant township and throughout the period of his boyhood and youth was employed on the home farm, actively assisting in the work of developing the fields. He has always continued to engage in general agricultural pursuits and still makes his home on section 10, Mount Pleasant township, where he has land which he has carefully and wisely cultivated, the fields yielding good crops as a reward for the labor which he bestows upon them.

Mr. King has been married twice. He first wedded Madora Rowlands, a daughter of Richard Rowlands, and following her demise he was married in 1896 to Miss Kittie Ellison, a daughter of Charles Ellison, and they have one son, Rufus.

In his political views Mr. King is a republican and his religious faith is that of the Baptist church. Practically his entire life has been spent in this county and during the long years of his residence here he has gained a wide acquaintance. His fellow townsmen recognize in him a progressive farmer and one whose labors have been a contributing element to the agricultural development of this part of the state.

JOSEPH P. BRADAC, D. M. T.

Joseph P. Bradac, D. M. T., who through his active business career has been associated with banking and with brewing interests, now makes his home in Racine, where he occupies one of the beautiful residences of the city. He was born in Bohemia, February 24, 1871, a son of Joseph and Agnes (Papik) Bradac, who were also natives of the same country and of Bohemian parentage, their ancestry being traced back through four hundred

years. In 1872 the father brought his family to the United States, establishing his home in Chicago. He was a stonemason by trade and assisted in the rebuilding of the city after the great fire which occurred in October, 1871. He remained actively in business for many years but is now living retired in Chicago, where his wife passed away on New Year's day of 1912.

Joseph P. Bradac pursued his education in the Chicago public schools and in the West Side Business College of that city and also attended night school. He started to earn his living as a cash boy in the Boston Store when a little lad of twelve years and later he entered the employ of John M. Smyth in the capacity of shipping clerk. Later he spent five and one-half years with the A. B. Company in Chicago and in 1906 came to Racine, since which time he has represented that company as agent here, in which connection he has built up a business of extensive proportions. He has been interested in the Commercial Bank and is now connected with the American Trust & Savings Company. He is also a doctor of mechano-therapy and is still in active practice.

In 1899 Mr. Bradac was married to Miss Mary Chilik and they have two children, Beatrice Ruth and Ruth Carrie, both at home. In 1907 he purchased and remodeled the old Christy estate, having now a fine home magnificently furnished, and its hospitality is also one of its most attractive features. In politics he is a strong protectionist and held an appointive office under Governor Tanner of Illinois in connection with the West Chicago parks. His religion is the golden rule and he ever attempts to do unto others as he would have them do unto him. Fraternaly he is connected with the Racine Lodge, 252, B. P. O. E., Racine Lodge, F. O. E., the Columbia Circle, the Foresters and the Workingmen's Aid Society and he is also a member of the Elks Marching Club. Starting out in life in the very humble capacity of a cash boy, he has steadily advanced in business until he today controls important commercial interests and is numbered among the prosperous citizens of Racine.

WILLIAM H. LIEGLER.

William H. Liegler engages in the plumbing business in Racine, his native city, and was born July 19th, 1877, son of Frank and Nettie (Frieb) Liegler, both of whom were born in Bohemia near Prague. The father came to the United States when about six or seven years of age and established his home in Racine. Some years afterward he engaged in the hardware business in which he continued for many years but about seven years ago retired and is now enjoying a well earned rest. Both he and his wife are residents of Racine.

In this city William H. Liegler was reared and in his boyhood established a paper route. The spirit of enterprise and activity actuated him from his early youth and he was successful as a vender of papers and afterward he built all the shoe shining parlors in the city and conducted business along that line for a number of years. Twelve years ago he established a plumbing

and heating business in which connection he has won a liberal patronage. He does sewerage and drainage work and his plumbing establishment is bringing him a substantial measure of success because of his ability, unfaltering determination and honorable methods.

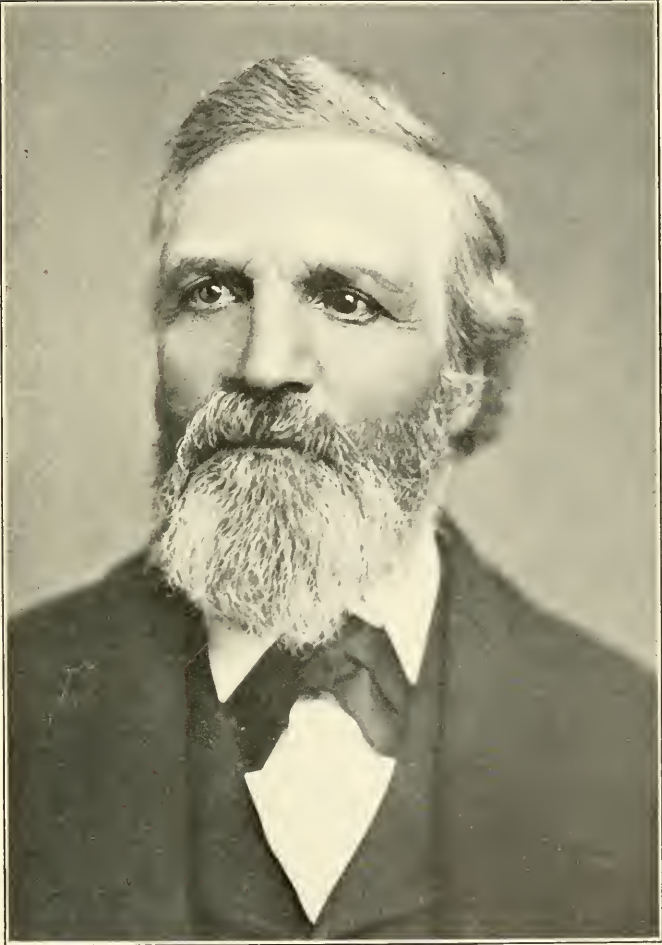
Fifteen years ago Mr. Liegler was married to Miss Emma Krayneck, the daughter of Anton Krayneck, a retired shoe dealer. In politics Mr. Liegler has maintained a non-partisan attitude, nor has he been very active as an office seeker, although he served for a term as alderman from the first ward. He has never been neglectful of his duties as a citizen and for seven years was a member of the call fire department, during which time he only missed three calls. He is now a member of the Fire Relief Association and fraternally is a member of the Knights of Pythias, Elks, Eagles, Gradual Club and Calumet Club. He has ever worked hard, prompted by his ambition of attaining success, and the prosperity that he has thus far obtained is the direct result of his own labors.

ORLANDO CANFIELD MUNROE.

Many years have come and gone since Orlando Canfield Munroe was called to his final rest, but the result of his labors is still manifest, as he was for many years a most progressive and energetic agriculturist and succeeded in transforming a large tract of land in Mount Pleasant township into rich and productive fields. He was born in Bennington, Vermont, December 12, 1818, and was in the seventieth year of his age when he passed away in this county on the 9th of June, 1888. He had obtained a common school education in the east and in 1845 came to the west, after which he was continuously connected with the farming interests of Racine county.

It was in 1844, at Shaftsbury, Vermont, that Mr. Munroe was united in marriage to Miss Thalia Lavina Buek and he brought her as a bride to the west in 1845. They became the parents of ten children: Lugene Adelaide Phelps, who died leaving seven children; Harriet Juelma Foster, who passed away leaving four children; Frances Anna, who is a widow and lives in Racine; Llewellyn, who died December 26, 1851; Thalia Lavina; Mary Piccadilly; Fred William, who is married and has one child; Ellen Emily Ellarson, who is deceased and left one child; Alice Marie, who married and has one child, and Will Lee, who is married and has three children. Mrs. Munroe died in November, 1906.

Following his arrival in this county Mr. Munroe purchased three hundred and fifty acres of land and afterward added to his holdings until he had altogether four hundred and eighty acres, of which four hundred was in Mount Pleasant township. Upon that tract he resided until his death, devoting his time and energies to farming, and his labors brought to him deserved success, his farm presenting a most attractive appearance following the spring planting when summer suns had brought forth the harvests. In addition to tilling the soil Mr. Munroe engaged in the raising of blooded horses and sheep and



ORLANDO C. MUNROE

was a very successful man, becoming one of the most prosperous citizens of his community.

In public affairs Mr. Munroe was also deeply and helpfully interested and on many occasions he was called upon to serve the public in some capacity of trust and honor. He always voted with the republican party and upon that ticket was twice elected to the general assembly in Madison, being called to the office in 1861 and again in 1863. He was chairman of the county board of supervisors and was a member of the town board for a number of years. In fact he held nearly all of the town and county offices and for a considerable period was a member of the school board. He attended the Freewill Baptist church and the sterling traits of his character found their root in his Christian faith. For forty-three years he continued his residence in this county, during which period he gained a wide acquaintanee, enjoying in substantial measure the confidence and goodwill of all who knew him.

MOHR-JONES HARDWARE COMPANY.

The Mohr-Jones Hardware Company of Racine was organized April 1, 1899, by Jacob Mohr and J. W. Jones and succeeded to the business owned by Jacob Mohr, who in 1888 had become successor to the firm of Griffith & Mohr. That partnership was established about 1874 by W. T. Griffith and Jacob Mohr, but Mr. Griffith withdrew from the connection about 1885. In 1889 J. W. Jones became an employe of the house and in 1899 became financially interested in the business. Jacob Mohr died January 9, 1909, and Mr. Jones then took over the Mohr interests. In the same year G. G. Jones purchased stock in the company, which was reorganized under the name of the Mohr-Jones Hardware Company, with J. W. Jones as president and treasurer, G. G. Jones, vice president, and C. C. Gittings as secretary. The company's store is located at Nos. 315 and 317 Sixth street and they also have a factory and warehouse at Eleventh street and the tracks of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company. The factory is fully equipped, is one of the largest of its kind in the state and manufactures sheet metal. The firm sells to some extent to the wholesale trade and has an extensive retail trade, their interests being among the most extensive and important in this line in Racine.

JOHN W. JONES.

John W. Jones, who was one of the organizers of the Mohr-Jones Hardware Company, of which he is now the president, was born in Racine, December 21, 1862, a son of Captain Hugh W. and Laura (Thomas) Jones. The parents were natives of Wales but were married at Remsen, New York, remaining residents of the east until 1854, when they came to Racine. The father was a lake captain who sailed for thirty-two years and at different

times commanded the well known lake vessels Active, Hamlet, Ethan Allen and Onward. In this connection he became widely known and was accounted one of the prominent representatives of navigation interests on the inland waters.

John W. Jones obtained a public and high school education and afterward attended McMyynn's Academy. When his education was completed he sailed with his father and was on the Lakes for ten years, working his way upward until he became mate of vessels. He afterward entered the employ of the H. Channon Company of Chicago, with whom he continued for two years, and subsequently he was with the Goodrich Transit Company as warehouse clerk. Later he spent a brief period with the American Express Company and then entered the office of the J. I. Case Plow Works. In 1889 he secured a position in the hardware store of Jacob Mohr and found the business congenial. Gradually he worked his way upward in that connection and in 1899 was admitted to a partnership, in which year the Mohr-Jones Hardware Company was organized. Ten years later Mr. Mohr passed away and Mr. Jones took over the Mohr interests and was joined by G. G. Jones, at which time the company was reorganized, John W. Jones becoming president. He has since so continued and under his wise direction the business of the company has grown and developed along substantial lines.

Mr. Jones has always maintained an independent attitude in politics, voting for the man rather than the party. He has been called upon for public service and for six years filled the position of alderman from the third ward, exercising his official prerogatives in support of many plans and measures for the general good. For the past six years he has been a member of the school board and has done much to further the interests of public education. Fraternally he is connected with the Masons, the Elks and the Knights of Pythias. He belongs to the Plymouth Congregational church and he is a member of the Commercial Club. In him the interests of life are well balanced and he gives due consideration to all those questions which are important features in the life of the community. Starting out in the business world as a seaman, he has progressed step by step, each change in his business connection indicating a forward move.

ERNEST KLINKERT.

Ernest Klinkert, who for many years has been identified with the brewing business in Racine, was born in Germany on the 11th of November, 1844. He obtained a common school education in the fatherland and between the ages of twenty and twenty-five years came to the United States. Making his way to Kansas, he was there employed at farm labor and later he went to St. Louis, Missouri, where he secured employment in a brewery. He afterward spent two years in similar work in Milwaukee and in 1875 he arrived in Racine county. Here he worked for the Heck Brewing Company until his labors had brought him sufficient capital to enable him to engage in business on his own account. In 1881 he built a brewery in Racine and has

since been engaged in the manufacture of beer in this city, having now a well established plant which brings to him a substantial profit.

In 1871 Mr. Klinkert was married to Miss Sophia Walter and they have six children, Louis, Hattie, Frank, Ella, George and Jennie. The parents are members of the German Lutheran church and as Mr. Klinkert has prospered in his undertakings he has contributed more and more largely to the church and to benevolent projects.

HENRY SCHULTE.

Racine's musical history for the past forty-five years could be written in the biography of Henry Schulte. No other name has been so closely allied with all the various musical undertakings during this period, nor is it likely that any one man has done more for the development of musical interest and knowledge in the city.

He was born in Racine, August 4, 1858, his parents being Theodore and Fredericka Schulte, both of whom were born in Germany and came to this country in 1847. The father was a cabinet maker, having learned this trade in his native country. He continued in this work for twelve years after coming to Racine, when he entered the employ of the Case Threshing Machine Company, with which concern he continued uninterruptedly until his retirement from active life. He died in 1878, while his wife survived until 1910.

Henry Schulte received his early education in Racine and soon showed a marked talent for music. His parents wisely encouraged this talent, and he was placed under the best teachers available in Racine and Milwaukee. At an early age he became a member of the old German orchestra, Racine's only musical organization at that time, and when he was twenty-two years of age he began devoting his entire time to music, both as a teacher and in band and orchestra work.

Adolph Schulte, an older brother, organized the Schulte Band in 1876, and Henry, Theodore, Frank, and Joseph Schulte all became members at its inception. After four years, Adolph Schulte left Racine, and Henry was chosen director in his place. Under his leadership the Schulte Band and Orchestra has grown and improved steadily for the past forty years. It is the only Racine musical organization which has enjoyed an uninterrupted existence during this period and is today ranked as one of the best musical organizations in the middle west. During these years there have been a great many fine concerts given and arranged by the band and orchestra, and Racine people were given the opportunity of hearing many fine artists from larger cities as soloists at these concerts. The success of the fine programs given and the continued life of the organization have been due in large part to the tireless activities of Henry Schulte.

It was Mr. Schulte who organized the first theatre orchestra in Racine, when the Blake Opera House was built. He has also been active as a choral director and has for thirty-six years directed the St. Mary's church choir. Several of Mr. Schulte's original compositions have become very popular,

particularly the Homecoming March, which was dedicated to the first Racine Homecoming, and the Company F March, which he wrote for Racine's Company F at the time of the Spanish-American war.

Mr. Schulte was married in 1882 to Miss Theresa Schneider, an accomplished pianist, and built a fine home at 1234 Park avenue. They have a family of four children: Karl, who is regarded as one of the best violinists in Wisconsin; Frederick, who is also successfully following the musical profession as a pianist; Marie; and Robert. The two eldest sons are also associated with their father in the band and orchestra.

In his political views Mr. Schulte maintains a non-partisan attitude, and was elected on a non-partisan ticket as supervisor from the third ward. This position came to him unsolicited, and he is now serving for the second term. He and his family are members of St. Mary's Catholic church, and he is prominent in German societies, and is also a member of leading fraternal and social organizations. His high standing in musical circles is further indicated by the fact that he has been chosen fifteen times as delegate to represent the local musicians at the conventions of the American Federation of Musicians. He is today enjoying excellent health and is as active as ever in his chosen work. His activities as a teacher and bandmaster have certainly contributed greatly to the musical advancement of Racine, and he is accorded high honor as the dean of Racine musicians.

SIMON GULICK.

Simon Gulick is engaged in farming in Dover township, where he was born and has always resided. His natal day was August 16, 1856, his parents being Eagleson and Isabelle (Qualset) Gulick. The paternal grandfather was Eagle Gulick, who became a resident of Dover township and here lived to the age of eighty-two years. His son, Eagleson Gulick, was born in Norway, December 1, 1827, and is still living, being now in the eighty-ninth year of his age. He was married in Rochester to Isabelle Qualset, whose birth occurred in Norway in 1816, and in that country her parents spent their entire lives. It was in 1843 that Eagleson Gulick became a resident of Dover township and that the county was then but sparsely settled is indicated in the fact that he was able to purchase eighty acres of land at three dollars per acre. He then cleared the land, prepared it for the plow, and in course of time gathered good harvests as a reward for the care and labor which he bestowed upon his fields. In 1848 he built a log house and in that primitive home occurred the birth of his seven children, of whom four are now living: Edward, a resident farmer of Nebraska; Simon; Isabelle, the wife of Henry Mossmann, a railroad man of Missoula, Montana; and Mary, the wife of Melvin Bemis, who is connected with a fur store in St. Paul. The mother passed away in 1907, being then ninety years of age. She was a member of the Lutheran church, to which Mr. Gulick also belongs. His early political allegiance was given to the democratic party and afterward he became a republican. He joined the Union army at the time of the Civil war, serving

for three years and three months in defense of his adopted country, after which he resumed farming in Dover township, and he now makes his home with his son.

In the district schools Simon Gulick pursued his education and then took up the active work of the farm, since which time his attention has been continuously given to agricultural pursuits. He has one hundred and twenty-five acres of good land and carries on general farming and dairying, keeping full blooded Durham cows. For forty years he has also operated a threshing machine throughout his part of the county and his life has been one of unusual activity, his diligence being the basic element in his growing and continuous success.

In 1885 Mr. Gulick wedded Miss Mattie English, who was born in Norway, a daughter of Martin English, who was one of the early settlers of Norway township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Gulick became the parents of six children: Frank, who is janitor of a large church in Minneapolis; Leonard, a farmer living near Waterford; Florence, the wife of Laey Tindall, a contractor; Thomas, who is upon the farm with his father; and Isabelle and Harold, at home. In the fall of 1909 the family were called upon to mourn the loss of the wife and mother, who was a devout member of the Catholic church, in the faith of which she reared her children.

Mr. Gulick gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and has twice been called upon to serve on the board of supervisors. He belongs to Camp No. 3112, M. W. A., at Waterford and for some time has served as escort in that organization. There is no phase of Racine county's development during the past six decades with which he is not familiar and his reminiscences concerning the early history and the progress of the county are most interesting. His long connection with its agricultural development has been a potent force in bringing about present day conditions in agricultural circles in Dover township.

RACINE TOOL & MACHINE COMPANY.

Racine has called to her midst many captains of industry, men who are controlling extensive and important commercial and industrial interests, and their efforts have given to the city its well earned reputation as a great manufacturing center. One of the important undertakings of Racine is that conducted under the name of the Racine Tool & Machine Company, which was organized in 1908. In December, 1910, it was purchased by J. M. Jones, who is the president, treasurer and general manager of the company, with F. E. Koehler as vice president and L. Jones as secretary. The company manufactures high speed metal cutting machines and has the largest exclusive metal cutting machinery plant in the world. Its product is sold in all civilized countries. Machinery is made for cutting metal in every way and of all kinds. The plant is located at No. 1439 Junction avenue and includes a two story and basement building of modern mill construction, eighty by one hundred and twenty feet.

It is one of the new buildings of the city used for manufacturing purposes and fifty skilled workmen are employed in turning out the product. The company is widely known as heavy exporters and is recognized as the world's greatest experts in metal cutting. To Racine was sent a large meteor to be cut by the Racine Tool & Machine Company, which makes a machine capable of cutting a "harder than steel" body. This is the only company in the country that is putting forth a machine that can economically and accurately meet the requirements of meteorologists in this connection.

J. M. JONES.

J. M. Jones, president, treasurer and general manager of the Racine Tool & Machine Company, is a native of Indiana and his public school education was supplemented by study in Western College at Toledo, Iowa. When a young man he taught school and afterward turned his attention to general merchandising near Rock Island, Illinois, while subsequently he became connected with the wholesale shoe business in Chicago. He afterward engaged in the banking business in Chicago and in 1900 came to Racine but went back and forth from Chicago each day. In December, 1910, he purchased the business which is now conducted under the name of the Racine Tool & Machine Company, of which he is the president, treasurer and general manager. This company has continuously engaged in the manufacture of high speed metal cutting machines and its product today is the most efficient in this work that has thus far been produced in the world, as is shown in the fact that their machines cut with greater accuracy and speed and therefore in less time and with less expense than any other machines.

Mr. Jones' family consists of a wife and one daughter. He is a member of the Christian Science church and in politics is a republican. All outside interests, however, are made subservient to the main object of his life—the upbuilding of the enterprise with which he is now connected. It is not the mere attainment of success which actuates him, but a desire to reach the greatest possible measure of perfection in the work which he has undertaken, to go beyond what others have accomplished and give to the world something of actual worth and value.

ROBERT WHERREY, SR.

Robert Wherrey, Sr., has long been identified with commercial interests in Racine as proprietor of a butcher shop and is well known in the business circles of the city. He was born in New York, April 17, 1848, and is indebted to the common school system of that state for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. When his textbooks were put aside he took up the occupation of farming in New York and was thus engaged until he came to Racine in 1869, when a young man of twenty years. Here he embarked in the butchering busi-

ness, which he has since followed, and all through the intervening years he has enjoyed a liberal patronage, making his business a substantial and profitable one. He married Margaret Beanston and both are well known in the community where they have now long resided.

ROBERT WHERREY, JR.

Robert Wherrey, Jr., identified with farming interests, his home being on section 35, Mount Pleasant township, was born in Racine on the 1st of January, 1885, and in the acquirement of his education passed through consecutive grades in the public schools until he became a high grade school pupil. In the intervening period he has been engaged in business with his father and is now conducting a farm on section 35, Mount Pleasant township, where he carefully and wisely directs the interests of the home farm.

In his fraternal relations Mr. Wherrey is well known, holding membership in Racine Lodge, No. 92, F. & A. M., also in the chapter and council. He likewise belongs to Racine Lodge, No. 32, K. P., and to the Dramatic Order of the Knights of Khorassan. His religious faith is that of the Presbyterian church and his political belief that of the republican party. He has been a lifelong resident of Racine county and is well known to its citizens, who class him with the enterprising and representative men of the district.

HENRY W. LEWIS.

Henry W. Lewis is actively engaged in the cultivation of a good farm on section 24, Mount Pleasant township. This farm is connected with the county insane asylum and he has been its superintendent for eight years. He was born in Mount Pleasant township, March 8, 1868, a son of Andrew Jackson and Hattie (Northrup) Lewis, the former a native of New York and the latter of Wisconsin. They were married at Rock Prairie, Wisconsin, in 1864, and they became the parents of two sons, Henry W. and Roy. The latter wedded Mary Zimmerman and they became the parents of twins, Milton and Mildred. The father followed the occupation of farming throughout his active business life and thus provided a comfortable living for his family. He now makes his home with his son Henry, his wife having died on the 25th of March, 1911, her remains being interred in Mound cemetery. In his political views Mr. Lewis has ever been an earnest republican since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and in his religious faith he is a Baptist.

Henry W. Lewis acquired a common school education, pursuing his studies until he reached the age of sixteen or seventeen years, after which he worked with his father to the age of twenty. He then started out in business independently and for two years rented a farm. At the end of that time he rented his father's farm, which he cultivated for a year and then invested in property in 1891, becoming the owner of three hundred acres on Twelfth street, which he

still farms. He lived upon that place for six years and then removed to Racine, where he continued to reside for nine years. He next accepted the position of superintendent of the county insane asylum and has acted in that capacity for eight years. In this connection he directs the labors of the farm, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation, the work being attended by a substantial measure of profit.

On the 8th of February, 1891, Mr. Lewis was married to Miss Adella Place, a daughter of William Place, of Franksville, who was one of the early settlers of this part of the state. He was born in New York, while his wife was a native of Wales. Mr. and Mrs. Place became the parents of six children: Jule, who married Herman Jensen and is living in Kenosha; George, a resident of Mount Pleasant township; Henry, whose home is in Franksville, Wisconsin; Ada, of Racine; Adella, now Mrs. Lewis; and Will, whose home is in Franksville, Wisconsin.

Mr Lewis is identified with the Modern Woodmen camp at Corliss and he gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He usually attends the Freewill Baptist church and his life has at all times been honorable and upright. He is today the owner of three hundred acres of well improved land and he owes his success entirely to his perseverance, industry and capable management. He has never been afraid of hard work and when difficulties and obstacles have confronted him they have seemed to serve as an impetus for renewed effort on his part.

MAIDENS SEWELL.

Maidens Sewell, who for thirty-seven years was identified with farming interests in this county, his labors being terminated by death on the 20th of April, 1913, was born in England on the 9th of December, 1840, his parents being John and Betsy Sewell. He obtained a common school education and during his youthful days assisted largely in the labors of the home farm in England, but became attracted by the opportunities which he heard existed in America and when a youth of fifteen he came to the United States, making his way to Ohio, where he resided for three years. He there hired out as a farm hand and after being employed in that way for some time he returned to England. In 1876, however, he again came to the United States and made his way to Racine county, Wisconsin, settling on a farm constituting a part of the Herrick estate west of Corliss. There he lived for thirty-five years, at the end of which time he purchased thirty acres in Mount Pleasant township, whereon he continued to engage in farming until his death on the 20th of April, 1913. In the meantime, however, he extended the boundaries of his property by the additional purchase of a forty-five acre tract in Mount Pleasant township and his holdings were thus valuable and productive.

In 1872 Mr. Sewell was united in marriage to Miss Betsy Pearee, a daughter of Joseph and Rosamond Pearee, of England. The four children of this marriage are: Katie M., who is the wife of Ed. Lewis and has three children; Francis Fred, who married Ella West and has two children; Nellie Louise, who



MAIDENS SEWELL

became the wife of Joseph C. Coates and died July 10, 1913, leaving a son, George Sewell, now living in Findlay, Ohio, and Albert Maidens, who married Mabel E. Burns and has one child, James Maidens.

After taking out his naturalization papers Mr. Sewell voted with the democratic party, to which he always gave stalwart support. His religious belief was in harmony with the teachings of the Episcopal church and according to its principles he guided his life, living at all times in harmony with his fellow-men, endeavoring to do unto others as he would have them do unto him.

FRED L. KING.

Fred L. King, who is engaged in truck gardening upon a tract of land of fifteen acres on section 13, Mount Pleasant townshipp, was born in St. Charles, Illinois, August 18, 1854, and is a son of Edmond and Mary (Rice) King, of whom mention is made on another page of this work in connection with the sketch of their son, Frank E. King. After mastering the preliminary branches of learning as a district school pupil Fred L. King continued his education in the town schools until 1868, when his parents removed to Green county, Wisconsin, where they lived for two years. On the expiration of that period he came with them to Racine county and while under the parental roof he was trained to habits of industry and economy and was instructed in those principles which are the basic element of upright manhood.

When eighteen years of age Mr. King started out in life on his own account and learned the carriage painting trade, at which he worked for three or four years. He spent one year in the McAvoy carriage shop and afterward went to Texas, where he engaged in ranching for four or five years. In fact he has been identified with ranch interests throughout the southwest and upon leaving that section of the country made his way to St. Louis, where he began railroading, in which connection he worked his way upward to the position of engineer on the Iron Mountain Railroad. He afterward ran an engine on the Cairo & St. Louis Railroad for several years and later returned to Racine county, where for eight years he was connected with his brother in the further development and cultivation of the old home farm. At the end of that time he purchased three and one-half acres at Mygatts Corners and still later bought other land. At present he is farming fifteen acres devoted to truck gardening and he now produces large crops, for which he finds a ready sale on the market.

On the 8th of February, 1887, near Los Vegas, New Mexico, Mr. King was united in marriage to Miss Lena Jrupe, a daughter of Henry and Wilhelmina (Shermer) Jrupe, both of whom were natives of Germany, whence they came to Illinois in early life. They have now passed away and their remains were interred in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. King have become parents of a son, Edmund L., who married Helen Cheeseman and has one child, Edmund Ellsworth.

Politically Mr. King is a republican and has served as chairman of the town committee. He has been a member of the school board and the cause of public education finds him an earnest supporter. He attends the Baptist

church and conforms his life to its teachings, always endeavoring to follow the golden rule. He has been a diligent worker and has made his own success and at the same time he has molded his character in such a manner as to merit and enjoy the high regard and respect of his fellow townsmen.

JOHN BELL.

Caledonia township was the birthplace of John Bell as well as the place of his present residence, his home being on section 19. He was born November 29, 1858, a son of Valentine and Agnes (Vohn) Bell, both of whom were born in the Rhine country of Germany in 1813. They were reared and married in the fatherland and on coming to the new world established their home in Caledonia township, where the father secured twenty acres of land, which he purchased for a dollar and a quarter per acre, and to which he subsequently added ten acres. The homestead comprises eighty acres, John Bell having bought fifty acres. Valentine Bell successfully engaged in farming until his death in 1884. For a decade he had survived his wife, who passed away in 1874. They were members of St. Louis Catholic church of Caledonia township and in politics Mr. Bell was a democrat. He came to the county in pioneer days, cleared his land, built a log cabin and as the years went on won a substantial measure of success. He was a well educated man and had been a teacher in his native country, where his father, Valentine Bell, followed the occupation of farming, never coming to the new world. In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Valentine Bell, Jr., were six children, of whom three are living: Sebastian, who resides upon a farm in Caledonia township; Lena, the wife of John Michaels, of the same township; and John, of this review.

The last named acquired his education in the parochial and district schools and took up farm work, to which he had been reared and which he has always followed. His entire life has been given to the work of the fields and he has eighty acres of rich and productive land which he has brought to a high state of cultivation. He has upon his place a nice home and substantial outbuildings for the shelter of grain and stock. These he erected himself and otherwise he has improved his place, making it a valuable modern farm. He carries on general agricultural pursuits, raising all kinds of grain and also specializing in cabbage. He likewise does considerable dairying, shipping milk to the Horlick plant, and his intelligently directed business affairs are winning for him substantial success.

In 1877 Mr. Bell was married to Miss Mary Swiek, a native of Milwaukee county, and to them were born thirteen children, of whom twelve are yet living: Joseph, a mail carrier of Racine; Willie, who died leaving a wife and three children who are residents of Racine; Toney, who is agent at the Goodrich dock in Racine; Frank, who is now in South Dakota for the benefit of his health; Agnes, the wife of Edward Bloom, a machinist working in the shops of Racine; Louie, who is employed by a dairyman at Elkhorn, Wisconsin; Louisa, the wife of Erney Johnson, who is employed in his father's shoe store

in Racine; Hugo, who is engaged in the painting business at Elkhorn; Leo, in Racine; Marie, who is in Racine with her brother Toney; and Peter, Helen and Edward, all at home.

The parents are members of the Catholic church, being identified with St. Louis church in Caledonia township. In politics Mr. Bell is a democrat and has served in several local offices. For four years he was on the side board and for three years was chairman. He also served on the board of health for a year as chairman and for six years as its secretary, and he is now serving on the state highway committee. He is interested in every plan and measure for the upbuilding and development of county and state and lends active aid and co-operation to many movements for the general good. In his own business life his career demonstrates what can be accomplished by determination and energy, for he started out empty handed and was worked his way upward to success, wisely using his opportunities and gaining advancement by reason of his indefatigable energy and perseverance.

ROBERT BENJAMIN WEST.

Robert Benjamin West, whose time is busily occupied with the care of a farm of seventy-one acres, which he cultivates according to modern scientific methods productive of excellent results, is one of the native sons of Racine county, born June 21, 1876. His father, Benjamin West, also a well known and highly respected agriculturist of this county, was born in Canada, October 11, 1847, his parents being Thomas and Hannah West, who in 1848 brought their family to Racine county, casting in their lot with its pioneer settlers. Securing land, Thomas West devoted his attention to farming in Raymond township until his death and contributed in substantial measure to the development and progress of the locality.

His son Benjamin was reared amid the scenes and the conditions of pioneer life and in the common schools of Raymond township acquired his education. He early assisted his father in the work of the fields and became acquainted with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. When twenty-five years of age he left home and went to Iowa, but after a year in that state returned to Racine county, where he has since been engaged in farming, making his home in Raymond township, where he owns and cultivates one hundred and fifty-six acres of good land, annually gathering substantial harvests, which bring to him a gratifying yearly income. In 1872 he was united in marriage to Miss Esther Law, a daughter of George and Rebecca Law, who were natives of England. Three children were born of this marriage: Robert Benjamin; Mary Rebecca, deceased; and Derrick Wendell.

The parents are adherents of the Congregational church and in his political views Benjamin West is a stalwart republican, having supported the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He has been town clerk of Raymond township for sixteen years, his long connection with the office plainly indicating his capability and the confidence reposed in him by his fel-

low townsmen. He has also served as clerk of the school board and he is actively and helpfully interested in all plans and projects for promoting the public welfare. For more than two-thirds of a century he has been in this county and is one of its honored and respected citizens, having led a life which commands for him the good will and high regard of all with whom he has come in contact.

Robert B. West obtained a common school education and assisted in the work of the old homestead farm until 1905, when he started out independently, purchasing seventy-one acres of land in Mount Pleasant township, where he has since made his home, his time and energies being devoted to the further development and improvement of this tract, which is today one of the excellent farm properties of the district.

On the 13th of March, 1905, Mr. West was married to Miss Emily Matilda Halter, a daughter of Henry Halter, and they have become the parents of three children, Esther May, Jeanette Marion and Eunice Henrietta.

Mr. West belongs to the United Order of Foresters at Raymond and he gives his political allegiance to the republican party. For one year he filled the office of assessor but has never been ambitious to hold political positions. He is deeply interested in the work of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he holds membership, and has served as superintendent of the Sunday school in the Raymond Congregational church in Raymond township. For three generations the West family has been actively associated with the agricultural development of Racine county and throughout the entire period the family name has been an honored one in this part of the state. The work instituted by the grandfather has been carried on by the father and son and they have not only contributed to the material development but have also been active in upholding the legal and moral status of the community.

THE NORTHROP FAMILY.

The Northrop family trace their ancestry from the Northrops and Booths of Yorkshire and Kent counties, England, who emigrated to America in 1637, settling in Fairfield county, Connecticut, where many descendants still abide. Doctor Booth Northrop married Miss Huldah Shepard, October 15, 1812, at Newtown, Connecticut, and began the practice of medicine at Galway, Saratoga county, New York. To them were born three daughters and three sons. Two sons, the subjects of this sketch, located in Racine—George Chester Northrop and Byron Booth Northrop. The older brother, Rev. Henry Horatio Northrop, was a Presbyterian clergyman, serving important parishes in the state of Michigan. He was regent of the State University. He died at Flint, Michigan, February 26, 1905, in his ninety-first year.

George Chester Northrop, a lawyer by profession, came to this county in 1849, stopping for a time at Rochester and then moving to Racine. He became a member of the Racine county bar. In 1854, joining with Horatio B. Munroe, Reuben M. Norton and Henry S. Durand, he organized the Racine

County Bank, and was cashier and manager for several years. He was twice honored by his fellow citizens with the office of mayor, being elected by large majorities in 1861 and 1863. In the fall of 1864, he was elected to the state legislature, and lacked only a few votes of being chosen speaker of the assembly. For one year he served the city as superintendent of the public schools, when his health began to fail and his earthly life closed July 15, 1874, leaving an only daughter, Sarah, now the wife of Will R. Banks of Lamar, Missouri. Their children are Northrop Banks and Mary Booth Banks.

Byron Booth Northrop was born October 2, 1830, at Galway, Saratoga county, New York. He was educated at Yates Academy in Orleans county, New York, and Westcott Academy at Homer, Michigan. In 1847, he entered the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, taking the classical course, and graduated with the class of 1855. The degree of A. M. was conferred upon him in 1877. For several years he was in the employ of A. S. Barnes & Company, publishers, New York city, as general agent for Michigan and Wisconsin, introducing their school books to the public and private schools of those states. In 1858, he established the first bank in Weyauwega, Waupaca county, Wisconsin, being a bank of issue called the Bank of Weyauwega. Disposing of this business, he came to Racine in 1859 and, associated with his brother, George, established the bank of B. B. Northrop & Company. This bank continued in successful business for twelve years, when with the Bank of Racine, Henry J. Ullman, president, it was merged into the Manufacturers National Bank of Racine in March, 1871. Mr. Ullman was elected vice president and B. B. Northrop, cashier of the Manufacturers National Bank of Racine March, 1871. Mr. Northrop was annually re-elected for thirty-seven years, when, his hearing becoming sadly impaired, he retired January, 1908.

It will hardly do to omit mention of the most important event in everyone's life. On January 20, 1863, Byron Booth Northrop and Miss Alice Theresa Porter, the youngest daughter of the late Allen Porter, formerly of Hartford, Connecticut, were united in marriage in the First Presbyterian church of Racine by the pastor, Rev. Charles J. Hutchins. (Andrew Parsons and Miss Martha Giles were married at the same time, thus making this a double wedding.) This union was blest with two sons and one daughter. The sons, Allen Booth and George Porter are conducting the W. A. Porter Furniture Company, which was established by their uncle William Allen Porter. The daughter, May, was married May 21, 1891, to Philip Mayer Wackerhagen by Rev. Henry H. Northrop, of Flint, Michigan. To them were born a daughter, Alice, and a son, Edward, both named after grandparents. Alice is a graduate of Vassar College and Edward is in his second year in the Racine high school. The father, Philip M. Wackerhagen, associated with the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company, passed away December 10, 1915, from Myocarditis. The family continue to reside at 1211 Main street, which is the site of the Porter homestead, where the grandmother played when a child six years old. The native burr oaks are still casting their benign shadows over the place as in the earliest days when Racine was a wilderness.

This narrative would be incomplete without mention that B. B. Northrop was in 1877 a delegate to the Republican state convention at Madison, and

was placed upon the important committee on resolutions. In 1878 he was elected a school commissioner from the second ward, and was by the board of education chosen as its president. In 1885 he was elected an alderman from the second ward and appointed by the mayor, Hon. Joseph Miller, chairman of the finance committee of the city council. He also served during his term of two years on three most important special committees of the council, viz: revision of the city charter, lake shore protection and city water works. In 1887, he was nominated school commissioner from the second ward by Hon. D. A. Olin, mayor, confirmed by the council, and by the board of education elected president. He was reappointed and re-elected, holding the office of president for four years. During these years, Hon. Horatio G. Winslow, a man of learning and distinguished ability, was superintendent of the public schools, and the cause of popular education was decidedly advanced.

In conclusion it can be safely said, that in every effort made to promote the welfare of the city, Mr. Northrop has loyally endeavored to lend a helping hand. In church work, in Young Men's Christian Association work, in charitable endeavor, and all kindred efforts he has sought to do his duty. And now, after an active and strenuous life, as an octogenarian he is enjoying a quiet and hopeful life in his commodious home at 845 Main street.

(A more minute sketch of these brothers can be found in the histories of Racine and Kenosha counties, published in 1892 and 1906, which it seemed unnecessary to repeat in this volume.)

ALONZO SILAS TITUS.

Alonzo Silas Titus, conducting business under the name of the Waterford Milling Company, was born at Richland Center, Wisconsin, February 14, 1858, a son of Starr and Elsa (Hickox) Titus. The father was born at Buffalo, New York, where he was reared to manhood, and thence removed to Illinois. He was a millwright by trade, but afterward took up the occupation of farming, which he followed for a number of years in McHenry county, Illinois. There most of his children were born. At length, because of failing health, he removed to the pine woods of Wisconsin and in 1859 he passed away. He was a wide-awake, enterprising business man and prospered in his undertakings. He was also active in matters of reform and stood for public improvement along all lines, doing much effective work for the benefit of his community. He was held in high esteem by those who knew him best. for his life record was such as would bear the closest investigation and scrutiny. In politics he was a staunch republican. In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Starr Titus were twelve children, of whom three are yet living. Three of his sons were soldiers of the Civil war and two died while defending the Union cause, while the third, Ira, passed away in 1916. Those who still survive are: Frank, a fruit grower in California; Nellie, the wife of Joseph McGandy, of Tacoma; and Alonzo Silas.

The last named was reared by his uncle, Mark Hickox, for he was but a year old when his father died. He attended the district schools to the age

of fourteen years and then started out to earn his own living as an apprentice to the milling trade, at which he worked for others for some time, and in 1895 he embarked in the milling business on his own account at Waterford. He had to incur an indebtedness to secure the mill property, but he possessed energy and determination and believed those qualities would prove a substantial foundation on which to build success, nor has he been disappointed, for as the years have gone on he has made the business a profitable one. The product of his plant includes seventy-five barrels of flour per day and the plant also has a capacity of twenty tons of ground feed. The excellence of the flour which he manufactures secures for him a liberal patronage and the business now returns to him a good income.

On the 11th of October, 1893, Mr. Titus was married to Miss Kate Kennedy, a resident of Clinton, Wisconsin, and a high school graduate. She also pursued a course in stenography and was employed as a stenographer for a few years. By her marriage she has become the mother of five children: Leonard K., who is a high school graduate and is now a student at college in Berea, near Cleveland, Ohio; Evelyn A., who is a graduate of the Waterford high school and is now assistant manager of the Craig sanitarium at Rockford, Illinois; Starr, who is a graduate of the Waterford high school; Leta, now a high school pupil; and Catheryn, also in school.

Mr. Titus is a member of the Congregational church and is serving as clerk of the church board. Fraternally he is connected with Temple lodge, No. 96, F. & A. M., and Burlington chapter, R. A. M., and of the former is a past master. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Foresters. His political allegiance is given to the prohibition party and for two years he was supervisor of the village of Waterford. He is the present fire chief of the Waterford fire department and he is much interested in everything pertaining to the welfare and upbuilding of the district, giving active co-operation and hearty support to many plans and measures for the general good of the community.

HENRY HALTER.

The life record of Henry Halter is proof of the fact that success is not a matter of genius or of fortunate circumstances, as some contend, but is the direct result of earnest labor and perseverance, for Henry Halter is a self-made man who owes his prosperity entirely to his persistent, earnest effort. He is now successfully engaged in truck farming upon a tract of land of forty-four acres on section 31, Mount Pleasant township. He was born in Milwaukee county, Wisconsin, October 13, 1855, a son of Lewis and Mary (Concehman) Halter, who were natives of France. In the year 1842 the father came to the new world and in 1846 arrived in this state, settling in Milwaukee county, where he continued his residence for fifty-seven years, removing in 1903 to Mount Pleasant township, Racine county. He was not long permitted to enjoy his new home, however, for his death occurred in 1904, while his wife passed away in 1892.

Henry Halter is one of their family of nine children, eight of whom are yet living. He pursued his education in the public schools of Milwaukee and Racine counties and in the city of Racine learned the tinner's trade, which he followed for three years. He afterward spent a year in California and upon his return worked upon his father's farm up to the time of his marriage, which was celebrated in 1883. He then purchased a part of his father's land in Caledonia township and continued to engage in farming there until 1903. He next bought forty-four acres of land in Mount Pleasant township, which he has since devoted to the purposes of truck farming, making a specialty of cabbage, potatoes and onions. He annually gathers good crops and his success is the result of his close application, unflinching energy and firm purpose.

In 1883 Mr. Halter married Emma Swantz, who died leaving one daughter, Emma, the wife of Robert West, of Mount Pleasant township, by whom she has three children—Esther, Janet and Eunice. In 1891 Mr. Halter was united in marriage to Miss Fredericka Sheckler, her father being John Sheckler, an old settler of Racine county. To them have been born two children, as follows: Edna, the wife of Harvey Hansche, by whom she has one child; and Frank, at home.

Mr. Halter belongs to the Baptist church and makes it his daily purpose to conform his life to its teachings. In politics he is a republican and for twenty-three years he has served as a member of the school board and has also been school clerk and pathmaster. In public service he has proven loyal and progressive and at no time is he remiss in the duties of citizenship. He rejoices in what has been accomplished to promote the welfare of Racine county and is ever ready to lend his aid and co-operation to movements for the general good.

JOHN O'LAUGHLIN.

John O'Laughlin, who died July 15, 1913, was well known as the head of the John O'Laughlin Stone Company, owning quarries at Racine, Waukesha and Waterloo, Wisconsin. His business reached extensive proportions and in its management he displayed unflinching enterprise and keen discernment. He was born at Taycheedah, Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, in 1856, a son of Andrew and Ellen (O'Gorman) O'Laughlin, who were natives of County Clare, Ireland. The paternal grandfather, Michael O'Laughlin, was a wealthy resident of Ireland and had a family of nine sons, six of whom were surveyors. One of these, Peter O'Laughlin, engaged in surveying in Fond du Lac county for many years. Another son became a civil engineer and laid out the Northwestern Railroad between Fond du Lac and Green Bay. A cousin of these brothers became governor general of New South Wales in the early '60s. Michael O'Laughlin married Susan Talty and they spent their entire lives in Ireland, passing away at an advanced age. John O'Gorman, the maternal grandfather of John O'Laughlin of this review, was also a native of the Emerald isle, where he became owner of valuable farming lands, on which he had



JOHN O'LAUGHLIN

a number of tenants. Andrew O'Laughlin, the father of John O'Laughlin, came to the United States in 1846 and settled in Taycheedah, Wisconsin, whence he removed to La Salle county, Illinois, in 1866. There he purchased and cultivated a large tract of land until 1881, when he retired from active business life and removed to Chicago, where he passed away in 1885, at the age of seventy-four years. His widow survived him for but eight months and was sixty-six years of age at the time of her death. Both were members of the Catholic church, and in politics Mr. O'Laughlin was a liberal democrat. They had a family of nine children.

John O'Laughlin was reared in Fond du Lac county to the age of ten years and then went with his parents to La Salle county, Illinois, where he was reared to manhood upon the home farm. He pursued his education in the district schools and in St. Francis College of Milwaukee and for a time engaged in teaching school. In 1880 he went to Chicago and became interested in the stone business. He was employed for three years at the Union Lime Works, of which he was superintendent for a time, and subsequently he filled the responsible position of general superintendent with the Keys & Thatcher Stone Company for five years. He did general contracting work in building streets and sewers and in laying water pipe through rocks, being the only one to whom a license was issued to blast rock in the streets of Chicago. He was thus engaged for seven years, at the end of which time he leased the Keys & Thatcher quarries and established the Artesian Stone & Lime Works, which he sold in 1894. He then spent about a year in Europe and upon returning to the United States, while on his way to Milwaukee, he noticed an old abandoned lime kiln at Ives, Racine county. He left the train and soon made arrangements to buy the land, upon which he erected a large and very complete plant for crushing stone. It was Mr. O'Laughlin who originated the present plan of stone crushing which is now largely used throughout the United States and Europe. From the beginning his business grew rapidly and he employed several hundred men at this plant. He also owned the Portland granite quarries, near Waterloo, and the Waukesha quarries, where two hundred men are employed. In that undertaking his son, Joseph J., became interested with him. The stone is all used in street paving and buildings, and the business has grown continually and rapidly. The granite quarries furnish stone for street paving and building blocks. Mr. O'Laughlin had various other business interests, constantly extending his efforts along lines which contributed to the material growth and prosperity of the localities in which he operated as well as to his individual success. His plans were always well formulated and carefully thought out and then were promptly executed. He possessed excellent ability as an organizer, added to initiative and industry, and he combined seemingly diverse interests into a unified and harmonious whole which produced splendid results.

In 1880 Mr. O'Laughlin was married to Miss Mary Casey, a daughter of John and Mary (Malouney) Casey. They became the parents of eight children, namely: Joseph, Mae, Helen, Frances, George, Margaret, John and Robert Fergus.

Mr. O'Laughlin was a member of the Catholic church, of which his widow was also a communicant, and he held membership with the Knights of Co-

lumbus and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. In politics he was a democrat, yet did not consider himself bound by party ties and often cast an independent ballot. His home at No. 834 Main street, which his widow yet occupies, is one of the most beautiful in Racine. Throughout his entire life Mr. O'Laughlin displayed a spirit of unfaltering industry and worked his way upward through close application and persistency of purpose. He was at all times actuated by a spirit of laudable ambition, and when one avenue of opportunity seemed closed to him, he would carve out another path whereby he might reach the desired goal. His plans were always clearly defined, and he readily recognized opportunities, which he wisely and carefully utilized, so that splendid results were achieved.

EDWARD HENRY SKEWES.

Edward Henry Skewes is a representative of one of the old families of Racine county and has passed his entire life here, as his birth occurred in Yorkville township. He is now the owner of one hundred and forty acres in that township and is there engaged in the dairy business, shipping milk to Chicago and likewise raising cabbage, which he also disposes of in the city markets.

His natal day was the 12th of May, 1869, and he is a son of Hannibal and Eliza (Phillips) Skewes, both natives of Cornwall, England, the former born in 1838 and the latter in 1840. When twenty years old the father came to America and joined an uncle who was living in Yorkville township, Racine county, Wisconsin. Subsequently he purchased a farm and devoted the remainder of his life to its cultivation and improvement. He held title to one hundred acres, and his well directed labor yielded him a good return. He had no capital when he came to this country and has at all times been dependent upon his own efforts for success. Some time after locating in this county he sent money to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Skewes, to pay their passage to the United States. He passed away in 1912, and his demise was the occasion of widespread regret, for he was well known and highly esteemed. He was married in Yorkville township in 1864 to Miss Eliza Phillips, whose death occurred in January, 1903. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he was for years a local preacher in that denomination. In his early life he was identified with the Bible Christian church. He was a republican and took an active interest in local affairs, but was most prominent in connection with the efforts to do away with the liquor traffic. He served as town chairman for several years on the no license issue and was a strong advocate of laws prohibiting the sale of liquor. To him and his wife were born six children, of whom four survive, namely: Edward Henry; Manly, who is a train dispatcher in the employ of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad at Minneapolis; Clinton, who is farming the homestead; and Lillie, the wife of Derrick West, a farmer of Raymond township. The maternal grandfather of our subject, Thomas Phillips, came to Racine county with the second

colony which settled here and was a factor in its early development along various lines, especially, however, in regard to its agricultural interests.

Edward H. Skewes received his education in the district schools of Yorkville township and as a boy and youth devoted much time to helping his father. He remained at home until he was twenty-eight years old, when he operated a rented farm, after which he leased his present place for three years. He then bought the property, which comprises one hundred and forty acres of excellent land in Yorkville township and which is in a high state of development. When he began farming on his own account he had only a capital of five hundred dollars, but he was thoroughly familiar with agricultural pursuits and as the years have passed his resources have steadily increased until he is now in comfortable circumstances. He gives much attention to the dairy business, shipping milk to Chicago, and he has a fine herd of Holstein cows, at the head of which is a registered bull. In future he intends to breed and raise all of the cows for his dairy. He also gives considerable attention to truck gardening, raising cabbage on an extensive scale and selling it in the city markets.

Mr. Skewes was married in March, 1897, to Miss Helen Gilmore, a daughter of Lyman and Caroline (Stilwell) Gilmore, both natives of New York state, whence they came to Racine county, Wisconsin, in 1846. They passed their remaining days here and gained a high place in the estimation of all who knew them. To Mr. and Mrs. Skewes have been born two children, namely: Alma, who has completed her education and is at home; and Lyman, attending school.

Mr. and Mrs. Skewes are both consistent and active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is a trustee, and he is likewise serving as superintendent of the Sunday school. He is a firm believer in prohibition, but where the liquor question is not involved supports the republican party. He has been a leader in the good roads movement in his county and has accomplished a great deal of good in securing better highways. He takes a progressive attitude in all matters and can be depended upon to support all projects intended to advance the general good.

PHILLIP EUGENE KIMPEL.

Phillip Eugene Kimpel, a highly respected farmer of Mount Pleasant township, was born in Buffalo, New York, June 18, 1865, a son of George and Mary Magdalena (Hettenmeyer) Kimpel, who in the year 1867 came to Racine county, where the father worked at the butcher's trade until 1885. He then turned his attention to farming, which he has since followed, but in the meantime also conducted a meat market in connection with his son, with whom he is living. He first visited Racine about 1850, but returned to New York, and it was not until many years later that he once more established his home in this state. His wife passed away March 4, 1901, and was laid to rest in Mound cemetery. In their family were six children: Phillip Eugene; Lydia, the wife of H. O. Frank, a farmer residing south of Racine, by whom she has three

children, Russell, Lillian and Theodore; Clara, the wife of S. H. Lohr, of Racine, and the mother of five children, Ruth, Conrad, Gertrude, Margaret and Robert; Emily, who died at the age of twelve years and was laid to rest in Mound cemetery; George, who married Kate Martin and has five children, Emily, Mildred, Sanford, Oliver and Benjamin; and Benjamin F., who married Agnes Beltz and has two children, Ben and Eleanor. Mr. and Mrs. Kimpel were members of the Evangelical church and his political allegiance has always been given to the republican party.

Philip E. Kimpel acquired a common school education, pursuing his studies to the age of fourteen years, after which he began farming in connection with his father. At present he is engaged in the cultivation of one hundred and two acres of land and his efforts have resulted in making his fields most productive, for he follows progressive methods and therefore gathers good crops.

On the 25th of November, 1889, Mr. Kimpel was married to Miss Elizabeth Breese, a daughter of Joseph Breese, and they have become the parents of five children: Laura, who is teaching in the Harvey school, and Elizabeth, Eugene, George and Harry, all at home.

Politically Mr. Kimpel is a republican and for seven years filled the office of town assessor. He has ever been deeply interested in the cause of education in his district and for nineteen years has served as a member of the school board and has also filled the office of clerk. His religious belief is evidenced in his membership in the Presbyterian church and the principles which have guided his life are those which measure up to the highest standards. He has won his success through indefatigable effort, in which honorable dealing has ever played a most important part, and his record shows what may be accomplished through determination and energy.

REV. LEO F. GABRIELS.

Rev. Leo F. Gabriels, pastor in charge of St. Louis' Catholic church of Caledonia township, was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a son of John P. and Mary (Lush) Gabriels, both natives of Prussia. When young people they came to the new world, settling in Milwaukee, and were there married in St. Joseph's Catholic church. The father was a cooper by trade and in his younger days had a business of his own and employed a number of people, but afterward worked at his trade in the employ of others. He was born in 1848 and passed away in 1911, while his wife, whose birth occurred in 1852, is still living. He was quite prominent and influential in early days, but did not take an active part in public affairs in his later years. In his family were five children, who are yet living: Rev. Leo F.; Mary, the wife of Dr. A. H. Machleith, a physician and surgeon of Milwaukee; Rev. Joseph H., a priest at Addison, Wisconsin; Elizabeth M., who is in the Training School for Nurses at Fond du Lac; and Grace, who has charge of the candy and drug department in the store of William Steinmeyer & Company of Milwaukee.

Rev. Leo F. Gabriels pursued his early education in the ninth ward public school of Milwaukee, but at the age of seven years became a pupil in St.

Joseph's parochial school. Early determining to devote his life to the church, his studies were directed toward that end at St. Francis seminary, St. Francis, Wisconsin, and he was ordained to the priesthood in 1903. He was first given charge of Holy Trinity church at Milwaukee and afterward was assigned to St. Joseph's Catholic church in Fond du Lac as assistant. He next went to Addison, Wisconsin, and was pastor of the church of SS. Peter and Paul, there continuing for six years. On the 6th of May, 1914, he assumed the pastorate of St. Louis' church in Caledonia. The church building is a beautiful edifice and in addition the parish has a large school. The work of the church is well organized in its various departments and societies and under the guidance of Father Gabriels the influence of the church is growing. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and was very active in that order in Fond du Lac.

JOHN HENNEKE.

Among the pioneer settlers of this county who have passed to the home beyond, but whose life's labors contributed to the development and substantial upbuilding of the district, is numbered John Henneke, who was born in Germany in 1811. His youthful days were spent in the acquirement of a common school education, after which he joined the army and served as an officer. At length he determined to try his fortune in the new world, and in the '40s crossed the Atlantic to the United States, making his way to Racine county. His first purchase of land made him owner of nineteen acres in Mount Pleasant township and upon that place he resided until his death, which occurred in 1885.

Mr. Henneke was married to Miss Caroline Bix, by whom he had seven children, as follows: William, who still resides on the home place; Pauline, the deceased wife of William Kramer; Christine, who is married and resides in Oregon; Henry, at home; Mary, who is a resident of Kenosha county; Mathilda, who gave her hand in marriage to Nicholas Thelen and resides in Mount Pleasant township; and Theresa, the wife of Adam Funk, of Mount Pleasant township. In his political views Mr. Henneke maintained an independent course, voting according to the dictates of his judgment, without regard to party ties. In religious faith he was a Catholic, being a communicant of St. Mary's church.

WILLIAM HENNEKE.

William Henneke has practically spent his entire life in Mount Pleasant township, although born in Germany in 1846. During his infancy he was brought by his parents to the United States and following the establishment of the family home in Racine county attended the common schools until about fifteen years of age. Under his father's direction he was well trained in the work of the farm, early taking his place as a hand in the fields, so that broad

practical experience qualified him for the careful management of his business interests when he began farming on his own account. He now owns eighty acres of land on section 36 which he rents. He has always voted with the republican party where national issues are involved, but at local elections casts an independent ballot. He has filled the office of road superintendent, but has never been an aspirant for political preferment, feeling that his time and attention may well be given to his business affairs.

AUGUSTUS B. CRANE

No history of the pioneer development of Racine county would be complete were there failure to make reference to Augustus B. Crane, who arrived here in 1839 and continued to make his home within the borders of the county for nearly seven decades. He was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, in 1823, and at an early age was left an orphan, after which he was reared by an uncle. Attracted by the opportunities of the growing west, he came to Racine county in 1839, and throughout his remaining days was closely identified with the agricultural progress of his community.

It was at the Rapids, in January, 1843, that Mr. Crane was united in marriage to Lavina Baldwin, who was born in the state of New York, near Syracuse. With her parents she removed westward to Michigan, the family home being established at Kalamazoo, and later they came around the Lakes to Racine county, Wisconsin, making the journey with ox teams. It was in 1842 that they arrived in the county, and the next year Lavina Baldwin became the wife of Augustus B. Crane. They began their domestic life upon a farm in Mount Pleasant township and there continued to reside throughout their remaining days. It was a tract of new land covered with timber which Mr. Crane had to clear away before he could turn the furrows and plant the seed. In time, however, his labors wrought a marked transformation in the appearance of the place and as the years passed on he converted this into a valuable farm property from which he derived a gratifying financial income. Wherever known he was held in high esteem and most of all where he was best known. His fellow townsmen, appreciative of his worth and ability, frequently called him to public office and he made an excellent record in the positions which he filled. He died on the 15th of February, 1908, and his widow survived him for a year, passing away in April, 1909, their remains being interred side by side in the Mound cemetery.

JAMES H. CRANE.

James H. Crane, son of Augustus B. Crane, was born in Mount Pleasant township, July 7, 1848, and between the ages of six and seventeen years attended the public schools. He afterward became a pupil in Rochester, where he continued his studies for a year and a half, and for one term he was a stu-

dent in the high school at Racine. He then concentrated his energies upon farm work and remained at home until he reached the age of twenty-four years, when he went to Chicago, where he spent two years engaged in the bakery business. On the expiration of that period he returned to Racine county and has since been upon the farm. He now cultivates twenty-two acres, most of which is devoted to truck farming, and annually he produces a large amount of vegetables for which he finds a ready sale in the city market.

On the 6th of January, 1873, Mr. Crane was married to Miss Clara A. Cogswell, a daughter of A. W. and Eustatia Ann (Conner) Cogswell, who were natives of New York and in the '40s arrived in Racine. Mr. and Mrs. Crane have become parents of four children: Orton Albert, who married Grace Dickinson and died leaving three children—Ella Leona, James Orton and Frances Mildred, all living in Racine; Archer B., who married Frances Parks and has one child, Clara Eleanor; Walter S., who married Katherine Dean and has three children—Margaret Leonore, Loretta and Walter Dean; and Martin Elwin, who is living at home.

While Mr. Crane's political views accord with the principles of the republican party, he does not hold himself bound by party ties and votes for the candidate whom he considers best qualified for the office. For thirteen years he filled the position of clerk of the town and for five years was assessor. For twenty-nine years he served as school officer and for eight years occupied the position of trustee of the county asylum. He attends the Freewill Baptist church at Mygatts Corners and he has ever so lived that his life reflects credit upon that organization and its teachings.

EDWARD FRANK FREEMAN.

Edward Frank Freeman, the youngest of the Freeman Brothers, who constitute the S. Freeman & Sons Manufacturing Company, has spent his entire life in Racine, where his birth occurred on the 25th of June, 1877. Entering the public schools, he passed through consecutive grades to the high school, from which in due time he was graduated. The interest of the family had centered in the manufacturing establishment founded by his father and it was a natural and logical step that he should make his initial business effort in that connection. In 1897 he entered the factory and under the guidance of his seniors in the business acquainted himself with the details of the trade and for the past seven years has had charge of the purchasing department, a position of large responsibility upon which rests in great measure the economical control of the business.

On the 19th of December, 1899, Mr. Freeman was married to Miss Mattie Pritchard, of Racine, a daughter of E. Pritchard, but after a short married life of less than five years she passed away in 1904. Seven years later, or on the 11th of June, 1911, Mr. Freeman wedded Addie Modjeska, of Racine.

Like his brothers, he is well known in Masonic circles, being identified with lodge and chapter. He is also connected with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, but in politics he follows an independent course, considering the

capability of the candidate rather than his party affiliations. The Freemans have always stood for those things which are progressive in citizenship, supporting many plans and measures for the benefit and upbuilding of Racine, but their ambition has not been in the field of office holding, as they have preferred to give undivided attention to their business affairs. Started in a small way, the undertaking has been developed in accordance with the spirit of the times and they have met a public need in many of their lines of manufacture, their output being accepted as standard, while their business methods have commended them to the continued patronage of the public.

EDWARD D. DAVIS.

A substantial proportion of the citizenship of Mount Pleasant township has come from Wales, being a representative of a Welsh emigration either in the first or second generation. Edward D. Davis, born near Llanfyllin, Montgomeryshire, North Wales, lived for many years on section 19, Mount Pleasant township, and was regarded as one of its substantial and worthy citizens, continuing his residence there up to the time of his death. His birth occurred in January, 1831, and he obtained a common school education in his native land, there remaining until he reached the age of seventeen, when in 1848 he crossed the Atlantic with his parents, William and Alice Davis. The father died, however, while en route to the middle west, where the family home was established. On reaching Racine county the mother purchased two hundred and twenty acres of land and continued to reside upon her farm until her death. Her husband's remains were interred in the state of New York and she was laid to rest in Mound cemetery of this county.

Edward D. Davis attended the district schools and also pursued a course in a business college. With the removal of the family to Wisconsin he became active in the work of the farm and resided thereon until called to his final rest with the exception of about three years, from the fall of 1856 to the spring of 1860. About one year of that time he lived in Racine and the remainder in Milwaukee, where he was engaged in the grocery business. He then returned to the farm. He was diligent and his industry and perseverance were manifest in the excellent appearance of his place, which he converted into a valuable tract of land, rich and productive.

In 1854 Mr. Davis was united in marriage to Miss Ann Owens, who was born in 1831 in Machynlleth, Montgomeryshire, North Wales, a daughter of Thomas and Jane Owens, and they became the parents of three children: John P., who died in Kenosha, May 11, 1904, at the age of forty-eight years, leaving a widow, and his remains were interred in Mound cemetery at Racine; Alice J., who was born in Racine; and Annie E., born in Mount Pleasant township. The two sisters attended the district schools and they now occupy the home farm. The mother died August 21, 1910.

In politics he was first a republican, but became identified with the progressive movement at its inception, and continued to be a loyal progressive



EDWARD D. DAVIS

up to the time of his death. He served as town treasurer for one term and for nineteen years filled the office of assessor. For forty years he served as a member of the school board and did everything in his power to further the cause of education in his locality. In 1848 he united with the Welsh Congregational church at Racine and for many years served as a deacon, treasurer and trustee of that church, but when the Park Avenue Congregational church was organized he became one of its members and served as senior deacon until his death. His life, upright and honorable, gained for him the respect and goodwill of his fellowmen. He owed his business success entirely to his own efforts and his upright life was the source of the high regard entertained for him. He passed away on June 20, 1912, and his family mourned the loss of a loving and considerate father and his neighbors the loss of a faithful friend.

WILLIAM HENKEL.

A valuable farm property of of one hundred and seventy-five acres situated on Sections 11 and 13, Raymond township, pays substantial annual tribute to the care and labor bestowed upon it by its owner, William Henkel, who is a representative agriculturist of Racine county. His business affairs are most carefully and wisely managed and his splendid success is the direct and merited reward of his own labors. He was born in Germany, October 25, 1853, a son of Henry and Charlotte (Guth) Henkel, who were also natives of the fatherland. On coming to the new world they settled in Raymond township, Racine county, in 1866, and the father purchased seventy-five acres of land, on which he continued to make his home until his life's labors were ended in death. He was a well read man who made good use of his opportunities and won success through business methods that neither sought nor required disguise. He had served for three years in the German army before coming to the new world and after reaching America proved himself a loyal citizen of his adopted country. In politics he was a republican, while his religious faith was that of the Lutheran church. To him and his wife were born four children, of whom but two are living, the surviving daughter being Lizetta, the wife of Simon Meissner, of Raymond township.

The son, William Henkel, began his education in the schools of Germany ere the emigration of the family to the new world and continued his studies in the district schools of Raymond township, afterward taking up the occupation of farming, which he has since followed. He has always worked persistently and energetically and has ever realized that industry is the basis of all honorable success. As his financial resources have increased he has added to his holdings and is today the owner of one hundred and seventy-five acres of good land which is well improved. He has recently erected a fine new two story residence, supplied with all modern equipments and improvements. He carries on general farming and dairying and for the latter purpose keeps a good grade of cows, shipping milk to the Center factory of Raymond.

In 1881 Mr. Henkel was married to Miss Emma Lange, a native of Racine and a daughter of Charles Lange, who worked in a tannery in Racine but afterward removed to a farm in Raymond township and now lives with his daughter, Mrs. Jacob Schattner. Mr. and Mrs. Henkel have become the parents of sixteen children, of whom thirteen are yet living: Albert, a resident farmer of Raymond township; Alvina, the wife of A. Steinmiller, who works in a shop in Milwaukee; Clara, who holds a position in Racine; Charles, living in Raymond township; Ida and Fred, both at home; Elizabeth, working in Racine; and Esther, Elsie, Ira, Fred A., Willie and Selma, all at home.

The parents are members of the Lutheran church and in that faith they have reared their family. In politics Mr. Henkel is a republican and for a number of years has served on the board of supervisors, being still the incumbent in that office. He never fails to do his full duty as a citizen and at the same time he does not neglect his business affairs but carefully and systematically manages his interests and wins success in so doing.

SUSAN JONES, M. D.

Dr. Susan Jones, a graduate of Rush Medical College and actively engaged in practice in Racine, her native city, since 1903, is a daughter of David and Margaret (Thomas) Jones, who were natives of Wales and became pioneer residents of Racine, arriving here in the year 1846. The father was a farmer by occupation and devoted his life to that pursuit, but both he and his wife have now passed away.

In early girlhood Dr. Jones attended the district schools near her father's home and afterward became a student in McMynn Academy. She next became a student in the University of Wisconsin, at Madison, matriculating in the medical department where she began preparation for her professional career. Later she entered Rush Medical College, of Chicago, and completed her course with the graduating class of 1903. She then returned to Racine for active practice and has since followed the profession in this city, her ability winning her wide recognition and success. She keeps in touch with the trend of modern progress in medical and surgical work and is a member of the County, State and American Medical Associations. She adds to scientific knowledge a keen intuition and ready sympathy which enable her to quickly understand her patients and in the diagnosis of cases she is most careful and accurate.

GEORGE MITCHEL.

George Mitchel, who for twenty-three years has resided upon his present farm in Raymond township, near Caledonia, has prospered in business because of his close application and untiring energy and a determined purpose to win success if it could be accomplished through diligence and honorable methods. He was born July 8, 1866, in the township in which he still lives, his

parents being Christian and Fredrica (Minzer) Mitchel, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father, who was born in 1818, passed away in 1892, but the mother, whose birth occurred in 1838, is still living. They were married in Racine, where they located in 1863. The father was a carpenter by trade but turned his attention to farming and purchased seventy acres of land in Raymond township, whereon he established his home, giving his attention to the general development and improvement of that property. He could justly be called a self-made man, for whatever success he achieved and enjoyed was attributable entirely to his own efforts. His political allegiance was given the republican party and his religious faith was that of the Evangelical Association. To him and his wife were born six children: Kate, the wife of Gustav Borchardt, an implement dealer of South Milwaukee; George; Charles, who is employed by his brother George; William, who is engaged in the manufacture of barn equipments, having a factory in Milwaukee; John, who is employed in Milwaukee; and Ella, who is living with her mother in that city.

George Mitchel attended the district schools and started out in business life as an employe in a Racine factory, where he remained for two years, but it was his desire to devote his attention to general agricultural pursuits and in 1893 he purchased a farm of eighty acres in Raymond township, on which he has since lived. In 1916 he purchased thirty acres more, making his holdings one hundred and ten acres. He cultivates the cereals best adapted to soil and climate and is also engaged in dairying, milking Durham cows. Both branches of his business are now returning to him a good income. He has improved the farm in many ways, erecting an attractive residence and good barn, while he utilizes the latest improved machinery to facilitate the work of the fields. He had to incur an indebtedness at the time he purchased his place, but he has since discharged all of his financial obligations and as the result of his intelligently directed industry is now in comfortable circumstances.

In 1903 Mr. Mitchel was married to Miss Minnie Guetzkow, who was born in Greenfield, Wisconsin, and they now have two children, Roland and Elmer, aged respectively twelve and nine years. The parents are members of the Evangelical Association and in politics Mr. Mitchel is a republican. He does not seek nor desire office, as it is his wish to give his undivided attention to his business affairs. However, his aid can be counted upon to further movements for the public good and in this county, where his entire life has been passed, his many friends speak of him in terms of warm regard.

WILLIAM KITTINGER.

The enterprising methods of William Kittinger, a representative agriculturist of Caledonia township, are indicated in the fact that he had nine acres of the best wheat raised in Racine county in 1916. His is a well improved farm, supplied with all modern equipments to facilitate the work and render farm life comfortable and attractive. He came to Wisconsin from New

York, his birth having occurred in Niagara county, about ten miles east of Niagara Falls, on the 10th of December, 1847, his parents being Isaac and Priseilla (Burnette) Kittinger. The father was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, April 7, 1818, and passed away in Caledonia, January 29, 1867, while his wife, who was born in Niagara county June 18, 1823, died on the 29th of July, 1913. They were married in her native county and became the parents of four children, of whom the eldest, Franklin, is now deceased. The others are: William; Loretta, the wife of Morgan E. Price, who is employed in a camp chair factory in Racine; and Charles E., who is the owner of a grocery store in Denver, Colorado, but is living in Lincoln, Nebraska. Franklin, the eldest son, was born March 29, 1846, and enlisted for service in the Union army as a member of Company H, Twenty-second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, August 12, 1862. He died at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, September 23, 1863, and was there laid to rest in the national cemetery, in a grave marked No. 2223. The valor of the family was further demonstrated in the father's enlistment. He went to the front as a drummer and afterward became a fifer and on the 25th of March, 1863, at Brentwood, he was taken prisoner and held at Libby prison for two days. He became one of the best carpenters of Racine county and led an active and useful life. His wife was a member of the Congregational church of Caledonia. Both were highly esteemed by all who knew them and both represented old families of the east. The father was a son of Abraham Kittinger, a weaver by trade, who was born in Pennsylvania and there spent his life. The maternal grandfather, William Burnette, was born at Morristown, New Jersey, in 1776, the family there living at the time that Washington made his winter quarters there.

William Kittinger had only such educational advantages as the district schools afforded, but through his own efforts has become a well informed man, reading broadly, thinking deeply, observing keenly and gaining many valuable lessons in the school of experience.

It was on the 11th of March, 1880, that Mr. Kittinger was married to Miss Katie Kleinschmidt, who was born in Racine, a daughter of John and Katherina Kleinschmidt, natives of Germany, the former a farmer by occupation. To Mr. and Mrs. Kittinger have been born three children, of whom two are living: Frank, who is farming in Caledonia township; Arthur, residing with his parents; and Nellie, who died in Lincoln, Nebraska, August 13, 1913.

At the time of the outbreak of hostilities between the north and the south William Kittinger watched with interest the progress of events and his patriotic spirit aroused, he enlisted as a member of Company H. However, as he could not remain in the army without his mother's consent, on account of his age, and as she refused to give it he had to return to civil life after serving only five days. His desire to go to the front was incontestable evidence of his patriotism and his courage. He purchased his home farm in October, 1865, and now has two hundred and twenty-five acres of land, having added to the original tract as opportunity has offered. Every cent he has made himself and his position indicates the spirit of enterprise which has characterized him throughout his entire life. He has worked diligently and

persistently, utilizing his time and opportunities to the best possible advantage, and in the conduct of his business has displayed sound judgment. He carries on general farming but devotes his attention principally to dairying. However, he is very successful in the cultivation of his fields, as is indicated by the fact that Racine county in 1916 possessed no better wheat than he raised on a nine acre tract. For dairy purposes he keeps a mixed breed of cows of high grade, for some of them having paid two hundred and two hundred and fifty dollars. He is enabled to give his stock green food throughout the winter, for he has two silos upon his place. He has sold cream to the amount of twenty-eight thousand dollars in twenty-two years to one man in Milwaukee. He also has upon his place a fine apiary of Italian bees, having from three hundred and fifty to four hundred stands, and through a long period he has engaged in the cultivation of bees, the honey finding a ready sale upon the market because of the excellence of the product. There are ample and substantial buildings for the shelter of grain and stock and for his family he has provided a beautiful home, which he erected in 1910 at a cost of six thousand dollars. It is supplied with hot water heat and all modern conveniences.

Mr. Kittinger votes with the republican party and is inclined to prohibition principles, for he has always been a believer in the cause of temperance. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife also belongs and of which they are loyal and consistent members. In every relation of life they have displayed sterling traits of character which have gained them the confidence, goodwill and high regard of those with whom they have come in contact. In business affairs Mr. Kittinger is known to be thoroughly reliable and his life record, crowned with success, should serve to inspire and encourage others, for it illustrates what may be accomplished through indefatigable effort.

CHRISTMAS E. EVANS, D. V. S.

The veterinary profession in Racine finds a worthy representative in Dr. Christmas E. Evans, whose ability to successfully administer remedial agencies is manifest in the excellent results which have attended him in general practice. He was born in Utica, New York, November 2, 1860, and is a son of Evan R. and Margaret (Roberts) Evans, who came to Racine in 1874. The father was a veterinary surgeon and continued in active practice in Racine until July, 1908, when his labors were terminated by death. He had for four years survived his wife, who passed away in 1904.

Dr. C. E. Evans was a youth of fourteen years when the family came to Racine and he supplemented his public school training by study in the McMynn Academy, while later he became a student in the Veterinary College of New York and won his degree with the class of 1883. For thirty-three years he has practiced here and his pronounced ability has kept him at the front in professional circles. For a third of a century he has practiced, the years chronicling his increasing ability and registering his success. He has

also been farm and herd inspector for the Horlick Malted Milk Company for the past fifteen years.

On the 11th of March, 1891, Dr. Evans was married to Miss Fannie Jones. Her father, Captain Owen D. Jones, came to the United States from Wales when ten years of age, in 1846, and was one of the early settlers of southeastern Wisconsin. He was a lake captain but is now deceased. He was married in Racine to Miss Fannie Roberts, who removed to this county from Utica, New York, in 1856, being a representative of one of the pioneer families here. She survives and still makes her home in Racine. Dr. and Mrs. Evans have become the parents of a son and a daughter: Russell C., who is a graduate of the Chicago Veterinary College and practices with his father and who is a member of the Masonic fraternity; and Lillian, who is attending college at Lake Forest.

The family are members of the Congregational church. Dr. Evans is a member of the Masonic fraternity, in which order he has attained high rank, having taken the thirty-second degree. He has also crossed the sands of the desert with the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and his name is on the membership rolls of the Knights of Pythias lodge in Racine. In politics he is a republican and for four years he served as alderman from the second ward, during which period he gave careful study to municipal conditions, needs and opportunities, working diligently and effectively to further those interests which are a matter of civic virtue and civic pride.

RUDOLPH HANSCHKE.

The name of Hansche figures extensively and prominently in connection with the history of Mount Pleasant township, and Rudolph Hansche was among those who were active in promoting the early agricultural development of this region. The work of progress and improvement had scarcely been begun in this locality when on coming to the United States in 1841 he made his way to Racine county and here purchased eighty acres of land. He was born in Germany in 1814 and was there reared and educated, being a young man of about twenty-seven years when he crossed the Atlantic. With characteristic energy he began to till his fields and brought the farm to a high state of cultivation. He was truly a self-made man, for when he arrived in the county he was practically empty handed and for some time worked at a wage of twenty-five cents per day. Later he secured better wages, however, and, carefully saving his earnings, was at length enabled to invest in the farm which he owned at the time of his demise.

In 1859 Mr. Hansche was married to Miss Anna Seorgel, a daughter of John Seorgel, and they had a family of nine children: Sophia, who became the wife of Norbert Grabher, of Mount Pleasant township, by whom she has five children; Mrs. William Piper; George, who married Lucy Olle and has passed away; Fred William; Katherine, who is the wife of Anton Lund and is living in Mount Pleasant; William J., who is married and resides in Racine county; Clara, who is the wife of Carl Sheekler, of Kenosha county, and has

two sons; Lottie, who is upon the home place; and Ernest, who married Marie Jorgensen and died leaving two sons, who are with their mother on Mount Pleasant. Mr. Hansche passed away September 8, 1882, when sixty-nine years of age, while his wife long survived, her death occurring April 14, 1901.

In his political views Mr. Hansche was a republican, always strongly indorsing the principles of the party. His religious faith was that of the Evangelical church and its teachings guided him in all of his relations with his fellowmen, so that his was an honorable and well spent life, gaining for him the respect and goodwill of all with whom he was associated.

FRED WILLIAM HANSCHÉ.

Fred William Hansche, the second son of the family, was born in Mount Pleasant township, August 25, 1863, and at the usual age began his education in the common schools, continuing his studies until he reached the age of seventeen. He developed habits of industry and perseverance while working with his father upon the home farm, and since his textbooks were put aside he has continually carried on agricultural pursuits, winning a substantial measure of success which is the merited and just reward of earnest, persistent effort.

On the 6th of December, 1904, he wedded Theresa Grobner, a daughter of Tom and Katherine Grobner, who were natives of Bohemia. Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Hansche have become parents of seven children: Warren, Raymond, Rachel, Melvin, Elvira, Naomi and Ernest.

In political belief Mr. Hansche is a prohibitionist, having long been a stalwart advocate of the cause of temperance, putting forth every effort to further that interest. For six years he has filled the office of school clerk and he belongs to the Pentecostal Mission church, guiding his life by the principles of Christianity. He is straightforward in all business dealings and honorable in every relation of life and his many sterling traits have won for him the confidence and goodwill of all who know him.

THOMAS JAMES McCrORY, M. D.

Dr. Thomas James McCrory is one of the younger physicians of Racine, having engaged in practice here for only a decade. He was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, on the 30th of December, 1878, and is a son of Thomas and Bridget McCrory, the former also a native of Fond du Lac, while the latter was born at Chilton, Wisconsin. The paternal grandfather, John McCrory, was a native of Ireland and during the pioneer epoch in the development of Wisconsin became a resident of this state after which he turned his attention to farming. His son, Thomas McCrory, was engaged in the machinery business and also dealt in musical instruments.

After completing his education in the public and high schools of Racine, Dr. McCrory entered the Northwestern University at Evanston as a medical student and was there graduated with the class of 1905. He has since taken post graduate work at the Chicago Lying-In Hospital, of Chicago, and in the Provident Hospital, of Chicago. Later he was at Waukesha, Wisconsin, with the Waukesha Springs Sanitarium for nine months and in 1906 he came to Racine where for the past decade he has engaged in general practice. He carefully analyzes and considers his cases, is never hasty in reaching a conclusion and the soundness of his opinions is borne out in his successful practice. He is medical examiner for the Prudential Insurance Company and alternate examiner for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company.

Dr. McCrory is a member of the Knights of Columbus, which draws its support from the adherents of the Catholic faith, he being a member of St. Rose Catholic church. Fraternally he is connected with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and with the Moose, while in politics he maintains an independent course, keeping, however, well informed upon the leading questions and issues of the day.

AUGUSTUS PIPER.

A large proportion of Racine county's substantial citizens have been of German birth or of German descent, and the enterprise and efficiency which have characterized that country have been manifest in these sons of the fatherland who have sought to enjoy the opportunities of the new world. Such was the record of Augustus Piper, a native of Prussia, Germany, who was born on the 19th of August, 1825, and lost his father when but six months old. In 1840 his mother, with her children, took ship for the United States, but the vessel was wrecked at the island of Hayti and the family remained in San Domingo for several months. The mother died there of yellow fever. Augustus Piper at length came to the United States and settled at Cleveland, Ohio, where he made his home with an old friend, Mr. Hansche. After remaining in the Buckeye state for three years he went to New Orleans, where he spent six months, at the end of which time he returned to Ohio. In 1849 he drove from that state to Wisconsin and for two years thereafter worked in this state as a farm hand. He carefully saved his earnings and as soon as possible bought a tract of land on time, making a payment with the capital which he had saved. Gradually, as his resources increased, he added to his holdings until he owned in all three hundred and fifty acres of good land. This he brought to a high state of cultivation, carefully tilling the soil and displaying marked industry in the development of his crops.

On the 8th of November, 1852, Mr. Piper chose as companion and helpmate for life's journey Miss Margaret Braid, a daughter of Thomas Braid, a native of Scotland, and to them were born four sons and two daughters, namely: William, Ellen, Thomas, Frank, Augustus J. and Jane. The death of the father occurred in 1896 and in his passing the community lost one of its

substantial and representative citizens. He was a republican in his political belief, casting his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont and continuing an active supporter of the party principles until called to his final rest. He served in several local offices, including that of supervisor, and he was a member of the school board, doing effective work to further the interests of public education in his locality. He was a man of unusual energy and business ability and those qualities enabled him to win substantial success although he started out in life empty handed.

HENRY WUERZBERGER.

Henry Wuerzberger is well known in Racine where he has spent his entire life. He is now the vice president of the Racine Wholesale Wine & Liquor Company, of which his elder brother Ernest J. Wuerzberger is the president and treasurer. He was born on the 17th of November, 1885, and is a son of Ernest and Louisa (Birkholz) Wuerzberger, who are mentioned on another page of this work in connection with the history of their son Ernest J. Wuerzberger.

At the usual age Henry Wuerzberger became a public school pupil in Racine and worked his way upward through consecutive grades until he felt it incumbent upon him to earn his living following his graduation from the public schools. As a young man he worked with his father and later he traveled all over the United States. Following the death of his father he returned to Racine and assumed the management of the grocery and saloon business which his father had long carried on and which was established by his grandfather. Henry Wuerzberger continued in that business for about four years and then joined his brother, Ernest J., in the Racine Wholesale Wine & Liquor Company. This business had been incorporated in 1906 and he is now active in its management as the vice president.

CHARLES MASON REED.

Charles Mason Reed, who is engaged in farming on section 18, Mount Pleasant township, was born in Ontario county, New York, and in his youthful days obtained a common school education. He was but seven years of age when he accompanied his parents, Ezra and Emeline Reed, from the east to Wisconsin, the family home being established on the plank road in Mount Pleasant township. There they lived for a few years and the father conducted a hotel at Ives Grove. Later he purchased a tract of land in Mount Pleasant township, upon which he resided until 1865, when he removed to a farm of eighty acres on section 18 in the same township and occupied that place until his demise, which occurred in 1899. For two years he had survived his wife, who passed away in 1897. Both had attained ripe old age and were numbered among the valued and respected pioneer settlers of the county.

Charles Mason Reed was reared under the parental roof and in early manhood, responding to the country's call for troops, joined the Union army as a member of Company H, Twenty-second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, with which he served throughout the period of hostilities, participating in a number of hotly contested engagements. Following his return from the war he resumed farming in Mount Pleasant township, where he has since made his home.

Mr. Reed had been previously married, in 1862, in Mount Pleasant township, to Miss Emily S. Phelps, a daughter of Seth P. and Angeline O. Phelps, who were natives of Hannibal, Oswego county, New York. In 1839 they arrived in Racine county, where they remained until 1843 and then drove back to the Empire state. In the spring of 1844 they once more came to the middle west and established their home in Mount Pleasant township. They had a family of seven children, as follows: Emily S.; Barton H., who served in the Union army as a member of Company H, Twenty-second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry; Viola J., living in California; Hortense, who is deceased; Byron P., a resident of Alberta, Canada; Helen J., who makes her home in St. Louis; and Bert J., of Racine. The father passed away in 1891, while the mother survived for almost two decades, her death occurring in 1910. They were consistent and earnest members of the Baptist church and were recognized as people of the highest respectability, warm regard being entertained for them by all who knew them. In his political views Mr. Phelps was an earnest republican and always cast his vote for the candidates of that party.

To Mr. and Mrs. Reed have been born eight children, namely: Estella, Clarence, Hortense and Louie, all of whom have passed away; Byron C., Halsey J., Isabelle, and Edna, who is deceased. Mr. Reed exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party but has never been an aspirant for office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs. He and his wife are members of the Baptist church and both are widely and favorably known in this locality.

HENRY F. HERRICK.

Henry F. Herrick was formerly engaged in the manufacture of hardware specialties, but since 1909 has lived retired, enjoying well deserved leisure. His birth occurred in Racine on the 10th of November, 1847, and his parents were Charles and Anna (Ball) Herrick, natives respectively of Westford, Massachusetts, and New York. The father became one of the capitalists of Racine, holding title to a large amount of real estate in this city and in the state of Nebraska and elsewhere, and served as vice-president of the First National Bank of Racine. He was always willing to promote the public welfare in any way possible and was held in high esteem by his fellow citizens.

Henry F. Herrick attended the public schools in Racine, Racine College and the University of Chicago, thus securing a thorough education. On beginning his independent career he became a traveling salesman for the Geiser Threshing Machine Company, of which he was a stockholder, and later traveled

for the Sawyer Manufacturing Company of Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Upon leaving their employ he went into business with his brother, C. B. Herrick, under the name of C. B. Herrick & Company, and this association was continued until his brother's death, in 1887. Our subject carried on the business alone until 1909, when he sold his interest and retired. C. B. Herrick & Company engaged in the manufacture of hardware specialties, and their product found a ready sale upon the market as it was of high quality and reasonable in price. The growth of the business was due mainly to the enterprise and sound judgment of Mr. Herrick, who concentrated his time and attention upon its management.

Mr. Herrick was married on the 8th of December, 1875, to Miss Gertrude A. Lukes, of Racine, who passed away in July, 1912. To them were born the following children: Sylvia Holt died when a year old; Philip P. enlisted in the First Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and served in the Spanish-American war, later becoming a member of Company A, Thirty-fifth United States Volunteer Infantry at Los Angeles. He has spent some time in the Philippines and is now connected with the customhouse at Manilla. Marjory is the wife of F. A. Vogel. Charles is living in Philadelphia and is employed by the Mitchell Motor Car Company. Henry L. is at home. Donald Lukes is a student in the State University of Wisconsin.

Mr. Herrick is a democrat in politics and has served acceptably as alderman of the sixth ward and as a member of the school board. He is public-spirited to a marked degree and no movement for the advancement of his community along commercial and civic lines lacks his heartiest support. His residence, which is the oldest in that part of Racine, was erected in 1846 by Captain Thomas J. Cram, U. S. N., and was purchased by Charles Herrick, the father of our subject, in 1857. At that time the property included one hundred acres of land, all of which is now a part of Racine. The house is mainly built of oak, although there was some pine used, and many of the sills and main timbers are a foot square. It is excellently constructed throughout and is a fine example of the old style residence. Mr. Herrick spent the year 1911 in the Philippines and during that time gained a great deal of first hand information concerning conditions in the Islands. Practically his entire life, however, has been passed in Racine, and here he intends to continue his residence. He has a wide acquaintance in the city, and his genuine worth has gained him the unqualified respect of all who have been brought in contact with him.

THOMAS P. OWENS.

Almost a quarter of a century has come and gone since Thomas P. Owens departed this life but he is yet remembered as a substantial and valued citizen of Racine county, where for many years he actively and successfully engaged in farming. He was born in Wales, September 20, 1820, a son of Thomas Owens, Sr. In the common schools of Wales he pursued his education and was a man of thirty-one years when in 1851 he crossed the Atlantic to

the United States. He immediately made his way into the interior of the country, settling in Racine county, where he remained for four years. On the expiration of that period he returned to Wales, where he spent four years and then in 1859 again came to the United States, once more establishing his home in Racine county. Here he purchased seventy-five acres of land which he continued to cultivate for a decade. He next purchased one hundred and eight acres and removed to that farm, upon which he continued to reside until his demise, his attention throughout the entire period of his residence in Racine county being given to general agricultural pursuits.

In 1858 Mr. Owens was united in marriage to Miss Anna Lewis and they became the parents of five children: Thomas, who is engaged in cultivation of the old home place; Annie, who was born in 1866 and is the wife of William Jones, of Chicago, by whom she has five living children: Elizabeth, born in 1868; Lewis; and Hugh, who is deceased. The eldest son, Thomas, was born in Mount Pleasant township, June 10, 1860, and acquired his education through attendance at the common schools until he reached the age of sixteen years. He then concentrated his energies upon the farm work on the old homestead and has since carried on general farming. In this work he is associated with his brother Lewis, who was born on the old home place April 29, 1870, and also attended the common schools. Both brothers are supporters of the republican party.

The father also gave his political allegiance to the republican party but was never an aspirant for office. His life was ever upright and honorable, winning for him the respect, confidence and good will of all with whom he was associated.

ROBERT G. NELSON.

Robert G. Nelson, active in the field of real estate, insurance and loans in Racine, was born in this city September 14, 1877, a son of Simon N. and Sophia (Weaver) Nelson, both of whom were natives of Christiania, Norway. When young they came to the United States and were married in Chicago, but in the early '70s removed to Racine. The father was a sailor and became the owner of several boats. He commanded the *Caledonia* as its captain and was also captain of the *I. L. Shanks*, in which he owned a half interest. His entire life was devoted to seamanship and he passed away in 1904, survived by his widow, who still makes her home in Racine.

After pursuing a public school education in this city, Robert G. Nelson turned his attention to the meat business and was the proprietor of several markets at various places in Racine during the fourteen years in which he engaged in the meat business. In that undertaking he prospered but eventually sold out and about 1906 turned his attention to the real estate business, opening an office in connection with E. G. H. Wendt under the firm style of Wendt & Nelson. This partnership was dissolved two years later and Mr. Nelson continued alone for about four years, when he admitted W. S. Dooley to a partnership under the firm name of Nelson & Dooley. After three years

he so'd out to Mr. Dooley and again opened an independent office, located at No. 620 State street. There he is conducting a general real estate, insurance and loan business and the various departments are proving a profitable source of income. He makes it his purpose to keep in close touch with the real estate market, knows the property that is for sale and is thoroughly conversant concerning realty values, so that he is able to assist his clients in making judicious purchases and profitable sales.

In June, 1914, Mr. Nelson was united in marriage to Miss Gertrude Springrude, of Blanchardville, Wisconsin, and they have a son, Robert G., Jr. Mr. Nelson votes with the republican party but has never been an aspirant for office. He has membership in the Commercial Club and is deeply interested in the purposes of that organization, co-operating in its well defined plans to advance the interests and extend the trade relations of the city.

EDGAR A. SEARS.

Many of Racine county's citizens feel that there is no need to seek a location elsewhere because of the excellent opportunities here offered for business advancement, owing to the naturally rich condition of the soil. Among this number is Edgar A. Sears, who has always lived in Caledonia township, his birth having occurred on his father's farm January 23, 1880. His father, Daniel Sears, was also born in Caledonia township, his natal year being 1846, and the mother, who bore the maiden name of Nellie Mann, was born in 1856. The former was a son of Lewis Sears, a native of New England, who at a very early period in the pioneer development of Wisconsin came to Racine county, where he took up land from the government. It was a raw tract covered with timber which he had to clear away before he could cultivate the soil. He spent his remaining days in this county but was killed in the woods when a young man. The maternal grandfather, Rodney Mann, came to Wisconsin when there were but two or three houses in Racine and he, too, established his home in Caledonia township, where he became an extensive and successful farmer, devoting his remaining days to agricultural pursuits here.

Daniel Sears was reared on the old Sears homestead and obtained his education in the district schools. He made farming his life work and in time became the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land in one body, together with a timber tract elsewhere. He started out in business with comparatively little means, but through industry and perseverance won success. His business affairs were characterized by clarity of vision and keen discernment and whatever he undertook he carried forward to successful completion. He died in 1909, while his wife passed away in 1916. They attended the Congregational church, of which Mrs. Sears was a member, and Mr. Sears gave his political allegiance to the republican party. Their family numbered four children, of whom three are still living: Edgar A.; Mabel, the wife of Alex O'son, who is engaged in the feed business in Kenosha; and John, a blacksmith of Raymond township.

In retrospect one can see Edgar A. Sears among the farm boys of his home

neighborhood, indulging in their sports, attending the district school and working in the fields when parental authority assigned him tasks in connection with the cultivation of the crops. He saw no reason to change his occupation when he reached man's estate and after his father's death purchased the interest of the other heirs in the old homestead, so that he now has a valuable farm property of one hundred acres, on which he carries on general farming and dairying. The equipment of the farm includes a nice home, substantial barns and sheds, a good silo, well kept fences and the latest improved machinery and the spirit of enterprise and progress is manifest in the further development of the place.

In 1903 Mr. Sears was married to Miss Meta Becker, a daughter of Herman Becker, a representative agriculturist of Caledonia, and they have three children, Daniel, Mildred and Arthur, aged respectively nine, four and two years.

Mrs. Sears belongs to the German Lutheran church, and both are highly esteemed in the community, having a large circle of friends, who find pleasure in their companionship and recognize their genuine worth.

ROY F. FREEMAN.

Roy F. Freeman is now devoting his energies to agricultural pursuits in Mount Pleasant township, where he has a splendidly developed property of twenty-one acres situated on section 13. He is a representative of one of the old pioneer families of the country and the name has long been prominently associated with industrial activity in Racine. It was in that city that Roy F. Freeman was born, March 21, 1886, his parents being Michael and Lillias Katherine (Porter) Freeman, who were married in Racine on the 15th of September, 1881. The father was born in Centralia, Illinois, January 14, 1860, and was a son of Stephen Freeman, who was born in Llanerchymedd, on the island of Anglesey, Wales, December 26, 1834, his parents being John and Elizabeth (Williams) Freeman, both of whom died when their son Stephen was only about a year and a half old. He lived among neighbors till he reached the age of nine, when he ran away to Liverpool, England, and made his home with John Williams, a builder and the composer of many beautiful Welsh hymns.

Stephen Freeman remained with Mr. Williams until he reached the age of eighteen and during that time served an apprenticeship to the boiler maker's trade. He served for about a year as a boiler maker with the British fleet in the Crimean war and soon afterward sailed for the United States, landing at New York in July, 1856. He was afterward employed in the shops of the Illinois Central Railroad Company at Centralia, Illinois, and on the 4th of July, 1857, he married Elizabeth Willick, who was born in Pennsylvania, April 14, 1834, and was a daughter of Christian and Catherine Willick, who were natives of Germany and settled in Pennsylvania on emigrating to the United States. Soon after his marriage Stephen Freeman decided to engage in farming but was soon ready to return to his trade and established a boiler shop at

Cairo, Illinois. In 1862 he enlisted in the United States army as a boiler maker of the Mississippi river squadron, with which he served for two years, when his health failed and he was obliged to return to the north. He afterward spent two years in the shops of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company, at Milwaukee and Watertown, and in the spring of 1867 came to Racine to engage in boiler making for John Kirkland, whose interest in the business he purchased. He afterward opened a boiler shop and this became the initial step in the establishment of the S. Freeman & Sons Manufacturing Company, which became one of the foremost business enterprises of Racine. In 1879 he admitted his son Charles to a partnership under the firm style of Stephen Freeman & Son which was changed to Stephen Freeman & Sons when Michael Freeman became a partner in 1881. Five years later the business was incorporated under the title of the S. Freeman & Sons Manufacturing Company and the father remained active in the management and control of the business to the time of his death, watching its satisfactory development which made it a profitable concern.

His son, Michael Freeman, was but seven years of age when the family came to Racine and when a lad of thirteen he began learning the molder's trade, manifesting marked ability along that line, so that at the age of seventeen he became foreman in his father's foundry department. As stated, he was admitted to a partnership and upon the incorporation of the business in 1886 was made secretary. Following the death of his father in 1889 he also became superintendent of the works. His inventive genius found expression in the making of a molder's flask, upon which he secured a patent when but nineteen years of age. He has secured three patents on feed cutters and four on broadcast seeders and all of his improvements are now in general use.

Michael Freeman was married in Racine, September 15, 1881, to Lillias Katherine Porter, daughter of Lemuel C. and Esther J. (Austin) Porter, the former a native of New York and the latter of Massachusetts. The family is of English lineage and in childhood Lemuel C. Porter removed with his parents to Taunton, Massachusetts, where he married and resided until 1875. Through the four succeeding years he made his home in Aurora, Illinois, and then came to Racine, accepting the position of superintendent of the silver plating works. When the plant was burned in 1882 he went to Rockford, Illinois, where he continued the business for the same firm under the name of the Racine Silver Plate Company. In 1886, however, he and his wife returned to Taunton, Massachusetts. Their eldest daughter became the wife of Michael Freeman and the mother of three children, Bessie, Frank and Roy. The parents are members of the Congregational church and Mr. Freeman gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. He has long ranked with the prominent representatives of industrial activity in Racine and his labors have contributed much to the business development of the city.

Roy F. Freeman, reared under the parental roof, attended the public schools, also Racine College and the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated on the completion of an agricultural course in 1906. For three years he worked in his father's factory in Racine but it was his desire to concentrate his efforts upon farm work and he purchased twenty-one acres in Mount Pleasant township on which he has since lived. He there follows farming

according to most modern scientific methods and his labors are attended with good results.

On the 2d of December, 1908, Mr. Freeman was married to Miss Ethel Mainland, a daughter of James and Anna (Davis) Mainland, of Racine, who settled in this county at an early day. The father was of Scotch lineage, while the mother was of Welsh descent. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Freeman, Esther Jane and Margaret Anna.

The parents belong to the Congregational church, which has been the religious faith of the family through several generations. Mr. Freeman maintains an independent political attitude, voting for the candidate whom he regards as best qualified for office. All who know him esteem him highly. He is a well read man, actuated in all that he does by the modern spirit of enterprise and progress. He has never been content to follow methods already in vogue but has sought to utilize the new ideas which scientific investigation has brought to light and his labors are at all times a manifestation of later-day progress that produces practical and substantial results.

JAMES V. ROHAN.

James V. Rohan, one of Racine's most enterprising and energetic manufacturers, president of the Belle City Incubator Company, was born in Racine in 1867, a son of James and Delia Rohan, who arrived in this county about 1840 after coming to the new world from County Limerick, Ireland, of which district they were natives.

James V. Rohan was reared under the parental roof and obtained what education he could in the public schools up to the age of twelve and one-half years, when it seemed necessary for him to provide for his own support and at that time he became an office boy for the Racine Wagon & Carriage Company. After a short period in that position he entered the service of the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company where he remained for seventeen years. There he progressed in experience and knowledge but, being ever alert to the possibilities for success along certain manufacturing lines, he severed his connection with the Case Company, and in 1900 organized the Belle City Incubator Company. In order to establish a basis for this business he purchased the outfit and what good will an incubator firm in Ohio had, moved the plant to Racine, and at once started to push the business. That he has succeeded is denoted by the fact that he is now the largest manufacturer in the world building exclusively one size—one hundred and forty egg incubators, and one hundred and forty chick brooders, and this is due wholly to his ability to pursue a given course and the energy and tenacity to overcome all obstacles. Opportunity knocks at the door of the many and but few open the door. Not so with James V. Rohan. He has always kept the door of opportunity open. From a small beginning, to a capacity of thirty-two hundred incubators and brooders per week is a record worth while. The company employs fifty or more workmen, all skilled, and the output is shipped all over the United States, Europe, South America, and Australia. A complete line of poultry

supplies is carried and the company has warehouses in Buffalo, Kansas City and Minneapolis. The plant is located on Fifteenth street and the St. Paul Railway tracks. Mr. Rohan is also president of the Metro-nite Company, of Milwaukee, large producers of extenders for paint. His accomplishment is due to the possession of certain qualities but these qualities are such as the individual may cultivate—determination, energy, industry. In a word, he has made splendid use of his opportunities. He has learned life's lessons in the broad school of experience and has thoroughly mastered each.

On the 14th of July, 1903, Mr. Rohan was married to Miss Laura A. Kaempfer, a daughter of Vites and Katharine Kaempfer, of Racine. Their children are Katharine Jane and James K., aged respectively twelve and nine years and now attending private school.

Mr. Rohan is a public-spirited man, recognizing the duties and obligations of citizenship and fully meeting each in turn. Citizens of Racine know his worth and appreciate his devotion to the public good. He has been a member of the park board for several years and its president for the past four years and in this connection has done much to improve and beautify the city. He is a valued member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and is now president of the Elk's Building Association. He is also president of the Somerset Club, an exclusive social organization. For recreation he turns to golf, and is a director of the Racine Country Club. In a word, he is a very courteous, polished gentleman, popular with a large circle of friends, the number of which is constantly growing as the circle of his acquaintance widens. In summing up the story of James V. Rohan's life, from office boy at twelve years of age to president of one of Racine's most important industries and presiding officer of four other institutions, we find the story well worth reading—one that establishes the fact that perseverance and unfaltering determination will accomplish all things, the record being such as future generations may well emulate.

FREDERICK J. OSIUS.

“Opportunity knocks but once” and Frederick J. Osius has never waited for the second knock but has improved every chance that has come. Moreover, he possesses the energy and tenacity to successfully complete what he undertakes and his work in several respects is notable. America leads the world in invention. Wherever work has been extensively carried on by hand, man's ingenuity has set to work to contrive labor-saving devices whereby the output could be increased at a minimum expenditure of time and material. It is this inventive genius, combined with mechanical and technical skill and fostered by a laudable ambition, that has brought Frederick J. Osius to the front in industrial circles of Racine and made him the efficient head of the Hamilton-Beach Manufacturing Company, which he organized in the spring of 1910.

Mr. Osius is a native son of Racine, born November 25, 1879, his parents being M. L. and Josephine (Heltieh) Osius, who at an early period in the

development of this section of the state established their home here. The father became a retail merchant of the city and was well known in business circles.

When a lad of thirteen years Frederick J. Osius became a clerk in his father's store and eventually embarked in the retail business on his own account. Through the wise and capable management of his business he managed to save twelve thousand dollars. He not only had the ability to successfully control the sale of goods, but he also possessed natural mechanical ingenuity and his experiments resulted in the invention of a sewing machine. In this undertaking, however, he sustained a six thousand dollar loss, his health became impaired and he suffered greatly from indigestion. Because of this he purchased an electric medical battery and noting that it could be improved upon he immediately set to work to make the improvement and with this end in view hired a machinist. This was his initial step in organizing the Standard Electric Company for the purpose of manufacturing batteries and the undertaking proved very profitable. Into the field of industrial activity he has thus ventured and from it there is no turning back, as the limitless opportunity for the exercise of his inventive genius makes continuous call upon him. He invented the first portable vacuum cleaner and continued in the business until December 1, 1909, when he sold out to the McCrumb-Howell Company for three hundred thousand dollars. It was at this time that he organized the Hamilton-Beach Manufacturing Company in the spring of 1910, establishing his plant on Douglas avenue over the F. J. Greene factory. He started there with three men, with himself as president and general manager of the business. Since that time his inventive powers have been continually called into play and he is constantly studying upon new lines that will meet the public needs. He patented the Cyclone drink mixer which is operated electrically and the popularity of this is indicated in the fact that eighty thousand of these have already been sold. He also manufactures hair dryers, shoe sewing machine motors and all kinds of labor-saving devices, most of which are made under his own patents. In August, 1915, he built a new factory on the Rapids road and the Northwestern tracks which was completed in March, 1916. The main building, three hundred by five hundred feet, is three stories in height and is of modern mill construction with a sprinkler system. Such is the thorough protection against fire that he has the lowest insurance rate given in Racine. There are also two other buildings, the warehouse and polishing room being maintained in a three story building one hundred and twenty-five by thirty feet, while the boiler room is in a building sixty by seventy feet. The marvelous growth of the undertaking is indicated in the fact that while he began business with only three employes he today has over four hundred people working in his plant and the product is sold all over the world. The sales now amount to one million dollars or more annually and the factory is the most modern in construction and equipment in Racine.

In 1913 Mr. Osius was married to Miss Mary Dolan, of Michigan. They are well known in Racine, where Mr. Osius holds membership in the Elks. He also has prominent club relations in other cities. He belongs to the Chicago Athletic Club, to the Milwaukee Athletic Association, the National Manufac-

turers' Association, the Racine Manufacturers' Association and the Commercial Club. His record is marvelous by reason of his notable success attained within a comparatively few years. He has anticipated and met the wants of the public in the line of his manufactured articles, and judicious advertising and the spirit of enterprise have enabled him to put his output upon the market in such a way that the sales have been continually increased. When one reads the history of an American business institution such as this, one recognizes that fact always outstrips fancy in the long run. Determination and courage have been the foundation stones upon which the undertaking has been built. Not only has it won success for its founder but has also been a public benefaction in that it has furnished employment to a large force of workmen; and such a business is not only a maker of money—it is also a maker of men.

WILLIAM F. C. BIEHN.

William F. C. Biehn ranks among the most successful of the younger farmers of the county and derives a good income from his well directed labors. He was born in Kenosha county, on the 3d of October, 1886, and is a son of Fred W. and Bertha (Steffen) Biehn, both natives of Germany, the former born in 1825 and the latter in 1841. The paternal grandfather, Jacob Biehn, passed his entire life in Germany but the maternal grandfather emigrated to this country and located in Milwaukee, where he had a milk route. Fred W. Biehn, who was the oldest of a family of three brothers, received an excellent education in his native country and throughout his life kept well informed on the events and movements of general interest. When twenty years old he came to the United States and settled in Kenosha county where he purchased a farm on which he spent the remainder of his life. At the time of his death he owned three hundred acres of good land and was independent financially. He was held in high esteem and warm regard in his community and his death, which occurred in 1890, was deeply regretted. He was a republican in politics and his religious faith was that of the Lutheran church. He was married in Milwaukee, to Miss Bertha Steffen, who survived him for almost a quarter of a century, being called to her final rest in December, 1914. They became the parents of seven children, of whom six survive: W. F. C.; John, a resident of Burlington, Wisconsin; Maggie, the wife of Henry W. Steffen, a ward foreman in Milwaukee; Fred, who is operating the old homestead in Kenosha county; Katie, the wife of Jacob Kreuscher, a farmer of Kenosha county; and Bertha A., who makes her home with her brother William F. C.

The boyhood and youth of William F. C. Biehn were passed upon the home farm in Kenosha county and he acquired his education in the common schools of that county and of Racine county and in the high school at Union Grove, which he attended for a year. He has concentrated his energies upon farming since putting aside his textbooks and now owns seventy acres of land in Yorkville township, which were formerly owned by his father, and ten acres in Dover township. He does general farming, raising grain and stock, and

also engages in dairying to some extent, keeping about seven milch cows. He also raises a large number of pure blooded Silverlace Wyandotte chickens and as he co-ordinates the various branches of his business he receives a good financial return from his labor.

Mr. Biehn supports the republican party at the polls, but although he is not remiss in any of the duties of citizenship, has never taken active part in politics. He has preferred to confine his time and attention to his farming interests and has won a degree of prosperity that many an older man might well envy. His entire life has been passed in this section and the fact that those who have known him since boyhood hold him in the highest esteem is incontestable proof of his genuine worth.

ISIDOR FRIEDMAN.

The mercantile establishment of The Friedman Company, might well be termed the "Marshall Field" of Racine. Not only is it the largest store of its kind in the city but it institutes and adopts the most progressive methods and in all of its undertakings displays the spirit of initiative and progress.

The business was started in Racine about nine years ago and has been developed to one of extensive proportions and success in large measure crowns the efforts of the members of this firm.

Isidor Friedman, who is head of The Friedman Company, was born in Germany in 1854 and when nine years of age made the voyage across the Atlantic to the United States, and was reared in New York city. When a young man he went to St. Louis, Missouri, where he entered the business world. Having attained success, he retired from active business in 1906, but being a man of extraordinary ambition, he was not satisfied to remain away from business activities, and in the year 1907 he came to Racine, where he embarked in the ladies ready-to-wear business, opening a store in the Masonic Temple building. Mr. Friedman and his store soon became very popular with the Racine public. The high class of merchandise carried, coupled with his straightforward methods, made it a successful enterprise from the beginning and the business grew with rapid strides.

In order to meet the demands of the trade, Mr. Friedman secured the building adjoining his store on the north and connected it with his store. The business continued to prosper and was growing so rapidly that in 1912 Mr. Friedman found it necessary to again enlarge and it was during that year he built an addition to his store which extended it from Main street through to Lake avenue, a depth of about two hundred and fifty feet, with a frontage on Main street of eighty feet, having also built an arcade front with show windows extending over one hundred feet, making it one of the most unique and best equipped outfitting stores for ladies and children in this part of the country.

The business was begun under the name of Friedman's Cloak & Suit Company. The confidence of a public, appreciative of good values and painstaking service, soon led to a greater success, due to the advantages derived by an enormous purchasing power, and having added many departments of dry

goods, shoes, ladies furnishings, etc., the name of the firm was changed to The Friedman Company, which enjoys the distinction of conducting an institution which is a credit and pride to the entire community.

Mr. Friedman's son, Arthur, is associated with him in this business. They have also recently established in Racine a high class photo-play house, The Palace Theatre the entrance of which is directly south of the Friedman store. This new enterprise has proved to be a grand success and reflects credit on the Friedmans.

Mr. Friedman also has three daughters, all of whom are married. Mr. Friedman is a member of the Masonic Fraternity, also an Elk, and belongs to the Racine Commercial Club and Country Club, also several other charitable and social societies. He maintains an independent political attitude, but is deeply interested in affairs relating to the progress and upbuilding of the city and lends active aid and co-operation to all movements for the general good.

He is farseeing, honest and public-spirited and through all his career has held many important relations to the public interests and his present enviable position is the result of a well balanced mind and a sterling character.

S. H. HANSCHÉ.

It was in Mount Pleasant township, where he still resides, that S. H. Hansche was born on the 21st of November, 1878, his parents being Frederick J. and Fredricka Hansche. His home at the present time is on section 32, where he is engaged in farming, winning substantial success as a reward for his persistent and intelligently directed labor. At the usual age he entered the common schools and thus continued his studies to the age of fifteen. In the meantime he had received active training in farm work and after his textbooks were put aside he continued to assist his father until he reached the age of twenty-four years, when he started out in business independently, forming a partnership with his brother, A. J. Hansche. Together they now farm one hundred and ten acres of land, which they carefully and successfully cultivate, raising the crops best adapted to soil and climatic conditions here. That their methods are at once practical and progressive is indicated in the success which has come to them.

On the 2d of December, 1905, Mr. Hansche was married to Miss Emma Wensing, a daughter of John Wensing, one of the earliest settlers of Mount Pleasant township, who is now a resident of Racine. Mrs. Hansche was born in Somers township, Kenosha county, in 1882, and by her marriage has become the mother of three sons, Norman, Oliver and Robert, all in school.

The parents are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, contribute generously to its support and take an active interest in its work. In politics Mr. Hansche is a republican where national issues are involved but casts an independent ballot at local elections. He has served as a member of the town board of supervisors for two years and was pathmaster for four or five years. He has ever been diligent and determined in carrying on his business, early recognizing the fact that industry is the basis of all honorable suc-

cess. Throughout his entire life he has been identified with agricultural pursuits in Mount Pleasant township and is now numbered among its most respected and worthy farmers.

FREDERICK J. HANSCHÉ.

That Frederick J. Hansche was an industrious and enterprising business man is indicated in the fact that at the time of his death he was the owner of an excellent property of one hundred and twelve acres, although when he first came to Racine county he had to earn his living by working as a farm hand. He was born in Germany on the 17th of October, 1837, and in that country acquired a common school education. About 1865 he crossed the Atlantic to the United States and for a year thereafter was a resident of Cincinnati. He then came to Racine county and for a year or two was employed at farm labor, during which period he most carefully saved his earnings until his industry and economy had brought him a sufficient sum to enable him to purchase seventeen acres of land in Mount Pleasant township. Upon that tract he then engaged in truck farming and as his financial resources increased he kept adding to his holdings from time to time until at his demise he was the owner of one hundred and twelve acres, which he brought to a high state of cultivation, while to the farm he added many modern and substantial improvements.

Before leaving Germany, Frederick J. Hansche was married to Miss Fredericka Tigges and to them were born six children: George, who is living in Polk county, Wisconsin, and has two children; Minnie, the wife of A. J. Sheckler, a resident of Racine; Emma, deceased; Alfred J.; Samuel H., who is married and has three children; and Eda, the wife of P. J. Meyers, of Racine, by whom she has six children.

The parents were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Hansche gave his political allegiance to the republican party. For several years he served as a member of the school board and for a number of years he occupied the position of roadmaster. He was interested in everything pertaining to the welfare and progress of his community and gave active and earnest support to all measures that he deemed of public value and benefit.

ALFRED J. HANSCHÉ.

Alfred J. Hansche, the second son of Frederick J. Hansche, now occupies and cultivates the old home farm in connection with his brother, Samuel H. He was born in Mount Pleasant township, February 28, 1874, and attended the district schools until he reached the age of sixteen or seventeen years. He then went to Racine, where he was employed for nine years in the meat market of A. J. Sheckler but on the expiration of that period he returned to the home farm, of which he has since had charge in connection with his

brother. They have carefully and systematically cultivated the place, which is largely devoted to the raising of vegetables, and for their product they find a ready sale on the market. The work is systematically and scientifically carried on. They have studied the needs of the soil, know where the best results can be achieved for each crop and their annual sales now amount to a large figure.

In 1904 Alfred J. Hansche was married to Miss Jennie Bose, a daughter of William F. and Nellie (Bread) Bose. Two children have been born to this marriage, Dorothy and George, who are with their parents on the old homestead, and in the community the family is regarded most highly, occupying a position of prominence and influence. In his political views Mr. Hansche is an earnest republican, while his religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. His record, like that of the others of the Hansche family, is most creditable and through more than half a century the Hansches have borne a helpful and important part in the work of developing and improving this section of the state.

WILLIAM M. FOSTER.

Among the excellent and well equipped printing establishments of Racine is that owned and conducted by William M. Foster under the name of the Lakeside Printing Company. He established the business in 1893 and during the intervening period of twenty-three years has built up a large and gratifying trade, while at all times he has kept his establishment as an exponent of the best in the printing business, his motto being "Printing as you want it, when you want it."

Mr. Foster was born in Walworth county, Wisconsin, August 15, 1862, and is a son of Leonard M. and Martha M. (Spur) Foster. The father died in 1865, and the mother afterward became the wife of Charles Garfield, of Elkhorn, Wisconsin, and removed to Racine on the 14th of March, 1876. She was born in New York state and came to Wisconsin with her parents in 1843, the family home being established in Walworth county. She died in Racine in 1906.

William M. Foster attended the third ward school in Racine, Racine College, and the Marsh Business College but in the interim had begun to earn his living when a youth of ten years. When but a boy he not only provided for his own support but also aided in the support of his mother. In 1879 he began to learn the printing business, working on the Racine News until 1881 and during the succeeding year on the Advocate. On the 30th of October, 1883, he started and managed the Times, with offices in the Knight building, 510 Main street. It is still published under the name of the Racine Times-Cad. Mr. Foster was employed on the Times and Journal from 1884 to 1893. In the latter year he organized the Lakeside Printing Company and established the business which he still conducts and of which he is now exclusive owner. He carries on a general commercial job printing business, and his establishment is liberally patronized, the volume of trade having now reached a large figure.

On the 16th of September, 1902, Mr. Foster was married to Miss Jennie F.

Dickson, who passed away in March, 1904. For his second wife he chose Gussie R. Shields, whom he wedded November 29, 1908. She is a daughter of Mrs. Mary Syrieh Shields, one of the early settlers of this part of the state.

Mr. Foster is identified with the Knights of Pythias, the Uniform Rank, the Pythian Sisters and the Dramatic Order of the Knights of Khorassan. He belongs to Isaac Taylor Lodge of the Sons of St. George, and also to the Royal Arcanum, the Elks and Charles Filer Camp, No. 31, Sons of Veterans, while to its ladies' auxiliary he has been judge advocate for several years. He was likewise dictator and deputy supreme dictator of the Moose. He became a charter member of the Racine Commercial Club and is much interested in its well defined plans and purposes for the material development and progress of the city. In trade relations he is identified with the Racine Retail Merchants Association. He is an associate member of St. Luke's Episcopal church, a member of the Young Men's Christian Association and an honorary member of the State Woman's Christian Temperance Union. All these indicate the breadth and nature of his interests, showing that his life is guided by high and honorable principles and that his purposes find expression in those projects which are for the benefit and uplift of mankind. His has been an active and useful life, reaching out along beneficial lines for the material, social and moral progress of the community.

NORBERT GRABHER.

Norbert Grabher, who was formerly identified with industrial interests in Racine for many years, is now living upon a farm of seventeen acres on section 37, Mount Pleasant township, where he has a fine home. He was born in Austria, November 9, 1855, and is a son of Jerome and Katrina Grabher. He attended the common schools to the age of twelve years and afterward worked upon the home farm and throughout the locality as a farm hand until about twenty-five years of age. It was in 1882 that he crossed the Atlantic, making his way to Philadelphia, and through the succeeding summer he was employed at farm labor near that city. He then made his way westward to Chicago, where he worked in a wholesale house for two years, after which he came to Racine and was employed in the chicory factory for a year and a half. He then went back to Chicago, where he held a position in a malt house for eight months, after which he again came to Racine and occupied a position in the chicory factory for six or seven months. Subsequently he spent a year with the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company in the plow works and for eight or ten years was employed in the carriage shop. At the end of that time he bought seventeen acres of land and has occupied his farm continuously since 1906.

In November, 1887, occurred the marriage of Mr. Grabher and Miss Sophia Hansehe, a daughter of Rudolph Hansehe. They have become parents of five children: Benjamin F., living at home; Emily, who is the wife Chris Nelson and has one child: Viola, who married Dave Sorensen, of Mount Pleasant, and has two living children; and Flora and Ernie, both at home.

Mr. Grabher belongs to the Pentecostal church of Racine and he gives his political allegiance to the prohibition party, thus giving evidence of his stalwart support of the temperance cause, the work of which he has advocated both by precept and example. He is a self-made man who in the school of experience has learned many valuable lessons and who from the age of twelve years has depended entirely upon his own resources. He has worked diligently and persistently and his close application to his business affairs has been the source of the substantial success which he now enjoys.

EDWARD T. BILLINGS.

Edward T. Billings is a Racine photographer, who is familiar with every phase of photographic work both in its mechanical and artistic lines. He keeps in touch with the latest improved processes of photography and his ability is manifested in his substantial and growing success. A native of Ontario, Canada, he was born April 12, 1852, his parents being Bradish D. and Eliza (Harry) Billings, who were natives of New York and of Cornwall, England, respectively. The paternal grandfather, Ira Billings, visited the United States on various occasions but spent his last days in Canada where he passed away at the age of eighty-two years. The maternal grandfather, a native of England, crossed the Atlantic to Canada and there followed the carpenter's trade throughout his remaining days.

Bradish D. Billings was reared to the occupation of farming and upon his arrival in Racine county, in 1860, purchased land in Yorkville township, on which he resided for several years and then took up his abode in the city of Racine, where he continued to make his home until called to his final rest, in 1899, when seventy-six years of age. His wife passed away May 18, 1911. They were members of the Episcopal church. Their family numbered two sons and two daughters: Edward T. and William F., both residents of Racine; and Margaret and Agatha, twins. The former is employed as a bookkeeper and stenographer, while the latter has become the wife of Thomas Rowley, of Racine county.

When a youth of eight years Edward T. Billings came with his parents to Racine county and spent his youthful days upon the home farm, his boyhood experiences being those which usually fall to the lot of the farm bred boy. He supplemented his early education, obtained in the district schools, by further study in the public schools of Racine and afterward took up the study of photography, believing that he would find that vocation an interesting one, and hoping, through business ability and enterprise, to make it profitable. In 1872 he opened his studio in Racine and in the intervening years has made continuous progress until he is now one of the foremost photographers of the state. There has been marked advance in photographic processes and methods and with these he has always kept in touch. He knows how best to utilize light and shade and position and he has the faculty of catching an expression that is characteristic of the individual and therefore makes of the picture an excellent likeness.

On the 20th of March, 1877, Mr. Billings was united in marriage to Miss Mary Easson, a daughter of Captain Larry and Alice (Green) Easson. They have become the parents of two children, Harry and Edna. Mrs. Billings is a member of the Baptist church, while Mr. Billings is well known in Masonic circles, holding membership in Racine Lodge, No. 18, F. & A. M., Orient Chapter, No. 12, R. A. M., and Racine Commandery, No. 7, K. T. He has always maintained an independent political attitude nor have the honors and emoluments of office ever had attraction for him. The family residence is an attractive home at No. 924 Lake avenue. At all times he has been actuated by the spirit of advancement and each forward step he has taken in his business career has brought him a wider outlook and broader opportunities.

OWEN P. PRITCHARD.

One of the valued citizens of Mount Pleasant township of Welsh birth was Owen P. Pritchard, who during the pioneer epoch in the history of the county cast in his lot with the early settlers here and continued his residence in this locality until his death. He was born in Wales on the 11th of May, 1827, and was a youth of fifteen when in 1842 he crossed the Atlantic with his parents, Robert and Margaret Pritchard. The father purchased one hundred acres of land in Mount Pleasant township, Racine county, and continuously and successfully engaged in general farming up to the time of his death, which occurred in 1882.

Owen P. Pritchard became the active assistant of his father in the farm work and so continued until 1855, when he was married and began farming on his own account. He purchased one hundred and twenty-five acres of land in Mount Pleasant township and he, too, devoted his energies to the work of tilling the soil until his life's labors were terminated September 13, 1894. He early realized that diligence is the basis of all honorable success and he based his prosperity upon indefatigable energy and close application.

In 1855 occurred the marriage of Mr. Pritchard and Miss Sallie Ann Bell, who was born September 6, 1827, a daughter of Captain John Bell, of West Allis, Wisconsin, who came to this state in 1842. Two children were born of this marriage: Stella, whose birth occurred August 14, 1856, and who passed away September 7, 1898; and Ginevra, who was born September 29, 1862, and became the wife of Thomas R. Williams. Mrs. Pritchard died October 2, 1908, and rests in Mound cemetery, where her husband and daughter, Stella, are also buried.

The family home was a log cabin until 1871, when this was replaced by a more commodous brick residence. There were difficulties and obstacles to be encountered in the early days, but in time these gave way before persistent effort and unremitting diligence. Before purchasing his farm Mr. Pritchard was in partnership with Daniel Slosson in the work of getting out ship timber, which they sent by way of the water route to Buffalo, New York. In religious faith Mr. Pritchard was a Congregationalist, while his political belief was that of the republican party. He was always interested in everything per-

taining to the general welfare and for years was a member of the school board. He also served as town treasurer for one term and for several years was supervisor. That he was regarded as a man of honor and integrity is indicated in the fact that he was chosen administrator of various estates. Those who knew him entertained for him the warmest regard and no trust reposed in him was ever betrayed in the slightest degree.

THOMAS R. WILLIAMS.

Thomas R. Williams, a representative farmer of Mount Pleasant township, living on section 18, was born in Wales, September 8, 1859, a son of William and Elizabeth (Richards) Williams, who in the year 1870 came to the United States, reaching Racine on the 1st of August. The father worked at the carpenter's trade until 1881 and then purchased thirty acres of land in Mount Pleasant township, on which the family home was established and maintained until the parents were called to their final rest. The mother died in 1908 and the father passed away in 1915, the remains of both being interred in Mound cemetery at Racine. The father gave his political allegiance to the republican party and both he and his wife were consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams had a family of five children: Thomas R.; Annie, who became the wife of Burns Rork, of Franksville, and died leaving a daughter, Laura; Emily, who became the wife of Richard Rowland and died leaving a son, Byron; Trinnett, deceased; and William.

Thomas R. Williams was a lad of about eleven years when his parents left Wales and came with their family to the new world. He attended the district schools in Raymond township until he reached the age of fifteen and he afterward devoted his attention to work upon the home farm until 1888. He then began farming on his own account in Mount Pleasant township and in 1892 he married Ginevra Pritchard. They have an excellent tract of land in Mount Pleasant township, which is now in a high state of cultivation. In 1904 he retired, renting the farm and is residing in West Racine. In politics he is independent, while the religious faith of himself and wife is that of the Congregational church. They are highly esteemed in the community in which they live, having a large circle of warm friends who extend to them the generous hospitality of their homes.

BURTON E. NELSON.

Burton E. Nelson is prominent among the educators of Wisconsin who have devoted their time and energies to public school instruction and for twelve years he has been the valued superintendent of schools in Racine, where substantial improvements and advancement have been made under his guidance and direction. He holds to high ideals in his chosen life work and puts forth

every effort to reach the standards which he has set up. Professor Nelson is a native of Pennsylvania, his birth having occurred in Bedford county, July 30, 1867, his parents being John and Susan (Cypher) Nelson, both of whom were natives of the Keystone state. The father was a miller by trade, acquainting himself with that business in early life, but afterward he took up the profession of law and for ten years served as associate judge of his district.

Liberal educational advantages were accorded Burton E. Nelson because of his evident desire to advance along the lines of intellectual development. He was a student in the military academy at Whitehall, Pennsylvania, before entering the Pennsylvania State Normal School at Millersville, Pennsylvania, from which he was graduated with the class of 1884. Later he entered the Western Normal College at Bushnell, Illinois, and was graduated therefrom in 1891, but in the meantime he had entered upon the profession of teaching, which he had followed successfully for a number of years, early proving his ability to impart readily and concisely to others the knowledge that he had acquired. He afterward became principal of the high school at Bushnell, Illinois, and later was made city superintendent of the schools at that place. In 1893 he accepted the position of city superintendent of schools at Lewistown, Illinois, and that he was popular as an educator there was indicated in the fact that his services were retained until 1900, when he resigned to become superintendent of schools at Lincoln, Illinois, where he remained for four years. On the expiration of that period in 1904 he came to Racine as city superintendent of schools and has so continued to the present time, covering a period of twelve years. Each change has marked a progressive step in his professional career and throughout all the period of his identification with educational work he has been a close student of the plans and projects which have been put forth by noted educators to render the intellectual training of the young a more effective force as a preparation for life's practical responsibilities and duties. Under his direction the schools of Racine have been well organized, the work carefully systematized and new standards introduced. The system of instruction, too, has been modified to meet changing conditions and the public recognizes the fact that his labors have been of far-reaching and permanent benefit.

Mr. Nelson has been married twice. In 1893 he wedded Rachel Schrader, who died in 1896, leaving a daughter, Ruth Louise, who is now a teacher in the normal school at Muncie, Indiana. In 1900 Mr. Nelson was united in marriage to Miss Mae Mack, of Lewistown, Fulton county, Illinois. By this marriage there is one child, Wayne.

Mr. Nelson is a member of the Methodist church. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are well known socially in the community, being cordially received into those homes where intelligence and culture are accepted as the passports to good society. Mr. Nelson holds membership with the Sons of Veterans, being entitled thereto by reason of his father's service as a soldier of the Civil war, having served with the Union army as a first lieutenant of the Eighteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry. Professor Nelson is also identified with various fraternal organizations, including the Modern Woodmen of America, the Knights of Pythias, the Court of Honor and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, which order he is now presiding over as exalted ruler. In Masonry he has attained high rank, having taken the degrees of lodge, chapter, council and

commandery, and in his life he exemplifies the beneficent spirit of the craft which is based upon a recognition of the brotherhood of mankind and the duties thereby imposed. In politics he votes for men and measures rather than party and he has neither filled nor sought political office, preferring always to give undivided attention to his professional duties, which he meets with a sense of conscientious responsibility and obligation, knowing how important it is through the impressionable age of youth to impress upon the mind those things which shall have permanent value. Racine's citizens on the whole highly indorse Mr. Nelson in his educational methods, and his colleagues and contemporaries attest his high rank as an educator. In 1914 and 1915 he was president of the Wisconsin State Teachers' Association.

JOHN O. THOMAS.

John O. Thomas, living on section 23, Caledonia township, manages an excellent farm property of two hundred and twenty-nine acres, devoting much of his time to dairying. He was born November 23, 1867, in the township where he yet makes his home, his parents being John W. and Margaret (Owen) Thomas, both of whom were natives of Carnarvonshire, Wales, born in 1826 and 1842 respectively. The paternal grandfather was John Thomas, a weaver by trade, who spent his entire life in Wales, and the maternal grandfather was John Owen, a sea captain, who also lived throughout his life in that little rock-ribbed country. In 1846 the father of John O. Thomas crossed the Atlantic, becoming a resident of Racine county. Four years afterward, or in 1850, he went to the California gold fields and was quite successful in his work in the mines. He afterward returned to Wales, where he was married and then brought his bride to America, becoming a resident of Caledonia township in 1865. He purchased a farm of one hundred and fifty-three acres and afterward extended its boundaries by the purchase of an additional tract of eighty acres. Much of this farm was still covered with timber and brush when it came into his possession, but he cleared it and brought the fields to a high state of cultivation, so that he annually gathered substantial crops. He worked diligently year by year, following progressive methods of farming, and thus as time passed he won a place among the substantial agriculturists of his community. In 1893 he built a beautiful country home upon his place and was there most comfortably situated until death called him in 1895. His widow still survives. In his political views Mr. Thomas was an earnest republican and was a most public-spirited citizen, taking an active and helpful interest in all measures that promoted the general welfare or advanced the best interests of his community. He was a well read man, keeping informed on all questions and issues of the day and the leading current events. He deserved much credit for what he accomplished, for his success was attributable entirely to his own efforts. Mrs. Thomas still survives her husband and she and her children are all members of the Welsh Presbyterian church. In their family were three sons and two daughters: Owen, Mary J. and John O., all upon the

home farm: William, who is employed by the Pure Milk Company of Racine; and Alice, at home.

Reared on the old homestead farm, John O. Thomas pursued a district school education and afterward spent six months as a student in the Belle City Business College at Racine. He then took up the occupation of farming, which he has always followed, and he now manages the o'd home property, which comprises two hundred and twenty-nine acres of rich and arable land. He makes dairying the principal feature of his business and has a good herd of high grade Holstein cows, with a full blooded male at the head of the herd. He has remodeled the buildings upon the place, erecting some new outbuildings, and altogether the farm is a valuable and attractive property, giving every evidence of the careful supervision and progressive methods of Mr. Thomas.

In political circles Mr. Thomas is also prominent, being a recognized leader in the ranks of the republican party in this county. He served as town clerk from 1896 until 1899 and in 1904 was elected to the general assembly, where he made so creditable a record during the first term that he was re-elected and during two sessions left the impress of his individuality, ability and public spirit upon the work of the lawmaking body of the state. He stands for progress and improvement in public affairs as well as in private life and in his political activities has ever subordinated personal interests to the public good.

GUSTAVE V. KRADWELL.

Gustave V. Kradwell, the president and treasurer of the Kradwell Drug Company, displays those qualities which make for strong commercial organization, development and success and his well defined plans and purposes have resulted in the upbuilding of one of the largest enterprises of this character in southern Wisconsin, as he is at the head of a company owning and controlling seven different drug stores. In his business career he seems ready to meet any emergency and he never fears to venture where favoring opportunity points out the way. He was born in Boscobel, Wisconsin, July 6, 1867, a son of V. J. and Elizabeth (Weibel) Kradwell, the former a native of Austria and the latter of Switzerland. The father was a son of Albert Kradwell, also a native of Austria, who came to America some time after the arrival of his two sons, V. J. and Charles Kradwell, who crossed the Atlantic and east in their lot with the early settlers of Boscobel. Albert Kradwell followed farming in his native country and afterward in Wisconsin, where he passed away in Grant county at the age of eighty-eight years, after rearing a large family. His son, Vandy J. Kradwell, ran away from home when but twelve years of age in order to escape service in the Austrian army and when he came with his brother Charles to the new world made his way to Grant county, Wisconsin, where he grew to manhood. In early life he learned and followed the shoemaker's trade and for a long period was prominently connected with the commercial interests of Boscobel as a boot and shoe merchant, but both he and his wife are now deceased. At the time of the Civil war he responded to the

country's call for aid, enlisting as a member of Company I, Twentieth Wisconsin Infantry, but was rejected on account of his age. However, as a sutler he went to the front. He occupied the position of postmaster at Boseobel under the administration of President Cleveland and in many ways was connected with the substantial improvement of that city, doing all in his power to uphold its status. He died while serving as postmaster in 1895, and his widow has since passed away. She was a daughter of Benjamin Weibel, a native of Switzerland. Her religious faith was that of the Lutheran church, while Mr. Kradwell was a communicant of the Catholic faith. However, he joined the Masonic and Odd Fellows fraternities. To this worthy couple were born seven children: Gustave V., Ida C., Frank A., Wieland W., Benjamin S., William T. and Louis J. The daughter, Ida, was appointed to fill out her father's unexpired term as postmaster.

Gustave V. Kradwell, having attended public and high schools of his native city, was graduated from the University of Wisconsin with the class of 1891 on the completion of a course in the pharmaceutical department. He was employed for two years in a drug store in Madison, Wisconsin, and on the 2d of May, 1892, arrived in Racine, where he engaged in clerking for a short time. He was ambitious, however, to engage in business on his own account and in 1895 became one of the incorporators of the Robinson Drug Company, his associates in the enterprise being R. T. Robinson, M. D. Morris and T. W. Thiesen. This company established three stores, and with the change in ownership the firm style of the Kradwell-Thiesen Drug Company was adopted. Some time afterward Mr. Thiesen withdrew and the business was reorganized under the name of the Kradwell Drug Company, which is today carrying on an extensive and growing business, owning now seven stores, six of which are located in Racine, with the seventh in Kenosha. Of the company Gustave V. Kradwell is president and treasurer, with Nettie C. Kradwell as vice president and secretary. They control one of the foremost commercial enterprises of the city.

On the 6th of November, 1895, occurred the marriage of Mr. Kradwell and Miss Nettie Clark, of Boseobel, a daughter of Harvey and Eliza Jane (Skiff) Clark, who were early settlers of that place, where her father engaged in the drug business and afterward in contracting. He, too, was a veteran of the Civil war and both he and his wife have now passed away. In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Kradwell were two sons: Richard Gustave, who died in infancy; and Frederick Clark, now thirteen years of age. Theirs is one of the fine homes of Racine, situated at No. 1705 Wisconsin street.

Mr. Kradwell is a democrat in his political views and he is a member of the Commercial Club, his activity being indicative of his interest in the welfare and growth of his city. He belongs to various fraternal organizations, including Racine Lodge, No. 32, K. P., the Royal Arcanum and the Maccabees, but is most prominently known through his association with the Masonic fraternity, having membership in Grant Lodge, No. 169, F. & A. M., of Boseobel; Orient Chapter, No. 12, R. A. M.; Racine Commandery, No. 7, K. T., of which he is past eminent commander; and the Scottish Rite Consistory of Wisconsin, in which body he presides in the nineteenth degree. He is likewise a member of Tripoli Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., and is one of the officers of this shrine.

In April, 1908, Governor Davidson appointed Mr. Kradwell a member of the Wisconsin State Board of Pharmacy, through the recommendation of the Wisconsin Pharmaceutical Association, for a period of five years and at the expiration of that term, Governor McGovern reappointed him for another term of five years. His life has been purposeful and resultant, far-reaching in its influences and beneficial in its effects. In business he has been a persistent, resolute and energetic worker, possessing strong executive power and strictly conscientious in his dealings with debtor and creditor alike. His sound judgment has enabled him to focus his energies in directions where fruition is certain, and his native justice has expressed itself in correct principle and practice.

MATHIAS MUELLER.

Mathias Mueller, who is serving for the third term as poor commissioner of Racine, has done effective work in this office, looking to the interests of those under his charge and also guarding the interests of the city from fraud. Mr. Mueller is a native of Germany, born March 28, 1862, his parents being Michael and Gertrude Mueller, who in 1868 came to Racine. The father had followed merchandising in Germany but on reaching Wisconsin took up his abode upon a farm in Kenosha county, where he carried on agricultural pursuits for a number of years, later removing across the line into Racine county. He died in 1910, having for almost a quarter of a century survived his wife, who passed away in 1886.

Mathias Mueller obtained his education in the parochial school connected with St. Mary's Catholic church and when fourteen years of age he began to earn his own living. He afterward learned the molder's trade, which he followed for twenty-seven years, being a member of the local molders' union, Branch No. 310, and his efficiency as a workman and his fidelity and loyalty as a man are demonstrated in the fact that he remained continuously with the American Seating Company for twenty years and nine months. At the age of fifty years, or in 1912, he was appointed poor commissioner of Racine and made such an excellent record during his first and second terms that he was again chosen for that position. He has been a model officer in this capacity, displaying good judgment in his care of those whom untoward circumstances have forced to be dependent.

On the 9th of November, 1886, Mr. Mueller was united in marriage to Miss Katherine Hochguertel, of Racine, a daughter of John and Margaret Hochguertel, who were early settlers here, arriving in 1856. The children of this marriage are: Hubbard J., a resident of Racine, who is married and has two sons: Katherine, the wife of Mathias Thoennes, of Racine, by whom she has one daughter and one son; and Joseph M., also married and living in this city.

In exercising his right of franchise Mr. Mueller votes for men rather than party, never holding to a strictly partisan course. Through his religious faith Mr. Mueller became a member of the Holy Name Catholic church in 1884 and has always taken a great interest in Catholic societies, being a member of the

St. Michael's Society, the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Knights of Wisconsin and the German Catholic Young Men's Society, all of Racine and in all of which he has always been an active member, being a leader and holding office often, long and faithfully, and as a result thereof he is well known throughout the state. Almost his entire life has been spent in Racine and he is widely known and respected because of his industry and trustworthiness in business and his fidelity and capability in public office.

JOHN SHECKLER.

For twenty-seven years John Sheckler was actively identified with farming interests in Racine county, where he took up his abode in 1856. He was born in Germany in 1836 and after acquiring a common school education in that country came to the United States at the age of twenty years, hoping that he might enjoy and benefit by some of the advantages which he heard were offered in the new world to young men of enterprise and industry. He made his way at once to this county and took up the occupation of farming, in which he was actively engaged to the time of his demise, making his home in Mount Pleasant township, where he brought his fields to a high state of cultivation, transforming his land into a rich and productive tract.

In 1859 Mr. Sheckler was married to Miss Elizabeth Hansche, a daughter of Ernest and Kathrina Hansche, who were early settlers of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Sheckler became the parents of seven children, namely: Ernest, Fred, Elizabeth, John, Minnie, William and George. In his political views Mr. Sheckler was a republican, supporting the party from the time that he became a naturalized American citizen. His religious faith was evidenced in his membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. He was a believer in the public school system and for three years served on the school board, doing everything in his power to make the school in his district one which would be of value in preparing young people for life's practical and responsible duties. He died on the 2d of January, 1883, at the comparatively early age of forty-seven years, but left a family to continue the good work which he had begun.

GEORGE SHECKLER.

George Sheckler, son of John Sheckler, whose sketch is given above, was born on the old family homestead in Mount Pleasant township, January 14, 1873, and at the usual age entered the district schools, continuing his education there until he reached the age of sixteen years. He was a lad of but ten years when his father died and after his textbooks were put aside he worked on the old homestead and afterward took over the management of the property, upon which he has since lived, having thirty two acres of land which he devotes to truck gardening. The vegetables which he produces are of fine size and quality and therefore find a ready sale on the market. In all his business

dealings he is thoroughly reliable, his transactions ever measuring up to honorable standards.

On the 8th of March, 1900, Mr. Sheckler was married to Miss Grace Dearsley, daughter of William and Lena (Wyman) Dearsley, and they have two children, Irwin and Ethel, both at home. Like his father, Mr. Sheckler votes with the republican party and like him has served as a member of the school board. He belongs also to the Methodist church and is true and loyal to those principles which govern honorable manhood. His success is attributable entirely to his own efforts, for his life has been one of industry and diligence and upon those qualities he has builded the prosperity that he now enjoys.

GEORGE H. HERZOG.

George H. Herzog is postmaster of Racine, to which office he was appointed March 10, 1915, but this is not his first connection with public affairs, as he had previously served for three terms as register of deeds. He is prompt, faithful and determined in the execution of his duties and the worth of his citizenship is widely acknowledged.

Mr. Herzog was born in Racine, October 4, 1867, a son of Jacob and Frances (Hoffman) Herzog, the former a native of New York and the latter of Wisconsin. The family is of German lineage and was founded in America by the paternal grandfather of George H. Herzog, who arrived in the United States in the '50s, after having previously served as a member of the regular army in Germany. He remained a resident of St. Lawrence county, New York, until he brought his family to Wisconsin, but in later years he returned to the east. Jacob Herzog accompanied his parents on their westward removal, the family home being established upon a farm in the town of Mount Pleasant in Racine county in 1860. He devoted his attention to the work of the fields for several years but eventually became a resident of Racine, where as a wood worker he entered the service of the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company, and was an employe of that corporation almost up to the time of his death, December 27, 1913. His first wife died in 1872 and subsequently he was twice married. The mother of George H. Herzog was a daughter of John Hoffman, a native of Germany, who lived for a time in the Empire state before arriving in Wisconsin in the '50s. He became a teaming contractor of Racine, where he carried on business up to the time of his death, which occurred when he was more than seventy years of age. In early manhood he married Catharine Steiner, who reared a large family and reached a very advanced age.

After completing his education in the high school of Racine, George H. Herzog was employed by the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company until 1893, when he became connected with newspaper publication, spending about six years as a member of the reportorial staff and as telegraph editor on the Racine Journal. With the outbreak of the Spanish-American war he joined the army and also acted as correspondent for the Journal while at the front. He was a member of Company F, First Regiment Wisconsin Volunteer Infan-

try, which was attached to the Seventh Army Corps under General Fitzhugh Lee and was stationed at Jacksonville, Florida. After he was honorably discharged he continued with the Journal until the fall of 1898, when he was elected to the office of register of deeds of Racine county, entering upon the duties of the position on the first Monday in January, 1899. His course in office received the indorsement of the public generally, for although a democrat in a strongly republican county, he was twice re-elected to the position by large majorities. In the spring of 1905 he was elected alderman of Racine from the seventh ward and took an active part in shaping the welfare of the city through municipal legislation. His capability as an official received further recognition when on the 10th of March, 1915, he was appointed by President Wilson to the office of postmaster of Racine, in which capacity he is now serving.

On June 23, 1891, Mr. Herzog was united in marriage to Margaret M. Deischler, daughter of Joseph and Amelia (Smith) Deischler. Two children have been born to this union, Harry J. and Frances J. The family residence at No. 1628 North Main street was erected by Mr. Herzog in 1903. Fraternally he is identified with Racine Lodge, No. 92, A. F. & A. M., the Knights of Pythias, the Elks, the Moose and the Eagles. He has also been prominently connected with the athletic societies of Racine for many years and was vice president of the Racine Athletic Association when that organization was at its zenith. He was also one of the organizers of the Racine Baseball Club and has always been an advocate and patron of clean, manly sports. If one were to characterize Mr. Herzog in a single word, that word undoubtedly would be fidelity, for he has displayed faithfulness to every trust whether of a public or private nature, never regarding lightly the duties that have devolved upon him but fully weighing his responsibilities and meeting each with the conscious strength of strong manhood.

WILLIAM H. GIFFORD.

In the year 1886 William H. Gifford established a dairy farm, and he supplied one of the first cans of milk to the Horlick Malted Milk Company. He has continuously engaged in dairying and is today one of the chief representatives of that industry, which has long constituted a source of the county's greatest wealth. His birth occurred in Caledonia township, September 25, 1866, his parents being William and Catherine (Morris) Gifford, both of whom were natives of Cambridge, Washington county, New York, the former born September 14, 1822, and the latter September 16, 1831. The paternal grandfather was Joseph Gifford, who died in New York, but the maternal grandfather, John Morris, became a resident of Caledonia township in the '40s and bought a farm which was afterward purchased by Mr. Gifford. He thus became identified with the early pioneer development of this district. The marriage of William Gifford and Catherine Morris was celebrated in Washington county, New York, and in 1861 they came to

Racine county, where they purchased two hundred and thirty-five acres of land in Caledonia township. Throughout his remaining days Mr. Gifford devoted his time and attention to general agricultural pursuits and afterward added a tract of fifty acres to his original purchase. He was a very industrious, energetic man, and though he had little to aid him at the outset of his career, he gradually worked his way upward and became one of the prosperous citizens of his adopted city. From the age of seven years he was dependent upon his own earnings, for at that time his father died and the mother was left in straitened financial circumstances. His life record certainly indicates what may be accomplished by industry, energy and determined purpose. He died in the year 1888, at the age of sixty-six, while his wife passed away in 1895. They were both consistent members of the Presbyterian church, in the work of which they took an active and helpful part, Mr. Gifford doing much to further its growth and influence. In politics he was a republican but was never ambitious to hold office. To him and his wife were born seven children, of whom four are yet living: Mary, the wife of Joe Cooper, a retired farmer of Racine who is now representing the Humane Society there; E. E., a retired farmer living on Washington avenue in Racine; William H.; and A. M., who resides in Yorkville township.

William H. Gifford, spending his boyhood and youth under the parental roof, divided his time between farm work and the acquirement of an education in the district school. He took up farming and dairying and in connection with his brother purchased the interest of the other heirs in the old homestead property. He today has one hundred and twenty acres of fine land on which he has erected a nice residence and good outbuildings. He already has one silo and is now building another which will be one of the largest in the county. In 1886 he began dairying and hauled one of the first cans of milk to the Horlick Malted Milk Company, which at that time had use for scarcely all of the milk which he took to them—two cans per day. In fact they refused to take so much milk. Mr. Gifford has remained continuously in the dairy business and milks now about forty-five cows, all high grade Holsteins. He bought his farm at fifty dollars per acre but it is today worth much more than that and is a splendidly improved property. He has tiled it, thus enhancing its productiveness, and it is well fenced. In fact everything about the place indicates his careful supervision and practical and progressive methods.

On the 5th of December, 1890, Mr. Gifford was married to Miss Emeline Mosher, who was born in Mount Pleasant township, where her father, Joseph Mosher, settled at a very early day, having arrived there in the early '50s, after which he continued his residence upon his farm for many years. At length he removed to Racine, where he passed away four years later in 1908. Mrs. Mosher came to Racine county from New York in 1844 in a covered wagon with her parents, who settled in the town of Mount Pleasant. Her grandparents and her great-grandfather came at the same time and her family is one of the oldest in the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Gifford have become the parents of two sons and two daughters: W. Allen and Joseph M., who are associated with their father in business and are now retailing milk in Racine, having started the first eight-cent milk route in the city, since which time they have conducted their interests with

marked success; Esther, who is a junior in the State University at Madison; and Harriett, now a student in the high school at Racine.

Mrs. Gifford is a member of the Freewill Baptist church, while the children belong to the Congregational church. Mr. Gifford has membership with the Modern Woodmen of America and he gives his political allegiance to the republican party. He has taken little time for outside interests, however, having always concentrated his energies upon his agricultural pursuits and dairying, and his close application, firm purpose and sound judgment have been the salient features in his growing success.

WILLIAM C. HANSCHÉ.

William C. Hansche, who became one of the early residents of Racine county and figured for many years as a highly respected and worthy citizen of his locality, was born in Germany in June, 1827, and after completing the public school course learned the wagonmaker's trade in the fatherland. In 1840 he accompanied his parents on their emigration to America. The family took passage on a sailing vessel which was completely wrecked off the island of Haiti and all of the passengers were compelled to stay in San Domingo for twenty-one weeks. In the fall the family succeeded in reaching New York and thence went to Cleveland, Ohio, where they spent five years. While living there they met Huron Beebe, who had a farm near Racine, Wisconsin, and who induced them to settle in Racine county. William Hansche, the father of our subject, successfully engaged in farming here until his demise, which occurred in 1873, when he was sixty-eight years old. He was survived until 1874 by his wife. They were the parents of three sons and one daughter. William C. Hansche, the father of Fred C. and Louis A. Hansche, became the owner of land in Racine county and gained recognition as one of the most practical and efficient agriculturists of his locality. His political allegiance was given to the republican party. He was well known and his death, which occurred in 1892, was deeply regretted. In 1860 he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Heck, a daughter of Philip Heck, and five children were born to their union, namely: William F.; Fred; Louis; Katie, who married Ernest Sheekler; and Sophia, the wife of Augustus J. Piper.

FRED C. HANSCHÉ.

Among the energetic and enterprising farmers of Mount Pleasant township is numbered Fred C. Hansche, who is living on section 32, where in connection with his brother, Louis A. Hansche, he is cultivating one hundred acres of land. He was born October 15, 1870, in the township where he still resides, his father being William C. Hansche, mentioned above. At the usual age he entered the common schools, which he attended until he reached the

age of eighteen. He then gave his entire attention to the task of assisting his father in the work of the home farm and since his father's death has been active in the management and control of the property. He is associated with his younger brother, Louis A., and they today own and cultivate one hundred acres, constituting one of the excellent farms of the township. They raise some grain but the place is largely devoted to the production of vegetables and as truck farmers they are meeting with excellent success. Their place always presents a most attractive appearance, for the fields are clean and well cultivated and the vegetables are, by reason of the fertility of the soil and the practical, progressive methods of the owners, of splendid size and quality.

In his political views Mr. Hansche is an earnest republican and fraternally he is connected with the Eagles at Racine, while his religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

LOUIS A. HANSCHÉ.

Louis A. Hansche, brother and partner of Fred C. Hansche, was born in Mount Pleasant township, March 11, 1873, and mastered the branches of learning taught in the common schools, which he attended until fifteen or sixteen years of age. He has continuously given his attention to the farm work since that time and theirs is one of the well developed properties of Mount Pleasant township.

On the 18th of July, 1900, Louis A. Hansche was married to Miss Anna Larsen, a daughter of George and Mary Larsen, who were early settlers of this county and both are now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Hansche have one child, Erma Irene, who will enter high school in the fall of 1916. Mr. Hansche belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp at Somers and is a member of the Racine Commercial Club. In politics he is a republican and has been called to a number of local offices. For four years he served as a member of the town board and for several years occupied the position of pathmaster. He has also been officially connected with the schools as a director and for six years as clerk of the board. His life in all its moral relations is guided by the teachings of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is a consistent member.

WILLIAM H. ROHAN.

William H. Rohan is a member of the firm of Rohan & Rohan, manufacturers' agents for all kinds of office requirements and supplies. In this connection he has developed a good business and his position in trade circles in Racine is a creditable one. He was born in this city April 4, 1890, a son of William J. and Margaret Rohan, who were also natives of Racine, the Rohan family having been founded in this city at an early day by the paternal grand-

parents. The grandfather was a teaming contractor, while the father, William J. Rohan, became a pattern maker, following the trade for a number of years.

William H. Rohan, in the pursuit of his education, mastered the work of the grades and of the high school. He made his initial step in the business world as a traveling salesman, devoting a few years to that work, and in 1911 he became connected with the office supply business as a partner of T. H. Knight, under whose name the business was conducted. A removal was made to No. 205 Osgood building and at that time the name of the Knight-Rohan Company was assumed. This connection was continued until June, 1913, when the partnership was dissolved and William H. Rohan was joined by his brother, James B. Rohan, under the firm style of Rohan & Rohan. In the intervening period they have built up a substantial patronage as manufacturers' agents for every kind of office equipment. They handle many lines put forth by standard manufacturers of the country and there is no office accessory which cannot be secured through their establishment. Their trade has constantly grown and developed along profitable lines, their success being attributable to close application and indefatigable energy.

On the 23d of June, 1915, Mr. Rohan was married to Miss Marcia E. Coleman, of Racine. They attend St. Rose Catholic church and Mr. Rohan also has membership with the Elks lodge and with the Country and Yacht Clubs, associations which indicate the nature of his recreation when business cares afford him leisure. He is a social, genial gentleman who in the various relations of life has won many friends, greatly enjoying their confidence and goodwill. He is yet a young man but already has won for himself a place in business circles that many a one of twice his years might well envy.

FRED JOHNSON.

Fred Johnson, engaged in farming on section 29, Mount Pleasant township, was born in Denmark on the 13th of September, 1850, a son of Christ Johnson, who spent his entire life in that country. Fred Johnson attended the common schools to the age of fifteen years and was afterward engaged in farm work in his native country until he reached the age of twenty, when he bade adieu to friends and family and sailed for the United States. He made his way at once to Racine county and for nine years was employed at farm labor. Since that time he has been working on the shares or cultivating rented farms. He worked on one farm for twenty-one years and for more than forty-five years he has been actively identified with agricultural interests in Racine county.

In 1872 Mr. Johnson was married to Miss Christina Thompson, who died leaving four children: Emma, Anna, Jesse and Alfred. After the death of his first wife Mr. Johnson wedded Christina Johnson and they became the parents of four children, of whom two have passed away, while Helen and Cecelia are yet living. The mother of these children died and in 1896 Mr. Johnson wedded Enger Engerman.

In his political views Mr. Johnson has always been a republican since age

conferred upon him the right of franchise. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and has guided his life according to its teachings, always attempting to do unto others as he would have them do unto him. He has never regretted his determination to come to the new world, for here he has found the opportunities which he sought and through industry and perseverance has gained a substantial measure of success.

E. W. HANSCHÉ.

Among Racine county's early settlers was numbered E. W. Hansche, who for a long period was actively and successfully engaged in truck gardening in Mount Pleasant township. He was born in Germany on the 2d of March, 1836, a son of E. W. Hansche. He was about twenty-one or twenty-two years of age when he arrived in Racine county and purchased land in Mount Pleasant township, upon which he resided until his demise. He worked diligently in the cultivation of the place and his farm of thirty-three acres responded readily to the care and labor which he bestowed upon it. All through the summer season he continually marketed vegetables and for his products found a ready sale. He thus won a substantial measure of success, his prosperity being attributable entirely to his individual effort.

In 1858 Mr. Hansche was married to Miss Sophia Tigges and to them were born eight children, of whom seven are yet living: Mary, who is the wife of Fred Shermer, of Milwaukee, and has four children; Ernst, who married Annie Herzfeldt, by whom he has one child, and is now living in Milwaukee; Charles, of Kenosha, who wedded Mary Becker and has two children; Lydia, at home; Frank, who married Nita Scheller and resides in Racine; Albert, of Kenosha, who wedded Freda Klaiber and has five children; and Louis C., who completes the family.

In his political views E. W. Hansche was a republican with firm belief in the principles of the party but he never sought nor desired office. He belonged to the German Baptist church, of which his widow is a member. She still makes her home in this county but Mr. Hansche passed away on the 15th of April, 1913, his remains being interred in Mound cemetery. He was then seventy-seven years of age and his was a well spent and active life which won him recognition as a substantial and valued citizen of Racine county.

LOUIS C. HANSCHÉ.

Louis C. Hansche, son of E. W., was born October 13, 1880, and pursued his education in the district schools to the age of fifteen years, when he concentrated his attention upon work on the home farm and has since there remained. The place is situated on section 37, Mount Pleasant township, and is devoted to the raising of garden produce.

On the 25th of June, 1904, Louis C. Hansche was married to Miss Mabel Fischer, a daughter of William and Katherine Fischer. They have five children: Lester, Ruth, Marvel, Leah and Milton, the three oldest now in school. Mr. Hansche exercises his right of franchise in support of the man and measures of the republican party but has never been a candidate for office, as he has concentrated his activities entirely upon the work of the home farm and in its cultivation has met with good success.

GEORGE DE GARIS.

George De Garis has departed this life, but many who knew him cherish his memory, for he was regarded as one of the substantial, respected and worthy citizens of Mount Pleasant township, where he remained until he passed to the home beyond on the 1st of March, 1908. He was born on the isle of Guernsey, January 14, 1839, his parents being Charles and Margaret De Garis. He attended the common schools on his native isle and when fifteen years of age crossed the Atlantic to the new world, after which he continued his education in the high school at Racine for two years. In early manhood he learned the painter's trade and when twenty years of age began taking small contracts. His business steadily increased in volume and importance until he was accorded a liberal patronage as a painter. He continued active in that work until 1876, when he bought a farm in Somers township, Kenosha county, residing thereon for thirteen years. At the expiration of that period he sold the property and invested in eighteen acres in Mount Pleasant township, Racine county, upon which he resided for sixteen years or from 1892 until his death, which occurred on the 1st of March, 1908, his remains being interred in Mound cemetery.

On the 30th of July, 1879, Mr. De Garis was united in marriage to Miss Anna E. Derby, a daughter of William S. and Mary Derby, the former a native of England and the latter of New York. It was in the year 1842 that her parents came to Wisconsin and they were married the following year in Racine county. To them were born three children, namely: George W., who passed away leaving three children; David W., who died in Cleburne, Texas, leaving a widow and three children; and Anna E. The father, Mr. Derby, passed away April 1, 1877, and his wife survived for twenty years, her death occurring March 31, 1897, when her grave was made by his side in Mound cemetery. They were consistent and devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal and Baptist churches and Mr. Derby gave his political allegiance to the republican party.

To Mr. and Mrs. De Garis were born three children, as follows: George D., who is deceased; Stella M., at home; and Charles E., who has also passed away. Politically Mr. De Garis was a republican, supporting the party from the time age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He held road offices and was also an official in connection with the schools. He belonged to the Methodist Episcopal church and contributed generously of his means to its support. Whatever success he achieved in life was attributable entirely to

his own efforts, for he started out empty handed and without financial assistance from anyone and worked his way steadily upward. His diligence and determination enabled him to overcome all the difficulties and obstacles in his path, for he possessed a resolute spirit and when one avenue of opportunity seemed closed he carved out other paths which would enable him to reach the desired goal.

JOHN FLETCHER.

John Fletcher, a well known farmer residing on section 18, Raymond township, has spent his entire life in Racine county, for he was born in that township on the 16th of June, 1858, and has resided here continuously since. His parents, Richard and Martha (Dawson) Fletcher, were both natives of England but emigrated to the United States in early life and were married in Raymond, Racine county, Wisconsin, October 25, 1847. The father took up a tract of government land in Raymond township, met with success in his farming operations and was the owner of one hundred and forty acres. He practically witnessed the entire growth and development of this section of the state, as he came here in pioneer days and, like many other early settlers, his first home was a log cabin. He died upon the old homestead, honored and respected by all who knew him. He was a republican in politics and his wife was an earnest member of the Congregational church. They had three children: Mary, who is now the wife of Thomas Jacobson, a resident of North Dakota; John, of this review; and Ellen, who died a number of years ago.

John Fletcher is indebted to the district schools of this county for the educational advantages he received. He early became familiar with farming and has always resided upon the old homestead in Raymond township. After his father's death he purchased the interests of the other heirs and is today the owner of a well improved and valuable farm. In early manhood he was united in marriage to Miss Christina Smizer, of Raymond township, who died in 1907, leaving no children.

Mr. Fletcher has never taken much interest in politics but always supports the republican party and never withholds his aid from any enterprise which he believes will prove of public benefit. He is a progressive and up-to-date farmer and has the respect and confidence of the entire community.

THORWALD MARTIN BECK.

Thorwald Martin Beck, who on the 1st of January, 1916, became a partner in the law firm of Storms, Foley & Beck, was born in Denmark, July 7, 1889, a son of Thomas C. and Bodil Maria Beck, who in the fall of 1889 crossed the Atlantic to the United States and made their way into the interior of the country, settling on a farm in Washington county, Wisconsin, where

they resided until 1907, the father devoting eighteen years to general agricultural pursuits. He then removed to Racine, where he has since lived retired.

After mastering the branches of learning taught in the public schools near his boyhood home, Thorwald Martin Beck entered Thiel College at Greenville, Pennsylvania, and eventually became a student in the University of Wisconsin, where he was graduated with the Bachelor of Arts degree with the class of 1913. He then continued at Madison as a law student and won his LL.B. degree upon graduation in 1915. Returning to Racine, he entered the law office of Storms & Foley in the fall of 1915 and on the 1st of January, 1916, was admitted to a partnership and is thus engaged in practice. Before preparing for the bar, however, he was engaged in the grocery business, having been a member of the firm of Beck Brothers in 1907 and 1908. His education also included a business course in Luther College in 1907. He is today the only Danish attorney at Racine and is a prominent and active young man whose ambition and ability are winning him promotion, so that he is already well established in a good practice.

Mr. Beck has membership in the Sigma Alpha Epsilon, also in the Phi Alpha Delta, a law fraternity, and in Theta Nu Epsilon, an honorary class fraternity. His political belief is that of the republican party and his religious faith that of the Lutheran church. He is also identified with the Elks and these different associations indicate the nature of his interests. His activity, however, is largely concentrated upon his chosen profession and his close application, wide reading and earnest purpose are gaining for him deserved success.

HANS PETER SWENSEN.

Hans Peter Swensen, a farmer residing on section 24, Mount Pleasant township, was born in Lolland, Denmark, on the 4th of April, 1841, his parents being Swen and Christina (Hansen) Swensen, who remained residents of Denmark until called to their final rest.

Hans P. Swensen attended the common schools until he reached the age of fourteen, when he felt it incumbent upon him to provide for his own support and began learning the wagon and carriage making trade, serving as an apprentice for five years, during which period he gained expert knowledge of the business. He then began working in a carriage factory in Lolland, where he remained until twenty-six years of age or until April, 1867. He then determined to try his fortune in the new world and came to the United States, having a most pleasant trip. He sailed from Liverpool and was two weeks in reaching Quebec, from which point he continued his journey to Racine. Since that time he has been identified with the business interests of the county. He at first began work in the Mitchell-Lewis wagon factory as a common laborer in the shops, making wagons for nine months. He was then employed as a pattern maker and to do extra work and spent seven years in that connection. He afterward entered into a contract to

make boxes and seats for the wagons and was engaged in that way for six years or until 1880, when he was given charge of the shop work and acted as shop superintendent from 1880 until 1913, so that his connection with the one concern covered forty-five years and nine months. No higher testimonial of his capability, efficiency and trustworthiness could be given. It indicates not only his superior knowledge of the trade but his loyalty to the company which he represented, and to the fullest extent he enjoyed their confidence and goodwill. At the end of that long period he removed to a farm of ten acres in the town of Mount Pleasant, where he is now comfortably located, occupying a fine home in the midst of a small but well developed tract of land.

In 1872 Mr. Swensen was united in marriage to Miss Conradine Nelsen and they have become parents of four children: Rudolph, who died while completing the work of the senior year in the dental school of the Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois; Arthur, at home; and two children who died in infancy.

The family are communicants of the Holy Communion church. Mr. Swensen usually votes with the republican party but does not hesitate to pick his men and is always fearless in support of his honest convictions. He has done much to further public welfare along various lines. For eight years he was a member of the school board in Racine and for two or three years was a member of the library board. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for he here found the opportunities which he sought. He learned, too, that in America labor is king and through his unremitting industry he gained a place among the substantial residents of the county, long occupying a most creditable, responsible and honorable position in connection with the industrial interests of the city.

THE WISCONSIN GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY.

The Wisconsin Gas & Electric Company was organized as the Racine Gas Light Company about 1850, and on the 1st of October, 1912, the name was changed to its present form, at which time the old company bought the Kenosha Gas & Electric Company and the Kenosha Electric Railway Company. In 1914 it extended its gas lines to serve South Milwaukee and Cudahy, and on the 1st of July, 1915, the plant of the Watertown (Wisconsin) Gas & Electric Company was purchased, as well as the Fort Atkinson electric transmission system, including the electric light and power business at Johnson Creek, Jefferson, Jefferson Junction, Lake Mills and Fort Atkinson. It also took over the system of the Burlington Electric Light & Power Company. The company does the gas business in Racine, Kenosha and Watertown and the electric railway business in Kenosha. In 1916, the company extended electric service to Corliss, Wisconsin. During the past four years, the company has been among the most rapidly growing in this state. The company has many miles of mains, and something of the development of the business is shown in the fact that to-day they have three hundred and sixteen

employees. The company does not handle the electricity in Racine. The officers of the company are: James D. Mortimer, president; S. B. Way, vice president; F. J. Boehm, secretary and treasurer; D. E. Callender, general manager; and E. Jorgenson, auditor. The Wisconsin Gas & Electric Company is a Wisconsin corporation, and is capitalized at one million six hundred fifty-seven thousand five hundred dollars par value of common stock and two hundred thousand dollars par value of preferred stock. All the stock is owned by The Wisconsin Edison Company, Inc. The company has its own bond sales department and has bonds to the value of two million five hundred thousand dollars outstanding. The business has developed into one of the foremost enterprises of this section of the state, constituting an important source of Racine's financial stability and strength.

WALTER R. ROWLEY.

Walter R. Rowley, who is farming one hundred and fourteen acres of well improved land in Mount Pleasant township, where he has always lived, was born May 5, 1869, of the marriage of Joseph and Ellen Rowley. The father came to Racine county in 1850 and worked at the butcher's trade for three or four years, after which he returned to England, his native land, and brought his wife to the new world. He purchased a small farm and in connection with the cultivation of his land engaged in the butchering business. For ten or twelve years he followed farming and then removed to Lake Geneva, where he lived for two years. At length he returned to the farm which he owned in Skunk Grove and later he embarked in the butchering business in Racine, where he remained for five years. On the expiration of that period he bought seventy-five acres of land in Mount Pleasant township, which he cultivated, and for thirty years he engaged in the butchering business, retiring from active life about ten years before he was called to his final rest. He passed away in 1911 and was laid to rest in Mound cemetery, while his wife died in 1910. They were consistent members of the Episcopal church and Mr. Rowley gave his political support to the democratic party. In their family were four children: H. J. and T. H, who are living in Racine; Elizabeth, the wife of James Corse, of Racine; and Walter R.

The last named acquired his early education in the common schools of Mount Pleasant township and also studied for a time in Valparaiso, Indiana, after which he worked with his father until the latter's death. He has always devoted his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits and is today successfully farming one hundred and fourteen acres of rich and productive land in Mount Pleasant township. His place is well improved with substantial buildings and modern equipments, including all farm machinery which facilitates the work in the fields.

On the 18th of October, 1892, Mr. Rowley was married to Miss Alice Foster, a daughter of C. S. Foster, of Racine, and they have three children: Ger-

trude, Eleanor and Joseph. Mr. Rowley follows an independent political course, voting according to the dictates of his judgment, with little regard for party ties. For twenty-five years he has filled the office of road commissioner, doing much to keep the highways in good condition, and for three years he has been a member of the school board. His interest in the moral progress of the community is indicated in his membership in the Baptist church.

E. E. LEWIS.

E. E. Lewis, who since 1904 has been busily engaged in the cultivation of a farm of one hundred and seventeen acres on section 13, Mount Pleasant township, was born March 8, 1871, in the township which is still his home, his parents being William E. and Emily (Clemmons) Lewis. He obtained a district school education supplemented by a college course in the Indiana Normal school. He then began to work with his father and for one year was employed by the United States Express Company in Racine, after which he resumed the occupation of farming, this time on his own account, purchasing one hundred and seventeen acres of land which he has since owned and cultivated, making his home upon this place for twelve years. Practically all of the improvements there to be seen are his work and indicate his progressive spirit and unfaltering enterprise. His methods are practical and the results which follow his labors are very substantial.

On the 10th of November, 1896, Mr. Lewis was united in marriage to Miss Katie Sewell, a daughter of Maidens Sewell. To them have been born three children, as follows: Alta, a high school pupil in Racine; and Elliott and Emily, who are also attending school. Fraternally Mr. Lewis is connected with the Modern Woodmen camp at Corliss and his religious faith is manifest in his membership in the Freewill Baptist church at Mygatts Corners. His political opinions usually coincide with the principles of the republican party and he has served in the office of town clerk for seven years. He does not manifest a mere perfunctory interest in public affairs but co-operates heartily in plans for the general good and is classed among the progressive citizens of the community in which his entire life has been passed.

NICHOLAS DE MOULPIED.

Almost three-quarters of a century have come and gone since Nicholas De Moulpied became a resident of southeastern Wisconsin, and throughout the intervening period to his death he was closely associated with agricultural interests in Kenosha and Racine counties. He was born in Guernsey, September 25, 1819, the same day on which occurred the birth of Queen Victoria, and after spending his youthful days on his native isle and acquiring a public school education there he crossed the Atlantic to the United States

when twenty-five years of age. He made his way to Southport, now Kenosha, and for a year was a resident of the town of Somers in Kenosha county. He afterward came to Racine county and bought one hundred acres, to which he afterward added until at the time of his death he was the owner of a valuable farming property of two hundred and ten acres. Energy and industry characterized him in all of his undertakings and his work was attended with a gratifying measure of success. His entire life was given to general farming and he never sought to figure prominently in any public connection, but his diligence and determination in business brought good results and he was accounted one of the representative residents of his community.

In 1849 Mr. De Moulpied was united in marriage to Miss Ann Alinda Hosmer, a daughter of John and Lura Hosmer. To them were born six children, as follows: Eliza, who gave her hand in marriage to John Emerson; Mary, the wife of Edwin Noble; Martin, who is deceased and lies buried in Galveston; Thomas, residing in Michigan, who wedded Miss Lavina Johnson, who passed away leaving three children; Lura, the wife of Edwin Bishop, of Racine, by whom she has one child; and John Albert.

In his political views Mr. De Moulpied was an earnest republican from the organization of the party and he served as a member of the town board and also as a member of the school board. He passed away in the year 1875 and for almost a quarter of a century his wife survived, her death occurring in 1899. Thus passed to the home beyond two of the valued pioneer residents of the county. They were members of the Freewill Baptist church at Mygatts Corners and were highly esteemed by all who knew them, their many good qualities winning for them merited regard.

JOHN ALBERT DE MOULPIED.

John Albert De Moulpied, representing one of the prominent pioneer families of Racine county, was born in Mount Pleasant township, September 18, 1865, a son of Nicholas De Moulpied, whose sketch is given above. He attended the district schools and afterward spent a year in study in the schools of Racine, subsequent to which time he returned to the farm, whereon he has since remained with the exception of one year spent in South Dakota near Alexandria. Like his father, he has always carried on agricultural pursuits and he has brought his land to a high state of cultivation, his fields annually returning to him golden harvests. He is diligent and energetic in promoting his work and utilizes modern scientific methods of farming in the further care and cultivation of his place.

In 1901 Mr. De Moulpied was united in marriage to Miss Alice Jane Aeklam, a daughter of Thomas and Martha Aeklam. They have two children, Milton John and Lauren Nichols.

Mr. De Moulpied was reared in the faith of the republican party and has never seen occasion to change his political allegiance, for his judgment sanctions its policy. However, at local elections, where no issue is involved, he votes independently. For two terms he has filled the office of town treas-

urer, was a member of the school board for two years and has been road superintendent. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which he loyally adheres. At all times he is ready and willing to co-operate in plans and measures for the general good and at the same time he carefully and successfully manages and cultivates his farm of seventy-five acres, which is now one of the well developed properties of Mount Pleasant township.

GEORGE ACKLAM.

The decade of the '40s brought to southeastern Wisconsin many citizens who became permanent residents and were active in promoting conditions that have brought about present-day progress and prosperity. To this number belonged George Acklam, who arrived in Racine in 1849, being at that time a man of about thirty-two years, his birth having occurred in England in 1817. He pursued a common school education and there engaged in farming until 1848, when he determined to embrace the opportunities offered in the new world and crossed the Atlantic to the United States. For a year he resided in Adams county, Illinois, and then came northward to Racine in 1849. He secured employment in the Bell soap factory on what is now Standard street, but after a few years, when the Wilmot plank road was built, he took charge of a toll gate and continued to fill that position to the time of his death in 1855.

It was in 1848 Mr. Acklam was married to Miss Harriett Bean, a daughter of John Bean, who passed away in England. To them were born four children, as follows: George Edmond, a resident of St. Joseph, Missouri; Thomas Henry, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work; William Wellborn; and Alice, who is deceased. In 1857 the mother was again married, her second union being with Alfred Williams, by whom she had three children, namely: Harriett, who is the wife of Lewis J. Parks and resides in Franksville, Wisconsin; Alfred, living in Racine; and Sarah, who gave her hand in marriage to John Spencer, of Racine. The parents were members of the Baptist church and lived the lives of earnest, consistent Christian people. In his political views Mr. Acklam was a whig.

WILLIAM WELLBORN ACKLAM.

Throughout practically his entire life William Wellborn Acklam has been a resident of Racine county and from the age of fifteen years has been dependent upon his own resources, being therefore a self-made man. He was born July 27, 1854, of the marriage of George and Harriett (Bean) Acklam, and in his youthful days attended the common schools of Racine and afterward the district schools of Mount Pleasant township, but his textbooks were put aside when he reached the age of fifteen and he started out in business on his own account. For two years he worked in the lumber woods

of northern Wisconsin and at different periods was employed at various places in Wisconsin. Later he went to Sae county, Iowa, driving a team from Corliss, this state, across the plains. After two years there passed he returned and has since continuously lived in Racine county. For fourteen years he engaged in teaming in Racine, at the end of which time he purchased thirteen and one-half acres of land on section 25, Mount Pleasant township, and has made his home thereon continuously since, his labors being devoted to the further development and improvement of the property.

On the 10th of July, 1888, Mr. Aeklam was married to Miss Katherine Aszmas, a daughter of Frederick and Katherine (Ricc) Aszmas, the former a native of France and the latter of Germany. Her parents came to the United States about 1828 and were married in New York city, where they remained for twenty-two years. Subsequently they became residents of Dayton, Ohio, where the father conducted the first repair shop of that place. In 1876 he removed with his family to Indiana, where he resided for two years and on the expiration of that period came to Racine, being employed in the Racine Wagon Works. He afterward spent eleven years in the Mitchell Wagon Works and thus led a life of usefulness and untiring activity. He died in the year 1892, while his wife survived until 1896 and was laid to rest by his side in Mound cemetery. To Mr. and Mrs. William Aeklam were born eleven children, as follows: Harry, who is deceased; Jesse, who wedded Miss Marie Petersen and resides in Racine; Martha, who died in infancy; Roy, a resident of Racine; Ida, who gave her hand in marriage to Carl Herring; Sadie, the wife of Harvey Krinkey; and Florence, Ira, William, Ruth and Loretta, all at home.

Politically Mr. Aeklam is a republican but at local elections votes independently, regarding only the capability of the candidate. He belongs to the Baptist church and his life is guided by its teachings. He represents one of the old families of the county and for more than six decades he has been a witness of the development and progress of this section of the state. He has ever been deeply interested in the work of improvement here and his labors have brought good results.

GEORGE HOLLER.

George Holler, making his home on section 27, Mount Pleasant township, has been a resident of this county for almost a third of a century. He was born in Germany on the 28th of December, 1858, a son of John Holler. His educational privileges were somewhat limited. He attended the common schools until he reached the age of eleven, when he began providing for his own support by working as a farm hand, in which connection he was employed until he reached the age of nineteen. Then in accordance with the military laws of his country he joined the army and served for three years. On the expiration of that period he took up the occupation of farming, which he followed for two years, and in 1884 he left the fatherland for the new world.

On reaching American shores Mr. Holler at once made his way to Racine

county and for twelve years was employed in the Case foundry, his capability and fidelity being indicated in his long connection with that one business. At the end of that period he began farming and in 1899 he purchased forty acres, to which he has added at intervals as opportunity has come to him until he is now the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of good land on section 27, Mount Pleasant township. He carefully cultivates his farm according to modern methods and the fields produce good crops, while everything about the place indicates his careful direction and his progressive spirit.

Thirty-three years ago Mr. Holler was married to Miss Mary Grine and they have become the parents of nine children who are yet living: George, Mary, John, Joe, Peter, Alice, Margaret, Katie and Jennie. In religious faith the family are Catholics and Mr. Holler belongs also to the Catholic Knights. In politics he maintains an independent course, supporting the best man. He has never sought nor desired office, preferring always to give undivided attention to his business affairs, and it is upon his careful management, close application and unfaltering industry that he has built his success.

SAMUEL BARNUM WALKER.

Samuel Barnum Walker, who is engaged in general farming on section 19, Mount Pleasant township, has an excellent tract of land and the soil, naturally rich and productive, readily responds to the care and labor bestowed upon it. For a long period he has made dairying an important feature of his business and in this connection has become widely known. He was born in Leavittsburg, Trumbull county, Ohio, June 20, 1861, a son of John B. and Ellen (Whiteley) Walker, both of whom were natives of England. They came to the United States in 1842 and settled at Elgin, Illinois, where they were married. In 1847 they removed to Ohio and remained residents of that state until 1878, when they came to Racine county, where they lived with their son, Samuel B. Later, however, they returned to Ohio and in that state passed away. The father was a woolen manufacturer. His political indorsement was given to the republican party and his religious faith was that of the Episcopal church. In his family were seven children: Eli B.; Charles; Frank and Frankie, both deceased; William A., living in Racine; Mary E., of Youngstown, Ohio; and Samuel Barnum.

The last named devoted his youth to the acquirement of a common school education and to assisting his father. He learned the woolen manufacturing trade in the mills of Ohio, where he was employed until he was about eighteen years old. He then left home and came to Racine county, arriving here in 1878. For four years he was employed by R. M. Walker, after which he rented eighty acres of land in Mount Pleasant and carried on farming for four years. Still later he rented another farm for one year and he afterward spent two years in the position of foreman on the Isaac Elders farm, comprising three hundred and twenty acres of land in Mount Pleasant township.

About that time Mr. Walker was married and went to Findlay, Ohio, where he took charge of a veneer factory for his brother, the business being

conducted under the name of the Racine Refrigerator Company. Later he returned to this county and purchased ten acres of land. At the present time he is engaged in the cultivation of an excellent tract of ninety acres. He started a dairy and has since engaged in the milk business, continuing in active connection therewith for a quarter of a century. For fourteen years he peddled milk himself and he still keeps cows but does not engage as extensively as formerly in the milk trade.

It was in 1890 that Mr. Walker was united in marriage to Miss Alice Davis, a daughter of David Davis, who was one of the early settlers of Racine county, arriving here in 1842. Mr. and Mrs. Walker have become the parents of four children: David, who married Ruth Cheeseman, of Mount Pleasant; Charles and William Allan, both of whom are attending the State University at Madison; and Samuel Burton, who is a student in the high school at Racine.

Fraternally Mr. Walker is connected with the Modern Woodmen at Collins and in his political views he is a republican, yet does not consider himself bound by party ties and at local elections votes for the best man. He has been town supervisor for two years and has recently been re-elected. He has also been clerk of the school board and for twenty-five years served as roadmaster. He belongs to the Freewill Baptist church at Mygatts Corners and he manifests a deep interest in all that pertains to the moral progress of his community. When he first came to Racine county he had a capital of but a dollar and a quarter and was in debt. He worked for two months for five dollars per month but since that time success has crowned his labors, for he has been diligent and persistent, energetic and honorable and these qualities never fail to reap their just reward.

M. O. MORTENSEN.

M. O. Mortensen occupies one of the pioneer brick residences of Racine county, standing in the midst of an excellent farm of one hundred and eighteen acres on section 32, Caledonia township, and in the conduct of his business affairs he is meeting with substantial and well merited success. His attention is now given to general farming and dairying, but for thirty years he was active in the creamery business. His birth occurred in Denmark on the 17th of March, 1861, his parents being James and Maren (Jensen) Mortensen, both of whom were natives of Denmark, born in 1832 and 1834, respectively. The father followed farming until a few years prior to his death and later engaged in carrying the mail, being the first rural route government mail carrier from Horsens, Denmark. He died in the year 1906, having for an extended period survived his wife, who passed away in 1878. They were consistent members of the Lutheran church and enjoyed the respect and friendship of all who knew them. Their family numbered twelve children, of whom six are yet living. Morton J. came to the new world and has since returned to Denmark. Dusina is the wife of W. A. Peterson, who holds an important position with a manufacturing company of Racine.

In the schools of his native country M. O. Mortensen pursued his education and was a young man of twenty-six years when in the spring of 1887 he arrived in Racine county. He had learned the creamery business in his native country and had also followed that pursuit in Canada for a year. After reaching Wisconsin he again engaged in the creamery business and devoted altogether about thirty years to that undertaking, meeting with substantial success by reason of his careful management, honorable methods and unfailing enterprise. In 1910 he purchased a farm and is now the owner of one hundred and eighteen acres of rich and productive land on section 32, Caledonia township. On this he built a large barn and also a big silo and there are to be seen upon the place the most modern improvements and conveniences for facilitating the work. He raises the best grade of Holstein cattle and dairying constitutes one of the important features of his place, although he still carries on general farming and has brought his land to a high state of cultivation.

In 1885 Mr. Mortensen was married in Sweden to Miss Mathilda Jansson, who was born in that country, a daughter of John and Margaret Olson. Her father was a carpenter and by following that trade provided for his family of seven children, five of whom are yet living, three being residents of America. These are: Margaret, the wife of Peter Styberg, a shoemaker by trade and a resident of Racine; Mrs. Mortensen; and Eureka, the wife of O. B. Seaholm, who is shipping boss for a manufacturing company of Racine. Mr. and Mrs. Mortensen have become the parents of four children, of whom three are living, Elsa, J. Christian and Lilly. Another daughter, who was the third in order of birth and who was named Lilly, has passed away. The son, twenty-six years of age, was graduated in Davenport, Iowa, from The Palmer School of Chiropractic, having previously graduated from Racine College. He is now located in Kenosha, where he enjoys a fine practice. On June 24, 1916, he was married to Miss Jenette D. Donnelly, daughter of Judge Joseph G. and Lois Donnelly, of Milwaukee. He is now located in Kenosha, where he enjoys a fine practice. The daughter, Elsa, is following a musical education in piano and violin and has a splendid class of pupils in music. The family is well known in Racine county, where M. O. Mortensen has won a creditable position as a progressive and successful business man, who throughout his entire life has carefully directed his labors and by earnest and persistent effort has won the success which he now enjoys.

JEROME J. FOLEY.

Jerome J. Foley, one of the younger members of the Racine bar, who, however, has already gained for himself a place as a practitioner in the courts of his district, was born in Racine, November 14, 1886, a son of Edmond and Mary (Rooney) Foley, who were natives of Ireland and Racine, respectively. In the '70s the father arrived in this city, where he conducted business as a mechanic. He married Mary Rooney, a daughter of James Rooney, who came to Racine in 1855 and was also a mechanic.

In his youthful days Jerome J. Foley attended St. Patrick's parochial school and afterward entered the public schools, completing his course by graduation from the high school with the class of 1904. He then entered Marquette University at Milwaukee as a student in the law department and after mastering his course there was admitted to the bar in 1913. He has since practiced in Racine and is now a partner in the firm of Storms, Foley & Beck. He never neglects to give a thorough preparation and is always well qualified to meet the attacks of the opposing counsel when he enters court for the trial of a cause. Moreover, his devotion to his clients' interests is widely recognized.

Mr. Foley belongs to St. Patrick's Catholic church and also to the Knights of Columbus and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. In politics he is a democrat but has never sought public office, preferring to concentrate his attention upon his professional duties, which are growing in volume and importance.

CARL MICKELSEN.

On starting out in life Carl Mickelsen realized fully that if success was to be his it must be gained through earnest, persistent and unfaltering effort, and thus it is that he has worked diligently year after year, making steady progress until now he is the owner of a very desirable farm of eighty-four acres situated on section 27, Mount Pleasant township, and supplied with many modern improvements and equipments. He has been a resident of this section of the state from the age of twenty years. He was born in Lolland, Denmark, September 5, 1866, and is a son of Michael and Katherine Petersen. The father died in Denmark, after which the mother came to the United States and is now living in Racine.

Carl Mickelsen attended school in his native county until he reached the age of fourteen years, when he began to provide for his own support by working as a farm hand, in which manner he was employed for six years. Thinking that he would have better opportunities in the new world where competition is not so great and where advancement is more quickly secured, he bade adieu to friends and native land in 1886 and sailed for America. He did not tarry on the Atlantic coast but made his way at once into the interior of the country and for a year was employed at farm labor in Racine county. He afterward worked at odd jobs—tile ditching, dairying and in other ways—and was also employed in the shops of Racine for five years. Throughout this entire period he carefully saved his earnings, living most frugally, and at length by practicing close economy and industry he acquired a sum sufficient to enable him to purchase a farm. The year 1906 saw the fulfillment of his hope in that regard, for he became owner of seventy-four acres of land on section 27, Mount Pleasant township, to which he has since added a tract of ten acres. His place is all well improved and the farm presents a neat and pleasing appearance. The fields are carefully cultivated and indicate the care which Mr. Mickelsen displays in carrying on his farming interests.

In 1892 occurred the marriage of Mr. Mickelsen and Miss Margaret Olsen and to them have been born nine children: Arthur, Alma, Agnes, William, Nora, Harold, Edna, Carl and Viola. Mr. and Mrs. Mickelsen are members of the Lutheran church in Racine and in politics he follows an independent course, considering the capability of the candidate rather than his party allegiance. He rejoices in the progress made by the county, but he has never been an office seeker, preferring always to concentrate his energies upon his business duties. He has worked hard and his indefatigable energy and unflinching industry have been the basic elements in his growing and well deserved success.

THOMAS M. DAVIES.

Thomas M. Davies, a lifelong resident of Racine county, save for a brief period spent in Iowa, is now actively and successfully engaged in general farming on section 34, Mount Pleasant township, where he has made his home continuously since 1882. He was born April 2, 1851, in the town of Mount Pleasant, Racine County, a son of Morris and Mary Davies, who were natives of Wales and early in 1843 crossed the Atlantic, making their way at once to this county. The family home was established in Mount Pleasant township and there the father continued to engage in farming until his death, which occurred in 1886. His wife survived him for almost two decades, passing away in 1905, the remains of both being interred in Mound cemetery. They were both members of the Congregational church, the teachings of which guided them in all the relations of life, and in his political views Mr. Davies was a republican.

Thomas M. Davies was one of a family of six children, of whom four are now living. At the usual age he became a pupil in the district schools, which he attended until he reached the age of seventeen, after which he gave his undivided attention to the work of the home farm until he was twenty-three years of age. He then went to Iowa and spent about eight or nine months in the vicinity of Iowa City, but on the expiration of that period returned and began farming on his own account on rented land. He carefully saved his earnings until his frugality and enterprise had brought him a sufficient sum to enable him in 1882 to purchase one hundred and twenty acres of land. Upon this farm he has since remained and in the intervening period, covering more than a third of a century, his labors have wrought a marked change in the appearance of the place owing to his progressive method of developing the fields, cultivating the crops and adding all modern improvements in the way of farm machinery and other equipment.

On the 12th of November, 1885, Mr. Davies was married to Miss Sarah Jones, a daughter of Edward H. and Sarah Jones, who were early settlers of this county, but were natives of Wales, where they were reared and married, coming to the United States about 1850. They at once established their home in Racine county and the father took up the occupation of farming, which he

followed continuously until his death, which occurred in 1889. His wife survived until 1905 and their graves were made in Mound cemetery. They were both worthy Christian people, holding membership in the Welsh Congregational church, and in his political views Mr. Jones was a republican. They had a family of seven children: Edward, Ann, Harry and Solomon, all four of whom are deceased; and Mary, Elizabeth and Sarah, who are still living. To Mr. and Mrs. Davies were born six children: William, living in Mount Pleasant; Annie, the wife of Elmer Aeklam; Edna, the wife of Arthur Wilson; Elmer, living in Kenosha county; and Eddie and Edgar, twins, at home.

Mr. Davies is a member of the Modern Woodmen camp at Corliss. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and for six years he served as a member of the town board. He was also road commissioner for a number of years and has always been loyal in his duties of citizenship, doing everything in his power to promote public progress and to uphold those interests which are a matter of civic virtue and civic pride. His religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church and the community finds in him a representative citizen, a capable business man and a faithful friend. In all his business career he has ever recognized the fact that industry is the basis of all honorable success and upon his diligence and determination he has built his prosperity.

CHARLES H. BULL.

When Charles H. Bull passed away Racine county lost a citizen who had long been numbered with the representative agriculturists of this part of the state. He owned and cultivated a fine farm of eighty acres on section 31, Raymond township, and his business affairs were carefully and wisely managed. New York numbered him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Cayuga county on the 6th of June, 1839. His father, De Grove Bull, was also a native of the Empire state, where he spent his youthful days upon a farm and later took up that occupation as a life work. In early manhood he wedded Amanda Crosby and they became the parents of eleven children. They retained their residence in New York until 1846, when they started for the middle west, making the journey by way of the Lakes to Racine county, where De Grove Bull purchased the farm upon which his son Charles resided for many years. At the time of the purchase the tract was wild land entirely undeveloped and unimproved and the first home of the family was a log cabin in which they lived in true frontier style, meeting all of the experiences and hardships incident to pioneer life. With characteristic energy the father began the development of his farm, whereon he continued to make his home until called to his final rest in 1867, when seventy-two years of age. His fellow townsmen, appreciating his worth and ability, had several times called him to public office and he discharged his duties with promptness and fidelity but preferred to give his undivided attention to his business. In politics he

was a democrat. His wife survived him for a number of years and died in Racine in 1880.

Charles H. Bull was one of their eleven children, six sons and five daughters, and was a little lad of but seven years when he accompanied his parents to Wisconsin. His education was obtained in the pioneer schools of the county, but though his opportunities in that direction were somewhat limited, his training at farm work was not meager. From an early age he assisted in the development of the fields upon the home place and when his father passed away Charles H. Bull, then about twenty-eight years of age, assumed the management of the farm and devoted his remaining days to the cultivation of a good tract of land of eighty acres on section 31, Raymond township. In addition to tilling the soil he engaged in breeding horses and had considerable fine blooded stock upon his place.

It was in 1866, in Dover township, that Mr. Bull wedded Miss Mary Wilson, a native of the Empire state and a daughter of Andrew H. and Mary A. Wilson. They became the parents of five children; De Grove; Andrew; May; Fred W., and Chas., deceased. In his political views the father was ever an earnest democrat from the time when he cast his first presidential ballot for Stephen A. Douglas. Fraternally he was a member of Corinthian Lodge, No. 156, A. F. & A. M., of Union Grove, and of the Modern Woodmen camp at North Cape. Practically his entire life was spent in this county and he possessed many sterling traits of character which won him the high regard and good will of all with whom he came in contact. He was found reliable in business, loyal in citizenship and faithful to the ties of home and friendship and thus it was, when he passed away on the 26th of November, 1914, at the age of seventy-five years, that his death was the occasion of deep and widespread regret.

DE GROVE BULL.

De Grove Bull, living on section 26, Mount Pleasant township, was born in Raymond township, October 1, 1867, and in his youthful days enjoyed the educational advantages offered by the common schools, while later he attended Rochester Academy until he reached the age of twenty-two years. He engaged in farming with his father for three years and then went to Chicago, where he secured a position with Marshall Field & Company, serving in the shipping department for about seven years. On the expiration of that period he returned to Racine county and again worked upon his father's farm for three years. He then removed to Mount Pleasant township, where he cultivated his father's place of one hundred and sixty acres, and now for fifteen or sixteen years he has lived upon this farm, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation and improvement. From early spring planting until crops are harvested in the late autumn there is no feature of his farm work that is

neglected. He watches all details pointing to success and his careful management is bringing to him the merited reward of labor.

In 1906 Mr. Bull was married to Miss Anna Hay, a daughter of George Hay, of Racine, and they have two children living, Charles and George, and have lost one child. Mr. Bull belongs to the Knights of Pythias lodge at Racine and the Woodmen camp at North Cape. His political indorsement is given to the republican party. He has many sterling characteristics and his fellow townsmen and those who have had business relations with him speak of him in terms of high regard, knowing that his word is ever reliable and that he may be counted upon at all times to do that which he believes to be right.

PHILIP BRAUN.

Philip Braun, owner of a farm of sixty acres on section 7, Caledonia township, is carrying on general agricultural pursuits and dairying and both branches of his business are bringing him substantial success. His farm is well improved according to modern standards and his methods indicate a progressive spirit. He was born in Germany, April 29, 1865, a son of Peter and Katherine (Rauguth) Braun, the latter a daughter of Jacob Rauguth, who came to the new world with the parents of Philip Braun and spent his remaining days in Caledonia township. It was about 1866 that the family crossed the Atlantic to the new world, settling first in Milwaukee county, whence a removal was made to Caledonia township, Racine county, where Peter Braun purchased ten acres of land. He died in the year 1867, while his wife, who was born in 1827, survived him for two decades, passing away in 1887. Their religious faith was that of the Catholic church. They had two children, the elder being a daughter, Maggie, who became the wife of James Peterson, a carpenter of Milwaukee county.

Philip Braun was educated in the parochial schools and when his textbooks were put aside began earning his living at the occupation of farming, being employed as a farm hand until he was able to save from his earnings a sum sufficient to purchase a farm. He then bought forty acres, which he acquired when twenty-one years of age. To this he has added a twenty-acre tract, so that his place now comprises sixty acres. His land is arable and he brought his fields to a high state of cultivation, carefully tilling the soil so that substantial crops are annually gathered. In connection with general farming he carries on dairying, milking mostly Holstein cows. He makes butter, which he sells in Milwaukee, and the excellence of the product secures the highest market price. He has built a nice home and has good outbuildings upon his place, furnishing ample shelter for grain and stock. He has also put up a large silo, so that he is able to furnish green fodder to his stock throughout the winter.

In 1888 Mr. Braun was married to Miss Mary Searing, a native of this county, and to them have been born five children: Mary, who is now a sister in the Convent of St. Francis at Milwaukee; Agnes, Albert, Norbert and

Marcella, all of whom are at home. The parents are members of the St. Louis Catholic church of Caledonia and in political belief Mr. Braun is a democrat. He has justly won the proud American title of a self-made man, for every dollar which he possesses he has earned, and in carrying on his farm work he has been diligent, determined and progressive. His life record therefore proves what may be accomplished by the individual who has the will to dare and to do.

WILLIAM T. DAVIES.

William T. Davies, who for five years has been engaged in general farming on section 33, Mount Pleasant township, was born August 14, 1886, in the township where he now makes his home, his parents being Thomas and Sarah Davies. He attended district school No. 7 in Kenosha county until he reached the age of sixteen years and afterward became a student in a business college in Racine, where he spent one year. Starting out to earn his own living, he went to River Forest, Illinois, where for a year he was employed on a game farm. He was afterward employed by the Case Threshing Machine Company in Racine for six months and later spent three months in the harvest fields of North Dakota. He afterward worked for four years in the signal department of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company, but desiring to make farming his occupation, he resigned his position and rented one hundred and twenty acres of land in Mount Pleasant township, upon which he has now engaged in farming for five years. He has made a substantial start in business for one of his age and is prompted by a commendable ambition that promises well for the future.

In 1913 Mr. Davies was married to Miss Jane Acklam, a daughter of Thomas Acklam, and they have one son, Marvin. Mr. Davies belongs to the Modern Woodmen camp and the North Western Mutual Life Insurance Company. His study of the political questions and issues of the day has led him to give his support to the republican party, while his religious faith finds exemplification in his membership in the Congregational church. He is a young man of sterling traits and his social qualities have won him warm friendship, while his business activity is gaining for him merited success.

ROBERT L. ANDERSON.

Robert L. Anderson, who is engaged in blacksmithing in Caledonia, was born in Denmark, December 3, 1871, a son of Robert L. and Sophia (Shenberg) Anderson. The father was born in Denmark, March 20, 1815, and the mother's birth occurred in Germany, February 20, 1843. Mr. Anderson became a detective of Odense, Denmark, and for twenty-eight years and three months he was connected with the military organization of his country, participating in the wars of 1848-50 and in the war of 1864. He died in Denmark,

Janauary 24, 1881, and in 1895 the mother came to Racine, where she is still living. In their family were eight children, of whom five survive: Fred, a blacksmith of Emory, Wisconsin; Robert L.; Thor, living in Racine; George, assistant chief of the Case Fire Department of Racine; and Alexander, who is a clothing salesman in Racine. The religious faith of the family is that of the Lutheran church.

It was in the year 1889 that Robert L. Anderson came to Racine, being then a youth of eighteen years. He worked for five months on a farm near Union Grove, after which he removed to Norway township and was employed by a cousin in a blacksmith shop. In 1908 he located in Kilbourn, where he entered a blacksmith shop, where he has since worked. Almost his entire life has been devoted to the trade and he has built up a good business which is bringing to him a gratifying financial return.

On the 25th of January, 1894, Mr. Anderson was married to Miss Sena Beek, who was born in Denmark, and they have become the parents of seven children: Viola, at home; Alma, who works in a factory in Racine; and Robert, Thomas, Helen, George and Kenneth, all at home.

The parents are members of the Lutheran church and closely follow its teachings. In politics Mr. Anderson maintains an independent attitude and has never been an office seeker, although for three years he served as deputy sheriff in Lincoln county. His entire life has been one of unremitting industry and thrift. He has worked persistently and energetically, knowing that he must win success by persistent effort, and the wise use which he has made of his time and opportunities has brought him a substantial measure of success.

ERNEST J. WUERZBERGER.

Ernest J. Wuerzberger, president and treasurer of the Racine Wholesale Wine & Liquor Company, was born July 31, 1881, in the city of Racine, a son of Ernest and Louisa (Birkholz) Wuerzberger, the former a native of New York city, while the latter was born in Racine. Her father was Robert Birkholz, a veteran of the Civil War, who went to the front from Maine and after the cessation of hostilities came to Racine. Here he was successfully identified with industrial interests, occupying the position of assistant superintendent of the Mitchell Wagon Company for many years. The paternal grandfather of Ernest J. Wuerzberger of this review also bears the name of Ernest Wuerzberger and is now ninety-six years old. He came to Racine in 1862 and was well known as one of the early merchants of the city, having a grocery store and saloon on Milwaukee Avenue for many years. His son, Ernest Wuerzberger, father of our subject, conducted the business until his death, which occurred March 28, 1910. His widow survives and in their family were five children: Ernest J.; Annie, the wife of William Robbins, a resident of Racine; Henry, who is in business with his brother Ernest and who married Sadie Kathousen, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, by whom he has two children, Bernice and Ernest; Henriette, the wife of Alfred Hanson, of Racine; and Lydia, the wife of Frank Yetmar, also living in this city.

The children are all graduates of the public schools of Racine. After completing his education, E. J. Wuerzberger of this review turned his attention to business affairs and on the 1st of January, 1905, opened business under the name of the Racine Wholesale Wine & Liquor Company, at 1131 Washington avenue, where in 1911 he was joined by his brother Henry, who is now his partner in the undertaking. This company was incorporated in 1906 under the state laws of Wisconsin and its present officers are: E. J. Wuerzberger, president and treasurer; Henry Wuerzberger, vice president; and J. Wuerzberger, secretary.

On the 15th of June, 1904, occurred the marriage of E. J. Wuerzberger and Miss Josephine Zade, of Racine, and they have two children, Ruth and Florence. Mr. Wuerzberger is connected with the fraternal order of Eagles and gives his political allegiance to the democratic party.

SAMUEL STEELE.

The demise of Samuel Steele, a well known resident of Mount Pleasant township, was deeply regretted, for he was recognized as a successful farmer, a good citizen and a man of sterling qualities. He was born in Ireland, December 25, 1822, and began his education there, but when ten years old came to America and for several years attended school in Rochester, New York. In early manhood he took up the profession of school teaching, being so employed in Tennessee for several years and in Racine county, Wisconsin. He arrived here in 1847 and after dividing his time between teaching school and working as a farm hand for two or three years he went to Racine and was connected with the city schools for three years. He decided, however, that farming offered a greater opportunity for advancement and purchased ninety acres of land in Mount Pleasant township, to which he subsequently added until at the time of his death he owned two hundred and eleven acres, all of which was well improved and in a high state of cultivation. For many years he devoted his time to farm work and his well planned labors were rewarded by excellent crops, for which he received a good price. He gained more than a competence as the result of his enterprise and careful management and was also a factor in the agricultural advancement of his locality. He was a great fancier of horses and a breeder of high class, standard bred trotters and found this business very profitable.

In 1855 Mr. Steele married Miss May A. Osborn, a daughter of John and Rebecca Osborn, who located in Racine county in 1843. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Steele, namely: Jennie R., now the wife of John Davis; William J., deceased; John H., who married Susan Davis; Nellie M., William and Charles, all deceased; Arthur, who married Margaret Jones; and Margaret Elizabeth, who married Shirley Worthington, by whom she has two children, Helen Gertrude and Francis Steele.

Mr. Steele was a republican and was called to a number of local offices, serving for years as a member of the school board, for a considerable period as school superintendent, during which period he brought about many im-

provements in the public schools, as assessor for nineteen years and as a member of the town board. In religious faith he was a Presbyterian, and fraternally he was identified with the Woodmen. In all that he did he exercised sound judgment and energy, and his death in 1894 deprived Mount Pleasant township of one of its valued citizens.

HENRY CRANE.

Henry Crane, who is engaged in the butchering business in Franksville, has been a lifelong resident of Racine county, his birth having occurred in Dover township, January 25, 1848. His parents were William and Caroline (Sparks) Crane, both of whom were natives of Somersetshire, England, and about the year 1844 arrived in Racine county, settling in Dover, where the father purchased government land. He had about three hundred acres ere his death, constituting a valuable farming property, which indicated what might be accomplished through energy, determination and close application, for when he came to the new world he was in limited financial circumstances. His remaining days were spent in Dover township and when death called him he was laid to rest in Union Grove cemetery. In political belief he was a democrat, while in religious faith both he and his wife were Episcopalians. They had a family of seven children: William, a retired farmer living in Kenosha county; Walter, deceased; Edward, who followed farming in Iowa; John, a retired farmer living in Union Grove; Emma Jane, who is the widow of John Spriggs and now lives with a daughter in North Dakota; Henry, of this review; and Robert, who is a butcher of Delavan, Wisconsin.

Henry Crane was reared under the parental roof and had the usual experiences of the farm bred boy. In early manhood he wedded Jane Kerns, who was born in Kenosha county and who passed away in 1876. In 1878 he wedded Mary A. Fagan, a daughter of Patrick and Jane (Ryan) Fagan, both of whom were natives of Ireland, and in 1845 came to Racine county. After a time they settled in Caledonia township and Mr. Fagan purchased a farm of forty acres, to which he added as his financial resources increased. He became quite successful in his business affairs and was widely and favorably known in his locality. His political allegiance was given to the democratic party, while his religious faith was evidenced by his membership in St. Louis' Catholic church. To him and his wife were born five children: James, who is living in Caledonia township; Mrs. Crane; Thomas, who was a prominent farmer of Caledonia and died in May, 1916; Katherine, who died in 1906; and Alice, who passed away at the age of seven years.

Mr. and Mrs. Crane became the parents of five children: Carrie, who died at the age of eleven years; William, at home; Leo, who is engaged in the automobile business in Milwaukee and also buys vegetables; Edmund, who was born in 1891 and died December 14, 1913; and George, who was born in 1893 and passed away July 2, 1916. Mrs. Crane was educated in the Caledonia schools and the high school of Racine and is a lady of liberal culture. She began teaching in Milwaukee county and successfully followed that pro-

fession for eight years. At the present time she is postmistress of Franksville, having been appointed in 1915.

In early life Mr. Crane learned the butcher's trade and has given his attention to that business throughout all the intervening years. He conducted a butchering business in Racine and later in Union Grove, and about 1876 removed to Franksville, where he has since been owner of a meat market. In this connection he has built up a substantial business and is known for his thoroughly reliable methods.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Crane are active and prominent workers in St. Louis' Catholic church and Mr. Crane gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. For one term he served as postmaster of Franksville, but he has never sought office, preferring to concentrate his energies upon his business affairs. He is well known in the community where he resides and his many sterling traits of character have made him popular.

THE AMERICAN SEATING COMPANY.

The American Seating Company of Racine was incorporated under the laws of New Jersey in 1899 as the American School Furniture Company, but the name was changed to the American Seating Company in 1906. In the former year they took over the plant of the firm of Thomas Kane & Company at Racine, that company having been organized in 1894 by Thomas Kane and business associates. Prior to that date the business was carried on under the style of the Racine Hardware Manufacturing Company. It was instituted and organized about 1876 by F. H. Head, Thomas Kane, E. G. Durant and I. C. Clapp, of Kenosha, Mr. Kane and Mr. Head being Chicago men. This company failed in 1893, but the business was reorganized in 1894 under the firm style of Thomas Kane & Company and since that time they have engaged in the manufacture of furniture. Since the reorganization the business has been carried steadily forward along successful lines and the plant today covers eighteen acres, while the buildings average three stories in height and cover nine acres. Something of the growth of the trade is indicated in the fact that they employ three hundred people, most of whom are skilled laborers. The buildings are of mill construction and they are supplied with a splendid sprinkler system. The output of the plant includes school furniture and veneer opera chairs and the product is today shipped to various parts of the world in addition to many of the chief markets of America. The buildings are well lighted and ventilated and are sanitary in every particular. In the conduct of the business the company has followed a plan that recognizes the individual as such and not as a part of a great machine. Appreciation of faithful service on the part of employes is shown in promotion when opportunity offers. The company pays a good wage and puts forth effort along many lines for the welfare of its workmen. There has been organized the American Study Club for employes and in the plant is provided a dining room, a parlor and reading room. Moreover, this company was the first to establish the Satur-

day afternoon holiday in Racine and it has ever been their purpose to win cooperation, knowing that best results are attained thereby. Theirs has never been the command of the tyrant to go, but the call of the leader to come, and winning the support and allegiance of their people, they have built up a business of gratifying proportions.

FRANK I. LINGSWEILER.

Frank I. Lingsweiler was for many years connected with the grocery business at Corliss, Wisconsin, but is now living retired in Racine. His birth occurred in Racine county in February, 1854, and his parents were John and Christine Lingsweiler. Until about fifteen years old he attended school in Mount Pleasant township and then became a student in the high school at Rochester, from which he was graduated at the age of nineteen. He devoted six years to teaching, but when twenty-five years old embarked in the grocery business with W. E. Lee at Western Union Junction, now known as Corliss. He remained a factor in the business life of that town until the 1st of January, 1910, and all who had dealings with him acknowledged his sound judgment, his quick insight into a business situation and his integrity. On New Year's day, 1910, he retired and removed to Racine, where he enjoys well deserved leisure, living at 1552 Asylum avenue.

In 1879 Mr. Lingsweiler was united in marriage to Miss Ella Nobles, a daughter of George and Maria (Allen) Nobles. Mr. and Mrs. Lingsweiler became the parents of three sons, namely: Raymond, who married Miss Ada Galloway, of Racine, and is living in Corliss; Frank I., Jr., who married Miss Nellie Gillett, of Racine, and has a son, Frank I. III; and Harold M., who married Miss Gladys Bakener, of Racine, by whom he has a daughter, Beverly Jane.

Mr. Lingsweiler is prominent in the local councils of the republican party and has served in a number of offices, including that of township supervisor, village supervisor, member of the town board, town clerk and member of the school board. He is a communicant of the Episcopal church, in which he served as deacon for years. Fraternally he is well known, belonging to Belle City lodge, No. 92, A. F. & A. M., at Racine and to the Modern Woodmen lodge at Corliss, in which he served as clerk and consul. All that he has accomplished was due to his own ability and initiative, and in attaining success he never did violence to his high standards of right and wrong.

DAVID F. GRISWOLD.

David F. Griswold, city editor of the Racine Journal, has been connected with newspaper publication since beginning his independent career and now ranks among the leaders in that field in the city of Racine. His birth occurred here on the 26th of December, 1854, and he is a son of Nelson A. and Jane

(Wilson) Griswold, who removed to this city in 1850. The father was a ship carpenter by trade and was employed in the construction of some of the first vessels built in Racine. He passed away in 1856 and his wife five years ago.

David F. Griswold, or "Dave" Griswold, as he is familiarly called, was reared here and received his education in the public schools. When eighteen years old he began learning the printer's trade in the office of the Racine Weekly Argus, but when the Daily Argus was established in 1880 changed to the office of the Racine Journal, working at the case until the Daily Journal was started, when he became its city editor. He has since held that position and has made an excellent record, gaining recognition in newspaper circles for the efficiency of his work. All local events of interest are fully and reliably reported in the Daily Journal and the excellence of its city news service is one of its strongest points. He is financially interested in the Racine Journal Printing Company and is serving as a member of the board of directors.

Fraternally Mr. Griswold belongs to Racine lodge, No. 32, K. P., of Racine; Beta council, No. 2, Royal league; Racine lodge, No. 18, A. F. & A. M.; the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Central Association, Y. M. C. A. His keen interest in the commercial and industrial expansion of his city is indicated by his membership with the Racine Commercial Club. He is independent in politics, and his religious faith is indicated by the fact that he belongs to St. Luke's Episcopal church. He has thoroughly identified his interests with those of his community and in many ways has been instrumental in promoting the public welfare. He is widely known and his many admirable qualities have gained him the warm friendship of those with whom he has been closely associated.

L. P. VALENTINE, M. D.

Dr. L. P. Valentine, who is engaged in the practice of medicine at Corliss, is one of the progressive and successful physicians of Racine county. He was born in New York city on the 20th of September, 1872, a son of Francis and Pauline Valentine, natives of France, who returned to that country when their son, L. P., was but three months old. He acquired an excellent education in France and did his college work in the Lycée Charlemagne in Paris, graduating at the age of eighteen. He then returned to New York, but after three months went to Louisville, Kentucky, where he remained for six years. He completed a medical course in the University of Louisville, receiving his professional degree at the age of twenty-four. For about a year he served as interne in a hospital in that city, after which he came to Corliss, Wisconsin, where he has since been located, or for two decades. Through his membership in the county and state medical societies and through reading along professional lines he keeps in touch with the trend of modern thought and practice in the professional field.

Dr. Valentine was married on the 23d of December, 1898, to Miss Susan

Place Tradewell, a daughter of Wesley and Jane (Place) Tradewell. Three children have been born to this union, namely, Eloise, Ernest and Jane.

In his political belief the doctor is a republican. He was chosen as the first president of the village and has for years been a member of the school board. Nothing affecting the general welfare is a matter of indifference to him, and he keeps well informed as to the problems, both local and national, that come before the public for solution. He attends the different churches in the village and gives his support to all movements that make for moral advancement. His chief interest, however, has always been in his profession and the large practice which he has gained is well deserved.

HENRY J. HERZOG.

Henry J. Herzog met with success as a farmer and is now living retired upon his well improved place on section 32, Mount Pleasant township. He was born in Bavaria, Germany, March 5, 1848, a son of John Adam and Mary (Eiler) Herzog, who in 1849 brought their family to Racine, Wisconsin, where the father engaged in carpentering and contracting until 1859. In that year he purchased one hundred and five acres of land in Mount Pleasant township, which he cultivated until his death in 1891. He had survived his wife for twenty years, her demise occurring in 1871. Both were buried in Mound cemetery. In politics he was a democrat and in religious faith a Lutheran.

Henry J. Herzog entered the public schools in Racine at the usual age and continued his studies until he was about eighteen years old, when he turned his entire attention to assisting his father on the farm. He devoted his active life to agricultural pursuits and his thorough knowledge of practical methods, his progressiveness and his careful attention to his work enabled him to accumulate a competence. He now leaves the actual work of the farm to others, although still residing upon his land.

Mr. Herzog was married in 1873 to Miss Julia Smith, a daughter of Mathew Smith, of Mount Pleasant township, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Mamie, the widow of Frank Weber, by whom she has a daughter, Gertrude; Martin, who married Helen Wynhoff and has two children, John and Jeannette; Leslie, who married Lillian Fonk and has three children, Leslie, Grace and Henry; and Edna, who married Joseph Wynhoff, by whom she has three children, Bernice, Agnes and Bernard.

The democratic party receives the political support of Mr. Herzog, and he takes a public-spirited interest in everything relating to the welfare of the community. He has had years of experience in legislative affairs, having represented his town on the county board of supervisors in 1881, 1891, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, as chairman of the county board in 1891, and in 1886 he was elected county treasurer, serving two years. He was one of the organizers of the Yorkville & Mount Pleasant Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company in 1874, and is its present president, holding this position for the past twenty years. He was elected to the assembly in 1914. When he began his independ-

ent career he had no capital, but he possessed the assets of energy and sound judgment and through the exercise of those qualities has won a place among the substantial residents of his township.

NELS CHRISTIANSEN.

Nels Christiansen is the owner of a good tract of land of forty-two acres in Mount Pleasant township and is now devoting his entire time and attention to agricultural interests. He was born in Denmark, December 26, 1869, a son of Hans and Sophia Christiansen. He pursued his education in the schools of his native country and afterward learned the blacksmith's trade there. In 1892 he came to the United States, making his way to Chicago, and after four months spent in the western metropolis removed to Racine, where he was employed at blacksmithing for a year and a half. At the end of that period he established a smithy of his own in Dover, Racine county, where he lived for three years, and later he purchased forty-two acres of land in Mount Pleasant township upon which he has since made his home, concentrating his efforts upon the further development and cultivation of his fields. His work is conducted along practical and progressive lines, in keeping with the most scientific methods of farming, and therefore he obtains substantial results as a reward for his industry.

In 1896 Mr. Christiansen was married to Miss Laura Christensen. They are members of the Danish Lutheran church and they possess sterling traits of character which have won for them high regard among their many friends in Mount Pleasant township. Mr. Christiansen was a young man of twenty-three years when he crossed the Atlantic, hoping to enjoy better business opportunities in the new world, and while he started out in life here empty-handed, he has worked his way steadily upward and has gained a place among the substantial citizens of his community.

W. L. MUNROE.

W. L. Munroe, who is engaged in cultivating a farm of ninety-six acres in Mount Pleasant township, has been a lifelong resident of the locality in which he now makes his home, for his birth occurred in Mount Pleasant township, August 1, 1860, his parents being O. C. and Lavinia Munroe. The father, a native of Vermont, came to the west in 1844 and cast in his lot with the pioneer settlers of Racine county, establishing his home at Mygatt's Corners, in Mount Pleasant township. The work of development and improvement in the locality was then in its primitive stages and he became active in the task of converting this district into a well developed and prosperous region. His wife was also a native of New England and they were married in Vermont.

Upon the farm in Mount Pleasant township Mr. Munroe continued to make his home until called to his final rest.

At the usual age W. L. Munroe entered the district school near his father's home and afterward continued his education as a public school pupil in Racine. When his textbooks were put aside he devoted a year to work upon his father's farm and then began farming on his own account, now concentrating his efforts and attention upon the further development and cultivation of a good tract of land of ninety-six acres. His labors are resultant, for his methods are practical and in the conduct of his business he displays unremitting industry.

In 1884 Mr. Munroe was married to Miss Edith J. Bartlett, a daughter of J. O. and Editha Bartlett. They have a family of three children: Edwin Lee, Nellie Maude, and Inez Edith. Mr. Munroe gives his political support to the republican party, with which he has voted since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He has held no political offices but has served on the school board and is helpfully interested in matters pertaining to the general welfare and upbuilding of the district.

CHRISTIAN ERBE.

The family name indicates the German nativity of Christian Erbe, who displays in his business career many of the sterling characteristics which mark the efficiency of the Teuton race. He was born in Saxony, Germany, January 29, 1839, a son of George and Catherine (Ungerecht) Erbe, who were also natives of Saxony. The ancestry is traced back to Christian Erbe, the great-grandfather. The grandfather was John Erbe, who died in Germany when his son George was but fourteen years of age. One of the family, Sebastian Erbe, served in the Revolutionary war, on the English side, and was taken prisoner at the battle of Trenton. George Erbe was born September 26, 1800, and on the 24th of November, 1824, wedded Catherine Ungerecht, whose birth occurred May 10, 1802. They came to America in 1852, settling in Caledonia township, Racine county, Wisconsin, where the father purchased a farm of eighty acres. He brought with him considerable money and as the years passed he won a very substantial measure of success. His political allegiance was given to the democratic party, but afterward he became a champion of the republican party and was chairman of the meeting called to ratify the nomination of Lincoln. His wife was a member of the Lutheran church. He died in 1892, having for a number of years survived his wife, who passed away in 1879. They were the parents of four sons and four daughters, but only two are living, the surviving daughter being Mrs. Augusta Einwaldt, a widow living in Milwaukee.

Christian Erbe pursued his education in the public schools of Germany and for three years attended the public schools of Racine county. He was reared to the occupation of farming and determined to make it his life work and thus when he had reached his majority he concentrated his efforts upon the work of the fields. He now owns the old homestead farm upon which the

family located on crossing the Atlantic, having ninety-four and a half acres of good land in Caledonia township. He has greatly improved the place and carries on general agricultural pursuits, although he makes dairying the principal feature of his business and for this purpose keeps high grade Holstein cows.

On the 20th of November, 1866, Mr. Erbe was married to Miss Catherine Muehlfeld, who was born in Germany, and they have had eleven children, nine of whom are living; Carl, a resident of Caledonia township; Ernst, a farmer living in Milwaukee county; Christian, a molder employed at Racine; Emma, the wife of William Schwartz, a farmer of Milwaukee county; Augusta, the wife of John Smader, a butcher of Racine; Rudolph, a resident farmer of Milwaukee county; Louisa, the wife of Otto Schultz, of Caledonia township; Katie, the wife of Nelson Guenther, of Milwaukee county; and George, at home.

Mr. Erbe exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the republican party and for four years he filled the position of chairman of the town board and for one term was a member of the side board. For twenty-five years he has filled the office of justice of the peace, in which capacity he is now serving, and for thirty years he was clerk of the school board. He has ever stood for those interests which he believes to be of the greatest value to the community and his work has been a factor in public progress. For almost two-thirds of a century he has lived in Racine county, witnessing its growth and development, and as the years have gone on he has won recognition as a worthy citizen of the community by reason of what he has accomplished for the public benefit.

George Erbe, the youngest son of Christian Erbe, was married on the 6th of March, 1916, to Miss Lorene Urban, a daughter of George Urban, a highly esteemed farmer of Caledonia township. Mr. Erbe is a republican in politics and is now acceptably filling the office of clerk of the school board. He is associated with his father in the management of the home farm and is recognized as one of the leading young agriculturists of the township.

LORENZO JANES.

Lorenzo Janes was a prominent figure in that notable group of sterling men from New England and New York who pioneered Racine, city and county, and gave to the settlements, the villages and the cities a tone and character that have survived the lapse of three-fourths of a century of time, as well as the influence of the flood of alien peoples that has poured into this section during the last forty years.

Mr. Janes was born in Washington county, Vermont, September 18, 1801. He married in Albany, New York, and practiced law and became a judge there before moving to Racine in August, 1836. After coming to this city he continued the practice of law for some years, but became interested in real estate and began early to deal in it and to sell insurance. In 1839 he was associated with Gilbert Knapp and Gordon S. Hubbard in the ownership of the original

plat of Racine. Since his death, which occurred June 13, 1873, the business has been successfully conducted by his son, David G. Janes.

Mr. Janes was a public-spirited man, identified with most of the big enterprises of his time, and was one of those who contributed largely, from the beginning, to the substantial upbuilding of the city. He was one of the proprietors of Racine's first newspaper, in 1838, the *Racine Argus*; in 1839 he was elected a member of the Wisconsin territorial council; he was a colonel on the staffs of Governors Henry Dodge and James D. Doty; he gave to the city the land on which the original fourth ward school was located. Later, when a much larger school was built on the site, it was named the Janes school, after the donor. Mr. Janes was one of the founders and a consistent member of the First Baptist church of Racine.

One of his sons, George S., was a member of Company K, Eighth infantry, during the Civil war, and gave his life for his country.

DAVID G. JANES.

David G. Janes enjoys the unique distinction of being the only man now occupying a dominant position in the business life of Racine, of whose father it may be said with equal truth that he was an important factor in the actual founding of the city eighty years ago.

Mr. Janes was born in Racine, April 2, 1852, and has lived here all of his life, getting his education in the public schools of the city. He is married and has three daughters and two sons, one of whom, Arthur R., is associated in business with him.

Mr. Janes is a real estate and insurance man by inheritance, by training and by experience, and he has probably handled more large "deals" in his line than any other man in the history of the city. The firm of which he is the head is almost as old as the city itself, having been established by his father in the real pioneer days.

Aside from real estate and insurance Mr. Janes is vice president of the First National Bank and an official in numerous manufacturing institutions to which he gives personal attention. He is also trustee for many estates, and director on the boards of semi-public institutions, the satisfactory performance of the duties of which require ability and high character.

Mr. Janes has not desired public office but has served the city as member of the school board in 1876-81 and in 1895-7 as mayor.

WILLIAM W. STORMS.

William W. Storms, who since January, 1911, has been district attorney in Racine county, was born in Walworth county, Wisconsin, March 22, 1872, a son of Charles L. and Lucia C. (Spoor) Storms. The father, who was born in Wisconsin, was a son of Winslow P. Storms, of New York, who became one

of the pioneer settlers of the southern section of this state, where he arrived in the early '30s. The supremacy of the white man had hardly been established in this district at that period and the work of civilization and development seemed scarcely begun. He aided largely in promoting pioneer progress and in the early days conducted a tavern on the old plank road. The maternal grandfather, John Spoor, was also a pioneer settler who came to Wisconsin in the '30s, establishing his home in Lyons township, Walworth county, where he carried on general farming. Charles L. Storms was a carpenter by trade.

In the public schools of Burlington, Wisconsin, William W. Storms pursued his education, the family having removed from Walworth county to Burlington about 1879. He passed through consecutive grades to the high school, from which he was graduated in 1888, and later he attended Beloit college, displaying special aptitude in his studies. Taking up the profession of teaching in Racine county, he was for five years principal of the high school at Union Grove, Wisconsin, and was assistant superintendent of the high school at Burlington, Wisconsin, for a year, making a most enviable record as an educator. He was afterward elected county superintendent of schools, which position he filled from January, 1899, until January, 1903, and during that period several substantial improvements were made in the school system of the county. He had previously read law and in further preparation for the profession he attended the law department of the University of Wisconsin, from which he was graduated with the class of 1905. However, he was admitted to the bar in 1904 and entered upon active practice in Racine on the 17th of September of that year. He continued in the private practice of law for about six years and in 1910 was made the candidate on the republican ticket for the office of district attorney. The election returns proved that he was the choice of the people for the position, which he has occupied continuously since January, 1911. He has also during this period served as a member of the school board, remaining in that position for seven years.

On the 23d of June, 1906, Mr. Storms was married to Miss Edith Hanson, a daughter of H. I. and Anna Hanson. Her father was a retail meat merchant of Racine, but is now living retired. Mr. and Mrs. Storms have had two children, but Kathryn, their first born, died in infancy. William Wallace, the surviving son, was born May 20, 1909.

Mr. Storms is a prominent Mason, belonging to lodge, chapter, council, consistory and to the Mystic Shrine. Of the Knights of Pythias lodge of Racine he is a past chancellor commander and he is also connected with the Dramatic Order of the Knights of Khorassan. He is a member of the Elks and the Eagles and belongs to Rochester lodge, No. 1, I. O. O. F., in which his father and his grandfather held membership, the latter having been one of the first representatives of the order in the state. Mr. Storms is also connected with the Order of the Eastern Star and with two college fraternities, the Delta Tau Delta and the Phi Alpha Delta. He is a member of the Commercial club and of the Wisconsin Republican club. A recognized leader of the republican party in Wisconsin, he has served as a delegate to the national convention. His official record as district attorney is most creditable. In

five years he has conducted but one case in which the verdict of not guilty has been returned. He conducted the grand jury investigation of the Commercial & Savings Bank of Racine, which was the first occasion on which the grand jury had been called in Racine in sixty years. Nature endowed him with keen mentality and he has used his talents wisely and well. He has a comprehensive knowledge of the principles of jurisprudence, is correct in their application to the points in litigation and has won a well deserved reputation as a most able and successful lawyer.

NELS M. CHRISTENSEN.

Nels M. Christensen, who passed away at his excellent home in Racine after having moved from his farm of two hundred acres in Raymond township in 1905, was empty-handed and without influential friends when he came to Racine county, Wisconsin, at the age of twenty-two and his success was due entirely to his own efforts. He was born in Denmark, November 10, 1839, and after acquiring a common school education there he worked at farming until 1861, when he emigrated to the United States, making his way at once to Racine county, Wisconsin. For ten years he worked as a hired hand, but by carefully saving his money was enabled at the end of that time to purchase sixty acres of land in Norway township. In after years he became the owner of two hundred acres in Raymond township, all well improved and under cultivation. He engaged in general farming, raising both grain and live stock, and received a good income from his land. He followed up-to-date methods, kept everything about the place in excellent repair and studied the markets carefully, ranking among the efficient agriculturists of his township and county.

In 1869 Mr. Christensen was united in marriage to Miss Anna Marie Larsen, a daughter of Lars Andersen, and they became the parents of eight children: Annie is now the wife of Henry Schuman, who owns and operates a farm in Raymond township, and they have five children; Martin, who is serving as county treasurer and resides in Racine, married Miss Sophia Frederickson and has one child; James M., who owns and operates a farm in Raymond township, married Miss Annie Anderson and has two children; Benjamin married Miss Lillian Hay and died in Racine in 1910; Louis C., a farmer and business man of Raymond, married Miss Bertha Frederickson and has two children; Joseph E. and Ezra H. are engaged in the stock and real estate business in partnership at Corliss, Wisconsin, where they own and manage three large farms and the latter is also a successful auctioneer, making on an average two hundred sales per year; Joseph E. married Miss Nan Fink, and Ezra H. married Miss Hazel Fink; Ilo, the youngest of the family, is serving as deputy register of deeds.

Mr. Christensen was a strong republican and acceptably served in several local offices. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and in all the relations of life his conduct measured up to high moral standards. He had almost attained the Psalmist's allotted age of three score years and ten when he passed away in 1905 and his death was deeply regretted, for he was a loyal

friend, successful farmer, a public-spirited citizen and a man of sterling worth. Mrs. Christensen still lives in their home at Racine, enjoying good health at the age of seventy years.

WILLIAM C. HOOD.

William C. Hood, who since 1898 has been manager for the American Seating Company at Racine, was born in this city April 21, 1860, a son of Samuel and Alice (Coy) Hood. The father was a son of Thomas Hood, who came from New York to Racine in 1836, when the work of development and improvement had scarcely been begun in this section of the state. He secured government land and became one of the pioneer settlers of the district. Hood's creek was named in his honor. His son, Samuel Hood, engaged in farming to the age of twenty-one years and afterward entered the employ of J. I. Case, with whom he remained for several years. Subsequently he established a lumberyard which he conducted for many years, carrying on a growing and profitable business. Later he retired and spent his last days in the enjoyment of well earned rest, passing away after reaching the eightieth milestone on life's journey. His wife is also deceased. Mr. Hood had served as a member of the school board and was interested in all that pertained to public progress and improvement. At the time of the Civil war he became a member of the commissary department and in politics he was always a republican, standing loyally by the party which was the defense of the Union during the dark days of civil strife.

William C. Hood acquired a public school education in Racine and made his initial step in the business world as a clerk, spending a year and a half in different stores. In 1880 he entered the employ of the Racine Hardware Manufacturing Company, which had been organized in 1876 by F. H. Head, Thomas Kane, E. G. Durant and I. C. Clapp. In 1893 that company failed, but the following year the business was reorganized under the firm style of Thomas Kane & Company. In 1899 it was incorporated under the laws of New Jersey as the American School Furniture Company, but in 1906 the name was changed to the American Seating Company and has so since continued. In this connection Mr. Hood has gradually worked his way upward and in 1894 was made superintendent of the plant, having in the meantime gained comprehensive knowledge of the business in principle and detail. He has been manager since 1898 and the successful control of the business in the operative department is largely attributable to his efforts. sound judgment, broad experience and keen discrimination.

In 1891 Mr. Hood was united in marriage to Miss Cora G. Galliene, of Racine, a daughter of Captain John Galliene, who was a lake captain and one of the pioneer settlers of this city. Mr. and Mrs. Hood have four children, namely: Stanley, Coy, Vincent and Martha.

Fraternally Mr. Hood is connected with the Knights of Pythias and the Royal Arcanum. That he is interested in the welfare and improvement of his city is indicated in his hearty co-operation with the plans and projects

of the Commercial Club. For the past seven years he has served as a member of the school board and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. He has always voted with the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He was one of the organizers of the Racine Light Guards, which was mustered into the state service May 4, 1881, as Company F, Wisconsin National Guard. He served as private and sergeant until July 19, 1883, when he was elected second lieutenant. On the 7th of January, 1884, he was appointed first lieutenant and served as such until December 27, 1887, when he was commissioned captain. Owing to the increase of business cares he was compelled to resign in the summer of 1889. He belongs to the Baptist church and sterling principles have characterized his entire career. It has been through fidelity, industry and integrity that he worked his way upward from a humble position until he is now active in the control of one of the leading business enterprises of the city.

ALBERT HANSON.

Albert Hanson, a representative farmer of Norway township, residing on section 31, was born in that township October 19, 1865, his parents being Ole and Rosline (Thompson) Hanson, both of whom were natives of Norway. His paternal grandfather, Hans Olson, came from that country at an early day and settled in Racine county, Wisconsin, developing and improving a farm in Dover township. The maternal grandfather of our subject spent his entire life in Norway. The father, Ole Hanson, was born in 1835 and was only eleven years of age when he crossed the Atlantic in 1846 and became a resident of this county. In early life he learned the mason's trade, at which he worked for some time, but in 1862 located on the farm in Norway township now belonging to our subject. He owned one hundred and sixty acres and was successful in his farming operations. Upon his place he erected good and substantial buildings and continued to reside upon the farm until his death, which occurred March 18, 1913. The republican party found in him a staunch supporter and both he and his wife were members of the Lutheran church. She was born in 1833 and died in February, 1912. Of the six children born to them four are still living, namely: Hans C., who is engaged in the lumber and saw mill business at Kennedy, Sawyer county, Wisconsin; Thomas, who is engaged with the Sterling Manufacturing Company, of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Albert, of this review; and Mrs. T. Thronson, whose husband is a farmer of Omamee, North Dakota.

Albert Hanson was reared and educated in much the usual manner of farmer boys and throughout his active business life has engaged in the occupation with which he became familiar in early life. He has met with success as an agriculturist and also possesses good mechanical ability, devoting considerable time to the repairing of machinery for neighboring farmers. He is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land. He follows dairying to some extent and for this purpose keeps shorthorn Durham cows.

In December, 1913, Mr. Hanson was united in marriage to Miss Clara Ludwig, a native of Vernon, Waukesha county, Wisconsin, and to them have been born two children, Ruth and Lucile. They hold membership in the Norway Lutheran church and by his ballot Mr. Hanson supports the men and measures of the republican party. He has taken quite an active and influential part in local politics and has served as assessor and treasurer of his township and is now chairman of the town board, having filled that office for three terms. Wherever known he is held in high esteem.

E. J. BOTTING.

One of the leading agriculturists and progressive citizens of Caledonia township is E. J. Botting, whose splendidly improved property indicates the spirit of enterprise that actuates him at every point in his career. He was born in Milwaukee county, Wisconsin, July 4, 1858, a son of James and Caroline (Blake) Botting, who were natives of Kent, England. The former was a son of Edward Botting, who died in that country. James Botting was born in 1824, and in his native county of Kent married Caroline Blake, whose birth occurred in 1829. They came to the United States in 1857 and settled in Milwaukee county, Wisconsin, where they purchased ten acres of land, but after cultivating that tract for a time Mr. Botting sold the property and bought a farm of fifty-seven acres, on which he lived for twenty-nine years. To the farm he added twenty acres and met with success through the progressive manner in which he developed and cultivated the property, living upon the place until 1892. He and his wife had but six cents when they reached Milwaukee, and the prosperity which they won was the merited reward of their energy and well directed industry in later years. The wife and mother died in 1892, at which time the father went to live with his son, E. J. Botting, passing away at his home in 1895. They were the parents of seven children of whom but three are living: Fannie, the wife of Herbert Cheeseman, a farmer residing near Milledgeville, Carroll county, Illinois; Esther, the wife of Dan Lowers, of Milwaukee, who was section foreman for a number of years; and E. J. The parents held membership in the Episcopal church, in the work of which Mr. Botting took a very active and helpful part. His political allegiance was given to the republican party, and he was a man of considerable influence in the community, liberally educated and well informed on current questions and possessing, moreover, many sterling traits of character which gained for him high regard.

E. J. Botting attended school in South Milwaukee, but from an early age devoted much of his time to the work of assisting his father in the development of the home place, and he early learned the value of industry and perseverance as factors in the attainment of success. He has made good use of his time and opportunities and is now carrying on general farming on one hundred and twenty acres of land in Caledonia township. The place is now well improved, for he has put up good buildings and has added to the productiveness of his fields by laying seven miles of tiling. He was one of the first to

establish a route from this locality to ship milk to the Horlick factory and he now has eighteen brown Jersey cows, some of which are full blooded. He has always been a very progressive man and employs the latest improved methods of farming. A large silo on his place enables him to furnish green fodder for his stock through the winter months and he does everything possible to advance the worth of his farm, realizing that an immediate expenditure of money in improvements or for the introduction of advanced methods will often mean a most substantial return in the future. His home is one of the fine residences of Caledonia township.

In February, 1879, Mr. Botting was married to Miss Ella Stearns, a daughter of Thomas and Mary (Dudley) Stearns. The father was born in Massachusetts in 1824, and the mother in Vermont in 1834. They were married in Oak Creek township, Milwaukee county, Wisconsin, where they settled in early life among the pioneer residents of that locality and there they spent their remaining days. The father died in 1889, while the mother passed away in 1870. They were the parents of four children, of whom three are living: Hannah, the wife of William Dallmann, a farmer of Montana; Mrs. Botting; and Harry, who served in the Spanish-American war and is now living in the state of Washington. The parents were members of the Episcopal church. Mr. and Mrs. Botting have become the parents of nine children: Sylvia, the wife of George Cooke, a poultryman of Caledonia township; James, a resident farmer of Oak Creek township, Milwaukee county; Grace, the wife of Joe Guckenburg, of the same township; Harry, who follows carpentering; and Carrie, Lester, Rowland, Herbert and Ella, all at home.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Botting hold membership in the Episcopal church and do all in their power to promote its growth and extend its influence, Mr. Botting having served as senior warden for a number of years. In politics he is a republican and has served as roadmaster, while for nine years he was a member of the school board. He is interested in all that pertains to the welfare of the community, and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the new burying ground. His entire life record is commendable and the sterling traits of his character are such as insure for him the warm and enduring regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

ARTHUR B. MODINE.

Arthur B. Modine is identified with two of Racine's important manufacturing enterprises which have recently come into force as factors in the material development of the city. A native of Chicago, Mr. Modine was born on the 27th of October, 1885, the son of John A. and Amanda (Linstrum) Modine. The father, who was a contractor and builder, has now passed away, but the mother still resides in Chicago.

Their son Arthur obtained a public school education, mastering the work of the grades and then entering the English High and Manual Training School. He afterward studied in the Armour Institute of Chicago and matriculated in

the University of Michigan, from which he was graduated in 1908 with the degree of mechanical engineer. Soon afterward he accepted a position in the chemical engineering department of the Peoples Gas Light & Coke Company of Chicago and still later became engineer inspector at the pipe foundries for the same company. In 1910 he turned his attention to the building contracting business on his own account and in the fall of that year organized the Aero Sheet Metal Works. On the organization of the Automobile Radiator & Parts Manufacturing Company Mr. Modine became its treasurer and was active in the upbuilding of that business. This was the predecessor of the Perfex Radiator Company, of which Mr. Modine became a principal stockholder. Mr. Modine was elected treasurer of the company and so continued until November, 1915, when he became vice president. In 1912 he moved the plant from Chicago to Racine and located at Fifteenth street and the Northwestern Railway tracks. He was largely instrumental in building up the business of the Perfex Radiator Company and in May, 1916, he disposed of his interests in the company to form the Modine Manufacturing Company, organized for the purpose of manufacturing an improved radiator, with offices and factory in the Sattley building. In addition to his connection with the Modine Manufacturing Company, Mr. Modine is president of the Aerial Motors Corporation, a company manufacturing rotary type motors for aeroplanes. This motor was invented by Lee Oldfield, of Minneapolis, and the plant is to be established at Racine.

On the 12th of June, 1915, Mr. Modine was married to Miss Margaret Bartlett, of Racine, a daughter of G. W. and Julia (Thomas) Bartlett. Mr. Modine is a member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. He also belongs to the Elks, to the Swedish Engineers Society, to the Tractor Engineers Society and the National Gas Engine Association. He has studied closely many of the engineering problems encountered in his experience and his comprehensive knowledge, executive force and business ability in other directions have qualified him for the important duties now devolving upon him.

GEORGE W. NOTT, M. D.

Dr. George W. Nott, an able member of the medical profession, was born in Lodi, Wisconsin, January 2, 1872, a son of Welcome S. and J. L. (Phinney) Nott, who in 1854 arrived in Milwaukee, becoming pioneer settlers of the state. The former was a son of George W. Nott, of New York, who brought his family here, and both he and W. S. Nott were farmers. The latter, however, carried on agricultural pursuits only until he reached the age of twenty-five years when he turned his attention to merchandising, to which he has devoted the greater part of his life. At the present writing, however, he is living retired.

Dr. Nott obtained a public school education and then, determining upon the practice of medicine as his life work, he entered Rush Medical college of Chicago, and was graduated therefrom with the class of 1896. Immediately

afterward he came to Racine, where he has since followed his profession, and while he continues in general practice he makes a specialty of surgery and there is heavy demand upon his time and energies for surgical work. In addition to much private practice of that character he is acting as surgeon for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway company and for the Chicago & Milwaukee Electric Railway company. He was professor of pathology in the Wisconsin College of Physicians and Surgeons during the years 1896 and 1897. He belongs to the Racine County, Wisconsin State and American Medical associations, to the Wisconsin Surgical society and the American Association of Railway Surgeons.

In 1899 Dr. Nott was married to Miss Mabel M. McDonald, of Lodi, Wisconsin, a daughter of Daniel and Gertrude McDonald, who were early settlers of this state, and they now have one child, Gertrude, ten years of age. Dr. Nott is well known in Masonic circles, holding membership in the Knights Templar commandery and in the consistory, while with the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine he has also crossed the sands of the desert. He is likewise identified with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, while in politics he maintains an independent course, preferring always to vote as a nonpartisan. His interests center in his profession and he keeps in touch with advanced thought and with modern research work, employing the latest scientific discoveries to promote his efficiency in his chosen field.

CLARENCE H. VAN VLIET.

Clarence H. Van Vliet was born in Racine, June 13, 1885, a son of John Wieher and Christina (Henry) Van Vliet, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of New York. In the paternal line he is descended from one of the old New England families and his great-grandfather was a soldier in the war of 1812. In the '40s his father left the Green Mountain state and sought the opportunities offered in the middle west, establishing his home in Wisconsin. He was a carpenter and builder by trade. He died in 1904 and is still survived by his widow, who yet makes her home in this city. They became the parents of seven children, four of whom are yet living.

Clarence H. Van Vliet, reared under the parental roof, became a public school pupil at the usual age and passed through consecutive grades to the high school, where his education was completed, for he then put aside his textbooks to become an active factor in business life and thereafter provided for his own support. He was first employed by the Racine Wagon & Carriage Company, but when twenty-three years of age he became interested in the West Side Printing Company, purchasing stock in the business in the spring of 1909 and thus becoming a partner of E. H. Wadewitz and R. A. Spencer. This association has since been maintained, the company's name being changed to Western Printing & Lithographing Company in 1911. The company entered upon an era of very substantial advancement. The three men studied every phase of the business as related to the output, the extension of the sales and the building up of a name for the house. All were actuated by a spirit of

enterprise and progress and the labors of one ably supplemented and rounded out the labors of the others. Along well defined lines they have not only kept abreast with the progress that has been made in the printing business, but have to a considerable extent been leaders in their line in the middle west, taking the initiative in bringing out high class and artistic work, not only in the matter of printing but also in binding and engraving. Their output has become an expression of the highest standards in their line. They make a specialty of the printing of fine books. During all of these years Mr. Van Vliet has concentrated his energies upon the business, putting forth every effort to improve upon the methods of the house in the conduct of actual work and in the character of the output, and he is today accounted one of the forceful and resourceful business men of the city.

In 1915 Mr. Van Vliet purchased an interest in the Whitman Publishing Company and was elected president of that concern. He has since devoted his time and energy to the publication of juvenile books.

On the 26th of June, 1911, Mr. Van Vliet was married to Miss Rose L. Reiman, of Racine, a daughter of Robert and Mary (Bowman) Reiman, who were early settlers here. Mrs. Van Vliet is a member of the Universalist church, and both she and her husband are well known socially in the city. Mr. Van Vliet is a Knight Templar Mason, holding membership in blue lodge, chapter and commandery, and also with the Elks and the United Commercial Travelers.

FRED W. BROWN.

One of the attractive homes in Caledonia township is the property of Fred W. Brown, who is engaged in general farming and dairying. He was born in Granville, Milwaukee county, Wisconsin, June 9, 1872, a son of William and Johanna (Schrader) Brown, both of whom are natives of Germany, the former born in 1850 and the latter in 1846. They were married in the land of their birth and their wedding trip consisted of a voyage to the new world with Milwaukee as their destination. The father served as a soldier in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71. After coming to Wisconsin he worked as a section hand for some time, for he arrived in the new world empty-handed, but eventually he rented land and in 1898 purchased a farm of fifty-five acres in Caledonia township, Racine county, and is now devoting his energies to the further development and improvement of that place. His political allegiance is given to the republican party, and both he and his wife are consistent members of the German Lutheran church. Their family numbers two children, the younger being Augusta, the wife of Joe Olle, a farmer of Caledonia township.

The elder, Fred W. Brown, attended the district schools of his native township and also the Lutheran parochial school and then took up the occupation to which he had been reared as a life work. He has always engaged in farming and now devotes his entire time to that occupation. He owns a farm in Caledonia township, upon which he has erected a comfortable residence and also put up large and substantial outbuildings for the shelter of grain and

stock. He has also built a silo, which enables him to furnish green fodder for his stock during the winter months. He carries on both general farming and dairying and keeps from ten to fourteen cows, shipping the milk to Racine.

In 1896 Mr. Brown was married to Miss Amanda Pofahl, who was born in Milwaukee county and removed to Mount Pleasant township, this county. They now have two children, Mabel and Elmer Leo. The parents are loyal members of the German Lutheran church, and in his political views Mr. Brown is a republican, interested in the progress and welfare of the community but never holding office, as he feels that his entire attention should be devoted to his business affairs.

WALTER SILAS HAVEN, M. D.

Dr. Walter Silas Haven, engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in Racine, is a medical graduate of the Northwestern University and after two years' hospital experience he came to this city, where he has since successfully followed his profession. He was born in Racine county, February 9, 1862, and is a son of George Silas and Jane (Jones) Haven, the former a native of Cheltenham, Ontario, and the latter of Caernarvonshire, Wales. The paternal grandfather, Isaac Haven, was also a native of England and was a veteran of the war with Napoleon, serving as surgeon in the English army and participating in the battle of Waterloo. He brought his family to the United States in 1845, settling first in Philadelphia but afterward removing to Milwaukee. George S. Haven had lived therefore in two different places in America before coming to Racine about 1863. He married Jane Jones, a daughter of Solomon Jones, who arrived in Racine county from Wales in the year 1845. The marriage of the young couple was celebrated in Racine and Mr. Haven was engaged in the business of blacksmithing and tool dressing, being connected with the J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company as head tool dresser for many years. Both he and his wife are yet living in Racine and their married life covers a period of fifty-five years. In their family were six children, three of whom died in early life, while those still living are Dr. Haven, Jennie and Frank.

At the usual age Dr. Haven became a public school pupil, continuing his education in Racine until he had completed the high school course. He then entered Beloit college, from which he was graduated in 1887, winning the degrees of bachelor of arts and master of arts. He afterward taught Greek and Latin in the Wayland academy at Beaver Dam for one year and, entering upon the study of medicine in the medical department of Northwestern university, he was graduated therefrom in 1891. He added to his theoretical knowledge practical experience in hospital work, spending two years in the Northern Illinois hospital, and in 1893 he came to Racine, where he has since engaged in general practice. He was also president of the United States pension board for many years. He has been accorded a liberal patronage and has ever been found most careful and accurate in diagnosing his cases and in employing the needed remedial agencies.

Dr. Haven exercises his right of franchise in support of the republican party where national issues are involved but at local elections casts an independent ballot. His life has been guided by the teachings of the Baptist church, of which he is a member, and he is also an exemplary representative of the Masonic fraternity. He belongs as well to the Phi Kappa Psi and the Phi Beta Kappa, while along strictly professional lines he is connected with the Racine County Medical society, the Wisconsin State Medical society and the American Medical association, thus keeping abreast with the advanced thought of the profession and utilizing its latest discoveries and researches for the benefit of his patients.

GEORGE HANNAFORD.

George Hannaford, who devotes his undivided time and attention to farming and is now the owner of an excellent tract of eighty acres, on which he is engaged quite extensively in the buying, fattening and selling of beef cattle, was born in Dover township, January 2, 1858, a son of William and Jeannette (Beaumont) Hannaford. The father was born in Devonshire, England, in 1825, and the mother's birth occurred in Poughkeepsie, New York. It was in 1848 that William Hannaford arrived in Dover township and in this county they were married. He was a farmer by occupation and owned and cultivated one hundred and twenty acres of land, which he developed along progressive lines, making it a productive property. His father, William Hannaford, was a native of England and on coming to the new world made his way direct to Dover township, where his last days were passed. The maternal grandfather, George Beaumont, was also an early settler of Dover township. William Hannaford, Jr., was a young man of twenty-three years at the time of his arrival in this county and as the years passed he made for himself a creditable position as a successful agriculturist and representative citizen. In politics he was a republican. In his family were six children, of whom five are yet living: George; Mary, the wife of John M. Hardy, a resident farmer of Dover township; Harriett, who is living with her brother George; Emma, also living with George; and William, who is a member of the same household.

George Hannaford pursued his education in the district schools and was reared to the occupation of farming, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He has always engaged in general agricultural pursuits and is now the owner of eighty acres of land, while his brother has one hundred and sixty acres. He has made a success of his life, having acquired and paid for one hundred and twenty acres of land. His business affairs have been carefully managed and he is now successfully engaged in feeding cattle and in buying and selling stock and fattening beeves for the market. For forty years he has kept a shorthorn bull and he now has sixty head of cattle on his place.

Mr. Hannaford is a member of the Masonic lodge at Union Grove and in politics is independent, voting according to the dictates of his judgment. He is recognized as one of the progressive citizens of the community and is con-

tinually putting forth effort along lines that result for the benefit of the district. His entire life has been passed in this county, covering a period of fifty-eight years, and he has therefore witnessed much of the growth and development of this part of the state.

JAMES L. ENGLISH.

One of the most substantial residents of Norway township is James L. English, who owns and operates a fine farm on section 35. In that township he was born December 4, 1871, his parents being John and Mary (Quinn) English. The birth of the father occurred in Ireland, June 18, 1831, and in that country the paternal grandfather of our subject spent his entire life. He was a weaver by trade. Coming to the new world when a young man without capital, John English worked his way steadily upward until he was possessor of a good farm in this county. In 1867 he was able to purchase a quarter section of land and later added to this a tract of eighty-seven acres. This he placed under cultivation and at the time of his death, which occurred December 21, 1905, he was one of the well-to-do citizens of his community. He was married in Waterford, Wisconsin, June 27, 1867, to Miss Mary Quinn, who was born January 2, 1850, in Norway township, and died on the 2d of February, 1909. They became the parents of eight children, namely: Lila, living on the home farm; James L.; Fannie, deceased; Harry and Frank, both at home; Kittie, a public stenographer of Milwaukee; and Benjamin and Maude, both at home. The family are identified with the Catholic church and in politics the father was an ardent democrat. Our subject's maternal grandparents were James and Katherine (Kearnen) Quinn. The grandfather came west by canal to Erie and thence by boat to Milwaukee in 1842. After remaining in the latter city for three nights he proceeded to Waterford and purchased a tract of land in Norway township, upon which he made his home until his death in 1860.

James L. English pursued his studies in the district schools of Norway township and in early life became thoroughly familiar with agricultural pursuits. He has met with marked success in his chosen occupation and in connection with his brothers and sisters is the owner of an excellent farm. Since their father's death they have added two hundred and forty-seven acres to the property left them and they now have a very valuable tract of four hundred and ninety-two acres. Mr. English follows general farming, also does some dairying and raises stock of all kinds. Upon the home place he erected a large two-story residence in 1901, built a silo in 1914 and has other good buildings which stand as monuments to his thrift and industry. His fields are under a high state of cultivation and the neat and thrifty appearance of his farm plainly indicates the care and attention which he devotes to it.

In religious faith Mr. English is a Catholic and he holds membership with the Knights of Columbus, No. 1578, at Burlington. The democratic party has always found in him a staunch supporter of its principles and he has taken quite an active and influential part in public affairs. Before he was able to

vote he was elected township clerk and for two years served as township chairman. He is now a member of the ditch commission of Yorkville and Raymond, which position he has filled since 1906. All worthy enterprises receive his hearty endorsement and he may be counted upon to further any enterprise which he believes will prove of public benefit.

RACINE PUTTYLESS WINDOW COMPANY.

The Racine Puttyless Window Company, one of the recent additions to the business circles of Racine, was organized in 1914, at which time Gustave Bahnemann was chosen president, with W. S. Goodland, secretary and treasurer, and Dr. J. S. Keech as vice president. There has been no change in the personnel of the firm since that time. The business is conducted at No. 1117 Main street, where they occupy a building two hundred by one hundred and fifteen feet and two stories in height with a four story factory on the west side of the street that is fifty by one hundred and fifteen feet. Here they have a lumberyard and they employ fifty people, most of whom are skilled workmen. The company manufactures wood work of all kinds and their specialty is the puttyless window. In this connection the plant manufactures about one hundred thousand windows per year in both wood and metal work and the frame is so constructed that it does away with all putty, making a much better and more durable window. The value of their output is further indicated in the fact that twenty-four other firms are now manufacturing the puttyless window on a royalty and the company receives a good financial return in that way. The durability of putty has ever been a question of time when it has had to be replaced and with the output of the company this necessity has been obviated. The business is now thoroughly organized and systematized so that there is no useless expenditure of time, labor or material and their patronage is steadily growing.

GUSTAVE BAHNEMANN.

Germany has given to Racine a large percentage of its citizens which number includes Gustave Bahnemann, who was born in that country on the 5th of January, 1860, his parents being Frederick and Christine Bahnemann, who were also natives of Germany and there spent their entire lives.

The son was reared and educated in that country and upon attaining his majority in 1881 resolved to try his fortune in the new world. He therefore made the trip across the Atlantic and penetrated into the interior of the country, settling at Milwaukee, where he remained until 1901. In the latter year he removed to Racine and became the partner and business associate of Adolph Weber in the ownership and conduct of a planing mill, the business being conducted under the firm name of Weber & Bahnemann until the Racine Puttyless Window Company was organized, when they sold out to the latter

company and Mr. Bahnemann became its president, in which connection he has since continued. The development of this enterprise is attributed in large measure to his efforts. He readily understands the business situation, recognizes its opportunities and utilizes the advantages thus offered, and he has the power and ability to co-ordinate seemingly diverse interests into a unified and harmonious whole.

In 1895 Mr. Bahnemann was united in marriage to Miss Matilda Theda, of Germany, returning to that country for his bride. They now have one son, Frank, who is in business with his father. Mr. Bahnemann is identified with the Commercial Club and is interested in all that pertains to the city's development, growth and improvement. Fraternaly he is connected with the Elks and politically supports the republican party, while his religious faith is that of the English Lutheran church. He is well known as a successful business man, ready to meet any emergency and guided at all times by a right conception of things that makes his course very honorable and reliable.

C. E. THORKELSON.

C. E. Thorkelson, deputy health officer of Racine, was called to this position on the 1st of June, 1914, and in the intervening period has made a most excellent record by his devotion to the interests of the city which come under his control and supervision. Racine numbers him among her native sons who are of Norwegian lineage and who possess the sterling characteristics of the people who have come to us from the land of the midnight sun. He was born in this city February 25, 1885, a son of Mathias and Mary (Eggen) Thorkelson, both of whom were natives of Norway, whence in early life they came to the new world, their marriage being celebrated in this city. Mrs. Thorkelson arrived in 1862 and it was at an earlier period that Mathias Thorkelson reached Racine. He devoted his life to mechanical pursuits and was superintendent for the B. B. Manufacturing Company for several years, in which he made the famous B. B. cart for the race horse, "J. I. C." He has now passed away, but the mother is still living

When a little lad of six years C. E. Thorkelson entered the public schools and mastered the work of successive grades until, having passed the required examinations, he was graduated from high school with the class of 1901. His further preparation for life's practical and responsible duties was made as a student in the State university at Madison, where he completed a course in bacteriology in 1906 and won the bachelor of science degree. He then went to Elkhorn, Wisconsin, where he was employed upon a farm in his professional capacity for two years, after which he returned to Racine and accepted a position with the Mitchell-Lewis Motor company in the employment and pay-roll department, continuing in that connection until the 1st of June, 1911, at which date his professional training was called into further play by his appointment as food inspector for the city of Racine under the board of health.

Three years after he was made deputy health officer in charge of the department of health and has so continued.

Mr. Thorkelson maintains an independent course in regard to politics, believing it wise to hold one's self free from party dictation, yet he does not hesitate at any time to support his honest convictions, and the principles which govern his conduct are largely manifest through his membership in the Masonic fraternity and in the Methodist church.

WILLIAM H. McCULLOUGH.

Among the native sons of Caledonia township who still reside within its borders and have won a creditable position as substantial, progressive farmers is numbered William H. McCullough, who now makes his home on section 20. He was born September 13, 1869, a son of Archie and Rose (McAllona) McCullough. The father was born in Ireland in 1827 and after coming to the new world was married in Minnesota to Rose McAllona, whose birth occurred in New York in 1843. In 1866 they became residents of Racine county, Wisconsin, where the father purchased eighty acres of land, and as opportunity offered he extended the boundaries of his farm until at the time of his death he was the owner of an excellent and productive tract of one hundred and twenty-eight acres, from which he derived a substantial annual income as a reward for the care and labor which he bestowed upon the fields. He died in 1912, but the mother is still living. In his political views he was a republican, while his religious faith was that of the Methodist Episcopal church. Starting out in life empty-handed, he worked his way upward through persistent, earnest effort and became one of the substantial residents of the community in which he lived and enjoyed the respect and good will of all who knew him. To him and his wife were born four children: William H.; Edward, a practicing physician of Delavan, Wisconsin; Laura, at home; and Frank, who is teaching school.

William H. McCullough, reared under the parental roof, obtained his education in the district schools and afterward took up the occupation of farming, which he has always followed. He early became familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and cultivating the crops and he is still busy in the work of the home place, for since his father's death the property has not been divided and he is now concentrating his energies upon the further cultivation of a farm of one hundred and twenty-eight acres. In addition to general farming he engages in dairying, keeping from sixteen to twenty cows and shipping the milk to Milwaukee. His father built an attractive residence upon the farm and there are other good improvements upon the place. Mr. McCullough keeps everything about the farm in excellent condition and the entire place indicates his progressive spirit and the practical methods which he follows. He attends the Methodist Episcopal church and his entire life

has been upright and honorable, in accord with high moral teachings. His political endorsement is given to the republican party, but he does not seek nor desire office as he feels that his farm duties claim his entire attention.

WILLIAM J. HANSCHÉ.

William J. Hansche, who is extensively engaged in truck farming in Mount Pleasant township, is of that class of citizens who are active not only in promoting the material development of the district but in advancing its moral interests as well, for he staunchly upholds all those principles which make for better manhood and higher living. He was born April 25, 1867, in the township where he still resides, a son of Rudolph and Anna (Seorgel) Hansche. He acquired a common school education, pursuing his studies to the age of eighteen years, and through the periods of vacation he worked in the fields. He has never felt a need to change his occupation but has remained upon the farm, giving his attention to the raising of vegetables. He makes a specialty of cabbage and onions and ships in carload lots. In his business affairs he is associated with his brother, F. W. Hansche, and their interests are carefully, wisely and successfully managed.

On the 1st of December, 1891, Mr. Hansche was married to Miss Etta Bradley, who died November 7, 1902, leaving four children: Elmer, at home, who is a graduate of the Racine high school and spent two years in college at Oskaloosa, Iowa; Edna, deceased; Alice, who also completed the high school course in Racine and is a student in Oskaloosa; and Maude, who has departed this life. On the 21st of April, 1908, Mr. Hansche was again married, his second union being with Minnie Gertrude De Smidt, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Claerbout) De Smidt. By this marriage there was one son, John, who passed away.

In politics Mr. Hansche is a prohibitionist, believing firmly in the principles of that party, but at local elections casts an independent ballot. He has served for three years as a member of the town board and his interest in the cause of education is shown by his active and helpful service on the school board, covering fourteen years. He has never neglected the higher, holier duties of life and is a valued member of the Pentecostal Mission church of Racine, of which he was one of the organizers, and he is also associated with the Spring Park Camp Meeting Association.