

THE
HISTORY

OF

Menard ^{and} Mason Counties,

ILLINOIS,

CONTAINING

A History of the Counties—their Cities, Towns, &c.; Portraits of Early Settlers and Prominent Men; General Statistics; Map of Menard and Mason Counties; History of Illinois, Illustrated; History of the Northwest, Illustrated; Constitution of the United States, Miscellaneous Matters, &c., &c., &c.

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MAP OF MASON AND MENARD COUNTIES, ILL.



people of Illinois, that when the Convention framed the Constitution of the State, a clause was included in the schedule to the Constitution providing that "any citizen of the United States, who had resided in the State for two years, might be eligible to the office of Lieutenant Governor." This was done in order that Col. Menard, who had only been naturalized a year or two at the time, might be made Lieutenant Governor under Shadrach Bond, first Governor of Illinois, after its formation into a State.

As Menard County was named after this popular Frenchman, it may be interesting to the reader to give a brief account of his life. Pierre Menard was born in Quebec in the year 1767. He remained in his native city till in his nineteenth year, when his native spirit of adventure led him to seek his fortunes in the Territories watered by the Mississippi and its tributaries. He was, therefore, soon found in the town of Vincennes, on the Wabash River, in the employ of a merchant, one Col. Vigo. In the year 1790, he formed a partnership with one Du Bois, a merchant of Vincennes, and they removed their stock to Kaskaskia, in Illinois. Menard, though possessed of but a limited education, was a man of quick perception and of almost unerring judgment. He was candid and honest, full of energy and industry, and these qualities soon marked him as a leader among the scattered population of his adopted home. For a number of years, he was Government Agent for the Indians, and his candor and integrity soon won for him the esteem and friendship of the Indian tribes. This fact secured him great advantage as a merchant, as he could buy their peltries for half that they could be purchased by the "Longknives." He was a member of the Lower House of the Legislature while Illinois was under the Indiana regime, and, from 1812 to 1818, he was a member of the Illinois Legislative Council, being the President of that body. He was Lieutenant Governor from 1818 to 1822, and after that he declined to accept further honors at the hands of the people. He acquired a considerable fortune, but much of it was lost through his liberality in going security for his friends. He died at the good old age of seventy-seven years, in Tazewell County. Such was the man for whom the county of Menard was named.

→ The boundaries of the county of Menard are as follows: Beginning at the southeast corner of Section 22, Township 17, Range 8 west of the Third Principal Meridian; thence east to the southeast corner of Section 21, Township 17, Range 6 west of the Third Principal Meridian; thence north to the southwest corner of Section 15, Township 17, Range 6 west of the Third Principal Meridian; thence east to the southeast quarter of Section 18, Township 17, Range 5 west of the Third Principal Meridian; thence north one-half mile; thence east one-quarter of a mile; thence north one-half mile; thence east one-quarter of a mile; thence north one and one-half miles; thence east to the southeast corner of Section 30, Township 18, Range 4 west of the Third Principal Meridian; thence north to the northeast corner of Lot 19, Township 19, Range 4 west of the Third Principal Meridian; thence west to the southeast

corner of Section 13, Township 19, Range 5 west of the Third Principal Meridian; thence north to Salt Creek; thence with said creek to the northeast corner of Section 7, Township 19, Range 6, where said creek unites with the Sangamon River; thence with the river to the southwest corner of Section 10, Township 19, Range 8; thence south to the place of beginning. The county contains an aggregate of 197,975 acres. The Sangamon River is estimated to occupy an area of 700 acres within the limits of the county. This will leave the entire area within the limits of the given boundary, 198,675 acres.

The Sangamon River flows through the county from south to north, dividing it into almost equal parts. A number of small streams flowing into the Sangamon River and Salt Creek afford an abundance of pure, fresh water for every purpose. The surface of the county is gently undulating, in the main, though for a mile or two back from the river it is somewhat broken. The greater portion of the land, in its native state, was prairie, covered with a rank and luxuriant coat of grass, and interspersed with a countless variety of wild flowers.

Groves and bodies of timber are interspersed all over its entire area, in ample abundance for all purposes of manufacture and agriculture. Along the Sangamon River, for a distance of a mile and a half, on either side, there is heavy timber; while on Rock Creek and Indian Creek, are considerable bodies also. In the eastern part of the county are Irish Grove, Bee Grove and Sugar Grove, each large bodies of good timber. On the west side of the river are Little Grove and Clary's Grove, which are also good timber. The principal kinds of timber are black, spotted, burr, white and pin oaks; elm, ash, walnut, (white and black), hard and soft maple, sycamore, linden or basswood, hickory (white and shell-bark), cottonwood, black and honey locust, pecan, cherry and mulberry.

AGRICULTURE.

The soil is adapted to agricultural pursuits in a very remarkable degree. Not only in the bottom and table lands is the black loam deep and rich, but the uplands are also equally productive. Of the 310.4 square miles, or 198,675 acres of land in the county, there were, in 1878, 168,282 acres in cultivation, against 134,173 acres in 1870. Of this, 63,286 acres were in corn, yielding 1,875,096 bushels. The same year, 1878, there were 8,987 acres in winter wheat, yielding 125,149 bushels; 891 acres in spring wheat, yielding 6,244 bushels; 8,352 acres in oats, producing 263,666 bushels; 10,168 acres in timothy meadow, yielding 14,542 tons of hay; 303 acres in Irish potatoes, producing 15,620 bushels; 1,469 acres in apple orchards, yielding 56,157 bushels of apples. The acreage of grain raised in 1878 was not as large as usual, from the fact of the extreme wet weather in the early part of the season, preventing the cultivation of large amount of the flat and low bottom-land. Beside this, winter wheat has been such an uncertain crop for some years past, that little

its roots and stem have obliterated all signs of a grave, yet it is a verdant monument to the memory of Joseph Kinney.

The first schoolhouse was built in Sugar Grove in 1822, by Meadows, Boyer, Wilcox, McNabb and Grant. It was constructed of split logs, and was about sixteen feet square. This house was furnished on a par with all the schoolhouses in the early settling of the country. Covered with boards held in their places by "weight poles," the floor of "puncheons" made of split logs, the seats the half of a log 10 or 12 feet long, with four pins set in with a large auger for legs, a log left out along one side for a window, beneath which a slab was laid on two large pins in a slanting position to serve as a writing-desk. The text-books were few in number, and the teacher made all the pens of goose-quills. The books used were the New Testament for a reader, with occasionally a copy of the old "English Reader," Pike's or Smiley's Arithmetic, but few of the pupils ever advanced farther than the Single or Double Rule of Three (*i. e.*, single or double proportion), geography was seldom studied, and English grammar was totally unknown in the schools here for several years. Uncle Minter Graham, who has taught school longer than any other man in Central Illinois, perhaps, tells an amusing anecdote about teaching grammar in an early day here, and he vouches for the truth of the statement, as it came under his own personal knowledge. A certain teacher whose aspirations were considerably in advance of his acquirements, felt himself called upon to teach English grammar. He accordingly organized a class in that science, and very kindly assisted them in preparing the first lesson, which was the four general divisions of grammar; these he pronounced for them, with a gusto, as follows: *Ortho-graph-y*, *Et-y-mo-lo-gy*, *Swine-tax* and *Pro-so-dy*. The text-books used when grammar began to be taught in the schools, were Murray's and Kirkham's Grammars. The above books, with Webster's old Speller, or the Elementary, and a "horn-book"—a wooden paddle with the alphabet pasted on it—for the little fellows, were the entire outfit of school-books. The schools at this time were all on the subscription plan, which is fully explained under the head of *Education* in this volume, and seldom were for a longer term than three months, and that in the middle of the winter. James McNabb, who, as the reader will remember, was drowned in the Sangamon River, was the first teacher in Sugar Grove; he was followed by Daniel McCall, and soon by others. Perhaps, one Templeman was the third teacher in this settlement. The first preaching in Sugar Grove was in the cabin of Roland Grand, by one Henderson, a preacher of the "New-Light" faith, as it was then termed. The New Lights and the followers of Alexander Campbell afterward united, forming what was at first denominated the Church of the Disciples, but afterward changed to the Church of Christ, sometimes called Campbellites. Of this a more extended account will be given under the head "Religious Denominations."

When the settlement was first begun at Sugar Grove, and for some time after, the nearest physician was in Springfield, then a mere village. Dr. Allen

of that city was the first practitioner of the healing art that was called to visit the community at the grove. Not a great while elapsed, however, till Dr. Winn settled near Indian Point, and began the practice of medicine.

Having thus glanced hastily at the early history of Sugar Grove, we turn now to other localities, where settlements were made in an early day, as New Salem, two and one-half miles from Petersburg, up the river; the vicinity of Indian Point; the Concord neighborhood, three miles north of Petersburg. The Indian Point settlement includes that of Lebanon and Athens, while that of New Salem is associated with that of Rock Creek. These, with Clary's and Sugar Groves, before mentioned, were the more important of the early centers of civilization; indeed, all the others may be regarded as offshoots of these. About 1820, the settlement at Indian Point began. The first settler was Robert White, who settled on the farm on which his son Franklin now lives, adjoining the ground on which Lebanon Cumberland Presbyterian Church now stands. With him came James Williams—father of Col. John Williams—and family, consisting of two sons and four daughters. Archibald Kincaid, Jacob Johnston and Dr. Charles Winn came about the same time, with those named above, and, soon after, John Moore also settled in this vicinity. William B. Short was also among the earliest settlers in this part of the county. These were all intelligent, earnest, enterprising people, and by their industry and economy laid the foundation of the wealth and development of that part of the county. The descendants of those named above make up the larger part of the population of Indian Creek neighborhood at the present time. Indeed, we are not surprised at this, when we reflect that these people held in high regard the Divine command, to "multiply and replenish the earth," as is proven from the fact that James B. Short ventured no less than five times into the bonds of matrimony. About 1820, Joseph Smith, from Kentucky, and his brother-in-law, William Holland, from Ohio, came and settled in the south side of Indian Point timber. Matthew Rogers, of Otsego County, N. Y., came the same year and settled one mile northeast of the present site of Athens. From this time the stream of emigration grew deeper and wider, and the numbers were such that but little can be given of the order of their arrival. Having thus sketched these three centers of early settlements, viz., Clary's Grove, Sugar Grove and Indian Point, we will now turn to the most important locality, so far as early settlement is concerned, in the county: we refer to "New Salem." This was the first town or village laid out in the county. At a point some two and a half miles above Petersburg, the Sangamon River washes the foot of a high hill or bluff, whose precipitous sides and level summit were, at an early day, covered with a thrifty growth of forest trees. The country, back from the crest of the hill, is almost perfectly level for miles to the west. The timber continued back from the river in a dense forest, for the distance of half a mile. From this the prairie continued in unbroken sameness for many a mile. At a distance of perhaps three miles farther up the Sangamon, the

heard him speak directly of the work of the Spirit in regeneration. While no body of people, as such, insist more strongly on the necessity of divine power in the salvation of the sinner, yet so many formalists had entered the Church that vital piety was almost extinct.

About this time, Rev. James McGready, who had been preaching seven years, was, by accident, awakened, sought religion and was powerfully converted. From this time, he turned his energies to arouse the Church. The result was a powerful revival of religion spreading over all that region. The Church was divided into a revival and anti-revival party. Some of the revival party could not accept the doctrines of the Westminster Confession touching foreknowledge and decrees, believing that it taught fatality.

The Church was organized February 4, 1810, in Tennessee. Hence, it could not be expected to have spread very far as early as the first settling of this country, in 1819 and 1820, especially when we remember that it had its origin as far south as the southeast part of Tennessee, near the Kentucky line. It is, however, true, notwithstanding this fact, that ministers of this Church found their way into Illinois before the Church was fifteen years old.

The Church in Menard County.—The first preacher of this denomination who visited this part of the State was John McCutchen Berry. He was born in the "Old Dominion," March 22, 1788. His education was limited. When twenty-two years of age, he made a public profession of faith in Christ, and united with the C. P. Church. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, and participated in the battle of New Orleans. He was licensed to preach by the Logan Presbytery, in Tennessee, in 1819; and in 1822, was ordained by the same body. In 1820, he had removed to Indiana, but he returned to Tennessee to attend Presbytery. A few years later, he removed to Sangamon County, Ill., settling in the limits of what is now Menard County, on Rock Creek. This section of country was then in the bounds of Illinois Presbytery, and so remained until the spring of 1829, when Sangamon Presbytery was organized. Mr. Berry had organized the Sugar Creek congregation, ten miles south of Springfield.

Revs. Gilbert Dodds and Thomas Campbell had migrated from Kentucky some years before the year 1829; both being licensed preachers when they came; were soon after ordained by the Presbytery of Illinois. Mr. Dodds settled on a farm some five miles south of Petersburg, where he resided until his death.

→ Synod—Old Cumberland Synod—ordered the organization of Sangamon Presbytery, and, agreeably to this order, the ministers and a few Elders met, at the house of William Drennan, on Sugar Creek, the 20th of April, 1829, and held its first meeting. The ministers were John M. Berry, Gilbert Dodds, Thomas Campbell, David Foster and John Porter, Mr. Berry, by order of Synod, acting as Moderator, and Gilbert Dodds as Clerk. Mr. Berry preached the opening sermon, from Matthew, xvi, 15. The Elders present were: Joseph

Dodds, representing Sugar Creek; John Hamilton, from Bethel, and Samuel Berry, from Concord and Lebanon. There were also present, John M. Cameron, William McCord and Neill Johnson, licentiates; Payton Mitchell and Archibald Johnson, candidates. Needham Roach, a licentiate from Nashville Presbytery was received under the care of this. This session of Presbytery also discontinued Payton Mitchell as a candidate under its care.

As Rev. John M. Berry was the first minister of this Church who preached in this county, it is due to history to give a brief description of him. As before stated, owing to his early surroundings, his education was limited; but his natural powers of mind were very far above the average. He was independent in his manner of thought, gentle and kind, but uncompromising in his opposition to all that he thought to be wrong. He was charitable in his feelings to the views of others, but unyielding in his convictions until convinced by the force of argument. As a speaker, he was plain, solemn and unassuming, making no effort at display or show; but, possessing a commanding presence and a voice at once full of power and a persuasive attractiveness, he was in every way qualified to exert a great power over an audience. Though usually full of force and logic, yet sometimes, when warmed with the inspiring power of his subject, he arose almost to sublimity, and at such times his solemn and earnest appeals were almost irresistible. His method of argument was of the clearest logical character, and when fully aroused by the importance of his subject, he seemed to carry everything before him. His character, and the estimate in which he was held, can be, to some degree, illustrated by relating an incident in the early history of this country. The reader is doubtless aware of the fact that the lamented Abraham Lincoln was engaged in the grocery trade at Old Salem, in this county, in an early day. A son of Mr. Berry was, for a time, a partner of Mr. Lincoln in the grocery, and it is probable that intoxicants were sold by them; in fact, this is generally conceded to be true. Be this as it may, Mr. Berry's son contracted habits of dissipation in some way, and ultimately became an utter wreck, dying a most horrid death. This was a blow from which the father never fully recovered; but a deep, dark shadow seemed ever after to be cast over his mind. It appears that during the partnership in the store that the father strove hard to dissuade his son from a life of intemperance, but failed. His labors were not lost, however, for the counsel, though lost on the son, made a lasting impression on Mr. Lincoln. Years after the close of the partnership, when Lincoln had reached a position of eminence in the legal profession, a grog-shop in a certain community was having a bad influence upon some men who were married, and whose wives suffered by the evil. These injured wives, on a certain occasion, gathered together and made a raid on the vile den, demolished the barrels, broke up the decanters and demijohns, and played havoc with things generally. For this the ladies were prosecuted, and Mr. Lincoln *volunteered* his services for their defense. In the midst of a most powerful argument upon the evils of the use of, and the traffic in, intoxicating

pioneers. About the year 1834, Overstreet ground a flat-boat load of flour on this mill, and, in company with Jesse G. and David Hurt, took it to the New Orleans market. Some two or three months were consumed in manufacturing the load, the bolting being done by hand. From that trip, Overstreet and David Hurt never returned. Both were stricken with disease and died in the Crescent City. Jonathan Dunn built a steam grist-mill here in an early day, and, after operating it a year or two, sold out to Strawbridge & Croft, who attached a distillery and ran the two conjointly for some time. This enterprise, however, has long since become a thing of the past. In 1856, John Overstreet, a relative of the pioneer, and Alexander Hale, built a brick steam grist-mill, at a cost of \$11,000, and began operating it in 1857. It has a run of two buhrs and is capable of grinding fifteen bushels per hour. It is at present in successful operation. Charles P. Smith opened a blacksmith shop in 1832, and soon afterward Thomas Tabor and William Brown followed in this business. Smith was the first on the ground after the laying-out of the village. After a short residence, he moved to Texas, and later, started for the gold regions of California. Like many others, he failed to reach what he no doubt deemed the land of promise, and his bones were left to bleach on the sandy plains with those of others of his unfortunate companions. A pottery was established here in quite an early day by John Pierson, and for a time did quite a paying business. Goble & Sackett and likewise Ramsey followed in a like enterprise at a later date. Tradition informs us that a cotton-gin was once operated here, and, if so, it must have been not later than 1827-28, as this article of merchandise was not cultivated in this section subsequent to the winter of the "deep snow."

CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, ETC.

The Methodists were the pioneer organization of the village. Their house of worship, erected in 1835, is still standing, though, from outward appearances, it is rather the worse for wear. The original organization was effected by Rev. Asahel E. Phelps, with seventy members. It has always held a leading position in the religious element of the village. Rev. J. W. Eckman is now completing his second year as pastor. The Christian Church was built in 1851, and is the only brick church building in the town. The congregation has never been large, and has prospered indifferently well. Among the early ministers were Elders Robert Foster and John A. Powell. The Church is at present without a regular Pastor, though Elder Claiborne Hall often officiates in that capacity. The Free Methodists have recently erected a neat frame building, and the congregation connected therewith, though small, is in a flourishing condition. A Sunday school is held in connection with each of the churches.

The first public school kept in the village was, probably, presided over by Rev. Carman Clark, though some are inclined to award that honor to a Mrs.

and a zealous advocate of education. As stated, he married a daughter of Leonard Alkire, and their first winter was passed in a small cabin near the village. He then built a cabin where his son, John Engle, now lives. His widow, is still living on the same place, and is an active old lady for her years. The mother of William Engle (a widow at the time), came to the settlement about ten years after her son. She was a genuine pioneer lady, large and stout almost as a man, kind and benevolent to all, and a great nurse and friend in cases of sickness. William Engle has eight children still living; one daughter in Lincoln, a son in Decatur and the remainder of the family (including his widow) in this county.

Leonard Alkire, as already stated, was a native Virginian, but emigrated to Kentucky, or was taken there by his parents, more properly speaking, when very young. Arriving at man's estate, and taking to himself a wife, he removed to Ohio, where he resided until his removal to Illinois, in 1823. While a resident of Ohio, he followed, to some extent, the buying-up of cattle and driving them to Eastern markets; a business at that day exposed to considerable danger. On one of his trips home, after having disposed of his drove, he traveled on horseback at the rate of eighty miles a day, carrying the cash, mostly in silver, received for his cattle, in his saddle-bags. "In swimming the Ohio River," says a local writer, "perched upon his hands and feet on the top of his saddle, his sturdy and fleet roadster stemming the rapid current with great power and speed, when nearing the opposite shore, suddenly went down; but with a terrible struggle for life finally succeeded in landing his precious freight on *terra firma*, when Mr. Alkire made the discovery that his saddle-bags (filled with silver) had drifted back by force of the current, remained suspended by the stirrups, the whole weight resting on the hocks of the noble animal and cramping his movements, thus jeopardizing his life as well as the life and hard-earned treasure of his master." Hearing frequent stories of the beauty and richness of the "Far West," as Illinois was then, he made a trip of inspection to this country. Alone and on horseback, he explored this then almost unbroken wilderness. His route led him to Sugar Grove. Entering it upon the south side, and upon obtaining a favorable view of the surrounding country, he stopped his horse and "viewed the landscape o'er." When fully comprehending the scene, he shouted out at the top of his voice, "Hurrah for old Kentuck, the garden spot of the world!" He soon came upon the cabin of James Meadows, already referred to, and being highly pleased with the surrounding country, he finally struck a bargain with Mr. Meadows, buying his claim. He returned home, sold his farm in Ohio, and the following year removed to Illinois, locating in this precinct, where the remainder of his life was spent. John Alkire, his father, came a few years later. He had removed from Virginia to Kentucky in an early day, during the bloody wars then with the Indians, which gave rise to the appellation the State still bears, that of the "Dark and Bloody Ground," and, like all the other pioneers of the time, he

bore an active part in those wars. He died here, and was buried in what is called the Blane Graveyard. Leonard Alkire built the first brick house in the then county of Sangamon (now Menard) in 1828, just fifty-one years ago. It is still standing, though a more elegant and modern brick has been reared upon the farm where this original brick house was erected. Three daughters and two sons are still living in this county, a son in Denver and one in Missouri. To his son Milem Alkire, we are indebted for much of the early history of this precinct, as well as to John Engle and Jesse England. Without their aid, and that of Alexander Meadows, our history of Sugar Grove, the early part of it at least, would have been rather meager. William Alkire, of Greenview, is a brother to Leonard, and is also an old settler of this section. Leonard Alkire died in 1877. The following will show the energy and public spirit of the man: About 1828-30, he was appointed Road Supervisor of his district, by the Sangamon County Commissioners, which was then larger than Menard County at the present day, and ordered to open a public road from near the mouth of Salt Creek to Havana, on the Illinois River. A serious difficulty to travel at the time was the Crane Creek Swamp. He called together all the able-bodied men, and proceeded to the place with wagon, tools, provisions, etc., and set to work making rails in the forest and hauling them to the swamp. Then he would cut down a large quantity of the swamp grass, which grew in great abundance and luxuriance. With this he would spread a thick bed on which to lay the rails. After laying down the rails he would place long poles across the ends of them, which would be secured by driving forked limbs astride of them, to prevent the water from floating them off. Then put on more grass, covering it finally with two or three inches of sand. He thus built a road over the swamp, which lasted many years without repair.

Lemuel Offille and the Hugheses came among the early settlers and about the same time. James Hughes was a Christian preacher, and one of the first of that denomination in this part of the country. A son, Daniel T. Hughes, now living in the village of Greenview, is also a Christian preacher. James Hughes' family moved into Greenview in 1839, he having died several years previously. Hugh D. Hughes, his son, was one of the first residents of the village of Sweetwater, and one of the builders of the mill at that place, as noticed in the history of the village. Offille and the Hugheses came to this settlement from Indiana, but, as stated, were originally from Kentucky. One of Offille's daughters married Hugh D. Hughes. Offille died some years ago, and none of his family, we believe, are here now. Westley Whipp came about the time of the "deep snow." He married a daughter of Leonard Alkire, and died several years ago, and is buried in Sugar Grove Cemetery. Two sons are living in Petersburg. Samuel McNabb was a brother-in-law of John Jenison and came previous to 1824, and has been dead some time. Pentecost and his sons, William, John and George, came in 1824-25. The old gentleman's first name is not remembered; all of them are gone from the neighborhood. John Stone came about the "deep snow,"

and had several sons, viz., William, James, Stephen, Henry, Boyd and Oliver. James lives in Greenview Precinct, the others in Sugar Grove. Henry lives on the old homestead with his father, who is still living. George Stone, a brother to John Stone, was an early settler, but is long since dead. A man named Parsons was a brother-in-law to the Stones, and came to the country about the same time. He had two sons, William and Joseph, the former of which is dead, as well as the old gentleman, but Joseph is living, and is the mail-carrier between Greenview and Sweetwater. William Douglas was here as early as 1831-32, and settled in Irish Grove, and is still living. Matthew Bracken came in 1824-25, afterward sold out to Nicholas Propst, and removed to Woodford County, where he died. A man named McKinney ranks among the old settlers, but there could be very little learned in regard to him. He, with several others, had been to a horse-race, one day, and on their way home got up a little race of their own, when McKinney was thrown from his horse and injured to such an extent that he died from the effects soon after.

Enoch B. Smith came to the settlement in Irish Grove in 1821, and Josiah B. Smith, a nephew, came in 1824. The latter was an old Whig, and took an active part in politics. Enoch Smith settled in the south end of Irish Grove, and a son, Jordan Smith, settled in the same vicinity. Enoch Smith died in 1841. His sons are also dead, and the entire family, except Mrs. Jesse England, who is his daughter. Jesse England also settled in Irish Grove in 1834. He married a daughter of Enoch Smith, and is still living on the place where he originally settled. His father came from Ohio to Sangamon County in 1819, and was the first white man who came north of the Sangamon River, and his daughter the first white woman.

John S. Jenison was a native of the Old Bay State, and came to Sugar Grove about 1822-23. He sold his claim to Leonard Alkire, and moved into the present precinct of Indian Creek. A son, Luther Jenison, now lives near the village of Greenview. Joseph and Samuel Powell, two brothers and brothers-in-law to Leonard Alkire, came about 1825. They were from Ohio here, but natives of the Old Dominion. They raised large families, finally died here, and their families scattered and moved away, some of them to Fulton County, and some to the State of Oregon. Nicholas Propst came from Virginia, and settled in Sugar Grove prior to the "deep snow," that epoch from which the pioneer dates so many events in his early history. He died here a number of years ago, and was an eccentric old gentleman of German descent. A cabinet-maker in the neighborhood owed him a debt, and not having the requisite funds on hand to cancel the obligation, told Propst that he would make him anything in the furniture line that he might need. Propst said he did not need anything just then, but that he would some day need a coffin, and, if he chose to do so, he might make him one. The cabinet-maker went to work on the coffin, and Propst superintended it, and had it made according to his own taste. When finished, there was still a small balance due Propst, so he had the man make a

long bench to lay him out on when the time came, and he had "shuffled off the mortal coil." Being thus far prepared for final dissolution, he went still farther, and had a tombstone cut out of a limestone rock, nicely dressed, and the single words, "Nicholas Propst," cut in it. When he finally died, this stone marked his resting-place in the Sugar Grove graveyard, until the effacing hand of time crumbled it to pieces, without other words or letters. After his coffin was completed, he got into it to try it, and, as he said, "to see how it would fit." He afterward told Rev. John Alkire that it scared him like h—l when he got into it.

John Wright came some time previous to 1830, and was, it is believed, from Ohio, though it is not remembered with certainty. He bought out one Samuel Alkire, a cousin to Leonard Alkire, who had settled here about 1824-25, and removed to Indiana after selling out to Wright. After living in Sugar Grove several years, Wright sold out and removed to Petersburg, and built the first bridge over the Sangamon River at that place. William Gibbs came from Baltimore, but was an Englishman. He bought out Wright when he went to Petersburg, as above stated. His oldest son lives in the village of Sweetwater. Reuben D. Black came from Ohio, and, after living here awhile, married a daughter of Leonard Alkire. He was a physician, and, at last accounts, was living in Missouri.

1819—1879.

Sixty years! But a little space, as reckoned in the six thousand years since the creation of the world; even time itself is only

—"a brief arc,
Cut from eternity's mysterious orb,
And cast beneath the skies"—

and yet what a vast record these sixty years have borne with them from the world. Revolutions have swept over the earth, as troubled visions sweep over the breast of dreaming sorrow. Cities have arisen and flourished for a little season, then disappeared, leaving no trace to tell where or when or how they sunk. New empires have sprung into existence, gathering in a brief time the strength of centuries, and then suddenly sunk from the world forever. The changes and mighty events that have occurred in our own country in those years are equally astounding. The building of railroads and steamboats, and the invention of the telegraph, are but a few of these great events. Sixty years ago, when James Meadows erected a cabin in Sugar Grove, he would not have believed that to-day would present all the changes and improvements that it has presented, "though one had risen from the dead" to proclaim it to him. The wild prairies, and the timbered groves and dells, inhabited then by Indians, deer, wolves, panthers and other savage animals, are now vast fields of waving grain; and the farmers' palatial dwellings are seen now where there were the hunter's cabin and the Indian's wigwam. All these changes are difficult of realization by others than those who have witnessed them.

The pioneers of this section had the same difficulties in procuring meal and flour as the new-comer had in other localities. Sometimes a trip was made to St. Louis for such supplies as flour, salt, and sugar and coffee when the settlers could afford such luxuries. James Meadows made more than one trip to that city in a canoe via the Sangamon, Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. He built a mill also in 1823, which was a great convenience to the people in the Sugar Grove end of the precinct. Those in the Irish Grove end used to go to Athens to mill, and even to Springfield, until a mill was erected in the village of Sweetwater, which will again be referred to. The erection of this mill secured to this district the best of facilities for obtaining the "staff of life." Jacob Boyer was the first blacksmith, who followed the trade for the benefit of others. Leonard Alkire kept a forge for his own benefit, as did Propst and James Meadows. Meadows was a wheelwright, but also kept a blacksmith-shop, principally for his own work. Josiah B. Smith was the first Justice of the Peace in the Irish Grove end of the precinct. Who was the first in Sugar Grove we did not learn.

James McNabb taught the first school in the limits of the present precinct of Sugar Grove in a small log cabin near where Gregory Lukins now lives. He is still living, and the cabin in which he taught was erected for school purposes—the first temple of learning built in the precinct. As his old pupils look back to the days when he ruled them with rod of iron they call to mind, no doubt, Goldsmith's familiar lines :

“ Beside yon straggling fence that skirts the way,
 With blossomed furze unprofitably gay,
 There, in his noisy mansion, skilled to rule,
 The village master taught his little school :
 A man severe he was, and stern to view,
 I knew him well, and every truant knew ;
 Well had the hoding tremblers learned to trace
 The day's disaster in his morning face :
 Full well they laughed with counterfeited glee
 At all his jokes, for many a joke had he :
 Full well the busy whisper circling round
 Conveyed the dismal tidings when he frowned :
 Yet he was kind, or if severe in aught,
 The love he bore to learning was in fault.

* * * * *

Amazed the gazing rustics ranged around ;
 And still they gazed, and still the wonder grew
 That one small head could carry all he knew.”

The precinct has now six schoolhouses, including the one in the village. These schoolhouses are commodious and comfortable, and furnished with all the modern improvements. Good schools are taught during the usual school term by competent teachers, and every facility is offered to the youth of the neighborhood for obtaining an education.

The religious history of Sugar Grove is somewhat complicated, as related to us by those who have been close observers of its mission in this region. It will be more fully given in connection with the village. Rev. John Alkire and Rev. Hughes were two of the early divines of the Christian Church in the precinct; also Rev. Abner Peeler, who afterward removed to Woodford County. A Christian Church was erected at an early day near where Gregory Lukins now lives. It was built of logs with puncheon floor, clapboard roof and a stick chimney at each end of the building. This served the double purpose of church and schoolhouse until 1838, when a frame building was put up 18x20 feet, and also used for church and school purposes. About the year 1848, a brick church was built on the site of the original house. It was quite an edifice for that day and was built upon a stone foundation. After the laying-out of the village of Sweetwater, the society moved their quarters, and built a church in the village. This building was then remodeled and changed into a dwelling-house.

William Engle and Elizabeth Alkire were married in 1823 and this was the first marriage in the present bounds of Sugar Grove Precinct, or in the eastern part of Menard County. The first birth and death are not remembered. But in proof that there have been a number of both, we refer the reader to the present population, and to Sugar Grove Cemetery. In its quiet shades sleep many of the early settlers of the neighborhood, as well as those who were cut down in the bloom of youth. It has been incorporated, and is beautifully situated on an elevated piece of ground about two miles from the village; is substantially inclosed and well cared for.

William Engle kept the first store in the precinct, and the first in the eastern part of Menard County, except at Athens. He opened a store on his farm (where John Engle now lives) several years before the laying-out of Sweetwater. After the village was laid out he moved his store into the corporation, where it is again alluded to. In politics, Sugar Grove is pretty evenly divided upon the great questions of the day. At one time, Irish Grove, lying partly in this precinct and partly in Greenview, gave but one Democratic vote, but the sentiment has somewhat changed since then. The precinct taken altogether, is perhaps, Republican by a small majority. During the late war, it did its full share in furnishing troops to maintain the Union. If it had a draft at all, it was for but a very few men, as all calls were promptly filled. Our space will not admit of an extended sketch of the precinct's war record, and we pass with the tribute, that its soldiers did their duty.

VILLAGE OF SWEETWATER.

Sweetwater was laid out by William Engle and the Alkires on Sections 31 and 32, of Township 19, about the year 1853. It is located in Sugar Grove, a beautiful body of timber, some three miles from the village of Greenview. It is surrounded by a fine farming community, and has a large trade for so small a place. The first store was opened by the Alkires, and about the same time

William Engle moved his store from his farm, and opened up in the village. A post office was established with William Engle as Postmaster. Just here arises the name of Sweetwater. P. M. Harris was the representative of this district in Congress at the time, and through him the post office was obtained, and designated in the petition Sugar Grove. But it was found that there was already a Sugar Grove in the State, and Harris wrote Mr. Engle to select another name. After some deliberation with those interested, Sweetwater was decided upon as being nearest Sugar Grove—the water of the sugar maple being sweet, and thus the name of Sweetwater was obtained. The present Postmaster is Joseph Schofield. When the office was first established, the mail was received on the line from Petersburg to Elkhart, mostly on horseback. It is received now from Greenview. Jacob Propst, Jr., was the first blacksmith in the village, and Dr. John H. Hughes was the first physician. A mill was built soon after the village was laid out, by Deal & Hughes. It is still in operation and doing excellent work, though the building shows the ravages of time. The firm name of Deal & Hughes has never changed since the mill was first built; the present Hughes, however, being a son of the one concerned in its erection. It is a frame edifice, operated by steam, with two run of buhrs, and it is said makes as good flour as any mill in the county. The business of the village may be thus summarized: Two general stores, including in their stocks dry goods, groceries, drugs, hardware, etc., etc.; one shoe-shop; one blacksmith and wagon shop; one post office; one mill; one schoolhouse; one physician (Dr. Hurst) and two churches.

The schoolhouse was built about 1868 or 1870, is an elegant two-story brick, and cost something like \$4,500. James Steele taught the first school in it. Prof. Ayers has been the teacher for the past two years, and is engaged for the coming year. It is conducted as a graded school, and is fully up to the average standard of that class of schools.

If we could write the church history of Sweetwater in the same language in which it was told us, it would be highly entertaining, no doubt, to many of our readers, at least. But we feel inadequate to the task, and hence we give it in our own words. The first church built in village was that of the Christians, or New Lights, and is a sort of continuation of the one mentioned in the history of the precinct as erected near Gregory Lukins'. It is a spacious brick edifice, and cost about \$3,500 at the time it was built. There is no regular pastor at present, but transient ministers frequently call and preach to the flock who are wont to worship within its walls. The original society underwent several changes, as we understand it—that is, New Lights, Campbellites and then Apostles, or Christians. It finally became somewhat stirred up as Adventists, or a part of the congregation did, when they sold their interest in the building and erected the present frame church, at a cost of about \$2,500. When the Adventists went up, or, more correctly speaking, *failed to go up*, some got disgusted, and, as a result, the church was sold to the Methodists, who worshipped in it for

a time, with services held occasionally by the Presbyterians. The Methodists, eventually, broke down, and, as our informant expressed it, "all went into the mush-pot together." The church was again sold, and this time was bought by the Old-School Presbyterians, who still own it and hold regular services, though the congregation is composed of several creeds. It was re-organized under the Presbyterians by Rev. Mr. Crosier, of Indian Point. A union Sunday school of the two churches is carried on, but the Superintendent's name we did not learn.

This village used to go by the pseudonym of Chloeville, and when we inquired of an old gentleman why it was so called, he said it was for an old lady who once lived in it, whose first name was Chloe, "and some one, in acknowledgment," said he, "of her general cussedness, as a burlesque, called the town after her."

INDIAN CREEK PRECINCT.

The prairies of the West, though favored with a soil scarcely equaled in the world, and possessed of climate and water unsurpassed, yet, apparently, lacking in the means of producing warmth, were slow to attract the emigrant; while the eastern portion of the United States, though not so highly favored in these respects, was settled two hundred years earlier than those vast Western plains. When Illinois began to fill up with the Anglo-Saxon race, we find its first occupants steering their "prairie schooners" for the groves of timber and the streams of water, where they rightly concluded lay, with a productive soil, also plenty of fuel and water. It was not until nearly every acre of timber-land lying adjacent to water-courses had been "claimed," that people in this section of the country turned their attention to the prairies. With the utmost caution, they ventured out beyond the protecting shelter of the forest, and, as cabins rose up on the broad plains, the croakers, who are ever ready to prophesy evil, indulged in all manner of predictions in regard to the fearless pioneers—such as freezing to death, and being blown away by storms. This was the case in this county and in this precinct, as well as elsewhere, and no settlements were made beyond the timber, until necessity compelled the increasing population to "move on."

Indian Creek Precinct, the subject of this chapter, is as fine a body of land as, to use a familiar expression, "a crow ever flew over." The greater portion of it is fine rolling prairie, neither hills nor bluffs, nor low, flat levels, but more resembling the swells of the ocean. It is well watered and drained by Salt Creek on the north boundary, Sangamon River on the west boundary, Indian Creek on the south boundary, and Little Grove and Sugar Grove Creeks flowing through it, so that it has no lack of water facilities. It is bounded on the north by Mason County, on the west by Sandridge Precinct, on the south by

Jones, Henry, Havana, e. April 25, 1862; m. o. 1865.
 Kirk, Wm., Bath, e. Feb. 12, 1862; re-e.
 McDonald, A., Bath, e. Feb. 13, 1862; re-e.
 Swartwood, S., Bath, e. March 9, 1862; m. o. 1865.
 Scoles, C., Bath, e. Feb. 12, 1862; re-e.

FIFTY-FIFTH INFANTRY.**Company D.**

Higgins, Peter, Havana, e. Oct. 15, 1861; m. o. 1864.
 Kent, Henry, Mason Co., e. Oct. 15, 1861; m. o. 1864.
 Morgan, M., Mason Co., e. Oct. 18, 1861.
 Patterson, Wm., Mason Co., e. Oct. 15, 1861.
 Yates, Thos. G., Mason Co., e. Oct. 18, 1861.

FIFTY-SEVENTH INFANTRY.**Company F.**

Casey, Albert W., Havana, e. Oct. 19, 1861; re-e.
 Casey, Joseph W., Havana, e. Oct. 19, 1861; died at Quincy
 May 27, 1862.

FIFTY-NINTH INFANTRY.**Company A.**

First Lieut. S. M. Jones, Havana; resd. in 1863.

SIXTY-FIFTH INFANTRY.**Company D.**

Capt. Van Ness Billings, Mason City, March 15, 1863;
 dismissed in 1863.
 Crissay, B. W., Mason City, e. May 9, 1862; died at
 Knoxville.

SIXTY-SIXTH INFANTRY.**Company A.**

Duller, A., Havana, e. Oct. 20, 1861; deserted, 1862.
 Ford, Charles, Havana, e. Sept. 18, 1861; disd. for wds.
 1862.
 Ford, Abijah, Havana, e. Oct. 20, 1861; re-e. and died in
 Louisville.
 Smith, Albert Havana, e. Oct. 20, 1861; died at Louisville
 May 17, 1862.

SIXTY-EIGHTH INFANTRY.

(Three Months.)

Company K.

Clark, Henry C., Mason Co., e. June 30, 1862.
 Cobb, Charles, Mason Co., e. June 11, 1862.
 Dement, A., San Jose, e. June 2, 1862.
 Demerest, J. H., Spring Lake, e. June 2, 1862.
 Debose, Noah, Spring Lake, e. June 29, 1862.
 Fain, Thos. J., San Jose, e. June 2, 1862.
 Fain, T. M., San Jose, e. June 2, 1862.
 Jefferson, F. H., San Jose, e. June 2, 1862.
 McLemore, J., Mason Co., e. June 2, 1862.
 Strickler, H., Spring Lake, e. June 29, 1862.
 Wadkins, John, Mason Co., e. June 29, 1862.

SEVENTY-FIRST INFANTRY.

(Three Months.)

Company G.

Ashurst, F. M., Bath, e. July 11, 1862; died at Columbus,
 Ky., 1862.
 Clotfelter, O. W., Bath, e. July 11, 1862.
 Daniels, J. H., Bath, e. July 11, 1862.
 Hamilton, G. H., Bath, e. July 11, 1862.
 Kern, George H., Bath, e. July 11, 1862.
 Lacy, Thomas, Bath, e. July 11, 1862.
 Lucas, D. W., Bath, e. July 11, 1862.
 Moore, A. M., Bath, e. July 11, 1862.
 Thacker, W. H., Bath, e. July 11, 1862.

SEVENTY-THIRD INFANTRY.**Company B.**

Baylor, Darias, Manito, e. July 19, 1862; disd. 1863.
 Bozen, Daniel, San Jose, e. July 22, 1862; m. o. 1865.
 Dillon, D. W., San Jose, e. July 22, 1862; trans. to Inv.
 Corps 1863.
 Miller, Henry, San Jose, e. July 22, 1862; m. o. 1865.
 Wakefield, James, San Jose, e. July 15, 1862; trans. to
 Inv. Corps 1864.
 Wakefield, T. J., Manito, e. July 19, 1862; m. o. 1865.

Company F.

Baxter, Noah, Mason City, e. Aug. 7, 1862; m. o. 1865.

EIGHTY-FIFTH INFANTRY.

The Eighty-fifth, being a Mason County regiment, is entitled to a more complete history of the part it bore in the war than any other regiment, and out of such material as we have it will be given. The regiment was organized at Peoria, in August, 1862, by Col. Robert S. Moore, and was mustered into service on the 27th of August, 1862.

On the 6th of September, 1862, under orders, the regiment went by rail to Louisville, Ky., where it was assigned to the Thirty-sixth Brigade, Eleventh Division, Third Army Corps, Col. D. McCook commanding brigade, Brig. Gen. P. H. Sheridan commanding division, and Maj. Gen. Gilbert commanding corps.

On the 1st of October, the regiment marched in pursuit of the enemy, under Gen. Bragg, and engaged in the battle of Chaplain Hills, at Perryville, Ky., on the 8th of October, and from there moved with the army to Nashville, Tenn., which place was reached on the 7th of November, 1862. The regiment went into winter quarters in and about Nashville, and whilst here, the battles of Stone River were fought and various marches and counter-marches were made—the regiment remaining in that vicinity until the 1st of July, when it marched with the army to Murfreesboro. soon returning to Nashville.

On the 20th of August, 1863, the regiment left, with Gen. McCook's Brigade, for the South, via Spring Hill and Columbia, toward Huntsville, Ala., which place was reached on the 8th of September, and from there proceeded to Chattanooga to join Gen. Rosecrans' army and to participate in the bloody battle of Chickamauga, which began on the 17th of September and continued to the 21st, when our army retired to Chattanooga. On the 24th of September, the regiment, with the brigade, crossed to the north side of the Tennessee River and camped at North Chickamauga. The regiment participated in the battle of Mission Ridge on the 25th of November. On the 28th, the regiment went into command of Gen. Sherman to the relief of the beleaguered city of Knoxville. The enemy retiring, the command returned on the 7th of December, reaching Chattanooga on the 18th, and going into winter quarters.

In February, 1864, the regiment participated in the battle at Buzzard's Roost Gap.

losing heavily in the engagement, which continued two days. On the 3d of May, the army in command of Gen. Sherman left for the campaign against Atlanta, fighting the second battle of Buzzard's Roost on the 9th, 10th and 11th of May, and the battle of Resaca on the 14th and 15th, and the battle of Rome on the 17th of May. The Eighty-fifth was the first regiment to enter and occupy the city. The battle of Dallas continued from the 27th of May to the 5th of June. The battle of Kenesaw Mountain continued from the 11th to the 27th of June. In this desperate battle the Eighty-fifth lost heavily, and amongst them some of the best soldiers of the regiment, including Lieut. Chatfield, Clark Andrews, Henry Buck and Sergt. Duvall. The next engagement with the enemy was at the Chattahoochie River on the 18th of July, and at Peach Tree Creek on the 19th of July, in which the Eighty-fifth lost heavily again in killed, wounded and captured. The battle near Atlanta was on the 20th and 22d of July. On the 1st of September, the hard-fought battle of Jonesboro was participated in by the Eighty-fifth, and Col. Dilworth severely wounded. On the 4th of September, the army entered the city of Atlanta in charge of some two thousand prisoners. On the 29th of September, the army fell back to Athens, and from there marched to Florence, Ala., which was reached on the 5th of October. On the 10th, the army returned to Athens, and from there to Chattanooga, arriving on the 14th. On the 18th, the army again marched to join the army of the Cumberland, reaching Kingston, via Rome, on the 1st of November, destroying all the railroads on the way, and continuing on to Atlanta, which was reached on the 15th.

On the 16th of November, 1864, the grand army under Gen. Sherman took up its line of march to the sea—destroying the railroads as they went as far as Covington, which duty was performed by the advance brigade in which the Eighty-fifth belonged. On the 24th, the army left Milledgeville, and marched to Sandersville, skirmishing with the enemy's cavalry on the way. On the 1st of December, the army left Louisville, where it had been in camp several days. The Eighty-fifth lost several men who were foraging whilst here. The army met no further serious resistance until it reached the Savannah River, near Savannah, where the enemy was met and kept up a constant skirmish until the city of Savannah was reached on the 11th of December. On the 13th, Fort McCallister was taken and communication opened with the Atlantic. On the 20th, the city of Savannah was evacuated by the enemy, and on the 21st, our army occupied the city. Capturing 180 heavy guns, large stores of ammunition, 25,000 bales of cotton, and immense quantities of military supplies.

On this raid, the army marched over three hundred miles through the heart of Georgia, subsisting upon the choicest supplies of the

enemy. Not less than ten thousand negroes left the plantations of their masters and marched with the army in its advance to the sea in pursuit of that liberty which is dear to every man, black as well as white.

The army left Savannah on the 20th of January, 1865, on its march through South Carolina, crossing into the State on the 5th of February. On the 8th, the army cut loose from all communications and marched to Columbia, the capital of the State; and from there north, passing Cheraw, and continuing to Fayetteville, N. C., which was reached on the 11th of March, and a rebel arsenal destroyed. On the 15th, the army marched from Fayetteville to Averysboro, and had an engagement with the enemy on the 16th, and from thence to Goldsboro via Bentonville, where the enemy was again met and engaged in battle on the 19th and 20th of March. On the 23d of March, the army reached Goldsboro, terminating the second grand raid of Sherman's army through Georgia, and the two Carolinas, a distance of over five hundred miles, crossing ten rivers, fighting two battles, and any number of skirmishes.

From Goldsboro the army went in pursuit of Johnston's forces, and arrived at Raleigh on the 13th of April, the enemy retreating and the city surrendering to our army. From there, our forces marched to Salisbury on the 14th, and arrived at Avery's Ferry, Cape Fear River, on the 15th of April, where Gen. Sherman received a communication from Gen. Johnston that ended further hostilities. On the 18th of April, the news of the assassination of President Lincoln was received and read to the several commands, causing the utmost sorrow and gloom to settle upon the victorious army of brave men who were before rejoicing in the contemplation of a speedy peace.

A basis for the surrender of Johnston's army was agreed upon between the commanding Generals of the contending armies, subject to the approval of President Johnson; meanwhile, the army moved to Holly Springs on the 21st of April. On the 24th, a dispatch came from the President disapproving of the terms of surrender, and ordering the renewal of hostilities. On the 25th, another conference was had, Gen. Grant participating, which terminated in Gen. Johnston's surrender on the same terms given to Gen. Lee at Appomattox, Va., on the 9th of April.

The war being terminated, the army proceeded on its march to Washington via Richmond, and was mustered out on the 5th of June, and the Eighty-fifth arrived at Camp Butler, Illinois, on the 11th of June, 1865, and was paid off and discharged.

These two grand marches through the enemy's country were the crowning glories of the war, and every patriotic citizen of Mason County ought to share, in patriotic pride, the recollection that one of our own regiments participated in this grand and glorious exploit of the army!

Neagan, Charles W., Manito, Aug. 27, 1862; kld. at Peach Tree Creek, Ga., July 19, 1864.
 Neagan, Hiram D., Manito, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 22, 1865.
 Trent, Dallas A., Mason County, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865.
 Talbott, John B., Mason County, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865.
 Wood, David, Mason County, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865.
 Westfall, Daniel, Manito, Aug. 27, 1862; prmtd.

Company B.

Capt. J. R. Griffith, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; prmtd. to Lieut. Col.
 Capt. Charles F. Kesler, Mason County, Aug. 27, 1862; absent sick at m. o.
 First Lieut. Charles W. Pierce, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; trans. to Inv. Corps Nov. 2, 1863.
 First Lieut. Albert D. Cadwallader, Nov. 3, 1862; honorably discharged April 4, 1865.
 First Lieut. John W. Patton, Havana, May 19, 1865; m. o. June 5, 1865.
 Second Lieut. John A. Mallory, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; resd. Jan. 24, 1863.
 Second Lieut. William Allen, Havana, Jan. 24, 1863; commission canceled.
 Second Lieut. George Myers, Havana, Jan. 24, 1863; resd. Jan. 21, 1864.
 First Sergt. William S. Allen, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; prom. to Sergt. Maj.
 Sergt. George D. Prior, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; First Sergt.; killed at Peach Tree Creek July 19, 1864.
 Sergt. John G. Ackerson, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; disd. Feb. 8, 1863.
 Sergt. George Myers, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; prmtd. to Second Lieut.
 Sergt. Israel J. Alden, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; deserted and joined 8th Mo.; deserted and joined 60th Ill.; amnestied and returned to company; deserted May 13, 1865.
 Corp. A. D. Cadwallader, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; prmtd. to First Sergt., then to First Lieut.
 Corp. Isaac Mann, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865.
 Corp. Warren Tippey, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862, kld. at Peach Tree Creek July 19, 1864.
 Corp. Abner Eveland, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disability April 22, 1863.
 Corp. Jos. K. Bishop, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865, as private.
 Corp. Ellis Bowman, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disability Feb. 8, 1863.
 Corp. John H. Cleveland, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; Sergt.; absent sick at m. o. of regiment.
 Corp. Thomas Eaton, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865, as private.
 Musician Alonzo Krebaum, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865.
 Musician Jasper N. Wilcox, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; died Dec. 18, 1862, at Bowling Green.
 Wagoner William R. Stull, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disability June 10, 1865.
 Ackerson, A. W., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; deserted Jan. 15, 1863.
 Ackerson, J. B., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; deserted Sept. 22, 1862.
 Boormaster, Lewis, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; Corp.; kld. Sept. 1, 1864, at Jonesboro, Ga.
 Breckenridge, J. M., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; deserted Dec. 23, 1862.
 Balor, Jesse, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865, prisoner of war.
 Burkholder, S., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, '65, prisoner of war.
 Beckman, Martin, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; trans. to Inv. Corps.
 Bell, Thos. M., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; wd. and trans. to marine service.
 Beckstead, N. H., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; deserted Dec. 25, 1862.
 Bash, Isaac G., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; Corp.; trans. to Inv. Corps.
 Buffalow, Wm., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; captd. July 19, 1864.
 Behymer, O. P., Havana, Aug. 27, '62; m. o. June 5, '65
 Blair, B. T., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; deserted Nov. 9, 1862.

Curran, Maurice, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865.
 Cluney, Thomas, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865, as Sergt.
 Conrad, Basil, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; kld. at Peach Tree July 19, 1864.
 Conner, Henry, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; absent, sick, at m. o.
 Corman, David, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; kld. at Peach Tree July 19, 1864.
 Dunawain, S., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; died Nov. 2, 1862, at Louisville, Ky.
 Dair, Charles D., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 17, 1865; prisr.
 Eveland, Amos, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; kld. at Peach Tree Creek July 19, 1864.
 Fitch, Joseph H., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; wd.; absent at m. o.
 Fox, David, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disability April 3, 1865.
 Gray, John, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; disd. Aug. 10, 1863.
 Greathouse, Wm., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disability April 22, 1863.
 Greathouse, James, Sr., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865, as Corp.
 Greathouse, James, Jr., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; died.
 Galbraith, J., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; died Jan. 3, 1863, at Nashville.
 Goodman, J. F., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; deserted Nov. 8, 1862.
 Hurley, Charles, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865.
 Hutton, Thomas, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865, as Corp.
 Heald, John W., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 17, 1865; was prisr.
 Hamilton, John, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; deserted at Peoria.
 Hurley, Bartholomew, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; died at Nashville Jan. 23, 1863.
 Holmes, Wm. D., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disability April 3, 1865.
 Holtry, David, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; deserted at Peoria.
 Jones, Richard, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; deserted at Peoria.
 Jones, Benj., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865.
 Johnson, John, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; Corp.; kld. at Peach Tree Creek July 19, 1864.
 Kesler, Chas. F., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865, as First Sergt.; Capt. not mustered.
 Krayten, B. F., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; trans. to marine service.
 Linderman, T. G., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865.
 Morris, David, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865.
 Mintonie, A. C., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865.
 Mastard, Enoch, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; died Jan. 6, 1865, on march.
 Mastard, Lucius, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865.
 Masonville, George F., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865.
 McConabay, J. M., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865.
 Miller, M. E., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865.
 Noyes, David, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; died.
 Nutt, Massena, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865, as Corp.
 Nutt, S. H., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 22, 1865; prisr.
 Nichols, J. E., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; absent, sick, at m. o.
 O'Leary, John H., Bath, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. July 22, 1865; prisr.
 Paul, Ebenezer, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disability Feb. 8, 1863.
 Paul, Samuel, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disability Feb. 8, 1863.
 Pierce, T. S., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; Sergt.; kld. at Kennesaw Mt. June 27, 1864.
 Patton, John W., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; prmtd. First Lieut.
 Porter, Robert, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865.
 Ratcliff, A. C., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, '65.
 Ratcliff, T. J., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, '65, as Corp.

Richardson, F., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disability Oct. 18, 1863.
 Skiles, W. H., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. Aug. 30, '65.
 Singleton, J. F. M., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. May 27, 1865.
 Singleton, J. T., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; died at Tullahoma July 25, 1864.
 Southwood, Wm., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865.
 Southwood, Ellis, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865.
 Spink, Charles, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; kld. at Peach Tree Creek July 19, 1864.
 Shock, Jacob, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; deserted Sept. 1, 1862.
 Sigley, David, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. July 5, 1865; was prisoner.
 Thomas, J. B., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; died Jan. 29, '63, at Bowling Green, Ky.
 Tippey, James W., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; trans. to Inv. Corps.
 Tippey, Henry, Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865.
 Winchell, Wm., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865; a prisoner.
 Winchell, Geo., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865; a prisoner.
 Westfield, James H., Havana, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865.

RECRUITS.

McKillips, J. M., Havana; disd. for disability Feb. 8, '63.
 Paul, Thos. E., Havana; died at Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 7, 1862.
 Pierce, James F., Havana; prmtd. to Q. M. Sergt.
 Strode, Silas, Havana; disd. for disability April 22, 1863.

Company C.

Capt. Samuel Black, Mason City, Aug. 27, 1862; resd. Jan. 24, 1863.
 Capt. Geo. A. Blanchard, Havana, Feb. 7, 1863; honorably disd. May 15, 1865.
 First Lieut. Geo. A. Blanchard, Havana; Aug. 27, 1862; prmtd.
 First Lieut. Wm. W. Walker, Mason County, Feb. 7, '63; resd. Oct. 7, 1863.
 → First Lieut. James M. Hamilton, Mason City, Oct. 7, '63; m. o. June 5, 1865.
 Second Lieut. Wm. W. Walker, Mason County; Aug. 27, 1862; prmtd.
 → Second Lieut. James M. Hamilton, Mason City; Feb. 7, 1863; prmtd.
 → First Sergt. Wm. M. Hamilton, Mason City, Aug. 27, '62; disd. for disability Jan. 27, 1863.
 Sergt. Andrew Richy, Mason City, Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disability Aug. 18, 1863.
 Sergt. John H. Duvall, Mason City, Aug. 27, 1862; First Sergt.; kld. at Kenesaw June 27, 1864.
 Sergt. John Housworth, Mason City, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 17, 1865, as First Sergt.; was prisoner.
 → Sergt. James M. Hamilton, Mason City, Aug. 27, 1862; prmtd. to Second Lieut.
 Corp. J. B. Logue, Mason County, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865, as private.
 Corp. Harvey H. Hutchens, Mason County, Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disability Jan. 22, 1863.
 Corp. James O. Logue, Mason City, Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disability Jan. 7, 1863.
 Corp. James L. Hastings, Mason City, Aug. 27, 1862; prmtd. Hospital Steward.
 Corp. James J. Pelham, Mason County, Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disability Feb. 13, 1863, as private.
 Corp. Pleasant Armstrong, Mason County, Aug. 27, 1862; trans. to Marine Brigade Jan. 13, 1863.
 Corp. Cyrus R. Quigley, Mason County, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865, as private.
 Corp. Andrew J. Updyke, Mason County, Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disability Feb. 18, 1865.
 Musician George W. Detrich, Mason City, Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disability Feb. 10, 1863.
 Musician Benj. F. Scovill, Mason County, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865; prisoner.
 Wagoner S. H. B. Hollingsworth, Mason County, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865, as Corp.
 Armstrong, Wm., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; disd. at Louisville, Ky.
 Alkire, Wm. D., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 17, 1865, Corp. prisr.

Atchinson, Jno. H., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disability, Jan. 17, 1863.
 Atchinson, Michael, Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 17, 1865, prisr.
 Bradford, David, Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; capt. July 19, 1864.
 Brooks, Almon, Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; Corp., died Nashville, April 7, 1863.
 Buck, Henry H., Mason City, Aug. 27, 1862; Sergt., kld. Kenesaw, June 27, 1864.
 Burnett, John L., Mason City, Aug. 27, 1862; kld. at Kenesaw, June 27, 1864.
 Black, George, Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 17, 1865, prisr.; Sergt.
 Clark, Channing, Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; Corp.; sick at m. o. of regt.
 Chester, Francis A., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; Corp.; m. o. June 17, 1865.
 Chester, James, Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; Sergt.; m. o. June 17, 1865.
 Clark, Wm., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; died at Bowling Green Nov. 16, 1862.
 Cue, Nelson D., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 17, 1865.
 Carter, Jos. W., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disability Nov. 7, 1864.
 Derwent, Samuel, Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; died at Nashville Dec. 19, 1862.
 Deitrich, Jere., Mason City, Aug. 27, 1862; died of wds. at Nashville July 13, 1864.
 Dray, Samuel A., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 17, 1865.
 Dolcater, Peter, Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disability Jan. 24, 1865.
 Daugherty, Daniel, Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; died of wds. at Chattanooga, Aug. 24, 1864.
 Gates, Ephraim, Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; died at Bowling Green Nov. 18, 1862.
 Gardner, Elbert L., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disab. March 16, 1863.
 Gardner, James M., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 17, 1865.
 Gardner, John R., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. July 15, 1865; prisr.
 Gardner, John A., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; died at Harrodsburg, Ky., Nov. 25, 1862.
 Green, Thos. W., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 17, 1865.
 Gregory, George, Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; died at Danville, Ky.
 Halley, Jeremiah, Mason Co., Aug. 17, 1862; Corp.; m. o. June 17, 1865; prisr.
 Hastings, Daniel W., Mason City, Aug. 27, 1862; died at Bowling Green, Ky., Nov. 23, 1862.
 Hadsall, Edwin N., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 17, 1865.
 Hous, Solomon, Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; trans. to V. R. C.
 Hous, Wesly, Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disab. March 1, 1863.
 Harkness, John, Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; deserted Oct. 20, 1862.
 Ishmael, Lewis, Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; died at Annapolis Dec. 18, 1864.
 Lofton, Robert, Mason City, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 5, 1865, as Sergt.
 Lane, T. W., Mason City, Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 17, 1865.
 Lane, Richard A., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disab. Jan. 15, 1863.
 Lane, Abraham L., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; disd. April 18, 1864.
 Lane, Green B., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 17, 1865.
 Leeper, James, Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; kld. at Kenesaw June 25, 1864.
 Moore, Geo. A., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disab. Jan. 18, 1863.
 Mosslander, G. W., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 17, 1865; was prisr.
 McCarty, Jacob, Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; disd. for disab.
 Moore, Robert S., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; died at Bowling Green Nov. 18, 1862.
 Marshall, Jeremiah, Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; trans. to 4th U. S. Cav. Dec. 4, 1862.
 Montgomery, J. C., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; Corp.; trans. to Miss. M. B. Jan. 13, 1863.
 Mitchel, W. H., Mason Co., Aug. 27, 1862; m. o. June 17, 1865, as Sergt.

geological mistake of nature, and counted a perpetual and irredeemable waste because of its frequent inundation by the overflowing waters of Salt Creek; but, by leveeing, the last few years have demonstrated their safe and profitable cultivation, and a few more years will find the most prolific farms in the township on these once discarded lowlands. Corn, wheat and oats are the principal agricultural products, but nearly all the cereals, as well as the various fruits indigenous to the climate, are produced in great quantities.

Coal exists in great quantities at a depth of 200 feet, in the north part of the township, and, at one point on the bluffs in Swing's Grove, there is every evidence of coal near the surface.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

The first settlement made in the township was by Isaac Engle, in 1830, at what is now the S. C. Donevan place, at the northeast side of Swing's Grove, and, during the same year, John Powell built a round-log house on the west side of the place now owned and occupied by C. L. Stone, about one hundred yards southeast of W. S. Hardin's present residence. This rude hut was succeeded by a hewed-log house built by Austin Melton in 1840, Powell having moved to Oregon. Here Melton lived until 1847, and kept a ferry on Salt Creek, and for him Melton's Ford was named. From here, he moved to Mackinaw, and, after several years' residence there, went to Walker's Grove, in Crane Creek Township, where he died in the spring of 1877. Mr. Melton was succeeded as a resident at Swing's Grove, in 1847, by John Alkire, who built a frame house, which has long since been removed, and the site being cultivated, hardly a trace of this landmark of early habitation remains visible.

Isaac Engle, who, as before stated, settled on the Donevan place, sold out to Michael and Abram Swing, in 1838, when he moved to Fulton County, and died there some years ago. The Swing brothers were both unmarried at that time, and, by a trade between them, Michael became sole owner of the land which, up to 1840, they had held in partnership. The year 1846, Michael Swing was elected to the Legislature, and was the first member ever elected to that body from this county. He served one term of two years, and while at Springfield attending the session made the acquaintance of the lady who soon afterward became his wife. Their wedded life was but a few years, for Mr. Swing died of the measles, the latter part of December, 1852, at that place, although he had sold it to the Donevan brothers a couple of years before, still occupying it, however, by renting. Mr. Swing was a surveyor, and taught school occasionally in addition to his other somewhat diversified business. The winter of 1851-52, he taught the district school at Big Grove, going on horseback and returning home each day, a distance of six miles, for the compensation of \$1 per day. The present editor of the *Mason City Independent* was one of his pupils at that school. At his death, he left his widow with one child, a daughter, who, upon reaching womanhood, married T. M. Beach, Esq., a

prominent lawyer, of Lincoln, Logan County, but she died a month or two ago, after only a few years of wedded life. The widow married a gentleman named Cass, near Mount Pulaski, Logan County, some years ago, and he died. She was living with her son-in-law, Mr. Beach, at Lincoln, at the time of her daughter's death, and is still keeping house for him and taking care of her little grandchildren.

The year 1840, Ephraim Brooner built a round-log house on what is now the Cease-Hubly place, about a quarter of a mile west of the old "Beebe place," now owned and occupied by John Appleman. Mr. Brooner died in 1841, and his widow married Rezin Virgin, one of the pioneers of Salt Creek Township, as will appear in the history of that subdivision of the county. Mr. Brooner was succeeded at that place by Robert Melton (brother of Austin, before mentioned), and lived there until 1853, when his wife, himself and daughter died within the space of only a few months. From the death of his wife, Mr. Melton seemed to have lost all interest in this world, and gradually his life ebbed away in silent grief, and, in a few months, he, too, was no more. He held the office of Justice of the Peace several years during his residence there, and many amusing incidents of this early court are remembered by the proverbial "oldest inhabitant," some of which will appear in their proper order. This place of primitive habitation is now marked only by a few storm-wrecked and venerable apple-trees, which can be seen by the traveler as he passes along the public road to and from the Iron Bridge over Salt Creek.

The year 1840 seems to have been favorable to the immigration of pioneer adventurers and home-seekers. Robert Melton and S. D. Swing, at Swing's Grove, and Stiles and Homer Peck, on Prairie Creek, settled in the township that year. S. D. Swing, now, and since 1860, a resident of Mason City, improved the greater part of the farm now owned and occupied by C. L. Stone. Having married Mary A. Sikes, daughter of Edward Sikes, Sr., an old settler of Salt Creek Township, Mr. Swing and his young wife settled there in 1840, where, by years of toil and privation unknown to the beginners of life's matrimonial voyage now-a-days, they built up a beautiful home and valuable farm. Swing's Grove Cemetery, a beautiful location on a high point of Salt Creek Bluff, about one-eighth of a mile southwest of the house, was set apart for that purpose by them, and consecrated to the dead by the burial there of their first-born, in 1846, since which time the public has used it as a repository for the remains of the departed, until this "village of the dead" now numbers its inhabitants by the hundred. Earlier burials were made at the place now owned by Malcom Robertson, and on a knoll in the west part of the grove; but only a few were buried in each, and they were entirely abandoned after the one given by Mr. Swing was started. Stiles and Homer Peck, brothers, made a settlement on Prairie Creek, in 1840, about a mile northwest of where the village of New Holland now stands. They erected there a water-power, saw-mill, and the mill-dam was used as a public wagon road in crossing the creek.

Although this saw-mill was a very small affair, it was by common usage and general consent a "signal station" from which "bearings" were given and taken to all surrounding points for many miles distant, and is yet relatively referred to by old residents. As there were no means of estimating distances, the traveler in those days was given the course from one point to another. At this saw-mill, the pioneer obtained the sawed lumber with which to make the doors, door and window frames of his crude dwelling, and from which they obtained, after a few years' progress in aristocracy, the lumber to take the place of the primitive puncheon floor. A. S. Jackson, of Mason City, made a walnut table from lumber sawed at that mill in 1843, which relic is now in possession of Mr. Cooper, of that place.

→ The reader will pardon the digression for a moment while we give a brief description of the dwelling-house of this early day. The usual size was 18x20 feet, made of round logs, notched at the corners so as to make the logs fit as closely as possible together, and give strength to the building to withstand the frequent storms of wind which swept over the prairies with the violence of a hurricane. Chimneys were constructed of split sticks and clay, and were invariably placed on the west end or side of the house, so that the strong winds which nearly always came from a westerly direction, would be the better resisted. Those primitive domiciles all had a kitchen, sitting-room, parlor and bedroom—but all in one. At the usual mealtimes, it was all kitchen; on rainy days, when the neighbors of four or five miles away came in to have a chat about the number of deer and wild turkeys killed since they last met, it was all sitting-room; on Sundays, when the itinerant preacher was around, and the young men, with their "new jeans," paid their tender respects to the young ladies in their best "tow dresses," it was all parlor; at night, when the "wee, sma' hours" passed imperceptibly over a sleeping world, it was all bedroom. The crevices between the logs (the best that could be done to fit them) were large, and, with all the chinking and daubing, afforded ample ventilation; a laughable illustration of which means of a "free circulation," is given by John Powers—"Irish John," as he was universally cognomened in the days of this incident. He now lives in a beautiful and substantial farm house about a mile south of Mason City; but when he first went to housekeeping, about twenty-five years ago, he lived in a round-log house of the primitive pattern, a quarter of a mile south of his present residence. This house was not in any inclosure of fence, and was protected from cattle making too free of the premises, by dogs. One Sunday, he and his young wife went to spend the day with a neighbor; and, while they were gone, the cattle gathered about his house and, with their tongues, they pulled out of his bed, through the crevice between the logs, the straw of his bed, and finished up the day's sport by chewing the tick into the consistency of a cud, in which condition he found his dormitory department on his return. These log huts were covered with "clapboards" about three feet in length, and held to place by "rib poles" underneath and "weight

poles" on the top of each course of boards. The floors were laid of puncheon slabs, split from three to four inches in thickness, and from six to eight feet in length. The top side and edges were hewed so as to make them as nearly level as possible, and fit close enough together to prevent the foot from going down between them in walking about the house. The fire-place was from four to eight feet wide, and supplied cooking facilities, heat to keep the inmates comfortable, and light to do the night indoor work by. The jambs, in the proper season of the year, were decorated with strands of apples, cut in quarters with the peel on, and the joists bore a heavy burden of pumpkins, cut in rings and hung on poles. The bedsteads were improvised by boring holes in the logs and driving in wooden pins supported at the inner end by upright pieces. This rude frame was interwoven with buckskin rawhide or bedcord, if the latter could be had; and with a tick of prairie hay and one of wild-goose feathers, our ancestors slept soundly and snored as contentedly as the people now do on veneered bedsteads, woven-wire mattresses and all the gaudy surroundings of a high-toned bed-chamber.

In 1846, John Douglas built a log house in the prairie, about a mile and a half west of Peck's Mill. This was the first house out in the prairie, and his venture so far from timber was looked upon as a daring one. The site of this habitation is now marked by a few dilapidated apple-trees, which are desolate monuments of the first settlement of this prairie. Mr. Douglas died a few years ago, and two of his sons, Ebenezer and William, now reside on good farms with their families, near the wild scenes of their boyhood days. A man named Tullis also settled on the place now owned and occupied by Alexander Appleman, about the same time that Douglas settled there.

INCIDENTS OF PIONEER DAYS.

The first school ever taught in this township was in the winter of 1846-47, in a log hut, near the county line, about a half-mile north of the site of New Holland. The name of the heroine who was destined to become immortal in history by this circumstance was Miss Sarah Ann Stephens, who afterward became the wife of Randolph Robins, and died in Kansas a few years ago. However insignificant and crude this school, it was the beginning of what is now justly and really the grandest and most prominent feature of our society, and of which we shall write in full and detail in its proper order. But at this time it is due the pioneer school teacher to say that he, she or they will be remembered in history with unfeigned gratitude for the labors and toils of these early days. The pioneer teacher who had to contend with the almost untamed spirit of the wild girls and boys of this wilderness, submit to being barred out of the schoolhouse on Christmas and New Year's mornings, until compromised with a "treat," trudge through the snow and driving storm for miles, in "boarding around among the scholars," collect his money after his term was ended, in such installments as he could get, is deserving a prominent place in history.

Settlements now began to increase rapidly, and the log huts dotted the prairie with the habitations of the aggressive pioneers farther and farther out into the boundless wilderness of grass, hitherto the undisputed home of the deer and wolf. The former ranged together in herds of sometimes over a hundred, and the latter had cities of dens in the favorable locations, where they held their nocturnal orgies of yelps and howls. Those prairie wolves were usually harmless, except as to domestic animals, for which they manifested a disastrous fondness, and they were especially partial in the selection of the tender meat of lambs and pigs, when it was a matter of choice with them. But, under certain conditions of hunger, and favorable circumstances of advantage, they would show a disposition to attack the human family, illustrative of which is the following incident, which occurred about the year 1848: "John Auxier, who had been to Pekin with a drove of hogs made up by himself and several of his neighbors, and who had remained behind, as was the usual custom, until the hogs were slaughtered and weighed, started home on foot late in the afternoon. In assisting in the slaughter, he had received a cut in the arm, which bled considerably, and in crossing the sand ridge, which is now High street, Mason City, the wolves scented the blood, and immediately set up their characteristic howl, which was well understood by the pioneer to "mean blood" of some kind. This midnight declaration of war and no quarter, served to quicken Mr. Auxier's steps, and until he reached home on Salt Creek bluff he could hear the yelps and howls of his bloodthirsty pursuers as they gained upon, but, fortunately did not overtake him.

Those hog-driving expeditions to Pekin, and Bath in the west part of this county, were always made in the winter, and usually at the coldest and most disagreeable time of winter, but, notwithstanding the excruciating suffering from the cold, when the party got "thawed out" by the log-heap fire in the pioneer's cabin at night, they were as jolly a set as ever "cracked a joke or played a trick." All the innate mischief and pent-up devilment of their inherent and individual natures came to the surface on such occasions, and the nightly convivialities of the party would surpass the wildest conceptions of this sedate and long-faced generation.

In those days, going to mill was one of the dreaded burdens of our people. With the exception of a small horse-power corn-cracker, owned by Alexander Meadows, at Sugar Grove, there was no mill nearer than the Mackinaw, in Tazewell County, about twenty miles distant, and its regularity being dependent upon the stage of water, and its capacity deficient, a trip to mill meant any space of time from two days to a week. The people would borrow breadstuff of each other until the whole neighborhood was exhausted of the supply, and then they would each put in a "grist," and two or three teams would go together to mill, taking turns.

→ The administration of justice and execution of the laws in those days were done with the best intentions, but in a way that would be regarded very

“irregular” nowadays. The Squire usually made up his decisions from his ideas of equity, and did not cumber his mind much with the statute law. Robert Melton’s court was the scene of many amusing legal contests, and during the residence of Dr. J. G. H. Smith at Swing’s Grove, from 1848 to 1850, who was notorious for litigation, this court was kept in almost constant session. One ludicrous incident is thus related: The prominent Constable in this section at that time was William Taylor, “Crooked-Necked Bill Taylor,” as he was familiarly known. One day, while he and Dr. Smith were riding across the prairie together, the Doctor proposed to straighten Taylor’s neck, and without the use of knife or any operation that would cause him pain. Taylor told him if he would do so, he would give him the pony he was riding, which offer was accepted by the Doctor, and the pony delivered into his possession that evening, and the time, a few days on, was fixed for the operation. When Taylor presented himself at the appointed time, the Doctor took out his knife and was preparing to restore the perpendicularity of his patient’s head, by cutting into the contracted side of his neck. This Taylor objected to, and a wordy and stormy conflict between physiological and anatomical science and the legal points of a contract ensued. Taylor preferred a crooked neck to one half cut off, and demanded his pony. This demand was peremptorily refused, and Taylor went to Squire Melton’s and commenced a replevin suit against the Doctor to recover his pony. On the day set for the trial, the whole neighborhood turned out to hear the case, for they knew there was “music in the air,” from the known character of the contestants. Preliminary to going into trial, the parties went out and engaged in a pitched battle with such knives and clubs as were conveniently at hand, after which they compromised the matter.

However wild the country and those pioneers, those people, with but few exceptions, were actuated by a spirit of justice and right as between man and man, and with these few exceptions, appeals to the law were unknown in their business transactions and settlements. Sometimes, unavoidable and honest differences arose with reference to the ownership of cattle, but these were usually amicably and satisfactorily settled without the intervention of courts. These disputes were unavoidable from the fact that when grass came on in the spring, everybody would turn his cattle out to roam and grow, and, as was often the case, the owner would not see them again until feeding time in the fall. In this interval, young cattle would grow and change color almost beyond recognition.

In those days, and even down to the first half of the decade from 1850 to 1860, wild game was plentiful. Deer and turkeys were here in large numbers, and wild geese and sand-hill cranes abounded in immense numbers, and were a devouring pest to the farmers, whose crops, the young wheat and ripening corn, in the fall, afforded food for countless thousands of these feathered foragers. They would retire to the ponds and creeks at night, and in their flight to the fields in the morning, and return to the “watering places” in the evening, the very heavens would seem to lower with a massive feathery cloud, and the

necessary legislation for bringing the question up, and having it decided by a vote of the people (which they did in 1851), well knowing that when it came to counting noses, they could out-count Bath. The Bath people thought to offset this sharp maneuver by establishing the county seat upon a new spot, and for this purpose bought eighty acres of land of Dr. Mastick, on Section 9, which they figured out to be the geographical center of the county, though what mathematical rules they employed to do so we are unable to discover. This eighty acres of land they surveyed and laid out in lots, with a handsome public square, streets, alleys, etc., etc. The election came off, the people voted the county seat to Havana, and thus ended the hopes and anticipations of Cuba. The proprietors paid Dr. Mastick \$100 to take back the land, and the plat was never admitted to record.

SALT CREEK TOWNSHIP.

BY J. C. WARNOCK, ESQ.

The original survey of this township was made in the fall of 1823, and was designated Township 20 north, Range 6 west of the Third Principal Meridian. It contains thirty-six sections, each a mile square, except the tier of six on the north side, which are fractional, as is usually the case. Section No. 36, in the southeast corner of the township, is divided by Salt Creek, which meanders through the southeast part, cutting off about one-third of the section. The northern part of the township is a high rolling prairie, once marred by numerous basins or ponds, but now almost wholly drained, and in a good state of cultivation. The south and west parts of the township are more broken, and the south part, which includes Salt Creek Bluffs, very much so. Big Grove extends along these bluffs, at an irregular width of from one-fourth of a mile to a mile and a half, at the south side of which the pioneer settlers made their primitive and crude homes. Lease's Grove, in the northwest part of the township, was originally small, containing an area of about 200 acres, which area is now materially contracted by clearing off the timber for cultivation of the land; and the same means have very materially contracted the area of Big Grove.

The soil of the township is productive of all cereals and fruits indigenous to the climate, but the principal crop is corn, as in all the eastern part of the county. In the earlier days, winter wheat yielded a sure and abundant harvest, as it was usually the first crop after the sod was broken. Corn, in those days, required but little cultivation, and, after planting the corn, the pioneer usually occupied most of the time thereafter until harvest, breaking prairie, scattering corn along every third furrow. Corn planted in this way produced a large amount of fodder, and the earlier planting a good yield of corn, but the later planting was generally caught by the autumn frosts, and was not good feed. This was marketed for distilling purposes, and from this fact originated

the term, "sod-corn whisky," which used to be applied to the bad and chemically adulterated grades, as an expression of contempt.

The first entry of land in this township was made August 12, 1829, by Leonard Alkire, of Sugar Grove, and was a tract of 120 acres in the southwest quarter of Section 34, contained in what is now known as the Knox farm, but was not improved by the first purchaser, nor until more than twenty years later. August 17, 1829, William Hagans entered 120 acres, west half of the southwest quarter, Section 33, and southeast quarter of the southeast quarter, Section 32, now known as the Charles L. Montgomery place. Here, near the site of the present brick residence, Hagans built a rude log hut, and, with his family, became the pioneer settler of this township, and of what is now eastern Mason County.

June 12, 1834, James C. Hagans entered the forty-acre tract of land now owned in part each, by James P. Montgomery and George H. Short, and built a hut where the latter's house now stands.

June 15, 1837, John Hagans entered the forty-acre tract where J. P. Montgomery now lives, and built a hut near the site of the present residence. A few years later, however, they all sold out to Ephraim Wilcox, and moved away to further Western wilds, and were lost to the knowledge of those who lived after them here. As early as 1830, a family named Slinker, "squatted" on a piece of land up in the grove northwest of the places just referred to, but tradition has but few words of remembrance of them or their habitation, and nothing of their place of migration.

In 1830, Leonard Alkire bought a large lot of land in Sections 33 and 34, and held it, as was termed by the settlers, as "speculator's land," without making any improvements upon it.

In 1830, Robert and William Hughes entered the land now the farm of M. Vanlanningham, which Daniel Clark, Sr., purchased and settled upon in 1835, and where the old gentleman died in 1853, and was buried near the house in which he lived, and which is still there, though the first house he lived in there was a log hut. His three sons are still living; Alfred, in Crane Creek Township; Daniel, in Mason City, and William, in Dubuque, Iowa.

In 1833, a man named Lease settled in the northwest part of the township, at a grove which, from his settlement there, took the name of Lease's Grove, which name it still bears. Soon after this, Samuel Blunt, George Wilson and the Moslanders settled there, and formed a little isolated band or neighborhood in and around the beautiful grove, from which improvement, farther and farther out into the prairie on all sides the Third School District in the township was gradually formed and extended. In connection with the Wilson family, referred to above, it is proper here to state that his son, Orey, committed suicide by hanging himself to the limb of a tree, in 1852, which was the first case of deliberate self-destruction in the township, and the last. The news of the rash act was received by the sparsely settled county with horror, and, for years after, the

scene of the tragedy was a place of dreadful interest, and the belated and solitary citizen who passed along the road by it after night did so with light and elastic step, and numerous "hair-raising" stories of suspended ghosts became current in the course of time.

To return to Big Grove. In 1835, Isaac Engle entered the forty-acre tract which is now owned and occupied by W. F. Auxier, and built a log hut on an elevation about forty rods southwest of where the dwelling now stands, as a monument to the site of which primitive landmark a stately locust-tree stood until a few years ago, when that, too, fell a victim to the rapacious ax of the modern inhabitant. This place was purchased, with other tracts adjoining, in 1837, by Edward Sikes, Sr., who, with several other families, came out from Ohio and settled in the grove. A few years later, Mr. Sikes built the substantial frame house which now is on the place, and planted out an orchard of the first grafted fruit-trees ever planted in that vicinity, and which yields its delicious fruit now every year, although the hands that planted them have been in the grave nearly a quarter of a century. In the old log house on this place, the first school in the township was taught, in 1838, by one of the daughters of Mr. Sikes, now Mrs. S. D. Swing, of Mason City, who, soon after, settled with her husband as pioneers at Swing's Grove, in Mason City Township.

In 1835, Michael Engle entered an eighty-acre tract, now known as the Hume place, and built a log hut about fifty yards west of K. M. Auxier's house, nothing of which now remains, but the place where the well has been filled in can yet be distinguished. In this well a child of John Carter, who later occupied the house, fell and was drowned, the summer of 1849. In 1837, Kinzey Virgin moved out from Ohio, bought this place with other adjoining tracts, built a hewed-log house where the barn now stands, and settled down in his new and rather wild and romantic home. He was a man of considerable enterprise as a stock-raiser and accumulated this world's goods quite rapidly, but was peculiarly unfortunate with his family of children, but one of whom ever lived to reach the years of majority, and that the youngest, and but a babe when he himself died in 1852, six children, and all but the one, having preceded him to the grave, and the wife following two years later. Though a man somewhat reckless in his habits and profane in conversation, he held it a sacred duty to have a funeral sermon preached for every one of his children that died, and what was something remarkable, John L. Turner, the "little Baptist preacher," of Crane Creek, officiated at every one of these occasions, and also at that of the father and mother. The latter, "Aunt Eliza," was one of Nature's noblewomen. The silent grief and heart-pangs which many circumstances pierced like a dagger her very soul, were buried there and without a word of reproach or complaint, forever. She was universally beloved and honored for her inherent goodness and nobility of nature. The same year, 1837, George T. Virgin settled a quarter of a mile

State Militia; he is a social, genial and much respected citizen. He married Miss Almira E. West, of Greenview, in this county, Jan. 31, 1864; they have a family of four children.

EDWARD M. MORRIS, wagon-maker, Petersburg; son of William J. and Jemima M. (Ratliff) Morris; was born in Butler Co., Ohio, Nov. 6, 1852; he came with his parents to Menard Co. in 1855; during his early life school advantages were limited; he learned his trade under A. W. Stoker, and began business on his own account in 1875; he began by letting nothing but first-class work leave his shop, and, through his mechanical ability, industry and energy, has placed himself in his present flourishing condition.

H. W. MONTGOMERY, stock-dealer, Petersburg. Son of Samuel and Mary (Bailey) Montgomery; was born in Adair Co., Ky., June 30, 1820, and brought to Illinois by his parents in 1829, settling in Cass Co., where he was raised a farmer, receiving a good common-school education. After he became of age, he took charge of the home farm, remaining with his father until about 25 years of age. He married Miss Emily E. Wilson, formerly of Ohio, Jan. 16, 1850. They settled in Menard Co., near Petersburg in 1850, and engaged in agricultural pursuits, and in stock-dealing. He is a man of large means, public-spirited, benevolent, and much respected. They have a family of four children.

JAMES MILES, farmer and stock-dealer; P. O. Petersburg. Son of George U. and Jane (McCoy) Miles, who were among the first settlers of Menard Co.; George U. was born in St. Mary's Co., Md., March 20, 1796, and came with his parents to the Territory of Illinois in 1816; they first settled in what is now St. Clair Co., where they remained for a time; thence to White Co., and there George U. married Miss Jane McCoy in 1821, and Nov. 25, 1822, James was born. In 1825, they removed into what is now Logan Co., where they remained until 1836, when they removed into Sangamon Co.; thence, in 1840, to Petersburg, where James and his father have since lived. James' mother having died Dec. 15, 1850 (she left three children), Oct. 21, 1851, his father married Mrs. Catharine Early, of Sangamon Co.; he still survives, and now, at the ripe age of 74, resides with James, who is a prominent farmer and stock-dealer. His farm consists of 166 acres of fine land, adjoining the town of Petersburg. His wife was Miss Anna Smith, of this county; they were married Jan. 5, 1845, and have a family now living of five children. Mr. Miles is one of the well-to-do and enterprising farmers of Menard Co., always assisting in such matters as pertain to the welfare of the community.

JACOB MERRELL, farmer; P. O. Petersburg. Son of Andrew and Elizabeth (Stout) Merrell; was born in Mason Co., Ky., March 9, 1806, where he was also raised. He came to this State with his parents in 1832; they settled where Jacob now lives; and, in examining the location of the farm, his father admired the place and told Jacob he wanted to be buried on the place, pointing out the location. At his death, which was in 1835, Jacob did as his father requested; and, in 1859, his mother was laid away by his side. Jacob Merrell has lived a long, eventful life, and the high esteem in which he is held by his fellow-citizens is a satisfaction to him in his old age; he has now arrived to the ripe old age of 74 years, while his physical condition is remarkably good. His wife was Miss Elizabeth Rumford, of his native county; they were married in October, 1833; they have raised a family of three children. They own 240 acres of fine land—a part of the old homestead farm.

H. W. MASTERS, State's Attorney, Petersburg; is a native of Morgan Co., Ill., born Sept. 11, 1845; son of Squire D. and Lucinda (Young) Masters, who were pioneers of this county. He was raised upon a farm, and received his early education at a district school. In 1861 and 1862, he attended the North Sangamon Academy; after which, he attended Illinois College at Jacksonville; thence to Michigan University, where he completed a fine academical education; then taught school for several years. In 1867, he began to read law under the direction of W. McNeely; was admitted to the bar in 1868, and began the practice of his chosen profession in Garnett, Kan., and, after one year, he returned to Menard Co. and took up farming, but through his ability and

appointed to his present position ; he is a young man of fine mental powers. He married Miss Laura J., daughter of William and Elizabeth (Higgins) White, March 14, 1878. They have had one child, Mary E., born Jan. 5, 1879.

R. F. WHITE, son of Robert White, was born in St. Clair Co., Ill., Feb. 27, 1819, and came with his parents to Illinois, in 1819, and in 1820, to where R. F. now lived, and where his parents died. His father died Nov. 27, 1847, and his mother, April 2, 1867 ; they raised a family of five, three of whom are now living. The subject of this sketch was married to Miss Rachel E., daughter of Needham and Frances (Hamilton) Roach, Oct. 31, 1844. They have had seven children, three only of whom are now living—John E., Mary E. and Esther A., now Mrs. William T. Moore. Mr. and Mrs. White reside upon the old homestead, of which they own 240 acres ; they have lived a useful life, and are highly respected.

COL. JOHN WILLIAMS, President and Manager of the Springfield & North-Western Railroad, and President of the First National Bank of Springfield ; is the son of James and Hannah (Mappin) Williams, and was born in Bath Co., Ky., Sept. 11, 1808 ; he came to Illinois with his parents in 1823, who located where the Colonel now resides. Here they entered a large tract of land, and the Colonel entered one section ; here his father died in 1834, and his mother in 1855. A further mention of his parents is given in the general and township history. During the late war, Mr. Williams was appointed, by Gov. Yates, to the office of Commissary General of the State ; he served in this capacity about two years, then was appointed Manager of Sanitary affairs ; he served in a number of honorable and prominent positions during the war. He has been prominently connected with the First National Bank of Springfield for many years, and has accumulated a large property. He became connected with the S. & N.-W. R. R. in 1871. He owns and superintends a 1,400-acre stock farm, and has always been identified with public affairs. His wife is Lydia, daughter of Asa Porter, of Lima, N. Y. ; they were married March 31, 1840 ; she was born Aug. 28, 1821 ; they have raised a family of six, who bid fair to become worthy citizens of this or any community in which they may ultimately locate.

J. C. WEST, farmer ; son of Jacob West ; was born in Sumner Co., Tenn., April 14, 1808, and came to Illinois with his parents in 1833, locating in Knox Co., at which time J. C. West came to Menard Co., where he has since lived. His mother died in September, 1858, at the age of 81, and his father in March, 1868, aged 92. The subject of this sketch was married to Miss Eliza, daughter of Robert and Esther (McNabb) White, March 13, 1834 ; she was born in Green Co., Ky., Feb. 20, 1812 ; they are the parents of eight children, only two of whom are now living—John M., a practicing physician, of Williamsville, Ill., born Dec. 22, 1836, and Jacob B., farmer, born Dec. 3, 1847. Mr. and Mrs. West are workers in the Christian cause, and are respected citizens.

GREENVIEW PRECINCT.

→ J. D. ALKIRE, banker, Greenview ; was born in Menard Co., Ill., Feb. 10, 1832 ; he is the youngest son of Leonard and Catharine (Davis) Alkire, who came from Ohio to Illinois in 1823, and settled in Sugar Grove ; here our subject passed his youth and early manhood on the farm of his father ; he received such education as could be obtained from the schools of that early day ; at the age of 19, he and his brother Leonard built a storeroom in the then newly laid-out town of Sweetwater, and put in a general stock of goods. Neither had had any experience in the mercantile business ; and, strange as it may seem, they succeeded beyond their most sanguine expectation ; they continued in this business for a period of eight years, when they sold the store and contents to William Engle & Son ; not long after, they bought out Engle & Son, and continued in business for more than a year ; they then sold out to a Mr. Whipp. In all of these transactions they were very successful, making money at every change

they made ; this was about the year 1862 ; then for a period of eleven years, the two brothers engaged in farming and the live-stock trade ; in this, as in mercantile business, they were very successful ; about this time they went to the Far West, where they improved a large ranch, and handled a large number of sheep ; at the end of two and a half years, the partnership that had existed between the brothers, for a period of twenty-four years, ceased—J. D., our subject, taking the property they owned in Menard Co., Ill., and his brother the ranch and stock in Colorado ; after J. D. Alkire's return to his native State, he, and his eldest brother, Milem, started a private bank in the village of Greenview ; this was the first enterprise of that kind in Eastern Menard Co. ; they continued in business one year, with a capital of \$100,000 ; at the expiration of that time they dissolved, and a new bank was started, under the name of Marbold, Alkire & Co. ; this is one of the best and safest banking-houses in the State, representing a capital of \$150,000. He was united in marriage with Caroline D. Stone, April 15, 1860 ; she is a native of Bath Co., Ky. ; from this union there were nine children, seven of whom are now living—William P., John D., Eva E., Henry, Ethalinda, Mary E., and a babe not named ; the names of those deceased were Edwin D. and Ida H. Mr. Alkire is one of Menard Co.'s wealthiest and most respected citizens, and a self-made man. A Democrat in politics, but quite liberal in his views.

DEDERICH AMERKAMP, farmer and stock-raiser, Sec. 6 ; P. O. Greenview ; was born in Hanover, Germany, Oct. 3, 1817. He passed his youth and early manhood in his native country, working on a farm and attending school. In 1843, he was united in marriage with Mary Ottman. From this union there were four children—Harmon, Annie K., Catharine M. and Eliza M. All are married, and live in Menard Co. In 1860, he emigrated to the United States, and located in Greenview Precinct, Menard Co., Ill., where he has since resided, and owns 500 acres of nicely improved land, which he has obtained by close attention to business, combined with honesty and industry. He was again married Oct. 29, 1860 ; this time to Mary Wansing, a native of Germany, and a most estimable lady. Mr. Amerkamp is one of the most intelligent and influential men in the county.

GEORGE W. BLANE, farmer and stock-raiser, Sec. 24 ; P. O. Greenview ; was born in Menard Co., Ill., July 12, 1836 ; son of George Blane, who came to Sugar Grove, Menard Co., in 1819. Irish Grove derives its name from the fact that in that year Mr. George Blane, his mother, three brothers and a sister stopped for some time in that grove. They were natives of Ireland, and were the first white persons who ever lived in that grove. He was married soon after settling in Sugar Grove to Miss Mary M. Alkire, sister of Leonard Alkire, one of the early settlers of Sugar Grove. The subject of this sketch was brought up to farming, in which he has always continued. He received a good education—much better than most of the boys of that period who lived in the country. He remained with his father on the farm until 27 years of age. He was married to Harriet Cleveland Dec. 18, 1862, daughter of Asa and Experience (Avery) Cleveland, who was born in Menard Co., Ill., May 11, 1841. Her parents came to Menard Co. in 1840. Mr. Cleveland was a native of Vermont, and his wife of New Hampshire. From this union there were ten children, seven of whom are now living—Minnie V., Jennie K., Lizzie B., Mary A., Jessie M., Geo. W. and Jay E. The names of those deceased were Herbert, Emma A. and Sadie A. Mr. Blane is a Republican, and at present a candidate for County Commissioner.

JOHN P. BLANE, farmer and stock-raiser ; P. O. Greenview ; was born in Menard Co., Ill., July 25, 1845 ; is a son of George and Mary (Alkire) Blane, both of whom were among the first settlers of Menard Co. The father was a native of Ireland, and came to Illinois as early as 1818, and to Sugar Grove, Menard Co., in 1819. He died in 1864. John P. passed his youth and early manhood on his father's farm. He received such an education as the schools of that day afforded. He was united in marriage with Mary A. Bracken Feb. 7, 1867. She was born in Menard Co., Ill., and is a daughter of O. P. Bracken, one of the pioneers of Menard Co. From this union there were four children, three of whom are now living—Ella M., born Jan. 19, 1871 ; Carrie M., born May 31, 1875, and Lee E., born March 8, 1877. The name of the one

deceased was Emma F., born Dec. 22, 1867, died March 21, 1869. Mr. Blane owns 364 acres of well-improved land; is a Republican in politics and a self-made man.

O. P. BRADLEY, farmer and dealer in live-stock, Sec. 31; P. O. Greenview; was born in Bath Co., Ky., Feb. 28, 1831; son of Elijah and Martha (Hornback) Bradley, both natives of Kentucky. The father was a blacksmith, and was drowned in the Licking River when his son was 14 years of age. This left a family of nine children to the care of the mother and older members of the family. Mr. Bradley passed his youth in Kentucky, assisting his mother to care for the family. At the age of 20, he commenced business for himself. He worked by the month for some time, then rented a farm, and for some years remained there and followed farming. In 1853, he and his mother and family came to Menard Co., Ill., and located on Salt Creek. Here he and his brother bought 196 acres of wild prairie land. Since that time he has not only purchased his brother's share of the land, but now owns 800 acres of well-improved land, 200 of which joins the village of Greenview. His Salt Creek farm is one of the best improved and most pleasantly situated in the county. At the time of his coming to Illinois he had but \$250, and what he now has is due to close attention to business, honesty and industry. He was united in marriage with Amelia A. McDonald in 1856. She is a native of Bath Co., Ky. From this union there were eight children, seven of whom are now living—Almeda, William N., Lewis, Leander, Charles, Henry and Luther C. The name of the one deceased was Trinville. Mr. Bradley has devoted his time almost entirely to farming, and his skill and energy have met with deserved success. His judgment in handling live stock has also been a source of material advantage. He has always voted the Democratic ticket, but is quite liberal in his views of men and things. He has always been liberal in his support of moral and educational enterprises, the churches and schools of the neighborhood, and has ever been foremost in the development of the best interests of the county.

J. W. CALLAWAY, farmer and stock-raiser, Sec. 16; P. O. Greenview; was born in Woodford Co., Ill., Jan. 9, 1838, to which county his parents removed in 1837. In 1846, they came to Menard Co., where our subject has since resided. He passed his youth and early manhood on his father's farm, and received such education as the schools of that early day afforded. On the breaking-out of the rebellion he enlisted in Company A, 10th I. V. C., and served four years and eight months. He was in all the battles in which the "brave old Tenth" was engaged. There are few men who saw so much service and escaped without a wound. He was united in marriage to Sarah A. Glaspy Dec. 5, 1868. She was born in Morgan Co., Ill., April 4, 1850. From this union there are four children—Leonard, George, Edwin and Harry E. Mr. Callaway is a staunch Republican in politics, and owns eighty acres of nicely improved land, and is, in the fullest sense of the word, a self-made man.

WILLIAM CLAYPOOL, farmer and dealer in live stock, Sec. 18; P. O. Greenview; was born in Menard Co., Ill., March 14, 1831; his father, Levi, was a native of Virginia, and his mother, whose maiden name was Melinda Rollins, was a native of Kentucky; they came to Illinois in 1826, and located near where the village of Athens now is; here he lived until his death, which occurred Feb. 2, 1867; his wife survives him, and now resides in the village of Athens; William remained with his father, and assisted him on his farm until 28 years of age; he received a good common-school education, such as the advantages of those early days afforded. He was united in marriage with Elizabeth Engle Sept. 30, 1863; she was born in Menard Co., Ill., March 26, 1846, and is the daughter of William Engle, one of the early settlers of Sugar Grove; they have one child—Edward Everett, born July 19, 1865. Mr. Claypool has been a resident of Greenview Precinct since 1864, and owns a nicely improved farm of 480 acres, which he has made by his own exertions.

W. R. DONALDSON, farmer and dealer in live stock, Sec. 9; P. O. Greenview; was born in Bath Co., Ky., July 16, 1824; son of Alex. and Sarah (Power) Donaldson, both natives of Kentucky; in 1850, they came to Menard Co., and located five miles east of Petersburg; he died in 1855, and his wife survives him and is now 83 years of age; she is the mother of twelve children, eight of whom are now living. W. R.

Donaldson came to Menard Co. six months before his parents; in 1852, he went overland to California with a large drove of sheep, starting in the month of February, and arrived in the Sacramento Valley in October, the same year; he remained there four years and was engaged in different kinds of business, in all of which he was very successful; while he was a resident of Kentucky, he enlisted in Co. G, 3d Ky. V. I., and served as a soldier in the war with Mexico; was under Gen. Scott, and participated in all the engagements, from the coast to the ancient city of the Montezumas; after his return from California, he engaged in the live-stock trade, in which business he continued for a number of years with varied success; in 1864, he purchased 420 acres of wild prairie land, six miles northeast of the village of Greenview; by close attention to business, he has not only nicely improved the land he at that time purchased, but has since purchased seventy-five acres, and now owns 515 acres of nicely improved land. His wife, whose maiden name was Rebecca Sours, is a most estimable lady and has greatly assisted him in acquiring what they now have; they have four children—Richard W., Alexander, George and John. Mr. Donaldson is a Democrat and an earnest advocate of the principles of the party, and is, in the fullest sense of the word, a self-made man.

M. M. ENGLE, merchant, Greenview; among the prominent merchants and influential citizens of Menard Co. is Mr. M. M. Engle, whose father, William Engle, was one of the first settlers of Sugar Grove, having come there in 1823. His wife's maiden name was Elizabeth Alkire, sister of Leonard Alkire, the well-known pioneer. Mr. Engle, in his life-time, was a prominent and influential man, and probably did as much to build up the interests and morals of the county as any other man of his time; he was the father of twelve children, of whom our subject is the youngest but three. He passed his youth at the old homestead in the village of Sweetwater, assisting his father on the farm and helping his mother indoors, as there were no girls sufficiently large to help her in the care of this large family. Mr. Engle, Sr., was born in 1801 and departed this life in 1870; his wife survives him and resides with her son, John, near Sweetwater. M. M. Engle received such education in early life as the schools of that day afforded; at the age of 17, he was sent to Eureka College, where he remained a year; he then attended Berean College, at Jacksonville, two years, at the expiration of which time he came home, and, together with his father, bought out the Alkire Bros. in Sweetwater; this was his introduction to mercantile business; he and his father kept the store some time, and then sold out. Soon after this, April 17, 1860, he was united in marriage with Annie M. Marbold, a native of Hanover, Germany, born May 6, 1841; from this union there were six children, five of whom are now living—Milem M., Elizabeth, Henry S., Charles L. and Lewis F. W.; the name of the one deceased was Harmon W. Mr. Engle is at this time engaged in the mercantile business in the village of Greenview; he has a good trade and is a thorough business man.

J. T. FOSTER, merchant, Greenview; in Marion County, Ind., July 25, 1836, the subject of this sketch first saw the light; he is the son of Augustine E. and Permelia Foster, both natives of Kentucky; their removal from Kentucky to Indiana occurred in 1835; there they remained a few years and then returned to Kentucky; here they lived until their removal to Sangamon Co., Ill., in 1843. The son was brought up to farm labor, in which he continued until 1865, when he engaged in mercantile business in the town of Greenview, Menard Co.; in this he has since continued. He was united in marriage with Martha E. Smith April 10, 1856; she was born in Owen Co., Ind., July 28, 1837; eight children have been born to them, six of whom are now living—Martha A., Rosetta P., Maggie E., Thomas L., Sarah E. and Addie M.; deceased, James A. and Lincoln J. Mr. Foster is a staunch Republican and a consistent member of the M. E. Church.

GAGE S. GRITMAN, farmer and stock raiser, Sec. 11; P. O. Greenview; was born in Chenango Co., N. Y., Dec. 13, 1835; his father, Hiram Gritman, was born in Delaware Co., N. Y., July 23, 1807, and his mother, whose maiden name was Lydia D. Luther, was born Nov. 27, 1805, in Massachusetts. Gage S. passed his youth and early