

Men of Progress. Wisconsin. (pages 417-451) A selected list of biographical sketches and portraits of the leaders in business, professional and official life. Together with short notes on the history and character of Wisconsin.

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Kelly Mullins, kellyj@snowcrest.net

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EDWARDS, Benjamin Eugene, a prominent business man of La Crosse, was born at Sugar Creek, Walworth county, Wisconsin, on the 12th of November, 1845. The Edwards family is of Welsh descent, though it has long been in this country, its founder coming in 1664, and settling in Northampton, Mass. Theodore B. Edwards, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Northampton in 1819, but came to Wisconsin in 1839, settling at Sugar Creek, Walworth county. As showing the wonderful progress that the country has made within the lifetime of one man, it may be stated that Mr. Edwards made the journey from his home at Northampton to Wisconsin by water--descending the Connecticut river into Long Island Sound, thence up the Hudson to Albany, thence through the Erie canal to Buffalo, and by lake to Milwaukee--a tedious journey of several weeks that could now be made by rail

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[image: BENJAMIN EUGENE EDWARDS.]

in thirty-six hours. Mr. Edwards resided at Sugar Creek until 1852, when he removed to La Crosse, and was one of pioneers of that now thriving and busy city. Theodore B. Edwards' wife was Adaline McCracken, a native of Batavia, N. Y., where she was born in 1816. Both she and her husband had the advantages of only an ordinary common school education, but were persons of sterling character and of influence in the communities where they lived.

B. E. Edwards attended the common school in his native town of Sugar Creek until 1857, when he was sent to an academy at Long Meadow, Mass., and after that to a school in Springfield, in the same state. With his preparation for a collegiate course he returned to Wisconsin and entered Beloit College, where he pursued his studies for three years. At the end of this time he went home to La Crosse, where he began his business career as clerk in a dry goods store. In 1867, when but twenty-two years of age, he entered upon business for himself by engaging in the dry goods trade in La Crosse, in which he continued for seven years. He then entered the lumber business, in which he was engaged for ten years and in which he was quite prosperous. Leaving that he became identified with the street railway in La Crosse, and is now the president of the company. He is also connected with several other companies as director or officer, and is an enterprising, public-spirited and most worthy citizen--one who, while advancing his own individual interests, has made the community his debtor by his services in forwarding all public improvements of a social and industrial character.

In politics Mr. Edwards has always been a Republican and one of the staunchest supporters of the principles of the party, but has never held any official position. He, however, represents the Seventh congressional district on the Republican state central committee, a position of honor involving some work, but no emoluments.

Mr. Edwards enlisted in the Fortieth regiment, Wisconsin infantry, but served only five months, when the war ended. The only engagement in which the regiment participated was during the Forest raid into Memphis.

Mr. Edwards is a member of the Order of Odd Fellows, the Elks, the La Crosse club and the Congregational church.

In 1868 Mr. Edwards was married to Ella C. Osborne, and they have one son and three daughters--Eugene O., Grace O., Helen L., and Anna K. Edwards.

HANLEY, George William, a resident of Marinette, and prominent from his connection with a number of business corporations of that city, was born in Whitewater, Wis., April 24th, 1856, both of whom are Irish-Americans, the father dying in 1869, the mother still living in Milwaukee. Geo. W. Hanley attended the parochial school of St. John's cathedral and afterward St. Gall's night school. When ten years old he began the business of life as cash boy in Klauber Bros'. dry goods store

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for a year, then as office boy for the late Senator Matt. H. Carpenter. After that he was employed in a hotel, a newspaper and stationery store, the United States engineer's office, the land department of the Sturgeon Bay & Lake Michigan Ship Canal & Harbor company, and subsequently was chief clerk in the land department of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway company's office. In 1883 he removed from Milwaukee to Peshtigo, Wis., to take the position of cashier of the Peshtigo company. After seven years in the service of that organization he went to Marinette to become secretary of the Menominee River Boom company, probably the largest corporation of its kind in this country. He is also secretary of the Marinette Gas, Electric Light and Street Railway company, the Marinette Hotel company, the Business Men's association and the Fenton Clothing and Tailoring company. These several positions involve a multiplicity of duties, but Mr. Hanley has always been found equal to the thorough discharge of them all, and to the successful performance of whatever he has undertaken. He has the business faculty largely developed and is an energetic and untiring worker in the ranks of every public or patriotic movement.

He has always been an earnest Republican and was chairman of the Marinette Republican city and county committees from 1891 to 1895. He was also a member of the Republican state central committee from 1890 to 1894.

He is a member of the Bon Ami club of Milwaukee, and of several clubs and social societies of Marinette, but has never been connected with any fraternal organizations. In religion he is a Roman Catholic.

His deprivation of school or college education (through the early death of his father) has been largely mitigated by the benefits derived from the various and diversified occupations in his early life, coupled with a natural taste for reading and study.

Mr. Hanley was married February 4th, 1880, to Agnes Griffin, daughter of M. Griffin,

[image: GEORGE WILLIAM HANLEY.]

an old resident of Milwaukee, and they have two children, Catherine Marie, born in Peshtigo in 1885, and Gertrude, born in Marinette in 1892.

DOERFLINGER, Charles Herman, secretary of the board of city service commissioners, and a gentleman who has a long and honorable record as a leader in educational matters and civil and political reform, was born in Baden, Germany, on the 17th of February, 1843. His father was Karl Doerflinger, an official in Germany, who, becoming imbued with liberal principles, participated in the revolution of 1848; and, upon its failure, was compelled, as were many of his compatriots, to seek refuge in a foreign land. Upon the breaking out of our civil war he enlisted in the army, and was made first lieutenant of the Second Wisconsin cavalry.

Mr. Doerflinger's mother, Theresa Gisselbrecht, was of the ancient family of Guilbert of Brittany, and related to the De la Chapelles. She secured the release of her husband from a German dungeon, and the family found their way to Milwaukee in 1848. She was for many

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[image: CHARLES HERMAN DOERFLINGER.]

years a very successful teacher in the German-English academy, as was her son in years after.

Mr. Doerflinger's early education was received in Milwaukee, at a private school taught by Mr. Steever, the First and Second ward public schools, and Engelmann's Academy. In this last named institution, Mr. Doerflinger says that he was imbued with an enthusiasm for liberty, for republican principles, a patriotic sentiment toward his adopted country and had awakened within him that interest in progress and in scientific advancement which have marked his career as a man. For economic reasons, he was compelled to leave school when fourteen years old, but like all boys imbued with a love of learning, his studies were continued during his leisure hours, and his life has demonstrated anew the fact that scholarship is not necessarily restricted to college halls, but may be attained by any one who has the ability, the disposition and the scholarly instincts to pursue courses of study for himself.

Leaving school, young Doerflinger became a printer's apprentice and newsboy. He afterwards served as an architect's apprentice, and about 1860 to 1862 he was engaged in mining and farming in the west. For ten years subsequent to 1870, he was engaged in the book and publishing business, carrying on all departments. Among the publications which he conducted, or in which he was directly interested, or of which he was the author, were the "New Education," into which the great agitator, Miss Elizabeth Peabody, merged her "Kindergarten Messenger," when she could no longer conduct it; a juvenile periodical called "Onkel Karl;" several illustrated juvenile books based on Froebelian ideas; the "Erziehungs Blaetter," the official organ of the German-American Teacher's association, doing pioneer work for the advancement of pedagogical principles and methods which were first generally made known in the United States by the immortal work done by Horace Mann. He was also one of the publishers of the "American Turn-Zeitung," the official organ of the National Union of Gymnastic societies; and the "Freidenker." But for the last fifteen years he has had no active interest of any kind in the last three papers mentioned. He was the originator of the idea of the public institution which now ornaments Grand avenue hill, the Public Museum and Library building. From 1883 to 1886, he was custodian of the Milwaukee Public Museum, having entire charge of the museum, enlargement and administration of the institution. This position he resigned in 1886 on account of impaired health; and, after long delay, the board of trustees accepted the resignation, with expressions of highest appreciation of his labors, and profound regret at the necessity which called it forth. He was one of the founders of the first kindergarten society of Milwaukee. He was for three years member of the board of regents of the state normal schools; and, as member of the committee on studies and text-books, he first introduced and advocated the kindergarten and secured its incorporation into the normal school course. It was also due to his

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persistent efforts that the chair of pedagogy was established in the university. He is a member of the Wisconsin Association for the Advancement of Physical Culture, and for thirty-two years he was the earnest and persistent advocate of rational physical education, and for the greater part of that time was an officer of the Milwaukee Gymnastic association and of the Gymnastic Normal School. From 1889 to 1893 he traveled in Europe for the recovery of his health, and for study and observation. Returning home, he went into the business of real estate and fire insurance. But a serious lameness compelled him to abandon business for a time; but, in 1895, he acquired an interest in a manufactory of artificial limbs, trusses, etc., of which he became and now is president. In 1896, at the earnest solicitation of friends, he received and accepted the position of chief examiner and secretary of the board of city service commissioners; and to this position he is now devoting his whole energy.

Mr. Doerflinger's war record is honorable alike as to his courage and patriotism. He was orderly sergeant in the Iowa home guard. In August, 1862, he enlisted in the Twenty-sixth regiment of Wisconsin volunteer, at Milwaukee; was promoted to orderly sergeant of Company B by captain (now General) F. C. Winkler. He was promoted to second lieutenant of Company B, and later to first lieutenant of Company K. In the battle of Chancellorsville, May 2nd, 1863, while in command of the company, his ankle joint was shattered by a rifle ball, rendering amputation necessary, but, by reason of accident, the operation was a failure, and he was confined to the hospital for seven months. As a soldier he claims to have been but one of hundreds of thousands in the Union army that did their whole duty. Yet Col. Wm. H. Jacobs, in a published report of the battle of Chancellorsville, says that "the palm of the day belongs to the young hero, Doerflinger."

Mr. Doerflinger was for some twelve years secretary of the Wisconsin Natural History society of Milwaukee. In this position he was active in promoting all scientific endeavors; and, although not a savant in archeology, he has long been interested in the subject, and made an interesting collection of prehistoric relics in Switzerland and France, gathered principally while on journeys through the valleys of the Somme, Garonne, Dordogne and Vezere rivers. He has been also a member of the Milwaukee Musical society, Liberal league, Fortnightly club, German Educational society, now National German-American Seminary association, E. B. Wolcott post, G. A. R., Society of the Twenty-sixth regiment, Milwaukee Turnverein, Deutscher club, and many others.

A pupil and friend of Peter Engelmann, one of the founders of the Republican party in Milwaukee, Mr. Doerflinger became a determined abolitionist, and an enthusiastic Republican. After Lincoln's death he followed Engelmann in the independent movement of the radical Republican, anti-communistic organization called Radical Union, originating with Carl Heinzen of Boston, the friend of Wendell Phillips and other leading abolitionists, who were dissatisfied with the reconstruction policy, and advocated changes in the constitution and laws similar to those adopted by Switzerland, lying in the direction of true democracy, and radical civil reform. Notwithstanding this deflection in the direction of ideal politics, his proclivities have

always been Republican; and, while opposing everything foreign to legitimate party purposes, his support has, for the most part, been given to its men and measures. While traveling in Europe he studied with keen interest the political and social conditions obtaining in the old world, particularly the results of rational non-communistic co-operation of labor and capital, at a number of great establishments, and proclaims it as his "social religion" that this system is the non-revolutionary solution of the labor question, and the promise of universal peace and prosperity without any upheaval. When he found that

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his radical associates were steadily approaching anarchistic theories and giving moral support to violent and dangerous elements, he warned them that he and his friends should be known in future as "conservative radicals," whose motto should be "construction" not "destruction." The warning was unheeded, and he has rejoined the Republican ranks, but still maintains his independence of thought, and his allegiance, to his ideals in social, civil and industrial affairs.

Mr. Doerflinger traveled extensively in Mexico, studying the industrial and educational condition of the country, and published the results of his observations in an entertaining essay. He has contributed hundreds of articles to the press of Milwaukee, Chicago and New York, upon his travels, and upon social and political questions, and has proved himself a most intelligent and public-spirited citizen. He has done much in many ways to promote the public welfare for which he has received no compensation, but which the people cannot wholly forget.

ARMSTRONG, Leroy Grant, M. D., long a resident of Boscobel, Grant county, Wisconsin, was born in Cortland, Cortland county, N. Y., March 7th, 1834. His father was Robert Armstrong, a mason and builder, in moderate financial circumstances, a native of Geneva, Cayuga county, N. Y., where he was born July 9th, 1804. His ancestors were of Irish descent, coming to this county in 1727, settling in Goshen, Orange county, N. Y., and removing thence to Cayuga county when it was still a wilderness. There they cleared them a farm in the forest and made them a home. L. G. Armstrong's mother was Huldah Grant, who was born in Norfolk, Litchfield county, Ct. Her ancestors were of Scotch and French nationality. Robert Armstrong and Huldah Grant, upon their marriage began housekeeping at Groton, Tompkins county, N. Y., where they continued to reside until May, 1845, when they came to Wisconsin, settling on a farm near Whitewater. They were both faithful members of the Presbyterian church. The former died in March, 1875, and the latter November 17th, 1894.

L. G. Armstrong had but meager opportunities for an education until he was seventeen years of age--only a few weeks each year at his home district school. He then entered the Fort Atkinson Academy and remained there until he secured a certificate that he was qualified to teach a common school. In this way he earned sufficient money to enable him to take a course in the state university in 1854 and 1855. The institution was wholly conducted in what is now the north dormitory, there being then but the one building. Chancellor Lathrop was the head instructor, and S. P. Lathrop, professor of chemistry and the natural sciences, being Mr. Armstrong's preceptor. In 1856 Mr. Armstrong entered Rush Medical College, Chicago, from which he graduated February 16th, 1859, receiving first honors in surgery and second honors before the whole faculty. In 1873-4 he took a post-graduate course in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York city.

After graduating from the medical college, he began the practice of medicine at Palmyra, but removed to Fennimore, Grant county, in 1860, where he practiced his profession until commissioned second assistant surgeon of the Eighth Wisconsin infantry, and went directly to Corinth, Miss., participating in the battle at that place October 3rd and 4th, 1862. After a short time his health failed and he was forced to resign his commission. Returning home he remained there until August, 1864, when he was commissioned as first assistant surgeon of the Sixth regiment, Wisconsin infantry, which he joined at Petersburg, Va., with which he remained until February, 1865, when he was commissioned major-surgeon of the Forty-eight regiment, Wisconsin infantry, with which he went to Fort Scott, Kansas.

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where he performed the double duty of regimental surgeon and surgeon in charge of the post hospital. The latter he broke up in August, 1865, removing the sick to Fort Leavenworth. He then marched with his regiment to Fort Larned, Kansas, where he was in charge of the post hospital until February, 1866, when he returned home and resumed private practice at Boscobel, where he has practiced to the present time. He has also been United States examining surgeon for pensions at Boscobel for sixteen years.

Dr. Armstrong was one of the organizers and first commander of John McDermott Post, No. 101, G. A. R., of Boscobel. He is an Odd Fellow, has passed all the chairs of the order of the local lodge. He is also a charter member of Grant Lodge, 169, F. & A. M., having held every office to worthy master, to which he was twice elected. He has held every office in the Boscobel Chapter, No. 52, R. A. M., and has been a Knight Templar since the organization of De Molai Commandery, of which he was a charter member. He is a member of the State Medical society, of which he was president once, vice-president twice, censor for a number of years, and chairman of several committees from year to year. He is also member of the American Medical association.

Dr. Armstrong was born and raised a Democrat; but, upon the breaking out of the civil war, he joined the Republican party and has acted with it ever since. He has been twice mayor of Boscobel, but never held any other political position. He has been a member of the Boscobel school board for twenty years, and is still a member. He was active in the organization of the Boscobel high school, and no work outside of his profession has occupied so of much of his time as school matters, and there is none of which he is more thoroughly proud. In church matters he is a Congregationalist.

Dr. Armstrong was married January 22nd, 1891, to Miss Sarah D. Bond of Milton, Wisconsin. Two sons were born of this marriage

[image: LEROY GRANT ARMSTRONG.]

--Charles A., a physician of Boscobel, and Geo. G., who graduated from the state university, and subsequently from the law school of that institution, and is now a lawyer of Salt Lake City, Utah.

On January 1st, 1895, Dr. Armstrong was married, a second time, to Miss Baumeister of Boscobel, and they have one child, a son. Although the doctor is financially independent, he still continues in the daily practice of his profession.

IDE, George Henry, is a native of New England. He was born in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, January 21, 1839, and his education was commenced in the academy of that town, where the Ides have long been a well-known family. In 1861 Mr. Ide entered Dartmouth College, but like many other ardent young men he was carried away by the wave of patriotic enthusiasm that swept over the north when the south rose in insurrection, and at the close of his freshman year in college the young man enlisted in the Fifteenth Vermont regiment, for the period of one year.

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[image: REV. GEORGE HENRY IDE.]

He served the term of his enlistment, was made orderly sergeant of his company and participated in the battle of Gettysburg, besides a number of minor engagements and skirmishes. In 1863 he returned to Dartmouth to complete his course of studies in that institution, where he graduated in the class of 1865. After leaving college Mr. Ide returned to Vermont and taught in the St. Johnsbury high school for a year, after which, having decided to enter the Congregational ministry, he became a student at Andover Theological Seminary, from which he was graduated in the class of 1869 with the degree of doctor of divinity. Immediately upon receiving his degree from Andover, Dr. Ide received a call from the Congregational church at Hopkinton, Mass., which he accepted. Seven years were spent by Dr. Ide as pastor of the Hopkinton church, at the end of which period he went to the Central Congregational church at Lawrence, Mass. It was during his successful pastorate in Lawrence that Milwaukee Congregationalists heard of Dr. Ide, and in 1880 the Grand avenue church, which had been left without a pastor by the resignation of Rev. George T. Ladd, called him to its pulpit. Dr. Ide accepted the call and became a resident of Milwaukee in January, 1881. Six years later, largely through his efforts, the congregation removed from the old building on Sixth street to a new house of worship at Grand avenue and Twenty-second street, and in its new home the church speedily gained in numbers and influence. Dr. Ide is valued not only for his ability as a clergyman but for his genial as a man. As a youth he was exceedingly fond of athletic sports and his tastes in that particular remained with him in his mature years. In all of the benevolent and missionary undertakings of the church he has been active and he has besides manifested a keen interest in education, having served as a trustee of Beloit College and given the benefit of his counsel and assistance to other institutions, such as Ripon College and Rochester Academy. In recent years Dr. Ide has twice visited Europe.

Dr. Ide was married in 1872 to Miss Mary J. Sanborn of Newport, N. H., who died in 1875, leaving two children, Carrie S. and Charles E. April 27, 1876, Dr. Ide married Miss Kate E. Bowles of Vermont.

WEIL, Benjamin M., is a native of Maryland. He was born in the city of Baltimore, on the 4th day of March, 1850, and grew to manhood in his native town. In 1870 he became a resident of Milwaukee and engaged in the real estate and insurance business, in which he has achieved distinguished success. In 1872 he became a member of the firm of Weil & Farnum, but two years later Mr. Farnum retired on account of ill-health and Mr. Weil has ever since managed the business alone, except during a short period in which R. Van Dyke was associated with him. Henry C. Payne, who later achieved fame in state and national politics, had built up an insurance business, which Mr. Weil bought and consolidated with his own. He was for a long time located in the Newhall house, but when

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that ill-fated building was destroyed by fire, he moved across the street into the corner office on the first floor of the Chamber of Commerce building, which has come to be as well known as any place of business in Milwaukee. Mr. Weil has married in March, 1874, at Albany, N. Y., to Miss Sarah Stern of that city. They have three children, two sons and a daughter. The eldest son, Charles Weil, a graduate of Amherst College, has this year (1897) become associated with his father in business.

Mr. Weil has always manifested the interest which a good citizen should take in the larger interests of the city. In the various business and industrial associations of Milwaukee he has been particularly active and in the establishment of many enterprises he has lent a helping hand. When the Milwaukee, Industrial exposition was organized he successfully managed the work of securing the stock subscriptions. When the Advancement association was in the period of its activity Mr. Weil did the city excellent service in the matter of inducing manufacturing concerns to locate in Milwaukee. The Fuller & Warren stove plant, employing hundreds of men is one factory that he was instrumental in securing for the city, and the great straw works on the south side another. Other large interests of which he has had charge are the real estate transactions of the Wisconsin Central and St. Paul railways. He has been entrusted with the funds of many individuals and estates, and has throughout his long career enjoyed a reputation for upright and fair dealing in these responsible relations, and in every other branch of his business. Among his clients are numbered wealthy men of other cities, seeking investments in Milwaukee, and one way in which he has served her interests has been by calling the attention of capital to the opportunities offered by the Cream City.

Mr. Weil has served as president of the Phoenix club, of which he was one of the founders and has always been a member. He is a director of the Milwaukee Gas Light company, and during the trying period

[image: BENJAMIN M. WEIL.]

of the panic, which began in 1893, his colleagues showed their confidence in him by placing him in charge of the affairs of the Commercial bank, which got into difficulty in that financial storm. In many ways Mr. Weil is a typical American business man, self-made, alert, reliable and in every relation of life bearing his part well.

JONES, William A., a resident of Mineral Point, recently appointed United States commissioner of Indian affairs, was born in Pembroke, Wales, September, 27th, 1844, the son of John and Phoebe Davis Jones, natives of Wales, who came to Wisconsin in 1851, settling in Iowa county, where they have lived ever since, and where, as a mechanic, Mr. Jones succeeded in accumulating considerable property.

W. A. Jones came to Wisconsin with his parents, when seven years of age, received his early education in the common school and then took a course in the Platteville normal school, from which he graduated in 1872. After his graduation he taught school for several

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[image: WILLIAM A. JONES.]

terms, then studied law and was admitted to the bar, but never entered practice. In 1881 he engaged in private banking in Mineral Point, and, in 1884, with others, organized the First National bank of Mineral Point, of which he was elected cashier. A few years thereafter he was elected vice-president of that institution, a position which he still holds. He was one of the original stockholders of the Mineral Point Zinc company, and on its re-organization, in 1884, he, with his brothers, D. B. and T. D. Jones of Chicago, became sole owners of the plant. From that time he has been secretary and treasurer of the company. Since the Jones Brothers came into full possession of these works they have been enlarged and improved until they have become the largest zinc oxide plant in the United States.

Mr. Jones was elected superintendent of schools of Iowa county and held the office for four years. He was also mayor of the city of Mineral Point, and is an enterprising, public-spirited citizen. In 1894 he received the Republican nomination for member of the assembly and was elected by a large majority over his three opponents. In 1896 he was renominated by the Republicans and re-elected by a very largely increased majority. He was a prominent candidate for the Republican nomination for speaker of the assembly, but was not successful, although

he received a handsome vote. As a legislator he was one of the leading members--always conservative, yet ready with intelligent and effective support for every measure demanded by the public welfare. In politics, as already indicated, he is a Republican, and has been effective in the local campaigns of the party, but always in a way to command the respect of those opposed to him in principle. So capable as a man, so honorable as a citizen, so worthy a member of the dominant party is he that he was very generally conceded to be a fit person for United States commissioner of Indian affairs, and he promptly received the appointment thereto, although there were a number of other worthy men who were candidates for the position.

He is a member of the Masonic order, and treasurer of the Mineral Point Commandery. In religion he is a Presbyterian.

Mr. Jones was married, in 1881, to Miss Sarah C. Ansley, and they have four children: Agnes, Willie A., Florence and Marion.

BARBER, Frank Junia, a well-known lawyer, business man and Republican of Oshkosh, was born in Wardsboro, Vt., December 7th, 1850, the son of Junia D. and Sarah Smith Barker. He is a descendant through his grandmother, Rhoda Cushing Barber, of Mathew Cushing of Norfolk, England, who came to America in 1638 and settled in Hingham, Mass. Prominent among Mathew Cushing's descendants were Hon. William Cushing, judge of supreme court of the United States, and Caleb Cushing of the supreme court of Massachusetts, and upwards of thirty others who graduated from Harvard College prior to 1825. He was educated in the public schools, Leeland & Grady Seminary, Townshend,

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Vt., and Green Mt. Perkins Academy in Woodstock, Vt., and afterwards entered the Albany law school, from which he graduated in the spring of 1875. By teaching in the public schools of Vermont and New Hampshire for ten terms during falls and winters, and by laboring on the farm in summers, he earned money enough to pay the expenses of his education. After his graduation from the law school and his admission to the bar in New York, New Hampshire and Vermont, he began the practice of his profession in Hinsdale, Cheshire county, N. H., where he remained until October, 1882. In June, 1883, he came to Oshkosh for the purpose of engaging in the practice of his profession with his brother, A. J. Barber, who has preceded him to that city. The firm of Barber Brothers, then established, of which F. J. is the senior partner, is the oldest in Oshkosh, and has built up a large general law business which has proved very profitable. Mr. Barber is also interested in several enterprises outside of his profession. He is a director of the German National bank of Oshkosh and secretary of the Peoples Building and Loan association of the same city.

Mr. Barber is a thorough Republican, and, for twenty years, has been an active worker and sagacious adviser in the conducting of the party campaigns. His services have been rendered without money or the hope or expectation of reward in the shape of official honors or emoluments, having never sought or held a public office. He is a firm believer in the financial and protective policy of the party and has been an effective advocate of its adoption. He is art present chairman of the city republican committee, and has attended as delegate numerous congressional and state conventions. It is to the unselfish efforts of such men that the party owes much of its success and the confidence which the people have reposed in it.

September 9th, 1879, Mr. Barber was married to Ella K. Richmond, and they have seven children--four girls and three boys,

[image: FRANK JUNIA BARBER.]

namely: Nina Rose, Elbert Edgar, Richmond Junia, Catherine Sarah, Ella May, Frances Etta and Thomas Frank.

RUDZINSKI, Theodore, a well-known resident of Milwaukee, is the son of August Rudzinski, a cutter and tailor by trade, who was the first Polish settler and merchant in Milwaukee. Through his efforts was organized the first Polish Catholic church in Milwaukee, embracing forty families; and through him was secured the church building on the corner of Grove and Mineral streets. He was also the leading spirit in the erection of the large and substantial church edifice for St. Stanislaus society, corner of Grove and Mitchell streets. A third Polish church, St. Hedwig's, at the corner of Franklin and Brady street, was secured through his untiring efforts in the collection of subscriptions and in the organizing of church fairs. He was the organizer and first captain of the existing military company known as Kosciuszko National Guard of Milwaukee. He was especially active in securing the location of immi-

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[image: THEODORE RUDZINSKI.]

grants for his nationality in Milwaukee. But his efforts to secure the settlement of Poles in this city did not cease with their coming--he assisted the new-comers to start in their new homes, and in this way came to be looked upon as their counsellor and leader, and exerted over them an almost boundless influence.

Theodore Rudzinski's mother was Francesca Mezikowski, who was the daughter of a miller and woolen manufacturer in German Poland.

Theodore Rudzinski was born in Newmark, Prussian Poland, January 5th, 1855, and came to Milwaukee with his parents in 1859. His first closing was received in St. Mary's parish school, Milwaukee, which is attended from the age of five years to twelve. For the next three years he was a student in St. Gall's Academy, Milwaukee, from which he graduated at the age of fifteen years. He then took a course of two years in the Spencerian Business College, including the study of law, and winning a first prize in elocution and reading. During the next three years he served as a clerk in a dry good store. Following this he resumed the study of law, and continued it for two years, but with a view of fitting himself for a business career rather than for the practice of the profession. Finally, at the age of twenty-two years, he began business for himself, by investing his savings in real estate, and combining therewith an immigration agency. Through care in investments and close attention to the details of business, he was successful from the start. Most of the Polish immigrants to Milwaukee came through his agency, and the business from this source rapidly increased; this, with judicious investments in real estate; gave him, ere long, the control of a handsome property.

Mr. Rudzinski is too young for a record during the civil war, but he has always shown a patriotic impulse, has been a member of the Kosciuszko National Guard, and in other ways demonstrated that he is in full sympathy with the institutions of his adopted country.

In politics he is a Democrat, and was elected alderman from the Twelfth ward in 1882, for three years, and re-elected in 1885. He was elected to the legislative assembly in 1886, and a justice of the peace in 1887, in which capacity he served until 1890. As may be judged from the fact that he is the son of so earnest a churchman as August Rudzinski, he is a thorough Roman Catholic in religion. He was married on the 27th of September, 1892, to Eliza Hansen of Chilton, Wis., and they have two children--Agnes Helen and Lucy Mabel.

WEEK, John.--Among the progressive men of Wisconsin, there probably has not been a more conspicuous example than that afforded by the man whose name heads this sketch. Born in humble circumstances in Hardenger parish, Norway, December 6th, 1818, one of the family of five sons and daughter, he had his own way to make in the world; and, as the first step toward this end, he, in company with an elder brother, set sail for America in 1839, and arrived at Fall River, Massachusetts, on the 10th of July, of that

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year. Tarrying there a short time, he came on to Chicago, covering the entire distance by stage, canal and sailing vessel, as that was prior to the day of railroads, except in a few localities in the east. For a year or more he was engaged in sailing the lakes, during the season of navigation. After that he went to the lead mining region of southern Wisconsin, and engaged in the boot and shoe business at Wiotia, and later at Dodgeville. This business he carried on for a number of years. Soon after settling at Wiotia, he made the acquaintance of Col. Wm. S. Hamilton, a son of the illustrious statesman, Alexander Hamilton. Col. Hamilton conceived a great liking for the young Norwegian, taught him to speak and read the English language, and endeavored to instill into him his own political principles, which were those of the Whig party. In this latter effort, however, he was not successful, as Mr. Week became a Democrat, and so remained for many years. Mr. Week, however, was not ungrateful to his distinguished friend for his kindness and his good intentions, for when Col. Hamilton was elected to the legislative assembly of the territory, he presented him, so it is reported, with an overcoat in honor of the occasion.

In the meantime, Mr. Week's brother, Andrew, had engaged in the lumber business in Marathon county, and erected a saw-mill on the big Eau Plaine river, the shores of which were then skirted with a dense pine forest. This mill John Week purchased and began, in a small way, a business that grew in time to immense proportions. To reach his new home, Mr. Week embarked in an Indian canoe from Du Bay's trading post on the Wisconsin river, and made the long and toilsome journey up that stream to his destination. There were no roads through the forests at that time and business was carried on almost wholly by means of the streams. Some years afterward this hardy pioneer built an excellent turnpike road, at his own expense, for a distance of eight miles to what is now Dancy, on the Wisconsin river. Mr. Week operated his mill

[image: JOHN WEEK.]

in Marathon county for thirty-two years, sending his lumber down the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers in rafts, and thus finding a good market for it. In 1881 the mill was destroyed by fire, and he removed his home and business to Stevens Point, where he became identified with the industries of that thriving and busy young city. In 1884 his business was incorporated under the name of the John Week Lumber company, and its management given into the hands of his sons, Nelson, Andrew and Edmund, who still carry on the business. The last five years of his life he was in poor health and was compelled to give up all active work. During his residence in Marathon county he was one of the county commissioners, and afterward a member of the county board of supervisors; was treasurer of his school district from the time it was organized, and always active in securing good schools and whatever would promote the intelligence, prosperity and happiness of the community. He was often solicited to accept a nomination for the legislature, in the belief he would make a wise, efficient and practical legislator, but he steadily declined

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that honor. He was one of the organizers of the Wisconsin River Improved company, and one of its directors for many years.

He was married on the 29th of February, 1848, to Miss Gunild Louras, who bore him ten children, two of whom died in infancy, and one, Eva C., in young womanhood, in 1889.

Mr. Week died June 4th, 1891, and is survived by his wife and seven children. He was a man of great energy and strength of character, undeterred by obstacles and fruitful of resource in all circumstances. Yet he was not wanting in those milder and more genial characteristics which make friends and bind them to one another in strongest bonds.

JOHNSTON, John, was born on the farm of Overton, Auchnagatt, twenty-four miles north of the city of Aberdeen, Scotland, and not many miles from the place of which Arthur Johnston, LL. D., wrote three hundred years ago.

"Here was I born; o'er all the land
Around the Johnstons bear command
Of high and ancient line."

His "forebears" had been on that farm for a long time, as he has in his possession a lease dated 1749, signed by his great-great-grandfather, John Johnston and Hugh Forbes.

His mother was Margaret Mitchell, sister of the late Alexander Mitchell of Milwaukee. He was educated until twelve years old at the district school of Savoich, after which he went to the grammar school of Aberdeen, and, at the age of fifteen, he entered the University of Aberdeen, having gained a scholarship at a public competition in Latin and Greek, open to all comers. At the age of nineteen he took the degree of master of arts, and, in 1856, he received an invitation from his uncle, Alexander Mitchell, to come to America; and, accepting it, he arrived in Milwaukee on the 10th of March, 1856, entering Mr. Mitchell's employ at once, as general accountant of the Wisconsin Marine and Fire Insurance company bank. Here he thoroughly learned every department of the banking business; and, after ten years, when yet a young man of thirty, he was made assistant cashier of the bank, holding that position, to the very general satisfaction of its many customers, until 1887, when he became cashier. The duties of this office he discharged with signal ability and fidelity until 1893, when he retired from the bank, having transferred his interest therein to the Hon. John L. Mitchell.

During the thirty-six years in which he had been connected with the bank, he had not only become master of all financial subjects in any way connected with banking, but he had made a study of commercial and industrial questions as well, and had come to be regarded as an authority upon them; and, his integrity being recognized by all, his counsel was often sought by business men and those in public position as of especial value, because based upon long experience, study and close and intelligent observation. During his long service in the bank, he had, by carefully husbanding his resources and by legitimate investments gained a handsome fortune. Always and public-spirited, and a generous giver to worthy objects, he came to be regarded as one of the most valuable of Milwaukee's citizens, and one whose services were often sought for public position.

Upon his retirement from the bank at the beginning of the year 1893, he devoted his time and attention to his private interests, with fair prospects of years of comfort and release from the harassing cares of a large business. But the panic of that year involved the historic bank with which he had for so many years been associated; and, though he had long before severed all business connection with it, he was, by reason of a law of the state holding stockholders in any corporation liable for debts contracted within six months after the filing of the memorandum of the transfer of stock, held liable for all its debts, and

his entire fortune was involved in the catastrophe. Nothing daunted, however, he bent himself, with his well-known energy and courage, to the work of the reorganization of the bank, the

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revival of its business and the reconstruction of his own shattered fortune. Able and influential men came to his assistance, a new organization was effected, he pledging five hundred thousand dollars of his private fortune toward meeting every legitimate claim against the bank and the placing of it again in the confidence of the people that had so long known it as one of the staunchest institutions in the country. Mr. Johnston was unanimously chosen cashier of the reorganized bank, and it reopened its doors in 1894, with something of its old vigor and with fair prospects for its taking again its old position at the head of the financial institutions of the city. Nothing in Mr. Johnston's long career has brought into stronger light his Scotch pluck and integrity that his course in the effort to revive and reinvigorate this great, but unfortunate institution; and, in public estimation, he stands head and shoulders above even what he was before the calamity.

The public positions of honor and trust which Mr. Johnston has held are numerous, varied in their duties, and of great importance. He was member of the board of alderman for two years from 1867, and from 1874 to 1876, a trustee of the public library from 1878 to 1881, a commissioner of the public debt from 1887 to 1893, for twenty years a trustee and treasurer of Milwaukee College, and now president of the board of trustees, has served as director and vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce and two terms as president, has been a regent of the University of Wisconsin and president of the board, president of the State Historical society, member of the city board of school commissioners, trustee of Carroll College, Waukesha, and has been more or less actively identified with numerous business enterprises. He has been an officer or active member of several social and recreation clubs, has a Scotchman's love for the national game of curling, and has won the championship in this game for the Milwaukee club.

When the Greenback agitation was in force he delivered a speech before the working men

[image: JOHN JOHNSTON.]

of Bay View, of which one hundred thousand copies were circulated by the Honest Money league of Wisconsin.

He was one of those who discovered and developed the great deposits of cement rock in the suburbs of Milwaukee, and has been a director and treasurer of the Milwaukee Cement company since its organization in 1875.

Among his most benevolent deeds was the giving to Milwaukee of the lot for the Emergency hospital, and \$5,000 toward the endowment of Milwaukee College.

In politics he was formerly a Republican, but found himself at variance with the party on the policy of reconstruction of the southern states at the close of the war of the rebellion. Since leaving the Republican party, he has acted with the Democracy, and taken part in many of its conventions and campaigns. In the presidential campaign of 1896 he refused to follow the silver Democracy, but at once came boldly out for the gold standard.

He has been a somewhat prolific writer, and has made many public addresses which have been received with that favor which is usually

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accorded only to those who are especially devoted to that work. He wrote the article on Milwaukee for the Encyclopedia Britannica, that on Scotland for Salor's Encyclopedia, and that on curling in Johnson's Encyclopedia.

In religious matters he has long been prominent in the Presbyterian church--was one of the founders of Calvary Presbyterian church of Milwaukee, of which he has been a trustee since its formation in 1869, and was for years one of its elders.

He was married, in 1861, to Miss Margaret Hunter of Scotland, who died in 1878. Three years later he married Miss Ethlinda Marie Thorsen, daughter of John Thorsen of Milwaukee. They have two children, a daughter and a son. Of the children of the first wife but one is living.

VON SUESSMILCH-HOERNIG, Friederich Ludwig, M. D., an accomplished physician of Delavan, is the son of Karl Friederich von Suessmilch-Hoernig, for many years an officer in the Saxon regular army. He was born in Krausnitz in 1788, was educated for the military profession and rose by successive promotions to the rank of major-general. He was taken prisoner by the Russians in 1812 while serving under Napoleon I, and spent nearly a year and a half as prisoner in Siberia, after which he was exchanged. In 1816 he was appointed commander of Fortress Lille in France, in 1832 military commander of Wurzen, Saxony, and, in 1836, military commander of Bautzen. In 1845 he was promoted to major-general and brigadier and military commander of the city of Dresden, Saxony. He retired from the service in 1851, and died at the age of seventy-seven. The general's wife, Dr. Suessmilch's mother, was Charlotte Amelia Mai, who was born at Leipsic in 1787, member of an old patrician family in that city. She was left an orphan at an early age and brought up by her uncle, C. Mathei, who was a privy councilor and doctor of laws. The family of von Suessmilch-Hoernig has been a military one since the beginning of the seventeenth century, all having been officers and many having attained positions of high rank in the army. The doctor is the only one brought up for a civil life, and the traditions of the family were departed from in his case on account of an injury to one of his fingers when a babe. The doctor's grandfather and three of his sons fell in Napoleon's campaign in Russia, in 1812; and there are now but three of the family left in Germany, a brother of the doctor, Karl Ernst von Suessmilch-Hoernig, corps auditeur, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel; Bernard von Suessmilch-Hoernig, a cousin, who is a colonel and pensioned with the honorary title of major-general, and a son of the last named, Bernard, a first lieutenant.

Dr. von Suessmilch was born in Wurzen, October 26th, 1821. His father being transferred from post to post, the doctor had private tutors for some years, but in May, 1835, entered St. Augustine College, Saxony; three years later, St. Nicholas College, Leipsic, and, in 1840, the college at Bautzen, from which he graduated in January, 1842. In May following he matriculated as student of medicine at the University of Leipsic, and, in October, 1845, he matriculated at the Royal Medical and Surgical Academy at Dresden, graduating therefrom in 1848. He then took a post-graduate course, of four months, in the University of Wurtzberg. Dr. von Suessmilch came to America September 29, 1848, reaching Milwaukee the following month. Remaining in the city a short time, he went to Waterford, Wis., where, for six months, he was associated with Dr. Flanhard. At the end of that time he returned to Milwaukee, and, during the greater part of the years 1849 and 1850, was assistant to F. A. Luening, M. D. In the fall of 1850 Dr. Suessmilch moved to Burlington, Wis., and remained there nine months. In October of that year the doctor declared his intentions of becoming a citizen of the United States, and five years thereafter became a fully naturalized citizen. In July,

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1851, he removed to Darien, and in June, 1852, to Delavan, where he has resided ever since, and where he is still in the active practice of his profession. He was in general practice until 1861, since which time he has made gynecology a specialty. He has interests outside of his profession--is a partner in the bank of E. Latimer & Co., and has a large and beautiful farm, in which he takes great interest.

Dr. von Suessmilch has always been an active, public-spirited citizen. He was trustee of the village of Delavan for nine years, its president seven years and health officer ten years. He held the office of treasurer of Delavan school district No. 1, including the high school, for thirty-two consecutive years. During that time he never received or paid out one cent in money, but did all the business by the check system in the name of school district No. 1; and he has carried out the same system as treasurer of the Masonic Grand Lodge and the Grand Commandery. He was first elected treasurer of the Grand Lodge in 1878, and has held the place alternately, as required by the constitution, since that time. In the Grand Commandery he has served as grand treasurer continuously since 1877.

The doctor was married April 9th, 1852, to Caroline Older, who died April 5th, 1857, leaving two children, namely: Charles Friederich, born November 5th, 1853. He was sent to Europe when six years of age to be educated at the Royal Military Academy at Dresden. He was made a lieutenant on the battle-field before Fort Nogent, November 5th, 1870. At twenty-two years of age he was made first lieutenant and adjutant. He returned to America in 1878 on account of ill-health. The other child is Amelia Mai, born October 8th, 1855. She was educated in Germany, returned to the United States in 1876 and married M. A. Brown. Dr. von Suessmilch, on the 8th of October, 1857, married for his second wife, Frances Maria Stowell, who bore him six children and died October 11th, 1880. The children of the second wife

[image: FRIEDERICH LUD. VON SUESSMILCH-HOERNIG.]

are: Charles Guy, born December 26th, 1858, and graduated from Racine College in 1880; Charlotte Emelia, born February 19th, 1861, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin with the degree of B. S. in 1884; Katharine Hedwig (Mrs. W. E. Richardson), born September 23rd, 1862; Ernst Ludwig, born August 1st, 1868, and graduated from the University of Michigan with the degree of LL. B. in 1888; George Otto, born December 3rd, 1870, and educated at Valparaiso College; Henrietta Theresa (Mrs. H. I. Latham), born September 18th, 1874, and graduated from the Girls' Classical School, Indianapolis, Ind.

Dr. von Suessmilch has long been one of the most prominent and accomplished Masons in the state, and few have done more for the fraternity or been more highly honored by it than he. The list of the lodges with which he has been connected and the offices which he has held is a long and honorable one, and it may with truth be said that there is nothing about the order which he does not know, and no degree or position to which he has not attained. He has been a communicant of the Lutheran church since 1835.

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[image: ELIHU COLMAN.]

COLMAN, Elihu, one of the leading lawyers of Fond du Lac, and prominent in political circles, is the son of Rev. H. R. Colman, who was born in New York state in 1800, became a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, preached in eastern New York until 1840, when he came to Wisconsin as a missionary to the Oneida Indians. Remaining in that work for some years, he finally took up his residence in Fond du Lac in 1847, and that was his home for the greater part of his time until his death in 1895. His wife was Lydia Elvira Spier, who was born at Lake Pleasant, N. Y., in 1802, and died in 1890. The first of this family came from England and settled at Weathersfield, Conn., in 1636. Perhaps one of the best things that can be said of his descendants is that, as far as known, none of them ever disgraced a good name.

Elihu Colman was born in Oneida, Brown county, Wisconsin, May 11th, 1841. He came with his parents to Fond du Lac in 1847, and that city has been his home since that time. His preliminary education was received in the graded schools of Fond du La, and in the preparatory department of Lawrence University, Appleton, Wis. Prepared for college, he entered the collegiate department at Appleton in the classical course, and was graduated therefrom in June, 1865, with second honors.

Upon leaving college he began the study of law in the office of Blair & Colman in Fond du Lac, and was admitted to the bar in 1866, and since that time has been in the active practice of the law in Fond du Lac to the present date. From 1867 to 1879 he was a member of the firm of Hauser & Colman; of Colman, Carter & Kent in 1879 and 1880; from 1880 to 1882 the firm was Colman & Kent; from 1886 to 1895 the firm was Colman & Sutherland, and in 1896 his firm was Colman & Parkinson. Since October, 1890, he has been in business alone.

In February, 1896, he was appointed United States district attorney for the Eastern district of Wisconsin, and, while occupying that position he handled a great many important cases. He was the first United States attorney to bring prosecutions, under the direction of the Postoffice department, to drive the Louisiana lottery fraud out of the country. He was also engaged in the Fox river overflow cases, and with the assistance of United States Attorney A. E. Thompson of Oshkosh, practically closed out all of that class of cases against the government. He won for the government the test case on title to land on which stands the new Milwaukee government building and superintended the payments for the same. Since the close of President Harrison's administration his attention has been largely devoted to corporation law.

Mr. Colman enlisted as a private in Company G, First Wisconsin cavalry, and served as private and commissary sergeant until January, 1863, when he was honorably discharged for physical disability.

He cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln for president in 1864, and has always been a member of the Republican party. In 1867 he was appointed register in bankruptcy, and held that position until 1872, when he resigned

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it to take his seat as a member of the assembly in the Wisconsin legislature. In that session he was chairman of the committee on federal relations, and leader of the house on political matters. He originated the movement and prepared the bill, which became a law the following session, to abolish the office of state prison commissioner, and put the affairs of the state prison in the hands of a board of directors. In 1880 he was the nominee of the Republican party for congress in the then Fifth district of Wisconsin, running against Gen. E. S. Bragg, nominee of the Democratic party, and reducing his majority about 4,000.

He is a member of the G. A. R. post; Ancient Order of United Workmen; Knights of Honor, and Royal Arcanum. Of the latter he has been a member of the supreme council for fifteen years, and is also a member of its law committee. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mr. Colman was married to Lizzie M. Hill of Madison, Wis., September 29th, 1868. The children are Edna M. Colman, Claire Colman--died in

COMBACKER, Albert, a lawyer and resident of Ellsworth, was born in Boston, Mass., on the 15th of January, 1857, the son of John F. and Mary A. Ferlin Combacker of German descent, who came to Wisconsin from Boston, Mass., in the spring of 1857, and settled on a farm in St. Croix county, where they resided until 1886.

Albert came with his parents to Wisconsin, being then but a few months old, and his boyhood was spent on the farm, where he learned more of the forces of nature, as witnessed in farm life, than in books, although the advantages of the district school were by no means so meager and imperfect as might have been expected in a country so new and undeveloped as was northwestern Wisconsin at that time, and for some years thereafter. Having secured the best education that the common

[image: ALBERT COMBACKER.]

school could give him, he read law in the office of N. H. & M. E. Clapp in Hudson, and, although he did not have the advantages of a course in a law school, he was admitted to the bar in May, 1879, after an examination in open court. He began the practice of his profession at Ellsworth, Wis., in 1880.

It is no slight evidence of his legal ability that he was appointed, by Gov. Rusk, county judge of St. Croix county to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Hon. H. P. Ames. When the village of Ellsworth was incorporated, in 1887, he was made president of it, and, with the exception of one year, he has held the office ever since, and has held the office of district attorney of the county for four terms.

In his political faith he is a Republican, but with the exception of the office of district attorney he has not held any office that might be regarded as in the nature of political remuneration for party adherence or party work.

Mr. Combacker was married on the 9th of November, 1882., to Ada F. Brown, and they have two children--Marie and Gratia.

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[image: AUGUSTUS C. UMBREIT.]

UMBREIT Augustus C., assistant district attorney of Milwaukee county, and a resident of Milwaukee, is the son of Rev. T. Umbreit, a pioneer minister of the Methodist church, who has had charge of churches in every section of the state, including four in Milwaukee. He is now retired from active service because of feeble health, and is living in Beaver Dam. His wife, Catherine Umbreit, nee Blockwitz, the mother of A. C. Umbreit, died in Beaver Dam, Wis., August 30th, 1896. Both parents are natives of Germany, the father's family coming to America in 1854, and locating in Green Lake county, Wis., and the mother's in 1840, stopping for some time in New York state, and, later, coming to Wisconsin. Both families belong to the agricultural class and have done their full share toward transforming prairie and forest into the fruitful fields and comfortable homes, for which the state is noted to-day, and both are in comfortable financial circumstances as the result of their toil.

A. C. Umbreit was born in Green Lake county, Wis., January 7th, 1861. Being an only child for a number of years, he received his early education from his mother, along lines strictly in accord with the tenets of the church. After that he attended public schools in various places, and finally prepared for the university at the high school in Madison, graduating from that school in June, 1879. In the fall of the same year he entered the university, taking the ancient and modern classical courses, and graduating from both in June, 1883. He took special honors in Latin and in English literature. While in the university he was a member of the joint debating team, representing the Adelpian society in 1883. After graduation he was engaged in teaching for two years--the first year as principal of the high school in Winnebago, Ill., and then as principal of Allen's Academy in Chicago. In 1885 he took the master's degree in Greek and history at the University of Wisconsin. After two years of teaching, he took up the insurance business and at the same time pursued the study of law. In this way his time was occupied until October, 1892, when he was admitted to the bar. He entered at once upon the practice of his profession and continued therein until January, 1895, when he received the appointment of assistant district attorney, in which position he has shown more than usual ability and fidelity, and has performed his official duties to the satisfaction of those who are familiar with the administration of the office. He has tried several murder cases and secured conviction in each. He is especially fond of court work, and has sought to acquire skill and success in the examination of witnesses, and the presenting of cases to juries.

In politics he has always been a Republican, as have all his immediate relatives. He took an active part in politics long before he was of age, going on the stump while at college when but eighteen years of age, and has taken part in every campaign since. He has been chairman of his ward committee, member of the county committee, secretary of the State Republican league, and delegate to a number of conventions. He has never sought or held a

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political office except the one he now holds--if that may be termed a political office.

He belongs to several secret societies and has held and still holds office in some of them. He is a member of St. Paul's Episcopal church.

September 1st, 1886, Mr. Umbreit was married to Miss Helen Stanton of Freeport, Ill., a distant relative of Edwin M. Stanton, the great secretary of war in President Lincoln's cabinet. They have one son, Stanton Umbreit, now two years old.

THOMPSON John Cameron, a resident of Oshkosh and member of the law firm of Thompson, Harshaw & Thompson of that city, is one of the youngest and most promising lawyers of the state. He was born in Princeton, Green Lake county, Wis., April 28th, 1872, the son of J. C. and Catherine Moser Thompson, who are of Scotch and Holland Dutch descent, respectively. Young Thompson attended the district or common school, and was afterward a student in Ripon College for four years. He then entered the University of Wisconsin, and graduated from the law department in 1893, as president of the class. In July, 1893, he became a member of the law firm of Thompson, Harshaw & Davidson, consisting of A. E. Thompson, H. B. Harshaw, ex-state treasurer, J. H. Davidson, the present member of congress from that district, and J. C. Thompson. On the 1st of July, 1894, the firm was changed to Thompson, Harshaw & Thompson, and so it now remains.

Mr. Thompson is a Republican from principle and inclination, and his active participation in politics dates from the presidential campaign of 1892, when he was a member of the university law school and one of the first to join the University Republican club. He has been a delegate to congressional and state conventions and the National League Republican club conventions. In the last presidential campaign he stumped the northern part of

[image: JOHN CAMERON THOMPSON.]

the state for McKinley and the Republican ticket. He also spoke for Harrison in the campaign of 1892. He is president of the Central Republican club of Oshkosh.

Mr. Thompson is chancellor commander of the Knights of Pythias, is a Knight Templar and member of the B. P. O. E., and of the Union and the Yacht clubs.

MORGAN, Win J., a young man who has gained an enviable reputation as one of the most enterprising real estate dealers in Milwaukee, is the son of James A. Morgan, a native of Dungarvan, Ireland, where he was born on the 27th of February, 1830. He received a thorough collegiate education, and came to Wisconsin in 1850. He was a resident of Madison for three years, and then purchased a farm in the township of Rutland, some fourteen miles from Madison, where he made his home for two years, removing to Milwaukee in 1855. Win J. Morgan's mother was Augusta E. Cromwell before marriage, the daughter of Dr. James F. Cromwell, and a native of New York City. She was highly educated,

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[image: WIN J. MORGAN.]

spending some ten years in Paris in the study of music and the French language.

After the family came to Milwaukee, Mr. Morgan engaged in fresco and ornamental paper work for several years, and when the civil war came he enlisted in a New York regiment and saw considerable service. He died in Milwaukee in 1869.

Win J. Morgan was born in Milwaukee, October 22nd, 1862, and was educated principally in the public schools of the city. The last six months of schooling was received in Sparta, Wisconsin. When a mere boy he manifested a taste and a capacity for business which were quite remarkable. At nine years of age he began business as a newsboy, and continued it for some years, making it fairly successful. When twelve years old he enlarged his business enterprise by adding to his news agency the delivery of a grocery delivery wagon. His ambition then was to have a grocery store of his own. Saving every penny that he could, he realized his ambition by starting a store with his brother George, at the corner of Cedar and Eighteenth streets. At the end of a year he purchased the interest of his brother, and became sole proprietor. He continued the business for two years longer, meantime taking lessons in book-keeping and penmanship under a private tutor, in the evening, and rapidly becoming an adept in both. In 1881 he sold his store, and took the position of assistant book-keeper in the wholesale crockery store of Blair & Persons. He was soon promoted to head book-keeper and general credit man. He also spent two years for the firm as traveling salesman. When, in 1885, Mr. Persons retired from the business, Mr. Morgan assisted in the formation of the Blair & Andre company, becoming a stockholder and director in the corporation. He continued as traveling salesman until the company dissolved in 1889, when he became connected with the firm of Pitkin & Brooks of Chicago as their representative in northern Wisconsin and upper Michigan. He remained with this firm about two years, doing something the while in real estate, finally opening an office on Grand Avenue. The business grew rapidly, on his hands, and he soon gave it his whole time, finally opening offices in the Pabst building.

His operations have assumed very large proportions, and are varied in their scope. He has dealt exclusively in his own properties or those in which he has had an interest, and has organized or assisted in the organization of some twenty land companies. Associated with him in these enterprises have been men of high business character, and he has been an official of all the companies which he has organized. His manner of carrying on his extensive business is methodical exact, and requires the aid of able men.

Mr. Morgan is Republican in politics, and an Episcopalian in religion. He is a member of the Merchants' Exchange, is vice-president of the Milwaukee real estate board and holds the same office in the National Real Estate association, is president of the South Arms Lumber company of Michigan, supreme president of the Fraternal Alliance Insurance association, a stockholder and director in the South

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Milwaukee National bank, and is officially connected with other business enterprises of importance. He is a thirty-second degree Mason, belonging to the Wisconsin Consistory, is the officer of the mystic Shrine, member of the Royal Arcanum and is a Knight of Pythias.

His wife was Miss Martha Wall of Milwaukee, a lady of accomplishments, who understands the secret of making an attractive home.

MERRILL, Willard, was born in Rome, New York, January 16, 1831. For thirty-seven years he has in some capacity been connected with the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance company. He is a college-bred man, having graduated from Amherst College in 1854. He taught in the academy at Bridgewater, Mass., for a time after graduating. In the spring of 1856 Mr. Merrill was admitted to practice in the supreme court of New York. Immediately thereafter he came to Wisconsin. At that time the railroad was being pushed from Milwaukee to Prairie du Chien, and it was expected that this river town would become a great city. He located there and remained in Prairie du Chien until 1860, when he went to Janesville, pursuing the practice of his profession, and for several years prior to removing to Milwaukee he has the law partner of the Hon. J. B. Cassoday, who is now chief justice of the supreme court of Wisconsin. It was in Janesville that Mr. Merrill became interested in the insurance business and became connected with the insurance company of which he has so long been an official. He was found of the study of insurance law and was induced to accept the offer of the insurance company to become its secretary. He therefore abandoned the practice of law and came to Milwaukee in January, 1873, and assumed the duties of his new position. On December 19th, 1881, he was made superintendent of agencies, and was soon after made second vice-president of the company, and July 18, 1894, he was elected

[image: WILLARD MERRILL.]

vice-president. Mr. Merrill has always been a Republican, and in the Wisconsin legislature of 1871 he was the member of the assembly from the Janesville district. After his election and before the meeting of the legislature, Gov. Fairchild appointed him upon the visiting committee, whose duty it was to examine and report upon the condition of the penal and charitable institutions of the state. Subsequently, and at the organization of the board, he was made a member of the state board of charities and reforms, the members of which received no compensation and were charged with the duty of visiting and supervising the penal and charitable institutions of the state and also the county jails and poorhouses. Upon coming to Milwaukee Mr. Merrill's official duties did not permit him to give the time necessary for the work of this board and he resigned. Mr. Merrill has been a thorough student of life insurance in its various aspects, and it was he who at a recent banquet of the Wisconsin underwriters suggested the creation of a chair of insurance at the University of Wisconsin. Mr. Merrill lives at 95 Prospect avenue.

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[image: WILLIAM T. VAN KIRK.]

VAN KIRK, William T., a leading grocer of Janesville, was born in Carlton, Orleans county, N. Y., January 25th, 1843, his parents being John J. and Elizabeth A. Van Kirk, both descendants of old Holland families. The paternal grandfather of William was Oliver Van Kirk, who settled in western New York about the year 1790. William came to Wisconsin with his parents in 1845, the family settling on a farm near Milton, in the town of Harmony, where he attended the district school in the winters until he arrived at the age of thirteen, when he entered Milton College and was a student there for two terms. In 1858 he went to Janesville, where he was employed in the provision store of C. H. Conrad until the winter of 1862-63, when he embarked in business for himself, opening a small grocery on North Main street. In January, 1864, he formed a copartnership with J. H. Conrad, now a member of the wholesale spice house of Bell, Conrad & Co., of Chicago, and the new firm succeeded to the business of C. H. Conrad, with whom Mr. Van Kirk had formerly been employed. This partnership expired, by limitation, in 1869, and since that time Mr. Van Kirk has been alone in business, having had an uninterrupted experience in the grocery trade for almost forty years. During this time he has built up a large and prosperous business, and has established for himself a permanent place among the successful business men of Janesville.

Mr. Van Kirk's mother died in Janesville, August 18th, 1887, and his father died in December, 1895, aged eighty years.

On the 6th of May, 1868, Mr. Van Kirk was united in marriage with Miss Belle Bostwick, a native of New York, whose birthplace was near Batavia. Five children grace this union, four sons and a daughter--Fannie Belle, William C., Frank W., Joseph A. and James Garfield. The latter was born on the day Gen. Garfield was nominated for the presidency, and was named in honor of the distinguished man. "Garry," as he was familiarly known, lived a short, pure life, loved and respected by all, and died June 28th, 1892, aged twelve years.

In politics Mr. Van Kirk is a thorough Republican, and since becoming a voter has cast his ballot and labored earnestly for the success of that party. He has held various positions of honor and trust, having served four years as a member of the city council, over four years as member and treasurer of the board of trustees of the State Institute for the Blind; secretary of the Rock County Agricultural society six years, a member of the Janesville fire department twenty-one years, and president of the same several years. Being a recognized leader in local politics, he was, twenty years ago, chosen chairman of the Republican county committee, and has faithfully served in that capacity to the present time.

Socially he is a member of the Janesville Lodge, No. 55, A. F. & A. M., Janesville Chapter, No. 5, R. A. M.; Oriental Lodge, No. 22, Knights of Pythias; Mohawk Tribe, No. 3, Independent Order of Red Men, and Rock County Caledonia society.

Mr. Van Kirk, with several others, procured the charter for the present electric light plant, also the street railway and the Janesville Hydraulic

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company, and these companies afterwards donated their interests in these several enterprises to further the city's growth and promote its welfare. Mr. Van Kirk at present is president of the Janesville Business Men's association, of the Oak Lawn Charity hospital, of the Hanson Furniture company, the Janesville Hay Tool company, a member of the board of supervisors, and also of the Oak Hill Cemetery association.

Mr. Van Kirk is an enterprising, successful business man, broad and liberal in his views respecting public policy, and can always be relied upon to faithfully perform whatever he undertakes. He belongs to the progressive class of Janesville's citizens, and is well informed on all the leading issues of the day. It is Mr. Van Kirk's intention soon to retire from active mercantile business, and his many friends will wish him a long life in his beautiful home, surrounded by his family, and in the enjoyment of the fruits of his many years of toil and anxiety.

KUEMMERLEIN, George Michael., superintendent of transportation of the Milwaukee street railroad system, is one of those men, who, as a boy, began at the bottom of a business and worked his way well up toward the top. He was born in Wuertemberg, Germany, October 28th, 1848, and came to this country with his parents in May, 1853, settling on the south side in Milwaukee, at what is now Mineral street and Second avenue. His father, Andrew Kuemmerlein, who is now retired from business, is a native of Germany, as were all his ancestors. The immediate relatives of the family all came to this country at about the time he did, and their careers have been much the same as those of other immigrants of their class. George M. attended the parochial school connected with St. Peter's Protestant church about two years, and at the age of fifteen years commenced work for Fred. Layton as coachman, remaining in his employ two years. After that he went into the employ of the street railway

[image: GEORGE MICHAEL KUEMMERLEIN.]

company, as conductor, under Superintendent Blodgett, but remained there only two months. He then left Milwaukee for New York City, thence to Atlanta, Ga., Columbia, S. C., and through different sections of the south. During his absence in the south he served five years in the regular army, where he gained no little experience which has been of service to him in his subsequent career. Returning to Milwaukee, he re-entered the service of the street railway company, at the head of which was Isaac Ellsworth. This was in March, 1875. He began as a driver, and was promoted from time to time until he reached his present responsible position of superintendent of transportation, in which he has proven most efficient because he has grown into the system.

He is a Republican in his political views, and votes the ticket of that party in all national campaigns, but does not take an active part in campaign work. He is not a member of any club or of any church.

Mr. Kuemmerlein was married in January, 1870, to Augusta Hauck, and they have three children--Ella, George and Walter.

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[image: CHRISTIAN PREUSSER.]

PREUSSER, Christian, for more than fifty years in active business in Milwaukee, and still known as one of the leading merchants of the city, was born in Idstein, dukedom of Nassau, Germany, in 1826. Leaving school at the age of fifteen, he learned the trade of watch-maker and jeweler; and, in 1844, came to Milwaukee. In October of that year he opened a small jewelry store on the site of the Kirby house. The business increased slowly, but steadily, and in 1855 Mr. Preusser erected the brick building which the firm now occupies on the corner of East Water and Mason streets. At this time his brother, Gustav, became his partner, and has so continued until the present time, though the style of the firm has been changed to the C. Preusser Jewelry company, which is one of the largest in its line in the northwest, and its reputation in trade circles is among the best. His son is now a member of the company and its treasurer.

In 1854 Mr. Preusser became president of the Milwaukee Mechanics' Insurance company, and has held the position continuously to the present time. Under his control the company has steadily advanced until it now has assets of two and one-half millions of dollars, a surplus of over one and a quarter millions, and its standing among similar institutions in this country is second to none. He was for many years one of the stockholders and managers of the Cream City Street Railway company, which was the principal line subsequently incorporated in the present street railway system of Milwaukee.

In the early days of the city Mr. Preusser was one of the most active and useful of its citizens. He was a member of the volunteer fire department, of which S. S. Daggett was chief, and such men as Gen. Rufus King, E. P. Allis, John Nazro, and the like, were members. Mr. Preusser was its treasurer until it was superseded by the paid department, when he was appointed one of the trustees to distribute the funds of the volunteer organization. Thus it will be seen that Mr. Preusser has, through his long career, steadily served in some fiduciary capacity, and always to the acceptance of those concerned.

Interested in the educational progress of the city and state, as well as in their commercial development, he has done much toward fostering enterprises and efforts of an educational nature, giving freely of his time to that end. He was one of the founders and for more than twenty years president of the Natural History society of Wisconsin; and, when its collections were presented to Milwaukee in 1882, he was appointed one of the trustees of the public museum, and was active in procuring for that institution the valued collection of Prof. H. A. Ward of Rochester, N. Y. He was also treasurer of the German-English Academy from the time of its founding until 1886, and of the National German-American Teachers' Seminary until the same year, when ill-health compelled his resignation of those responsible positions.

Mr. Preusser was married, in 1851, to Miss Louise Hermann of Dietz, dukedom of Nasau, Germany. They have had four children, but only two of them are living--Mrs. Dr.

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Schneider, the wife of the eminent oculist of Milwaukee, and Herman Preusser, who is now treasurer of the Preusser Jewelry company.

In the matter of politics Mr. Pruesser was anti-slavery, and since the organization of the Republican party he has been one of its staunchest members; but he has never sought office at the hands of the party. He is a member of the German club.

Industrious, energetic and sagacious in business affairs, he has naturally been steadily successful in whatever he has undertaken. A gentleman of cultivated tastes, genial manners and modest bearing, he is a pleasant companion and a worthy citizen.

CARY, Alfred L., long a resident of Milwaukee, and a lawyer of extensive experience as a corporation counsel, was born in Sterling, Cayuga county, N. Y., July 23rd, 1835. His education was begun in the schools of his native town, and, in 1853, he came to Racine, Wis., where he attended the high school for two years. He then returned to the state of New York and completed his education in the seminary at Fulton. In 1858 he came again to Racine, entering, as a student, the law office of his uncle, the late John W. Cary, who was for many years one of the ablest and most accomplished lawyers of Wisconsin. Upon the removal of the latter to Milwaukee, in 1859, the young student came with him, and continued his legal studies until, in 1860, he was admitted to the bar. He was in his uncle's office until 1864, when he formed a partnership with him, which continued in operation until 1874. He then formed a partnership with the late J. P. C. Cottrill. This firm, until its dissolution in 1882, acted as attorneys for the Milwaukee, Lake Shore & Western Railway company. After the dissolution of the firm of Cottrill & Cary, Mr. Cary became the general solicitor of the company, although from 1874 he had had the principal charge of all its legal business. To this branch of professional work Mr. Cary has devoted the

[image: ALFRED L. CARY.]

greater portion of his time and thought, and has become an adept therein. There are not many members of the Milwaukee bar who have had a wider experience in railroad business than he, and few who have a better knowledge of the practice and principles which it involves.

Mr. Cary is a Democrat in politics, but has never been what may be called active in political work. His experience in public life is confined to one term in the city council and one in the state assembly, to which he was elected in 1873. His tastes have never been for official life, but strictly in the line of his profession, to which he has always been devoted and in which he is ranked among the leaders. He is not only a profound student of the law, but is an extensive and appreciative reader of general literature.

As a citizen, he is public-spirited, is deeply and intelligently interested in all questions involving the public welfare, and ready to do his share in its promotion.

He was married in September, 1864, to Miss Harriet M. Van Slyck of Milwaukee, and they have three sons and a daughter.

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[image: AMOS A. L. SMITH.]

SMITH, Amos A. L., a resident of Milwaukee and member of the noted law firm of Winkler Flanders, Smith, Bottum & Vilas, as born in Appleton, Wis., September 8th, 1849, being the first white child born in that place. His father, Reeder Smith, as agent of Amos A. L. Lawrence of Boston, Mass., was the founder of Appleton and one of its first settlers. The city was laid out and built on land which Mr. Lawrence bought from the government, and it is from him that Lawrence University takes its name. The elder Smith was a man of ability and character, and prominent not only in the early history of Appleton, but in that portion of the state--one of the men who helped to lay the foundations upon which has been reared the prosperous commonwealth of to-day.

Young Smith was brought up in Appleton, received his primary education in the public schools of the young city, and was fitted for a college course in Lawrence University. In the autumn of 1869, he entered Northwestern University at Evanston, Ill., taking the regular classical course, and graduated in 1872. He also took several special studies in the department of engineering, edited the college paper for two years, and was conspicuous for his literary ability and for his readiness as a debater in the college societies. In the last year of his course he won the first prizes in English composition and oratory, and was one of the honor men of his class. On leaving college he became traveling correspondent for The Chicago Inter Ocean, and a few months thereafter, a member of the editorial staff of that paper. While occupying this latter position he began the study of law, in which he was accorded the benefit of the extensive law library of John Y. Scammon, the founder and at that time one of the proprietors of the paper. After completing a thorough course of reading, he came to Milwaukee in 1874, where he finished his law studies, and was admitted to the bar the same year. At the request of Matt. H. Carpenter, then, United States senator, the young lawyer entered the office of Carpenter & Murphy, and he was thus given an opportunity of participating in the large and varied business of that firm, especially as the official duties of the senator kept him much of the time away from the office. This was an admirable

introduction to legal business of the more important kind, and one not often enjoyed by a young attorney. That he made good use of his opportunities was at once shown when he began practice for himself. Upon the retirement of Mr. Carpenter from the senate in 1876, and his return to the regular practice of his profession, Mr. Smith rented the office and library of E. G. Ryan, who had become chief justice of the supreme court of Wisconsin, and entered upon the practice of his profession on his own account. Before the end of the year, however, at the solicitation of Messrs. Carpenter and Winfield Smith, he united with them in the formation of the co-partnership of Carpenter & Smiths, which lasted until Mr. Carpenter's death in 1881. His partnership with Winfield Smith was continued for some years, after which he became a member of the firm of Jenkins, Winkler & Smith, and when Mr. Jenkins was

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appointed to the United States district court judgeship, Mr. Smith formed one of the new firm of Winkler, Flanders, Smith, Bottum & Vilas.

Mr. Smith's standing at the bar is of the highest, and few, if any, of the younger members have been connected with more important litigation than he. Thoroughly equipped for his professional work by long and close study and by association with the foremost members of the bar, and regarding it as one of the noblest of professions, he has naturally met with unusual success in its practice. He is, however, not all lawyer. Through all the arduous duties of his profession he has retained the love for literature and the highest walks of scholarship which was conspicuous in his collegiate career. His private library, which is the best index of a man's character and tastes, is large and selected with great care.

Mr. Smith was married, in 1874, to Miss Frances Louise Brown of Chicago, a woman of rare graces and accomplishments.

RICHARDSON, Edwin George, rector of St. James Episcopal church, was born in the city of Baltimore, January 5, 1856. His father, the Rev. Samuel McDonald Richardson, president of the Savings Bank of Baltimore, and perpetual deacon of the diocese of Maryland, was lineally descended from Major William Richardson, who settled on a plantation in Baltimore county in 1760. His mother, Hannah Treadwell Robinson, is the great-great-granddaughter of Governor Royal William Robinson of the Colony of Rhode Island.

Mr. Richardson graduated from Pembroke academy, Baltimore, at the age of 15 years, and, after a year's vacation, entered the importing and jobbing house of Carson, Richardson & Co., Baltimore. They dealt in sugars, coffees, teas and spices, and during a three years' service with them, he occupied in turn the positions of collector, bill clerk, assistant

[image: EDWIN GEORGE RICHARDSON.]

book-keeper and custom house clerk, and this experience gave him a thorough business education. He then read law for two years in the chambers of Judge William A. Stewart of the superior court of Baltimore. Next came a year passed partly in travel and partly in coaching for the Johns Hopkins university, from which he graduated, cum magna laude, in 1880. Immediately thereafter he became a student in the Philadelphia divinity school, from which he graduated, taking class honors, in 1883. In June of that year he took duty as assistant in Trinity church, Newark, New Jersey, having charge also of a thriving mission among the operatives of the Clark Thread mills. In less than a year he accepted the rectorship of St. Stephen's church, Newark, which he resigned in 1885, in order to be free to accept a call to St. James' church, Milwaukee, which rectorship he still holds.

Mr. Richardson was secretary of the council of the diocese of Milwaukee for one year and a member of the board of missions for six years. He has also been on standing committees for two years and has twice been sent as deputy to the general convention.

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[image: JOHN BAPTIST ADOLPH KERN.]

KERN, John Baptist Adolph, whose name was long prominent as that of one of the most active and progressive business men of Milwaukee, was born in Bavaria, on the 29th of September, 1829, and came to this country in early manhood, settling in Philadelphia, and there engaging in business. He was married, in 1855, to Miss Lena Bertschy, daughter of Jacob Bertschy of Milwaukee, former owner of the mill which by Mr. Kern's energy and foresight was later developed into one of the great manufacturing plants of the city. The mill, which was the pioneer of the business in Milwaukee, was established in 1844 by Dr. E. B. Wolcott and John Anderson. Two years later it was sold to Jacob Bertschy, formerly of Sheboygan, who named it the Eagle mill, enlarged and improved it, and in connection with his son, John, operated it continuously until 1855, when the elder Bertschy died. The business was continued by John Bertschy until 1859, when he retired; and a younger brother, Frederick, purchased the property of the heirs, and in partnership with J. B. A. Kern, the firm name being Bertschy & Kern, continued the business. The mill was then an old and somewhat dilapidated concern, with but three "run of stone," and a daily capacity of 200 barrels of flour. In 1861 Fred. Bertschy retired, and John Bertschy took his place in the firm, remaining in it until 1866, during which the business was pushed to the utmost capacity of the mill. By this time Mr. Kern had become a leading spirit in the firm, and, seeing large possibilities, in the enterprise, he dissolved the partnership, and at once made preparations for greatly enlarging the business. A new site was purchased and a new and more commodious building erected, which formed the nucleus of the present extensive structure. Into this new mill was put machinery of the newest pattern and of greatly enlarged capacity; and the results of the enterprise and push of Mr. Kern began to be at once apparent in the greatly enlarged output of the mill and the vastly improved quality of the product. But Mr. Kern was not satisfied with small things, and continued to enlarge his building and improve its machinery by the introduction of all the latest inventions, though by so doing much of the machinery in use, although nearly new, was rendered practically valueless. The new mill, from a building of 40 by 130 feet and two stories in height, had grown into one of 135 by 180 feet and six stories high; while the old method of grinding with stones had been almost entirely superseded by that of the roller or crusher, one hundred and fifty sets of which had been introduced. The number of employes had grown to two hundred, and the daily capacity of the mill had been increased from less than three hundred barrels to three thousands, and the quality of the flour placed on a par with the very best produced anywhere in the country--indeed, Kern's brand of Success flour became famous throughout the United States and in Europe. Such are the achievements of one man, who began his life work with a limited education, and with little or no capital, and without influential friends. His career is a striking illustration of what may be accomplished in this country in the course of comparatively

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a few years by energy, industry, the capacity to grasp the possibilities of the situation, and the ability to execute what judgement has approved. All these elements of success Mr. Kern possessed in an unusual degree; and his accomplished work is the best monument to his ability that could be reared. Energetic and aggressive as he was in business matters, he was courteous in social life, although he had little time and inclination for its amenities. His death occurred on January 16th, 1892.

The great business which he built up and which he conducted for so many years is still successfully carried on by his sons, John F. and A. Kern, under the old firm name of John B. A. Kern & Sons. The firm is now also manufacturing a full line of cereal products, which is developing into a large element of their business.

ISHAM, Fred. Willard, cashier of the First National Bank of Elkhorn, is the son of Joseph Trumbull Isham, a retired farmer, in comfortable circumstances, and of Mary Jane Sturtevant Isham. Mr. Isham's paternal ancestors were of English Puritan stock, who settled in Connecticut, and including the Phillips, Fuller, Carver and Trumbull families, figured conspicuously in the early history of that state.

Mr. Isham was born near Elkhorn, Walworth county, Wisconsin, February 23rd, 1850. After passing through the district schools, he took a full course in the Whitewater Normal school, from which he graduated in June, 1875. The fall succeeding his graduation he was elected superintendent of schools for Walworth county, was re-elected in 1877, and held the office four years. In 1879 he was elected secretary of the State Teachers' association, and thus acquired an extensive and most pleasant acquaintance among the teachers of the state.

In 1880 Mr. Isham engaged in the drug business in Elkhorn, and conducted it successfully

[image: FRED. WILLARD ISHAM.]

for ten years, when he withdrew from it and became connected with the First National Bank of Elkhorn, and for several years past has held the position of cashier in that institution. As a business man he is accurate as to detail, conservative in method and policy, of scrupulous integrity and courteous in manner.

In politics he is a Republican, and is a leader in political affairs; has served on the village board several terms, and on the local board of education for a number of years, and was secretary of the Old Settlers' society of Walworth county for seven years. He is a Knight Templar Mason.

In 1893 Mr. Isham was married to Ruth E. Gales, daughter of an old and influential citizen of Elkhorn. She also graduated from the Whitewater Normal school, and was afterward engaged, for four years, in teaching in the normal schools of the Argentine Republic, South America. They have no children. They own and occupy an elegant residence property on the west side of the Court House park, which is one of the centers of culture, refinement and genial hospitality.

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[image: ALBERT WHITTEMORE SANBORN.]

SANBORN, Albert Whittemore, one of the foremost lawyers of Ashland, and member of one of the prominent legal firms of northern Wisconsin, is the son of George W. and Cornelia C. Whittemore Sanborn, and was born in Swanton, Vt., January 17th, 1853. He was educated in the common country schools, a private school and Muskingum College, the latter of which he attended for three years, but did not graduate. He taught school from his seventeenth year until he was twenty-three; and, during two years of that time, studied law with Barnes & Anderson, of Cambridge, Ohio. In April, 1876, he was admitted to the bar in Cambridge, on examination; and, in June of the same year, came to Wisconsin, located at Stevens Point, and began the practice of law. At first he was alone, but soon after formed a partnership with D. Lloyd Jones, then of Stevens Point, but now of Milwaukee, under the firm name of Jones & Sanborn. This partnership continued until March, 1889, when G. W. Cate became a member of the firm, he taking the place at its head. This firm continued almost seven years, when it was superseded by that of Cate, Sanborn, Lamoreux & Park, the members of which are G. W. Cate, A. W. Sanborn, Frank B. Lamoreux and Byron B. Park. This firm has been connected with some celebrated cases, among which was the trial of W. W. Hazeltine for the shooting of A. E. Morse, that of Henry and John D. Curran for the shooting of W. W. Hazeltine, and the Mead murder case. In 1893 the firm had considerable business at Ashland, and Mr. Sanborn went thither and formed a partnership with John F. Dufur and C. A. Anderson, the firm name being Sanborn, Dufur & Anderson. After a time D. F. O'Keefe took the place of Mr. Anderson in the firm, which so continued until January, 1897, when it was dissolved by mutual consent and succeeded by the firm of Cate, Sanborn, Lamoreux & Park.

Mr. Sanborn is a Republican, and as such has held a number of offices. He was district attorney of Portage county for the years 1883-4, was elected to the assembly in 1884 and served one term, declining re-election. He was a delegate from the Ninth congressional district to the Republican national convention which met in Chicago in 1888, and nominated Benjamin Harrison for president. He served two terms as alderman of the First ward of Stevens Point, and was a member of the board of education of that city for ten years, four years of which he was president of the board. While a member of the board he made a long and strong fight, which was finally successful, for better school houses and better school equipments; and for this progressive measure he deserves the thanks of all good citizens.

He is a Mason, a Knight Templar, Knight of Pythias, and a member of the Episcopal church of Stevens Point.

July 16th, 1884, Mr. Sanborn was married to Jessie Louise Walker, daughter of John A. Walker, at one time a prominent lumberman of Stevens Point. Their children are: Norman Walker, Albert Beckwith and Helen May Sanborn, aged, respectively, eleven, six and three years.

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CONNOR, William Duncan, is a resident of Marshfield, and extensively engaged in the lumber there. His father, Robert Connor, located at Auburndale, Wood county, in 1872, and was one of the first settlers on the line of the Wisconsin Central railroad after it was built north from Stevens Point. Born in Renfrewshire, Scotland, November 25th, 1838, Robert Connor came to Canada when sixteen years of age, but was wrecked on his way over, losing everything he had except the clothes on his back. With true Scotch pluck, however, he set to work, and ere long had a farm and home in Canada. But the vast pine forests of northern Wisconsin attracted him, and, with two brothers, he made his home at Auburndale and began lumbering in the forests of that region. He bought a saw mill and later organized the R. Connor Lumber company, of which he was the president and W. D. Connor vice-president and treasurer. From that beginning came the large business that is now being conducted by the company. He was also largely engaged in mercantile pursuits, and for many years was the leading, dominating spirit of the pioneer settlement and its business. Not only a man of culture, but one of indomitable perseverance, of great energy and enterprise, he was one who made his mark upon the community. He held several local offices and in 1888 was a member of the legislature, and made a record as a wise and safe law-maker. He died suddenly in 1896.

W. D. Connor was born in the province of Ontario, Canada, March 24th, 1864, and came to Wisconsin with his parents in 1872. He received the rudiments of his education in the little log school house built in the woods at Auburndale shortly after Mr. Connor, Sr., moved there. After leaving the district school, he was a student at the Oshkosh normal school for two years, afterwards entering Lake Forest University. After

this educational preparation he commenced his business career, at the age of eighteen years, by looking after his father's extensive logging and

[image: WILLIAM DUNCAN CONNOR.]

lumber interests, and has been steadily engaged in the lumber business up to the present time.

Mr. Connor has always been an active Republican, and has rendered his party much service in the conducting of its local campaigns. He has been chairman of the Republican county committee for several years, and was chairman of the congressional committee of the Eight district four years ago, and has been a delegate from Wood county in the last three or four Republican state conventions. He has taken an active interest in and managed some of the most exciting of the local political struggles for which Wood county has been noted. But his public service has not been confined exclusively to political work--he was for thirteen years a member of the county board of Wood county, and twice its chairman. At the present time he is devoting himself to his private business, which is extensive and varied in character, embracing the duties of president of the R. Connor Lumber company, the German-American bank and the control of a large farm near Auburndale, which is stocked with wellbred

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bred horses and cattle, in which he takes great interest.

Mr. Connor was married, in 1886, to Mary B. Witter, daughter of Dr. G. F. Witter of Grand Rapids.

Robert and W. D. Connor are notable examples of the courage, enterprise, business sagacity and inflexible perseverance by which the resources of the northern part of the state have been developed, and fortunes have been made--men who have not only carved out their own fortunes, but at the same time have laid deep the foundations of many beneficent local institutions.

STOVER, James Harney, member of the Milwaukee bar, was born in Crawfordsville, Indiana, on the 17th of March, 1849. His father was D. C. Stover, a lawyer by profession, who has held important official positions in Indiana--has been state's attorney, member of the state senate and of the constitutional convention, was one of the revisers of the laws of Indiana and financial agent of the state; but now lives a retired life at his beautiful home near Ladoga, Indiana, at the age of seventy-three. Mr. Stover's mother before marriage was Frances M. Harney, daughter of G. T. Harney's a noted preacher of Indiana and Kentucky; a niece of John H. Harney, editor of The Louisville Democrat, and also niece of Gen. W. T. Harney of the United States army. She was a sister of Hon. J. F. Harney, circuit judge of Montgomery county, Indiana. She died in 1863, leaving two boys and a girl. Mr. Stover's ancestry were Swiss and Prussian on his father's side, and Irish, English and Holland on his mother's. The ancestors on both sides emigrated to this country before 1776, and all males of suitable age were in the struggle for liberty--none were Tories.

Mr. Stover received his elementary education at the Ladoga Academy, and after that attended the Kentucky university for four years, but did not graduate, as poor health prevented his completing the full course. He came to Burlington, Wisconsin, in 1876, and was there married to Miss Belle Spoor. The following year he left the state, but returned in 1884, making his home in Milwaukee, where he has since resided.

At the age of sixteen, while attending Kentucky university, at Lexington, he was persuaded by a divinity student to preach a sermon at Nicholasville; and, a year thereafter his brother, Bertie, began preaching at the age of fourteen. Thereupon these two boys set out on a preaching tour through the southern and western states, and the novelty of the affair attracted large numbers to their meetings. In 1871 he took charge of the Christian church at Carlisle, Kentucky, which had a large and wealthy congregation. The brother, Bertie, had a church of the same denomination at Dubuque, Iowa. The younger brother's health failing, the two young men and their father went to Colorado, and engaged in the real estate and abstract business. The younger brother died in 1875, and the next year J. H. Stover returned, was married, as already stated, and took charge of the Christian church at South Bend, Indiana, remaining its pastor until 1882. The congregation was always large, and the number of members was greatly increased; a new house of worship was built, and the church prospered in an unusual manner. In 1882 he left the ministry, and became the agent, in Milwaukee, of the Travelers' Insurance company of Hartford, Connecticut, and served it for three years. After that he was successively the agent of the Northwestern Mutual Life of Milwaukee, the New York, Life, and the Equitable of New York, and left the service of the latter only when he decided to begin the practice of law, which was in 1892. The first year of his practice he was alone; after that he had for partners A. C. Brazee and A. W. Bell, until January, 1895, when the partnership was dissolved, and since then he has been in general practice alone.

Mr. Stover has seven children--four boys and three girls--who are all in the people's

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college, the public school, and the promising students.

Mrs. Stover's parents were early settlers in Walworth county, Wisconsin, and John S. Spoor was one of the leading citizens of the county.

Mr. Stover is an Odd Fellow, a Mason, a Knight of Pythias, a member of the Christian church--an organization formed by Alexander Campbell, and having a large membership in the south. He began the practice of law when forty-three years of age, with a family of nine, and only ten dollars in his pocket, and not a single client in sight; yet he has maintained his family, built up a large practice, and may be properly regarded as a "man of progress." The first money that he earned was for binding wheat after a reaper, for which he received a man's wages, although but thirteen years of age. He worked in a woolen mill when a boy, and learned to run the carding machine and spinning jack. As an insurance agent he was quite successful, writing from half a million to a million dollars insurance each year.

In the four years from 1873 to 1876, Mr. Stover traveled extensively in Colorado, and made himself familiar with the various phases of the mining business, and made money therein. He was a silver man in the last presidential campaign, and advocated on the stump the election of Bryan to the presidency. Although popular as a speaker and in request in campaigns for that reason, he has not sought office himself, although frequently urged to do so. He was too young to enter the army during the war, but with other boys of his neighborhood, he studied the military drill that he might be prepared for service should the war continue until after he was of military age. When a boy his father took him on his visits to prominent men, and in this way he came to know very many with whose names the nation has become familiar.

Among his classmates at the University of Kentucky were young men who have since

[image: JAMES HARNEY STOVER.]

become famous, such as Congressman McMillen of Tennessee, James Lane Allen, the novelist of Kentucky, and a number of others whose influence upon him was, doubtless, formative and inspiring. He says, however, that he is more indebted to his father for what he has accomplished in life than to any one else. His father was his companion and adviser, and always encouraged him to strive for the attainment of high ideals.

End Part 14