

HISTORY
OF
LOUISA COUNTY
IOWA

From Its Earliest Settlement to 1911

By ARTHUR SPRINGER

ILLUSTRATED

With Biographical Sketches of Some Prominent Citizens of the County

VOLUME II

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EDWARD LOGAN McCLURKIN.

One of the pioneer families of Louisa county and Morning Sun is represented in the banking circles of this town in the person of Edward Logan McClurkin, whose birth occurred on the 20th of August, 1857. He is the son of the late Henry and Nancy J. (Logan) McClurkin, the father a native of Ohio and the mother of Indiana. The father, who was a stock buyer and shipper located in Morning Sun in 1855, where for several years he was engaged in the mercantile business, and during which time he also acted as postmaster. Seven children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. McClurkin: Margaret, the wife of M. Ochiltree, of this city; Kate, who married R. M. Pomeroy, of Shelby, Iowa; E. L., our subject; William H., of Morning Sun; Martin L. and Norah, both of whom are deceased; and one who died in infancy.

The preliminary education of Edward Logan McClurkin was acquired in the public schools of his native city, the course of which he completed in 1876, being one of the first graduates from the high school. Subsequently he attended the State University at Iowa City for a year and a half. Returning home he assisted his father in the store and postoffice, where he remained until 1886. He then joined his brother-in-law, William Beck, in establishing the Exchange Bank, of which institution he is now the cashier.

Mr. McClurkin was united in marriage on the 10th of November, 1881, to Miss Cassie A. Beck, a daughter of Conrad and Sophia Beck, natives of Germany but for many years residents of Des Moines county, where the father engaged in agricultural pursuits. Unto Mr. and Mrs. McClurkin have been born the following children: Oak B., a resident of Morning Sun; Elizabeth Jane, the wife of F. C. Selzer, of Detroit, Michigan; Clifford H., who is attending college at Monmouth, Illinois; and Justus Logan, who is at home.

Mr. and Mrs. McClurkin hold membership in the United Presbyterian church, and his political support he grants to the candidates of the republican party. He has always been quite prominently identified with the political activities of the community and has several times served as mayor, while he has three times represented his district in the state legislature. A public-spirited, progressive citizen and capable business man Mr. McClurkin stands high in the esteem of the general community, where he has spent practically the entire period of his life and where the comrades of his youth are the friends of his manhood.

EWALD M. WERNER.

A large portion of the citizens of Iowa are either of German birth or descent, and among those who were born in the fatherland is numbered Ewald M. Werner. His birth occurred on the 9th of September, 1864, his parents being Adam and Eva (Rank) Werner, also natives of that country. They never left their native land, the mother there passing away in 1871. The father still sur-

fifty acres of land in Marshall township and in connection with the tilling of the soil makes a specialty of raising and feeding cattle, hogs and horses, this branch of his business returning to him a gratifying annual income. His mother still makes her home with him. In politics he is a staunch republican but has not sought office as a reward for his party fealty. Mr. Martin has resided in Louisa county from his birth to the present time and has an extensive circle of friends here.

J. H. WILSON.

One of Louisa county's retired agriculturists now living in Morning Sun, is J. H. Wilson, who was born in Preble county, Ohio, on the 1st of January, 1831. His parents, John and Isabella (McClure) Wilson, were both natives of South Carolina, from which state they removed to Ohio in the pioneer days. They continued to reside there until 1839, when they came to Iowa, locating in Louisa county, where the father entered government land, upon which he erected a log cabin. Here the parents spent the remainder of their days, the father engaging in general farming and stock-raising. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson were the parents of ten children, three of whom are living.

J. H. Wilson was a lad of only eight years when his parents left Ohio, so that the greater portion of his boyhood and youth were spent in Iowa, in whose common schools he acquired his education. He remained with his parents until he was twenty-one at which time his father presented him with a farm, upon which he immediately located, engaging in its cultivation for nine years. In 1862 he rented his land and, taking an ox team started across the prairies to Oregon, going by way of California, where he stopped for a short time. When he reached the coast he engaged in freighting goods across the mountains, for which purpose he was compelled to use ten yoke of oxen on each wagon, owing to the difficulties encountered in getting over the steep passes with a heavy load. He remained on the Pacific coast for three years, then sold his teams and returned to Iowa, once more locating on his farm in Louisa county. For ten years thereafter he engaged in agricultural pursuits, following which he sold his farm and rented a hotel in Muscatine, which he conducted for four years. At the expiration of that period he removed to Morning Sun, where he purchased the property he has ever since occupied. He owns seven pieces of residence property in this town, realizing therefrom a very comfortable income.

On the 3d of March, 1869, Mr. Wilson was united in marriage to Miss Adeline McClurkin, a native of Louisa county and a daughter of Thomas and Julia Ann (Kline) McClurkin, natives of Indiana. They came to Iowa during pioneer days, locating in this county, where the father passed away in 1889. The mother, however, is still living at the venerable age of ninety-one years. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wilson were born two children, both of whom died in infancy.



Mr. Wilson, who is a republican, has served as justice of the peace, in addition to which he has held several of the minor township offices. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wilson manifest their religious belief through their affiliation with the Presbyterian church, of which they have long been members. In the evening of life they are permitted to enjoy the ease and comfort provided by an income which is the result of the capably directed endeavors of their youth.

LEONARD BANTLE.

Leonard Bantle, an enterprising, progressive and prosperous resident of Oakville, has built up an extensive trade as a grocery merchant and also conducts a meat market. His birth occurred in Mercer county, Illinois, on the 10th of September, 1862, his parents being John and Betty Ann (Westfall) Bantle, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Iowa. John Bantle, who enlisted for service in the Union army during the Civil war, lost his life on the field of battle. His wife passed away two years later, when our subject was but seven years of age.

Leonard Bantle was reared to manhood by an uncle, Richard Bantle, of Mercer county, Illinois, where he attended the common schools in the acquirement of an education. When twenty-one years of age he came to Iowa and took charge of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Des Moines county. The property had been left him by his father and was located in Huron township, just south of Louisa county. To the operation of that place he devoted his time and energies for about fifteen years and on the expiration of that period came to Oakville, here embarking in business as the proprietor of a meat market. Subsequently he added a supply of groceries and now deals extensively in commodities of that character, also enjoying quite a large trade as a dealer in meats. Seizing the opportunity for profitable investment, he recently purchased six lots in the new addition to Oakville and on one of them is now erecting a handsome new residence for his family. He well merits the proud American title of a self-made man, his prosperity being directly attributable to his own efforts.

Mr. Bantle has been married three times. He first wedded Miss Nettie Harris, a daughter of Isaac Harris, by whom he had one daughter, Vada, who is now the wife of Roy Fisher and resides near Wapello. Vada was born on the 17th of September, 1884, and six weeks later the mother passed away. In 1885 Mr. Bantle married Miss Helma Nyberg, a native of Illinois, who died in March, 1903, leaving two sons and a daughter, namely: John Harland, whose birth occurred in 1888 and who passed away in the spring of 1910; Orville Leonard, who was born in 1890 and is at home; and Ida Blanche, also at home. On the 27th of December, 1905, Mr. Bantle was again married, his third union being with Mrs. Mary Jacoby, the widow of Reuben Jacoby. The present Mrs. Bantle had three children by her first husband, as follows: Hetty, the wife of H. G.

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