

PAST AND PRESENT
OF
SHELBY COUNTY
IOWA

By
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VOLUME I
ILLUSTRATED

1915
B. F. BOWEN & COMPANY, Inc.
Indianapolis, Indiana

ship. Herbert R., born February 3, 1878, married Mabel Cobb, and lives in Sioux City, Iowa, and has four children: Mildred, born July 26, 1902; Margery, born May 5, 1904; Herbert C., born June 28, 1906; Roberta, born February 15, 1914. Earl G., the third child of Mr. Ryan, was born August 23, 1884, married Bertha Sessions, and has two children, Charles T., born October 17, 1907, and Myrtle Grace, born January 12, 1910. Sarah E., born January 31, 1889, is still living with her parents and is teaching school. She is a graduate of Drake University. Mary Grace, the youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. Ryan, was born October 20, 1891, graduated from the musical department of Drake University and is now teaching music.

Mr. Ryan is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, as is his son, Earl. He is a charter member of the Irwin lodge, and has always been actively interested in the affairs of his local lodge. Politically, he has always been a Democrat, and for twenty-five years was a member of the school board of his township. His party has pressed honors upon him since coming to Irwin and he has faithfully discharged every duty which has been imposed upon him. Mr. Ryan is a typical self-made man and one of the most representative citizens of a county which has produced many exceptional men.

ROBERT M. POMEROY.

Forty years have elapsed since Robert M. Pomeroy and his young wife came to Shelby county, Iowa, and during this time he has so managed his affairs as to become one of the wealthiest men of Shelby. He has, during the course of a long and busy life, engaged in the mercantile business, has served as a civil engineer, while for a quarter of a century, he was one of the largest farmers and most successful stock dealers of Shelby county. Since September 1, 1914, he has been in charge of the Farmers Savings Bank at Shelby, and in this capacity has demonstrated peculiar ability for this line of business. He has been prominently identified with every phase of his county's history during the time he has lived in it and has been in hearty sympathy with all public movements. He has served as township trustee, school director and county treasurer and in every official position he has demonstrated that he has the interest of his fellow-citizens at heart.

Robert M. Pomeroy, the son of William R. and Elizabeth (Maclay) Pomeroy, was born March 24, 1849, in Franklin county, Pennsylvania. His

father was born in the same county in 1811 and his mother was born in Concord, Pennsylvania, in 1822. His parents were married in 1845 and reared a family of six children, Mrs. Arabella Deihl, Henry, Robert M., John, Elizabeth and William R. Of these six children, Arabella and Henry are deceased, the former being buried in Adams county, Pennsylvania. John and William R. are living a retired life in Shelby, Iowa, while Elizabeth makes her home in Concord, Pennsylvania. William R. Pomeroy conducted a general merchandise store in Concord, Pennsylvania, for fifty years and also had a large tannery in connection with his general merchandise business. He died in 1889 and his wife died in 1875.

Robert M. Pomeroy received his elementary and high school education at Waterloo, Pennsylvania, and later attended the academy at that place until he was twenty years of age. After leaving school he clerked in a general merchandise store for three years in Parksburg, Pennsylvania, and then was connected with a civil engineer corps for one year. In 1872 he went west and settled in Louis county, Iowa, where he managed a store until 1875. He then sold out, married and came to Shelby, Iowa, where he has since lived. He went into partnership with Dr. Campbell in the general merchandise business and three years later sold his share and built a frame building, twenty-two by eighty feet. In this building he conducted his store until 1895, when he sold out and moved to his farm of two hundred and sixty acres which he had purchased in Shelby township in 1891. He farmed this for twenty-two years and made extensive improvements upon it, so that he had one of the most valuable farms in the township. He was an extensive breeder of Clydesdale horses, Poland-China hogs and Aberdeen Polled Angus cattle. He made many exhibits at county fairs and won several premiums on his cattle, horses and hogs. He gave special attention to the raising of cattle and averaged one hundred head every year. In 1912 Mr. Pomeroy sold out his farming interest, moved back to Shelby, Iowa, and took full possession of the Farmers Savings Bank. He owns twenty acres of land inside the corporate limits in addition to his beautiful city home.

Mr. Pomeroy was married November 2, 1876, to Mary McClurkin, who was born at Morning Sun, Iowa, in 1851, the daughter of Henry and Nancy Jane McClurkin was born in Indiana. To this union four children have been born: Elizabeth, a graduate of Grinnell College; William H., of Tulsa, Oklahoma, married Norine Wilson and has one child, William Henry, Jr.; Loren, a graduate of the Dental College of Chicago, a dentist at Avoca, who married Mary Ethel Goodwin; Mrs. Alice Frum, of Dakota City, Nebraska.

Politically, Mr. Pomeroy is a member of the Republican party and has been one of his party's leaders for many years. As township trustee, as school director and as county treasurer (1882-86), he has served his fellow citizens in a very efficient manner. The family are members of the Presbyterian church and have always taken an active part in all church work.

GEORGE H. MILLER.

There need be no introduction to the readers of this volume of the gentleman whose name heads this review. He was born in Shelby county; he has lived his entire life of fifty-six years within the borders of the county; he has been successful as an agriculturist and is one of the best known citizens of the county; he has received high honors from his fellow citizens and has been elevated to a high position of trust and responsibility in recognition of his ability and integrity. Few lives are more successful when we endeavor to measure the success of the individual by grouping the men of any community for the purpose of writing the individual life history of each as an adjunct to the history of the community in which they live.

George H. Miller, treasurer of Shelby county, and the son of Jacob J. Miller, a pioneer settler of the county, was born on October 10, 1858, on a farm in section thirteen of Center township, six miles east of Harlan. He first saw the light of day in a log cabin erected by his father in 1857. Jacob J. Miller was born in Germany, March 8, 1827, and died in this county in February, 1910. He emigrated to America with his father when a boy and the family settled in Indiana when that state was still in the pioneer era of development. Jacob J. was the son of Jacob and Catharine Miller, natives of the province of Alsace, Germany. They came to this country to found a home for themselves and their children as early as 1828. They landed at Baltimore from a sailing vessel and lived there for one year. For six years following their brief residence in Baltimore they resided on a farm near Hagerstown, Maryland, and in the year 1834 the family removed to Butler county, Ohio. In January, 1845, they again migrated westward and settled in Elkhart county, Indiana, where Jacob, Sr., bought eighty acres of timber land which he cleared with incredible labor and created therefrom a fine farm which remained his home until his death

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