

PORTRAIT AND

BIOGRAPHICAL



—OF—

JACKSON COUNTY, IOWA,

CONTAINING

Full Page Portraits and Biographical Sketches of Prominent
and Representative Citizens of the County,

TOGETHER WITH

PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES OF ALL THE GOVERNORS OF THE STATE, AND
OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO:

CHAPMAN BROTHERS,

1889.

and then abandoned that business and resumed the livery business, which he carried on until 1874. In that year, removing to Center Township, Marshall Co., Ind., he bought 100 acres of land, and again turned his attention to farming, remaining in that place three years. In the spring of 1881 he revisited Jackson County, coming here by rail, and bought 200 acres of land, partly improved, with a house on it, and has since been actively engaged in the improvement of this farm. He has erected a large and substantial barn, 40x70 feet, windmill, tanks, etc. He has his farm well fenced with hedge, wire and rail. The place is well watered by springs, and has a fine orchard of ten acres of choice fruit trees and lovely cedar and maple groves.

Mr. McDonald and Mrs. Pamela (Cobb) Peterman were united in marriage in Bucyrus, Ohio, March 15, 1877, and to them have been born one child, Dora. Mrs. McDonald was the daughter of Capt. Elim Cobb, a native of Cumberland County, Pa. His father was also a native of Pennsylvania, and was a farmer by occupation. He removed to Crawford County, Ohio, was a pioneer there, and there died. Mrs. McDonald's father was a sailor on the lakes for twenty years, having entered the calling when he was fifteen years old, and was Captain of the vessel "Louisa Jenkins." He finally abandoned the lakes, and, turning his attention to farming, bought 300 acres of land in Bucyrus, and there died, in 1874, aged fifty-five years. His wife, whose maiden name was Nancy Brown, was born in Youngstown, Niagara Co., N. Y. Her father, Henry Brown, who was a native of the same county, and was a farmer there, was killed in the War of 1812. Mrs. McDonald's mother is still living, at an advanced age, on the old homestead in Ohio. She has two children—Charles, in Ohio, and Pamela. The latter was born in Bucyrus, Crawford Co., Ohio, March 31, 1845. She remained at home until her first marriage, Sept. 19, 1861, to Westell Peterman, who was a native of the same place as herself. They remained there, engaged in farming, until his death, Sept. 5, 1876. Four children were born of that marriage—Addie, Charles, Steen, and Otto, all of whom are at home.

Mr. and Mrs. McDonald are people of fine character, who occupy an important position in the so-

ciety of this community, and enjoy to the fullest extent the regard of all in the town. Mr. McDonald's pleasant, cheerful manners and undoubted integrity of character contribute to his popularity. While he lived in Ohio he served as Marshal, and also as Constable, and since coming to Perry has been School Director. In politics he is prominently identified with the Democratic party of this section, and has been a delegate to County Conventions. He is a member of the A. F. & A. M. Mrs. McDonald is a valued member of the Presbyterian Church at Fulton.



JOHAN NEMMERS is considered one of the best and most successful farmers and stock-raisers of Jackson County. He has been closely identified with its business interests, and by shrewd and energetic management has acquired a good deal of property in a comparatively short time, and although he is still a young man, he is classed among the solid, substantial men of this section of the county. He owns a valuable farm of 244 acres (202 acres on section 4, 42 acres on section 16) which is complete in all its appointments. It is beautifully located on the head waters of Farmers' Creek, adjoining the town, his residence being a half mile from La Motte, and the grounds are adorned by evergreens, groves and orchard.

Our subject is the second child of the eight children born to Michael and Annie (Ewen) Nemmers. (For parental history, see sketch of N. B. Nemmers) He is a native of Jackson County, born in St. Donatus, Prairie Spring Township, in a log house on the old homestead, Sept. 17, 1853. He was bred to the life of a farmer in the place of his birth, and as soon as old enough assisted in clearing and cultivating the land. He attended the local schools till the age of twenty years, gleaning a good, practical education. He remained at home until he was twenty-three years old, affording valuable assistance in carrying on the farm. At that age he adopted the profession of teacher, and was thus engaged one year. At the age of twenty-four he was married, taking unto himself as a wife, Miss

Mary A. Schultz, the ceremony that made the twain one being performed in La Motte, June 11, 1879.

Five children have been born to them, Peter, Michael E. (dead), Mary, Maggie and Martha. Mrs. Nemmers was born in Bellevue, this State, and is a daughter of Peter and Mary Schultz. Her parents were natives of Germany, and on coming to this country they located in Bellevue. Later they moved to La Motte, where the father was engaged in farming until the fall of 1887, when they returned to Bellevue, and are still living there in retirement.

After marriage, Mr. Nemmers and his bride moved to Buncombe in Dubuque County, and he bought ten acres of land, a store and other buildings, and established himself in the general mercantile business. He did not confine his energies to that line, but branched out into other enterprises, and was also engaged at hotel and livery keeping, and was likewise postmaster of the place. His removal to Buncombe was made June 19, 1879, and he immediately entered upon his prosperous career and did a flourishing business in the several branches indicated, and in 1884 still further extended his interests by buying a half interest in the Zwingle Creamery; and continued his connection with that, and at the same time attended his other business, till April, 1887, when he sold his stock of merchandise to his brother, and moved to Zwingle, and carried on the creamery until September of the same year. In that month he bought his present place of 244 acres of as fine farming land as is to be found in all the county, from his father-in-law, paying him \$10,000 for the property. He immediately moved onto it, although he still retained his connection with the creamery. He has a fine residence and a substantial set of farm buildings, including a barn 42x40, granary and corn cribs sixty feet long, milkhouse, windmill, tank, etc. Mr. Nemmers is much interested in stock-raising, and has a fine herd of fifty red-polled cattle, several Clyde horses, and also some fast trotters, uses two teams in working the farm, and has Poland China hogs of high grades.

In his honorable career as a man of business and a practical agriculturist, he has displayed good financial talent and all the characteristics that insure

success in any walk in life, and can look back with satisfaction to what he has accomplished in the past and forward to a future that is bright and promising. The part that he has borne in public affairs has been an honor to himself and useful to his community. He was Constable from 1874 till 1879. He was Assessor one year, and School Director three years, and he has served on the petit jury three terms, and on the grand jury two terms. In his political views, he is a Democrat; and in his religion a good Catholic.

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CHARLES B. WEASMER, senior partner of the livery firm of Weasmer & Farley, is one of the leading lights in the business circles of Preston, of which he has been a resident some years. He is a very active and enterprising young man, of fine business abilities, and popular both in social and business circles. A native of Grand Gorge, Greene Co., N. Y., he was born Aug. 2, 1853, and was deprived of his father by death when a lad nine years of age. He was then taken into the home of his eldest brother, a resident of Parkesville, where he attended the public school more or less until nineteen years old, and then entered Liberty Academy, which he attended three terms.

At the expiration of this time young Weasmer began working out for the farmers of his native county, which he left at the age of twenty-three years. Upon coming to Iowa he engaged in a saw-mill at Lyons two years, then became interested in lumber, coal, grain, and stock at Preston, and continued with one man until the latter disposed of the business. In the fall of 1887 Mr. Weasmer associated himself with his present partner in the livery business, and they are rapidly building up a good patronage.

The wife of our subject, to whom he was married March 5, 1889, was formerly Miss Laura Farley, daughter of James Farley, one of the earliest settlers of Van Buren Township, coming here as early as 1837. He became one of the most prominent citizens of this section. Mr. Weasmer, politically, is a steadfast Democrat. He is serving a second term as township Clerk, while his natural abilities and