

Jessup chose Martha Seely, by whom he had seven sons, and his third wife bore the maiden name of Fanny Pierson.

William A. Jessup was born in Goshen, Orange County, N. Y., November 23, 1826. When he was twenty-three years of age he left home and came to the west. He went on the railroad as far as it had been constructed and at Buffalo embarked on a boat bound for Detroit. At that point he purchased a ticket on the railroad, which had been built only as far as Michigan City. There he went on board a boat and went to Chicago, but the journey was made in a severe storm, and all of the passengers were seasick. The rest of the trip to Lockport was made on the canal, where Mr. Jessup remained for some three years, making his home with his relative, Edmund Seely, and working the homestead on shares. He then bought two hundred and forty acres of a Mr. Townsend, who had taken up the claim originally. Aside from this property, there was so little fenced in the neighborhood that a person might have ridden unobstructed across the prairie for many miles in any direction.

At the beginning of his career here, Mr. Jessup entered the dairying business and shipped butter to Chicago and back to Orange County, N. Y. He also raised grain extensively, Lockport and Joliet being his chief markets for that product. For years he devoted a large share of his attention to the raising of cattle and also fed live stock for the market. He bought and later sold a tract of sixty-seven acres, and invested a portion of his capital in another farm of eighty acres. He erected all of the substantial buildings upon his place and built his residence with special reference to the fine springs which supply the house with unsurpassed water. The twelve miles of tiling which he has had laid on the farm has greatly improved the homestead and rendered it more productive and healthful.

In the early part of 1853 Mr. Jessup returned to his native county, and on March 17 married Marie J. Van Duzer, daughter of John Van Duzer, who was a supervisor and justice of the peace. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Jessup are: John V. D.; Sarah Seely, deceased;

Theodore, who is in the employ of the Western Electric Company, of Chicago; Margaret Jennings, wife of Hugh H. Goudie, of this township; and Clara Howell. John V. D. married Abigail E. Goodale, and their three children are: William A., Esther and John V. D., Jr.

Though yet hale and hearty, Mr. Jessup has turned a portion of his more arduous cares to his elder son, and in 1893 he had a pleasant modern house erected near his own home, for the son's family. In former years he served for several years as supervisor of this township and also as a highway commissioner and school trustee. He was a Whig in his early manhood and since the Republican party was organized has given it his allegiance. For many years he has been an elder in the Presbyterian Church and was influential in the building of the present house of worship in his home township.

SHELDON HIRAM WHEELER. It is probable that no resident of Na-au-say Township is better known throughout Kendall County than Mr. Wheeler. Having come here in an early day and identified himself closely with agricultural interests, and having met with more than ordinary success, it is but natural that he should hold a high place in the regard of his acquaintances. His office as president of the Old Settlers Association has made him a conspicuous figure in this county, and he is not only widely known, but also everywhere honored. The life of a pioneer so prominent should be recorded in the annals of the county, so that its example may be emulated by future generations.

Mr. Wheeler was born in Castleton, Rutland County, Vt., September 10, 1826, a son of Alanson K. Wheeler. His father, a native of Vermont, born in 1799, came to Illinois one year after his son, our subject. Here, as in the east, he devoted himself to farming. First as a Whig and later as a Republican he was active in public affairs. He aided in the formation of the Republican party in this county and was an early representative from this county in the Illinois legis-

lature, where he served faithfully and well. The Congregational Church here owed its start in large degree to his efforts. He lived to a good old age, dying in 1880. His wife, whom he married in Vermont, and who bore the maiden name of Sarah Whitlock, died in 1891. They were the parents of four sons and three daughters, of whom three sons and one daughter are living, the latter in Chicago, and the former, Sheldon H., Rollin M. and John A., in this county.

The first of the family to settle in Kendall County was Rollin M. Wheeler. In 1843, when twenty-two years old, he drove through from Vermont to Illinois and selected the land in Nau-say Township, where he still lives, buying the two hundred and forty acres from the government. He soon went back to Vermont, married, and brought his wife to Illinois with him. He also brought one hundred head of sheep, the first flock of any size ever in Chicago. With five and six yoke of oxen he broke a two-foot furrow in the land. He planted and raised corn and wheat, which he hauled to the Chicago market. As soon as he had wool to sell he also found a ready market in Chicago. He continued to be heavily interested in sheep until about 1885. He also raised large numbers of hogs and cattle, and carried on a dairy business. At the time of coming west he brought with him a copy of the creed of the Congregational Church. This was used in the organization of the first church here. However, later on, a number of people from Orange County, N. Y., settled here and they desired to establish a Presbyterian Church. Mr. Wheeler and his wife co-operated with them, became charter members of the church, and assisted in the building of a house of worship. As long as he was able to attend services he held the office of elder. Of late years he has been to a large extent retired from active labors.

Sheldon H. Wheeler is a few years younger than his brother Rollin, and was two years later in settling in Kendall County. It was in 1845 that he started west, coming with his father as far as Buffalo, and then proceeding alone to Chicago. He brought a flock of forty sheep with him, driving them from Chicago to his brother's farm,

and the descendants of that original herd are still in his flock to-day. In the spring of 1846 his father came west. The first frame house they built is still standing and is used as a shop and storehouse. It was built in the spring of 1847. The shingles and flooring for the house were hauled from Chicago. For fifteen years the family lived in that pioneer abode. They then erected a commodious and substantial building that is the present home of our subject. Since the death of his parents Mr. Wheeler has continued to live on the old homestead, which has never been deeded except from the government or state to the family. To some extent he has been interested in the dairy business and in raising Holstein cattle, but he is not so heavily interested in stock as in former years. In the main his life has been a successful one, although he has had his share of reverses, not the least of these being his loss by lightning, in 1892, of a large and substantial barn, together with forty tons of hay, twelve horses and a quantity of grain. Immediately afterward he built another large barn, which he has since used.

January 4, 1866, Mr. Wheeler married, in Aurora, Ill., Miss Mary Foulston, by whom he had nine children. The oldest child, Elizabeth, died in 1897, and two sons, Mason and Cyrus, died in infancy. The others are: Frank F., a farmer in Lisbon Township; Cyrus D. (the second of that name), who is a grain and stock dealer in Triumph, La Salle County; John A., a farmer in Plainfield Township, Will County; Seth R., Mary Jane and Oliver J., at home.

In local politics Mr. Wheeler is independent; in national, a Republican. While he is not a politician, he has been induced to serve in many local offices, and has held every township office excepting those of collector and constable. He was elected constable, but refused to serve. Fraternally he is connected with the blue lodge of Masons at Oswego and the chapter at Aurora. The different churches have received his assistance, he having helped in the erection of the edifices occupied by the Congregationalists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Universalists, Lutherans, Evangelical Association and Roman Catholics, a

record perhaps equaled by few men in Illinois. He attends the Presbyterian Church and contributes to its support. As a citizen no man in his township stands higher. His life has been beyond reproach, his record that of a progressive farmer and a public-spirited citizen.

EDWIN WHITTLESEY HARVEY, an enterprising and progressive agriculturist and a prominent citizen of Seward Township, Kendall County, was born November 13, 1838, in Clyde, Wayne County, N. Y., a son of Leonard Harvey, and a grandson of Medad and Anna (Buell) Harvey, life-long residents of the Empire State.

Leonard Harvey was born in Onondaga County, N. Y., in 1809, and was there reared on a farm. In his earlier years he was engaged in agricultural and mercantile pursuits in his native state, of which he was a resident until 1855, when he removed with his family to Orange County, Va., and there remained two years. In the spring of 1857 he came to Kendall County, Ill., and in 1858 purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 25, Seward Township, from which he improved the farm now owned and occupied by his son Edwin W. Here he was successfully engaged in tilling the soil until his death, in December, 1884. In politics he was a Whig in his younger days, but was afterwards identified with the Free Soil and Republican parties. In his religious belief he was a Baptist, having never swerved from the faith in which his ancestors, for several generations, had been reared. His first wife, whose maiden name was Jane Rathbone, died in early womanhood, in Onondaga County, N. Y., leaving one child, Mary, now the wife of William B. Angell, of Odell, Ill. He subsequently married Cornelia Whittlesey, who was born in Camden, Oneida County, N. Y., in June, 1814, and died on the homestead, in Seward Township, in May, 1892. Of their union the following named children were born: Edwin W.; Martha, widow of the late George Gaskell; Franklin B., living near Benja-

min, Knox County, Tex.; James H., who died in Lee County, Ill., leaving three sons, Roy, Harlon and James; Eugene K., of Dale, Okla.; Leonard, who died at the age of two years; Cornelia, wife of Charles Gaskell, of New Lisbon, Ohio; Clarinda (a twin of Cornelia), who died in Springfield, Mass., in 1875; Anna E., wife of H. W. Otis, of Peshastin, Wash.; and Harriet I., wife of Melzar W. Starks, of Sioux City, Iowa.

Edwin W. Harvey spent the first seventeen years of his life on the home farm in Wayne County, N. Y., after which he lived with his parents in Virginia two years. Receiving but limited educational advantages he made such good use of the opportunities afforded him, both in school and out, that when he came to Kendall County, at the age of nineteen years, he was qualified to take charge of a school, and the following two years was employed as a teacher in Kendall, Will and Grundy Counties. In the fall of 1862 he accepted a clerkship in a general store at Jackson, Mich., where he remained a year, going from there to Poughkeepsie, N. Y., to complete the commercial course in Eastman's Business College, in which he was subsequently the teacher of bookkeeping until 1865. Going then to Springfield, Mass., he occupied a similar position in the business college of that city for a year or more. In 1875, having in the meantime been married and left a widower, he returned to the parental homestead in Kendall County and assumed the management of the farm, giving his attention in a general way to farming, stock-raising and dairying. He made the latter branch of his industry a specialty from 1884 to 1891, introducing the first silo in this vicinity, and further equipping his place for carrying on the business to the best advantage. He then established a trade in the Chicago market for his butter, charging two cents per pound above Elgin prices, but on account of the difficulty in procuring efficient help, and the amount of care and responsibility involved, he gave up the business after seven years. Mr. Harvey is known as one of the representative men of the county, interested in all measures inaugurated for beneficial purposes.

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