

much interest in the Sunday-school work, and has been Superintendent for a long time. He is an upright, conscientious man who stands high in the estimation of the people who know him. He is invariably respected for his sterling character and correct life; he is Justice of the Peace, of Valley Township, Osborn Co., Kan.

M. O. Reitzel, our subject, was brought up on the home farm in Hendricks County, Ind., and received his early education in its district schools. He was eighteen years old when the family came to Kansas. He worked for his father until he was of age, then engaged in farming, which he carried on for six years in Marshall and Washington counties. When twenty-seven years old he began to learn the trade of a printer, and in August, 1887, bought an interest in the concern with which he is now identified.

Mr. Reitzel was married July 4, 1885, in Washington County, to Miss May Peterson, who was born May 10, 1866, in Wisconsin, and came to Kansas at the age of three years with her parents, Christopher and Cene Peterson, residents of Greenleaf Township, Washington County. Mr. Reitzel is a member of Vermilya Camp, No. 965, Modern Woodmen of America. He is also a member of the Good Templars, and is in every way a good citizen, who is highly respected by the people among whom he has made his home.



HENRY L. TOLLES has been identified with the interests of Clay County for nearly twenty years, and has marked its development from a thinly settled and almost uncultivated region to its present state of productiveness and civilization. He is a native of Barry County, Mich., his natal day being Aug. 16, 1837. His parents, Isaac and Clarissa (Pennock) Tolles, were natives of Vermont and New York respectively, and the paternal ancestry, was in all probability Danish. He was the eldest son in the parental family, and was reared on a farm, receiving all the educational advantages which could be obtained in the schools of his native county at that period. The inhabitants of the farming districts

had not the school privileges now obtainable and our subject is to a great extent self-educated, having supplemented the excellent fundamental training he received by his observation and reading.

Leaving a bride of a few months, Mr. Tolles enlisted in the Union Army on Sept. 21, 1861, becoming a member of Company C., 66th Illinois Infantry, which was part of the army of Tennessee. He participated in the battles of Ft. Donelson, Shiloh, both engagements at Corinth, Iuka, and all the contests of the Atlanta campaign, marching to the sea under Sherman's command. Bearing his part as a brave soldier should, in the numerous smaller engagements and skirmishes, in weary marches, and the monotonous duties of camp life, he continued in the service of his country until July, 1865, at which time he was honorably discharged. He had been present at the surrender of Johnston's army and also participated in the grand review at Washington, D. C.

Returning to the duties of civil life, Mr. Tolles spent a short time in his native State, and the year after receiving his discharge from the army moved to Macon County, Mo. About three years later he returned to Michigan, where he continued to reside until 1872, in the spring of which year he came to this county and homesteaded 160 acres of land lying on sections 25 and 26 Blaine Township. He immediately settled thereon and began improving and cultivating the estate, developing it from a primitive condition into one of high cultivation and productiveness. In 1884, he removed to Clay Center, where he continued to reside until the spring of 1889, when he again removed to a farm, that which he now occupies and located on section 7, comprising 103 acres, fertile and well cultivated.

At the home of the bride in Barry County, Mich., on Feb. 24, 1861, Mr. Tolles was united in marriage with Miss Emeline Piper, a native of the county in which their wedding was celebrated. Their union has resulted in the birth of three children, William H., now living at Alma, Kan.; Frank H., who resides in this township, and Leona, who is still at home.

Mr. Tolles is a Republican. He has served for four years as Trustee of Blaine Township, filling

the office with credit to himself and his constituents. For two years he acted as Constable in Clay Center. He is classed among the leading citizens of Blaine Township, where he and his family have a large circle of friends, being also well-known throughout the county. His integrity in matters of business is unquestioned, and his straightforward and honest manner in dealing with his fellow-men is well-known. Among the pioneers of the county, none are more worthy of representation in this volume than is the honored subject of this sketch.



GEORGE W. KENNEDY. Among the prominent men of Blaine Township, Clay County, may be properly mentioned Mr. Kennedy who owns and operates a well-tilled farm on section 32. He is one of the homesteaders who came to this section at an early date and who by his plodding industry has not only accumulated a competence, but has established himself in the esteem and confidence of those around him. He is in the prime of life, having been born Dec. 19, 1846, and is an Ohio man, his early tramping ground having been in Ashland County, that State.

The parents of our subject were George W. and Catherine (Glessner) Kennedy, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Germany. His paternal grandparents were natives of Ireland, whence they emigrated at an early day, settling in the Keystone State. There George W. was reared to manhood and married, removing thence to Ashland County, Ohio. In that county the mother died when her son George W. was a little lad of six years. The father was married a second time and subsequently removed to Williams County, Ohio, settling among its earliest pioneers. He improved a farm from the wilderness and died in 1879.

The subject of this sketch was the third child of his mother and remained with his father after her death until approaching man's estate. He assisted in clearing the farm from the timber and until a lad of fourteen years attended the primitive schools. As may be supposed his advantages were quite limited but he made the most of his opportunities for

reading and observation and is a man with whom an hour may always be spent in a pleasant and profitable manner. The family was more than ordinarily intelligent. One brother Arthur, is a teacher in Pittsburg, Pa. and two other brothers, Francis and Gratton, are in the drug business, the first-mentioned in Byron, Ohio, and the latter in Chicago, Ill.

After the outbreak of the Civil War Mr. Kennedy, Dec. 19, 1862, enlisted as a Union soldier in Company II, 38th Ohio Infantry, which was assigned to the Third Division, 14th Corps, Army of the Potomac under the command of Gen. Thomas. Later he was transferred to another corps and participated in the battles of Chickamauga, Mission Ridge and Jonesboro. At the latter place his regiment was nearly cut to pieces and his brother John fell fatally wounded by two rifle balls. George W. received a slight flesh wound in the right knee. Subsequently he participated in several skirmishes. Afterward he was employed as a Government muleteer in hauling provisions, and in this capacity went with Sherman's army on the march to the sea. He participated in the siege of Atlanta and still remaining with Sherman's army went up through the Carolinas to Washington and was present at the Grand Review. After a service of about two years and eight months he received his honorable discharge. He was the youngest soldier who carried a gun in his regiment.

After leaving the army young Kennedy returned to his old haunts in Williams County, Ohio, and remained there several years. Finally, in 1872, he decided to cross the Mississippi, and coming to Kansas homesteaded 160 acres of land in Sherman Township, Washington County. This land lay along Peach Creek. He took it in its primitive condition and constructed therefrom a good farm and resided upon it until 1884. That year he decided upon a change of location and took up his residence upon his present farm. This comprises 280 acres of finely-improved land which yields to the proprietor a handsome income.

In November, 1883, occurred the marriage of George W. Kennedy and Miss Melinda Wilson. This lady was born in Lexington, Ky., and came to Kansas with her parents in 1868. Of her union