

necticut respectively, who were the parents of four children of whom Mrs. Comfort was the youngest.

William Rathburn, the grandfather of Mrs. Comfort, was of English ancestry and was born at sea on the vessel in which his parents were coming to this country. Early in life he adopted a seafaring life and rose to the command of a vessel. During the Revolutionary War, in an engagement with the British, he lost his vessel, after which he settled in New York, where he owned a large tract of land.

Mr. and Mrs. Uriah Comfort are the parents of three children: Dorr, who was born February 4, 1855; Thomas M., who was born April 24, 1864; and Willis I., whose birth took place September 21, 1868



**J** B. P. DAY, one of the old pioneers of Monona County, a representative citizen of Kennebec Township, and at present a member of the mercantile firm of W. T. Day & Co., of Castana, is the second son of Franklin A. and Harriet P. Day, and was born in Hallowell, Me., May 31, 1834. He attended the district schools until he was fourteen, when he entered the Hallowell Academy for two years. At sixteen he engaged as clerk for a lumber firm for a year, and the next two years was in the grocery business with his brother, Frank, in Bath, Me. In the fall of 1853 he followed his father's family to Middlefield, Conn., where he was employed as overseer of a mill and as clerk for a mill and factory close by. In February, 1855, young Day went to Perth Amboy, N. J., where his father was then located, and in July followed the advice Horace Greeley was then giving and came West, via Hudson River, New York Central, Lake Erie & Detroit to Chicago and thence to St. Charles, Ill.

In August and September Mr. Day made a pioneer trip to Sioux City with T. Elliott and J. E. Morrison, at which time they purchased a timber claim on section 8, on the Sioux River, and returned to St. Charles. In October, F. A. Day, Frank L. Day and wife, and Preston Day, came to St. Charles, and the party drove through to Mo-

nona County that fall, going into camp on the west side of the Sioux in the "bend" just northeast of the Kennebec bridge, in the middle of December, living that severe winter in tents, and building a cabin into which they moved February, 27, 1856.

J. B. P. Day lived in the "bend" until April 22, 1864, when he moved to the hill-top on his homestead on the east half of the southeast quarter of section 24, Kennebec Township, the north forty of which is now part of the plat of Castana. Here he opened a farm and occupied the place until December, 1878, when, in company with F. A. Day and William T. Day, he purchased the stock of goods carried by Frank T. Day at old Castana and, under the name of F. A. Day & Co., did business for four years. At the end of that time F. A. Day sold out his interest to his partner, and the firm of W. T. Day & Co. was established and remained at the old location until November, 1886, when they removed to the new town of Castana.

In earlier days Mr. Day was engaged in farming, road and bridge building, and surveying in connection with a land agency. He is more intimately acquainted with the original surveys of Eastern Monona than all other parties combined, having seen nearly every section line in that part of the county. In 1867 he spent a year in Crawford County, building the first house at Charter Oak, and was the first occupant of town 84, range 41. The same season, with the help of A. R. Herrington, he built the road up the Soldier River to Dennison, having built the bridges in Monona County from Castana to and across the Middle Soldier, the year before. In 1871-72 Mr. Day worked with the Iowa Pacific Railroad in locating a line and working up right of way, and the Chicago & Northwestern has since occupied nearly the same line for their track. The Iowa Pacific was abandoned in consequence of the hard times and other roads defeating their placing of bonds for its completion. In his capacity as surveyor he has located a large share of the public roads in Eastern Monona, and has always fought hard for good thoroughfares. He has, like other mortals, his hobbies, one of which is scattering blue grass seed on the wild sod, and has advocated it so long and earnestly that he long ago earned the sobriquet of

"Blue Grass," which he formally adopted as a *nom de plume* in his many sketches furnished the press in years agone.

On the 22d of November, 1861, Mr. Day married Miss Sophia E. Thomas, the daughter of John and Eliza J. Thomas, who was born near Macon, Noxubee County, Miss., January 26, 1845, and has been a resident of Monona since 1853. They have had five children, viz.: Wilder S., born June 14, 1863, who died July 27, 1863; William T., born May 8, 1865; Annie L., born June 17, 1868, who died October 25, 1871; Ralph P., born February 18, 1871; and Elsie, October 3, 1874.



**J**AMES M. CASE. Though peacefully following the vocation of a farmer's life upon his splendid 200-acre farm on section 23, in Sioux Township, the subject of this sketch has seen the hardships and endured the trials and dangers of life on the tented field. He is a native of Greene County, Ind., born July 13, 1840, and is the son of Francis C., and Mary Ann Case. A sketch of his father who was one of the pioneers of this county and one of its most prominent citizens, may be found elsewhere in the pages of this volume. His mother was born near Lexington, Mo., June 11, 1814, and was married in Jackson County in the same State, about 1833, and is yet alive, having had a family of eight children, of whom five are living.

When James M., the third child, was about one year old, the family removed from Indiana to Illinois, and in a couple of years came to this State locating at Fort Madison, Lee County. A short time thereafter they removed to Montrose, and three years later to Keokuk. After living in the latter place about two years and in Des Moines several more, they came to Council Bluffs in 1850, and to Monona County in 1853, and located upon a farm on section 5, Franklin Township, just west of the city of Onawa. There the father died and the family was broken up. All these years James was growing to manhood and, in 1862, taking up life's burden, he went to Harrison County, where

he was engaged in farming for about a year, and then, in response to the many calls for men to suppress the rebellion, December 27, 1863, he enlisted in Company L, Fourth Iowa Cavalry and was forwarded to his regiment as a recruit, and participated in the engagements at Guntown, Lexington, Mine Creek, Selma, Tupelo, White River, Osage, Lock Creek, Okalona, St. Francis River, and Columbus, Ga. One of the best authorities in the State says "that the Fourth Cavalry was one of the bravest and most successful Iowa regiments in the field, and its services were of the utmost value to the Union arms." Mr. Case was mustered out, with the regiment, at Atlanta, Ga., August 8, 1865, and received his discharge at Davenport, August 24, 1865. At once returning to the quiet life of a farmer, he took up his home in Clay Township, Harrison County, where he remained until the fall of 1881, and then removed to a farm upon which he now resides, and which he has since occupied.

Mr. Case was married April 19, 1866, to Miss Dorinda Martin, a native of West Virginia, and daughter of Benjamin and Rebecca Martin, and by this union had a family of eleven children, as follows: Friend, William F., Ida, Herbert, Emma, Oscar, Mary, deceased, Martin M., an infant that died unnamed; Bern and Effie A.



**W**ILLIAM TOWNLY JR., an old resident of Monona County, settled in Sioux Township, on section 12, in 1870. He was born in Gloucestershire, England, February 14, 1828, and is the son of William Sr. and Esther (Dancy) Townly. His father was born in the same shire about 1789, and there, in 1814, was married. He came to the United States in 1834, and engaged in farming in New York State, where he died in 1859, his wife having died in England in 1847. They had a family of seven children: Mary Ann, deceased; John, Richard, Phoebe; Samuel, William, and Michael, deceased.

William Jr. grew to manhood in Barrington, England, and came to the United States in 1865, landing at New York City. From there he went