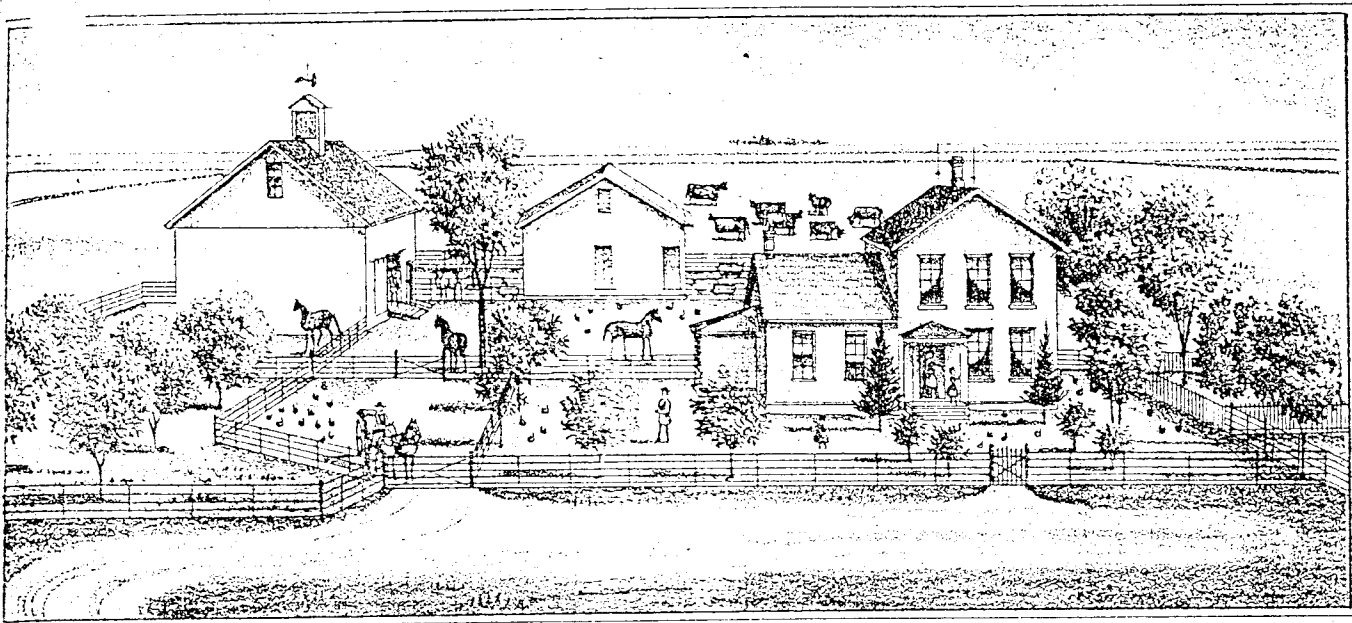
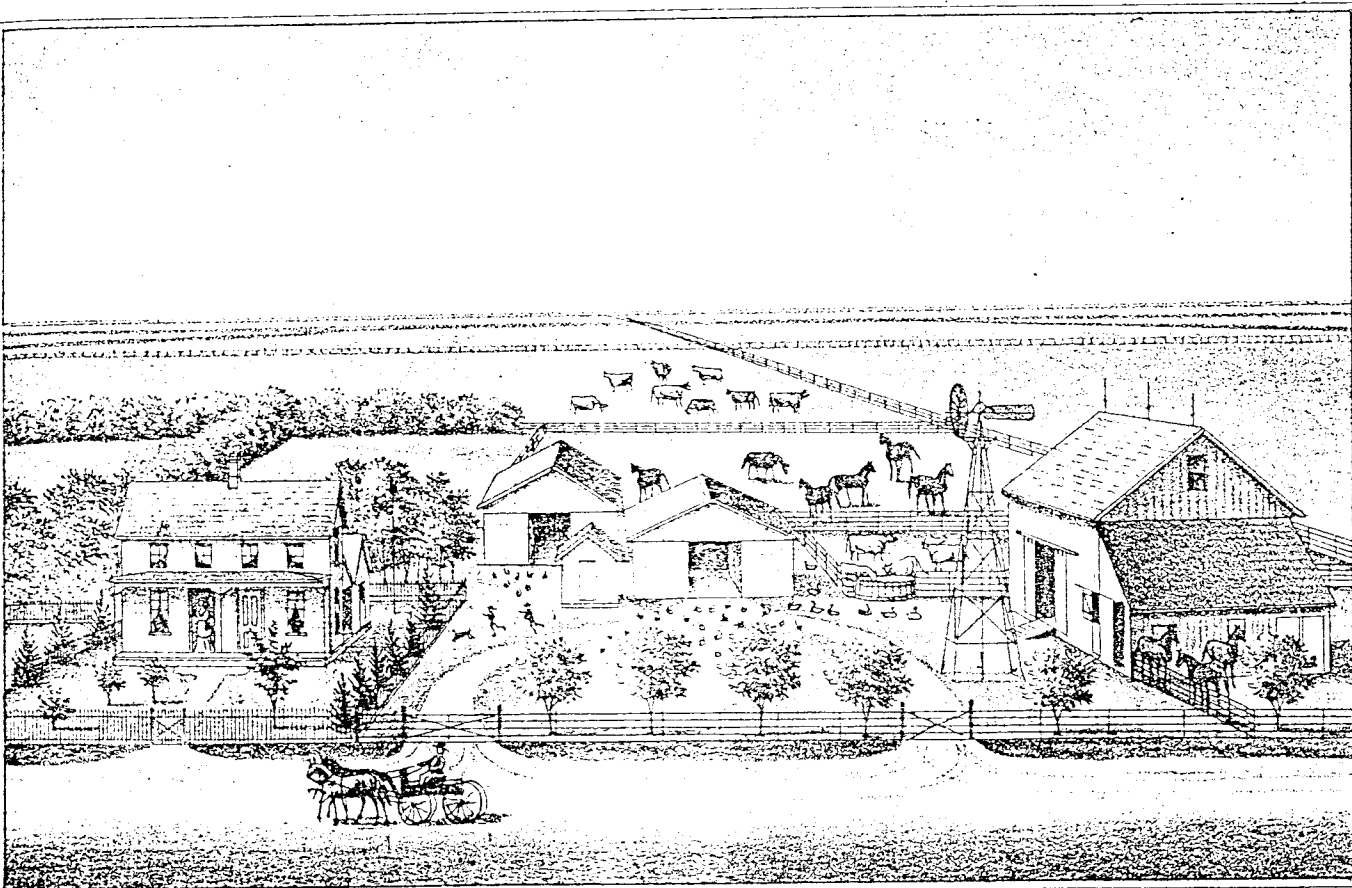


Portrait and Biographical Album of De Witt and Piatt Counties, Ill.
Chicago Chapman Bros. 1891



RESIDENCE OF JOHN L. CORNELL, SEC. 5 (T. 16) WILLOW BRANCH TP. PIATT CO. ILL.



RESIDENCE OF DAVID TRAXLER, SEC. 26 (T. 16) CERRO GORDO TP. PIATT CO. ILL.

of five children, of whom these three are living: Barney, a resident of De Witt County; Mrs. Cornell, and Nancy, wife of Patrick Donovan, of St. Louis, Mo. Mr. O'Neil's second wife, who accompanied him to Illinois, died in 1884. Mr. O'Neil was a staunch member of the Presbyterian Church.

To Mr. and Mrs. Cornell have been born four children, of whom the following is the record: Mary, born April 5, 1878; Sarah, October 24, 1879; Ora M., born September 30, 1881, died February 19, 1882; and Cornelia R., born November 2, 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Cornell are sociable, genial people and their attractive home is the center of a true hospitality which they often share with their numerous friends. They are people of high reputation, kind and considerate in their relations with others, and always sympathetic with and charitable toward the needy and unfortunate. They enjoy in a large degree the esteem and confidence of their neighbors. Mr. Cornell is an earnest adherent of the Democratic party as he strongly believes that its policy is the best for the guidance of national



DAVID TRAXLER. Among the many citizens of Piatt County who are represented in this volume, there is none more worthy of notice than the gentleman above named. He owns a large farm which has been thoroughly improved, and the possession of which proves that his financial career has been a successful one. His estate comprises three hundred and twenty acres on sections 28 and 29, Cerro Gordo Township, and is represented by a view on another page. The land is devoted to the purposes of general agriculture and the raising of thorough-bred Hereford cattle and Poland-China and Jersey-Red hogs. Mr. Traxler is one of the most intelligent and progressive farmers of the county, and in every department of his work endeavors to keep abreast of the times in the use of methods and means which will increase the value of his estate and its productions.

The late William Traxler, father of our subject, was born in Jefferson County, Ohio, and in infancy

taken to Huntingdon County, Pa., where he grew to maturity. He married Catherine Traxler, a native of Cumberland County, Pa., and to them was born a large family, of whom the following survive: David, John P., William, Samuel G., Mary C., and George S. The third son lives in Indiana but the others with the exception of our subject, reside in Defiance County, Ohio. Mary is the wife of Felix Scanlan. The father died in 1862 and the mother subsequently married Peter Stockman, who is also now deceased. The widow makes her home in Defiance County, Ohio.

The birth of David Traxler occurred in Cumberland County, Pa., January 6, 1835, and he was about four years old when his parents removed to Eastern Ohio. After a short sojourn they established their home in Marion County and still later removed to Crawford County where they remained a number of years. They took up their final residence in Defiance County and there young David completed his youth and entered upon the work of manhood. He had been educated in the common schools, those of his boyhood being conducted under the subscription plan, but the public school system having been introduced before he laid aside his books. Like most of the class to which he belongs, he has made good use of the means afforded by the press to gain a knowledge of the world's work and the history of mankind.

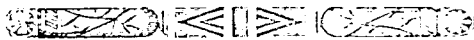
Being desirous of establishing a home and greatly admiring the character of Miss Anne Alderffer, then living in Defiance County, Ohio, Mr. Traxler won her for his wife and their marriage was consummated August 16, 1859. The bride was born in Seneca County, Ohio, her parents being Frederick and Mary Alderffer. The union resulted in the birth of eleven children, all living but two and the most of them in Piatt County. They are named respectively, Franklin E., Mary M., Frederick W., George W., Joseph M., Elizabeth, David I., Lydia H. and Samuel J. Mary is now the wife of C. A. Criss. Joseph M. is connected with the postoffice department in Chicago and Frederick also lives in that metropolis.

A second matrimonial alliance was contracted by Mr. Traxler in Moultrie County, this State, November 11, 1883, his bride being Mrs. Emily C.

Mitchell, widow of Jacob A. Mitchell, of Rockingham County, Pa. This union has been blest by the birth of two sons—Charles J. A. and Benjamin H. By her former marriage Mrs. Traxler became the mother of two children—Sally J. and Paul. She is a native of Rockingham County, Va., born October 7, 1843, to Henry and Mary Farr. Her maternal grandfather, John Emswiler, was a soldier in the War of 1812, and both her parents were natives of Virginia.

After the war Mr. Traxler removed from Ohio to Fulton County, Ind., where he resided two years and whence, in 1870, he came to Piatt County. He made his home at various points until a few years since, when he settled on the fine farm which he is now operating. His possessions are due to his own efforts and demonstrate his business ability and capacity as a financier, as well as the perseverance and energy of his habits.

Mr. Traxler always votes the Republican ticket. For a number of years he has served as School Director and is now filling his third year as Township Road Commissioner. He belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, where his social qualities and spirit of brotherly kindness give him influence. He endeavors to aid all enterprises that will elevate the status of society and advance the interests of the county, and his liberality toward every good cause has become well known in this locality. The hospitality of his home is extended in a manner becoming a gentleman of his position, and under his roof physical comfort and mental pleasure may be found.



CHARLES A. SPRATT. "Prairie Grove Stock Farm" is one of the most notable estates in De Witt County and its owner is a popular and successful farmer and stock-breeder. He raises fine horses, cattle and swine, the cattle being of the Hereford breed and the horses standard-bred. Mr. Spratt is the owner of the trotting stallions "Juror," No. 5163, and "Seth Jones," No. 14,645, both good trotters, the former having a record of 2:32. His farm consists of two

hundred and forty acres of land on section 21, Rutledge Township, all under cultivation and furnished with everything necessary and convenient in the way of farm buildings. It is further supplied with a half-mile race track that is one of the most practical and complete in this part of the State, a feature that will become popular with lovers of the sport derived from speeding horses. Besides this fine property Mr. Spratt owns eight acres of timber land in the same township.

Our subject is the eighth in the family of James and Elizabeth (Bishop) Spratt who are now enjoying a well-earned fortune in peace and quiet, having retired from their farm to Farmer City. James Spratt is one of the early settlers in Rutledge Township, to which he came from Ohio. He purchased a goodly amount of Government land and finally improved four hundred acres, which was his home until recently. He is now more than three-score and ten years old and his wife is also quite aged. They are the parents of twelve children, five sons and two daughters being alive at this writing (1890).

The subject of this notice was born on his father's homestead in De Witt County, Ill., June 15, 1856, and was educated in the public schools of Rutledge Township. He lived at home and helped to carry on the farm until he was twenty-one years of age, when he began life for himself. Taking up the work of a general farmer and stock-raiser he began the career that has proved so eminently successful and by which he has secured the fine estate that has been his home since 1883. He has added many improvements to those that had already been made, the buildings which he has erected being especially substantial, convenient and commodious.

At the bride's home in Empire Township, McLean County, August 21, 1877, Mr. Spratt was united in marriage with Miss Narcissus Britton. Mrs. Spratt was born and reared in the township in which her marriage was solemnized, her natal day being September 18, 1862. Her father, John R. Britton, was a native of Indiana, but lived in McLean County, Ill., for many years. He had a large landed estate there and also owned improved property in De Witt County. He met a sad fate, being burned to death in his own house March 1, 1884.