

ing, and is one of the successful and thrifty farmers of Dover township.

Politically, Mr. Frazee has affiliated with the republican party since casting his first vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864, with the exception of when Grant was the presidential nominee in 1868. He was elected collector of Dover township in 1896, and for several terms was a member of the school board, but has never aspired to public office. Both himself and wife are faithful members of the Baptist church at Princeton and enjoy the esteem and respect of the neighborhood where they make their home, and are valued members of the community.

SAMUEL MILES KNOX, ex-judge of the county court of Bureau county, is as widely known as any man in the county, his business interests for a period of twenty-five years bringing him in contact with thousands of people. He is a native of Juniata county, Pennsylvania, born November 11, 1826, and is the son of John and Eunice Knox, the former of whom was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and a son of Hugh Knox, a native of Scotland. The latter was also a native of Pennsylvania, daughter of Samuel Pauling, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, serving in the regiment known as "Congress Own" and commanded by Colonel Moses Hazen. He enlisted December 11, 1776, and served until 1781. Samuel Pauling's ancestors came from England to Philadelphia with the Penn colony. Both are now deceased.

The boyhood and youth of our subject were spent upon his father's farm in his native county, and his literary education was completed in Tuscarowa academy, teaching during the winter months in order to be able to attend school in the summer. Having a desire to enter the medical profession, he studied for two years, still teaching during the winter months, but on account of a lack of means to complete his course he temporarily abandoned it. Seeking employment, with a view of replenishing his purse, he was for three years engaged in different localities in selling the German history of the United States.

As a book agent he was quite successful, and as fast as he accumulated a little money he would loan it to some responsible farmer in Bureau county. When he desired to resume his medical studies he was persuaded to take payment in corn at twenty-five cents per bushel. When ready to ship his corn a difficulty arose in the way of securing cars for that purpose. Cars were very scarce, and he concluded the quickest way out of the difficulty would be to go to Chicago, purchase a couple of carloads of lumber for the Pond Creek station on the C., R. I. & P. railway, and unloading fill with grain for shipment back. This he did, and, making a fair profit on both the lumber and corn, concluded to embark in the lumber and grain business at Pond Creek.

Mr. Knox remained at that place but a short time, and then removed to Wyandot, where he continued in the same business and also in general merchandising. He also received the appointment of postmaster of the place, being the first to fill that position. In 1857 he commenced reading law with Charles Barry, having given up the notion of becoming a physician. A year or two later he sold out his business in Wyandot, and in 1861 removed to Princeton and read law with Milton T. Peters, until he was admitted to the bar in the fall of the same year. In 1861 he was elected county judge of Bureau county, and served the term of four years in a very acceptable manner. The year previous he was the democratic candidate for the legislature, but was defeated. Mr. Knox, in company with J. I. Taylor, made an extended tour in Europe, sailing in 1867 and returning in 1868.

Judge Knox continued in the practice of law until 1876, but for about four years previous gave but little attention to it, having in 1870 commenced dealing in real estate in connection with the land department of various railroads. For a time he was with the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railroad, and later with the Leavenworth, Lawrence and Galveston railroad. In 1873 he became connected with the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy and the Burlington and Missouri River land department, operating principally in

Illinois and Indiana, selling lands owned by these companies in Iowa and Nebraska. In the settlement of these respective states Judge Knox was instrumental in locating many thousand of permanent settlers. The plan pursued was by getting up excursions and showing the lands, selling them at a reasonable price on long time with low interest, and crediting the amount of the railroad fare on the purchase made. It is said that he disposed of more land in Iowa and Nebraska for these roads than other of the twenty agencies. From 1875 until 1880 the sales of his office averaged about twenty thousand acres per month, some months running up to fifty thousand acres. Some land in Iowa, which he sold from five to ten dollars per acre, is now worth from forty to sixty dollars per acre.

In 1880 Mr. Knox took the agency for the Union Pacific lands, and did much effective work for that road, his operations extending up the Platte river. His sales for this road were also quite extensive, especially during the years 1882, 1883 and 1884. The excursions under his supervision were always popular, the judge taking special pains to make every one comfortable. Familiarizing himself with the lands by personal visits to each locality, spending days in driving over them, he was always prepared to give the intended settler such advice and suggestions as were desired. No one was deceived by him and made to purchase that which did not suit his taste or not suitable for the purpose intended.

During all these years the judge had an eye to his own interests, and from time to time made investments in lands in Kansas and Nebraska, some of which have proven quite profitable. In Allen county, Kansas, he has about five thousand acres divided into farms, which he has rented. He also owns in Nebraska about fifteen thousand acres, most of which has been sold to actual settlers on long time. In 1895 he dissolved his connection with the Union Pacific, and again accepted a position with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad. The country is now pretty well settled along the lines of the road, for which he has been employed, therefore as great a

volume of business may not be transacted in the future as in the past, yet the energy and familiarity of our subject with the business will develop all there is in it to the profit of the road and the perfect satisfaction of those with whom he deals.

Judge Knox and Miss Hannah H. Weaver were united in marriage December 31, 1854, at Wyanet. She is a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Obadiah and Elizabeth (Keimbach) Weaver, who came from Allentown in that state to Bureau county with her parents in 1844. By this union five children have been born: Anson H., a farmer in Bureau county; Mary, wife of Justus M. Stevens of Princeton; Emma L., deceased; Ada L., at home, and Samuel F., an attorney of Chicago, living at Highland Park. Both daughters are well educated, having finished their course in Europe. Ada L. spending five years in Dresden and Paris.

The life of Judge Knox affords an example of what can be accomplished by one having the determination to do. Coming to Bureau county a poor medical student, without means to finish his course, he commenced work in a calling despised by some, but as honorable as any, one of which some of the greatest heroes and statesmen for a time followed, and with the means thus obtained laid the foundation for the success in life which he has attained. In social circles, as well as in business affairs, the judge stands well in the estimation of all. Fraternally he is a Mason and has taken all of the degrees including the thirty-second. In politics, he is a democrat.

HON. GEORGE F. WIGHTMAN is a well known civil engineer of Lacon, one who has a very wide circle of friends and acquaintances, and who is truly a representative citizen of Marshall county, of which he has been a resident since 1846, save for the period mentioned further along in this sketch. He was born in Ontario, Canada, near St. Catherine, February 5, 1827, and is the son of Samuel and Anna (Roy) Wightman, who emigrated from that country in 1836, when our subject was but nine years old, locating in Mercer county, Illinois. There the father secured a tract