



JAMES McFADDEN. The qualities of industry and perseverance have been most admirably illustrated in the life of the subject of this sketch, who is not only one of the earliest settlers of Jo Daviess County, but one of its most useful and public-spirited men. He is accounted one of the most prosperous farmers of Apple River Township, and, personally, is a gentleman of fine appearance—one who would be noticeable in a crowd. His countenance shows force of character, and his compact build indicates stout muscles and great energy. He began at the foot of the ladder in life, and has climbed up to a good position, socially and financially, through his own exertions. His property embraces 310 acres of valuable land, 230 lying on sections 28 and 29. Most of this when coming into his possession, was as the hand of nature had left it, but in a few years he had redeemed it from its primitive condition, and from it began to realize a handsome income. He has erected buildings, set out fruit and forest trees, and gathered about himself and his family all the conveniences and comforts of modern life.

Our subject was born on the other side of the Atlantic, in Belaly Township, County Antrim, Ireland, Jan. 10, 1826, and was the fourth child of Elias and Christiana (Russell) McFadden. The father was likewise a native of County Antrim; as was the mother also. The McFaddens originated in Scotland, and were closely allied to the nobility. The family came to the North of Ireland about the time of the reign of William III. On the mother's side Grandfather Russell was of English descent, although born in Ireland. Elias McFadden was a linen-weaver by trade, and also owned a farm, being well-to-do. He served in the Home Guards, and died, in 1846, at the age of sixty-seven years. The six children of the parental household grew to mature years. In the spring of 1848 the mother, with three sons and one daughter, emigrated to

America, and settled first in New York City. In 1858 the mother with her three sons came to this county, and she here died at the home of her son, John, in Apple River Township, in the month of December, 1880, when between eighty-three and eighty-four years old.

Our subject and his neighbor, John Hume, who is represented elsewhere in this volume, were school-boys together in their native Ireland, attending the London Hibernian Society in their home parish, which, however, provided them with but limited advantages. For six or seven years young McFadden made his home with his grandfather Russell, being his pet boy. Upon emigrating to the United States he drove a charcoal wagon in New York City for a period of nine years, and made a snug little sum of money. He was married, in New York City, Feb. 18, 1852, to Miss Catherine Alice Stephenson, who was born in St. John's, New Brunswick, and was of English descent. Her brothers were ship-carpenters there. Her mother died when she was a young girl, and she became a resident of New York City about the time the McFaddens arrived there, and the young people there formed the acquaintance and attachment which resulted in their marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. McFadden came, in October, 1859, to this county, but shortly afterward went over into Wisconsin, and our subject was employed at New Diggings about four months. His next venture was to purchase fifty acres of land, which formed the nucleus of his present property. He had had no experience in farming until after coming to Northern Illinois, but he has since been greatly in love with the pursuit, and nothing delights him better than to note the change of the seasons and the development of his crops. He has bought out two of his neighbors since coming to Apple River Township, and by his own persevering energy has wrought out for himself prosperity where many have retired discouraged with the struggle.

To Mr. and Mrs. McFadden there have been born six children, the eldest of whom, a daughter, Christiana, is now the wife of Charles Thompson, of Apple River Township, and the mother of four children, viz.: Kittie, Maggie, William, and Charles. Their second daughter, Margaret J., is the widow

of H. D. Thomas (who died in January, 1889), and is now living at home with her parents; she has two children—James and Edith. Mary E., Mrs. Samuel Charlton, is a resident of Apple River Township; William S. married Miss Sarah Jane Charlton, and is the father of one child, a son, Shelby; he lives not far from the old homestead; James T. operates the home farm, and Sarah M., since the death of her mother, has assumed the responsibilities of the household. Mrs. Catherine E. McFadden departed this life Dec. 23, 1887, at the age of sixty-six.

Mr. McFadden is justly proud of the fact that he cast his first Presidential vote for the martyred President, Abraham Lincoln, and he has since been a staunch supporter of Republican principles. He has served as School Director in his township for a period of eleven years, and was School Trustee six years. He took out his naturalization papers soon after his arrival in New York, and has become thoroughly Americanized. Although not a member of any Church organization at this time, Mr. McFadden was reared a Presbyterian, and he believes in the establishment and maintenance of Churches, and gives liberally of his means for this purpose. Such men as Mr. McFadden compose the bone and sinew of a community, keeping in good order the fabric of society, upholding law, and perpetuating the institutions which have made our land what it is to-day.



VALENTINE HELLSTERN. Among the young and enterprising business men of this county may be most properly numbered the subject of this history, whose home is pleasantly located in East Dubuque, and his business place on Sinsinawa avenue. He has been a life-long resident of this section, having been born in Galena, April 27, 1853, at a time when the present flourishing city was a village of modest pretensions. He attended its public schools, and upon reaching manhood was united in marriage with Miss Anna Erner, Oct. 11, 1877, who was born Feb. 19, 1858.

Our subject is the son of Thomas and Margaret (Schmitt) Hellstern, natives of Germany, whence