Kansas Memory

Hand-book of Marion County, Kansas

Section 2, Pages 31 - 40

The C.S. Burch handbooks, written for the immigrant and land looker, contain the 'most complete and varied information as to soil, climate, water, timber, schools, churches, highways, with reliable data regarding the advantages and drawbacks of the section treated.'

Creator: C. S. Burch Publishing Company

Date: 1888

Callnumber: CK 978.1 -M34 B89

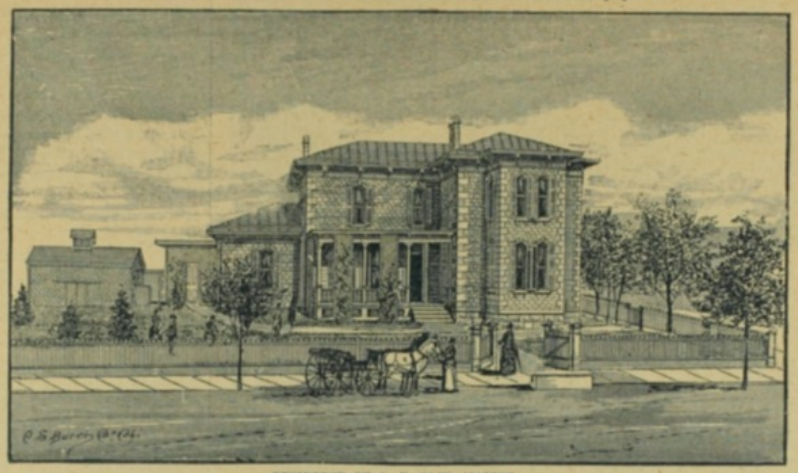
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Spence's new home and a man whose mechanical taste and skill are well displayed in local architecture, compliments Marion in warm terms.

Mr. E. R. Trenner, who is well and kindly remembered as one of the best county officials in man of wide travel and critical knowledge of books, men and events, and withal a man of pure and refined literary tastes—has recently purchased a pretty home "on the heights," and by other fortunate investments and many pleasant social inson. In the spring of 1871 a change of ownership brought also a change of name to the *Western Giant*. In the fall of '71, Chas. S. Triplet became proprietor, changing the name of the paper to the Marion County *Record*—a name as



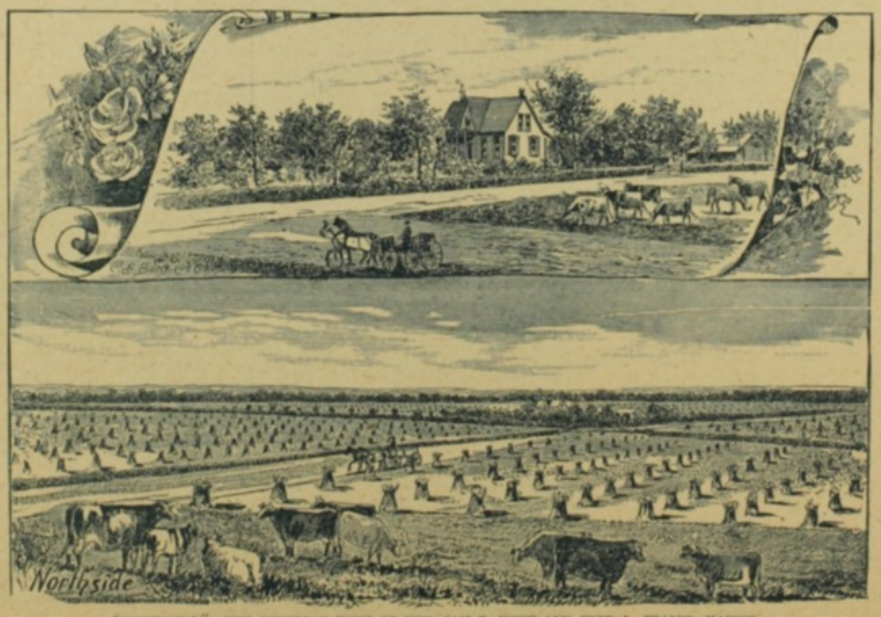
RESIDENCE OF A. E. CASE, MARION.

the old time, always and everywhere a courteous, manly gentleman, and now prominently connected with the Union Mortgage & Trust Co., is one of the strongest advocates of this city and county, in which he has planted a delightful life home.

and intellectual relations, is thoroughly identified with the town, which he greatly esteems for its scenic charms, social, religious and educational advantages and attractive surroundings.

LOCAL JOURNALISM,

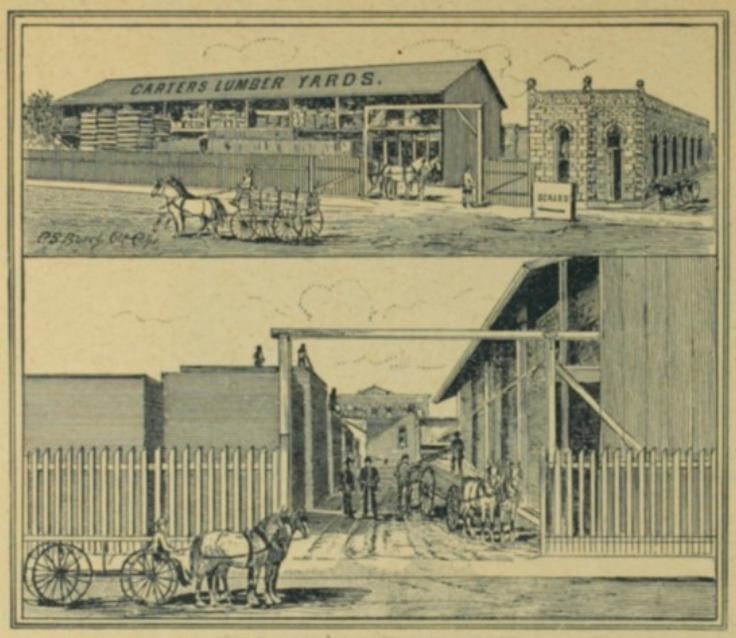
which is square up to the dignity of its material, familiar as a household word to the newspaper fraternity of Kansas, and to a large list of old readers and new, from Marion County to the remotest portion of the country. The proprietorship of the *Record* passed into the hands of Edward W. Hoch in the fall of 1874, and has



"NORTHSIDE"—THE SUBURBAN FARM OF HON. SAM T. HOWE AND FRED L. FRAZER, MARION.

Prof. W. W. Runyan, an alumnus of Middletown University—for long years a well-known and honored educator in the beautiful land of the Senecas and the lakes in New York, and a rarely gifted, cultivated and courteous gentle- social and commercial surroundings, is admirably represented by the Marion County *Record*, which is the oldest newspaper in the county, having its origin in the *Western News*, the pioneer paper, started at Marion Centre in 1869 by A. W. Rob- since been under his exclusive editorial management. Some years later his brother, Wm. F. Hoch, came into the concern as joint publisher, since which time the paper has been issued by the publishing firm of Hoch Bros. To say that

these gentlemen have made the *Record* an able, faithful, inflexible and influential exponent of Republicanism in Marion County; a strong, consistent advocate and conservator of every worthy



JOHN F. CARTER'S LUMBER YARDS, MARION.

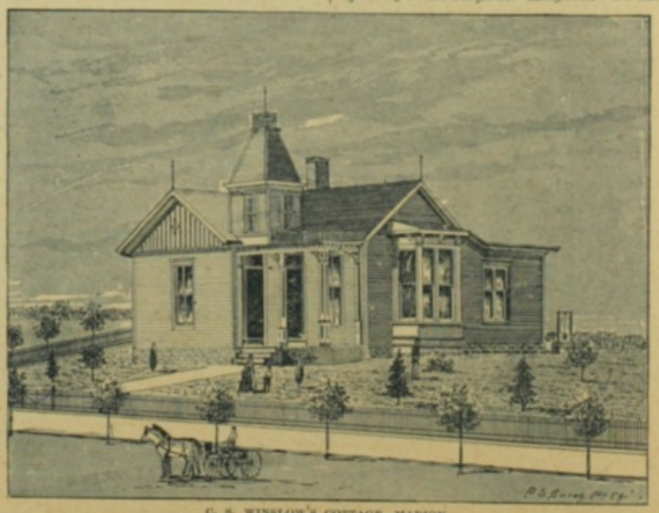
local enterprise, and a model local newspaper, bearing in every part the impress of their courage, candor, editorial ability, journalistic pride and mechanical taste, and that it is recognized as one of the foremost and best county journals in Kansas, is a compliment to their editorial and managerial gifts, which readier pens than mine have many a time recorded. The publishers are entitled to the exercise of a generous pride in the financial success of their enterprise, a fortune that falls to the lot of comparatively few country publishers. A finely stocked job office with steam power presses, under the foremanship of D. S. Lindsay, an old and accomplished printer, turns out some of the finest typographical work in the western country.

The Cottonwood Valley *Times*, founded last May by Wheeland & Billings, is a model country journal, whether considered from a typographical or editorial standpoint, and has already won a position in Kansas journalism, which many an old newspaper manager might covet. It is able, candid and eminently fair in its advocacy or criticism of men, measures and events; has few equals as a versatile and entertaining local news journal, and is a courageous, consistent and influential advocate of every noble and worthy local enterprise. Mr. W. W. Wheeland is a master printer of long experience; a capital business manager, and withal, a most entertaining gentleman. Mr. M. O. Billings is a cultivated christian gentleman, well known to the people of Marion County, by whom he is greatly esteemed for the qualities that make him a good journalist and a generous, manly public spirited citizen. The *Times* is issued from one of the finest and most complete printing offices in the country, and has a generous and growing patronage.

The completion of the new water works has been supplemented by

AN EFFICIENT FIRE DEPARTMENT,

embracing a hook and ladder company, with hose carts and other approved apparatus manned by the foremost young men of the city, and with the powerful pressure from the stand tower, the highest buildings can be flooded in a few minutes.



C. S. WINSLOW'S COTTAGE, MARION.

PUBLIC AND PERSONAL ENTERPRISE

are grandly attested in every department of city life. The founding of large machine shops, model water works, electric light and telephone plants; the building of elegant churches, a noble hotel, a model Young Men's Christian Association hall, handsome business blocks, scores of beautiful homes, and fine mills, and the improvement and embellishment of the public and private parks, such as have found a place among the illustrations of this hand-book, are "all and singular," a compliment to the public and private enterprise of a people who will never halt in the work of town building until they have here a splendid city of 10,000 souls. There are no dead-and-alive, sordid, skin-flint capitalists and money-grubs here, to feed on the misfortunes of their fellows, and to whom "3 per cent. a month" is a grander prerogative than the building of a beautiful city.

THE REPRESENTATIVE MEN,

the men of means and mental, business and professional calibre, the ranking men, are all workers for the material advancement of the city and are always ready to put their means into mortar, bricks, stone, motive power, merchandise and the manifold ways of material enterprise, and in these glorious September days of 1887

LET IT BE REMEMBERED

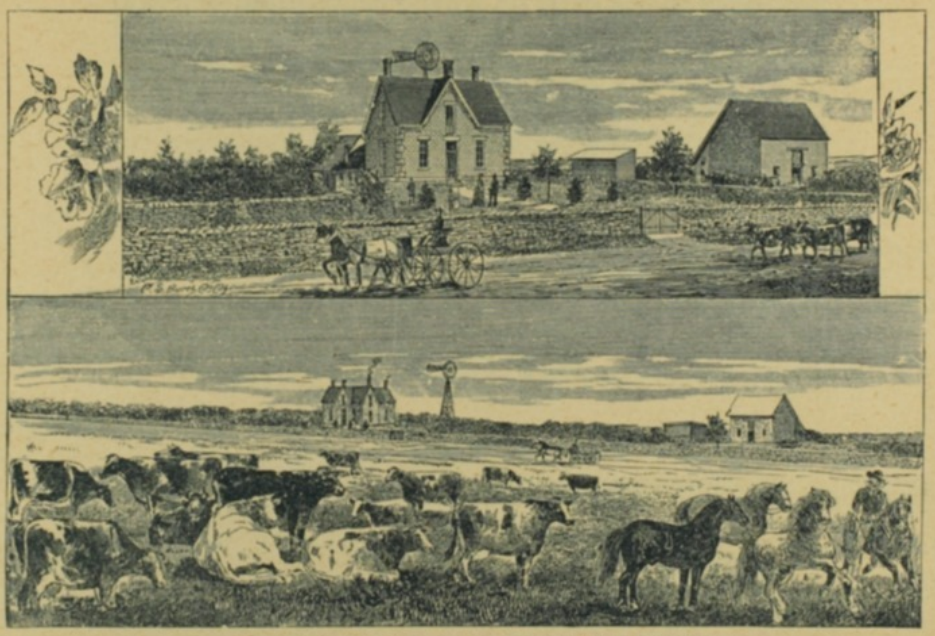
that they have fairly entered the lists with McPherson, Salina, Abilene, Concordia, Great Bend and Eldorado for the "blue ribbon." Will she "get there?" Of course she will! On location and surroundings she leads them all by a good margin. In present and incoming railways she is behind none of them. In sterling men and fair women, the forces that make and beautify cities, she is square up with any of them. All around her are leagues on leagues of radiant valley as fair as the Cashmere and fertile as the famed and fabulous Nile. The Great Architect has fashioned for her the loveliest town site between Lawrence and the foot-hills, and her strong men will prove recreant to a splendid trust if they shall fail to build here *the most beautiful city in the Sunflower Kingdom*. To the foregoing notes upon Marion I beg to add a brief chapter on the

FARMS AND HERDS

and orchards that are bearing this radiant little city on to a proud destiny. Only half a mile from the business centres of the city, "on the heights" overlooking the town, river, railways and valley is the beautiful

FAIRMONT

home, fruit and stock farm of Levi Billings, a handsome tract of 900 acres, a portion of which is now within the new addition to the city. This noble estate is improved with a large stone residence, large stone barns and a good number of convenient out-buildings; one of the largest and most fruitful orchards in the country, embracing nearly all the standard varieties of apples, pears, peaches, plums and cherries, and makes an admirable showing of grapes and the smaller fruits of the garden. The home is embowered with shade trees and the entire farm well fenced with hedge, stone wall, plank and barbed wire, and further improved with wells, wind-mills, fine



STOCK FARM OF A. JACOBITZ, FIVE MILES SOUTH-EAST OF FLORENCE.

watering places, ample sheds and stables, and convenient, well sheltered feed lots and corrals. It is watered by the Luta and embraces several good springs, some fine native and domestic groves, plenty of fine building stone and some fields of clover, timothy and alfalfa, which the owner is gradually extending over the cultivated portions of the farm. It is mainly rich, black upland prairie, and is devoted to stock raising—the present stock embracing 900 good Merino sheep, a good string of well-bred horses, and a good sized herd of high grade and thoroughbred Short-horns, and well stocked yards of well-bred pigs and poultry. Mr. Billings believes in mixed farming, and progressive farming as well, and has generally been well in the advance with all lines of farm work. He was a heavy wheat grower in the early day, but finds that corn, oats, sorghum, millet, tame grasses and live stock pay better. Mr. Billings is already well known to the reader as an early settler, banker, loan and land man, but I must beg his pardon for introducing him once again to the reader in the role of a big-hearted, genial and generous almoner of more good gifts to good public enterprises than any other man in Marion County, and none will be longer or kindlier remembered in Marion than Levi Billings, the impress of whose public spirit is upon every lineament of his favorite city. Less than a mile to the north of the business centre, in a bend of the Luta, lies the 160 acre

NORTHSIDE

farm, another beautiful suburban place worthy of something more than a passing note. It is jointly owned by Hon. Sam T. Howe, late State Treasurer of Kansas, and now President of the Kansas National Bank, at Topeka, than whom no man in Kansas has a fairer executive and financial fame, and Mr. Fred L. Frazer, the late popular Register of Deeds for Marion County. The farm, a portion of which has lately been platted as an addition to the city, is all bottom land, as rich as a Flemish garden, and is improved with a pretty Gothic cottage, a comfortable barn, a fruitful orchard, fine shade trees, and several miles of fine hedge, and is all in cultivation, and farmed on the tenant plan. It is one of the model valley farms of the county, and would make a premium farm in any of the older States. Both of the proprietors are old residents of Marion, known and honored of all good men for their sterling manhood and rare gifts of heart and brain. Just on the western border of the city, and on the banks of the Cottonwood, is the twelve-acre

PLEASANT HILL

home and fruit farm of Mr. F. V. Rouse, the local agent of the Santa Fe Railway Company. It is improved with a beautiful home, fine thrifty orchard, fruit yard and gardens, and is one of the most desirable suburban places about the city. Mr. Rouse spends his leisure hours in the improvement of this delightful place, which commands a fine view of the city and valley, and has no inclination to try his fortunes in other lands. In the near neighborhood of "Pleasant Hill," and just half a mile west of the city, on the banks of the clear, winding Cottonwood, is John S. Christie's 160-acre

SHETLAND BREEDING FARM,

a beautiful body of valley and slope land, watered by half a mile of the Cottonwood River, and embracing a fine scope of rich, bottom corn land, a good belt of native river timber, and a valuable stone quarry. This model farm is improved with a handsome stone mansion and stone horse-barn, costing about $6,000; is further improved with wells, fences, orchard and domestic groves, and is devoted to the breeding and raising of Shetland ponies, of which Mr. Christie has now on the farm a herd of twenty-three, all thoroughbred, and including two model stallions and eight handsome mares of his original importation from the Shetland Islands. This importation embraced thirty-four choice, well-bred ponies, from the best stock of the islands, from which Mr. Christie is breeding with much care a class of animals whose rare beauty of form, diminutive size, and tractable, domestic temperament make them great favorites in this country. The ponies now on the farm are all solid colors, and the surplus stock are readily sold to breeders and fanciers at very remunerative prices. Mr. Christie, whose lady and children ride and drive these beautiful and proud little roadsters at pleasure, finds their breeding and training a most agreeable change from the care and labor of banking, to which his later years have been mainly devoted. In this entertaining recreation, as in all his business

undertakings, Mr. Christie has been very successful, and may felicitate himself upon the possession of one of the finest herds of this unique and handsome race of horses to be found in the Western country.

breeding this stock to "Hoosier Frank," a standard-bred Morgan horse of elegant style and great merit. His brood mares all come from Ohio, and he has now on the ranch seven mares by Scott's "Hiatoge," a horse of enviable fame as a pro-

here, and, though a resident of Ohio, spends most of the year in this fairer land of corn and herds. Five miles southeast of Florence, on a beautiful and commanding elevation, is the 320-acre



HOME OF WM. S. MOULTON, MARION.

Nine miles northeast of Marion, on the north fork of the Cottonwood, is Stewart J. Beebe's 640-acre

BUCKEYE HORSE RANCH,

a splendid body of black, rich, bottom and valley land as fertile and productive as the Sciota Valley. About 550 acres of this farm is devoted to corn and oats, the yearly crops covering 15,000 to 25,000 bushels of corn and 2,000 to 3,000 bushels of oats, all of which are fed on the place. The yield of corn runs from forty to ninety bush-

genitor. Mr. Beebe owns the finest pair of roadsters in the county, makes a specialty of breeding fine carriage horses, is largely interested in a herd of imported Shetland ponies, now held in this neighborhood for breeding purposes, and is the fortunate owner of sixteen quarter sections of the richest farm land in the country. He holds this noble landed property as an heirloom for his children, and permits no chance for speculation to impair his tenure. No man knows the Western country better than Stewart Beebe,

HIGHLAND

farm of Mr. A. Jacobitz, formerly known as the Jones farm. It is a handsome tract of high rolling prairie, improved with a fine stone house, large stone barn, and other stone outbuildings, two miles of stone and wire fence, a thrifty young orchard, and large protecting groves on the north and west of the buildings. The stone mansion and outbuildings alone cost the former owner $4,000. About 100 acres of the farm is in cultivation to corn, oats, millet, and other feed crops,



JOHN S. CHRISTIE'S "SHETLAND STOCK FARM," MARION.

els, and the oat crop from forty to seventy bushels to the acre. Mr. Beebe annually full feeds 200 prime steers and as many pigs for the market, and usually has upon the ranch from 60 to 100 well-bred mares, fillies and colts. He is now

and no man in all the country has a higher opinion of Marion County. He is rich in lands, city properties, fine horses and ready cash, and richer still in the higher wealth of a brave, frank, generous, manly nature, has a host of strong friends

and the balance in native pasture and meadow. Mr. Jacobitz, who is one of the largest land-holders in the county, has this beautiful place managed by tenants, but is steadily pushing the work of improvement, and will make it one of the most

Kansas Memory
KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hand-book of Marion County, Kansas

valuable upland farms in the county. He owns a model 900-acre stock farm near Durham Park, and has other valuable farm lands, his present holdings in the county covering over 3,000 acres. Mr. Jacobitz closed his college life at the Northwestern University, in Illinois, a little more than four years ago, broken in health, and came to Marion without a dollar. Four years here have brought him health, fortune, an enviable business record, no end of pleasant friendships, and naturally enough, an all-absorbing love for the city and county, whose wealth of opportunity has been his good fortune. Like many another named in these pages, he is a self-respecting courteous and honorable gentleman, whose generous culture, clear brain and warm heart find in this noble Cottonwood Valley a field of social, business and material conquest equal to their best ambition.

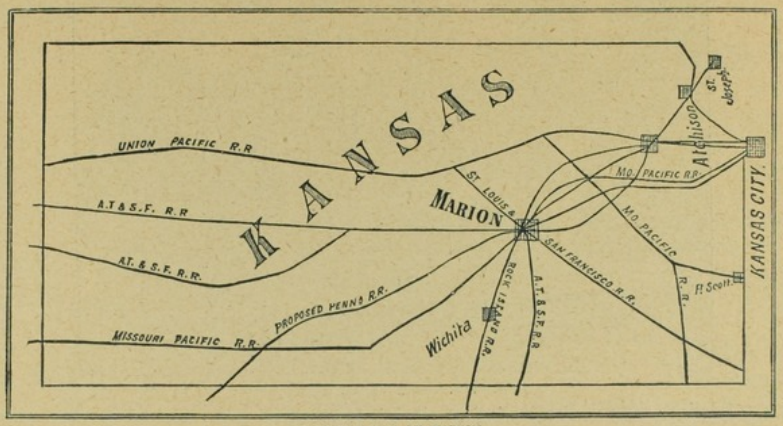
These farm notes might be indefinitely extended, and with profit to the Eastern reader, but I have already exceeded the limits of a local hand-book, and must conclude my review of Marion and Marion County with a word of

APOLOGY

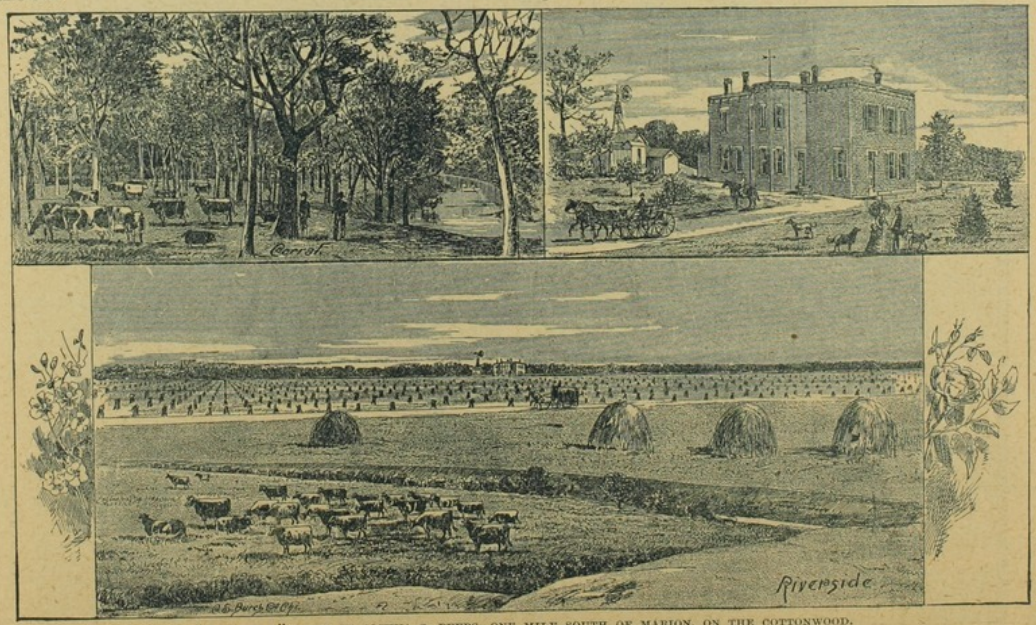
for the personal allusions frequently made in the later pages. No thought of personal compliment has suggested these notes, which were given more for the purpose of disclosing to the Eastern reader the social, intellectual, moral, commercial, agricultural and professional status of the country and people, than for fulsome praise of the men themselves. To have followed my own inclination solely, would have resulted in warmer and stronger statement of personal ability and worth, and even a higher estimate of the country. Choosing rather to give the reader a moderate statement of men and things, than to enter the tempting field of complimentary biography and description, I give to my Marion friends and the outside world this little hand-book, with confidence that its statements of fact and prediction will find ample justification to-day and in the good time coming. I owe

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

to my friend C. S. Winslow, whose public spirit and admiration for the city of his adoption first suggested this hand-book and brought the writer an invitation for its preparation; to Messrs. Alex. E. Case and Levi Billings, long-time, noble and stalwart workers for Marion, and to Mr. L. S. Glover, the courteous assistant cashier of the Cottonwood Valley Bank, and Mr. S. H. Grimes, the gentlemanly manager of Case & Billings' land and loan office; to the kind and hospitable publishers of the Marion *Record;* to Mr. F. W. Fox, the genial secretary of the Marion Building and



RAILWAY MAP OF MARION.



"RIVERSIDE" FARM OF JOSHUA S. PEERS, ONE MILE SOUTH OF MARION, ON THE COTTONWOOD.

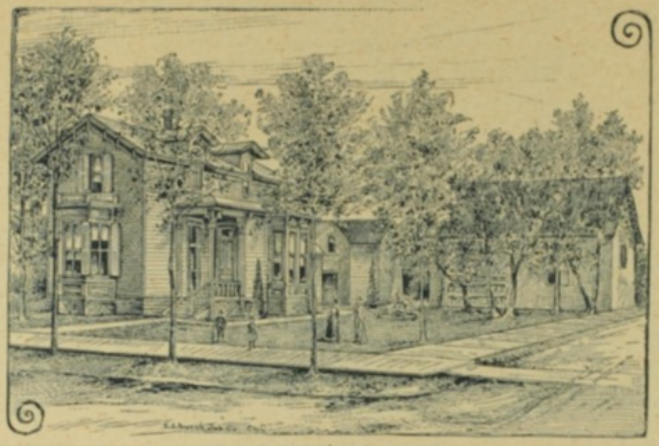
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Savings Association; to Edwin M. Donaldson, the public-spirited and sagacious cashier of the First National Bank and manager of the Union Mortgage and Trust Co.; to my congenial, courteous friends, Messrs. Jacobitz and Beebe and Judge Brockett, and to mine host of the Elgin, must be nameless here, I give thanks for courtesies worth remembering, and to "everybody and all," in my favorite city of Marion, my blessing and regretful good-bye!

Marion County has

A SPLENDID FUTURE.

are as fair as the plains of Lombardy, its valleys lovely as the fabled Eden, and the sunlight falls upon its matchless landscape as softly as on the limpid waves of Naples Bay. For the idealist it has poetry, and for the sterner materialist rich fields of conquest. It is a great destiny to live

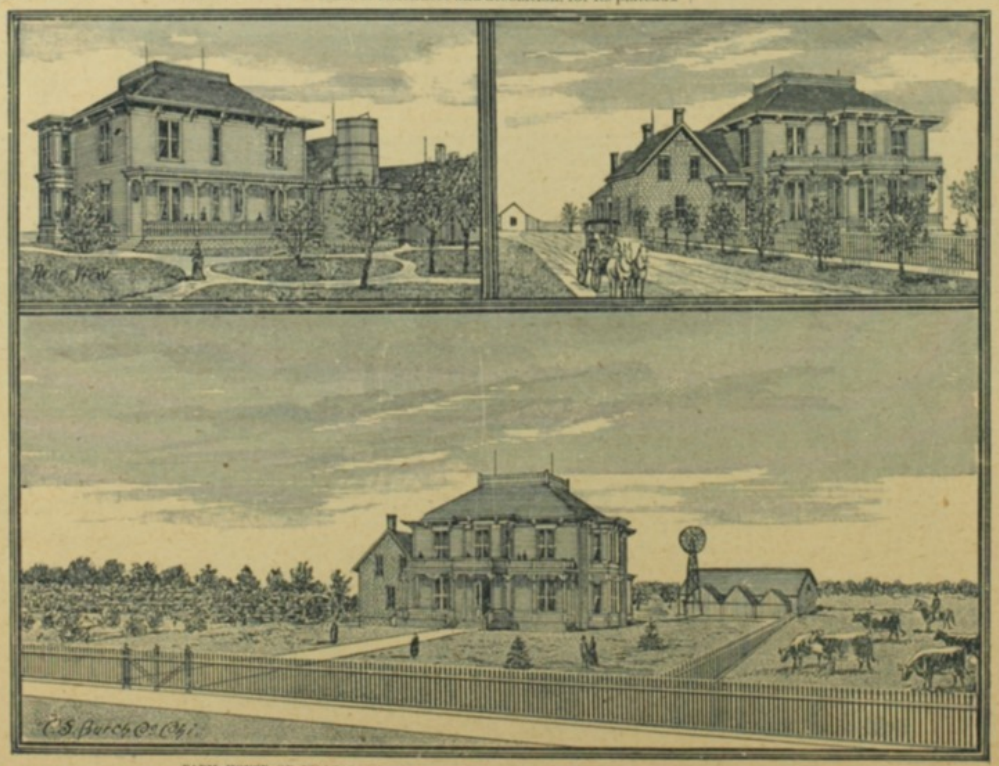


DR. E. W. WEEMS' HOME, MARION.

Mr. W. W. Case, the brave, tenacious, tireless and influential man of all work and no play, to whose splendid energy and working gifts the city of Marion is largely indebted for its new foundry, telephone exchange, water works and electric light, and to ever so many others who

Farming is done with half the labor required in the older States. The climate is delightful, the soils are inexhaustible, the grasses are unrivaled, and the waters are pure. Marion County is no dreary waste from which men may turn with a sense of loneliness and desolation, for its plateaux

in a land where Apollo might tend his flocks and Sappho turn dairy-maid, singing her sweet songs in the shadows of the blue mounds—a land where the practical and ideal go hand in hand to make the perfect human life.



FARM HOUSE OF ISAAC GOOD, SIX MILES NORTHWEST OF MARION, NEAR CANADA STATION.

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Scott County, Kansas, Hand-Book, 20 pages 30 views	15
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Gage County, Nebraska, Hand-Book, 31 pages and 8 illustrations	35
Seward County, Nebraska, Hand-Book, 32 pages and 20 illustrations	15
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Ness County, Kansas, Hand-Book, 34 pages, 74 views	20
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