

Director, and is uniformly called upon to aid his fellow-townsmen in their deliberations upon matters of general interest. Socially he is a member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging to Rantoul Lodge No. 470. He is also a K. of P. Both Mr. and Mrs. C. are worthy members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is Trustee, and to the support of which he has contributed generously and otherwise advanced its interests whenever the opportunity was presented.

The father of our subject upon locating in Vermilion County entered a tract of Government land embracing 800 acres. He labored with the true pioneer spirit, tilling the soil, building fences and putting up the structures necessary for the use of the family and the shelter of grain and stock. After a goodly record he departed this life in 1855, dying upon the homestead where he had labored with so much patience and courage, and done so much toward the development and progress of that section.



J S. WOLFE, attorney at law in Champaign, is a native of this State and was born in Morgan County, Sept. 21, 1833. His parents were George and Mary (Simms) Wolfe, natives respectively of Greenbrier County, Va., and Spartanburg, S. C. George Wolfe, in 1812, removed with his parents to Ross County, Ohio, the family locating near Chillicothe, where the father, Henry, engaged in farming until his death, in 1825. He was a man of deep piety and marked ability. He served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and late in life united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he remained a consistent member for many years. The children of the household were Elizabeth, Jacob, Henry, Catherine, Daniel, John, Mary, George and Joseph, all now deceased.

George Wolfe, the father of our subject, was reared to farming pursuits, which he followed in Ohio until 1826, in which year the entire family came to this State and were among the early pioneers of Morgan County. The father located upon a tract of Government land where he remained until 1839, when he sold out and moved into

Macoupin County, where he still pursued his former occupation until his death, which occurred in 1874. The mother also died that same year. Of their seven sons, two died in infancy. The others are as follows: James is a resident of Macoupin County, Ill.; J. S., of our sketch, was the second; Thomas lives in Barton County, Mo.; George is a resident of Gerard, this State; Peyton lives in Barton County, Mo. George Wolfe politically was a staunch Republican, a strong Prohibitionist, and especially interested in the establishment and maintenance of schools.

The subject of this biography remained on the farm until twenty-two years old, and pursued his early studies in the pioneer log school-house, which, however, was different from some others of that early period, having a long window on each side. They, however, used slabs for writing-desks and the system of teaching as well as the structure itself in which it was carried on, were widely different from those of the present day. Mr. Wolfe early in life began to lay his plans for the future. After leaving home he purchased five yoke of oxen and commenced breaking the prairie, and was occupied at this laborious work for two years, in the meantime keeping in view the intention which he had formed of commencing the study of law as soon as possible or practicable. In 1857, he went to Carlinville, entered a law office, and became a thorough student of Blackstone, and was admitted to the bar two years later.

Mr. W. commenced the practice of his profession at Carlinville, but the following year removed to Champaign, of which city he was then a resident for four years. In 1864 he took up his abode in Chicago, where he remained until 1867, and then, on account of the death of his father-in-law, William Young, returned to Champaign, where he has since lived. He has been Attorney for the Illinois Central Railroad Company, a number of years, and socially belongs to Western Star Lodge No. 240, A. F. & A. M., and Urbana Commandery No. 16, K. T.

Mr. J. S. Wolfe was married, May 15, 1862, to Miss Celestia A. Young, of Lorain County, Ohio. Their residence, to which a host of warm friends and acquaintances often resort, is pleasantly located

on Church street, and the office of Mr. Wolfe is located in the Burnham Block. Our subject is independent in politics. Mr and Mrs. W. are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which the former is Class-Leader and a member of the Official Board. He is a careful, painstaking lawyer, a man of the strictest integrity, and enjoys the confidence of his fellow-citizens.



JACOB S. COONS is a prosperous farmer and stock-grower, residing in St. Joseph Township. He is the son of William and Christina (Smith) Coons, and was born Oct. 5, 1836, in Tompkins County, N. Y., near Italy. The Coons branch of the family are of German ancestry, and were early settlers of America in the old Colonial times, wherein they took an active part in the various Indian disturbances, with which New York was for a long period troubled. His paternal grandparents, Jacob and Ellen (Hawthorne) Coons, were natives of that State, where his father, William Coons, was born in 1807, in Schoharie County.

William Coons' boyhood and youth were passed in his native State, and he was there taught the cooper's trade. His marriage to Miss Christina Smith, daughter of Jacob and Mary (Young) Smith, likewise occurred there. The Smith family were natives of Virginia, but were subsequently among the early settlers of Pennsylvania. After his marriage William Coons removed to Marion County, Ohio, and subsequently to Wyandot County. He passed the remainder of his life in that State, his death occurring in 1852; he left his widow with a family of six children, five sons and one daughter.

Jacob S. Coons passed his early life in Ohio, where he received the advantages of the common schools, and subsequently attended an excellent select school. He remained with his mother until twenty-one years of age, and then went to visit the old homestead in New York, and the relatives from whom his family had been so long separated. He spent four years there, engaged in various business enterprises, and then returned to Ohio. In the autumn of 1858 he came to Champaign County, and

was engaged for a time in farming by the month. He next rented a farm and soon acquired sufficient capital to purchase eighty acres of land. He has cultivated and improved this, and from time to time increased its limits until he now owns a fine estate containing 170 acres. He has brought his farm to a high state of cultivation. It is well fenced and tilled, and supplied with a pleasant residence and excellent farm buildings. In conducting his farm, Mr. Coons has been especially successful in raising cattle and hogs.

Mr. Coons has been twice married. His first wife was Miss Susan Cox; she became the mother of two children—Ada, the wife of George Neldon, and Arthur M. On the 7th of October, 1886, Mr. Coons was married to his present wife, Mrs. Cowell, of Vermilion County, Ill. Mr. and Mrs. Coons are both highly esteemed members of the Methodist Church, of which the former is one of the Trustees. Mr. Coons is a staunch Republican, and holds the belief that in all the affairs of life, political and social, law and order should be the regulators of the commonwealth.



THEODORE F. CRANE, during the years of his early manhood and middle age, was employed mostly in agricultural pursuits, but is now retired from active labor and spending his days in the comfort and quiet which he has so justly earned. He is one of the most valued residents of Rantoul, and a man for whom its people have the warmest and most sincere regard.

Mr. Crane was born in Peoria County, near Farmington, Ill., Dec. 9, 1836. He is the son of John M. and Louisa (Randolph) Crane, natives of New Jersey. The grandfather of our subject, Harry Crane, was of Scotch ancestry, and located in New Jersey in the Colonial days. There he married, and reared a fine family of sons and daughters who, with one exception, scattered through different parts of the East, John M. having moved to Ohio. He lived in and around the city of Cincinnati several years, where he secured quite a large amount of real estate but lost heavily on account of its subsequent depreciation. He left that locality