



THE first frame dwelling in the area now within the boundary lines of Hastings was erected by Samuel Alexander, a few rods west of his present home at the northwest corner of Lincoln avenue and Seventh street. When Mr. Alexander settled here Walter Micklem had a dugout where the Methodist church is, John G. Moore had a small shed for a home a short distance west of the A. C. Alexander property, on Second street, and Thomas Watts lived in a sod house. Samuel Alexander built his home in May, 1872. It measured 16x20 feet. This relic of the early days has been enlarged and improved and is now in the southeast part of town, between the St. Joe & Grand Island and Burlington tracks.

The Hastings Tribune is the outgrowth of the consolidation of the Weekly Gazette-Journal, The Independent, and The Tribune. The Weekly Tribune is now in its twentieth year. The Hastings Daily Tribune was established on October 2, 1905. Adam Breede has been editor and proprietor of the Hastings Tribune since November 30, 1894.

The Adams County Democrat was established on July 10, 1880, by Richard Thompson. Rainard Wahlquist and Charles B. Wahlquist bought the Democrat in March, 1888, and have continued as its publishers. The Democrat is a weekly newspaper.

The Hastings Daily Republican is the successor to the Weekly Republican, established on June 12, 1889, by C. L. and F. A. Watkins. Ed Watkins is now proprietor of the Republican and F. A. Watkins is editor. Since the campaign of 1900 the Republican has supported democratic and populist tickets.

The Hastings Journal, owned by Geo. E. Brown, is published by J. E. Nau, as lessee.

The elevation above the sea level at Hastings is 1934 feet; at Pauline, 1777; at Roseland, 1969; at Hansen, 1949; at Holstein, 2,111; at Leroy, 1,860.

The Kerr Opera House was constructed in 1884 at a cost

of \$61,000, by a company of local citizens, including Wm. Kerr, M. L. Alexander, Geo. H. Pratt, L. B. Palmer, James B. Heartwell, F. Naulteus, and others.

The bookings of the Kerr have included: Maurice Grau's Opera Company, Thomas W. Keene, W. J. Florence, Janish, Rhea, Sol Smith Russell, Maggie Mitchell, the Dalys, Clara Morris, Clara Louise Kellogg, Lillian Olcott, Lewis Morrison, Walker Whiteside, Mme. Modjeska, Sousa's band, the Royal Hawaiian band, Louis James, Chas. B. Hanford, and many others of note. Thomas Kerr, son of Wm. Kerr, the present owner of the building, is now manager.

Claudius Stock was the first child born in Hastings. He was born January 30, 1873. In celebration of the event the Hastings Town Company deeded to him lot 7, block 19, Johnson's addition. Mrs. W. Stock, the mother, was the first person to die in Hastings.

The trial of I. P. Olive and others, on the charge of murdering Luther Mitchell and Ami W. Kitchen, took place in April, 1879, and was perhaps the most important and sensational criminal court proceeding in this section of the state.

A warrant had been sworn out for the arrest of Mitchell and Kitchen on the charge of cattle stealing, and while attempting to take the men into custody, a deputy sheriff, named Olive, was killed. The supposed cattle thieves were later arrested and as they were being taken by officers from Kearney county to Custer county for preliminary examination were seized by a party of armed men, and at a point about one mile south of the South Loup river, in Custer county, were hanged and burned. Suspicion fell upon I. P. Olive, a brother of the murdered deputy, and he, with several others, were arrested and brought to Hastings for trial, Custer county being then unorganized territory.

The state appropriated \$10,000 to defray the expenses of prosecution, which was conducted by Attorney General C. J. Dillworth, John M. Thurston, of Omaha, and one or two other lawyers. The late James Laird, Beach I. Hinman, of North Platte, and General Connor, of Kearney, were retained as attorneys for the prisoners.

The trial was conducted in Liberal Hall, the building which still stands at the southeast corner of St. Joe avenue and Third street. A company of soldiers was sent here to preserve order

during the trial, and was camped on the court house square. I. P. Olive and Fred Fisher were found guilty of manslaughter, and sentenced to ten years imprisonment in the penitentiary. The case was appealed and a new trial ordered. The prisoners were released, however, without being called upon to answer in a second trial.

Hastings has a population of 12,000. There are approximately 200 retail establishments in the city, employing about 1,000 clerks, the salaries aggregating nearly \$750,000 per year.

The following summary of Hastings' commercial advantages was prepared for "The Book of Hastings" by A. T. Bratton, secretary of the Commercial club:

"Hastings, with a present population of over ten thousand people and a steady growth, and with first-class transportation facilities already established, presents an inviting field for capitalists seeking a desirable field for the establishment and development of industrial enterprises.

"It is in the heart of one of the most extensive and fertile agricultural and stock growing prairie countries on the continent and four of the great railway systems engaged in the development of the west have found it to their advantage to build lines into and through the city. It is the end of divisions of the C., B. & Q. system with its main Chicago and Denver line, its Kearney, its Aurora and its Republican Valley branches. It has one of the most important arms of the U. P. system in its St. Joe & Grand Island branch, which is a link in the main line of that company from St. Louis to the coast. It has a branch of the Missouri Pacific which, with the St. Joe and Burlington roads, gives it three competing lines to Kansas City, St. Louis and points south. It also has an arm of the Chicago & Northwestern, and these four great railway systems have in all ten arms radiating out of the city in all directions giving it ready ingress and egress from and to all parts of the surrounding country.

"Hastings has first-class water, sewer and electric light plants with their attendant conveniences for industrial use. For postoffice and federal court purposes it has a government building with grounds on which \$135,000.00 has been expended. It has a county court house with grounds on which over \$100,000.00 has been expended; a state institution with grounds on which over \$250,000 has been expended; a High school building with grounds

on which about \$100,000.00 has been expended; a college with good buildings and a cash endowment of \$100,000.00; a fine public library, large business blocks and creditable residences. Many industries have already been established and all are doing well. Four large brick plants are turning out millions of brick annually, a large roller flouring mill is in operation night and day and harness factories, cigar factories and minor enterprises are earning large dividends for their investors. But Hastings is in the midst of a large and steadily increasing population of working and business people. A large plant for the manufacture of all kinds of working people's clothing is especially in demand. A shoe factory could certainly be made a success, a packing house would be much in order and a paper mill would be in the midst of both supply and demand. Workers in iron who could combine the foundry with the machine shop and the refined lines in brass and copper would find here an unlimited field for such enterprises. A glance at the map will reveal to any inquiring mind that Hastings, by reason of her surroundings and railroad facilities is an ideal location for manufacturing, distributing and wholesaling enterprises."



Residence of Chancie Coblentz, on South Denver Avenue.

Personal Sketches of Early Settlers.

SAMUEL ALEXANDER—Born in Prospect, Pa., January 16, 1842; settled in Hastings April 22, 1872, and engaged in the general merchandise business in partnership with A. W. Wheeler; erected the first store building and the first frame residence in Hastings; he took as a homestead the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 12-7-10; was first postmaster of Hastings, and served in that position ten years; also served as city treasurer, and as mayor; was married September 22, 1870, to Harriet Phillips, Brownville, Neb.; has five children living, Agnes A. Duer, born in Lincoln, Rachel Alexander, Esther Alexander, Frances A. VanAntwerp, and Samuel Alexander, Jr., born in Hastings; is still living on his original homestead.

ROBERT A. BATTY—Born in Illinois, March 6, 1843; settled in Hastings in May, 1873, and formed a partnership with John Abbott for the practice of law, in which profession he is still engaged; was mayor in 1878; member of state legislature in 1879; member of democratic national conventions of 1884 and 1892; married October 10, 1884, to Alice Renfrew; has two children living, Alice M., and Elizabeth, both born in Hastings.

FREDERICK H. BLAKE—Born in England in 1847; settled in Hastings in 1873, engaging as a butcher with Wm. Stock, John Oliver and John Raymaker; bought N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ section 28, within four miles of Hastings for an average of \$8.00 per acre, but grasshoppers came that summer and as he could not make the second payment had to let the property go back to the former owner; traded two lots on West Second street, about where the Lepin hotel is, to George Dodd, who backed out of the bargain when he found how they were located, saying he did not want country property; remembers a stampede of a herd of buffalo south of Hastings, along the Pawnee creek in 1874, one of which was followed to Inland by Hi Farr, and there shot by Mr. Vandemark; married in 1868 to Emily Jones, in England; has nine children, Fred C., George and Ada, born in England, and Tom, Arthur, Annie, Morris, Alice and James, born in Hastings.

HARRY BROOKS BORLEY—Born in England, June 3, 1853; settled in Hastings in March, 1873; was in the employ of the

St. Joe & Denver City R. R. Co. (now St. Joe & Grand Island) until 1878, when he established a transfer line, which he now owns and operates; was councilman from the First ward from 1892 to 1896; married in December, 1884, to Henrietta S. Wallace, at Hastings; has two children, Harry Wallace Borley, and Wm. Edward Borley, both born in Hastings.

ADNA H. BOWEN—Born in Adrian, Mich., July 21, 1842, settled in Adams county March 5, 1871, and moved to Hastings in November, 1879; has been engaged in the practice of law since locating in Adams county; was partner of James Laird from 1872 to 1877; took as a homestead the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ 6-7-10; county superintendent of public instruction from December 12, 1871, to November 15, 1872; city attorney in 1894-5; county judge 1897 to 1901; married March 13, 1862, to Julia S. Babcock, at Marion, Mich.; has three children, Kate G. Boyd, Frances B. Compton and Adna H., Jr.; has continued the practice of law since locating in Adams county.

WM. BRACH—Born in Germany in 1854; settled in Hastings in 1876, engaging as clerk for Wolbach Bros., dealers in dry goods; associated with S. N. Wolbach, succeeding Wolbach Bros., in 1887; councilman in 1893-4; member of school board in 1895-6-7; married in 1883 to Charlotta J. Hartman in Grand Rapids, Mich.; has four children; Miss Luella C., Miss Ina C., J. Fred, and Waldorf H.; partner of S. N. Wolbach and active manager of Wolbach & Brach's store since 1887.

ALFRED METCALF CLARK—Born March 16, 1862; settled in Hastings March 13, 1885, has been engaged in the drug business since coming to Hastings and is proprietor of the store at 713 Second street; married September 3, 1893, to Florence E. Trout, at Arcola, Ill.; has two children living, Alfreda Florence Emma and Alfred Metcalf, Jr.

ALONZO L. CLARKE—Born in Pennsylvania in 1842; settled in Hastings November 1, 1877; engaged in the banking business with George H. Pratt, November 23, 1877, under the firm name of A. L. Clarke & Co.; business was organized as a national bank July 5, 1881; mayor of city, 1891-2; married November 28, 1878, to Miss Gertrude Ingalls, at Hastings, who died in August, 1888; is president of the First National Bank, and is interested in numerous financial enterprises; has taken an active interest in public affairs and on November 7, 1906, was elected to represent Adams county in the state senate.

W. F. J. COMLEY—Born in Pennsylvania, October 27, 1848; settled in Hastings April 23, 1873; served four years in the Hastings postoffice; entered the railway mail service July 16, 1883, in which service he is now employed; took as homestead the E½ SE¼ 8-9; married in April, 1876, to Virginia Spooner, in Hastings, Nebr.; has two children living, Eleanor May Comley and Virginia Spooner Comley.

A. H. CRAMER—Settled in Hastings, October 1, 1872; was employed by Pratt & Lawson as housekeeper and cook until April, 1873, and for the remainder of the year as salesman for A. W. Cox & Co., dealers in lumber; was elected county clerk in October, 1873, and re-elected for two successive terms in 1875 and 1877; was first clerk of the district court for Adams county, serving four years from January, 1880; member of board of supervisors in 1888-9; member of board of education, and part of the time secretary, from 1879 to 1888; was elected city treasurer in April, 1902, and is now serving his third consecutive term; in addition to attending to official positions has transacted a general real estate and loan business since 1874; was Union Pacific land agent until all the lands of that company were sold in this locality. From 1881 until 1885 was member of firm of Cramer & Bostwick, owners of Farmers & Merchants' Bank; member of firm of Cramer, Rohrer & Robinson, and Cramer & Rohrer, real estate, loans, abstracts, from January, 1887, until November, 1901. Mr. Cramer saw the surveyor commence to stake out the first plat of Hastings on October 1, 1872, the day of his arrival. In October, 1884, Mr. Cramer was married to Miss Ella Cox. They have two children, Miss Edna and Miss Mabel.

NICHOLAS F. DAMRON—Born in Missouri; settled in Hastings November 28, 1877; has been engaged in the hotel, livery and feed stable businesses; is now proprietor of a carriage repository; married in 1861 to Frances Efferson, at Caledonia, Minn.

CHARLES HENRY DIETRICH—Born in Aurora, Ill., November 26, 1853; moved to Deadwood, S. D., in the winter of 1875-6; settled in Hastings in August, 1878, and engaged in the mercantile business in partnership with John Wood, the first mayor of the city, under the firm name of Wood & Dietrich; was afterwards in business alone and later in partnership with J. B. Dallas; still later in the loan and insurance business under

the firm name of Dietrich & Slaker; organized the German National Bank in 1887, and was president of same until July, 1905, when he retired from active business; elected governor of Nebraska as a republican in 1900, after the state had been under democratic and populist control for eight years; elected United States senator March 28, 1901, to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator Hayward; resigned the governorship May 1, 1901, and served in the senate from December 2, 1901, to March 4, 1905; was several years president of the Hastings Board of Trade, and as such took an active part in inducing the building of the Northwestern and Missouri Pacific railroads into Hastings; has been a leader in movements for the benefit of Hastings; married May 4, 1878, to Elizabeth Slaker at Aurora, Ill., who died in February, 1887; has one child, Gertrude E. born in Hastings.

PIERRE CHARLES ANATOLE DOYEN—Born in Metz, France, December 13, 1843; settled in Hastings September 10, 1878, and engaged in the meat business in the firm of Raymaker & Doyen, which was later changed to Doyen & Kadolph. Mr. Doyen afterwards becoming sole proprietor; served several years as justice of the peace; married September 3, 1878, to Tiena Kadolph at Marshalltown, Ia.; has two children living, Adele and Ethel, both born in Hastings.

GRIFFITH J. EVANS—Was born in North Wales in August, 1855; settled in Hastings, November 29, 1877, and was first employed as clerk for J. S. Allison, druggist; started in the drug business for himself in July, 1881, and sold to F. A. McElhinney in 1894; was city clerk from 1882 to 1883; city treasurer in 1884 and 1885, and from April, 1892, to April, 1894, and mayor from April, 1896, to April, 1898; married June 7, 1883, to Frances V. Burns, at Caledonia, Minn.; is now manager of and has controlling interest in the Sink & Bloom Cigar Co.; has one son, Sidney Evans.

JAMES H. FLEMING—Born April 3, 1847, in LaSalle county, Ill.; settled in Hastings, January 1, 1878, and began the practice of law; city clerk in 1879-80-81; county judge from 1884 to 1890; county treasurer from 1892 to 1896; is secretary of the Central Mutual Fire Insurance Company; married July 31, 1879, to Mary E. Cowles at Otta, Ill.; has two children, William A., and Harry C.

MICHAEL A. HARTIGAN—Born July 12, 1849, at Carbon