

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Brinton, Marshall Homer Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Represented Hamilton County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 16 Sept 1856 Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

2. Marriage (s) date place

Jennie M. Scott 13 June 1888 Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business President of the State Bank of Ellsworth; president of the American Life Insurance Company of Des Moines

B. Civic responsibilities Mason; Modern Woodmen of America I.O.O.F.; Mutual Brotherhood of America

C. Profession Farmer; raised throughout Southern cattle; banker

4. Church membership Congregational

5. Sessions served 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1894, 1896

6. Public Offices

A. Local \_\_\_\_\_

B. State \_\_\_\_\_

C. National \_\_\_\_\_

7. Death 6 June 1912 Ellsworth, Iowa; buried in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

8. Children Mary Inez; Scott Marshall; Edward David; May Esther

9. Names of parents Stephen Marshall and Mary (McGrew) Brinton

10. Education He was educated in the common schools of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania until age 16

11. Degrees Graduate of Washington and Jefferson College at Washington, Pennsylvania in 1879; graduate of Duff's Commercial College in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

12. Other applicable information Republican

- His father entered land in Scott Township of Hamilton County, Iowa in 1856. His father owned large amount of property in Pennsylvania and Iowa.
- After college he operated his father's land in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania until 1884.
- In 1884 he came west, settling at Ellsworth, Iowa, farming 2500 acres.
- In 1886 he began in the stock business raising thoroughbred and graded (shorthorn) cattle.





*M. H. Brinton,*

# THE PASSING OF M. H. BRINTON

Prominent Citizen of Hamilton  
County Dies at His Home in  
Ellsworth Yesterday  
Afternoon.

## TWO TERMS IN LEGISLATURE

Victim of Bright's Disease—Will be  
Greatly Mourned by Peo-  
ple of Home Town.

M. H. Brinton died yesterday afternoon between 5 and 6 o'clock at his home in Ellsworth, Bright's disease, from which he had been a sufferer for some time, being the cause of his taking away. Mr. Brinton would have been fifty-six years of age at his next birthday, September 16, 1912.

The deceased spent last winter in California and his health was so improved that his family and friends were greatly encouraged over his physical condition. However, since his return home he has gradually declined.

In the death of Hon. M. H. Brinton Hamilton county loses one of her most prominent and best known citizens. He came to this county in 1884, settling at Ellsworth, where he has resided ever since. He owns one of the finest and largest farms near his home town in this section of country. He was also at the head of the banking institution in Ellsworth, besides being identified with other business interests there. While the death of Mr. Brinton will be widely mourned throughout Hamilton county, the citizens of his home town will feel a great personal loss in the taking away of their most prominent fellow citizen—a man who has been identified so closely with the business, social and religious interests of that community for so many years. In 1898 Mr. Brinton was elected to represent Hamilton county in the state legislature and served two terms with credit to himself and his constituency. He was president of the American Life Insurance company of Des Moines and had a large acquaintance throughout the state in political and business circles.

M. H. Brinton was born Sept. 16, 1856, in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania. He was a son of S. M. and Mary (McGrew) Brinton, both natives of Pennsylvania. His father entered land in Scott township, this county, in 1856. The father died in 1883. He was a good business man and owned a large amount of property both in Pennsylvania and Iowa. M. H. Brinton was given good educational advantages. He graduated from the Jefferson College in Pennsylvania in 1879 and completed a course in Duff's Commercial College of Pittsburg, from which he also graduated. He then began farming upon his father's land in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, and continued to operate the home place until 1884, when he came west, settling at Ellsworth. In 1886 Mr. Brinton turned his attention to the stock business and has since been extensively and successfully engaged in raising of thoroughbred and graded Short Horn cattle.

On June 13, 1888, in Elizabeth, Pa., Mr. Brinton was united in marriage with Miss Jennie Scott, born in that state on July 6, 1858. The wife and four children, two daughters and two sons, survive the husband and father.

The funeral service will be held at the home tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock, and the body taken to the old home in Pennsylvania for burial.

### Will Decorate Graves.

All branches of Odd Fellows and Rebekah lodges are requested to meet in their respective lodge rooms on Sunday afternoon, June 9, at 1 o'clock, from which places they will go in a body to Graceland cemetery, where exercises will be given and the graves of departed lodge members decorated. By request of general committee. 6d2\*

A beautiful souvenir to every lady who visits our basement tomorrow. The Big Store. d1

## WILL OBSERVE FLOWER MISSION DAY

To Distribute Flowers to Sick and Shut-in Ones—Meeting Sunday at Poor Farm.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union are preparing to observe Flower Mission Day, Sunday, June 9th. A service will be held at the county poor farm at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, after which flowers will be distributed to all the sick and shut-in ones.

Members and friends are asked to appear at the State Historical Society for securing bouquets for this occasion. Last year no less than sixty-five bouquets were used and they

# AROUND ABOUT THE COUN

Items of Interest Gleaned From  
Newspapers Published  
in the Nearby  
Towns.

## TRIBUTE TO JUDGE N

Suggestion to Make Summer  
of Wall Lake Located South  
of Jewell.

Stratford Courier: The

Molnes Drake Daily Delphic G has the following concerning Grover Cleveland Neese, just rated by democrats of Hamilton ty for members of the legislat

Mr. Neese is one of the most able and promising young in the senior class of the law c ment and his irreproachable acter has won him many among the democrats of Ha county, who are glad to be a lend their support to a man excellent reputation. "Judge been very aggressive in Drake ties, and while president Model Senate put a ban on th rupt legislation that had freq been acted before his regime. one of the brightest students class and one who is sure to his mark in the world because natural ability along political inherent modesty prevents the from talking about his own a and it is difficult to induce l leave his customary reticent to tell of his past record. In of this, however, newspaper magazines have occasionally pi ed pictures and biogra sketches of him.

Williams Wasp: David Wa four miles southwest of Alden, day sold his 160 acre farm to Laude for \$150 per acre. This has eight miles of tile and hai fine improvements. Mr. Laude make this his permanent home

Stanhope Record: The qu has been asked why Stanhope not make a practice of obs Decoration Day like a few towns do. The answer is: There are five or six cemeteri which only Des Moines people immediate vicinity are buried there has been no united action

# IGI Individual Record

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## Marshall Homer Brinton

Male

[Family](#)

### Event(s):

**Birth:** 16 SEP 1856 Moss Side, , Allegheny, Pennsylvania**Christening:****Death:** 06 JUN 1912 Ellsworth, Hamilton, Iowa**Burial:**

### Parents:

**Father:** [Stephen Marshall Brinton](#)[Family](#)**Mother:** [Mary McGrew](#)

### Marriages:

**Spouse:** [Jennie M. Scott](#)[Family](#)**Marriage:** 13 JUN 1888 Elizabeth, Allegheny, Pennsylvania

### Messages:

Record submitted by a member of the LDS Church. The record often shows the name of the individual and his or her relationship to a descendant, shown as the heir, family representative, or relative. The original records are not indexed, and you may have to look at the film frame-by-frame to find the information you want. A family group record for this couple may be in the Family Group Record Collection; Archive Section. (See the Family History Library Catalog for the film number.) These records are alphabetical by name of the father or husband.

### Source Information:

**Film Number:** [458671](#)**Page Number:****Reference number:**

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North America

**Family Group Record**[Search Results](#) | [Download](#)**Husband**Marshall Homer Brinton[Pedigree](#)**Birth:** 16 SEP 1856 Moss Side, , Allegheny, Pennsylvania**Christening:****Marriage:** 13 JUN 1888 Elizabeth, Allegheny, Pennsylvania**Death:** 06 JUN 1912 Ellsworth, Hamilton, Iowa**Burial:****Father:** Stephen Marshall Brinton[Family](#)**Mother:** Mary McGrew**Wife**Jennie M. Scott[Pedigree](#)**Birth:** 06 JUL 1859 Elizabeth, Allegheny, Pennsylvania**Christening:****Marriage:** 13 JUN 1888 Elizabeth, Allegheny, Pennsylvania**Death:****Burial:****Father:** John Scott[Family](#)**Mother:** Nancy Ann Nichols**Children**1. Unavailable[Pedigree](#)2. Unavailable[Pedigree](#)3. Unavailable[Pedigree](#)4. Unavailable[Pedigree](#)

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# BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD

AND

## PORTRAIT ALBUM

Historical Department of Iowa  
OF

### HAMILTON AND WRIGHT COUNTIES, IOWA.

3179a

CONTAINING PORTRAITS OF ALL THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES FROM WASHINGTON TO CLEVELAND, WITH ACCOMPANYING BIOGRAPHIES OF EACH; PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES OF THE GOVERNORS OF THE STATE; ENGRAVINGS OF PROMINENT CITIZENS IN HAMILTON AND WRIGHT COUNTIES, WITH PERSONAL HISTORIES OF MANY OF THE EARLY SETTLERS AND LEADING FAMILIES.

*Presented to the Historical  
Department of Iowa by  
H. K. Curran*

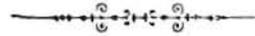
LEWIS BIOGRAPHICAL PUBLISHING CO.,

113 ADAMS STREET, CHICAGO.

1889.

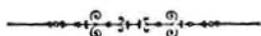
nomination he served as deacon and elder over half a century. Both died in Steuben County at the age of seventy-seven years. S. B. Rosenkrans, the subject of our sketch, spent his youth in attending school, and in assisting his father in the manufacture of wagons, and when he attained his majority was given a partnership in the business. In March, 1856, he moved to Iowa and settled in Webster City, where he engaged in the manufacture of lumber and the real estate business. The following fall he was elected clerk of the courts of Webster County, which then comprised the present limits of Hamilton and Webster counties, and served in this capacity two years. In 1859 he was elected to represent Hamilton and Story counties in the State Legislature, serving in the sessions of 1859, 1860, and the special session of 1861. At the breaking out of the Rebellion he was appointed drafting commissioner by Governor Kirkwood, holding the position during the war. He has held the positions of mayor and councilman of Webster City, and has taken an active interest in all enterprises for the advancement of the city and county. He was one of the incorporators of the Crooked Creek and Southwestern Railroad, and served as its secretary. He has for several years been engaged in the real estate business, and now devotes his time to the improvement and development of Rosenkrans Park. He has erected quite a number of the business buildings of the town and now owns several business houses and other improved property. Mr. Rosenkrans was married June 3, 1851, to Charlotte LarRowe, a native of Wheeler, Steuben County, New York, a daughter of Albutius and Jeannette (Auls) LarRowe, who were representatives of the oldest families of that county, the former a native of New Jersey and the latter of North Carolina. Mr.

and Mrs. Rosenkrans are members of the Congregational church. In politics he is now independent, but was formerly a Whig and later a Republican.

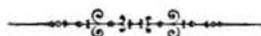


**M** H. BRINTON, proprietor of the Keystone stock farm, which is located a half mile west of Ellsworth, is one of the leading citizens of Hamilton County. He is a native of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, born September 16, 1856, a son of S. M. and Mary (McGrew) Brinton, natives of Pennsylvania, his father of Chester and his mother of Westmoreland County. His father entered land in Scott Township, Hamilton County, Iowa, in 1856, 1,800 acres of which are still in the possession of the family. Three dwellings are on the land and other valuable improvements, a large portion of the land being used for pasture and meadow land. The father died in April, 1883. He was a good business man and owned a large amount of property both in Pennsylvania and Iowa. The mother still lives in Washington County, Pennsylvania. They had a family of five children, M. H. being the youngest son. The Brinton family are the largest tax payers in Hamilton County. Their pasture land will rival the famous blue grass pastures of Kentucky. On the Keystone farm may be found some of the best short-horn and Hereford cattle in the State. M. H. Brinton was given good educational advantages, and graduated from the Jefferson College in Pennsylvania in 1879. He then remained at home and assisted his father until after the latter's death, and in 1884 came to Hamilton County and located at Ellsworth, where he has since been actively identified with its business interests. In addition to his large stock business Mr.

Brinton is one of the stockholders in the Bank of Ellsworth, which is one of the important factors of the town. He was married June 13, 1885, to Jennie M. Scott, of Elizabeth, Pennsylvania, daughter of John V. Scott. In politics Mr. Brinton is a Republican.

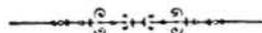


**C**HARLES H. ARTHUR, druggist, Webster City, is a native of Hamilton County, born February 12, 1865, a son of A. D. and Sarah A. (Howe) Arthur. He attended school until sixteen years of age, and then began clerking in the drug store of Miller & Packard, with whom he remained two years, and in the spring of 1883 went to Eagle Grove, Iowa, and engaged successfully in the drug business two years. In 1885 he returned to Webster City and clerked for A. H. Miller a year. In the spring of 1887 he bought the store, where he now carries a complete stock of drugs, medicines, wall paper, stationery, paints, oils and fancy goods, and has one of the finest stores of the kind in the city. He was married February 2, 1886, to Gertrude Price, a native of Canada, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Greer) Price, of Eagle Grove. In politics Mr. Arthur affiliates with the Republican party.



**M.** GREENWOOD is one of the leading citizens of Hamilton County. He is the owner of the beautiful country residence known as Cedardale, which is located a mile south of Stratford. This farm contains 120 acres, and in addition to this Mr. Greenwood owns 400 acres adjoining the village of Stratford. He is one of the most extensive dealers in Holstein-Friesian cattle

in the county, the head of his herd being Leader, bred in Holland and imported in 1885, registered No. 4076, his whole herd being among the finest of black and whites in the State. Mr. Greenwood was born in Cortland County, New York, July 20, 1839, a son of Kinney and Laura (Phillips) Greenwood, his father a native of New Hampshire, and his mother of New York. He was given good educational advantages, attending for a time Cazenovia Seminary, and after leaving school taught several terms. In 1867 he came to Hamilton County, Iowa, and located on the farm where he now lives, and has made his present beautiful home out of a tract of wild prairie land. He was married December 25, 1859, to Phoebe Hicks, daughter of Zepheniah and Mary (Sampson) Hicks, natives of New York. They have two children—Frank J. and Laura M. In politics Mr. Greenwood is a Republican and a devout prohibitionist. He is a prominent business man, and enjoys the confidence and respect of all who know him.



**J**ACKSON GROVES was one of the well known pioneers of Hamilton County. He was a native of West Virginia, born in 1818, a son of John Groves. He was reared in his native State and was there married to Caroline Hanna. In 1854 he came West and lived in Cedar County, Iowa, one year, and in 1855 came to Hamilton County, buying land in what is now Independence Township. This land he improved and afterward exchanged it for the farm on section 7, Hamilton Township, which is now the home of his family, where he lived until his death, which occurred March 9, 1881. Mr. Groves first wife died in December, 1865; he married Miss Jane Dressler, a native of Juniata

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A

BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD

OF

HAMILTON COUNTY

IOWA

ILLUSTRATED

*The people that take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote generations.—MACAULAY.*

6964a

NEW YORK AND CHICAGO:  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY  
1902.

and on the 10th of November located in the county seat, where he has since engaged in the livery business. He owns all of his livery stock and in addition has his valuable farm of a quarter section which is well improved and supplied with all modern accessories and equipments. In his present business he is receiving a good patronage, for he earnestly desires to please his customers and is straightforward in all his business undertakings.

The home of our subject and his wife has been blessed with three children: Estella, who was born in October, 1886; Hattie, born in October, 1889; and Blanche, born May 3, 1899.

Mr. Fairfield holds membership with the Court of Honor and his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is a Republican, firm and unflinching in support of the party. He has served for four years as justice of the peace, for four years as school director and then resigned both offices. He was also a township committeeman in the Republican organization for a year.

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#### HON. M. H. BRINTON.

One of the distinguished and prominent citizens of Hamilton county is the Hon. M. H. Brinton, whose landed interests are very extensive, and who, in political circles, has marked influence, his public career reflecting honor upon the party which has honored him by election to important political positions. He is well fitted for leadership in public thought and action, as patriotism is one of the salient features of his career. In business affairs he sustains an unassailable reputation for his splendid success has been won

through legitimate channels of trade. He is prompt in meeting all obligations, he never makes an engagement which he does not fulfill and moreover possesses untiring energy and keen discrimination, which enable him to so direct his labors that they will advance him far upon the road of prosperity.

Hon. M. H. Brinton was born September 16, 1856, in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania. His father, Stephen M. Brinton, was a prominent farmer of Pennsylvania and in the year 1856 he entered some of the land now owned by our subject. Pioneer conditions existed in this section of the state at the time. The country was wild and seemed upon the very border of civilization. Stephen M. Brinton was united in marriage to Miss M. McGrew, a native of Pennsylvania, and they became the parents of seven children. S. M., Jr., resides upon the old family homestead in the Keystone state, which was settled by his grandfather, John Brinton, who crossed the Alleghenies on horseback and took up his abode in this portion of Pennsylvania. William M., the second child, studied medicine in Sharpsburg, Pennsylvania, and there practiced until his death, which occurred in 1888. Mrs. Mary E. McCleary, of Washington, Pennsylvania, died in 1897. M. H., of this review, is the fourth in order of birth. Mrs. Sarah B. Clark resides in Washington, Pennsylvania. Two of the children died in infancy. The father was a Democrat in his political views but never sought office as a reward for party fealty. He died in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in April, 1883, and his wife passed away in Washington, Pennsylvania, in January, 1891.

Hon. M. H. Brinton, whose name introduces this record, acquired his preliminary education in the common schools of Alle-

gheny county, Pennsylvania, where he pursued his studies until sixteen years of age, when he entered the Washington and Jefferson College and was graduated in the class of 1879 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He afterward completed a course in Duff's Commercial College of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and there he was also graduated. He then began farming upon his father's land in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, and continued to operate the home place until 1884, when he came to the west, settling in Hamilton county, Iowa. There was plenty of good hunting and fishing here, owing to the fact that the work of cultivation and development had been carried on to only a slight extent. In 1886 he turned his attention to the stock business and has since been extensively and successfully engaged in the raising of thoroughbred and graded short-horn cattle. He now has twenty-five or thirty registered cattle and in this industry was identified with W. M. Price, under the firm name of Price & Brinton. In 1888 Mr. Price withdrew and Mr. Brinton has since been alone, his former partner entering into the hardware business in Ellsworth, Iowa. As the years have passed Mr. Brinton has made extensive investments in real estate and now has about one thousand acres of land in Hamilton county under fence. He deals extensively in property in various portions of the country, especially in Dakota and Minnesota, and is the leading stock man of Hamilton county. He is likewise interested in the American Life Insurance Company of Des Moines.

On the 13th of June, 1888, in Elizabeth, Pennsylvania, Mr. Brinton was united in marriage to Jennie Scott, who was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, July 6, 1858. She is a daughter of John V. Scott,

a native of Elizabeth. Her mother bore the maiden name of Nancy Nichols and still lives upon the old homestead in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Brinton attended the normal school at Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and then engaged in teaching school in her native county. She is a lady of culture and refinement and presides with gracious hospitality over her pleasant home. By her marriage she has become the mother of three children: Mary Inez, born May 12, 1890; Scott Marshall, born November 25, 1891; and Edward Donald, born March 24, 1894. Mr. Brinton gives his political support to the Republican party and is one of its prominent representatives in this section of the state. He was elected in 1893 to represent the sixty-third district of Iowa in the state legislature and served for two terms. To each question which came up for consideration he gave earnest thought and voted in a way which showed that he had the best interests of the community at heart. He left the impress of his individuality upon the legislation enacted during his connection with the house and was one of the active and valued working members of that body. The cause of education finds in him a warm friend and he has served as president of the school board of Ellsworth. He belongs to the Masonic Lodge of Jewell; Triple Link Lodge, No. 619, I. O. O. F., and his wife is connected with the Rebekah order of that society. Mr. Brinton is likewise a popular representative of Enterprise Camp, No. 4100, M. W. A., and of the Mutual Benefit Association of Ellsworth. He belongs to the little group of distinctively representative business men, who have been the pioneers in inaugurating and building up the chief industries of this section of the country. He had the sagacity and prescience to discern

the eminence which the future had in store for this portion of the country and acting in accordance with the dictates of his faith and judgment he has garnered, in the fullness of time, the generous harvest, which is the just recompense of indomitable industry, spotless integrity and enterprise. His business affairs have been capably controlled, have been carefully planned and his plans have been executed in a manner that has led to his substantial prosperity.

#### THORE J. HOVERSTEN.

In Clear Lake township upon a good farm resides the gentleman whose name introduces this review. A native of Norway, he was born July 20, 1852, his parents being Jacob Johaneson and Anna Jorgenson. Both were natives of Norway and there the father spent his entire life. He was a farmer and fisherman and died at the age of fifty-six years. His widow yet survives him and is still living in her native country. In their family were eight children, seven of whom reached mature years, while six are yet living. Johanes being a resident of Norway, while Jorgen is deceased, and Anna died in infancy. Another daughter, Anna, is the wife of Andrew Hill of Hamilton county. Kjestene is the wife of Magnus Monson of this county. Thore J. is the next of the family. Olva is the wife of Aanen Hellan of Norway. Edward resides in Hamilton county and married Tuba Sorenson.

When eighteen years of age Mr. Hoversten, of this review, came to America. He had previously acquired a good practical education in Norway and he followed the sea and also engaged in farming prior to his

emigration to the new world. When he came to the United States he settled in Fillmore county, Minnesota, where he lived for two years, being employed as a farm hand, the first wages which he received in America being sixteen dollars per month. Leaving Minnesota he came to Iowa, settling in Worth county in 1872, and there he lived for three years. He was employed by the year there and later he removed to Hamilton county, coming here in 1876. He made his start by working at breaking up prairie land and has broken altogether five hundred acres. He first received three dollars per acre for this work and later two and one-half dollars. Saving his money he purchased eighty acres of his present farm which was then in its primitive condition. It became his property in 1878 and since that time has made all of the improvements upon it. Ames was the nearest railroad market, and wild game, such as geese and ducks were plentiful. The country was wild and pioneer conditions everywhere existed. The settlers had a hard time for there was little money and much difficult work to be done, but as the years passed Mr. Hoversten succeeded in overcoming the difficulties and obstacles in his path and as his financial resources increased he added other land and now owns four hundred acres in this locality, while he has eight hundred and forty acres in Minnesota, all improved with the exception of a single quarter section. Upon his home farm he keeps from sixty to seventy-five head of cattle, including a registered Durham bull and most all of his cattle are of this strain. He raises corn upon one hundred acres and small grain upon another hundred and he also has extensive pastures and fields of hay.

In 1881 Mr. Hoversten was married on

HISTORY OF  
HAMILTON COUNTY  
IOWA

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ILLUSTRATED

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Volume II



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1912  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY  
CHICAGO

erecting houses of worship. He was next sent to Allamakee county, Iowa in 1887 and for eighteen years thereafter was pastor in that county. In 1905 he came to Webster City as pastor of the church of St. Thomas Aquinas. His labors here have been marked by continuous progress. He has cleared off the church debt, has built the present parish house and has made other improvements in the church property, while the congregation has advanced steadily in spiritual growth. He has the good-will and high regard of his parishioners, who often come to him for temporal as well as spiritual advice. He is chaplain of the Knights of Columbus and those who meet him find that he possesses pleasing social qualities. His wide study has made him a broad-minded man and he keeps informed on many questions that affect the general interests of society.

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#### MARSHALL HOMER BRINTON.

In all Hamilton county there was never a man more greatly loved than Marshall Homer Brinton. His memory is enshrined in the hearts of all who knew him. He was a most capable business man and won a substantial measure of success, but it was not success gained at the cost of another's failure. He ever followed constructive methods and as he builded for himself contributed also to the welfare and prosperity of the community. It was not his material advancement, however, that made Mr. Brinton so popular and so well liked. It was because he was a manly man, true to the highest principles, loyal to his friends, devoted to his family and unpretentiously but unhesitatingly faithful to his religious professions. The character which he builded is his best monument, for it left an indelible impress upon all with whom he came in contact, inspiring others to good deeds and to higher ideals.

Mr. Brinton was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, on the 16th of September, 1856, his parents being Stephen Marshall and Mary (McGrew) Brinton. His early educational opportunities were supplemented by study in the Washington and Jefferson College of Washington, Pennsylvania. He lived the life of a farmer and financier and in all of his business connections displayed notable business ability, sagacity, enterprise and determination. He became a resident of Hamilton county in 1884 and in the interval to the time of his death, which occurred on the 6th of June, 1912, he man-

aged and controlled important business activities which resulted beneficially to the district at large as well as to himself. His investments in real estate were judiciously made and he became the owner of more than a thousand acres of fine farm land in Hamilton county in addition to farming properties in North and South Dakota and Minnesota. He was also the founder and president of the Ellsworth State Bank, making this a substantial financial institution which grew along healthful lines because of the safe, conservative business policy followed. Extending his financial connections still farther, he became one of the heavy stockholders and the president of the American Life Insurance Company of Des Moines and largely guided its policy, making it one of the most reliable and trustworthy enterprises of this character in the middle west. In all of his business career there was not a single esoteric phase. He was fair and honorable and straightforward in every relation. The splendid success that came to him was the merited and well earned reward of persistent labor, of sound judgment and unflinching perseverance. Moreover, as he prospered he generously extended a helping hand to many a traveler on life's journey. A well known banker of the county said that probably no banker in all Iowa ever took more or greater chances loaning money to young men to start their business careers than Mr. Brinton, and many a business man now prosperous owes his present position in large measure to the aid which he received from Mr. Brinton at the outset of his career.

On the 13th of June, 1888, in Pennsylvania, Mr. Brinton was united in marriage to Miss Mary Jane Scott and unto them were born four children, Mary Inez, Scott Marshall, Edward Donald and May Esther. Mr. Brinton was a member of the Congregational church and for many years served as superintendent of the Sunday school at Ellsworth. He took active part in all lines of church work and contributed most generously to its support. But this was not all: this man of wealth and large business interests did not hold himself above doing the janitor work in the church when the congregation was struggling for an existence. He did not regard it as menial but rather as an honor to thus serve in promoting the cause of Christianity. He was a valued member of various fraternal organizations, having attained the thirty-second degree in Masonry, while also holding membership with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Mutual Brotherhood of America. Nor were duties of citizenship in any wise neglected. He realized the obligations as well as the privileges that de-

volved upon him as an American citizen and loyally supported the principles which he deemed of most benefit to the public, voting ever with the republican party, which in 1893 elected him to represent Hamilton county in the state legislature and indorsed his first term's service in a reelection in 1895. His political honesty equalled his business integrity, neither fear nor favor swerving him from a course which he believed to be right and just. Nor did he neglect local interests, for one of the home papers said: "All that Ellsworth is today it owes to M. H. Brinton, and every man, woman and child in that town and for many miles around loved and honored him as though he were a close relative." Young and old, rich and poor, called him Homer. This was indicative of the character of the man, his brotherly spirit, his unflinching kindness, his helpful attitude toward all and his unfeigned cordiality and geniality. No funeral service in the county was ever more largely attended and no expression of grief was more extended and heartfelt than that manifested when M. H. Brinton passed away. All who knew him feel that he has passed on to a higher life with broader opportunities, joining "the choir invisible who live again in lives made better by their presence."

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#### JAMES M. BELL.

James M. Bell is conducting an up-to-date grocery store at No. 921 Seneca street, Webster City, Iowa, and has gained during the years of his connection with this enterprise a reputation of the highest character for fair and honest dealing and true ability along this line. He was born in Webster county, Iowa, in 1855, and is a son of Alonzo and Sarah J. (Neese) Bell. His father was a native of Indiana and came to Webster county with his father, Isaac Bell, who was one of the pioneers in the early settlement of Iowa. He had two sons, Alonzo and Preston, both of whom have been prominent in various sections of Iowa from an early date. Alonzo Bell settled in Webster county in 1852 and his brother Preston was successful in Hamilton county as early as 1849. The Bell family have been prominent in business, commercial and social circles of Webster county for many years and Benjamin Bell, the great-grandfather of our subject was the first man buried in Vigers cemetery in that section. Alonzo Bell was married in Webster county and died there in 1903 at the age of sixty-nine years.