

# BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF PLATTSMOUTH PEOPLE

There are thousands of people who are just starting out in life, or perhaps desire to change their locations; some with limited means and a laudable ambition to possess a home; others with capital and a desire to "get in on the ground floor," and secure property that must of necessity in the next few years increase one hundred fold in value. The city's growth has been strong and healthful, and in nowise extraneous or transient. The people are, as a class, contented, and among the most conservative in the west.

Many of our people have not studied the art of attracting people and capital and many have gone over the country without a knowledge of the true worth and the opportunities offered for investment and manufacturing enterprises.

Every community has a few parasitical pigmies, who are taking the back track of progress and advancement, and Plattsouth is no exception to the rule, but it is a noteworthy fact that they are few and far between. There is wide room here for the industrious to gain a foothold and opportunity to achieve success. We want men of courage, energy, brains and character to come, and will welcome such with wide-open arms.

One will find well represented in Plattsouth most of the secret and benevolent organizations composed of the best citizens, business and professional men, banded together for the purpose of friendship and brotherly love.

We have the Masons, Odd Fellows, A. O. U. W., Woodmen of the World, M. W. A., Elks, Eagles, Redmen, Sons of Herman, Degree of Honor, Ladies and Knights of Security, and several other lodges. Silent in their workings, but ameliorating distress in the hour of need and working in harmony for the good of mankind and the welfare of the community. The world cannot know how much it owes to these organizations. A community in which these institutions exist and flourish their influence can always be trusted as peaceful and law-abiding. Plattsouth at the present time contains three as substantial banks as there are in the state, several real estate and loan firms, three large commodious hotels, five dry goods stores, three clothing stores, three drug stores, two jewelry stores, six grocery stores, three hardware stores, seven barber shops, two harness shops, two exclusive shoe stores, three meat markets, two tailor shops, four livery barns, one exclusive wagon and carriage manufactory, one seam laundry, two second-hand stores, five cigar factories, three blacksmith and repair shops, three racket stores, two book and stationery stores, four restaurants and lunch counters, two or three implement dealers, three dentists, two feed stores, three coal dealers, six doctors, two abstractors, ten lawyers, six saloons, two telephone exchanges—the Nebraska and Plattsouth—the latter company having their general headquarters in this city, two semi-weekly newspapers and one daily, the finest opera house in a city of its size in Nebraska or any other state, the Burlington car shops, that employ from five to six hundred men the year round, two lumber yards, gas and electric light plant, water works, three photograph galleries, the Majestic theater, pool hall, the Olson post card factory and the finest locations in the west for manufacturing enterprises of all kinds. Following will be found extensive mentions made of the most enterprising business and professional men of the city:

## Hon. R. B. Windham.

Mr. Windham was born July 25th, 1846, in St. Joseph, Mo.

At the age of 9 years he moved with his parents to Glenwood, Iowa. In 1863 he entered in the Iowa State Militia, and was in active service during the draft troubles. In 1864 he enlisted in the 46th Iowa Infantry under Col. D. B. Henderson, late speaker of the national house of the representatives. Mr. Windham served in Northern Mississippi and Western Tennessee and

was at Memphis at the time of its capture by the noted rebel cavalry.

In the spring of 1867 Mr. Windham located in Plattsouth, where he attained his majority and cast his first vote. He took a position as deputy county clerk under B. Spurlock, which he held until 1870, at which time he commenced the study of law in the office of Hon. Samuel Maxwell, late judge of the Supreme Court of Nebraska. After a year's study he matriculated in the law department of the University of Michigan, from which institution he graduated in 1873. He then returned to Plattsouth and opened a law office, where he has since continuously made his home. For 30 years Mr. Windham was in active practice of his profession, but in recent years he has devoted his attention to his real estate interests.

Mr. Windham was city attorney under five administrations; those of J. W. Johnson, J. V. Weckbach, Captain John O'Rourke and twice under that of General George S. Smith.

He made the first revision of the city ordinances. Mr. Windham is now president of the Plattsouth bar association; has been a member of the school board, and is now a member of the Park Commission.

He was a member of the 15th, 16th and 17th sessions of the Nebraska legislative and was elected to fill the unexpired term of Hon. George M. Spurlock to the 28th session and was re-elected and served in the 29th session.

In 1900 Mr. Windham was nominated and elected as a McKinley and Roosevelt presidential elector. He was one of twelve delegates from Nebraska to the National Republican League at the convention held in Cincinnati.

Mr. Windham has been a delegate from Cass County to most of the Republican State Conventions during the past 25 years. He has two times by appointment represented Nebraska in river improvement conventions at St. Louis and Washington City, and twice by appointment from the Plattsouth Board of Trade to conventions held at St. Joseph, Mo., and Sioux City, Iowa.

At the present time Mr. Windham is a member of the board of trustees of the following State institutions. The school for the Deaf and Dumb at Omaha, and the school for the Blind at Nebraska City.

Mr. Windham has been an active and progressive man all his life, and has always stood in the front rank when anything to the advantage of Nebraska or Plattsouth was under consideration.

## John Waterman.

Mr. Waterman was born in Albany County, New York, and spent his early life in that state. When 24 years old he removed to Ottawa, Illinois, and lived there five years. Shortly after that time Mr. Waterman came to Nebraska and settled in Plattsouth in 1870. During the same year he located here and went into the lumber business with his father, Mr. H. A. Waterman, and the firm was known as H. A. Waterman & Son. In 1894 the senior Waterman died, and since that time the business has been run under the name of John Waterman alone. Since the first establishment of the firm of Waterman it has always been known as a first-class concern, always progressive and up with the times.

Mr. John Waterman has always been a leading citizen and has taken his part in the upbuilding of the town. He built the first store here of any modern character, and when it burned, replaced it with the building now occupying the southwest corner of Fourth and Main streets.

Mr. Waterman handles the best grades of both hard and soft lumber. He keeps it all under sheds and consequently it is always dry and merchantable.

Mr. Waterman handles both hard and soft coal of the best quality and all fuel is from mines celebrated for their output. He carries cement,



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time and all kinds of building material which may be had at the lowest market prices.

Mr. Waterman is a good citizen and highly respected by all who know him.

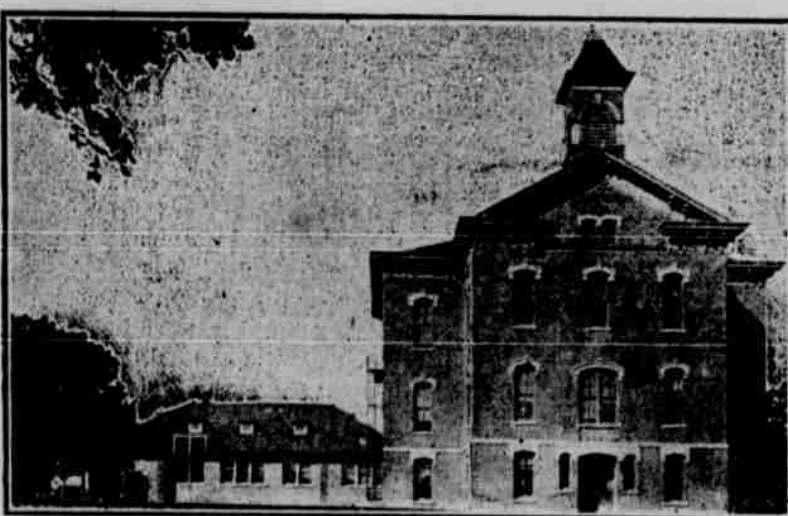
## Michael Archer.

This gentleman was born December 3rd, 1836. In 1854 his family removed to Des Moines County, Ia., about twelve miles west of Burlington. The family lived there two years.

In the fall of 1856, Judge Archer came with his parents to Nebraska, and settled in Cass County, and he has lived here ever since, except for a trip he made to Kansas in the latter part of 1869. He remained in Kansas six months and returned to Cass County early in 1870.

In 1887, on the first day of March, Judge Archer moved into Plattsouth to live. He was admitted to practice law in 1890. In 1889 Judge Archer was elected Justice of the Peace for Cass County and since that time he has been re-elected regularly as election time comes around.

During all that time with the exception of a period of two years, Judge Archer has also held the office of police magistrate of the city of Plattsouth. It is extremely likely



CENTRAL AND HIGH SCHOOL BUILDINGS

that so long as he cares to serve he will continue to be elected both Justice of the Peace and Police Judge. His administration of both offices has been all that the most critical citizen could ask and so long as this fact is true it would be poor policy on the part of the voters to call for a change.

Judge Archer has been admitted to practice in the United States Interior department, and does the principal part of the pension law practice in Plattsouth and this vicinity.

Judge Archer lost his first wife some years ago. He has eight living children all married and well to do.

The Judge has married a second time and lives a contented life.

The Judge is an estimable citizen and has the respect and good will of all classes in the community.

## Streight & Streight.

Mr. Henry J. Streight came to Nebraska in 1862, and settled in Plattsouth. His first mercantile venture was the harness business, which he ran for sometime. Afterward he had a confectionary store which he operated successfully for a number of years. He went into the hotel business in 1876 and leased the Brooks house which stood on the location now occupied by the First National bank. After selling out the hotel Mr. Streight moved to South Bend and engaged in the general merchandise business for ten years.

At the end of that time he moved back to Plattsouth and went into a canning factory with Frank Caruth. During this time he was appointed postmaster of the Plattsouth office, and occupied that important office for five years.

At the end of that time he resigned and he and John P. Sattler bought out the furniture store and ran it until August 1898, when Mr. Will J. Streight bought Sattler's interest. Since that time the firm has been known under its present name.

The firm carries a well selected line of furniture of standard manufacture and all goods sold by this firm are of the best. In connection with the business an undertaking department is conducted and every-

thing in undertaking goods are kept constantly on hand. The Messrs. Streight is a progressive firm and fully alive to the interests of Plattsouth.

## J. V. Egenberger.

This gentleman was born in Baden, Germany, in 1854. He came to this country in 1872. Shortly after landing in the United States, he determined to locate in the west and accordingly came to Nebraska.

For three years after his arrival, he worked on a farm. He then came into Plattsouth and commenced clerking for Guthmann & Weckbach, general merchandise dealers. Mr. Egenberger worked for this firm as clerk for a period of about ten years.

In 1897, Mr. Egenberger opened a business for himself, establishing at that time the business he still follows, the well and favorably known Plattsouth Coal and Wood yards.

Starting in a rather small way, the business has steadily grown until its present favorable condition.

Mr. Egenberger looks after his trade carefully and sees that everything connected with his establishment is properly conducted.

He handles the best grades of hard and soft coal and at the lowest prices possible to make for a first class quality. He also carries stove wood of all kinds, kindling, etc. He car-

ries a full line of baled hay and all kinds of feed for horses, cattle and poultry.

He is agent for the celebrated Wilbur stock food which has a famous reputation whenever used.

Mr. Egenberger bears a fine reputation as a man in all the relations of life.

He is a good husband, a kind father and a first class neighbor and citizen.

He has now a well earned position in life to which he is justly entitled.

## L. B. Egenberger.

Mr. Egenberger came to Plattsouth with his mother in 1872. He went to school for a number of years and then decided to learn a trade. He chose that of cigar-maker and went to work in the factory of Julius Pepperberg. He stayed in that factory for three years and during that time became an expert cigar-maker. He wanted to see California and he went to the coast, staying in that country for fourteen months. At the end of that time he returned to Plattsouth, when he and Mr. A. H. Weckbach bought out the grocery business of J. V. Weckbach, which they managed together for six years. At the end of that time Weckbach bought the interest of Mr. Egenberger. In 1887 Mr. Egenberger started a cigar factory and conducted it successfully until 1895 when he bought out the firm of Egenberger (a brother) & Troop.

This is the business Mr. Egenberger still owns and runs. It is a general stock of goods, comprising a full line of dry goods and groceries of the highest quality.

Mr. Egenberger has been in the same location for fourteen years, and he will continue to remain there. He is well and favorably known to the trade and his word is as good as his bond.

He has a good trade and is growing steadily from year to year. He is satisfied with a moderate profit and does not care to get rich in a year or two like some people.

Mr. Egenberger is a good citizen and always has the interest of Plattsouth at heart.

## H. M. Soennichsen.

This gentleman was born in Germany in 1866, and came to Plattsouth in 1882.

After his arrival he clerked for about four years, and then decided to go into business for himself.

He and the late A. H. Weckbach formed a partnership and for years was the most popular grocery in Plattsouth.

After the death of Mr. Weckbach Mr. Soennichsen bought his interest from the heirs and has since continued to conduct the business as sole owner.

Mr. Soennichsen is a thorough business man and everything about his store is run in a methodical manner.

Every department is kept up in stock and no line of goods are allowed to run out. It is very annoying for a customer to call for a certain article and have the clerk say "we are just out of that." No such thing occurs at Soennichsen's as he keeps his stock up in first class condition all the time and he handles nothing but a number one quality of goods which he sells at the most moderate prices. Mr. Soennichsen stands at the top of the list among the merchants of Plattsouth and every year but adds to prestige of his name.

His store is a credit to the town and the patronage bestowed on it is ample evidence of this fact.

While not a politician Mr. Soennichsen is the tax assessor of Cass County, having been forced to accept the nomination at the last election which in his case was equivalent to an election. He is administering the office to the satisfaction of everyone.

## J. W. Crabill.

This gentleman was born in Nuckolls county, Nebraska, May 23rd, 1873. He passed his early years in his native county.

In 1888, Mr. Crabill came to Plattsouth with his parents and followed different avocations and finally took up the jeweler's trade.

Mr. Crabill went into business for himself in 1897 and has grown steadily from year to year, both in influence and extent of trade.

His present location is one of the best in town and has been occupied by his store for the past ten years.

Mr. Crabill has a beautiful store. A short time since he discarded his fixtures and put in a set of modern wall cases and show cases fit for any store of similar kind in a town five times as large as Plattsouth. The show cases are mostly plate glass, and the fitting which are of quarter sawed oak, are hand polished and plain finished.

Mr. Crabill's stock is very fine and includes all kinds of jewelry, silverware, watches, diamonds, etc. There is a department devoted to artistic hand painted china of the very finest kind and it is both a pleasure and a matter of profit to look over this exceedingly handsome ware.

Orders may be made for any thing in china, to be exactly as desired by patrons and work is guaranteed to be entirely satisfactory in every respect.

## D. C. Morgan.

Mr. Morgan was born in Plattsouth, July 2nd, 1867. After attending public school for a time he went to work as a telegraph messenger boy in February, 1881. On January 16th, 1883, he took a position as telegraph operator. In September of the same year he entered Simpson College at Indianola, Iowa, but stayed at that institution but one term. In January, 1884, he entered Bellevue College and continued there until April, 1886. He worked in the summer vacation months to pay for his tuition in the college.

After quitting college in 1886 he entered the service of the B. & M. R. R. in Nebraska as telegraph operator, being employed at various points on the road. In January, 1888, he became one of the day operators in Plattsouth, and in February of the same year was called to the superintendent of motor power's office as operator where he worked through the trying time of the engineer's and firemen's strike on the Burlington,

which began February 28, 1888. A little later when the Burlington voluntary relief department was established Mr. Morgan had charge of the department of the Missouri River for the mechanical department. Still later he was given the position of locomotive performance sheet, this promotion pertaining entirely to the cost of running engines west of the Missouri River. He had charge of this very particular work at the time the road changed from what was known at the "car mile" basis to the "ton mile basis." In addition to these onerous duties he had supervision of charges for the mechanical department pertaining to operating accounts.

Quitting the service of the Burlington he entered into the clothing business in company with his brother, Mr. Frank J. Morgan, and continued in that trade until the death of his brother in October, 1904, when he sold out both the business in Plattsouth and also the one the firm had established at McCook.

Mr. Morgan took the position of deputy county clerk in January, 1906, under W. E. Rosencrans and is holding that position at the present time.

Mr. Morgan's father, Miles W. Morgan, was born in Virginia and his mother, Sarah C. Morgan, was born in Ohio.

Mr. Morgan is well known and universally esteemed in Plattsouth and Cass County and it is more than likely that evidence of his popularity will soon be made manifest by the citizens of the city and county.

## Miss Carrie Greenwald.

Miss Greenwald came to Plattsouth from Falls City, Nebraska, on March first, last, and bought the photograph gallery so long run by Mr. Soper.

Miss Greenwald is an expert artist in her profession and it certainly is an art to make a finished photograph.

There is a different at once apparent between good and poor work in this line, and an artistic product appeals to all persons who like to have the best.

Miss Greenwald has carefully studied her art for years and comes to Plattsouth determined to build up a reputation for merit which will always rebound to her credit.

She takes all sizes of pictures and all varieties usually found in a first-class gallery. Miss Greenwald retains the negatives of pictures made by Soper extending over a period of nearly eight years and persons may order pictures from them at any time.

Miss Greenwald has a pleasing personality and is sure to make many friends and patrons.

## F. M. Richey.

This gentleman was born in the state of Ohio in 1841. After spending his early youth in his native state, he removed to Plattsouth, Nebraska, in September 1882.

Shortly after his arrival here he went into the lumber business with his brother, J. G. Richey, and continued the partnership until 1891, when he bought the latter out and has continued the business ever since under the firm name of F. M. Richey. Sometime since Mr. Richey retired from any very active participation in the conduct of the business and turned it over to Mr. E. J. Richey, his son.

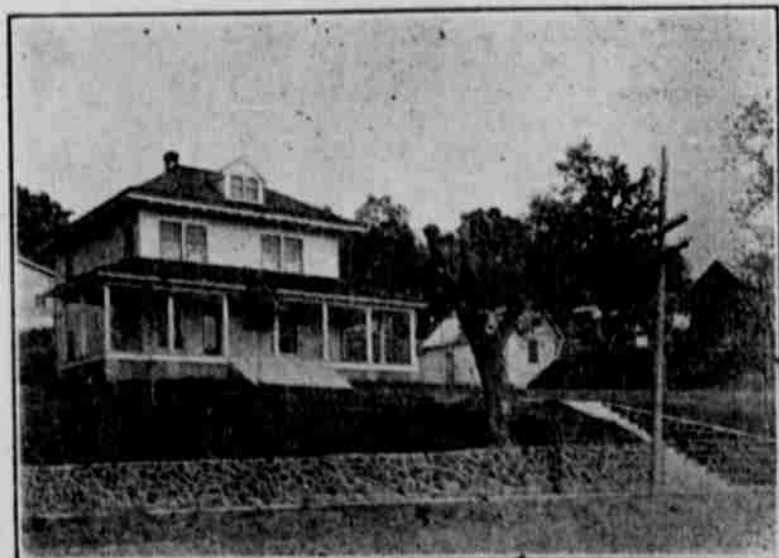
The latter gentleman is a young and active business man and fully abreast of the times.

The yard is equipped with sufficient shed space to keep all the lumber under sheds and the advantage so gained is largely beneficial to the purchasers, in the fact that he gets thoroughly dried lumber. The Richey yard handles all kinds of lumber and building material and the prices are always right as commensurate as the market will allow.

Mr. Richey owns one of the finest homes in Plattsouth and a picture of it is shown elsewhere in this issue. Mr. Richey has served as mayor of Plattsouth three times and would be accorded further political preferment if he would allow his name to be used but he does not want it.



RESIDENCE OF HON. R. B. WINDHAM



RESIDENCE OF F. M. RICHEY