## THE FRUITAGE OF TOIL

Superb Specimens Plucked from the Record of Madison County.

FROM POVERTY TO COMPARATIVE WEALTH

A Favored Region Amply Rewards the

BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES OF THE BLESSED

Thrifty and Industrious.

A Remarkable Percentage of Well-to-do Tillers of the Soil.

EARLY STRUGGLES AND LATER REWARDS

Instructive Facts Gleaned From the Experience of Nebraska Farmers-Historical and Statistical Review of a Peerless County Washed by the Eikhorn.

Madison county hes inland the fourth county from the river on the east and the third from the north line of the state. It is bounded on the east by Stanton county, on the north by Pierce, west by Antelope and Boone, and south by Platte. The Elkhorn river runs through the county from west to east, near the northern boundary, forming a valley which for fertility of soil, cannot be excelled. The higher prairie lands are of deep rich soil, weil adapted to a variety of crops and just rolling enough to make farming easy and drainage perfect. There is per-baps, no other county in the state with so large a percentage of the entire population of thrifiy, well-to-do and even wealthy farmers. The county is largely settled with Germans whose native thrift, industry and habits of economy are proverbial.

Madison county was organized January 21, Madison county was organized January 1. 1868. In that year the population was only 140: two years later, in 1870, it had increased to 1,133, and in 1875, to 3,171. In 1880 it reached 5,587, and in 1890, 13,669, a gain in ten years of 8,082. In area Madison county has 576 square miles, or 368,640 acres, of which, exclusive of town lots, 177,721 acres are improved, and 149,938 unimproved. The assessed valuation in 1891 was \$1,857,286 against \$1,252,332 in 1880. The estimated actual valuation for 1891 was \$13,211,000. The bank deposits per capita in 1891 was \$50.53, and the total bank deposits \$604,895. According to the assessors' returns there was raised in the county in 1891, acres of wheat, 11,861; corn, 84,802; oats, 28,868; barley, 982; flax, 3,103; rye, 256; millet, 3,926, and meadow,

By the same means we find that in 1891 there were in the county 26,202 cattle, 26,036 hogs, 8,340 horses, 563 mules and 541 sheep. Good unimproved farm lands can be bought for from \$12.50 to \$20 per acro. Improved farms, such as are for sale, are offered at \$15 to \$25 per acre, according to improvements and location. The best improved farms, which constitutes the majority of the cultivated lands of Madison county, cannot be bought at any price. Poor, sandy lands, of which there are but a small per cent can be bought for \$8 to \$12 per acre, and they are not unproductive by any means. There is only a small belt of sand in is only a small belt of sand in the county and there are plenty of prosperous farmers making fortunes on these same lands. Madison county is coming to the front in other lines as well as that of a farming community. She has within her borders seven important towns with an aggregate population of over 7,000. Norfolk in the northeastern portion of the county stands at the head with a population of 4,500, Madison, the county seat, in the southeastern portion, with 1,200, Battle Creek in the northern part near the center, east and west with 500. Burnett, on the west line, 500, Meadow Grove in the northeast, with 200, Newman's Grove in the southwest corner. 500, and Warnerville, a few miles south of Norfolk, with 3,000. There are in the county five flouring mills, six elevators with a storing capacity of 100,000 bushels. There are sixty-seven miles of railroad in that Norfolk has the largest beet sugar factory in this county. The asylum for the insane is also located there and the city has electric lights, street railways and water works. The north Nebraska normal school is located at Madison, which is also the county seat. Norfolk is also laying the foun-dation for a \$50,000 hotel, the citizens aiding the enterprise with a bonus of \$10,000. The

Madison county soil let the farmers speak for themselves. A Thrifty German,

August Bittner is a representative German farmer who has made himself rich by farming in Madison county. He landed in New York direct from Germany with one lonesome penny in his pocket. He worked six months to get money enough to continue his journey west, bringing up in Madison county, five miles southwest of Madison, where he selected a homestead on which he now lives. He then went to Columbus and worked a month to get the necessary \$15 homestead fee. In spite of his poverty, grasshoppers and all the other drawbacks of those gards. those early days, he prospered, and now owns 500 acres of land, well improved, all fenced into fields, and well stocked. He bought his second quarter section in 1877, for \$500 cash and another eighty in 1884 for \$650 cash and two years ago still another 160 for \$2,000 cash. It required a good many years of toil and hard-ship to reach the point where anything more than a mere living could be made, but it came at last. Mr. Bittner has a model rural home. His house cost \$3,000 and one barn 54x64 feet \$1,000, besides other houses and buildings bringing the aggregate amount spent in buildings up to \$6,000. He has a large orchard and all kinds of small fruit. He is a stockholder in one of the Madison banks and has plenty of money at interest. He raises grain and buys more and feeds stock. Every dollar he has has been made on a farm. He maintains that a poor man can come here now and make a start much easier than when he came. Besides that the future of the country is now assured while at that time no one knew whether Nebraska ould ever be a place fit for white men or

Martin Bittner.

In October, 1868, Martin Bittner, a brother of August and Gottleib, whose names appear elsewhere, secured a homestead five miles west of Madison. After locating his claim he went back to Columbus and worked three he went back to Columbus and worsed three years to get money enough to pay his fees and open up his new place. He broke his land with oxen and raised crops of grain which he was forced to divide with the peaky grasshoppers for seven successive years. It took him about twelve years to begin to make money, but he stayed with it and now has a beautiful farm of 700 acres, highly improved. In 1832 he bought a half and now has a beautiful farm of 700 acres, highly improved. In 1882 he bought a half section at \$7 per acre, and two years ago bought 220 acres more at \$15 an acre. His land is all fenced into fields and 500 of it is under cultivation. The buildings are among the best in the country, surrounded by extensive groves, orchards and other conveniences equal to eastern homes. Feeds about 100 head of cattle a year, using all the corn he can raise and buying more. Has 220 head of cattle on the place now and is feeding 100. Mr. Bittner has made this bandsome little fortune by farming only, and the farm does not tell it all—he has pienty of money loaned out.

Bought a Claim.

Joseph Webenkel is one of the smaller farmers of the county who came in a later day. In 1880 he phid \$150, all he had, for a homestead owned by another man. He then went to work choring around and husking corn in the winter to get something to live on. He broke his land and then rented ground from his neighbors on which to raise somefrom his neighbors on which to raise some-thing to eat pending the retting of his sod. The next year he had a good crop on his own land and began to live comfortably. Five years ago he reached out for another eighty at \$10 an acre. His three forty's are well improved with fine buildings, orchard, fences and groves. He has put lots of money in im-provements and owes every cent of it to his

Although he was not among the first o settle in Madison county, and yet got his land cheap, he thinks there is a better show for a poor man here now than when he came. George Bryant,

George Bryant is the owner of one of the nicest little farms in Madison county. He took a homestead six miles southwest of Madison in 1870, and worried through the grasshopper years along with his neighbors. He has since added 100 acres to it, making a half section. It is all under cultivation and well improved in every way. Mr. Bryant has a splendid house and ample barn and shed room. At first he sold some core, but of late years feeds it all and buys more. Last of late years feeds it all and buys more. Last year's corn crop was rather poor, averaging thirty-five to forty bushels per acre on his farm. Raises some wheat every year. He has met with some losses, especially hogs, of which he lost \$3,000 worth at least. As an example of the hard times the early settlers encountered and the small amount of money they were permitted to handle. Mr. Bryant states that at one time for sixteen months at a stretch he never handled one cent. He bought his flour with butter and eggs and almost went naked. He lives in better style now, and dug his prosperity all out of the

F. W. Barnes is known among his neighbors as the original proprietor of the site of the city of Madison. He pre-empted the quarter section the center of which is now about the center of the city, in the spring of 1867, never dreaming that some day a county seat town would spring up on his patch of wild land. But it did, and Mr. Barnes is now better fixed than he was then. In fact, he had nothing but his claim those days, not even neighbors. He bought lumber in Omaha at \$150 a thousand to build a shanty, and went to Columbus, forty-eight miles, for his mail. Mr. Barnes stayed in Columbus a year before coming to Madison county, and then drove cattle through for other parties. He proke his land with own other parties. He broke his land with oxen and raised crops under the well known difficuities of that period. But he saved a little money and bought more land in later years, perhaps over a thousand acres in all, selling off some and buying more, but he always stuck to his first love. He now owns only 200 acres of land and pays no attention to farming, having established the First Na-tional bank several years ago. The city of Madison has made Mr. Barnes wealthy, but it all grew out of that pre-emption claim on which he braved pioneer life and expected to farm it while he lived. From that little venture he has disposed of \$50,000 worth of lots and has some left. When Mr. Barnes began life in Madison county there was not a road or a bridge across a stream; the postoffice was forty-eight miles away, the nearest general supply place was Omaha, 120 miles, and the nearest grist mill on Logan creek, seventy-five miles distant. But the most discouraging thing was the grasshopper, which troubled more or less every year and finally rounded up with a grand three years' banquet, during which time, in 1873-3-4, they took everything.

Gottleib Bittner.

Gottleib Bittner, who is now one of the largest farmers in Madison county, lives on Union creek, a few miles west of Madison. He settled there in 1866, in company with some brothers, brothers in law and his aged mother, all taking homesteads. He had s small amount of means to start with, which was a big thing in those days, and has improved his opportunities so well that he now owns a large number of farms bought from his neighbors who were less thrifty and could give his check for \$20,000. He is could give his check for \$20,000. He is strictly a farmer, raises corn, hogs and cat-tle and hauls the manu: e on to his fields. Sawed Wood.

C. F. Haase resides on his splendid little farm of 320 acres, two and a haif miles from Norfolk near the sugar factory. His history is similar to that of many of the representa-tive farmers of Madison county. He first took a homestead and settled on it, but had absolutely nothing to live on, and in early years, 1871-2, used to walk to Norfolk with his saw and buck on his back, no matter how severe the weather, and saw wood for some of the six or eight families who lived there. The 25 or 50 cents he could make in that way was absolutely necessary to keep his family from starving. He is now worth at least \$12,000, and has made it all strictly on the farm. He has never speculated, bought and sold, or anything of the kind, and might have been worth more money if he could have been worth more money if he could have kept stock earlier in his farming history.

W. H. Lowe.

W. H. Lowe is one of the best known men in Madison county, being identified with the early settlement of the county. He home-steaded land in Cuming county in 1869, soid his claim and came to Norfolk in April, 1871. Like many others he claims he allowed good opportunities to go by and for that reason he has not prospered as he might have done. In the grasshopper years, 1874-5-6, he could nave bought quarter sections of choice lands almost anywhere from \$150 to \$200 which are now worth \$5,000. Can call to mind fifty men who were forced to remain on their claims, because nobody would buy them, and are now compasstively wealthy men, made Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley and Union Pacific roads brings the population within easy distance of Omaha and gives an so from the product of the soil. In the twenty-three years he has been here has never known of a drought sufficient to afoutlet to the products of the farm and fac-tory. As for the chances for homes and the fect crops to any extent. The grasshopper days were the times that tried men's souls success of those who are already tilling and stomachs too, but that is all past. Mr. Lowe speaks encouragingly of the beet sugar industry and says it cannot fail to become an important source of income to the farmer. True there are some discouraging features connected with the management of the business under present conditions, but a few years will suffice to place the manufactories n the hands of the people and in the meantime farmers will learn all about raising and marketing the plants. So far it is all experiment, but even the first year with us was not altogether unsatisfactory. Mr. Lowe claims that beets assaying 14 to 16 per cent of saccharine against 9 to 11 per cent in the old countries, raised on land worth \$25 or \$30 per acre against \$600 land in Germany, and yield about the same number of tons per ing business.

acre without fertilizing is bound to be a pay-An Eighty-Acre Farm. Thirteen years ago J. E. Horr bought eighty acres of land near Norfolk for \$600 and farmed it in the usual manner, raising corn, hogs and cattle and never dreamed that his little farm would ever be of value for anything but farm land. Norfolk did not begin to grow for several years after that, but now it is crowding Mr. Horr off his land. He platted one forty and sold it in acre lots at \$150 a lot, and has been offered \$200 an acre for the other forty. Mr. Horr is a well known shipper of live story and for is a well known shipper of live stock and for years paid \$80 a car to Chicago. He can flow get a car to Omaha for \$28. He tells of one of his neighbors who went to mill and had to wait three weeks for his grist, so he took his ox team and went to plowing near the mill and came home with more money in his pocket than he had ever had before. In those days men were always willing to work,

but they could not always get the chance to work for money. Started at the Bottom,

George Williams is one of the successful George Williams is one of the successful Madison county farmers, who started at the bottom and came out on top. Twenty years ago he pre-empted 160 acres and later homesteaded another quarter section. In his efforts to get a foothold he underwent the usual privations common to Nebraska pioneers. He had no money to work with but managed to exist until he raised something to live on. Went to Stoux City to mill to live on. Went to Sloux City to mill, eighty-five miles, and got his family supplies as best he could. When the grasshopper years came on, instead of selling out for what he could get as many did, he bought land as low as \$3 an acre and has since paid as hich as \$100 per acre. He now owns 800 acres all in Madison county, average \$30 to \$13 per acre. In answer to questions Mr. Williams said: "No one but those who experienced it can have an adequate idea of the difficulties under which we proneers made our start. There were no reads and no bridges across the streams and it sometimes took a month to go to town or to mill and return. A man without a dollar can come right here now and go to work as we did then and make a start quicker and easier than we did. Most of these wealthy German farmers all around us worked hard German farmers all around us worked hard and nearly starved for a dozen long years before they reached the point where fortune began to smile on them. True, they had the land but what man and family would be willing now to barely exist under inconveniences and exposures for twelve to fourteen years for 160 acres of land even at present prices, while at the time we mention land was worth a mere nominal sum and we had no assurance that it would ever we worth much more. Yes, sir, homes are easier and quicker made now under present conditions than er made now under present conditions than

Ferdinand Pasewalk is one of the wealth-iest men in Madison county and he made

It all by taking land under the pre-emption and homestead acts. He came to Hamilton county in 1867 in company with four other families from Wisconsin and established his home on a pre-emption claim near where Norfolk now stands. He also homesteaded a Norfolk now stands. He also homesteaded a quarter section, giving up for it a pony team, a wagon to fit it and \$200 in hard cash, for Mr. Pasewalk, unlike most of the early settiers, had some money—\$1,500 when he came here. He also had three teams of horses which he used in breaking his lands. When he first came Norfolk consisted of one little general merchandise store, kept by John Oiney, who for two years hauled his goods from Omaho, 125 miles away. Later on, the from Omaho, 125 miles away. Later on, the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri valley road was extended to Wisner, only twenty-eight miles distant. That was very convenient. Omaha was the nearest point where lumber or general supplies could be bought and Logan Creek, seventy-five miles away, was the nearest grist mill. The first time Mr. Pasewalk went to mill be bought his wheat at West Point and drove to Logan creek to have it ground. Of course he asked the miller when he could have it ground, for that was an important question at that time. He was told that it would be about four weeks if was told that it would be about four weeks if he waited for his regular turn, but that if ne would pay 50 cents a bushel besides the toll, he could have it next morning. Mr. P. had the money and paid it, "For," said he, "my neighbors were out of flour and I wanted to get back and loan them some. I did not sell it. Men who had money had to wait. I got along the best I could, raising corn, hogs and cattle until conveniences finally came. Then cattle until conveniences finally came. Norfolk began to grow, a thing we did not at first, nor for many years expect, until it is now quite a city, embracing within its corpo-rate lines some of my farm lands. I have 150 platted lots and forty acres not platted within the city limits, I own 160 acres in Stanton county and 110 where I live. Last year I paid \$365 taxes and have \$20,000 loaned out. Of course the growth of the city of Norfolk has made me most of my money, but

when Omaha was the nearest market.' Mr. Pasewalk is estimated to be worth from \$150,000 to \$200 000. Lost it in Business.

C. H. Snider, who lives at Tilden, was a homesteader, but afterward pre-emoted his land, borrowing the commutation fee from W. H. Lowe of Norfolk. He prospered, and four or five years ago sold his land for \$4,500 cash and went into the mercantile business and lost his money.

I took my chances with others on the farm and would be well off now if Norfolk had never existed, as I made money farming even

Made it all Farming.

William Dommer lives near Mr. Haas and with am Dommer Ives near Mr. Haas and his history as a farmer is similar. He was obliged to "chore around" for a little money with which to buy bread for his family. But he stuck to it until he could raise something to eat, and continued to farm, and nothing else, until now he owns 330 acres of first class land, well improved, and is worth easy \$15,000.

James L. Grant.

James L. Grant owns one of the finest farms in Madison county, nineteen miles northwest of Madison. In November, 1871, he secured a homestead and timber claim, and still owns both, with another half sec-tion added, making a section in all. Mr. Grant says: "I have the entire section im-400 acres under plow and the pasture. The homestead quarter has two sets of buildings, bearing orchard and walnut trees. Twenty acres of the timber claim is considered the finest grove in northern Nebraska, and I have water works on that quarter that cost me \$1,000.
"We had pretty tough times for the first

few years, but have come out all right. I was eaten out by grasshoppers two seasons. but in the twenty years I have been here I have made \$20,000 worth of property, or an average of \$1,000 a year. Corn with us averages about 45 bushels and oats 40, though plenty of it goes 60 or 70 bushels per acre. I think that a man can begin at the bottom here now a great deal easier than came, because he can always get something to do and get money for doing it I have never complained, never been a cal-amity howler, and I believe the people of this section of the country have made more money than any eastern men in the same length of

Had No Team.

L. Bryant is one of the oldest sottlers of Madison county, taking a homestead three and a half miles east of Madison, in 1869. In relating his experience he said: "I had no team, nothing but my two hands and a small kit of carpenter tools. I worked at carpentering to get money to buy an ox team to and paid \$5 a day for a team to haul the lumber from Columbus, where I paid an enor-mous price for it. I paid \$5 an acre for the first five acres of breaking, so as to have a We got our sup lies, groceries and provis-ions from Columbus, and I paid 30 cents a pound for bacon. I worked along for thir-teen years before I began to make anything ahead, and then bought another quarter sec-tion joining me. I still own it all and have it well improved; good house, big barn, groves and 100 apple trees. I have besides a nice home in Madison and now rent my land for grain rent. Year before last my share brought \$800 and I still have last year's crop

Reads Like Romance. In the fall of 1865 Herman Braasch and Fred Waggoner came to Madison county from Wisconsin, to look up a location for themselves and a number of their neignbors who desired to make homes in a new country where lands were cheap. They chose a loca-tion near where Norfolk now stands, and went back and made their report. The next spring thirty-two families, with Herman Brassch at their head, arrived at the promised land and prepared to take possession. At that time there was no other white per sons in that part of the country and Omaha was the base of supplies. Madison county, which had been held back as an Indian reser-vation, had not been surveyed. Accordingly Mr. Braasch got Bill Sharp, a Cuming county settler, who was a surveyor, to come over and survey the portion upon which the col ony desired to squat. Surveyor Sharp had neither compass nor chain, but some of the boys in the immigrant company had pocket compasses, and the lines from the only "horse team" in the outil were made to do service for a chain. A school section corner on the line of Cuming county was taken for a starting point and a survey made which answered for the establishment of squatters lines, and, indeed, proved afterward to be an approximately correct survey. In the fall of the same year the government surveyors came, and each head of a family entered 160 acres under the homestead law. To avoid dispute as to choice of farms, thirty-two numbered tickets were made corresponding with the numbers of the land a drawing had which satisfied all parties. The entire company of homesteaders were workingmen who had saved enough to buy a yoke of cattle and some kind of a wagon. Mr. Braasch, who was the acknowl-edged leader and the moneyed man of the company, had a horse team and six cows, and but little else. He had no money. At that time common board lumber was worth \$75 and common board famber was worth \$75 and flooring \$100 per thousand in Omaha. So lumber was out of the question. Each family built a log house with clay floors and thatched roofs. The upper floors were also clay, laid on split willows, and the "daubing" between the logs was protected from the elements with prairie hay apiled on the least in between the logs was protected from the ele-ments with prairie hay nailed on the logs in successive layers, shingle fashion. The men built their houses, made their hay, and then struck out for Omaha and worked through the winter on the Union Pacific at \$2 per day. Mr. Braasch says they never could have got through if it had not been for this chance to work, as their money was all gone. He smiled when asked if a man could make a start here now at present prices of land as start here now at present prices of land as easily as when land could be had for nothing. "Why," said he, "a yoke of cattle at that time was worth \$150, and even \$200, and was hard to get. We had to go fifty-six miles to mill, and sometimes had to want a week for our grist. There were no bridges and it was mill, and sometimes had to wait a week for our grist. There were no bridges and it was sumply an awful trip to mill or to Omaha for supplies. Now, if a man has no team, he can work for good wages and buy one, and he can go in debt for his land and pay for it, and all the time can have every convenience and comfort at his door. I never feed much stock but raised and sold grain which I hauled to Sloux City, Omaha and Fremont. Stock could not be had for a long time after I came here. With the exception of grasshopper years we have always had time after I came here. With the exception of grasshopper years we have always had good crops. The men who came here with me ail live around Norfolk and all have done well—some of them are rich. I have eleven children and they are all doing well. I had a half section here, but had not enough for all the children so I sold fifty five acres at \$150 per acre and 120 for \$200 an acre and I have thirty acres here where I live.

Mr. Braasch has a pleasant home just outside the corporation of Norfolk, where he first settled. He is now past the age for active farm work but is a fair type of the

thrifty, frugal German farmers with which Madison county is largely populated.

Sattler Bros.

Sattler Bros. are among the largest land owners of Madison county, and have made a success of farming! Mr. Sattler says: "We came to this county tweive years ago from Maryland without means; saved a little money by working hard, and borrowed some from friends in the east. Our first venture was the purchase of a timber claim 160 acres—for \$35 for the tract, and sold it within a year for \$30. The same quarter acres—for \$35 for the tract, and sold it within a year for \$205: The same quarter section sold recently for \$2,300. We bought land along as we could at prices varying from \$300 a quarter to \$3,200 a quarter section. I claim that if every good quarter section of land in this county was rented and at grain rent at the usual rate—one-third the crop—with the present price of grain, say 29 cents for corn, the same for oats and 70 cents for wheat, it would pay a fair rate of interest on a valuation of \$50 per acre. Of course I mean if it was rented to good working tenants. As an example, our \$90-acre farm last year yielded at the rate of \$6.20 per acre at grain rent, and another of eighty five acres grain rent, and another of eighty five acres yielded \$1.25 an acre on the same terms." The Sattler Bros, have met with one discouraging feature in their farming experience, which is they invested nearly in fine stock, especially horses, and lost money if the operation owing to the fact that fine stock is not at the present time appreciated as it should be in this part of the state. William Zutz.

Wittiam Zutz came direct from Germany to Wisconsin in 1869, and one year later moved to Madison county, where he has lived ever since. He landed here with money enough to buy an ox team and a cow, and home-steaded 160 acres two miles north of where Norfolk now stands. In 1879 he bought au-other quarter section for \$1,100. The place is well improved and well stocked, and is farmed by his son, Paul Zutz. Mr. Zutz has usually fed the cattle of his own raising, but usually sells grain. His son, E. W. Zutz, was seen at the Norfolk National bank, in which institution the old gentleman is a shareholder, and stated that his father would not sell his farm for less than \$10 an acre. There are no improved farms within a rea-sonable distance of town that can be bought for less than \$30 per acre, and from that to \$100. Of course we all worked hard, but are satisfied with our success. We have had sev oral grasshoper years which cleaned us out pretty well, but aside from that we have never had a failure. We raise as high as seventy-five bashels of cora per acre and an average of, say fifty-five, bushels. There is no doubt but that industry and frugality wil win success for any man on a Madison county farm. As for the beet sugar business, I am not so sure. There are some features of it that does not commend it to farmers at present, but in time I think it will prove to be a good thing. So far it is all experiment and has not been entirely satisfactory.

Spectacles, Dr. Cullimore, Bee building. It is said that the Actors' Fund fair in New York will in many respects exceed anything of the kind ever given in Gotham. It will begin May 2. The cash contributions thus far amount to \$38,000. Many valuable gifts other than money have also been received. The largest single subscription was Edwin Booth's, \$1,500. Mrs. Kendal his given \$1,100. The receipts of Daniel Daugherty's lecture were \$1,400. The Consolidated Gas company gave \$1,000. Fourteen subscriptions of \$500 each, eight of \$250 each, and very many of smaller sums ranging from \$200

down were received. II WOODBURY'S FACIAL SOAP

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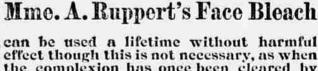
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