

ship in the Grand Army of the Republic, being now connected with the post at Chariton. He is a whole-souled and genial man, and is well known and highly respected in White Breast township, where he has resided for a number of years. His wife is a member of the Methodist Church.

WILLIAM SEERLEY, a well-known and much respected farmer of Madison county, Iowa, whose residence is on section 28, Madison township, is a native of Frederick county, Maryland, born May 5, 1823.

Joseph Seerley, his father, it is supposed, was born in the western part of Pennsylvania. He went from there to Maryland when a young man, where he resided for a number of years. He took an active part in the war of 1812 and served in some of the important engagements of that war. In 1817 he was married, in Maryland, to Elizabeth Brown, and after their marriage they located near the village of Middletown, where they continued to reside until the fall of 1823, at which time they moved to Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and settled in the village of Hemsfield. In 1836 they left that place and came as far west as Indiana, which was then on the frontier, and in Marion county they took up their abode on a farm, where he passed the closing years of his life, his death occurring there about 1841. Of the grandfather of our subject but little is known other than that his name was Thomas Seerley and that he was of French descent.

Mr. Seerley's mother, *nee* Elizabeth Brown, was born in Frederick county, Maryland, daughter of George P. Brown. It is the supposition that Mr. Brown was a native of Maryland. He was of German descent. During the Revolutionary war he served as a Guard. The mother of our subject survived the father a number of years and died in Iowa, at the home of her son William, being in her seventy-eighth year at the time of death. This worthy couple were the parents of five children, three

sons and two daughters, viz.: Martin, a resident of Marion county, Indiana; Thomas, Iowa City; William, whose name graces this article; Elizabeth, widow of Peter Blue, Indianapolis, Indiana; and Catharine, deceased.

William Seerley was six months old at the time his parents removed to Pennsylvania, and at the time of their settlement in Marion county, Indiana, was thirteen. His boyhood days were spent in attendance at the district schools and in work on the farm, and his district-school education was supplemented by one term in Indianapolis. After his marriage, in 1852, he settled on a farm about five miles from Indianapolis, where he resided until 1855, that year coming out to Iowa. His first winter in this State was spent in Keokuk county. In the spring of the following year, 1856, he came to Madison county and has ever since been identified with the agricultural interests of this county. After renting land one summer, he located on his present place in the fall of 1856. Here his first work was to build a log cabin, 16 x 18 feet in dimensions, which served as his home until 1861, when he built his present residence; and from time to time he has made various other improvements. His farm comprises 260 acres, including timber and rough land, and all, with the exception of twenty acres, under fence. He gives his attention to both general farming and stock-raising, feeding all his grain product to his stock. One hundred acres of his land are under cultivation.

Mr. Seerley was married in Marion county, Indiana, in 1852, to Miss Mary Missersmith, who was born and reared in Connersville, Indiana, and they have had fourteen children, eleven of whom are now living, as follows: O. M.; Bayard P., Adair county, Iowa; Horace E., engaged in mining in Colorado; and Francis H., Elwood, Charlie, Flora, Grace, Ida, Vick and Willie, at home.

Mr. Seerley is Democratic in his political views. In 1893 he was the Democratic candidate for State Senator from his district, and, although he received a strong vote, he was de-

feated, his party being in the minority. He has served efficiently in several local offices. He was Township Clerk five years and for the same length of time was Assessor, both in Madison township. Personally, he is a man of retiring disposition, and has never sought office. The nomination for State Senator was tendered him without solicitation and he made no canvass whatever, nor did he ever ask a man for his vote.

WILLIAM PORTER MOULTON, the senior partner of the firm of Moulton & Thode, publishers and proprietors of the Stuart Locomotive, of Stuart, Iowa, and a man whose unpretentious but honorable life has won him the regard of many, was born December 16, 1838, in the town of Wenham, Essex county, Massachusetts.

His parents were William and Mary Ann (Porter) Moulton, the latter a daughter of Colonel Paul Porter, of Wenham, who followed the occupation of farming and served as commander of a regiment of militia during the war of 1812 and also before and after that second struggle with England. The paternal grandfather of our subject was Captain John Moulton, a sea captain and a direct descendant of Deacon James Moulton, who came from England to America in 1638, landing at Salem, Essex county. He was one of the first settlers of Wenham and one of the sixteen to whom the General Court of Massachusetts granted the land on which the town was founded. The founder of the Porter family in America was Johan Porter, who purchased the land grant out of which the town of Danvers, Essex county, Massachusetts, sprang in 1640. He also was a native of England and resided at Hingham, Massachusetts, until his removal to Danvers. Members of the family have been prominent in the service of the country since the appointment of David Porter as a naval officer of the city of Boston, by Washington, who afterward commissioned him Captain

with instruction to capture British stores. David, the son of Captain David Porter, was the commander of the famous frigate *Essex* that destroyed so much of the British shipping in the Pacific ocean in the war of 1812. Admiral David D. Porter, who served with distinguished ability during the Rebellion, and General Fitz-John Porter, were descendants of John Porter. Five members of the Porter family were descendants of John Porter and served as officers of the United States Navy.

No events of marked importance characterized the early life of our subject. He attended the common schools, and in early life learned the trade of shoemaking, which he followed continuously until entering upon his journalistic career. During that time he resided in Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa. He has always taken a deep and commendable interest in its welfare and upbuilding, and has done all in his power for its progress and further development. He arrived in the city January 24, 1870, and after following shoemaking for several years became the editor of the *Stuart Locomotive*, in 1877. At that time Captain Charles Stuart was the owner of the paper. Mr. Moulton was the successor of J. J. Flynn. In 1879, in connection with J. E. Thode, Mr. Moulton purchased the plant, and the two gentlemen have since carried on the paper. It is published weekly, and is devoted to the local interests of the community and to the cause of Republicanism. It is a bright, newsy sheet, ably edited, has a good circulation, and is well worthy of a liberal patronage.

Mr. Moulton has been honored by his fellow townsmen with several local offices, in which he has ever discharged his duties with marked faithfulness. He was Justice of the Peace for eight years, and in all these positions has proved a worthy official. On the 1st of January, 1882, he was appointed Postmaster of Stuart by President Arthur, and served until July 1, 1886, six months after his commission expired. President Cleveland then appointed a successor; but on the return of the Republicans to the control of the Government