

and her daughter Adelle are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Best is a republican and has been an alderman six years and city clerk three years. He takes much interest in fraternal matters and is associated with several of the leading secret orders

of the city. He is a Mason of high degree and belongs to the lodge, chapter, consistory and commandery, and has filled all the presiding chairs in these bodies. He belongs to the K. of P., the K. of G., the I. O. R. M. and the order of Eastern Star.



REV. A. J. CROMER, born in Mercersburg, Franklin county, Pa., is the son of Geo. Cromer, who was born in Bedford county, Pa., and Mary (Rumell) Cromer, who was born and reared at Waynesboro, Franklin county, Pa. They both died in Washington county, Md., where they had purchased a farm. Their family consisted of eleven children: Betsy married Geo. Baker, a farmer, and moved to Richland county, Ohio, where she died leaving a large family. Polly married John Mowry, a farmer, located in Henry county, Ind., where he died. She died in Indianapolis leaving a large family. Margaret married Dennis Costly, foreman in a woolen factory, also a school teacher. They moved to Xenia, Ohio, where she died. George, Jr., lives near Loudon, Pa., where he owns a farm. Jacob, deceased, was a farmer near Hagerstown, Md. Frederick is a farmer in Pomona, Cal. John and Josiah, twins: Josiah settled in Indiana. His son George, was elected to Congress from his district in Indiana, in 1898. Jeremiah, another son, is a Congregational minister. John was a prominent Lutheran minister and died at Irving, Illinois. James M. and Geo. B., his sons, are Lutheran ministers. A. J., our subject. Jeremiah, a farmer, lives near Hagerstown, Maryland. Hannah C. married Benjamin Beard and lives near Clear Spring, Maryland.

A. J. Cromer received his early education in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. In 1846 he came west and located in Henry county, Indiana,

where he taught school for three years. In 1849 he engaged in merchandising, and followed various pursuits until 1859, when he was licensed by the Lutheran synod of northern Indiana to preach the gospel. In 1859, he accepted a call as pastor of the Ebenezer Lutheran church in Marion county, Indiana, and served the charge for five years. In 1864 he was called to Zanesville, Ohio and remained about eighteen months, then went to Lagrange, Indiana, and remained five years. He then went to Three Rivers, Michigan, preaching in and about that city for several years. He bought a home near Three Rivers and lived there until called to Yellow Creek, Stephenson county, Illinois, where he remained for three years, and then went to Elvira, Iowa, for two and one-half years, returning to his old home in Three Rivers, where he remained four years. He then went to Davis, Illinois, where he lived until the autumn of 1897, and in January 1898 he moved to Lena, Illinois, where he still resides.

Sept. 28, 1848 he married Miss Margaret Metzger. She was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, Jan. 27th, 1832. Her parents moved to Henry county, Indiana, in 1836. Their children are: A. George, born July 10, 1849, lives in Chicago and is foreman in a large manufacturing establishment; Arthur W., born Dec. 20th, 1850 and died Sept. 16th, 1855; John W., born Sept. 12, 1852, and died Jan. 29th, 1872; Sarah C., born March 9th, 1854, married J. Monroe Garmire and lives in Petosky, Michigan; Cornelius J., born March 11th, 1855,

married Ada Lepp Patterson, who resides in Sturgis, St. Joseph county, Michigan, and is manufacturing furniture; Emma E., born April 16th, 1857, married Mahlon Apker, who died in 1896, leaving three sons; Laura A., born Jan. 30th, 1859, married Frank Bonham and resides in St. Joseph county, Michigan; Martin L., born Oct. 19th, 1860, is a merchant tailor and resides in Shelbyville, Indiana; Mary Ellen,

born Dec. 24, 1862, married Harry Kerr, a traveling salesman, and lives in Lagrange, Indiana; Samuel S., born Jan. 15th, 1867, a farmer, lives in Elvira, Iowa; Ada Belle, born Aug. 21st, 1869, married to Clayton Houser of Lena, Illinois; Ida M., born May 4th, 1873, married to I. S. Crotzer of the *Lena Star*; Leda E., born Oct. 21st, 1875, died March 18th, 1898. Mr. Cromer has been a delegate to the General Synod. In politics he is a republican.



FREDERICK H. BIESEMEIER, merchant and postmaster of Eleroy, is a representative of one of those thrifty, industrious German families which form so important an element in the building up and improvement of our country. His father, Frederick Biese-meier, is a native of the principality of Lippe-Detmold, Germany, was born in 1821. In 1854 he married, in Germany, Minnie Behrman, who was born in the village of Meinberg, and with his young wife started out to make a home in a new country. They sailed from Bremen, landed in New York, and in the winter of that year, reached Freeport. After prospecting for a short time, he purchased 40 acres of farming land in Erin township, and with characteristic energy set to work to cultivate and improve it. With the hearty assistance of his wife, adding to his land year by year, he acquired 380 acres of fine land all under a good state of cultivation. He has now retired from active life and is living in Lena with his estimable wife, enjoying the well earned reward of his industry. He is a member of the German Evangelical church, in which he is an elder, and is a republican in

his political views. Mrs. Biese-meier now sixty-eight years of age, is the mother of eleven children, eight of whom are now living. Frederick H.; Sophia married Henry Caney, deceased, and lives near Baileyville; Minnie lives with her parents; Amelia married Fred Zundahl of Rockford; Louis K. farming in Erin township, married Lena Polker who was born in Jo Daviess county; Annie married Henry Zundahl of Forreston; Eddie was killed by a stroke of lightning; Albert married Paulina Prose and is farming in Erin township; Charles, unmarried, is employed by his brother Albert.

Frederick H. Biese-meier was born in Erin township March 7, 1856. He attended the district schools and the German parochial school until the age of sixteen, and after that time, until his marriage at the age of twenty-six, he remained on the home farm with his father. He then rented a part of his father's land and began farming in his own interest, in which occupation he continued for ten years. In 1893 he opened a store in Eleroy and has been in business ever since, and now carries a good