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HISTORY OF

SOUTH DAKOTA

BY

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TOGETHER WITH

PERSONAL MENTION OF CITIZENS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

ILLUSTRATED

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stopped at the home of Henry Kienast, ten miles out, and there found that the only supply of food was that secured by grinding wheat in an ordinary coffee-mill and then baking the same into bread. He finally had to hire a team to take him to his destination, having become snow-blind, so that it was unsafe for him to continue alone. He then returned to Waukon, Iowa, where his wife and two children had remained in the meanwhile, and as soon as the railroad was opened in the spring, he brought his family to the new home, and for the first week after their arrival they slept on improvised beds laid on the floor of the local railway station, a small and rude building. Thereafter the family resided in the rooms over the store for seven years, when they took possession of the present attractive and commodious modern residence, which is valued at about five thousand dollars, and which is one of the best in the town.

During the first year of business in Elkton, Mr. Grattan made expenses and cleared sixteen dollars, and from this nucleus he has built up his present extensive and flourishing enterprise and has gained precedence as one of the leading business men and capitalists of the town. In 1897 his place of business was destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of four thousand dollars, but he promptly erected his present substantial brick and stone block, of two stories, which is one of the best in the town, being valued at ten thousand dollars, while his stock of hardware reaches a valuation of four thousand dollars. He formerly handled farm machinery, but has now dropped this branch of his enterprise. He controls a large and representative trade, and in addition to his hardware business does a large loan and insurance business. In politics he supported the Republican party until 1896, when he became convinced of the legitimacy of the financial policy adopted by the Democratic party in its platform, and showed the courage of his convictions by transferring his allegiance to the latter, whose principles he has since advocated. He is not formally identified with any religious organization, but gives his support to the Baptist church, of which his wife is a devoted member. He is

identified with the lodge and chapter of the Masonic fraternity in Elkton, with the commandery of Knights Templar at Brookings, and with the temple of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine at Sioux Falls.

On the 18th of May, 1874, Mr. Grattan was united in marriage to Miss Eva Hersey, who was born and reared in Waukon, Iowa, being a daughter of Adaniram J. and Mary (Reed) Hersey, who came to that state from Massachusetts. Mr. and Mrs. Grattan have three children, concerning whom we offer the following data: Paul H., who was graduated in the South Dakota State Agricultural College in 1896, and in the law department of the Iowa State University in 1899, is now a traveling salesman; Ray J. is associated with his father in the conducting of the store; and Edna G., who is now prosecuting her musical studies in the city of Buffalo, New York, where she will complete a two-years course in 1903, was previously a student in the Francis Shimer Musical Academy of the University of Chicago, and is a specially skilled pianist, having gained a high reputation in Buffalo, where she is now studying.

GEORGE C. KNICKERBOCKER.—All who are familiar with the delightful writings of Washington Irving, and particularly with his "Knickerbocker's New York," will understand that the name borne by the subject has through this source become almost a generic term as designating the sturdy and aristocratic division of the old Holland families who settled in New Amsterdam, the nucleus of the present national metropolis, and also became prominent in connection with the settlement of other sections of the Empire state. The lineage of Colonel Knickerbocker is traced in an unbroken way back to the original American progenitors whom Irving thus singled out in giving title to one of his most interesting works, and the genealogical record is one in which he may well take pride. The Colonel is one of the honored pioneers and popular citizens of McPherson county and has been the owner of a hotel in Eureka since the founding of the town.



COLONEL AND MRS. GEORGE C. KNICKERBOCKER AND GRANDCHILDREN.

having, in fact, purchased the first lot and erected the first building in the place save for those put up in a preliminary way by the railroad company.

The genealogical record is traced back to John VanBerghen Knickerbocker, of Brabant, who was captain in the navy of the Netherlands, and whose son, Harmon Jansen Knickerbocker, born in Friesland, in 1648, was the original progenitor in America. He came from Holland to the new world in 1678, and through his second son, Lawrence, who married Catherine Van Horn, the line of direct descent is traced to the subject of this review. Harmon, son of Lawrence, married Rebecca Wandelar, and their second son, Harmon Jansen, who married Susannah Basson, was the great-grandfather of our subject. Peter Knickerbocker, grandfather of the Colonel, married Jane Montrose, and they became the parents of eighteen children, of whom seven are yet living, the average age of the number being four score years, which venerable age is that of our subject's father, William, who now resides in Aurora, Illinois, the family being notable for longevity. William Knickerbocker was born and reared in Dutchess county, New York, as was also his wife, whose maiden name was Helen M. Crouse and who is still living, as are two of their four children, of whom the subject was the first in order of birth.

About the year 1848 William Knickerbocker took up his residence in Illinois, becoming one of the pioneers of that state, where he followed the vocation of contractor and builder for many years. In Aurora, Illinois, on the 11th of October, 1850, George C. Knickerbocker was ushered into the world, and there passed his boyhood days, securing such educational advantages as were afforded in the common schools. He acquired the mason's trade in his youth and as a young man was successfully engaged in contracting and building in Illinois and adjoining states. At the age of twenty-seven years he located in the city of Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he engaged in the furniture business. In the early 'eighties he conducted the largest establishment of the sort in the city mentioned, but his place was destroyed by

fire in 1882, entailing a total loss of sixty-five thousand dollars. In 1885 the Colonel came to South Dakota and located in McPherson county, being one of the first settlers in the western part of the county. At the time of the inception of the town of Eureka and before the railroad company, owning the site, had granted permission for anyone to build on the ground, Colonel Knickerbocker "took time by the forelock" and succeeded in erecting a hotel building in the town, quickly perfecting the plans and bringing his force of workmen on the spot selected. This was on Sunday, and by putting forth every effort the building was raised during the day and to a large extent the exterior was finished by Monday, when the railroad officials put in an appearance and sized up the situation. Perhaps admiring the enterprise and courage of the subject, they made no serious protest and thus he gained the credit of being the first to erect a building on the site of the present thriving and attractive town, save those, as noted, which have been put up by the railroad company. He has ever since continued his residence in Eureka, is well known throughout this section of the state, and his circle of friends is bounded only by that of his acquaintances, while he has at all times shown himself ready to aid to the utmost of his ability in the furthering of all undertakings and enterprises tending to enhance the general welfare and promote the development of the country and the material prosperity of his town. He takes a deep interest in public affairs, particularly those of a local nature, while he has been and continues an active worker in politics in the county, wielding no little influence, though never resorting to spectacular methods. He served for five years as a member of the board of county commissioners, was a member of the first board of aldermen, and has held other offices of local trust. On the 23d of February, 1901, he was appointed colonel on the staff of Governor Herreid and remains incumbent of this office at the time of this writing. He is a prominent and popular affiliate of the Knights of Pythias, and a member of the grand lodge of the order in the state.

On the 16th of February, 1871, Colonel Knickerbocker was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Ellen Jones, who was born and reared in Cook county, Illinois, being a daughter of Samuel Jones, who came of stanch Welsh lineage. Mrs. Knickerbocker bears the distinction of having been the first woman in Eureka. Of this union were born two children, Gertrude B. and Harry M. The daughter became the wife of John E. Regan, of Eureka, and her death occurred in 1898. She is survived by three daughters, namely: Georgia, Grace and Genevieve. The son of the subject is now engaged in music teaching and is a natural musician, having inherited his talents. He performs on almost any instrument, but the violin is his specialty, and of this instrument he is considered almost a master. He is now a resident of Harvey, North Dakota, where he is engaged in organizing and teaching orchestras and bands, at which he meets with great success. In 1900 he married Alma Thorhaug, who was born in Wisconsin. To this union a son has been born, George Stanley Knickerbocker.

J. L. HALL, a prominent and influential business man of Volga, Brookings county, and president of the First State Bank of that place, is a native of Illinois, having been born in the beautiful city of Rockford, on the 25th of November, 1856, and being a son of Charles A. and Margaret (Dixon) Hall, the former of whom was born in Massachusetts and the latter in New York. Charles A. Hall was reared and educated in his native state, and as a young man came west to Illinois, where he was engaged in farming for a number of years, after which he established himself in the livery business in Rockford, continuing this enterprise until his death in 1859, at which time the subject was but two years of age.

J. L. Hall, the immediate subject of this sketch, was reared to maturity in the city of his birth, and there prosecuted his studies in the public schools until he had attained the age of seventeen years, when he entered upon an apprentice-

ship at the tinner's trade, becoming an expert workman, and continuing to follow his trade in Rockford for a period of five years. In 1880 he removed to Tyler, Minnesota, where he was engaged in the hardware business for the ensuing two years, at the expiration of which, in the spring of 1882, he came to South Dakota and cast in his lot with the embryonic village of Volga. He brought with him about two thousand dollars' worth of tinware and hardware, and with this as a nucleus he engaged in business in the new town. With the settling up of the surrounding country Volga increased in population and commercial importance, and Mr. Hall succeeded in building up a most profitable enterprise, thus having continued in the hardware business for more than twenty years, and now controlling a large and representative trade in the line, and having a commodious and well-equipped establishment, in which he handles full lines of heavy and shelf hardware, tinware, stoves, ranges, agricultural implements, machinery, etc. In 1892 Mr. Hall purchased the lumber business of J. H. Anderson, and has since continued the enterprise, which is a most prosperous one. He is one of the three stockholders in the First State Bank, which was organized and incorporated in 1901, and he has been president of the institution since that time. Mr. Hall has served as a member of the board of village trustees, and also as village treasurer, and is one of the popular and highly esteemed citizens of the town of which he may well be considered one of the founders and builders. Mr. Hall has an abiding faith in the legitimacy of the principles of the Democratic party as exemplified by Jefferson and Jackson, but is maintains an independent attitude in politics, adopted in the platform of 1896, so that he now maintains an independent attitude in politics. He is affiliated with Volga Lodge, No. 98, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in Volga, having passed the various official chairs in the same, and having represented it in the grand lodge of the state. He also holds membership in the Concatenated Order of Hoo-Hoos, an organization of the lumbermen throughout the Union.