

ty, Mich., and thither his mother and her children removed in 1850, about five years after her husband's death. The boyhood of our subject was passed in that county, where he attended the public schools and a neighboring academy. The war coming on, his education was interrupted, but on his return from the service he attended school for a time. His first business venture was to purchase an interest in a hand-rake factory, with which he was connected until April, 1870. At that time the factory and all its contents were completely destroyed by fire, and the young man lost whatever he had put in the concern. Thus obliged to make a fresh start, he determined to seek another field of enterprise, and, after looking around, decided upon Kalkaska County as his future home. September 19, 1871, he entered a homestead in Boardman Township, this being one of the first taken up in the township. Settlers were very few in the vicinity, and Traverse City, twenty-two miles distant, was their trading-point. The land was heavily covered with hardwood forests, and the first dwelling of Mr. Flagg was a small shanty with a bark roof, while a large piece of the same material also served for a door. This cabin was put up in June, 1871, and on the 12th of the following November the proprietor removed his family to its shelter. The prospect was dismal and discouraging enough to the good wife, who had always resided in a long-settled country, but she bravely made the best of her surroundings. For upwards of thirteen years Mr. Flagg gave his entire attention to the improvement of his farm, and placed sixty-five acres under cultivation. He built a good residence, barns and fences, and at the time he left the homestead, on Christmas Day, 1884, it bore little resemblance to what it had been when he first took possession of the place.

In the fall of 1884 Mr. Flagg was nominated by the Republican party to the offices of County Clerk and Register of Deeds. The faithfulness and efficiency of his work are best shown by his subsequent re-election to the office on the expiration of each term. The majority which he received at the first election was only forty-six votes, and this has been increased at each re-election until, in 1894, when elected for his sixth term, he had a majority

of four hundred and fifty-three votes. He has on various occasions been sent as a delegate to conventions of his party.

In June, 1866, Mr. Flagg married Maria L., daughter of Asa Day, a farmer of Eaton County. Mrs. Flagg was born and reared in that county, and by her marriage became the mother of five children, four of whom are living: Arlo, Zora, Lena and Howard. Mr. and Mrs. Flagg are members of the Congregational Church of this place, and contribute liberally of their means to its support. Socially Mr. Flagg belongs to the Subordinate Lodge and Encampment of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows; is an Ancient Free and Accepted Mason, and is also a Knight of Pythias.



ALBERT M. HILTON, attorney-at-law, residing in Gaylord, was born in West Windsor, Richland County, Ohio, November 2, 1845, being the son of John and Alcy (Dana) Hilton, natives of New York and Ohio, respectively. His paternal grandfather, Alexander Hilton, a native of New York, engaged in agricultural pursuits, and spent his entire life in the Empire State. When a young man John Hilton emigrated alone to Ohio, where he purchased unimproved land in Richland County. He married, and ever afterward resided in Richland County, where he became the owner of one hundred acres of valuable and improved land. His death occurred in 1878, at the age of seventy-three, and his wife passed away two years later, aged sixty-nine years.

The parental family consisted of nine children. Theodore, the eldest, went to California in 1849, and on his return to Ohio continued to reside in Richland County until his death. Adaline married Richard D. Condon, and resides in Mansfield, Ohio. Mary, Mrs. John A. Coleman, died in Lauderdale County, Tenn. John B. died in Ashland County, Ohio. George D. resides at the Soldiers' Home in Ohio. Harriet L. was first married to Dr. A. C. Day, and afterward became the wife of Alexander Swinney; she makes her home in Alta, Ohio.

Cordelia Q., Mrs. John B. Ward, died in West Windsor, Ohio. Amelia C., a twin of Cordelia's, married Melvin H. Osburn, and died in Ohio.

The youngest of the family is the subject of this sketch. He was reared to manhood upon a farm, and in boyhood attended the common schools. When a youth of about seventeen, he enlisted, in 1862, and was mustered into service with Company E, Thirty-first Iowa Infantry. His brother, George D., was Lieutenant, and later Captain, of the company. For more than a year he served with the Thirty-first, meantime participating in the battles of Arkansas Post, Haines' Bluff, Jackson, Black River, the siege of Vicksburg, and other important engagements. In 1863 he was discharged on account of disability, but afterward re-enlisted, becoming a member of the One Hundred and Sixty-third Ohio National Guards, in which he served for five months. The most important battle in which he took part during his second term of service was that in front of Petersburg.

After returning to Ohio from the army, Mr. Hilton became agent in the telegraph office of the Atlantic & Great Western Railroad. Two years later he was transferred to Michigan, and for thirty days was telegraph operator at Mason, from which place he went to Owosso, and was similarly engaged for several months. For three years following he was agent and operator at Kawkawlin, after which he resigned from the service and embarked in the mercantile business at Standish, under the firm name of A. M. Hilton & Co. Some time was spent thus, and then, disposing of the business, he returned to Ohio and spent one winter. On coming again to Michigan he accepted a position as telegraph operator at Portsmouth, and later held a similar position at Coleman. On resigning from the latter office he accepted a position as agent and operator at Otsego Lake, with the Michigan Central Railroad, remaining in that position for three years. In the fall of 1878 he was elected Sheriff of Otsego County, and served two consecutive terms. In 1884 he was again chosen to serve in that capacity.

Turning his attention to the law, Mr. Hilton began its study in 1884, under Cassius D. McEwen, and was admitted to the Bar July 12, 1886. Soon

after he was elected Prosecuting Attorney, which position he filled one term. He gives his undivided attention to his profession, and, being keen, discriminating and energetic, he is making a success of his occupation. In politics he favors Republican principles, and upon that ticket he has at different times been elected to positions of trust and honor. Fraternally he holds membership in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and also in Clarence F. Doore Post No. 61, G. A. R., in which he officiates as Past Commander.

The marriage of Mr. Hilton, in 1872, united him with Miss Sarah A. Lount, who was born in Canada, and came to Oakland County, Mich., with her father, Franklin Lount. Three children were born of this union, namely: Orrin A., who died September 3, 1894, aged twenty-one years; Charles Dana, at home; and Percy, whose death occurred when he was eighteen months old. Personally Mr. Hilton is a gentleman of most generous impulses, whole-souled and open-hearted, one who attracts and secures confidence at first sight. Coupled with these traits of character, his integrity and worth as a man have won for him the respect of the good people of his community. As an advocate he is precise, careful and astute, and in the prosecution or defense of important cases is earnest and keen, doing nothing in a hurry, but acting only after the most careful deliberation. He still cherishes the true sentiments of patriotism that led him in youth to leave home and friends for the uncertain results of a deadly conflict, and these sentiments impel him now, as in the past, to do everything in his power to enhance the welfare of his country and promote the prosperity of his fellow-men.



ROBERT H. RUSSELL came to Gaylord in 1888, and engaged in a furniture and undertaking business, carrying it on until September, 1894, when he sold out that branch of business, and has since had a large and profitable trade as a druggist and grocer. He was born in Delaware County, N. Y., August 12, 1843, being a son