

(Trough) May had located the year previous, upon their arrival in the state from Dodge county, Wisconsin. This couple had a large family of children, fourteen in number, of whom George May was born in Dodge county, Wisconsin, March 15, 1854. The elder May possessed shrewd business sagacity and a capacity for profitable pioneering, and not only took up three hundred and twenty acres of land from the government, but the following October bought a similar amount, and a year later purchased eighty acres. At one time in his long and successful life he owned eighteen hundred acres in Blue Earth county. This property he greatly improved, and continued to manage and farm it until about ten years before his death, in 1894. His wife died March 4, 1908, at the age of 86 years 7 months 23 days.

George May was ten years old when he came to the state with his parents, May 20, 1864. He helped to clear the crude land, and all his life has made a study of the best methods of agriculture and stock-raising, and also has augmented his training in the public schools of Wisconsin and Minnesota with study along various lines of research. He has amassed a fortune in his own right by his steady application to his life work, independent of any aid which may have come to him through the success of his father. Politically a democrat, he has served as township supervisor, and held other minor offices. For some years Mr. May has been vice-president of the St. Clair State Bank, an institution recognized in banking circles as thoroughly reliable and safe.

The marriage of Mr. May and Mary M. Ho-dapp, of Blue Earth county occurred in 1879, and of the union there are ten children, six sons and four daughters, Phillip J. of Mount Angel, Ore., Kate M., wife of Joseph L. Kruse a farmer of Kerkhoven, this state, George Stephen Edward Colchius, Maria N., Otillia E., Anna K., Joseph, Aloise H. and Carl Joseph.

The family are members of the Roman Catholic Church. As a boy and man in the same community Mr. May has so fashioned his life, and improved his opportunities as to win the approval of all who know him; he is cautious and painstaking and being honorable in his deal-

ing with others, may reasonably expect a continuation and enlargement of his present good fortune.

MAYER BROS.—It is said that the largest foundry and machine shop in the state of Minnesota outside of the twin cities and Duluth is located at Mankato. The proprietors, Louis and Lorenz Mayer, began as blacksmiths, learning the trade under their father and acquiring unusual skill in their work. Being ambitious to enlarge their business interests, they founded the business which under their supervision has been enlarged many fold from its original dimensions. For a time a third brother, Conrad, was jointly interested in the foundry, but three years later he withdrew, leaving Louis and Lorenz the sole proprietors. It has been the policy of the owners to invest all of their profits in the business, so that from year to year they have added to the buildings, the improvements on the equipment, and the foundry at No. 126 West Rock street is now exceptionally well equipped for their work as machinists, boiler-makers, manufacturers of hammers, steam shovels for dredging, etc. The brick and steel shop is a modern structure, 60x200 feet in dimensions, while the foundry is 40x50 with an addition for an engine room 30x70, and in addition there is a storage building 30x40, also a stone and brick boiler works, 30x60 feet.

The president of the company, Louis Mayer, was born in Germany November 2, 1867. The secretary and treasurer, Lorenz L., was born in Mankato, Minnesota, September 18, 1874. Their father, Lawrence, left his native land for the new world and settled at Mankato, Minnesota, in 1871. A blacksmith by trade, he at once began to work at his chosen occupation and continued until 1896, when he retired. Some years before leaving Germany he married Katherine Ruder, who was born and reared in that country, and died at Mankato in 1890, aged fifty-four years. Three of their children are living, Louis, Conrad and Lorenz L., all of whom reside in Mankato and are practical-skilled blacksmiths, the second son still following that occupation. The three brothers were

educated in parochial schools and at early ages learned the blacksmith's trade under their father's careful training. For five years Louis engaged as a blacksmith with the Mankato Cement Company. May 21, 1890, he married Regina Lambert, of Marysburg, Minnesota, by whom he has three children, Mary M., Veronica E. and Alois. In fraternal relations Louis and Lorenz are prominently identified with the Knights of Columbus and have been warmly interested in the work of the German Benevolent Society. Lorenz was married August 21, 1900, his wife being Anna Huettl, of Mankato. Three children have blessed their union, namely: Bertram, Clotilda and Cornelius H. The brothers have many friends in Mankato, where they are esteemed for their sterling worth, commendable enterprise, keen sagacity and persevering industry. The success already gained and that which the future promises are richly merited by their self-sacrificing efforts in the establishment of a substantial business in their home city.

MAYER, JOHN B.—An old territorial settler still living in Mankato came to that city Oct. 15, 1857. He was born in Rolendorf, Rhine province, Germany, Jan. 27, 1827, and came to America in April, 1852, settling at Prairie du Sac, (now Sauk City), Wis., where he engaged in blacksmithing and horseshoeing for five years with his brother, who had located there a year previous. In 1857 he went to St. Paul and after spending three or four days there, he took a steamboat for Mankato but owing to low water the boat came only as far as St. Peter and he was compelled to complete the distance on foot, arriving here Oct. 15th of that year.

South Bend and Madelia were then making strong efforts to increase their population, the former offering Mr. Mayer two and the latter five lots if he would open a shop there, but after viewing both places, walking the distance, he decided to locate in Mankato and opened a shop in a small shanty which stood on the rear of the lot just south of where the A. J. Busch wholesale house now stands. This he conducted for about two years when he took in partnership

Mr. Adam Frenkle, who had a shop in the north part of the city, and his shop was moved on the front of Mr. Mayer's lot, the two remaining in partnership until about '61 when Mr. Mayer bought Mr. Frenkle's interest and ran the shop alone. In his shop was done the horseshoeing, manacle making, etc., for the United States troops during the campaign of '62 when they were stationed here. Mr. Mayer still has the sledge hammer which was borrowed of him to drive into place the heavy timber constituting the gallows on which the Indians were hanged. This hammer is now in the State Historical Society collection at St. Paul. This with his other tools and implements was brought here from St. Paul by wagon. Here he braved the hardships and privations of frontier life, including the panic of '59-'61 when money was a novelty and goods and labor were exchanged for produce, etc., and some of Mankato's respected citizens' "best" consisted of a pair of trousers made of gunny sacks and an Indian blanket for a coat. After many ups and downs he was able about '66 to build a large brick shop on the rear of the lot on the east corner of Front and Mulberry streets at a cost of \$2,200, where he conducted his business until about 1888, when he sold the property to the late Nic Lang, who remodeled the building and it is now part of the Lang estate.

In 1868 Mr. Mayer was married to Miss Theresa Harzberg, then shortly from his native land, and eight children have blessed their union: John, deceased; Emma, now Mrs. Charles A. Eckman; Rosa, Mrs. Adolph C. Rockey; Charles K.; Ida, Mrs. David Pugh; Tillie, Mrs. George G. Serene, all living in Mankato; Lydia, Mrs. Clarence O. Williamson, of St. Paul; and William, deceased.

In 1882 Mr. and Mrs. Mayer started a grocery and confectionery store on North Front street which was successfully conducted by Mrs. Mayer, her husband assisting her after closing out his business until the fall of 1900 when they retired and now live in their comfortable home on North Broad street.

Mr. Mayer is of a rather retiring disposition, industrious, amiable and companionable, a lover of home and home life, and up to a few years