

Noah Emerick, County Clerk of Fayette County, Ill., residing at Vandalia, has occupied his present office since 1902; he was re-elected in 1906, both times on the Democratic ticket, and has faithfully given the people the best of service. He was born in Bear Grove Township, four miles southwest of Vandalia, July 13, 1870, a son of Daniel and Nancy (Johnson) Emerick, both born in Indiana, and coming of German ancestry. They were married in Indiana and came to Illinois, settling in Bond County, and there the father farmed and worked at his trade of a plasterer. Later they moved to Fayette County, settling on the homestead farm in Bear Grove Township, where he died at the age of forty-two, about 1875. His widow survives, living on the homestead. When Daniel Emerick died he left eight children, the eldest only seventeen. The brave, devoted mother kept the family together, reared them to be good men and women, and all still survive to do her honor. They are: Jacob, Daniel, Arthur, Leonard, Noah, Louisa, Mary and Sophia. A daughter, Cenia, and two sons, Joseph and William, died young.

Noah Emerick, after attending district school and fitting himself for the work, began teaching school when only twenty, and earned the money to take him through Hayward College at Fairfield; following his attendance at this institution, he taught school continuously for thirteen years, in the schools of Bond and Fayette Counties, and one year in the graded schools of Woburn, Ill. At this time he was elected to his present responsible office, and since then his time has been well occupied with his official duties, and superintending his farm. Prior to his election as County Clerk, Mr. Emerick held several lesser offices, having been Collector of Bear Grove Township when only twenty-one, and Assessor and Clerk of the same township. Mr. Emerick is a man who has always dominated affairs wherever he happened to be, by virtue of his intelligence and latent force of character, and was a leader of his party before it honored him by placing him upon the ticket as its choice for County Clerk. In the campaign of 1902 his election was warmly contested, but he won, with a majority of 400, running far ahead of his ticket. In 1906 the contest was still closer, but Mr. Emerick is personally so popular and his work as a county official had been so exceptional, that he was returned by a majority of 500. He has two deputies under him, and the work is turned out promptly and efficiently. His farm of 220 acres, located in Seminary Township, is operated according to scientific methods, and is a very valuable property. As a teacher Mr. Emerick made an exceptional record, and his friends were sorry to lose him, although they recognized his fitness for the office to which he was elected.

**ERVIN, Captain James M.**, a veteran of the great Civil War, and a substantial and repre-

sentative citizen of Lone Grove Township, residing on a magnificent farm of 280 acres of improved land, is a native of the State of Ohio, and is of Irish and Welsh extraction. He was born near Mt. Vernon, Knox County, Ohio, September 10, 1825, shortly after his parents had settled there as pioneers. His father, James Ervin, was born in Maryland, and served as a soldier in the War of 1812, taking part in at least one battle with the British. He was married to Rachel Devine, in Virginia, she being a native of that State, and in 1825 they moved to Knox County, Ohio. In 1839 they removed from there to Fayette County, Ill., and James Ervin bought a saw and grist mill on Hickory Creek, in what is now Wheatland Township, three miles northwest of old Loogootee. This mill had been built by Ezra Griffith, in 1835, and was primitive in its equipments, having but one corn burr and an old upright saw. James Ervin added flour machinery, including a tread mill to use when water was low. He operated this mill for ten years, and then sold it back to Ezra Griffith.

It was in 1849 that James Ervin sold his mill and turned his attention to farming, buying land about one and one-half miles from old Loogootee, the postoffice at that time being Hickory Creek. He died on his farm in 1855, aged sixty-four years, and was survived by his widow until 1872. The old farm is now owned by Peter Schwarm. Nine children were born to James and Rachel Ervin, six of whom reached maturity; the three sons of this number were: James M., William and Frederick Brown. William died in early manhood. Frederick Brown moved from Fayette County to Laclede County, Mo., in 1868, where he died in 1907, aged seventy-two years. The three sisters of James M. Ervin, who grew to womanhood, were: Elizabeth, widow of Simpson Gibford, lives at Altamont, Ill.; Sarah Ann, who died aged seventy-two years, was the wife of Berry Edwards, a merchant, miller and farmer of old Loogootee; and Ellen, who married Robert Perkins, accompanied him to Missouri, and both died there.

James M. Ervin was fourteen when his parents came to Fayette County, and he assisted his father in the mill until he was twenty-one years of age. His first independent business enterprise was the putting up and selling of tobacco. He bought the leaf from the farmers and made plug tobacco, disposing of his product through Northern Illinois. For two years he traveled over the country with his wagon, selling on time to grocers, and thus established a regular route, making the business profitable. He then turned his attention to farming, moving to Shobonier, Fayette County, Ill., where he took charge of the farm of William H. Lee for one year, after which he removed to Lone Grove Township, Fayette County, and rented a farm near his present one, on which he lived for two years, leaving it when his first wife died, in the fall of 1855. He then managed his father's farm