

until the outbreak of the Civil War, when, like so many other patriots, he put aside all thought of personal gain and took up arms in defense of his country.

James M. Ervin enlisted in April, 1861, in answer to the first call for troops, becoming a member of Company G. Eleventh Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and during this first enlistment his services were confined to Villa Ridge and Young's Point, Mo. In August, 1862, Mr. Ervin re-enlisted in Company H, Ninety-seventh Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, a company which he assisted to recruit, and of which he was elected First Lieutenant. On July 29, 1863, just after the fall of Vicksburg, he was promoted to the rank of captain and served in this capacity until his honorable discharge, July 29, 1865, at Galveston, Tex. During this protracted period, Captain Ervin was ever at the post of duty, bravely leading his company and setting an example of courage which excited the admiration and confidence of his men. At the siege of Vicksburg his company was under fire for forty-three days, in the trenches. After the city's capitulation the company was sent to the South, and thus was in the great railroad disaster that resulted in seven of them being killed, and so many of the regiment being disabled that the organization was broken up for months. Upon the company's being again recruited, it was sent, in command of Captain Ervin, to Morganza Bend, La., and finally to Mobile; they assisted in the capture of the latter city and in the capture of Fort Blakely, their last battle. From there the company went, for its discharge, to Galveston.

Captain Ervin, after his years of hard military life, was glad to return to the peaceful pursuit of agriculture, and soon after the war he purchased 160 acres of the farm which he still owns and occupies. To the original purchase he added until he now owns 280 acres, comprising a fine estate. At different times he has traded in other lands, but has disposed of all but his home farm. Here the old soldier has lived in peaceful independence for many years. His army days and comrades, however, are not forgotten; he is a charter member of Loogootee Post, Grand Army of the Republic, No. 756, which he has served as Commander, and has attended a number of National Encampments and District Reunions. His political convictions make him a Republican, but beyond performing the duties of a good citizen, he no longer takes much interest in politics. He was once an independent candidate for the office of Sheriff, and has served as School Director.

In 1852, Captain Ervin was married (first) to Sarah Ann Daggett, who died three years later. In the fall of 1866, he was married (second) to Sarah Smail, of Wheatland Township, a most estimable woman, whose death, in February, 1902, after a happy married life of thirty-six years, brought great sorrow to her family. Two sons survive,—Willie S. and Fred-

erick D. The former is the senior member of the general mercantile firm of Ervin & Miller, of Loogootee; he married Lillie Cates. The latter is the manager of the home farm, and married Martha Stevens.

ETCHISON, John A.—One of the privileges of growing old is being able to look back along the years and see how materially things have improved, and what an advance has been made in civilization. Especially is this true of those who have in their youth been pioneers in a new country. To this generation Illinois seems the very refinement of an advanced civilization, and yet, in 1870, John A. Etchison bought 200 acres of wild land just three miles northwest of Vandalia, for twelve dollars an acre, although today it could not be purchased for \$80. That land, now covered with golden grain or affording rich pasturage for sleek cattle, then lay under water or was covered with timber and dense undergrowth. It took thirty years of hard work to make the change, yet all the time he was working, he was helping to push our great Commonwealth further and further forward towards national greatness. John A. Etchison was born in Lawrence County, Ind., July 2, 1844, a son of Jacob and Jane (Bowden) Etchison. The father was a native of North Carolina, who came to Indiana and there met his wife, whom he married in her native State. When John was only eight years old, the family removed to Bond County, Ill., where the father farmed and lived until his death.

John A. Etchison remained at home until he was twenty-one years old and then bought eighty acres of land, but in 1870 he came to Fayette County and settled in Vandalia Township, upon the 200-acre farm he has developed so well. In his work he met with some disappointments and losses, for a good two-story frame house, which he had hopefully built, was destroyed by fire; still he did not give up, but erected another, which now stands. His barns and other buildings are good, and he receives an excellent rent for the farm. In partnership with his son-in-law, he owned a 400-acre farm in Johnson County, which has been improved. It is in good condition, well drained with open ditches and yields excellent returns on the investment. Eight years ago he removed to Vandalia, and now occupies his time looking after his other interests, owning two houses, one of which he rents.

On January 9, 1867, Mr. Etchison married, in Bond County, Ill., Charity Ellsworth, daughter of George and Anna Ellsworth, both of Madison County, Ind., her father's father, Isaac Ellsworth, being a pioneer of that county. She was eleven years old when the family came to Bond County, and but twenty at the time of her marriage. The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Etchison: Louisa Jane, married Leander Walker, and died a year later, while her husband survived her scarcely a year; Addie