

SHIPMAN TOWNSHIP.

THE boundaries of Shipman township are Chesterfield on the north, Jersey county on the west, Brighton on the south, and Hilyard on the east. The surface is mostly rich prairie land, and the township is among the best and finest improved in the county. The excellent railroad facilities give it an advantage in the way of accessible markets, and makes the township especially desirable as a place of residence. *Drainage.* Piasa creek takes its rise in the township, and Coop's creek flows through the north-eastern part, and empties into the Macoupin, two miles north of the township line. These creeks with their several tributaries, give an ample supply of water for stock purposes, and drainage.*

In the year 1830, the Rev. William Peter, began the first improvements in the township, on section 31; he soon after died, and his family moved to Upper Alton; where they remained untill the following spring. Then Mrs. Peter returned, and had a cabin erected, which was the first in the township. In 1831, Benjamin Stedman came from Edwardsville, Illinois, and entered land in section 23, where he afterwards settled.

James Honchance, built the second cabin in the township, on section 15, in the year 1833. The same year, Aaron Arnold, his sons Smith, and Edwin Arnold; George D. Randle, and a Mr. Houston, settled near Coop's creek. About the same time James Haycraft, Samuel Hayeraft, Joel Parker, and Mrs. Cleaver, commenced the Haycraft settlement. In the same year, came also George D. Arnold, Nimrod Dorsey, William P. McKee, and Dr. B. F. Edwards, from Madison county, Illinois. Silas Crane and James Haley, settled on sections 29 and 30, during the year 1833.

In 1835, George Parker began improvements, where he now resides.

Thomas H. Wilson, Sr., and R. Meatyard, settled near the Piasa creek, in the spring of 1836; and soon after Thos. B. Rice, settled where he now lives.

In 1836, George D. Randle laid out twenty acres on section 24, in town lots, and called it Brooklyn. He built a store, and offered for sale the first stock of goods in the township. The same year the Methodists built a church in Brooklyn, (which is now owned by Peter Schneider, and occupied as a dwelling.) The first school in the township, was taught in this church, by Miss Maria Arnold.

The Brooklyn election precinct was organized in 1837. George D. Randle was elected first Justice of the Peace.

About the year 1844, Horace Mead, John R. Denny, William Prosser, and John Richardson settled in the township; and it was about this time that the first school-house was built. It was a log building, known as the Prosser school-house. This was also used for church purposes, and Sunday-school. R. Meatyard was the first superintendent.

The first frame school-house erected in the township, was at Piasa, in 1849.

The first preaching in the township, was by Rev. Otwell, at the residence of Mrs. Keziah Peter.

Religious services were held at private houses, for several years before the first church was built.

Dr. John Ash located at Piasa, about the year 1850, and was the first physician in the township. The following are the first land entries; Wm. Peter, May 26, 1830, 80 acres in section 30; Thomas Love, May 21, 1831, 80 acres in section 30; Robert Hargraves, July 18, 1832, 40 acres in section 31.

We mention below a few of the older settlers of the county, now residing in this township: R. Meatyard, nativity, England, settled in 1831; W. T. Peter, a Kentuckian, came in 1831; Samuel Tribble, an Englishman by birth, located in the county in 1829; C. C. Rhoads, native of Kentucky, came in 1831; John T. Jolley, Kentuckian, located in 1834; Thomas B. Rice, of Virginia, settled in 1835; T. H. Stratton, native of Tennessee, settled

in 1836; B. E. Parker, born in Macoupin county, 1839. The late B. C. Rhoads, a native of Kentucky, settled in the county in 1829.

The following are a few of the many well improved farms in the township, views of which may be seen in this work:—C. C. Rhoads, T. B. Rice, C. B. Wilson, Samuel Tribble, M. Swank, Frank Fisk, residence of the late B. C. Rhoads, R. H. Miller, E. B. Clark, E. L. Hupp, J. M. Wilson, and Henry Law.

The statistics of the township, taken from the Assessor's book in 1879, are as follows:—Number of acres improved lands, 16,773, value \$154,892; acres unimproved lands 600, value \$12,867; total value of lands \$167,759; value of lots \$24,380. Horses 690, value \$12,234; cattle 1322, value \$9060; mules 59, value \$1025; sheep 1162, value \$1082; hogs 1467, value \$1103; carriages and wagons 302, value \$3290; 286 watches and clocks, 165 sewing machines, 13 pianos, 53 organs. Total value of personal property \$54,376.

Below is a list of the township officers, since township organization.

Supervisors.—R. F. Rambo, elected in 1871; Edward C. Wales, elected in 1872, re-elected in 1873; Samuel Williams, elected in 1874; J. W. Darlington, elected in 1875; T. N. Marsh, elected in 1876, re-elected in 1877; C. E. Wales, elected in 1878, re-elected in 1879.

Town Clerks.—Thos. N. Marsh, elected in 1871; J. R. Denny, elected in 1872; R. Meatyard, elected in 1873, by re-election, held the office until 1877; P. Riley, elected in 1877; H. R. Talley, elected in 1878, and re-elected in 1879.

Assessors.—Jno. W. Darlington, elected in 1871; J. T. Jolley, elected in 1872; Wm. Simpson, elected in 1873; E. P. Ford, elected in 1874, and re-elected in 1875, and 1876; W. W. Reynolds, elected in 1877; J. T. Jolley, elected in 1878, and re-elected in 1879.

Collectors.—Thos. G. Coffy, elected in 1871, and re-elected in 1872; Wm. H. Miles, elected in 1873, and re-elected in 1874; J. Wildman, elected in 1875, and re-elected in 1876; J. T. Grubb, elected in 1877; T. G. Coffy, elected in 1878 and 1879.

The following are the justices of the peace since township organization: D. S. Ferguson and Jas. Wm. McClarin, elected in 1871; R. F. Rambo and G. S. Nutter, elected 1873; T. G. Coffy, elected in 1874; R. F. Rambo, and J. J. Green, elected in 1877.

Constables since township organization.—Walter Elwarthy and Harman W. Denny, elected in 1871; H. W. Denny and W. Brown, elected in 1873; J. M. Knight, elected in 1874; H. W. Denny and L. Newcomb, elected in 1877.

Commissioners of Highways.—1871, John T. Jolley, Charles Peck, L. P. Armstrong; 1872, Charles O. Matlack; 1873, Thomas B. Harker, 1874, Charles Peck; 1875, Charles O. Matlack; 1876, Thomas B. Harker; 1877 James W. Christopher; 1878, C. O. Matlack, B. E. Parker, Samuel Slade; 1879, B. E. Parker.

TOWN OF SHIPMAN.

The village of Shipman, was named in honor of John H. Shipman, one of the original proprietors. It is located on section 24, and was laid out by John H. Shipman and John L. Roberts, and surveyed and platted by George H. Holliday in the year 1852.

Leonard Loveland, jr., erected the first building, and opened a stock of groceries for sale, and a Mr. Phillips built the first dwelling-house. In 1853 Messrs. Denny and Meatyard erected the second business house, and began general merchandizing. Dr. M. W. Seaman located at Shipman, in the autumn of 1854, and Dr. J. W. Trabue in the spring of 1855. The same year I. and E. Green, opened a store, and continued merchandizing for several years.

The school-house was built in 1857. The Methodists erected the first

* We are particularly indebted to Mr. R. Meatyard for information furnished relative to the history of this township.

church in the village, in the year 1858. There are now four churches in the village, viz.: Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran and Catholic. The Chicago and Alton R. R., was built through the village in 1852. Shipman was incorporated in 1867, and on the first Monday in April of the same year the following board of trustees were elected: Dr. M. W. Seaman, president; T. G. Coffy, Dr. J. W. Trabue, J. H. Smalley and Felix Reynolds, trustees; Newcomb, constable; Samuel S. Green, treasurer; E. P. Ford, town clerk.

The village has been fortunate in having for its business men, gentlemen of enterprise, and they have made Shipman one of the most thriving and handsome villages in the county. It has at present between five and six hundred inhabitants.

BUSINESS HOUSES.

General stores—R. Meatyard, I. E. and F. M. Dodson, M. R. Steward. *Hardware and Agricultural Implements*—J. M. Wilcox. *Lumber and Agricultural Implements*—Frank Fisk. *Furniture and Undertaking*—E. G. Randle. *Harness store*—J. A. Quick. *Drug Store*—Marshall and Kendall. *Barber Shop*—Daniel Baker. *Groceries, &c.*—T. G. Coffy. *Bakery and Confectionery*—Sarah Ford, John Heiser. *Jewelry store*—H. Nelson. *Butcher shop*—J. B. Miller. *Wagon and Carriage shop*—W. G. Wallace. *Millinery and Dressmaking*—Mrs. Mary Quick, M. L. Culbertson and sister, Mrs. Sarah Taylor. *Miller*—P. J. Stern. *Grain dealer*—Joseph Dodson. *Cattle dealer*—R. P. Miller. *Hotels*—H. Langmyer, John Fischer. *Physicians*—M. W. Seaman, G. W. Gilson, J. W. Trabue. *Blacksmith shop*—F. Markle, Wm. Wynkoop. *Builders*—W. W. Reynolds, S. S. Webster, F. Gorman. *Painter*—Frank Wallace. *Saloons*—P. Curran, H. O'Neil, James Powers.

PIASA.

This village is situated on the line of the Rock Island division of the C. B. & Q. R. R., five miles north of Brighton, where the corners of sections 19-20 and 30-29 join. It took its name from the Piasa creek, which runs through the place.

The first person to locate where Piasa now is, was George Parker, who erected a log-cabin in the spring of 1836. In 1837 Robert Meatyard, located where Mrs. Kendall now lives.

In November, 1849, Wm. Baily opened a store with a young man, by the name of Smith as manager, which was the first in the village. It was subsequently kept by J. W. Warren.

In 1849 a school-house was erected at a cost of \$250. The first post-office was established in 1850. Charles Tally was post-master. The same year H. G. Tally, opened a blacksmith shop. The first person buried in the Piasa cemetery was Charles Justison, in March, 1850.

There are two churches in the village, Baptist. and Methodist.

J. R. Denny, post-master.

BUSINESS HOUSES OF PIASA.

Drugs and Hardware—C. B. Wilson. *General stores*—J. R. Denny and W. F. Bateman. *Blacksmith shop*—Edward Goodall. *Wagon shop*—H. M. Kendall. *Stove Maker*—Aaron Hiscott.

The village has about two hundred population.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

EDWARD B. CLARK

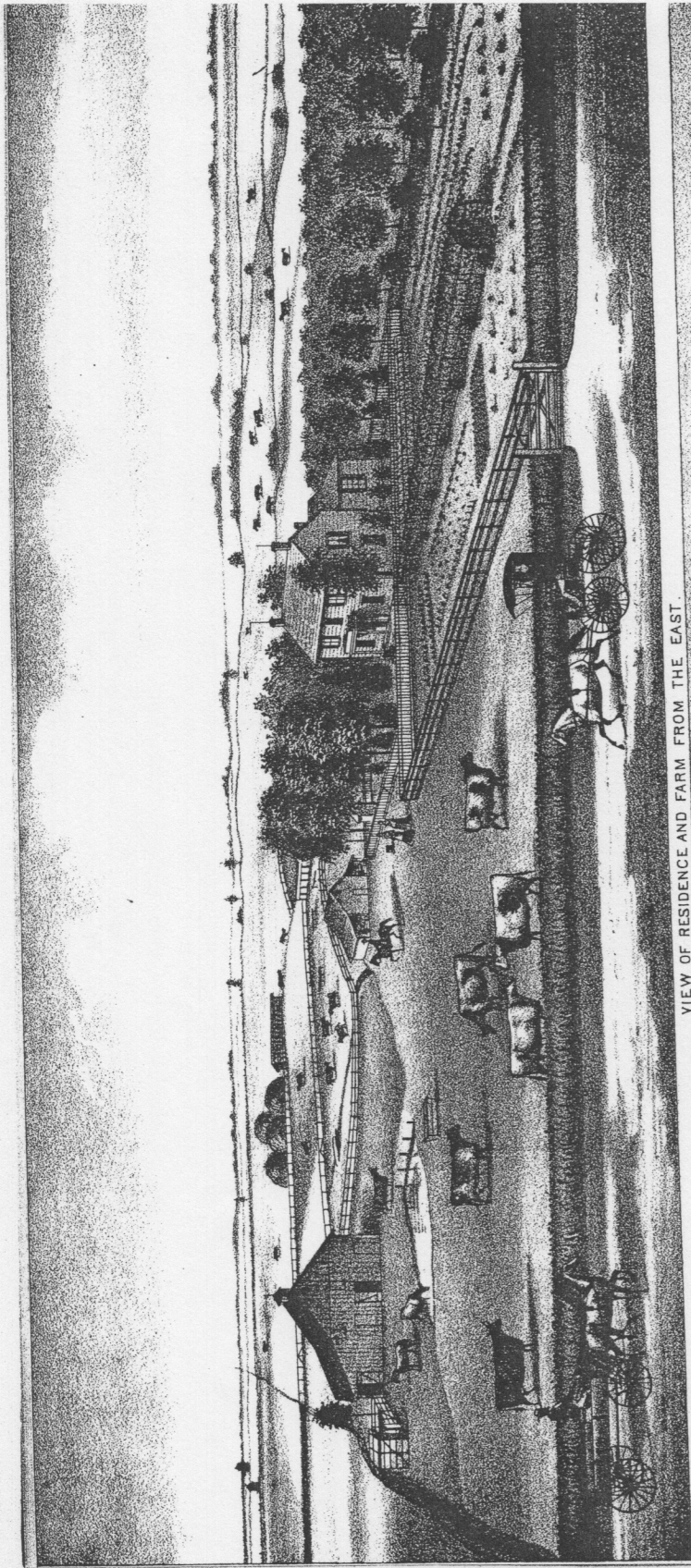
Was born in Logan county, Kentucky, Oct. 25, 1824. Howard Clark, his father, was a native of Warren county. The family were originally from Virginia. His great-grandfather was born in England. There were two brothers who came over to America, one of whom married, and from him have sprung the present Clark family. They settled in Virginia prior to the revolutionary war, and subsequently removed to Kentucky. Howard Clark married Eliza J. Wilson. She was born in Kentucky. There were five boys born to them, and one girl, who, however, died at an early age. Mr. Clark removed to Illinois in 1831, and settled in Edwardsville, Madison county, and in 1835 removed to Macoupin county, two and a half miles west of Brighton, now known as part of Jersey county, where he remained for twenty-five years, when he removed to the village of Brighton, where he remained until his death in 1866. The mother died in 1858. The subject of our sketch went to school in the winter season and worked upon the farm in the summer months. He received a good education. He remained at home until he was twenty-one years of age, after which he worked on a farm, for which he received \$12 per month. In 1848 he purchased land and built a small cabin on it, and commenced cultivating the soil.

In the spring of 1851 he was united in marriage to Miss Nancy Parker, who is a native of Kentucky. Her parents removed to Illinois while she was yet in her infancy. Nine children have been born to them, eight of whom are living. Charles M., the second son, died August 27, 1878, in his twenty-fifth year. Two daughters are married. One resides in the village of Piasa, and the other is a resident of Eldorado, Kansas. Isaac W. Clark, a younger brother of the present sketch, enlisted in the 27th regiment Illinois volunteers, and was wounded at Atlanta, and it is supposed was taken prisoner on the field of battle, and taken to Andersonville, where he died from the effect of the wounds soon after. Both Mr. Clark and his wife are mem-

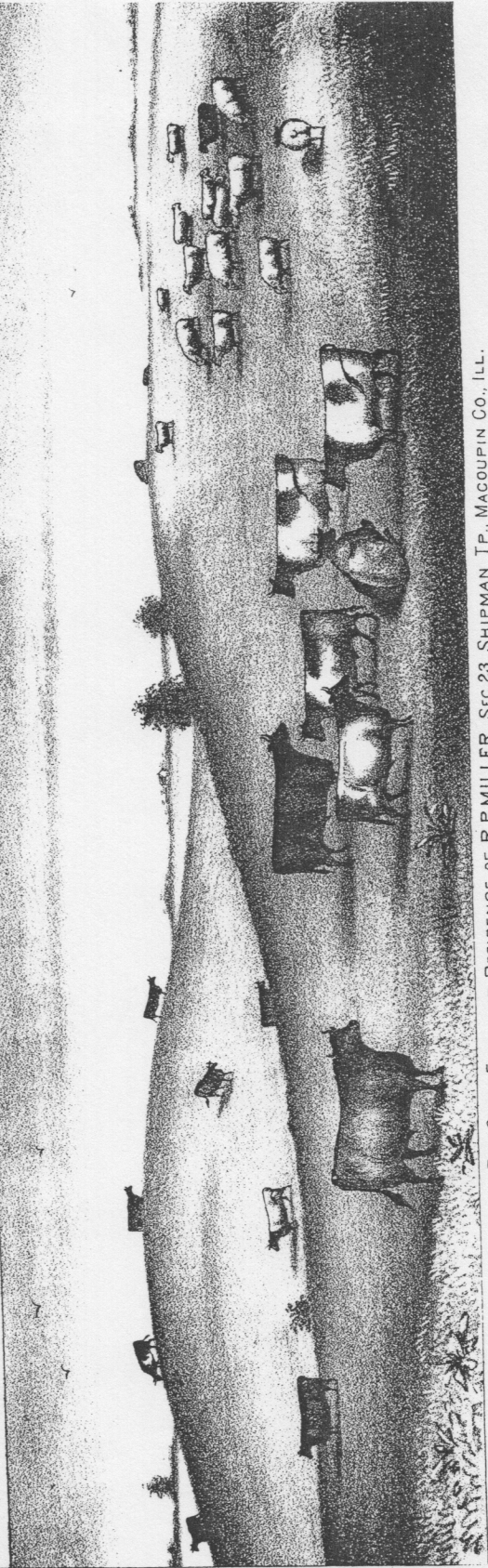
bers of the Baptist Church. He is republican, but takes no active part in politics except to vote his sentiments. He has been successful in life, and is one of the prominent and substantial farmers of Macoupin county. He is much respected for his worth as a man and citizen.

ROBERT MEATYARD

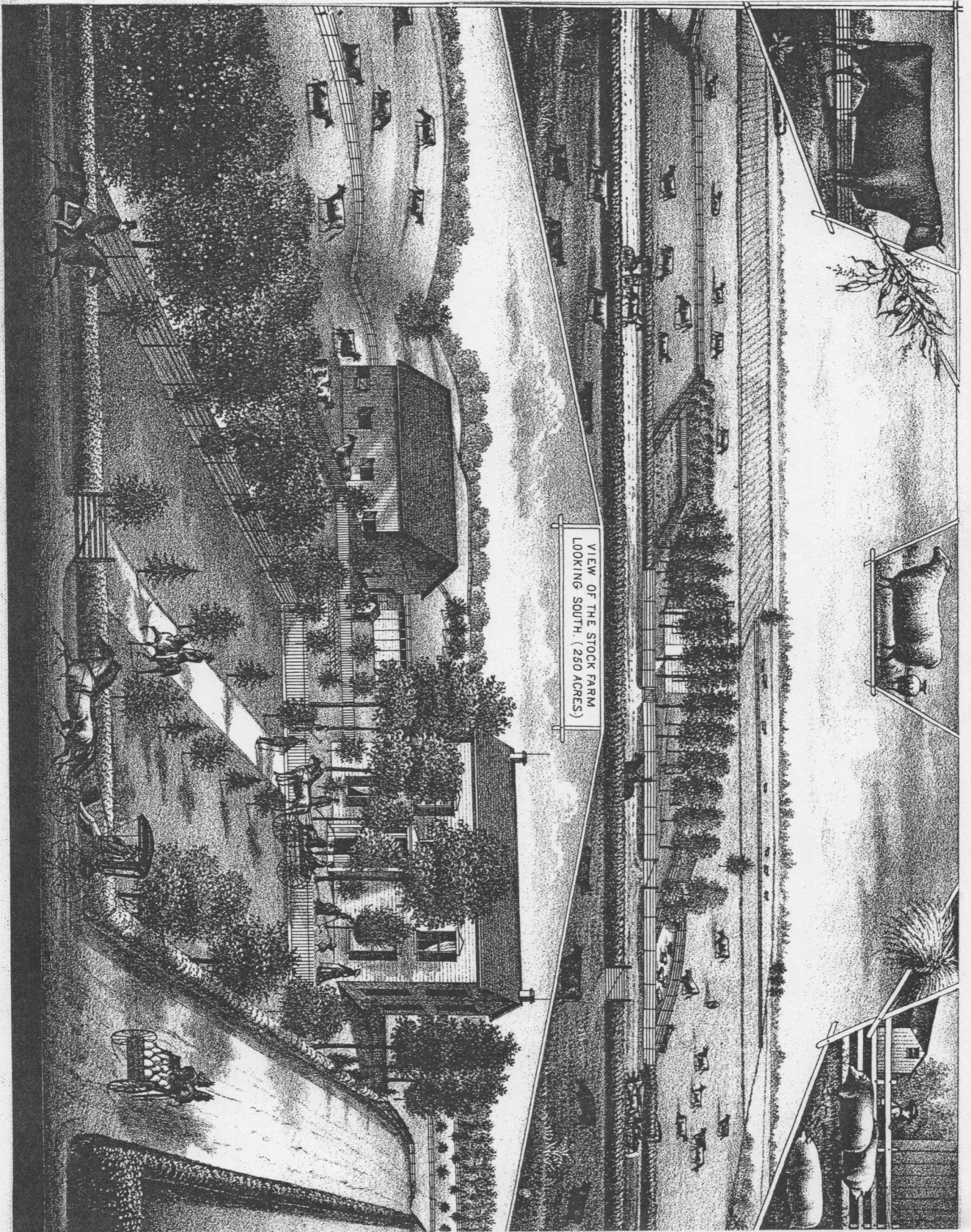
MAY be regarded as one of the pioneers of Macoupin county. He was born in Dorsetshire, England, December 8th, 1812. In 1831 he left his native land and emigrated to America and settled in New York, where he remained until November, 1835, when he came west and stopped at Alton, Illinois. In the spring of 1836 he came to Piasa, in Macoupin county, where he entered land and commenced farming. The town of Piasa was afterward laid out and built upon a portion of the land originally entered by him. He remained there until 1853, when he removed to Shipman, where he built a store-house and engaged in general merchandizing. He at the same time was appointed agent for the Chicago, Alton and St. Louis railroad, which position he held for sixteen years. In 1853 he was appointed post-master, and has held that office up to the present time, with the exception of four years, from 1857 until 1861. At present he is still engaged in general merchandizing, in which he has been more than ordinarily successful. In politics Mr. Meatyard is a republican. In former years he was one of those who believed that the system of slavery was wrong. At the formation of the republican party he joined its ranks and has been a firm supporter of its tenets ever since. He has been for a number of years a consistent member of the M. E. church. As a man he is universally respected for his probity of character and honorable dealings among his fellow-citizens.



VIEW OF RESIDENCE AND FARM FROM THE EAST.



THE STOCK FARM AND RESIDENCE OF R.P. MILLER, SEC. 23 SHIPMAN TP., MACOUPIN CO., ILL.



VIEW OF THE STOCK FARM
LOOKING SOUTH. (250 ACRES)