

children, named in order of age Donald Lafayette, Garrett Okay, Valara, Jennie, Ruth, Olin, Edith, Mamie, one that died in infancy, Layton, Fern Eva, Howard J. and Elizabeth Catherine. The fifth and eleventh in order of birth, Ruth and Fern Eva, are also deceased. The oldest, Donald L., on April 14, 1917, joined the United States Navy and is now on the battleship Wyoming. Garrett Okay, the second son, is also a soldier, being with the One Hundred Twentieth Field Artillery now in England, and was formerly a member of Troop I at Stevens Point. The third child, Valara, married Jacob C. Galloway, of Plover Township, and they have one daughter, Velma Blanche.

RANSLEAR W. PARKS. One of the names longest and most prominently identified with Portage County is that of Parks. As a family they came from New York State and the individual members have proved themselves masters of circumstances and have done much to improve the community while working for their own welfare.

Several of the names are well known to the people of Portage County. Mr. Ranslear W. Parks was born in Rockland, Sullivan County, New York, September 20, 1858, son of Silas T. and Wealthy (Ferdon) Parks. The family originated in Scotland. The great-grandfather was known as Boatsman Parks, who in pioneer times moved up the Delaware River into New York State. He lived out on the frontier and one time showed a very determined courage in handling a dangerous situation with some hostile Indians. Two red men planned an attack upon his home for the purpose of killing his children and himself and wife, but they were interrupted before they could put their plan into execution and Boatsman Parks shot one of his assailants and killed the other with an axe. The paternal grandparents of Mr. R. W. Parks were Moses and Sarah Parks, who spent all their lives in New York State. Moses Parks was a soldier in the War of 1812, while his grandfather had performed patriot service in the Revolution.

Silas T. Parks, father of Ranslear W., was born at Hancock in Delaware County, New York, March 30, 1831. He married at Rockland in Sullivan County Miss Wealthy Ferdon, who was born there May 15, 1841. After their marriage they remained in Sullivan County and from there in 1862 Silas Parks went away to the war as a Union soldier in Company F of the One Hundred Forty-fourth New York Infantry. He was with his regiment, fighting in many battles, until the close of the war.

In the meantime, in 1862, his wife and children, together with her parents and other members of the family, came out to Kossuth Township of Manitowoc County, Wisconsin. They lived there until Silas Parks returned from the army. Wealthy Ferdon was a daughter of William and Frelove (Davis) Ferdon, who also became identified with Portage County citizenship. Both were natives of New York State and after coming to Wisconsin they lived in several localities before coming into Portage County, where both of them died. Their children were: Mary; Sarah Jane; Hitabel and James, deceased; Samuel; Wealthy; John; Edward, who enlisted and went away to the Civil war at the age of sixteen and died while in Andersonville prison; Emily; Annis; William Albert; and Lot.

When Silas Parks rejoined his family in Wisconsin at the close of the war he moved to Brillion in Calumet County, Wisconsin, was

there two years, spent another two years at Wild Rose in Warshara County, and then came to Linwood Township of Portage County, acquiring a tract of land where Mr. Henry Clark now lives. The family moved to that place in 1871, but on May 4, 1893, Silas Parks brought his family to Plover Township and settled on the farm of 120 acres where Edwin Parks now lives. This is the home where Silas Parks died in 1903 and his wife in 1901. He was a republican in politics and a member of the United Brethren Church. He and his wife had six children: Sarah Jane, deceased; Ranslear W.; Alfred L.; Emma A.; Sidney W. and David W.

Ranslear W. Parks was about four years old when his mother brought him to Wisconsin. Even at that early age he had been introduced to the routine of a common school in his native state, and most of his education was acquired in Portage County at an old school on Mill Creek in Linwood Township. While farming has constituted his major activities, he spent a number of years on the river and in the lumber woods. He bought land at the location where he now lives in section 25 of Plover Township in 1885. His first purchase was eighty acres, and later he added forty acres more. In 1918 he disposed of thirty-six acres, leaving him a comfortable estate to manage. When he went to that farm only four acres had been cleared and the big work of clearing the rest of it and putting it in cultivation is perhaps his chief contribution to the present agricultural resources of the county. He also erected good buildings and now has a general farm and has it well stocked with good cattle, horses and hogs. Mr. Parks has always borne an honorable and useful part in the community, served six years as side supervisor, and also school treasurer several terms. His father was for many years identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

On December 25, 1879, Mr. R. W. Parks married Miss Ada M. Clussman. Mrs. Parks was born in Linwood Township May 15, 1860, daughter of Edward and Anne M. (Hoyt) Clussman. Her father was born in Illinois in 1826 and her mother at Rockford, Sullivan County, New York, in 1833. Edward Clussman and wife married in New York State, and in the early '50s came to Portage County as pioneers. He served as county clerk when the county seat was at Plover and died while still in that office in 1865. Edward Clussman's first place of settlement in Portage County was at Cronant Rapids in Linwood Township. He worked there in the woods and was also a riverman on the Wisconsin River. When the war came on he enlisted in the Union army but after a brief service was discharged on account of ill health. He also owned and operated a ferry near Plover, purchasing that property from Joseph Seamons. After the death of Edward Clussman, his widow, mother of Mrs. Parks, married Joseph Seamons. A son of Joseph Seamons is Oscar Seamons, whose name is mentioned on other pages of this work. Joseph Seamons by his marriage to Mrs. Clussman had one daughter, Josephine. Josephine was born in Plover Township in 1870 and married Eugene Clendenning. Mr. Clendenning was born in New York State in 1863, son of Eugene and Ann Clendenning, who came to Plover Township from New York about 1883 and both died in Plover Village. Eugene Clendenning, Jr., is a mason by trade and he and his wife now live at Meehan Station in Plover Township. Mrs. Clen-

denning formerly owned a farm there, but it is now the property of her son Arthur Clendenning. Mrs. Clendenning was for some years engaged in the mercantile business at Meehan Station but later sold the store. Her son Orin Clendenning, who was born in Plover Township January 31, 1889, now owns a farm of eighty acres near Meehan Station, having bought it in 1906. Orin Clendenning married in 1911 Susie Wolf, and they have four children.

Mrs. Parks' mother died January 4, 1901. Mrs. Parks was the youngest of the three children of her father and mother. The oldest, Mary, is the wife of Henry Fowler. Her only brother, William Clussman, was born in Linwood Township February 22, 1857, spent a number of years in his early life as workman in sawmills and at log driving, and made a number of trips down the rivers as far as St. Louis. He is now a farmer of seventy acres in Plover Township, and has made a place notable for its excellent improvements. As a republican he has served as clerk and treasurer of the school board. February 21, 1883, William Clussman married Jennie Edwards, of Portage County, and they have eight children, named Edward, Walter, Bertha, Clinton, Charles, Nettie, Grace and Everett. Of these children Bertha died at the age of fifteen years.

Mr. and Mrs. Parks have every reason to be proud of their family, numbering five children. Myrtle A. is the wife of Aaron L. Smith, of California, and they have five children, Zella, Eula, Alvin L., Ranslear J. and Merrill. The Smith family are distinguished by practically all the children being most competent and skillful players of the violin. Edwin R. Parks, second child of Mr. and Mrs. Parks, now occupies the farm which his grandfather settled upon. He married Rose Mathewson, and their children are Edith, Cecil, Derrell, Orville, Etta and Rubie. Of the third child of Mr. Parks, Dennis H., a more detailed sketch is presented on other pages. Edna is the wife of Fred Fox, and their four children are Leslie; Wilbur, deceased; Kenneth; and Ada May. Addie, the youngest of the family, is the wife of Warren Beadle, of Biron, Wisconsin. They have one child, Eudora.

PATRICK COLLINS. From the time of his arrival at Stevens Point in 1868 until his retirement in 1902, the late Patrick Collins conducted a blacksmithing and wagon-making business, and during this period impressed himself upon the people of this community as a reliable man of business and a sound and substantial citizen. It is to such men that Portage County owes its rapid advancement and the wonderful development of its business enterprises—men who watch for opportunity, utilize it when it comes and while promoting individual success also promote the general welfare.

Mr. Collins was born on Prince Edward Island, March 7, 1833, a son of William and Honora (Buckley) Collins, natives of Ireland, where they were married. Not long after their union they went to Prince Edward Island, and subsequently came to the United States, where their first place of residence was Boston, Massachusetts. From the East they came to Portage County, Wisconsin, Mr. Collins passing away at Portage City, while his widow died in Iowa. They were the parents of eight sons and four daughters, of whom only one child is now living, Cornelius, a resident of San Antonio, Texas.

Patrick Collins attended the public schools of Prince Edward