

CHILDS, JOHN, bee keeper ; born in Massachusetts, Jan. 8, 1815 ; removed in infancy to Steuben Co., N. Y., where he lived until 26 years of age, and then removed to Ohio. Married Miss Lodency Force ; she was born in Steuben Co., N. Y. ; they started to Iowa in May, 1853, coming to La Salle, Ill., and from there by wagon, spending the Winter near Princeton, and came on here in the Spring ; arrived in Marshalltown in May, being among the first settlers ; he bought a claim of William Ralls, of 320 acres, north of and adjoining Main street, and built the first frame house in the town ; the first meeting in this town was held in their log house, thirteen feet square ; in 1855, they went back to Ohio with their own team ; on the way, their child was taken sick, and Mr. Childs was also sick ; Mrs. Childs sat under the wagon all night long, out on the prairie, holding her little child in her arms, and watching it by a lighted candle, expecting it would die in her arms before morning ; they have two children—Mrs. Louisa Choate, and Mrs. R. E. Sears ; they have lost one son—Benjamin, and two daughters—Adelaide and Edith.