

## JAMES M. HALL.

The success that has been attained by James M. Hall, a general merchant of Collins, is proof of his ability in a line in which he has met with close competition and which has called for rare discrimination and wise management. His store is pronounced by competent judges one of the most complete of the kind, outside of the larger cities, in this part of the state.

He was born in Wayne county, Indiana, August 15, 1852, a son of Henry and Dinah (McClay) Hall, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. Henry Hall was left an orphan in his boyhood and was reared in the family of Newton Claypool, moving to Indiana with his benefactors. He learned the tanner's trade and, having decided to seek his fortune in the west, came to Iowa in 1854 and settled near Mitchellville, where he worked upon a farm. He was a man of good habits and of energetic purpose, and he soon acquired sufficient capital to purchase a place, upon which he lived until his death, which occurred in the eighty-eighth year of his age. He was a staunch advocate of the republican party and became a prominent factor in the politics of Polk county, holding various township offices and also filling the office of county supervisor.

James M. Hall came with his parents to Iowa in his infancy and was educated in the public schools of this state. He began his business career in a grocery store which his father owned in Peoria, continuing in that establishment until he reached his twenty-second year, when the business was sold to Lee Donnell. After four years' service under Mr. Donnell, Mr. Hall turned his attention to farming and four years later, having decided that nature had not designed him as an agriculturist, he entered the employ of the mercantile firm of Baldwin & Maxwell, at Iowa Center.

He is a leading factor in all movements pertaining to the welfare of Collins and vicinity and is recognized as one who has contributed substantially to the progress of the community.

He made such a good impression upon the firm that at the end of six months he was sent to a branch store at Clyde, Iowa, where he remained for four years, being a portion of the time in charge of the business. He was next called to the Maxwell store and there continued until 1888, when he resigned and came to Collins, organizing the firm of Hall & Poorbaugh, which engaged successfully in general mercantile business. Several years later Mr. Poorbaugh sold his interest to I. H. Pulis and the business so continued until 1897, when Mr. Hall retired, disposing of his interest to his partner. In 1898 he associated with his brother, Tiffin Hall, in organizing the firm of Hall Brothers, general merchants, which was successfully launched and attracted a fair share of the public patronage. In 1905 our subject purchased the interest of his brother and has since conducted the business independently. He keeps a large and well selected stock and his store is not only a credit to himself but to the community.

In 1873 Mr. Hall was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Bell, a daughter of Henry Bell, a prominent farmer of Polk county, and of this union seven children have been born, five of whom are now living, namely: Clara, the wife of Henry Denniston, a farmer of Collins township; Charles H., a practicing attorney of Nevada, this state; Grace, now the wife of O. G. Smith, of Nevada; Milo, of Des Moines, Iowa; and Jennie, who is living at home and is attending the Collins high school.

Mr. Hall is an independent republican politically and has served as a member of the town council of Collins and also of the school board. He is identified with Fervent Lodge, No. 513, A. F. & A. M., and the Modern Woodmen of America, and he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star and the Methodist church. Mr. Hall takes an active interest in church and Sunday school work and for twenty-three years past has been superintendent of the Sunday school.

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