

## PRINCE ALBERT KITCHEL.

The old soldiers now living in Story county should occupy a prominent place in a history of the county, as through their bravery in times of danger and fidelity to the cause they believed to be true the Union stands today. Among the number is Prince Albert Kitchel, for several years past a resident of Collins. He was born in the state of Michigan, February 9, 1837, a son of Edward and Anna (Barnes) Kitchel, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of New York state. A short time after their marriage the parents moved to Stephenson county, Illinois, and later to Wisconsin. In 1848 they started west with three wagons and two yoke of oxen to each wagon and also drove eight head of cattle. They reached the Mississippi river at Prairie du Chien, the only means of crossing to the opposite side being in a ferry-boat propelled by horse power and not large enough to accom-

modate the entire outfit. During the trip the cattle were led by an old bell cow named Rose. She had learned to follow the wagons closely from the time they were started in the morning until the party went into camp at night. Two of the wagons were loaded on the ferry-boat which started to cross the river, the subject of this review, then a child, and a sister who was still younger having been left behind to herd the cattle. However, the bell cow Rose interfered with carefully laid plans and as the boat moved away in the water she started after it, followed by the rest of the herd. The mother stood in the stern of the ferry-boat and, seeing that it was impossible to turn the cattle back, called to them eagerly and they bravely responded, but were carried down by the current a quarter of a mile below the ferry landing. Upon reaching the opposite shore Mrs.

Kitchel hurried down the river and through her encouragement the cattle landed safely and she returned to the wharf with Rose and her other charges close behind. Gathering the possessions of the family together, Mr. Kitchel made his way to the old Winnebago Indian mission lands, where he lived for three years, then locating in Winneshiek county, Iowa. There he entered government land and built a log cabin, in which the family lived for about five years. In 1856 Mr. Kitchel moved to Olmsted county, Minnesota, where he again took up his work as a farmer. The mother departed this life while on a visit to a brother, and the father subsequently made his home with his children.

Prince Albert Kitchel acquired his education in a log schoolhouse with slab benches, puncheon floor and windows covered with greased paper. He continued with his parents until June 26, 1861, when he enlisted at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, in Company B, Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He served for four and one-half years and was an active participant in many of the greatest battles and movements of the war, the Second Minnesota being in almost continuous activity during the great rebellion. He was under Sherman during the celebrated march to the sea and was present at the surrender of General Johnston at Raleigh, North Carolina, discharging his duty at all times in such a way as to meet the hearty approval of the officers of his company. On July 20, 1865, he was honorably discharged and mustered out of service at Fort Snelling, and in 1867 came to Jasper county, Iowa, purchasing sixty acres of raw prairie land, upon which he built a board cabin that was later superseded by a comfortable modern residence. As his resources increased he purchased more land and became the owner of a highly improved farm of one hundred and forty-five acres which he disposed of in 1910. Since 1905 he has made his home at Collins, being now in the enjoyment of a well earned rest, to which he is entitled after many years of useful labor.

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In 1869 Mr. Kitchel was united in marriage to Mrs. Lucetta Kester, of Jasper county, a daughter of Warren Roberts, a native of Allen county, Ohio. Five children blessed this union: Gertrude, now the wife of Charles Darling, of Rhodes, Iowa; Laura, now Mrs. John Jackson, who

is in charge of the old Kitchel homestead in Jasper county; Edward, a farmer of Collins township; Catherine, the wife of Andrew Stevens, also of Collins township; and Warren A., who recently purchased his father's farm but is still living in Collins.

Politically Mr. Kitchel has been identified with the republican party ever since he cast his first ballot and he has great faith in its ability to direct the destinies of the republic. He is an earnest friend of education and served for several years as a member of the school board, being instrumental in the erection of several schoolhouses in Jasper county. Socially he is connected with the E. H. Keys Post, G. A. R., of Mingo, Iowa, and is well known in many parts of the state on account of his ability as a public speaker, being often called upon to address meetings of the old soldiers and of the pioneers. He is a stanch member of the Christian church, to which he gives a willing service, and it is doubtful whether any other citizen of Story county stands higher in the estimation of friends and acquaintances than does Prince Albert Kitchel.