

it up at night and it was always ready for service in the morning. In January, 1904, he purchased the implement business of John FencI, of Protivin, and continued to engage in farming and threshing until 1912, when he took up his abode in the town and has since given his undivided attention to the conduct of his commercial interests, carrying a large and carefully selected line of hardware, farm implements and kindred lines. His capable management and enterprise have been dominant factors in the upbuilding of a trade which has now reached gratifying proportions.

To Mr. and Mrs. Klimesh have been born ten children, nine of whom are yet living: Frank and John J., who are resident farmers of Chickasaw county; Lena, the wife of Robert Lukish, who carries on farming at Lisbon, North Dakota; Mary, the wife of Adolph Zahasky, a farmer of Chickasaw county; Rose, a Sister in St. Joseph's convent at Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Barbara, Lewis, Joseph and Adaline, all at home.

In politics Mr. Klimesh is a democrat and keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day but does not seek office as a reward for party fealty. He and his family are members of the Catholic church and he is keenly interested in everything that pertains to the welfare and progress of the community, cooperating heartily in all plans and projects for the general good.

COLONEL L. WHITCOMB.

Colonel L. Whitcomb is the secretary of the Fredericksburg butter factory and thus closely associated with the business activity and development of the city of Fredericksburg, of which he is now serving as mayor. He was born in Palatine, Cook county, Illinois, August 23, 1843, a son of Justus and Lovisa (Putnam) Whitcomb, both of whom were natives of Stockbridge, Vermont, where they were reared and married. They came west to the Mississippi valley on their wedding trip in 1836 and took up their abode in Cook county, Illinois, at which time Chicago was but a village, having not yet been incorporated. Mr. Whitcomb settled upon a farm about three miles from Palatine and continued to live at that place to the time of his demise.

Colonel L. Whitcomb was reared upon the home farm and received his education in one of the old-time log schoolhouses of the frontier with its puncheon floor and slab seats. In September, 1862, he responded to the country's call for troops to aid in crushing out the rebellion in the south and enlisted as a member of the One Hundred and Thirteenth Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war. He took part in the siege of Vicksburg, was with Sherman on the celebrated march from Atlanta to the sea and participated in a number of hotly contested engagements under Generals Sherman and Grant. He was honorably discharged at the close of the war and returned to his home with a most creditable military record in July, 1865.

For a few years thereafter Mr. Whitcomb was engaged in farming near Palatine, Illinois, and then removed to Chicago, where he became foreman of the western division of the Street Railway Company, occupying that responsible position for two years, during which period the street cars of the city were run by horses. Later Mr. Whitcomb removed to Kane county, Illinois, where he engaged in the dairy business, continuing active along that line for ten years. In 1881 he came to Iowa, settling in Chickasaw county, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres two and a half miles east of Fredericksburg. He continued for a long period in the dairy and stock business and while he still calls his farm "home," he has spent much of his time in Fredericksburg since the death of his wife in 1901. In 1890 he was one of the dominant factors in the organization and building of the Fredericksburg factory and was made vice president when the company began operations. A year later he was elected to the presidency and served in that capacity for fourteen years. In 1905, however, he withdrew from the executive position and was elected secretary of the company, in which capacity he has served for fourteen years, being the incumbent in the office at the present time. The success of the creamery is attributable in very large measure to his efforts and cooperation, for from the beginning he has been one of its officials and active in shaping its policy.