

HISTORY
OF
WEXFORD COUNTY, MICHIGAN

EMBRACING

A CONCISE REVIEW OF ITS EARLY SETTLEMENT, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND
PRESENT CONDITIONS,

COMPILED BY

JOHN H. WHEELER

TO WHICH IS APPENDED

A COMPREHENSIVE COMPENDIUM OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY AND LIFE SKETCHES OF
WELL-KNOWN CITIZENS OF THE COUNTY.

ILLUSTRATED

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memory is never so defective as to forget favors extended to him. Wexford county was greatly benefited by his coming and that of his excellent family. Mrs. Davidson is a devout member of the Free Methodist church in Colfax township, and is a teacher in the Sabbath school.

WILLIAM W. LOVELESS.

The life of a sailor on the Great Lakes is a laborious and hazardous one, and yet one that is not entirely devoid of fascination. Men who have sailed for a number of years find it exceedingly difficult to content themselves on land and although their opportunities for advancement upon the water are as nothing to what they might encounter on shore, their love for the fathomless lake or ocean often compels them to sacrifice every other consideration for its sake. The subject of this review, William W. Loveless, followed the life of a sailor a number of years in his early manhood, and like others, after having given it up, he often yearned for the old life upon the stormy wave. However, he seems now to have thoroughly weaned himself from the enticing calling.

William W. Loveless, a resident of section 19, Haring township, was born in Essex county, Canada, of Canadian parents, April 22, 1837. He was reared and grew to manhood in his native county, receiving a fair education in the common branches at the public schools. While yet a young man he became a sailor, on a ship engaged in the grain trade plying between Buffalo and Chicago, and for seven years devoted himself exclusively to that calling. In 1863 he

took a position on a ship laden with copper ore and bound for Liverpool. The passage of the Atlantic was made by this staunch little craft in forty-eight days, the vessel being propelled entirely by sail.

In Ogle county, Illinois, August 10, 1859, William W. Loveless was married to Rachael A. Winner, a native of Pennsylvania, born September 14, 1837. To this union ten children were born, viz.: Walter S., Wallace E., Williard W., Wilton W., Wesley W., Sarah E., William W. W., Violet, Daisy, and Evangeline, who died aged three years and seven months. Sarah E. died at the age of thirteen years, Violet is the wife of Ernest Schram and Daisy died in her twenty-fourth year. August 7, 1881, when forty-one years of age, Mrs. Loveless died at the family home in Haring township, whence they had removed three years previously.

In the spring of 1878, desiring to better the fortunes of the family, William W. Loveless came to Wexford county and settled on a tract of land, part of section 19, Haring township. Here he erected a modest but comfortable residence, and after installing his family therein proceeded to hew a farm out of the dense woods. How well he has succeeded is clearly demonstrated by the tidy, well-kept little farm of forty-eight acres which year after year he has been cultivating at a comfortable profit.

In Wexford county, on the 23d day of January, 1884, William W. Loveless again entered into a matrimonial alliance, his bride on this occasion being Mrs. Margaret Gibson, widow of the late William Gibson. She is a native of Canada, born in Victoria county, Ontario, in October, 1837. Her maiden name was Margaret Shearer and she is a

daughter of Robert and Janet Shearer, natives of Scotland. One child has been adopted by the subject and his wife, an intelligent, winsome little girl named May.

In politics William W. Loveless is a Democrat and has always interested himself in the success of that party. He has served his township in various local offices. He has been a school director a number of years, township treasurer two years, justice of the peace four years, and township clerk one term. In all matters relating to the welfare of the township he has taken an active interest. He and wife are members of the Baptist church and always active in every species of religious work. He is a member of Cadillac Tent, No. 332, Knights of the Macabees, of the Loyal Orange lodge at his home in Canada and of the Patrons of Husbandry of Wexford county. He began life with little, and whatever he has accomplished is attributable entirely to his own exertions.

ANDREW HOLMBERG.

The substantial development and continued progress of the states in the northern part of the Mississippi valley owe not a little of their growth to the efforts of the sons of Sweden who have sought homes here. To this class Andrew Holmberg is a representative. He now lives on section 28, Clam Lake township, where he is engaged in general farming. He was born in Sweden on the 19th of April, 1848, and there spent the first twenty-four years of his life. In his youth he acquired a fair education and when quite young he learned the value of industry and perseverance as active factors in a business

career. These have ever been salient features in his work and have formed the foundation upon which he has builded his prosperity. In the spring of 1872, attracted by the opportunities of the new world, he made arrangements for leaving his native country, and, bidding goodbye to his friends there, he sailed for the new world, landing first at Quebec, Canada. He did not tarry in the Dominion, however, but came at once to Michigan and has since been a resident of Wexford county. Here he was first employed through one summer in the grading of the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad, and subsequently he was employed as a section hand. For many years he was foreman of a gang of men, working on the railroad, and continued his labors in that way until July, 1898, when he settled upon the farm which is now his home, and which he had previously purchased. He has erected a nice residence here and in the rear stand a good barn and fair outbuildings, which in turn are surrounded by fields of waving grain. He owns altogether eighty acres of land, of which fifty acres is improved. Previous to the purchase of his present property he was the owner of two other farms in Clam Lake township, but these he has sold.

On the 26th of May, 1873, in Big Rapids, Michigan, occurred the marriage of Mr. Holmberg and Miss Carrie Anderson, a most estimable lady, who has indeed been a faithful companion and helpmate to him on life's journey. She was born in Sweden, July 28, 1844, and in 1873 came to America. She has many excellent traits of character, including a kindly disposition and cordial manner, which have made her a favorite with many friends. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Holmberg has been blessed with five