

RICHLAND COUNTY WISCONSIN HISTORY - 1906
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Harlow STODDARD

HARLOW STODDARD, whose attractive farmstead is located in Willow township, on rural free-delivery route No. 3, from Richland Center, is a member of one of the well known pioneer families of this township, is a veteran of the Civil War and is a citizen who commands the high regard of the community. He was born in the state of New York, May 6, 1845, and is a son of Valentine and Johanna (Davidson) Stoddard, the former of whom was born in Connecticut and the latter in New York state, both families having early been founded in America.

The parents came to Wisconsin in 1855, settling in Willow township, this county, where the mother died in 1857, and where the father also passed the remainder of his long and useful life, his death occurring in 1900. In the midst of the forest he literally hewed out a productive farm and he was known as a man of sterling character, loyal to all the duties of citizenship and one who won prosperity by his own efforts.

In 1860 he contracted a second marriage, Mrs. Rebecca McCloud becoming his wife. She was the widow of George McCloud, and she still lives on the old homestead farm of her second husband.

Following is a brief record concerning the children of the first marriage of Valentine Stoddard: Jane became the wife of George McGrossen, she died in Michigan; Emeline became the wife of Josiah Edwards and both died in Macomb county, Mich.; George R. died in the state of Kansas; Ann became the wife of David Thompson and both died in Richland township, this county; John W. died in Willow township; the subject of this sketch was the next in order of birth; Jesse is a farmer of Richland township; and Jeanette is the widow of Seth Forest, and resides at Monroe county, this state.

Frank, the only living child of the second marriage, resides with his mother on the old homestead.

Harlow Stoddard was ten years of age at the time when his parents took up their residence in this county, and he was reared to manhood in Willow township, assisting in the development and cultivation of the home farm and attending the district schools as opportunity afforded. In 1864, at the age of nineteen years, he tendered his services in defense of the Union, enlisting as a private in

Company I, Thirty-eighth Regiment of Wisconsin volunteer infantry, with which he proceeded to the front and with which he served until the close of the war, when he received his honorable discharge. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and receives a well merited pension of eight dollars a month.

After the war, Mr. Stoddard returned to the home farm, in whose work and management he continued to be associated until he had attained to the age of twenty-eight years, when he initiated his independent career as a farmer. In 1875 he purchased his present homestead, having a well improved farm of 100 acres, the greater portion of which he reclaimed from its wild state, also erecting the excellent buildings on the place.

He has marked facility as a carpenter and has done much work at the trade in this section of the country. He gives his attention to diversified agriculture and stock-growing, having at the present time eight head of Holstein cattle and also raising a high grade of swine.

His political views coincide with those advanced by the Prohibition party and though he has never sought public office he has shown a deep interest in public affairs of a local order and has done his part in developing and upbuilding this favored section of the Badger State.

His wife held membership in the Congregational church. She died June 19, 1890. Feb. 22, 1875, recorded the marriage of Mr. Stoddard to Miss Anna Reagjes, who was born in Indiana, being a daughter of Abel and Priscilla (Sippy) Reagles, who came to Richland county from the Hoosier state, settling in Ithaca township, where the father still resides, his wife having died here, on the old homestead.

To Mr. and Mrs. Stoddard were born four children: Leonard, born in 1875, is a successful farmer of Ithaca township; Emma, born in 1876, and Loren, born in 1878, remain at the parental home; and Georgia, born in 1880, is the wife of Harley Martin, of Buena Vista township.