

and manufacturer of hay tools, and in that occupation he has continued since 1869. Being without capital he at first began manufacturing them by hand, doing all of the work himself. After working until he had a sufficient quantity on hand he would make a tour of the country, exhibiting the tools and taking orders from the dealers. In this way he worked until 1872, when the demand for his goods had so increased that he was obliged to employ help in the manufacturing department. The excellence of his machines commended them to the trade and to the public, a fact which is evidenced by the large demand at the present time and the number of medals that have been awarded him by state fair associations and foreign exhibitions. He was awarded the first premium at the World's Columbian Exhibition, held in Chicago in 1893. His manufacturing interests have steadily grown until at the present time the J. E. Porter Company occupies large and commodious brick buildings and gives employment to a large number of workmen. The output of the plant is extensive, and the business has been so ably conducted that it returns an excellent income to him who is at the head. Mr. Porter is a man of resourceful ability, and in connection with his factory interests in Ottawa in 1894 he was instrumental in organizing the Inland Steel Company, whose mill is located at Chicago Heights. Mr. Porter was elected president of the organization and occupied that position for four years, when he resigned. His son, J. H. Porter, is now the secretary of the company and one of the active managers of the mill, the business of which has constantly grown until to-day the enterprise is one of the few rolling mills in the west, producing all kinds and shapes of steel used in the manufacture of agricultural implements. Mr. Porter certainly deserves great credit for his success, which has resulted from deep thought, careful investigation and untiring labor.

WILLIAM W. HILTABRAND.

Seventy years ago the father and numerous relatives of William W. Hiltabrand came to the frontier of Illinois, and thus from pioneer days the name has been indissolubly connected with the early history of the state. The family has been noted for all of the sterling qualities and public spirit which goes toward the making of valued citizens.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Conrad Hiltabrand, was a native of Pennsylvania and was of German descent. At an early day he removed to North Carolina, and his last years were spent in Tennessee, where he died at an advanced age. His widow, Jane Brown Hiltabrand, came to Illinois, and departed this life in Putnam county about 1860. They were the parents of ten children, most of whom followed agricultural pursuits, to