

member of the I. O. O. F., of Lodi Lodge, No. 259, and also Lodi Grange. He is a practical farmer and plainly shows the early training in that direction. His farm is situated two miles from Lodi.



WILLIAM R. PEARSON was born in Meade County, Kentucky, on the Ohio river, seventy miles below Louisville, August 21, 1830, son of John and America (Renfrow) Pearson, both natives of Virginia. The father, a farmer by occupation, died in 1833. He used also to run flat-boats down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers; it was on one of these trips that he was taken sick with cholera and died, while in the State of Mississippi. Mrs. Pearson afterward married again, and in 1849 the whole family emigrated to Buchanan County, Missouri, twelve miles from St. Joe. The mother returned to Kentucky after the death of her husband. Before returning, however, she spent a year in California; she died shortly after her return to Kentucky. She was the mother of two children by her first marriage,—S. A. and William R., both residents of this county, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. By her second marriage there were nine children, two sons and seven daughters, five of whom are now living.

William R. Pearson was raised principally in Kentucky up to 1849, when the family moved to Missouri, where he lived until 1863. April 15, of that year, he started for California, crossing the plains with ox teams, and arriving in Stockton after four months' journey. The first work he did in California was baling hay, at which he was engaged just a week. He then went down to San Jose, working there off and on till 1854, when he made his way to Montezuma and worked in the mines a couple of months. He went to Placerville, prospected there a while, and, not liking the diggings, came down to Michigan Bar, where he settled down, and was married in the fall of 1855. He remained there four or five years, engaged all that

time in mining. When he left the mines he came direct to the ranch on which he now lives, in San Joaquin County. It was a wild place then, covered with brush and timber; he made all the improvements himself, and it is now one of the best improved farms in the county. The ranch contains 160 acres situated on Cherokee Lane, section 13, northeast quarter, four miles north of Lodi. Mr. Pearson is undoubtedly one of the largest and most successful farmers in the county. For the past eleven years he has farmed 2,000 acres just west of Galt, Sacramento County; for the same length of time he has been engaged in threshing all through this section of the county.

Mr. Pearson is a member of the order of Odd Fellows, which he joined about ten years ago, Phoenix Lodge, No. 239, of Galt. He is also a member of the Chosen Friends of Galt.

Mr. Pearson's first wife, Sarah Ellen Baker, a native of Indiana, died in 1861. She was the mother of three children,—Seth Allen, William Alfred, and the other deceased. He was married to his present wife, Mrs. Mary Jane Reddon, whose maiden name was Storry, a native of Kentucky. They have six children, four daughters and two sons, as follows: Augusta May, John Walter, America Frances, Peter B., Bertha Eveline and Susan. Mrs. Pearson had two children by her first marriage,—Nora, wife of Frank Laning, of Fresno, and Silas H. Reddon.



SETH A. PEARSON, a native of Kentucky, was born March 1, 1832, his parents being Allen and Anna (Renfro) Pearson, both natives of Virginia. They moved to Kentucky in an early day, in the days of Daniel Boone. Mr. Pearson, a farmer by occupation, died of cholera in 1834, in Louisiana. He had been to New Orleans with a boat load of farm produce. He was returning on foot when he met his death.

Seth was reared on a farm in Meade County, Kentucky, and remained at home until eighteen