

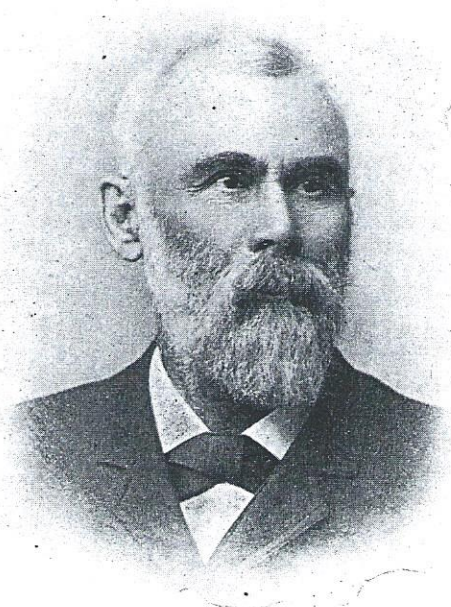
REPRESENTATIVE MEN AND HOMES.

JESSE E. WEEMS.

Very few men in this locality have had more to do with railroad building and development in this section than Mr. Jesse E. Weems. He was born on a farm in Virginia, August 21, 1831, and comes of an old and eminent family. His grandfather, Mason Lock Weems, was the pastor of the church at Mount Vernon, which President George Washington attended, and who wrote the original life of Washington, the first to record the story of the cherry tree. When eigh-

teen years of age, Mr. Jesse E. Weems went to Washington to complete his education as an engineer. He then went out with the boundary line commission which located the division between the United States and Mexico, this being his first engineering work. In 1853 he came west and located at Augusta, in Hancock County, being engaged as engineer on the Northern Cross Railroad, of which the late Nehemiah Bushnell was president. He was employed on what was called the middle division, between Camp Point and Macomb. In 1859 he built the Quincy & Palmyra road, from West

Quincy to Palmyra. Stephen Holmes was the first president and the road was afterwards sold to officials of the Wabash and later became a part of the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railway. Mr. Weems was county surveyor of Hancock County for two years, and afterwards built the Illinois & Southern Iowa Railway, from Clayton to Keokuk, which was later consolidated with the Wabash Railway. In 1865 he accepted a position as passenger conductor on the Wabash,



which he held until 1893. Few men on the entire system were better known and none were more popular with the traveling public or more highly regarded by the officials. After resigning his railroad position, he engaged in the ice-making business in Texas, but in 1894 returned to Quincy to take the active management of the Pure Ice and Cold Storage Company of this city, in which his two sons are interested with him. Mr. Weems carries his honors with the greatest degree of modesty and few outside the circle of his older and most intimate friends know that he figured so prominently in the early development of this section.

Thou
tive bu
and Fra
inent a
they ha
business
ice and
of Mr.
was bo
County

in June
rying n
into th
remain
decided
Frank
1862, an
his bro
time an
leaving
The wh
first tin
Jersey
modest
business
chased
ing on
largest
establis