

E-24-1904
FREEMAN E. BODINE.

Freeman E. Bodine was born near Ovid, Seneca county, New York, on the 8th of October, 1822. His ancestry belonged to the persecuted French Huguenots who had been expelled from France and had settled in Germany where the ancestry received a strain of sturdy German blood. The boyhood of Mr. Bodine was spent on his father's farm in New York and his education was that obtained by attending the rural schools. Like many another young man he contracted the gold fever and went to California in 1850 by way of the Isthmus of Panama. He had varying success in digging gold but was compelled on account of his health to abandon his search for wealth and engage in farming for his health in San Jose valley.

In 1856 he returned from California by way of Nicaragua and after spending a short time with his parents started for the west, coming first to Aurora, Illinois, where he remained a year. In 1857 came to Malcom township where he purchase the farm which has been his home for forty-six years. He has been a most successful farmer as his two hundred and forty acre farm, well improved and stocked gives abundant evidence.

Mr. Bodine was married in 1858 to Miss Elmira Simpson who died two years later leaving two children. In 1862 Mr. Bodine was again married to Miss Margaret Shirley and this union was blessed with two children. The mother passed away in 1878.

Mr. Bodine lived a long life of usefulness and died Friday at his home in Malcom township at the age of 82 years and 8 months. He is survived by his sons Frank and George of Wyoming and Harry who has lived at home with his father.

Funeral services were conducted

cluded that he would plunge quickly into his speech when called upon, and with this idea, he arose briskly when announced and started in: "Ladies and gentlemen, I feel honored, I'm sure, by this request of the toastmaster, but is so unexpected I really had no time to prepare—I really had no time to

FREEMAN E. BODINE is a prosperous and highly-esteemed citizen of Malcom Township, Poweshick County, residing on section 8. He was born near Ovid, Seneca County, N. Y., October 8, 1822, his parents being Gilbert and Harriet Swarthout Bodine. The father, who was a native of Pennsylvania, was a son of Cornelius Bodine, of German descent. His family belonged to the persecuted Huguenots, who were expelled from France, afterward locating in the German Empire. The mother of our subject was born in Seneca County, N. Y., and was a daughter of Barney Swarthout, who was of Dutch ancestry. Both families when they first settled in the Empire State were slaveholders.

Freeman E. Bodine, of this sketch, spent his boyhood on his father's farm and received the common-school advantages. In the spring of 1850, getting the prevalent "gold fever," he left his home and went to California by way of the Isthmus of Panama. After mining with fair success for two years he abandoned that occupation on account of his health, and engaged in farming in the San Jose and San Juan Valleys. In November, 1856, he returned to New York, taking the Nicaragua route. After remaining with his parents for a short time he turned his face Westward, and for a year lived near Aurora, Ill., after which, coming to this county, he purchased a farm in Malcom Township, on section 8, where he has since made his home. On the place, which was then wild land, great changes have been made during the passing years, until it is now a well-improved farm, comprising two hundred and forty acres, which yield abund-

ant tribute for the care and cultivation bestowed upon them by the owner.

On the 5d of November, 1858, Mr. Bodine and Elmira M. Simpson, a native of Ovid, Seneca County, N. Y., were united in marriage. She was called from this life March 13, 1860, leaving two children, a son and daughter: Frank, now of Chicago; and Cora, who is deceased. On January 8, 1862, Mr. Bodine was again united in marriage, Miss Margaret Shirley, also of Seneca County, becoming his wife at that time. Their union was graced by the birth of two sons: George G., now of Pocatello, Idaho; and Harry, who lives with his father. On January 15, 1878, the affectionate wife and tender mother was called to her final abode, her death taking place in Fayette, in her native county. She was a beautiful Christian, one who had the love and admiration of all who had the great pleasure of making her acquaintance. Mr. Bodine is a member of the Ancient Free & Accepted Masons and is much interested in the Farmers' Alliance, of which he is a member. He is highly esteemed as a citizen for his personal qualities of sterling worth and unquestioned merit.