

W. L. JOHNSON.

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W. L. Johnson, a prominent and well known insurance agent of Brooklyn, deserves special mention in this volume as a veteran of the Civil war. He is numbered among Ohio's native sons, his birth occurring in Ashtabula county on the 24th of November, 1845.

He is a son of William and Betsy (Cleveland) Johnson, the former a native of Steuben county, New York, and the latter of Canada. The father, who was a blacksmith and wagonmaker by occupation, was engaged at his trade in Ohio and also owned a farm there, which was operated by his sons. Later he came to Iowa and here followed his trade for a time, and subsequently went to California, his death occurring in Cottonwood, that state, on the 20th of July, 1906, at the age of eighty-seven years. His wife, Mrs. Betsy (Cleveland) Johnson, passed away in March, 1861, in Ohio. They were the parents of six children, as follows: F. N., of Fayetteville, Arkansas, who served for three

years in the Union army as a member of Company E, Twenty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry; W. L., of this review; N. M., of Dakota; Emma, the widow of Ed Hill, of Estherville, Iowa; Ernest M., of Pringhar, Iowa; and Frank A., of Chicago. By a second marriage William Johnson had two children: Albert, of Cottonwood, California; and Addie Olmstead, now deceased.

W. L. Johnson spent the period of his boyhood and early youth upon the home farm in Ohio and under his father's direction learned the blacksmith and wagonmaker's trade, at which he became quite proficient. He was but fifteen years of age when the Civil war broke out between the north and the south, but he accepted the invitation of a lieutenant of the Union army, who suggested that he join the army. Consequently he enlisted in September, 1861, as a soldier in Company A, Thirty-sixth New York Volunteer Infantry, and served for twenty-two months. In January, 1864, he reenlisted as a member of Battery E, First Ohio Light Artillery, for three years, and at the close of the war was honorably discharged at Camp Dennison, Ohio. He took part in seven important battles, as well as many minor engagements, participating in the battle of Fair Oaks, Seven Pines, Malvern Hill, Fredericksburg, the second battle of Bull Run, and the battle of Nashville. During his service he was taken ill with smallpox, and an uncle who visited him at that time caught the disease and died from the effects of it.

When the country no longer needed his services Mr. Johnson returned to civil life with a most creditable military record. He joined his parents, who had taken up their abode in Fayette County, Iowa, during his term of service, and on the 24th of January, 1866, was united in marriage to Miss Persis E. Eastman, who was born in southern Illinois, December 6, 1849, and went to Fayette county, Iowa, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Eastman.

After his marriage Mr. Johnson was associated with his father-in-law in the wagonmaking business for about two years, and then he removed to Fredericksburg, Iowa, where he was engaged at that trade for about four years. He then went to Dixon county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded a farm, but he was obliged to give up that place on account of the grasshopper plague, and he returned to Fredericksburg and again worked at his trade there. Later he went to Mitchellville, Polk county, Iowa, where as a member of the firm of Eastman & Johnson he engaged in the wagon and carriage-making business for four years, and during that period the partners marketed more new wagons