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C. NEFF, County Recorder of Poweshiek County, Iowa, is one of the most efficient officers in this part of the State, a man well known for his brave war record, and one who for his many amiable qualities is esteemed by the community. He was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, November 23, 1839. His father, Frederick, was born in Virginia, and his grandfather, Jacob Neff, was also a native of that State, from which he removed to Ohio by team at an early day in the settlement of that State. There he became a pioneer of Tuscarawas County, engaged in farming, continuing the same until the time of his death. He had descended from Swiss ancestors. The father of our subject was ten years of age when he accompanied his father to Ohio, and became his assistant on the farm. There were few improvements in the country at that time, and Mr. Neff was a young man at the time of the building of the Ohio Canal.

Mr. Neff helped dig the canal where Port Washington now stands. When he became tired of farm life and surroundings he learned the trade of a shoemaker, and for a time worked at it in the county. Early in life he was a Whig, but later

became a Democrat and held many of the county offices. His religious connection was with the Christian Church. The mother of our subject was Elizabeth Snyder, a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Peter Snyder, a farmer who removed from Pennsylvania to Ohio, where he became a minister of the Lutheran Church. His ancestry was English. The mother of our subject died in 1844, but she is still tenderly remembered by her three children: our subject; Frank, who is a hardware merchant in Indiana; and Alfred, who is a shoe dealer in Hoopestown, Ill.

Our subject was the second oldest of the family of children, was reared in Ohio and attended the common schools at Ragersville, Ohio. In 1857, he came as far West as Brooklyn, Iowa, but when he reached that town he found but few stores there and he decided to learn the trade of a tin-smith. With this end in view he entered into an apprenticeship under a Mr. Snyder, remaining with him until he had learned the trade. Then he returned to Ohio, in 1861, engaging in work at his trade until his entrance into the army in August, 1862, when he entered Company D, Fifty-second Ohio Infantry, and was mustered in at Camp Denison, Ohio. The command was sent South to Kentucky, where it took part in the battle of Perryville, then went on to Nashville and took part in the closely following battles of Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge, later going into winter quarters at Chattanooga. In the spring of 1864

the Georgia campaign was opened by the engagement at Buzzard's Roost, followed by the battles of Resaca, Dallas, the great fight at Kenesaw Mountain, the siege of Atlanta, and the battle of Jonesboro, and then on to Savannah. At this time the long marches through water and the terrible exposure of the soldier's life told upon the frame of our subject and he became so badly crippled with rheumatism that he was placed in the hospital; later he was sent by steamer to Washington, and was in camp there at the time of the Grand Review. The company was mustered out at Columbus in June, 1865, our subject having had two years and ten months of service.

The rheumatism which our subject contracted at this time has never entirely left him. After

the war he immediately returned to Brooklyn and resumed work at his trade, being employed by A. J. Wood for a period of twelve years, after which he started in the hardware and tinware business, but later returned to his trade. In 1890 he was elected to the office of County Recorder on the Republican ticket, and in January, 1891, he took the position, being re-elected in 1892, at all times running ahead of his ticket, and his present term holding over until January, 1895. Mr. Neff was married in Brooklyn, in June, 1866, to Miss Emma Bross, a native of New Jersey. She died in Brooklyn in 1883. Eight children were born of the marriage, as follows: Grace, now Mrs. Bert Wurts, of Horton, Kan.; Ralph, in the West; Noel, in Adair, Iowa; Frank, a baker in Brooklyn; Cora and Edith at home; and two children who died when small. The second marriage of Mr. Neff took place in Brooklyn with Miss Celia Stull, a native of New York. Our subject has been active in educational matters, and for six years has been a member of the School Board. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and of John T. Drake Post, G. A. R., at Brooklyn, of which he is Past Commander. He has taken a deep interest in this organization, was its Second Commander, District Mustering Officer, and in the year 1892 was an Aide to Mr. McHenry, the Department Commander. In his religious faith, Mr. Neff belongs to the Baptist Church at Grinnell. He is a staunch Republican in politics, and in all the relations of life deserves the approbation of his friends and fellow-citizens.