

is a daughter of F. M. and Delilah (Haston) Harmonson, who drove to Kansas from their home via the overland ox-wagon route and later moved to Brown county, where Mrs. Harmonson resides.

The Democratic party generally has the allegiance of Mr. Watkins, but he has never been active in politics beyond working for the success of his party and supporting the party candidates. He is much interested in Masonry and has filled all chairs in the Corning Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and is also affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

**Hubert Clemens.**—Independence of thought and action have been the creed of Hubert Clemens during the thirty years of his residence in Nemaha county, whither he came when a young man to find a home in the growing West. His industry and thrift have enabled him to become the possessor of a fine farm and he has achieved some reputation as a breeder of fine live stock. Mr. Clemens was born at Bittsburg, Trier, Germany, November 24, 1866, and is a son of John and Catharine (Hennis) Clemens, to whom two children were born, namely: Mathew, a traveling salesman of Dyersville, Iowa, and Hubert, subject of this review.

John Clemens, his father, was born in Germany in 1822 and followed the trade of butcher for a livelihood. He emigrated from his native land to America and made a settlement at Aurora, Ill., as early as 1867. He first worked as a laborer and then operated a butcher business until his death in 1879. His wife, and mother of Hubert, was born in 1841 in Germany, and departed this life in 1873.

Hubert Clemens began working as a farm hand in order to gain a livelihood for himself when he was still a youth aged eleven years. He worked out by the month on the farms in the vicinity of Aurora, Ill., until 1886. During this time, however, and while he was attaining young manhood, he was obsessed with the idea of going farther westward where land was cheap and obtainable on easy terms, and which could be obtained much easier and at a far less price per acre than in the vicinity of his old home. Land had been steadily advancing in value in Illinois and he decided to leave there and locate in Nemaha county, Kansas, in 1886. For the first two years he worked out and then rented the farm which he now owns, for a year. The second year he rented the F. A. Hulbert farm and then made his home with Mr. Bedsheim, with whom he farmed in partnership for four years. Mr. Clemens carefully saved his earnings with a view to ultimately owning a farm of his own. The first tract which he farmed in the county eventually was placed on sale and he bought the tract of 120 acres in 1900. Even at that day the farm was poorly improved with an old log cabin, evidently built by the first homesteader, and Mr. Clemens replaced it with a more modern home and a barn 28x30 feet in size, which was later supplemented with another barn 28x36 feet in dimensions. Mr. Clemens has out sixty-five acres in corn in 1916 and maintains on

his fertile acres a herd of high-grade Shorthorn cattle and Poland China swine.

He was married to Mary Herbstreith, October 18, 1893. This marriage has been blessed with six children, as follows: Geneva, born September 11, 1894, at Kelly, Kans.; Bryan, was born August 3, 1896; Mathias, was born February 4, 1900; Hazel, was born July 25, 1903; Grace, was born February 28, 1905; Alvin, was born February 27, 1912. Mrs. Clemens was born October 18, 1873, and is a daughter of John Herbstreith, who was born in Guttenberg, Germany, and left there when a young man and settled in Cook county, Illinois. He followed his trade of carpenter there and during his Civil war service was thrown from a horse and seriously injured. His injuries eventually resulted in his death, after years of suffering, on June 8, 1879, at the age of forty-four years. He enlisted August 1, 1861, at St. Louis, in Company E, First Missouri cavalry regiment, of the Union volunteers, and received his honorable discharge from the service at St. Louis on September 19, 1864. His wife, Caroline (Holtz) Herbstreith, was born in Germany, January 1, 1829. Her first marriage with Mr. Holtz took place in Germany, and after her immigration to this country she was widowed and married Mr. Herbstreith in Illinois. There were three children in the Herbstreith family, as follows: Mrs. Christina (Schumaker) Quinn, living at Wathena; August, Oneida, Kans., and Mrs. Hubert Clemens. Mrs. Herbstreith makes her home with Mr. and Mrs. Clemens.

Mr. Clemens is an independent voter who is not allied with any political party and votes as his intelligence and comprehension dictates and allows no man to tell him how he should vote or which candidate he should support. He is, therefore, a member of that vast and growing number of American citizens who are not held by the party yoke and do not listen to the dictates of the political bosses and through whom this country is destined to have a better and more representative government in the years to come. Even during the present political campaign the great independent vote is a factor with which the leaders are reckoning and which will turn the tide in favor of the fortunate candidate. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America.

**Reuben Elbert Mather.**—The Mather stock farm located in section 20, Illinois township, is widely known for the fine live stock, which is produced thereon. The proprietor of this farm, Reuben Elbert Mather, has made a reputation for himself in Kansas as a breeder of Aberdeen Angus cattle, Duroc Jersey swine and high grade horses. He also specializes in Angora goats. Mr. Mather takes great pride in his fine live stock, and has exhibited the product of his skill very frequently with success at the county fairs and stock exhibits.

Reuben Elbert Mather was born in Will county, Illinois, November 16, 1878, and is a son of Edward and Henrietta (Ballau) Mather, who were the parents of four children, as follows: Reuben Elbert, eldest of