

"What are now designated as the 'Archives' comprise six large volumes, in which are copied the most important of the foregoing three thousand documents, particularly all those relating to real property, lands, lots and houses, and of a personal nature. These record-books were commenced in November, 1816, twelve years after the change of government, when the country began to increase in population from abroad, and a consequent increase in the value of lands and lots pointed out to individuals the safety of having their titles recorded, and for some years thereafter only those were put on record whose owners were willing to pay the fees for recording the same."

FREDERICK L. BILLON.

Arkoe.—A hamlet of one hundred inhabitants in White Cloud Township, Nodaway County, five and a half miles south of Maryville. It was laid out by Dr. P. H. Talbott and S. K. Snively in 1874, Dr. Talbott taking the name from the book, "Twenty Thousand Miles Under the Sea." It is beautifully located a quarter of a mile west of the One Hundred and Two River. It has two churches—Methodist Episcopal and Christian.

Armour, Andrew Watson, for many years conspicuously identified with the commercial and financial development of Kansas City, was born in 1829, in Madison County, New York. His parents were Danforth and Julia Ann (Brooks) Armour, both of Scotch-Irish descent, who were school teachers in early life. The father was a man of indomitable energy and sterling integrity, qualities which found fitting counterpart in the great intelligence and force of character of the mother. These combined parental traits were transmitted in remarkable degree to their sons, five of whom entered upon business life and became world-renowned for the magnitude and success of their great enterprises. But one of the brothers is now living—Herman O., a prominent business man of New York City. Philip D. was the head of the renowned Armour Packing Company of Chicago. Simeon B. and Andrew Watson, both deceased, founded the family interests in Kansas City. Joseph Francis, also, deceased, was interested in the packing business in Milwaukee and Chicago. Charles Eugene, the only one of the brothers who did not engage in commercial affairs, died while in the military service of his

country during the Civil War. Andrew W., second of the brothers, was reared on the home farm in New York, and his education was limited to that afforded by the district schools and an unpretentious academy. His training and tastes inclined him to farm life, which he pursued successfully until he was approaching his fiftieth year, when his life found new direction, and he entered upon a career altogether foreign to his previous habits and thought. In 1870 his older brother, Simeon B. Armour, founded in Kansas City a branch of the Chicago packing business conducted by Philip D. Armour. At their solicitation their brother, Andrew W., went to Kansas City in 1878 and became associated with them in the organization of the Armour Packing Company, successors to a partnership firm, with which he remained officially connected until the time of his death. As an adjunct to the business, in association with his brothers, he organized the Armour Brothers' Banking Company, of which he became president and manager. The situation was unpromising, and few aside from those immediately interested had faith in the enterprise. A disastrous bank failure had recently occurred, and local finances were apparently hopelessly disorganized. Besides, President Armour was a stranger, and was totally inexperienced in banking affairs. That one of his years and previous occupation could so readily adapt himself to a new pursuit, under such discouraging conditions, and accomplish such phenomenal success, was a marvel in the history of a city of wonderful achievements. He held closely to a purely commercial business, aiding to the fullest of his ability all legitimate business enterprises, but resolutely holding aloof from the visionary and speculative. With accurate discernment of existing conditions, and acute perception of men, he afforded aid to many business houses during periods of great financial stringency, at the same time adding largely to the prestige and resources of his bank and establishing himself in the estimation of the business community as a master of finance. In 1887 impaired health warned him to retire from active life, and January 2, 1888, he effected the consolidation of the Armour Brothers' Banking Company with the Midland National Bank, in which he became vice president and director. The success attending his financial operations is discerned in the fact that the quarter million dollars capital