

History of South Dakota By Doane Robinson Together With Personal Mention Of Citizens of South Dakota Illustrated Vol. II., 1904, B. F. Bowen And Company, Publishers

J. E. Hamaker, one of the leading business men and honored citizens of Spencer, McCook County, comes of stanch German lineage and was born in Perry County, Pennsylvania, on the 28th of February, 1849, son of **Adam** and **Hannah (Grubb) Hamaker**, both likewise native of that county and representatives of old and honored families of the Keystone state. **Adam Hamaker** was a wheelwright by trade and devoted his attention to the same for a number of years, later engaging in agricultural pursuits. In 1857 he removed with his family to Ogle County, Illinois, where he became a successful farmer and prominent citizen, his death there occurring in 1892, his wife passing away in 1901.

The subject of this sketch secured his early education in the common schools of Pennsylvania and Illinois, and as a youth he became identified with the great basic art of agriculture, to which he continued to give active allegiance until 1892. In the spring of 1880 **Mr. Hamaker** came to South Dakota and took up a homestead claim in McCook County and a tree claim in Miner County. He made excellent improvements on both of these properties and continued to reside on his fine homestead until 1892, when he took up his residence in Spencer. In 1894 he here established himself in the furniture and undertaking business, in which he has since continued.

In politics **Mr. Hamaker** is an uncompromising advocate of the principles of the Democratic Party. In 1891 he was elected a member of the state legislature from his district, being one of the historic "faithful twenty-five," and making a creditable record as a conscientious and able legislator. He served several years as a member of the Democratic central committee of McCook County, and has been a member of the state central committee since 1902. Fraternally he is affiliated with Spencer Lodge, No. 126, Free and Accepted Masons, and Salem Chapter, No. 34, Royal Arch Masons.

On the 29th of December, 1881, **Mr. Hamaker** was united in marriage to **Miss Rosa B. Jarver**, of Ogle County, Illinois, no children having been born of the union.

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