

History of Hamilton County, Iowa; Illustrated, Volume II, 1912, The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, Chicago

Alvin C. Henderson, a former agriculturist of Hamilton County, who is now residing in Williams, was born in De Kalb County, Illinois, on the 26th of June, 1873. He is a son of **James W.** and **Eliza (Hipple) Henderson**, natives of Perry County, Pennsylvania, the father's birth having there occurred on August 12, 1834, and that of the mother on May 5, 1837. They removed from the Keystone state to Somonauk, De Kalb County, Illinois, in 1860, where for many years the father engaged in farming. He is now deceased, his death having occurred in July, 1897, but the mother is still living, and continues to make her home in Somonauk. Eight children were born to **Mr.** and **Mrs. Henderson**, our subject being the seventh in order of birth and the youngest son. The other members of the family are as follows: **Laura**, now **Mrs. J. L. Carns**, of Courtland, Nebraska; **Ida**, the wife of **J. M. Skinner**, of Beuhler, Kansas; **John A.** a resident of Somonauk, Illinois; **Matilda**, who married **W. A. Hines**, of Sandwich, Illinois; **James F.**, a resident of Somonauk, Illinois; **Mary**, deceased; and **Martha**, now **Mrs. A. Gletty**, of Courtland, Nebraska. They were all born and reared on the old homestead in De Kalb County, Illinois.

The early years in the life of **Alvin C. Henderson** were passed on the farm where he was born, his education being obtained in the district schools and the high school at Somonauk. As is common with farmer lads he early began assisting his father with the work of the fields and care of the crops, thus familiarizing himself with the practical duties of the agriculturist. On the 1st of March, 1899, he came to Hamilton County, Iowa, where the December preceding he had purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land located in Rose Grove Township. He diligently applied himself to the further cultivation and improvement of his farm during the succeeding thirteen years, meeting with fair success. In August, 1910, **Mr. Henderson** began auctioneering, and as he was efficient and capable the demand for his services steadily increased until he decided to give up farming and devote his entire attention to the former vocation. He, therefore, rented his farm and bought a residence in Williams, where he removed with his family on the 1st of March, 1912.

On the 27th of June, 1894, **Mr. Henderson** was married to **Miss Sarah C. Davis**, who was born in Somonauk, Illinois, on October 1, 1878, and there she was reared to womanhood, acquiring her education in the common schools. She is a daughter of **J. W.** and **Mary A. (Arnold) Davis**, the former a native of New York, his birth there occurring on October 30, 1848, while the mother was born in Batavia, Illinois, on the 1st of November, 1855. They removed from Illinois to Hamilton County, and now reside in Rose Grove Township, this county. Their family numbered ten, all of whom were born in De Kalb County, Illinois, with the exception of the youngest, who is a native of this county. In order of birth they are as follows: **Lizzie**, the wife of **John Johnson**, of Webster City; **Mrs. Henderson**; **Edgar T.**, who is a resident of Wyoming; **Anna**, now **Mrs. L. B. Wood**, of Williams; **Clara**, who is living in Williams; **George**, deceased; and **Roy, Frank, Melvin** and **Jay**, all of whom are living in Williams. **Mr. and Mrs. Henderson** have five daughters: **Ethel**, who was born on the 6th of July, 1895; **Grace**, whose natal day was the 2d of January, 1898; **Ella**, who was born June 8, 1900; **Fern**, whose birth occurred on the 12th of October, 1902; and **Vira**, who was born November 7, 1904. The two eldest were born in La Salle county, Illinois, and the remaining three in this county.

The family attend the services of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Williams, of which **Mrs. Henderson** is a member. Fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and his political support he accords the Republican Party. He served for eight years as clerk of Rose Grove Township and he was also a member of the school board during his residence there. **Mr. Henderson** is one of the highly esteemed men of the community and enjoys the confidence of all with whom he has dealings, as he is straightforward and upright and conducts his transactions in an honorable manner.

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