

History of Henry County Illinois, Volume II, Chicago: The Pioneer Publishing Company, 1910

Henry L. Kiner: Geneseo and Henry County know **Henry L. Kiner** as a representative citizen who, through forty years of his connection with the city, has displayed marked devotion to the general welfare as a public-spirited citizen. Throughout the county he is known as a journalist and writer who has won more than passing notice as a contributor to leading magazines. **Mr. Kiner** has reached the fifty-eighth milestone on life's journey, his birth having occurred on the 1st of February, 1851, at the foot of Mount Nemo in Schafer's Valley, Perry County, Pennsylvania. His parents, **William** and **Margaret (Calhoun) Kiner**, were also natives of the Keystone state.

The founder of the **Kiner** family in America settled on the James River in Virginia in 1625 and a large monument was there erected to his memory which may be seen to this day. He came to the new world from Germany and in later generations branches of the family took root in other states. **Jacob Kiner**, the grandfather of **Henry L. Kiner**, was a native of Pennsylvania where, in early manhood, he followed the occupation of farming. He married **Jane Dill**, and they moved westward to Illinois in 1854, but the broad prairies, then comparatively uninhabited, brought to this mountain-bred couple a feeling of loneliness and they returned to Pennsylvania, spending their last days in Perry County, near Harrisburg, where both died at an advanced age. **Jacob Kiner** was a famous rifle shot and served in the War of 1812 with the rank of captain.

William Kiner, was one of a large family of children, who was reared in Pennsylvania, where he learned and followed the blacksmith's trade. After attaining his majority he married **Margaret Calhoun**, a daughter of **John Calhoun**, who was born in Pennsylvania and was of Irish descent, his ancestors coming to this country from County Tyrone, Ireland, at which time settlement was made in Perry County, Pennsylvania. **John Calhoun** was a carpenter by trade, being closely associated with building interests in the community in which he lived. He wedded **Peggy Ann Dill**, and they reared a good-sized family at their home in Schafer's Valley, where they passed away when well advanced in years.

Some time subsequent to their marriage, **Mr. and Mrs. William Kiner** removed westward with their family, taking up their abode in Ottawa, LaSalle County, Illinois, on the present site of the Clifton Hotel, on the bank of the Fox River in 1854. Subsequently they took up their abode in Otter Creek Township in that county, where **Mr. Kiner** engaged in farming and continued to work at his trade. In 1864, he removed to Grundy County, Illinois, where died in 1865 at the age of thirty-eight years. His widow long survived him, passing away in Geneseo in 1900 at the advanced age of eighty-nine years. Both were members of the Methodist Church, and were consistent Christian people who enjoyed the respect of all with whom they came in contact. They were parents of two sons, the younger being **Samuel R. Kiner**, who died in Washington, D. C., where he had been in the employ of the government for a quarter of a century.

Henry L. Kiner, the older brother, was but three years of age when his parents removed to LaSalle County, where he was reared until 1864, after which he resided in Grundy County for five years, or until 1869, when he came to Geneseo, where he has since made his home. While spending his youthful days on his father's farm he attended the district school and later benefited by academical instruction in Farm Ridge Seminary in LaSalle County, Illinois. He made his

initial step in the business world as an apprentice in the drug store of J. B. Moderwell in Geneseo in 1869, and continued in the drug trade until 1874. In January of that year he formed a partnership with John Christian and established the Henry County News, the business association continuing for four years, when **Mr. Kiner** purchased Mr. Christian's interest in the plant and changed the name of the paper to the Geneseo News, which he continued to edit and publish for twenty-four years longer. **Mr. Kiner** established an enviable reputation by his editorial pen, his writings being widely quoted throughout the United States. They are characterized by a whimsical and humorous style which, nevertheless, enforces the truth of fact which he intends to convey. For a number of years he has also been a contributor to several of the popular and leading magazines of the country, and is today one of the best known men in Henry County, his mental activity constituting a far-reaching influence.

Aside from the field of journalism, **Mr. Kiner** has done effective work in the City of Geneseo, his last term expiring in April 1909, when he retired from office as he had entered it with the confidence and good will of the great majority, having given to the city during four terms a businesslike administration characterized by needed reform and substantial progress.

On the 7th of June 1881, **Mr. Kiner** was married in St. Louis to **Miss June Howard**, a daughter of **Abel** and **Mary Ella (Hopple) Howard**. They have two children: **Henry Clyde**, a student in the civil engineering department of the University of Illinois, and Howard Dickens, attending the Geneseo High School. **Mrs. Kiner** holds membership in the Congregational Church, and his political allegiance has been given to the Republican Party. Because of his business activity, his official service, his social qualities and his unflinching devotion to the general good, he has become widely known, while in Geneseo and Henry County those who do not call him friend would scarcely figure in the census.

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