

HARRISON M. ALVORD.

The spirit of self-help is the source of all genuine worth in the individual and is the means of bringing to man success when he has not the advantage of wealth or influence to aid him. It is this which has enabled Mr. Alvord to take his place among the substantial citizens of Mansfield, where for several years he has held the position of agent of the United States Express Company. He was born January 4, 1840, in Easthampton, Massachusetts. The father, Joseph F. Alvord, was of English descent, and died in January, 1899, at the advanced age of eighty-eight years, passing away in Bement, Illinois, where he had long resided. His wife is still living in Bement, at an advanced age. In their family are four sons who still survive. W. C. Alvord, now fifty-four years of age, is an influential citizen engaged in the insurance and brokerage business in Peoria, Illinois. George, aged fifty-six, and Albert and Louis, aged fifty-two and forty-five years respectively, are all residents of Bement, where they occupy leading positions in business circles. Two sons of the family gave their lives in defense of the country during the Civil war. Joseph C., who was a member of the Twenty-first Illinois Infantry, was killed at the battle of Stone River, December 31, 1862; and Oscar L., a member of the Fifty-first Illinois Infantry, died of typhoid fever in the year 1861, while serving his country at the front.

Prior to the Civil war Harrison M. Alvord accompanied his parents on their removal to the West, the family locating in Bement, Illinois. He watched with interest the progress of events which precipitated the country into civil war, and, when twenty-two years of age, he enlisted as a member

of Company D, Seventy-third Illinois Infantry. On the 21st of August, 1862, he was commissioned as sergeant, and was promoted as orderly sergeant on the 21st of December following. During a portion of the year 1864-5 he was in command of his company, and on the 11th of April of the latter year he was commissioned first lieutenant for bravery and meritorious service on the field of battle. In August, 1862, his regiment was assigned to the Thirty-fifth Brigade of the Eleventh Division of the Army of Ohio, and in September, 1862, the division became a member of the Fourth Corps of the same army. In November of that year his regiment became a part of the Second Brigade of the Third Division of the right wing of the Army of the Cumberland, and in January, 1863, became a part of the Second Brigade of the Third Division of the Twentieth Corps of the Army of the Cumberland, while in October, 1863, it was transferred to the First Brigade, Second Division and Fourth Corps, thus serving until the close of the war. The Seventy-third Illinois was organized at Camp Butler and was mustered into the United States service on the 21st of August, 1862. The regiment was ordered to Louisville and at once began the pursuit of Bragg to Crab Orchard, Kentucky, the movement continuing from the 1st of October until the 15th. On the 8th of that month was fought the hotly contested battle of Perryville, in which the Seventy-third gallantly distinguished itself. On the 16th of October the troops marched to Nashville and on the 7th of December entered upon the Murfreesboro campaign, proceeding to Nolensville, Tennessee, on the 26th of that month. Two days later they entered upon the great battle of Stone River, the contest continuing there until the 3d of January, 1863. The regiment then remained at Murfreesboro until June, 1863, and then started on the Tullahoma campaign on the 24th of the month, participating in the battles of Hoover's Gap, June 25 and 26; Fairfield, June 27; the occupation of Tullahoma, on the 1st of July. This was followed by the Chattanooga campaign, in August; the battle of Chickamauga, September 19 and 20; the siege of Chattanooga, September 24-26; Orchard Knob, November 23 and 24; Mission Ridge, November 25; and on the 28th of November they marched to the relief of Knoxville, reaching their destination on the 8th of December. On the 14th of January, 1864, they were at Dandridge and participated in the Atlanta campaign from May until September, including the engagement at Catoosa Springs, May 5; Tunnel Hill, May 7; Buzzards' Gap, May 8; Rocky Face Ridge, May 9-11; Resaca, May 13-15; Dostenaula, May 16; Adairsville, May 17 and 18; Kingston, May 19; Altoona Hill, May 25 to June 1; Picket's Mill, May 27; Ackworth, June 3 and 4; Kenesaw Mountain, June 10; Pine Mountain, June 14; Lost Mountain, June 15-17;

Culp's Farm, June 22; the assault on Kenesaw, June 27; Vining Station, July 3 and 4; Chattahoochie River, July 6-17; Peach Tree Creek, July 19 and 20; siege of Atlanta, from the 22d of July to the 25th of August; Ezra Chapel, July 28; Utah Creek, August 5-7; Jonesboro, August 31 to September 1; Lovejoy Station, September 2 to 6; battle of Franklin, November 30; Pulaski, Tennessee, December 23; battle of Nashville, December 15 and 16; the pursuit of Hood, from the 17th to the 26th of December; and at Huntsville, Alabama, the troops there remained until March, 1865. They participated in the expedition to Bull's Gap, Tennessee, from March 28 until April 6; and then remained at Nashville until June, 1865, when on the 12th of the month the regiment was mustered out of service. Lieutenant Alvord was always found at the post of duty, faithfully protecting the old flag, whether on the tented field or on the scenes of contest between the armies.

In 1867 Mr. Alvord was united in marriage to Miss Mary Beach, the wedding taking place at her home in Mansfield. A year later the young wife died, and two years afterward Mr. Alvord was married, in Derby, Connecticut, to Frances W. Beach, a cousin of his first wife. They now have two children: Joseph Grant and Myrtle. The son enlisted in Company M, Eighth Ohio Infantry, at the beginning of the war with Spain and was commissioned company quartermaster sergeant. The regiment went to Cuba and was on the firing line at Santiago at the time of its surrender. With his command Joseph G. Alvord then returned and was mustered out of the service. In May, 1899, however, he enlisted in Battery G, Seventh Artillery, of the regular army, and is now stationed at Fort Warren, near Boston, Massachusetts.

Mr. Alvord and his family attend the Grace Episcopal church in Mansfield, of which he is an active member, having for several years served as its treasurer. In politics he is a Republican, and in the Masonic fraternity he has attained the Knight Templar degree. He was an ideal and loyal soldier, is a reliable business man, a faithful friend, and his life record is in many respects well worthy of emulation.