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December 28, 1862, Mr. Playter married Miss Mirie U. Denison, who died January 6, 1879, through grief over the death of her two bright and promising sons, George D. and Horace L., aged respectively fourteen and ten years. Another son, Charles, died subsequently, and a fourth, Owen B., is now living. Mr. Playter was married a second time, his wife being Jeannie Main, of Ottawa, Canada, and to them has been born one son, Andrew. He was elected on a union ticket as the first city treasurer in Eau Claire, and held the position five years. He has always taken an active interest in public school matters, with which he was identified many years as a member of the school board. He is a member of the First Congregational church, and of the masonic order. Personally, Mr. Playter is a genial and affable gentleman, who has many friends throughout the Chippewa Valley.

DWIGHT WASHINGTON DAY, physician and surgeon, Eau Claire, was born May 15, 1841, in Eagle Village, Wyoming county, N. Y. His grandfather, Hall Ellis Day, was a native of Medfield, Mass., but of English extraction. He was a soldier in the war of 1812. Of his family of four sons and three daughters, Washington W. was a native of Bennington, Vt. The latter was a physician who was devoted to his profession, and was beloved by all who knew him. A close student of human nature and medicine, he wielded an influence for good that was far reaching, and in matters pertaining to his profession was considered an authority in his part of the state. He was a graduate of the Castleton, Vt., Medical College. He died in 1873, aged sixty-one, and his wife, Rebecca Chase, died July 31, 1866, aged fifty-four years. She was the mother of Henrietta M., Henry L. and Dwight W. He graduated in the class of 1861 at the Buffalo Medical College, and was resident physician at the lying-in hospital and the Buffalo City hospital one year. In July, 1862, he received the appointment of assistant surgeon of the One Hundred and Fifty-fourth regiment, New York volunteer infantry, doing good service in the army of the Potomac, and with Gens. Rosecrans and Sherman. He was made surgeon in 1863, and in the fall of 1865, when mustered out, held the position of brigade surgeon. After practicing eighteen months in Elkader, Clayton county, Iowa, he located in Eau Claire, in October, 1868, and has for many years been a leading man in his profession, doing a great deal of surgery. He is a member

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CAPT. IRVIN HENRY MILLIREN, Pepin, was born in Jefferson county, Pa., May 1, 1847. He came to Pepin with his parents when eleven years old, and here attended the district school winters until fifteen. He began running on the Chippewa river in 1865 and on the Mississippi in 1868, and has been a pilot since 1875, and captain since 1884. October 31, 1877, he married Miss Emma Holden, and to them have been born two children: Clyde E., March 5, 1879, and Mabel, February 1, 1885. Excepting two years spent on a farm, Capt. and Mrs. Milliren have always lived in the village, where they have a very neat and comfortable home. In 1876, in company with others, he built the steam ferry-boat "Clipper," which plied between Stockholm, Wis., and Lake City, Minn. The enterprise was not a financial success, however, and the boat was sold the following season. In the fall of 1886 he purchased one-fourth interest in the steamer, "Luella," which towed lumber and logs from Read's Landing, Minn., to Hannibal, Mo., and intermediate points, but sold out his interest in 1887. In 1888 he had the misfortune to have a vessel sunk near Winona, Minn. He now commands the steamer, "Menomonie," which plies between Stillwater and St. Louis, and also owns a farm on section fifteen, township twenty-three, range fifteen. In 1891 he built a fifty-barrel roller flouring-mill, in partnership with his brother-in-law, S. R. Anderson, at Pepin, which fills a want long experienced by the community. Politically Capt. Milliren is a consistent democrat. He is a member of the Methodist church, and takes an active interest in church work. He also belongs to the Masonic lodge and the U. M. R. Pilots' Association.

BYRON AUGUSTUS BUFFINGTON, wholesale grocer, Eau Claire. Among the progressive and prosperous merchants of Eau Claire, who have pushed their way to the front ranks by their close application to business stands Mr. Buffington, the subject of this sketch. He was born November 27, 1853, in Dodge Centre, Wis., was educated at the Shattuc Episcopal Military college at Fairbault, Minn., and graduated in the class of 1873. As he was destined to become a merchant he received his first lessons in that direction in the store of G. A. Buffington, his father, in Eau Claire. He evinced such business qualities that he was soon master of the situation, and the firm became G. A. Buffington & Son. The latter afterward became the sole proprietor of the business, and when the Eau Claire Grocery Company was organized, October 13, 1883, he was elected president, Wm. Rowe, vice-pres., and John Hunner, secy. The company employs thirty-five men, of whom five are traveling salesmen, with headquarters at Eau Claire, and has the whole northwestern part of Wisconsin for its operations. Under the able management of Mr. Buffington the firm has held its own against its many rivals and competitors, and has pushed its way out in all directions, the corporation being the largest of its kind in the state, outside of Milwaukee.

Mr. Buffington married, September 9, 1874, Frances Elmyra, a daughter of Stephen and Elizabeth (Borland) Hoover, who was born in Orange county, N. Y., and educated at Ripon college. Politically Mr. Buffington has not been able to give much attention to the affairs of the state and county, as he has

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