

# PERSONAL BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF

Mary Allison Harker.

Mary Allison Harker was born in England, and when a young child, came to the United States with her parents, Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Allison, locating in Jo Daviess County, Illinois. Her father was a well known Methodist Episcopal minister, known as a "Circuit rider" in the early days of 1844 to 1860.

The seat of learning in those days was the little log school house, and it was here she obtained her early education, afterward completing it at St. Clair Seminary. The first teacher was General William R. Rowley of Galena, Illinois, who was a member of the staff of General U.S. Grant during the Civil War, and later so prominently identified with the Grand Army of the Republic that several posts have been named for him.

In 1859, she was married to Hon. James Harker, a member of the Wisconsin legislation, and lived in southern Wisconsin, later removing to Jefferson, Iowa and in 1874 to Storm Lake.

Mr. Harker was one of the leading business men and bankers of this part of the state, and his untiring energy contributed largely to the rapid development of Northwestern Iowa. At his death in 1883, he was president of the First National Bank of Storm Lake, which he had organized two years previously as the successor of the widely known Storm Lake Bank.

Mrs. Harker is the mother of nine children, five of whom are living—Mrs. Sibyl J. Kerlin, Miss Mary E. Harker and Truman T. Harker of Storm Lake, Mrs. Zeph Chas Fell of Denver Colo. and James J. Harker of Nashua, Iowa.

In the way that Mrs. Harker endured the hardships of farm life during the Civil War, she showed her patriotic spirit for freedom, and her love for the Grand Republic.

Mrs. Harker has always been a leader in every good work wherever she has lived, and the latest instance of her generosity is the presentation of this beautiful volume to the E.D. Baker post.

## Our Country.

"For thee our fathers suffered, For thee they toiled and prayed; Upon the holy alter, Their willing lives they laid. Thou hast no common birthright; memories on thee shine, The blood of pilgrim nations Commingled, flows in thine. O beautiful our Country! Toward thee in love we draw, Thine if the grace of freedom, The majesty of law, Be brightness thy scepter, Justice thy diadem; And in thy shining forehead Be place the crowning gem."

'The Star Spangled Banner Long May it wave O'er the land of the free And the home of the brave.'