

1889, having been re-elected. He was again elected to this important office in 1902 and 1903, and under his rule the town's affairs have been most ably conducted, while many eminently useful improvements were inaugurated. In 1884 he was elected a member of the town council, of which he has been a member since then, except for four years, during which he was county commissioner for Kent County. In 1883 he contested the Riding of East Kent for the Conservative party, running against Daniel McCrancy. The Riding is a strongly Liberal one, and Mr. Willson was not elected, being defeated, however, by only 193 votes. He is a candidate for the Liberal-Conservative party for East Kent for the Federal election, 1904.

Like his brothers and sisters, Mr. Willson is an adherent of the Presbyterian Church. Fraternally he is connected with the Free Masons in Ridgetown, and with the I. O. O. F. in the same place, in both of which bodies he is deservedly popular. The name of Willson has long been connected with the best interests of the County of Kent, and its representatives have long been men of honor and integrity, who attained places of prominence and trust in the several communities in which they have made their homes. Mr. Willson, the mayor of Ridgetown, is perhaps one of the best known of his family, and the success and prominence which have attended him are but the natural result of unusual ability directed by intelligence along legitimate lines of commercial activity.

JOHN W. FEATHERSTONE, now serving his eighth consecutive term as a member of the council of Romney township, County of Kent, is a native of that township, and is a son of the late Joseph Featherstone, who was born in the County of Durham, England. His parents dying when he was a small child, Joseph Featherstone was brought to Canada by relatives when eight years of age, and he spent his boyhood days in Mersea and Romney townships, where he was employed at farm labor. As soon as he was able he purchased a 100-acre farm, in Lot 14, Concessions 2 and 3, and there by thrifty methods and untiring efforts he became possessed of a fine property. His death occurred when he was fifty-eight years of age. He married Sarah Ann Simpson, and to them were born the following named

children: John W.; Peter, a farmer of Romney township; Emma, who married Jonas Wharham; Margaret, Mrs. Bowerman, of the County of Essex; George, who occupies the homestead; Esther, wife of George Wright; and Lena, residing on the home place. Joseph Featherstone was a Conservative in politics, served on the township council, and was also assessor and collector for several years.

John W. Featherstone was born on the homestead Nov. 11, 1868, and received a common-school education. At the age of twenty-one years he bought a wild fifty-acre tract on Lot 19, Concession 6, and began the labor of clearing. He later added twenty-five acres near by, and since his marriage has resided on his first purchase. He has about one-half of his holdings cleared. Since casting his first vote Mr. Featherstone has taken a lively interest in local politics. For the past eight years he has been a member of the Romney township council, and for a period of ten years served as secretary and treasurer of the school board, section No. 5. Fraternally he is a member of the order of Orangemen.

In Romney township Mr. Featherstone married Annie Moody, and to this union the following children have been born: Lorne, Lettie, John and Forest. Both Mr. and Mrs. Featherstone are highly esteemed by all who have the honor of their acquaintance, and they are important factors in the social life of the township.

HARRY FORBES, a very extensive farmer of Jeannette's Creek, township of Tilbury East, and the originator of the "Forbes Drainage Scheme," was born Oct. 7, 1836, in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, where he grew to manhood and followed farming. Hoping to better his condition, he, in 1868, came to Canada, and located on Lot 4, Concession 7, township of Tilbury East, in the County of Kent, where he purchased a farm of 100 acres. There he engaged in general farming until 1892, when he sold his property to Alexander Gracy, and bought 700 acres of plains land near Jeannette's Creek. In the vicinity of that village he built a fine brick residence and has since made the place his home, giving his attention largely to farming. He now owns 300 acres, and has planted considerable land in fruit, there being 1,300 peach trees in his orchard. In ad-