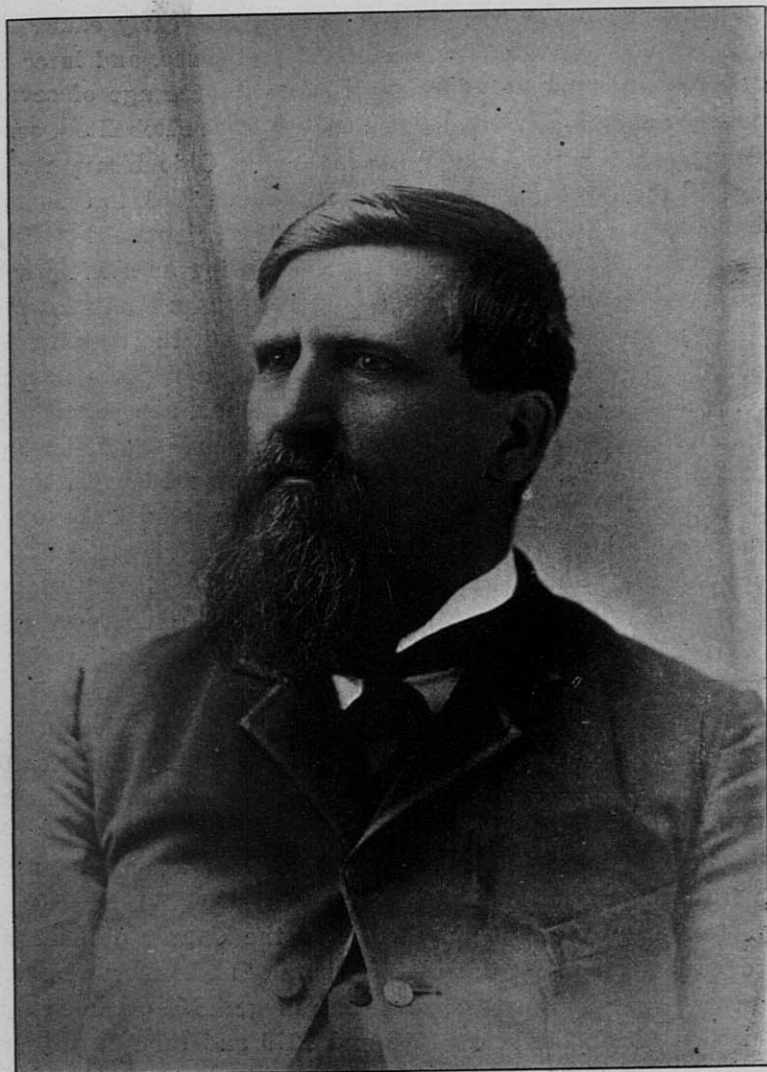


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H. L. VAN DEMAN, PARKSLEY, VA.

BIOGRAPHY.

H. E. Van Deman, Parksley, Va.

The subject of this sketch was born on a farm near Frankfort, Ross county, Ohio, Nov. 3, 1845. His early education was received in the public schools of that place, and later he attended an academy at South Salem. At the age of seventeen, he enlisted as a soldier in the War of the Rebellion, serving as a private in Company A, in the 1st Ohio Heavy Artillery, his term of service running from June 5, 1863, to the close of the war in 1865. After his discharge he resumed his studies, but soon decided to follow fruit growing as a life work, and gave up his plans of attending college and found work with a practical fruit grower, in order to get the training he needed under a competent preceptor. For a few months he worked on the famous fruit farm of J. Knox, near Pittsburg, Pa., and afterwards, during the years '67 and '68; under the personal supervision of the noted pomologist, the late Dr. John A. Warder, at North Bend, Ohio. By working with the other laborers in the orchards, vineyards and berry fields, and by pursuing his studies of botany and scientific literature at night and as occasion offered, something like the same end was reached as is now attained by those who take an agricultural course.

He spent the next two years helping a brother clear away a forest and planted a small fruit farm in the wilderness of northern Michigan. Later he went to Kansas and bought an eighty acre farm, which was afterwards increased to 240 acres, near Geneva, Allen county. A portion of this he planted to fruits of all suitable varieties.

After seven years of pioneer life on the Kansas prairies, he received a call to fill the chair of botany and practical horticulture in the Kansas Agricultural College. He occupied this position during the years 1878 and 1879 and then gave it up to renew active work on his farm.

Mr. Van Deman made it a practice to attend the various local, state, national and international meetings and fruit shows, either as member, exhibitor or awarding judge, as oc-

casian required. In 1885 he conceived the idea of the instituting a division of pomology in the United States Department of Agriculture, and after its creation in 1886 was called to be its chief. This required his removal from the farm to a residence in Washington, D. C. He planned and organized the pomological division up to Secretary Morton's administration of the Agricultural Department, which closed his connection therewith.

At present Mr. Van Deman is conducting a fruit farm at Parksley, Va. He is still in the prime of life, and with his qualifications and experience has yet his best years and his best work before him.

THE ROCKFORD PLUM.

The following instructive article on the Rockford plum and its value for the northwest was written for the Wisconsin Horticulturist by Prof. E. S. Goff of Madison. It will be of value to all who contemplate engaging in plum culture.

Of all the native plums that I have thus far tested, I have found none of which the quality pleases me so well as the Rockford, and since this variety has proved one of the most productive in our Experiment Station orchard I have been anxious to learn how far it is proving successful elsewhere. I have therefore corresponded with several parties in Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota, who have grown this plum, in order to learn to what extent we may safely recommend it for general planting.

Our orchard contains but a single tree of this plum. This was top-grafted on a Miner sprout in the spring of 1890 with scions kindly furnished by J. S. Harris of La Crescent, Minn. It bore its first crop in 1894, and in 1895, the year that will long be memorable for its severe drought, the Rockford was one of the few varieties in our orchard that matured a crop of fruit. The present season it hangs loaded with fruit, which will mature the latter part of the present month.

In size, the fruit is rather large; in form it is slightly ob-