

preempted from the government, which, he brought under a high state of cultivation. Both he and his wife lived to reach an advanced age, the former dying at the age of eighty, while the latter reached the eighty-second milestone on life's journey.

James W. Roberts was reared at home and pursued a district school education, while later he attended the high school at Columbus, Wisconsin. When he had completed his studies he devoted his entire time and attention to the work of the home farm until he reached his twenty-eighth year. In the fall of 1884 he came to Iowa, settling in Howard county. He had previously purchased his present farm, so that when he arrived he took up his abode upon the place which has now been his home for thirty-five years. He has carefully, persistently and intelligently carried on farm work and the results which accrued have been very satisfactory. Year after year he has gathered good crops and the wise expenditure of his time has brought gratifying results.

In February, 1896, Mr. Roberts was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Evans, of Osage county, Kansas, and to them have been born seven children. Archie, the eldest, now at home, was a member of the army, stationed at Camp Dodge with the Headquarters Troop of the Nineteenth Division of Cavalry. Dewey is also at home. Mabel is a student in the Upper Iowa University at Fayette. Ruby, Pearl, Sidney and Catherine are likewise under the parental roof.

In politics Mr. Roberts is a democrat, having always given his political allegiance to that party. For the past fifteen years he has served as treasurer of the school board and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart friend who is ever ready to champion the interests of the schools. In fact in all things relative to the welfare and progress of the community he stands on the side of advancement and his support is of a practical and resultant character.

#### JOHN BURKE.

John Burke is a well known and prominent citizen of Riceville, where he is conducting a hotel and is also engaged in the real estate business. He was born January 1, 1859, in the city where he still resides, a son of Edward and Mary (Mahoney) Burke. The father was born in Ireland, September 3, 1829, and passed away in Mitchell county, Iowa, June 8, 1889, when sixty years of age. He had come to the United States when a little lad of but four years, or in 1833, in company with his parents, the family home being established in the state of New York. The mother was born in Canada and died in Mitchell county, Iowa, January 20, 1895. Edward Burke, removing westward to this state, established his home in Jenkins township, Mitchell county, settling on the northeast quarter of section 36, where in 1856 he built a log house. In that pioneer cabin he and his wife established their home and upon the farm resided until within a few months of his death. He was an enterprising citizen, taking an active part in the organization of township and county and doing everything in his power to promote public progress and improvement. He brought the first team of horses into the township and was otherwise connected with progressive affairs that indicated his interest in the welfare and upbuilding of the district. His son, Thomas Burke, still occupies the old homestead, which the father secured as a pre-emption claim. His other children are: John, of this review; W. S., also a pioneer of Howard county but now a resident of Chicago; Mary, the wife of E. C. Richmond, a druggist of Riceville; and Nellie, the wife of William Roache, also a druggist of Riceville.

John Burke, spending his youthful days under the parental roof, was educated in the public schools and after attaining his majority was married to Miss Kate Conners, of Howard county, in the year 1884. Up to the age of twenty-six years he had worked on the old homestead farm and at that time turned his attention to the further development of a farm in Douglas township, Mitchell county. He resided upon that place until forty-one years of age and then engaged in the machine business, to which he devoted two years. He next became connected with the operation of an elevator and the conduct of a creamery, poultry, egg and produce business,