

and then came to his present place, which is situated on section 29, Howard township. He is today busily engaged in the cultivation of two hundred acres of arable land and the results of his labors are seen in the splendid crops which he annually gathers.

On the 27th of October, 1904, Mr. Merrick was united in marriage to Miss Josephine Gardener, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gardener, of Howard county, who were early settlers and farmers there. Mr. and Mrs. Merrick have become parents of six children: Mildred, Leon, Victor, Florence, Frances and Clarence, all of whom are living upon the home farm with their parents.

In his political views Mr. Merrick is a democrat and he closely studies the questions and issues of the day. For three years he has filled the office of township trustee and aside from his public duties and farming interests is a stockholder in the Farmers' Lumber Company of Alta Vista and one of its directors. The religious faith of Mr. Merrick and his family is that of the Catholic church and they are connected with the parish at Elma.

WILLIAM W. MILES.

William W. Miles is an honored citizen of Howard county, where for many years he followed farming but is now living retired, although still owning a place of one hundred and sixty acres on section 18, Saratoga township. He was born in Ripley county, Indiana, March 10, 1837, a son of Jesse and Martha (Beckert) Miles. The father left Indiana when the son was but four years of age and settled in Janesville, Wisconsin, but never came to Iowa, remaining a resident of Wisconsin until his death.

William W. Miles acquired his early education in the public schools of Wisconsin and also attended a commercial college at Madison, that state, being there graduated. He was likewise for a time a student in the academy at Milton, Rock county, Wisconsin, and liberal educational advantages thus qualified him for life's practical and responsible duties.

In October, 1862, Mr. Miles was married to Miss Jennie Arnold and in the same year they came to Saratoga township, casting in their lot among the earliest settlers of Howard county. Six children have been born to them, namely: Jess, Fred, Harry, Alfred, Bert and John. All are married and reside in Saratoga township with the exception of Harry, who lives in Jamestown. Fred, who is now deceased, was for a number of years principal of the West Concord high school, at West Concord, Minnesota.

In politics Mr. Miles has ever been a stalwart republican and in every relation of life he has displayed qualities which have commanded for him the respect and confidence of those who know him.

PETER JOHNSON.

When Chickasaw county was in a wild and undeveloped region Peter Johnson took up his abode within its borders and now follows farming on section 27, Jacksonville township. He was born in Norway, January 25, 1844, and is a son of John and Julia (Peterson) Johnson, who came to the United States in 1847, when their son Peter was but three years of age. They settled in Dane county, Wisconsin, where the father purchased a farm of eighty acres and built thereon a log cabin in the midst of the forest. He at once proceeded to clear away the timber and developed his fields, and as time passed on he purchased other land and became the owner of two hundred and forty acres, constituting one of the excellent farms of that district. There he and his wife resided until called to their final rest, the death of Mr. Johnson occurring when he was about ninety years of age, while his wife reached the very advanced age of ninety-two years.

Peter Johnson was educated in the primitive country schools of that early period