

on which he had crossed, he asked him for a job. He was accepted and for the succeeding nine years followed a seafaring life, touching all of the ports on the Atlantic and Indian oceans. About 1851, however, he left the sea and took up his abode in the United States, making his way to Chicago, where he worked for a Mr. Dickey, who owned an eighty-acre farm adjoining La Grange, for which he had paid only three dollars and a half per acre. Subsequently Mr. Kemman bought eighty acres of Michigan and Illinois canal land for five dollars per acre, adjoining Mr. Dickey's place, and settled thereon, making it his home for a quarter of a century. He afterward bought another eighty-acre tract in the same section, which is now owned by his sons. Upon the old homestead farm which he there developed and improved the father continued to reside until his death, in 1883, and became recognized as one of the representative agriculturists of that district.

A. F. Kemman was educated in the district schools and at the La Grange town schools, while later he pursued a course in the Metropolitan Business College of Chicago and in the Illinois State Normal University at Normal, Illinois. Still later he attended the University of Illinois but prior to entering upon his university course taught school for three years. He did not thoroughly enjoy professional work of that character, however, and fitted himself for civil engineering by his university course. On the 27th of June, 1882, he came to Iowa, settling on a farm in New Hampton township, Chickasaw county, and for twelve years devoted his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits. This farm, which comprises two hundred and twenty-six acres of rich and productive land pleasantly and conveniently situated two miles east of New Hampton, has been recently sold. In the fall of 1893, however, he took up his abode in the city of New Hampton in order to give his children the advantages of the public schools here. In 1909 he was appointed county surveyor, which office he held until the position was abolished by legislative enactment. He was then made county engineer and afterward county highway engineer, serving in the three offices from 1909 until 1916. He also served for a number of years as city engineer of New Hampton. Since 1916 he has been engaged in the private practice of his profession and is regarded as one of the capable and eminently successful civil engineers of this part of the state. He thoroughly understands every practical phase of the business and its scientific features as well and is now accorded a large clientage.

On the 8th of July, 1883, Mr. Kemman was united in marriage to Miss Louise Schert, of Cook county, Illinois, and they have become the parents of five children, of whom four are yet living: Martha, who is a stenographer in the employ of M. E. Geiser, an attorney of New Hampton; Arthur S., who is serving as a lieutenant in the United States army and is now at the navy yard, Bremerton, Washington; Alvin R., in the State Bank of New Hampton; and Elva, a stenographer in the University of Minnesota. Both of the sons served in the World war.

Mr. Kemman is a democrat in his political views and for twenty-four years was a member of the New Hampton school board. The cause of education has ever found in him a stalwart champion and he puts forth every effort to advance the interests of the schools and promote educational standards. He belongs to Lancelot Lodge, No. 183, K. P., to the Brotherhood of American Yeomen and the Modern Woodmen of America. He and his family are members of the Lutheran church and occupy an enviable social position, the hospitality of the best homes of New Hampton and this section of the state being cordially extended them. Mr. Kemman has ever been actuated by laudable determination and purpose. While content with what he has accomplished as he has gone along, he has nevertheless been actuated by that ambition that has ever prompted him to take a forward step and he has thus broadened the scope of his activity and usefulness.

L. R. WILLIAMS.

L. R. Williams, a resident farmer of Howard county, living on section 13, Forest City township, has spent his entire life in this locality and has therefore for more than four decades been a witness of its growth and development. He was born August 25, 1875, in the township where he still lives, his parents being William R. and Winifred (Wil-