

work of clearing and improving the farm and promoting its fertility, planting the land and harvesting the crops. His educational opportunities were limited, as there were few school facilities in the district until he had grown older and lost the desire to attend, feeling that he would rather work in the woods. After reaching manhood he and his brother John carried on the home farm for two years and in 1878 Mr. Davis of this review purchased two separate tracts of land of eighty and forty acres respectively. He did not begin their cultivation, however, until 1881. He was for several years engaged in the operation of a threshing machine and also bought horses which he shipped to the Dakotas. In 1883 he invested in one hundred and twenty acres of land lying between his eighty and forty acre tracts, thus extending the boundaries of his farm to include two hundred and forty acres. He then began farming on his own account and in 1889 bought another eighty acres, so that he was then the owner of a half section. Year after year he carefully, persistently and profitably tilled his fields, remaining upon the farm until 1902, when he took up his abode in Lime Springs, where he has since resided. Here he turned his attention to stock buying and built up an extensive business, shipping over a carload of stock daily for several years. In fact his extensive operations made him one of the most prominent stock buyers of this section of the state. He continued in the business until 1918, when he sold his live stock interests and concentrated his attention upon the feed business, having purchased the old Marsh grist mill in 1915. A picture of this mill is shown elsewhere in this work. Mr. Davis rebuilt the mill and equipped it with a modern electric plant that also furnishes electric lighting for Lime Springs and Chester.

In October, 1886, Mr. Davis was married to Miss Maggie Jones, of Lake Crystal, Minnesota, and they became parents of two children, of whom one is yet living, Ruth, the wife of Herman Lidtke, who is operating her father's mill and light plant. Mrs. Davis is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics Mr. Davis is a republican, giving stalwart allegiance to the party, but not seeking or desiring office. His life has been one of intense and intelligently directed activity. He has utilized opportunities that others have passed heedlessly by and has made each move count for the utmost in the conduct of his business affairs. There have been no unusual phases in his life record, but his persistency of purpose and his industry have formed a stable foundation upon which prosperity has been built.

#### CHRISTIAN FISHER.

Christian Fisher, a farmer residing on section 21, Utica township, is one of the highly esteemed residents of Chickasaw county, everywhere spoken of in terms of warm regard. He was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, August 4, 1853, and is a son of Christian F. and Elizabeth K. (Schenpp) Fisher, who were natives of Wurtemberg, Germany, where they were reared and married. They came to the United States in 1851 and traveled across the country, settling at Fort Atkinson in Winneshiek county, where they cast in their lot among its first residents. Pioneer conditions everywhere existed and the family met the hardships and privations incident to the establishment of a home upon the frontier. The father was a blacksmith by trade and in addition to his work at the forge followed farming, becoming owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land. He passed away at Fort Atkinson about 1884 and for a considerable period was survived by his wife, who died in 1900, at the advanced age of eighty-eight years.

Christian Fisher was reared on the old homestead and acquired a district school education. At the early age of twenty-one years he began farming for himself and for three years cultivated rented land at Little Turkey in Utica township. He then went to Wright county, Iowa, where he purchased a farm of eighty acres, remaining thereon for four years. When he sold that property he removed to Mower county, Minnesota, and bought eighty acres of land, which he further developed and