

up his abode upon his present farm and through this period he has witnessed much of the growth and progress of this section of the state, his memory forming a connecting link between the primitive past with its hardships and privations and the progressive present with its opportunities and advantages.

GEORGE M. LEFERINK.

George M. Leferink is an enterprising and successful agriculturist of Howard county, residing on section 17, Vernon Springs township. He was born in Holland on the 9th of February, 1875, a son of Barney and Katie (Mush) Leferink, who at one time were residents of Iowa.

George F. Leferink spent the first nineteen years of his life in his native country and then determined to try his fortunes on this side of the Atlantic. Making his way direct to Iowa, he settled first at Festina in Winneshiek county and was there employed as a farm hand for six years. Subsequently he spent ten years in the cultivation of rented land, on the expiration of which period he purchased a tract of eighty acres north of Cresco. On disposing of the latter property he purchased his present place of about one hundred and sixty acres on section 17, Vernon Springs township, where he has since carried on farming with gratifying results, his well tilled fields annually yielding golden harvests as a reward for the care and labor which he bestows upon them.

In 1900 Mr. Leferink was united in marriage to Miss Mary Busch, by whom he has four children: Frank, Katie, John and Tilda. All are still under the parental roof and are attending the graded schools.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church. Mr. Leferink gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and fraternally is identified with the Knights of Columbus. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for here he found the opportunities which he sought and through their wise utilization has won a place among the substantial and esteemed citizens of the community in which he makes his home.

F. A. BROWN.

F. A. Brown is the senior partner in the well known firm of F. A. Brown & Son, hardware dealers of Riceville, and is also numbered with the pioneer settlers of Howard county who have aided in laying broad and deep the foundation upon which has been built the present progress and prosperity of this section of the state. He was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, on the 26th of February, 1856, a son of Emmett and Aurelia (Clark) Brown, both of whom were natives of Vermont and both members of old New England families. As children they removed to Dane county, Wisconsin, where they attained their majority and were married. The mother passed away in that state about the year 1874. In 1870 the father had removed westward, leaving his family in Wisconsin, and had located in Le Roy, Minnesota. Three years prior to his death, however, he made his home with his son, F. A. Brown, in Howard county, and here passed away in 1882.

In the district schools F. A. Brown acquired his education and in 1872, when sixteen years of age, came to Howard county, Iowa. During the following two years he worked as a farm hand and then went to Le Roy, Minnesota, where for four years he was employed in a printing office. Later he returned to Howard county and after two more years spent in farm labor bought land with the capital that he had managed to save from his earnings, acquiring eighty acres in Oakdale township. He then actively took up farming on his own account and occupied that place for eight years, after which he disposed of his farm and removed to Riceville, where he became engaged in the buying and shipping of live stock. After four years thus spent