

of the place and made it one of the attractive features of the landscape. He carefully and systematically tilled his fields and continued the cultivation of his land to the time of his death, which occurred in 1900, when he was fifty-one years of age.

To Mr. and Mrs. Kratz were born five children, Philip G., Samuel, Arthur, Alfred and Emma all of whom survive. In 1913 Mrs. Kratz left the home farm, on which she had continued to reside until her husband's death, and took up her abode in Cresco, where she occupies a nice home and where she has an extensive circle of warm friends.

Mr. Kratz was a republican in his political views and served as constable for a number of years. He was also school director a number of years and was ever a champion of the cause of education. His religious faith was that of the Evangelical church, to which Mrs. Kratz also belongs. He long ranked among the substantial farmers and respected citizens of his community and his sterling worth was recognized by all with whom he came in contact.

PETER J. McGRANE.

Peter J. McGrane, living on section 30, Afton township, is one of the native sons of Howard county, where he was born July 24, 1865, his parents being Thomas and Margaret McGrane, who were natives of Ireland. The father came to the United States when a youth of sixteen years and in 1856 he arrived in Iowa, where he made investment in farm land, becoming one of the earliest settlers of Howard county. The work of development and improvement had scarcely been begun and with the agricultural progress of the community the father became closely associated. He went through all the hardships connected with the cultivation of new land at an early day, but as the years passed he prospered in his undertakings and acquired an excellent farm property of two hundred and eighty acres, to which he added many modern improvements.

Peter J. McGrane, whose name introduces this review, was reared under the parental roof, acquired his education in the district schools and worked with his father throughout the period of his minority. On attaining adult age he started out in business life on his own account, renting farm land which he at once began to develop and improve. He worked in this way for about eight years and during that period carefully saved his earnings until the sum was sufficient to enable him to purchase property. He then made investment in his present farm, which is situated on section 30, Afton township. Through the intervening period he has placed all of the improvements upon the property and has made it one of the excellent farms of his district.

On the 30th of December, 1894, Peter J. McGrane was united in marriage to Miss Rose Murray, a daughter of Charles and Catherine Murray, of Mitchell county, where they are identified with farming interests. To Mr. and Mrs. McGrane have been born six children: Charles Melbourne, who wedded Nellie Riley, of Howard county, and is following farming; Thomas Everett; Joseph Earl; Mary Margaret; Catherine Rose; and Loretta Gertrude. With the exception of the first named all are upon the home farm with their parents. The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church and they are connected with the St. Cecelia parish. In politics Mr. McGrane is a democrat but not an office seeker. He belongs to the Farmers' Equity Cooperative Association at Elma and he is one of the representative and progressive agriculturists of his district.

PETER MOUDRY.

Peter Moudry, who is engaged in farming on section 8, New Oregon township, Howard county, was born in Bohemia, February 18, 1863, and came to the United States in 1880 when a youth of seventeen years. He became a resident of Cleveland, Ohio, where he secured employment in a factory, and spent about a year and a half there. He then made his way westward to Howard county, Iowa, where he was em-