

which he still owns. In 1910 he removed to Elma, Howard county, where he has since resided. In 1913 he and his son organized the Elma State Savings Bank, of which he became the president in 1917, and remains as the head of the institution.

In 1884 Mr. Silver was married to Miss Elizabeth Greenwood, of Floyd county, Iowa, and they have become the parents of five children: Anna, now the wife of Thomas Kelly, of Elma; Frank E., who is cashier of the Elma State Savings Bank; Blanche, the wife of B. R. Keefe, a farmer of Minnesota; and Clara and Alice, at home.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church and Mr. Silver is identified with the Knights of Columbus. His political allegiance is given the democratic party but while he is conversant with the questions and issues of the day he does not seek nor desire public office but has concentrated his efforts and attention upon his business affairs and therein met success, so that he is now numbered among the substantial residents of Howard county.

MATHEW VIRGIL MILLER.

Mathew Virgil Miller, one of the leading farmers of Chickasaw county and a prominent breeder and raiser of shorthorn cattle, makes his home in Utica township. In fact he was born September 1, 1886, on the farm which he now owns, his parents being Dominick and Mary Elizabeth (Lansing) Miller. The father was born in Prussia, Germany, but came to America as a youth of fifteen years and made his way direct to a farm owned by his uncle in Utica township, Chickasaw county. Here he worked as a farm hand for a number of years and in 1870 purchased eighty acres from his uncle, Mathias Kant. He then began farming on his own account, clearing away the forest growth and breaking the virgin soil. He used oxen in the early development of his place and met the usual hardships and privations incident to pioneer life. As the years passed, however, he prospered and at his death was the owner of three hundred and twenty-five acres, now constituting the home farm of Mathew V. Miller. In February, 1872, Dominick Miller wedded Mary Elizabeth Lansing, who was born at Burlington, Wisconsin, October 31, 1852. They became parents of nine children: John, born December 18 1872; Mary, whose birth occurred in December, 1874; Margaret, whose natal day was May 28, 1876; Agnes, born September 6, 1879; Nella, who was born August 5, 1882; Hubert, whose birth occurred October 5, 1884, and who has passed away; Mathew Virgil, of this review; Anna, born November 3, 1890; and Oriole, who was born on the 4th of January, 1895.

Mathew V. Miller attended the parochial schools at Lawler, Iowa, and the Globe Business College at St. Paul, Minnesota, and when twenty-three years of age he began farming on his own account, purchasing two hundred acres of the old home property on section 33, Utica township. This he has since developed and improved until he has one of the best equipped farms in northern Iowa. In 1913 the old barn was struck by lightning and was replaced by a new and commodious one with cement floor and many sanitary features. Mr. Miller has specialized in the raising of shorthorn cattle and all of his cattle are bred on the farm from a famous imported sire known as Imported Villager. In 1916 Mr. Miller also undertook the work of breeding pure bred Poland China hogs and since that time has developed Pilot, the champion sire of the United States. Mr. Miller has recently refused twenty thousand dollars for this animal. He has upon his place sires which he considers the equal of the champion. His entire herd is of the same breed and strain and his production was so great that he has erected a selling pavilion on the ranch and there conducts his sales. His entire farm is fenced and cross-fenced and he has a fine artesian well, with water piped to all buildings. In the summer of 1919 sixteen carloads of tiling were laid upon the farm, or four thousand rods, making this the best tiled farm in northwestern Iowa. Everything about the place is indicative of his progressive spirit and methods. His hog pens are sanitary, having cement floors, and the buildings are all excellently appointed.

On the 7th of June, 1915, Mr. Miller was married to Miss Mary D. McGinn, a daughter of John and Katherine (Spain) McGinn. Her father was born in Clinton