

McNEAL, Oscar Milton of Union township, was b. in Oskaloosa in 1852, s. of Thos. and Minerva (Kretzswitzer) McNeal, natives of O. Five children survive. O. M. McNeal m. 1879 Mary A. Johnson, dau. of Virgil H. and Mary V. (Wilson) Johnson of Union township. Her parents were natives of Greene, Colo., and were pioneer settlers of Powshiek county. Of their five children Mrs. McNeal was the youngest. POP 2, p. 321

*Pop 321* OSCAR MILTON McNEAL.

The late Oscar Milton McNeal, who was one of the well known and successful agriculturists of Union township, was born in Oskaloosa, Iowa, on the 10th of November, 1852, a son of Thomas and Minerva (Kretzswitzer) McNeal, natives of Ohio. The father, who came to Iowa in his early manhood, located on a farm in the vicinity of Oskaloosa, which he improved and cultivated until the opening of the Civil war, when, responding to his country's call for volunteers, he enlisted and went to the front where he was killed. The mother, who still survives, is living in New Sharon, Iowa. They were both members of the Methodist Episcopal church and the father voted the republican ticket. Five children were born to them in the following order: George W., who is a resident of Union township; Oscar Milton, our subject; Leona, the wife of W. F. McVey, of New Sharon, Iowa; Etta E., the wife of W. W. Garner, of Des Moines, Iowa; and Emma, the wife of John Seal, of Wichita, Kansas.

One of the older members of the family and the son of a widow, Oscar Milton McNeal early had to assist in the cultivation of the farm, acquiring his education in the district schools, at such times as his services were not required at home. After laying aside his text-books he worked for his mother until he was able to buy a farm in Union township, this county. This contained one hundred and sixty acres, in the cultivation of which he met with such success that he was later able to buy the eighty acres upon which his widow is now residing, making the aggregate of his holdings two hundred and forty acres.

On the 9th of March, 1879, Mr. McNeal was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. Johnson, a daughter of Virgil H. and Mary V. (Wilson) Johnson, of Union township. Her parents were both natives of Greene county, Ohio, where they were married and began their domestic life. They were among the pioneer settlers of Poweshiek county, filing on one hundred and sixty acres of government

land in Union township. This the father cleared and improved, continuing its cultivation for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, both of whom have now passed away, were members of the Baptist church, and in politics he was a republican. Of the five children born to them Mrs. McNeal is the youngest, her birth having occurred in Union township on the 15th of September, 1858. The others are as follows: Lorenzo D., who is also a resident of Union township; Harvey P., who is living in Montezuma; Joseph A., who is residing in Maryland; and William P., of Union township. Unto Mr. and Mrs. McNeal were born nine children: William T., who is a resident of Jackson township; Walter W., at home; Jessie M., the wife of Fred Whitaker, of Canada; Lela, who died on the 28th of February, 1895, at the age of eight years, one month and twenty-seven days; Mary V., the wife of Lewis Stanford, of Montezuma; Benjamin H., who lives in Canada; and John M., Roy R. and Herman C., all of whom are at home.

Mr. McNeal, who passed away on the 17th of September, 1909, was one of the public-spirited and progressive citizens of his township. His ballot he always cast in support of the candidates of the republican party. His widow continues to cultivate the home farm and has by her capable supervision fully attested her ability not only as an agriculturist but as a business woman.