

HENRY C. ALTIG, an honored pioneer agriculturist of Poweshiek County, now resides upon his valuable farm of forty productive acres which he entered from the Government about forty-three years ago, and is to-day the oldest settler in Grinnell Township, living upon a homestead which he has himself taken from the Government. Since 1847 an eye-witness of the wonderful growth and rapid advancement of Iowa, our subject has been actively identified with the various leading enterprises of his locality, and is widely known as a liberal and public-spirited citizen. Mr. Altig was born in Mason County, Ky., in 1821, and when but a child left his birthplace with his mother, brothers and sisters and located in Hamilton County, Ohio. His parents, Micajah and Maria (Elyea) Altig, were undoubtedly both natives of Ohio. The paternal grandfather, Henry Altig, was born on Long Island, but was of German ancestry. He was a blacksmith by trade and

a maker of reaper-hooks, which at that time were in use, and, an energetic and enterprising man, self-reliantly won his upward way to a comfortable competence.

After the widowed mother of our subject had made her home with her family in Ohio about four years, Henry C. removed to Sangamon County, Ill., and there received a common-school education, and grew up to manhood an energetic and industrious citizen. In 1844 our subject journeyed to Louisiana, and went to work on a towboat, bringing vessels in from the Gulf. During this year he contracted yellow fever and suffered a severe sickness. Soon after his recovery he was united in marriage with Miss Amanda Van Dusen, and some two or three years later came with his family to Iowa, locating in Burlington in 1847, and remaining in that thriving city about two years. In 1850, Mr. Altig settled permanently in Poweshiek County, making his residence upon the forty acres where he now lives, and which was for many years the most distant farm, being away out upon the prairie almost to the limits of the township. Three daughters and two sons grew up to mature age in the pleasant Iowa home. Maria, the eldest-born, is now the wife of Henry McCarroll, a prosperous business man of Davenport; Elizabeth was the second in order of birth; Eliza is the wife of John Bernard, of Grinnell; Adolphus lives in Moline, Ill.; and Perry resides in Jasper County, Iowa.

In September, 1888, the estimable wife of our subject died, mourned by her husband, children and a large circle of friends. She was a member of the United Brethren Church and a sincere Christian woman, highly respected by all who knew her. Mr. Altig is liberal in his religious views, but, a man of earnest purpose and integrity of character, may ever be found upon the side of right and justice, and is a ready aid in good works and benevolent enterprises. His children occupy positions of usefulness and influence and have been well fitted to accept any duties or responsibilities to which they may be called. Since 1860, our subject has in national elections voted the Republican ticket, but in local politics he is independent, giving to the best man the benefit of his vote.

Many seasons have come and gone since our subject, locating upon his homestead, was able to keep the table well supplied with wild game, shooting much of it within the limits of his acreage. In the passing years his farm, brought up to a high state of cultivation, has constantly increased in value and now yields an excellent annual harvest. Surrounded by the acquaintance of more than two-score years, Mr. Altig is entering upon the evening of his days, and may with pleasure review the record of his upright and industrious life.