

CHRISTIAN D. BRENNIMAN.

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The name of Breniman is well known to the residents of Brooklyn and Poweshiek county, the family having been established in this locality as early as 1855, since which time representatives of the name have borne an important part in the development of the district along agricultural lines. The family is of Swiss origin, Christian D. Breniman having been born in Switzerland, about four miles from the city of Berne, on the 29th of August, 1836. His parents were Christian and Barbara (Durig) Breniman, also natives of Switzerland, who brought their family to the United States in 1852, locating first in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and three years later, in the spring of 1855, they arrived in Poweshiek county, Iowa. The family home was established about four miles southeast of Brooklyn, and there the father engaged in general farming for a number of years. He passed away on the old homestead in 1874, at the

age of sixty-two years, and his wife survived until 1897, her death occurring when she was eighty-two years old.

Their family of ten children included the following: Christian D., of this review; Fred, who enlisted from Poweshiek county and served throughout the last three years of the Civil war as a member of Company H, Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry, and who is now deceased, his death occurring in Grinnell in 1908; Rudolph, of Fort Collins, Colorado, who also enlisted in Company H, Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry, serving as drummer boy; Rosina, who wedded Myron Whitney and passed away in 1905; Margaret, the wife of Edward McVeigh, a resident of Nebraska, who enlisted from Poweshiek county as a soldier of the Fourth Iowa Cavalry; Mary, the wife of Charles Wootters, of Cleveland, Ohio, who likewise enlisted from this county in the Tenth Iowa Infantry; Gottlieb, of Brooklyn, mentioned elsewhere in this volume; Eliza, who married Chris Mohr, of Brooklyn; Arnold, of California; and John, a resident of Fort Collins. All of this number, with the exception of the last named, were born in Switzerland, and all lived to rear families of their own. At one time they were all located on farms south of Brooklyn, where the sons owned about twenty-five hundred acres all in one body, and the locality became known throughout the district as the Breniman settlement.

Christian D. Breniman acquired his education in the schools of the fatherland and was a lad of sixteen years when he crossed the Atlantic with his parents. Since his arrival in Poweshiek county in 1855 he has never been outside its limits for any length of time except once in 1863, when he went abroad for the purpose of visiting his old home in Switzerland. When old enough to enter business on his own account he wisely chose the occupation of farming as his life work, and for many years was considered one of the most substantial and prosperous agriculturists of Lincoln township. He and his brothers all became very well-to-do, for in the conduct of their affairs they not only exhibited the sturdy traits of industry, perseverance and thrift so characteristic of the German race but also the spirit of progress and enterprise which has come to be recognized as the dominant American force. They followed the most practical and up-to-date methods in the cultivation of their fields, erected fine large buildings and introduced all of the modern equipment for facilitating farm labor, and with the passing of the years the section known as Breniman's settlement became one of the most valuable and desirable properties in the county. Christian D. Breniman became the owner of over three hundred acres of finely developed farm land, and he continued in the successful operation of his fields until about five years ago, when he retired from business with a handsome fortune and took up his residence in Brooklyn.