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ANDREW J. DAVIDSON. Among the active and enterprising young farmers of Bear Creek Township, Poweshiek County, is the gentleman of whom we write, who owns a well-improved farm of two hundred acres on sections 16 and 17. He has only recently removed to his farm, having settled upon it in 1892. He was born in Brooklyn, this county, May 14, 1856, his parents being John and Rachael (Davidson) Davidson. His grandfather, John Davidson, was born in County Down, Ireland, and when a lad of sixteen years came to this country, hoping to better his condition. He settled in Beaver County, Pa., where he assisted in building the Pittsburgh & Erie Canal. In June, 1855, he removed to Brooklyn, this county, and purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, to the improvement of which he gave the remainder of his life. His death occurred in 1880, at which time he had reached the age of eighty-five years. He was an active Republican, and both he and his wife, who was formerly a Miss Thompson, also a native of the Emerald Isle, were devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, he being one of the organizers of the church of that denomination in Brooklyn. They had a family of seven sons and six daughters, the living mem-

bers of the family being scattered in various portions of the United States. The mother of these children died during the war, after which her husband married Miss Libby Park.

John Davidson, our subject's father, was born in Beaver County, Pa., August 15, 1829, and came to Iowa in 1855. He settled on one hundred and fifty acres of land not far from Brooklyn, which he improved, and shortly before his death owned a valuable property of ten hundred and fifty-two acres, of which fully seven hundred acres were under good cultivation. He taught the first two winters of school ever taught in Brooklyn. He was one of the pioneers of the coming civilization and prosperity, and was obliged to put up with many privations and hardships, having to haul his grain to Iowa City. He was a Mason, and served his fellow-citizens as Assessor of the township for three terms, and for two terms was Justice of the Peace. Politically, he was formerly a Democrat, afterward becoming a Republican. His name has gone down to history as one of the organizers of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Brooklyn. He was twice married, his first wife, the mother of our subject, bearing him five children: Albert, Andrew, William J., Mary J. and Rachael. The mother having died in May, 1862, the father some time afterward married Lavinia S. Higgins. Of their four children, only one,

Herbert, is now living.

The subject of this notice was reared to farm life and received a district-school education, after which he was enabled to spend two years of study in the Iowa Wesleyan University, at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. After leaving that institution he spent four terms in teaching school, and since 1878 has turned his attention to farming, with the exception of four years, when, from 1885 to 1889, he engaged in the butcher business in Brooklyn. March 23, 1881, was celebrated the union of Mr. Davidson and Emma E. Blanchard, who was born in East Stoughton, Vt. She is a daughter of Elijah and Mary M. (Rice) Blanchard, who were both born in the Green Mountain State. The former was a merchant and Postmaster in Massachusetts, and for some years ran an hotel near Newport, N. H. In 1864 he removed to the Hawk-

eye State, locating in Brooklyn, where he engaged in buying and selling cattle. His family were of English origin. He was called from this life November 27, 1886, his widow still surviving him. Both were active in the work of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mrs. Davidson is one of six children, and by her marriage has become the mother of one son and four daughters: Floy E., Rexford J., Ada M., Lillie R. and Nellie. Our subject and his wife are esteemed members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which the former has belonged for twenty years, and his wife for nearly that length of time. Mr. Davidson is a Trustee of the church, and politically casts his ballot in favor of Republican nominees. He is a man who has always led an upright and honorable life, and his past life is like an open book that all may read.