

MERRICK H. GRAHAM.

Few residents of Madison township, Poweshiek county, are held in higher respect than he whose name introduces this review. A native of Pennsylvania, Merrick H. Graham was born in Bradford township, Clearfield county, on the 5th of July, 1846, a son of John and Amelia (Neff) Graham, of Irish and German descent respectively. The father, a farmer by occupation, came to Iowa when fifty years of age, locating on a farm in Madison township, Poweshiek county. This remained his home until the time of his death, which occurred in 1884. His wife survived him for five years, passing away on the old homestead.

Reared amid the busy activities of farm life Merrick H. Graham early learned the value of industry, energy and thrift, and under the direction of his father acquired a thorough practical knowledge of the best methods of carrying on agricultural pursuits. He came west with his parents on their removal to Iowa from the Keystone state, spending two years in Scott county, and thence came to Poweshiek county, where for forty-seven years he has made his home upon the farm upon which he now resides.

He remained under the parental roof until he was twenty-eight years of age, and at that time was married, thus laying the foundation for a happy home life of his own. After the death of his father he took possession of the old home place and has since continued its operation, in which connection he has been most successful. It is a well improved farm of two hundred acres, located on section 3, Madison township, contains no waste land whatever, is well tiled, and contains a fine dwelling and substantial barns and outbuildings.

Mr. Graham has a fine orchard of two and a half acres and is an extensive raiser of grain. He also devotes considerable time to his stock interests, making a specialty of shorthorn cattle, being the owner of a good herd, all of which is nearly full-blooded stock. The excellent condition of his home place denotes the spirit of progress, enterprise and thrift on the part of its owner, and the gratifying results which have attended his efforts are well merited, for at all times his methods have been practical and his dealings of the most honorable character.

On the 28th of October, 1873, in Brooklyn, Mr. Graham was united in marriage to Miss Sybil Adam, a daughter of George and Anna (Jansen) Adam, both of whom were born in the central part of Germany, and in the same village. Mr. Adam, who was a farmer, brought his family to America when Mrs. Graham was a maiden of fifteen years of age, the family home being established in Freeport, Illinois. After a residence in that city of ten years they took up their abode upon a farm in Carroll county, Iowa, where the parents passed their remaining days, the father passing away in 1894 and the mother in the year following. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Graham have been born seven children, five of whom are still living, namely: Dena, who married Port Walker, engaged in railroadng in Eagle Grove, Iowa; Frank, who married Miss Lucy Beattie, of Haven, Iowa, and now makes his home at Tama, Tama county, Iowa; Maude, the wife of Rowland O. Hartman, a well known young farmer of Madison township; Grace and Allen, both of whom are still at home. The other two children passed away in infancy—George, at the age of three weeks and Mamie when nine months old.

Mr. and Mrs. Graham are members of the Christian church of Madison township, and are people of the highest traits of character. In politics Mr. Graham is a staunch republican, but is not an office seeker, and although he served one term as road supervisor he has refused repeatedly, when he would have been elected by his fellow citizens, to serve as a member of the district school board. He is not lacking, however, in interest in public affairs, but is public-spirited in his citizenship, giving his cooperation to all measures which he deems for the best interests of the community. A man of good business ability, which has won for him substantial success, and actuated in all of his dealings by the most honorable and upright principles, he also possesses those personal characteristics which command the confidence and good will of his fellowmen and place him among the highly respected and valued residents of Madison township.