

## ALEXANDER CHARLES LESTER.

Farming claims the time and attention of Alexander Charles Lester, who now owns one hundred and twenty acres in Deep River township, a part of which constitutes the old homestead. This farm is the place of his birth, his natal day being March 15, 1863. He is the youngest in a family of five children whose parents were Alexander and Ann Jane (Graham) Lester. The father was born near Belfast in County Down, Ireland, in 1816. In 1848 he emigrated to the new world and for a few years worked as a carpet weaver in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1850 he went to Detroit, Michigan, and for a few years followed farming about sixteen miles north of the city. It was while residing at the latter place that he was married to Mrs. Ann Jane (Graham) Dodds, who was likewise a native of County Down, Ireland, born May 27, 1828. She was married there to Alexander Dodds, who died on shipboard in 1850, when they were en-route for the United States. The widow with her one son, William John Dodds, who now lives in Michigan, proceeded alone to Detroit, and she was married shortly afterward to Mr. Lester. In 1855 they removed to Mahaska county, Iowa, and five years later, in 1860, came to Poweshiek county, settling on the farm in Deep River township, which is now the home of their son Alexander. In connection with his farming interests Mr. Lester also operated a threshing machine for many years and became a prosperous and influential resident of his section of the county.

His family numbered five children: David, who was born in 1853 and died in 1897, leaving a widow and five children; Jennie Eliza, who was born October 24, 1854, and became the wife of Samuel Conn, passing away on the 16th of June, 1907, leaving four daughters and two sons; Martha, the wife of M. F. Babb, of Montezuma, who is mentioned elsewhere in this volume; Maggie, the wife of Charles Sanders, of Deep River township; and Alexander C., of this review. The father passed away on the home farm, October 18, 1900, when he had reached the advanced age of eighty-four years. He had long been a member of the United Presbyterian church. The mother is still living with her son Alexander C.

Alexander Charles Lester was reared in the usual manner of farm lads, assisting in the work of plowing, planting and harvesting through the spring and summer seasons, while in the winter months he attended the district schools. He is today the owner of the old homestead farm, to which he has added a forty acre tract, now possessing one hundred and twenty acres, situated on sections 29 and 30, Deep River township. His fields are under a high state of cultivation and each year he gathers good crops.

It was on the 3d of March, 1903, that Mr. Lester was married to Mrs. Nora Sanders, the widow of Horace Wade Sanders and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Wolf. She was born in Deep River township, March 14, 1878, and by her first marriage has two children, Ernest E. and Lilly May. By her union with Mr. Lester she has become the mother of three children: Bertha Viola, born January 31, 1904; Hester, born February 22, 1906; and Harry Elsworth, born May 7, 1908.

In politics Mr. Lester is a republican. He is a man of sterling worth and integrity, who conducts his business affairs along the most honorable methods, and his success is well merited.

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