

An excellent farm of two hundred and fifty acres in Lincoln township is the reward of the capably directed efforts of Robert Mark McWilliams, whose success in life is due to his own endeavors. He was born in Scotland in March, 1825, and there he was reared and educated and continued to reside until he had attained his twenty-third year. His parents, who were John and Eugenie (Barron) McWilliams, spent their entire lives in the land where they were born and where the father engaged in farming.

Reared in the parental home in Scotland, Robert Mark McWilliams acquired his education in the common schools of his native village. In 1848 he decided to become a citizen of the United States, believing that if the wonderful stories he heard regarding the opportunities here afforded ambitious young men were but partially true, they were much better than in his own country. Upon his arrival in the United States he first located in Ohio, where he resided for three years at the end of which period he removed to Iowa. He first settled in Cedar county, where he remained until 1854, when he came to Poweshiek county, obtaining employment on a farm in Lincoln township, then Deep River, this being before the subdivision of the latter township. Being an ambitious and thrifty young man, he managed to save enough from his meager wages to enable him to buy a portion of his present homestead in 1859, but he continued

to work by the month until 1864. In the latter year he enlisted in Company E, Eleventh Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and went to the front, where he served until the close of the war. He participated in some of the notable conflicts which were waged during the latter part of the war and went with Sherman's army on their famous march to the sea. After receiving his discharge Mr. McWilliams returned to Iowa and located upon his homestead, where he engaged in general farming until his retirement. Although he continues to reside upon his farm it is now operated by one of his sons.

Mr. McWilliams was married in 1857 to Miss Margaret Beveridge, also a native of Scotland and a daughter of James and Sherer Copeland Beveridge, who emigrated to the United States in the '50s. Her father, who was a carpenter by trade, purchased a farm in Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his life, passing away at a ripe old age. Nine children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. McWilliams: Barbara, who is a resident of the village of Deep River; James, who lives near Cedar Rapids; Joseph, operating the old homestead, who is married and has five children; John, engaged in farming in Nebraska; Sarah, the wife of Thomas Olgevie, who is a railroad conductor and lives in Belle Plaine, Iowa; William, who is living in Guernsey, where he follows the carpenter's trade; Alex, living on a farm in Lincoln township, who is married and has five children; Mary, the wife of Samuel Gilmore, who is a farmer in Hardin county; and Charles, who cultivates a farm which he rents south of his father's homestead in Lincoln township. He is married and has five children.

Mr. McWilliams cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln and has ever since given his political allegiance to the republican party. He served as school director, trustee and road supervisor in his township at various times. He has passed the eighty-sixth milestone on life's journey, fifty-seven years of which time have been spent in Poweshiek county, toward the development of which he has contributed his quota.

McWILLIAMS, Robert Mark, b. Scotland, 1825, s. of John and Eugenie (Barron) McWilliams, came to the U. S. in 1848 and to Iowa in 1854. He married in 1857 Margaret Beveridge, dau. of James and Sherer Copeland Beveridge.  
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