

stone house built by Esquire Marsh a half century ago, and there in the shade of the fine oak trees on the lawn, under which they played as children, Mr. and Mrs. Brown are spending the evening of life. They also have a home in Pasadena, California, to which they go to escape the rigors of the northern Iowa winters. Mr. Brown is most happy amid his present surroundings, as it has ever been the dream of his life to return to the farm, for he is a lover of nature and the various phases of outdoor life.

EDMUND GILLETTE.

Edmund Gillette is a valued and respected citizen of Cresco now living retired, although for many years he was actively, prominently and successfully connected with agricultural interests in Howard county, where he has a circle of friends almost co-extensive with the circle of his acquaintance. He came to the middle west from the Empire state, his birth having occurred in Benton Center, Yates county, New York, October 9, 1828. He is a son of Jewel H. and Mabel (Bainbridge) Gillette. His father was born in Orange county, New York, in 1789, while the mother was a native of Seneca county, New York. They were married in that state, where the father engaged in business as a miller, operating flour mills for a number of years. In 1843 he removed westward with his family to Niles, Michigan, at which period that district was wild and undeveloped. He purchased farm land and began the cultivation and improvement of his fields, converting the farm into a very productive tract of land. At the time of his arrival there was much wild game in the country and comparatively little indication of progress and improvement there, but he took his part in the work of bringing about changed conditions until death suddenly cut short his career, for he was killed in a runaway accident in 1844. His wife survived until 1869 and was seventy-two years of age at the time of her demise. In his political views the father was a democrat. The ancestry of the family can be traced back to a very remote period, for the first of the name came from France to the United States in 1634, making settlement in New York, where successive generations of the family have resided. The grandfather of Edmund Gillette was Jeremiah Gillette, a native of Orange county, New York, his birthplace being on the Hudson river. He built the first mill at Penn Yan, New York, and remained a substantial citizen of that place until his death, which occurred in 1844. His wife also passed away there.

Edmund Gillette spent his boyhood days in the Empire state to the age of seventeen years and then accompanied his parents on their westward removal to Niles, Michigan, after which he spent two years upon the home farm. He then entered the employ of the Michigan Central Railroad Company, assisting in building the road in the capacity of labor foreman, and subsequently removed to Chicago, where he became identified with the lumber business of Charles Mears, with whom he continued for two years. He also managed a lumber camp for the company in northern Michigan and while thus engaged did some trading with the Indians. Later he assisted in building the Michigan Southern Railroad, doing contract work, and afterward he was connected as labor foreman with the Chicago & Galena Union Railroad on construction work. He next became active in the construction of the Illinois Central Railroad and occupied the position of paymaster with office at La Salle, Illinois. In the winter of 1854-5 he came to Iowa, establishing his home near what is now the town of Cresco, but the district was then a wild prairie tract. He took up his present farm as a claim, securing one hundred and sixty acres which he at once began to develop and improve. From that day to the present he has been an active, valued and honored resident of Howard county. In the early days McGregor was the nearest market and the unsettled condition of the country is indicated by the fact that there were many Indians here. His labors have been of the greatest benefit in promoting public progress and his enterprise made him one of the foremost farmers of this section of the state. As the years passed his lands were brought under cultivation and returned to him very substantial and gratifying harvests.

In 1856 Mr. Gillette was united in marriage to Miss Helen M. Barber, a daughter of Horace and Elizabeth (Burbank) Barber, the father a furniture manufacturer of