

roundings and conditions and later he homesteaded a tract of land a mile south of his father's farm, thus securing one hundred and sixty acres of Iowa's rich and productive land. He also built a log house and began the development of his fields. McGregor was at that time the nearest market and travel in those days was mostly with ox teams, so that it was a long and tedious trip to market. There were plenty of Indians in the neighborhood and all of the hardships and privations of pioneer life had to be met by the early settlers, but with, resolute spirit they faced these conditions and lived to witness a remarkable transformation in the appearance of the county and in the conditions existing here. John Ferrie remained upon his first farm for a number of years or until the failure of the wheat crop, when he sold his place and rented another tract of land in the same township. At a subsequent period he purchased the Ackerson farm, owned by his wife's father, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of land, and upon that place he resided until about twelve years ago, when he retired from active business life and removed to Cresco, where he is now living at the age of seventy-seven years, while his wife has reached the age of seventy-four years. Mrs. Ferrie had come to Howard county with her parents in her girlhood days and her father, like the other early settlers, secured a claim from the government and began the development of a new farm. His home, too, was constructed of logs after the primitive manner of the times and for twelve years he continued the development and cultivation of his land, after which he removed to Cresco, where both he and his wife spent their remaining days. His son, David Ackerson, was at one time sheriff of Howard county, filling the position for four years.

David J. Ferrie, whose name introduces this review, was reared upon the old homestead farm amid the usual environment and conditions of pioneer life. The public schools accorded him his educational privileges and on reaching the age of twenty-four years he was married and removed to the old Thomas Dale farm, which he cultivated and developed for two years. He next took up his abode upon the Robert Thompson farm, where he lived for two years, and then upon the E. H. Jones farm, comprising a half section of land in Center township, Howard county. There he continued to make his home for six years, after which he removed to the A. A. Reynolds farm of four hundred and eighty acres in Center township and continued thereon for six years. In 1913 he was elected to the office of sheriff and has since served in that capacity, making an excellent record by the prompt and faithful manner in which he discharges his duties. He performs every official service without fear or favor and- his course has won him high commendation. '

In 1898 Mr. Ferrie was married to Miss Mary Walsh, a daughter of Thomas and Mary (Kerns) Walsh and a native of Cresco. Her father is with the Milwaukee Railroad Company. To Mr. and Mrs. Ferrie have been born six children: Gerald, Irene, Leland, Donald, Kenneth and Harold, all of whom are at home. Mr. and Mrs. Ferrie are well known in Howard county, where they have long resided, both being representatives of old pioneer families. Mr. Ferrie has spent his entire life here and the work which was begun by his grandfather and continued by his father is being further promoted by him.

JESS HAYES.

Jess Hayes has been a lifelong resident of New Oregon township, Howard county, His present farm is situated on section 12, and it was here that he was born on the 20th of February, 1872. Through all the intervening years he has been identified with the agricultural interests of the district and is a representative of one of the oldest and best known pioneer families of this part of the state. He is the only son of Jacob and Bettie (Malone) Hayes, who for many years occupied the farm, in fact resided thereon until death called them about three years ago. The father, Jacob Hayes, was one of the first settlers of New Oregon township, taking up his abode within its borders when the work of progress and improvement had scarcely been begun. He aided in the task of general development here and his labors were productive of excellent results.