

then rented a farm, which he continued to cultivate for nine years. During this period he carefully saved his earnings and in 1909 bought the farm which is now owned and occupied by W. C. Baethke.

The latter was a lad of but nine years when he bade adieu to friends and native country and accompanied his parents to the United States. He was reared under the parental roof and the educational opportunities which he enjoyed were those afforded by the public schools of this county. In the fall of 1918 he was united in marriage to Miss Emma Hinz and they are well known and highly respected people of the district in which they live. They hold membership in the German Lutheran church and are loyal to its teachings and generous in its support. In politics Mr. Baethke is a republican. He has a brother, August C., who is with the American army of occupation in Germany, and the family are most loyal in their support of American interests. On coming to this country Mr. Baethke entered fully into the life and welfare of America and in the support of the institutions and principles of American life he has measured up to the one hundred per cent mark.

#### A. G. MERRILL.

A. G. Merrill, a general farmer of Howard county living on section 22, Saratoga township, was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, December 28, 1869. He has always remained a resident of this state and the spirit of progress and advancement which has been the dominant factor in the upbuilding of the west has been manifest in his life record. He was reared as a farm boy, dividing his time between the work of the fields, the pleasures of the playground and the duties of the schoolroom.

Mr. Merrill had attained his majority when in February, 1902, he was united in marriage to Miss Dora Enos, whom he met and married in Saratoga township. Her parents were Joseph and Alice Enos, the former of whom passed away in October, 1918, while the latter is now living with a son, W. H. Enos. The family is mentioned elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Merrill began their domestic life upon a farm and he has throughout his business career been identified with the active work of tilling the soil, making his home on section 22, Saratoga township. He has here sixty acres of land and is leading a life of industry and thrift, resulting in the further development of his farm property, his labors greatly enhancing its productiveness. He is also a stockholder in the Farmers Cooperative Creamery Company of Saratoga.

Mr. Merrill is a supporter of the republican party and fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Neighbors at Saratoga, while his wife is a member of the Congregational church. Both are well known in this section of the state, where they are highly esteemed, and the hospitality of the best homes is freely accorded them.

#### ALBERT REINHART.

Albert Reinhart, a representative farmer of Howard county, living on section 11, Paris township, was born in Elgin, Iowa, September 24, 1860. He is of Swiss descent, his parents being Samuel and Anna (Lehman) Reinhart, both natives of the land of the Alps. They came to the United States in early life. The father, however, was a young man when he crossed the Atlantic with his parents. The mother came to the new world as a maiden of thirteen or fourteen years with her father and mother, who settled in Elgin, Fayette county, Iowa, where they resided until called to their final rest. It was in Elgin that Anna Lehman became the wife of Samuel Reinhart in May, 1853. They remained residents of that place until 1864 and then removed to the vicinity of Lawler, Iowa, where they made their home for a quarter of a century. Subsequently they took up their abode in Howard county and after spending several years on a farm in Paris township they removed to Cresco, where they resided for eighteen years. They