

home; William, who follows farming in Paris township, Howard county; and Lloyd and Esther, who are also yet under the parental roof.

Mr. Beaumaster and his family are members of the Catholic church and his political allegiance is given to the democratic party. He has served for four terms as township assessor and for several years has been a member of the school board, staunchly supporting all progressive measures for the development of the schools of his district. He deserves much credit for what he has accomplished, for his activity has been the basis of his growing success. He is truly a self-made man and his record shows what can be accomplished through individual effort and determination. His labors have been wisely directed and he is today one of the prosperous citizens of Howard county.

#### GEORGE W. MERRILL.

The home farm of George W. Merrill is situated in Saratoga township, Howard county, where he owns one hundred and sixty acres of land situated on section 27 and eighty acres on section 22. He manifests most progressive methods in the further development of his farm property and his careful tilling of the soil year after year has gained him place among the substantial residents of his part of the state. Mr. Merrill is one of Iowa's native sons, his birth having occurred in Decorah, April 12, 1861, his parents being George and Nancy (Trent) Merrill. The father was born in Oneida county, New York, in 1826, and the mother's birth occurred in Connecticut in 1829. They were married in Waukon, Iowa, in 1853, and in the following year established their home at Decorah. Mr. Merrill gave his attention to farming about a mile and a half north of the city, where he purchased land, which he continued to cultivate until 1865. He then removed with his family to Frankville, Winneshiek county, disposing of his land at Decorah and making investment at Frankville. In 1880 he traded the latter place and came to Saratoga township, Howard county. It was in 1883 that he built upon the homestead farm, which comprises two hundred and forty acres of rich and productive land. Throughout the intervening years to the time of his death he lived upon that property and brought his fields under a very high state of cultivation. He died in the year 1907, having for five years survived his wife, who passed away in 1902.

The youthful days of George W. Merrill were spent under the parental roof and he accompanied his parents on their various removals. He was a pupil in the public schools of Iowa and in vacation periods worked in the fields, so that he early became familiar with practical farming methods. On attaining his majority he started out in the business world as a farm hand, working through the summer months, while in the winter of 1884-5 he was again in school. As the years have passed he has concentrated his attention and efforts more and more largely upon farming and is today active in the cultivation and control of two hundred and forty acres of land situated in Saratoga township, constituting one of the fine farms of the district.

Mr. Merrill was united in marriage on the 2d of July, 1900, to Miss Julia Nelson, who was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, in 1879, a daughter of Peter Nelson, who resides in Saratoga township, making his home about a mile south and a mile west of Mr. Merrill's farm. To Mr. and Mrs. Merrill have been born three children, Leona May, George Delbert and Joy Bernice, all at home.

Mr. Merrill and his brother Archie are the only members of the family residing in this locality. A sister, Mrs. Dell Hawes, is living in Santa Cruz, California, and another sister, Mrs. Hattie Chamberlin, in San Francisco. He is the third in order of birth, while he has two younger brothers: Fred, making his home in Ione, California; and Frank, residing in Chickasaw county, Iowa. Another brother, Archie, is living a mile west of George Merrill, in Saratoga township, and the youngest, Ben M., resides in Hartford, Connecticut.