

county, Iowa, where he spent his entire active life in farming, and he has for the last ten years been president of the People's Savings Bank of Delmar, Iowa. He also owns a section of land in Bloomfield township, Clinton county, whereon he spends most of his time. He is a son of William and Eliza (Fitzgerald) McGinn, who came to the United States from Toronto, Canada, and, settling in Clinton county, Iowa, preempted one hundred and sixty acres of government land, the first grant being signed by President Madison. Both Mr. and Mrs. William McGinn passed away in Clinton county, the latter dying upon the home farm in 1897, at the age of sixty-three years, while Mr. McGinn retired from active life and spent his last days in Delmar, there dying in 1907, at the age of seventy-four. Mrs. Miller attended Our Lady of Angels' Seminary at Lyons, Iowa, and completed her education in St. Joseph's College at Dubuque. She was afterward graduated at the Mercy Hospital at Clinton after pursuing a course in nursing. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have two children: Madane Katherine, born July 5, 1916; and Donald Joseph, born July 29, 1917.

The religious faith of the parents is that of the Catholic church, their membership being at Lawler. In politics Mr. Miller maintains an independent course, voting for men and measures rather than party. In his business affairs he has displayed a most progressive spirit and in the conduct of his farming and stock raising interests employs scientific methods which show his thorough understanding of questions relative to the development of his herds and the production of his crops. He is of the third generation to reside upon the Miller farm in Utica township and that the work of farm improvement has been carried on along most practical and progressive lines is manifest in the present productivity of the place. They have never allowed the soil to become exhausted but have practiced the rotation of crops and the judicious use of fertilizers, so that the fields have always been kept in excellent condition. Moreover, Mr. Miller enjoys a well deserved reputation as the owner of some of the finest shorthorn Villagers and Poland China hogs that the country has produced.

JOE R. MARR.

Among the well known farmers of Howard county is numbered Joe R. Marr, who is living on section 18, Afton township. He is one of the native sons of this county, his birth having here occurred September 6, 1879, his parents being William and Rosella (Yager) Marr. The father was born in Germany, while the mother was a native of Austria. The former came to the United States with his parents when but four years of age and the mother crossed the Atlantic with her parents when a maiden of fifteen summers. They became residents of Wisconsin and in that state reached adult age and were married. They afterward removed to Iowa, taking up their abode in Afton township, Howard county, about the year 1869. The father preempted land from the government, a tract that was in its primitive condition. He also bought land in Afton township upon his arrival and to the time of his death was identified with the farming interests of this section of the state. He converted a wild tract into productive fields and to his place added many modern improvements, being classed with the representative and progressive farmers of the district. He died in Afton township in 1899 and was survived by his widow for eight years, her death occurring in 1907.

By the terms of his father's will Joe R. Marr came into possession of the farm of two hundred acres upon which he now resides on sections 17 and 18, Afton township. He had been reared upon the old homestead farm and pursued his education in the common schools near his father's home. He had been accorded thorough training in farm work and remained in his father's employ until the death of the latter, which occurred when the son Joe was twenty years of age. He then took over the management and further development of the land which he inherited and has made for himself a most creditable and enviable position as a prominent and representative farmer of Afton township.

In his political views Mr. Marr has always been a staunch democrat, voting for the men and measures of the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise.