

unquestioned integrity in the business circles of Decorah township. A lifelong resident of this district, he is widely known throughout this section and the circle of his friends is almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintances.

JOHN HARTER.

Since 1882 John Harter has devoted practically all of his time to the development of the Pleasant Ridge Fruit Farm on section 5, Pleasant township, whereon he is specializing in the raising of fine grades of native fruits, his scientific methods, unremitting industry and his thorough knowledge of the business combining to gain for him a success which places him among the most able fruit growers. He was born in Schwindratzheim, Alsace, Germany, March 28, 1859, and is a son of George and Mary (Gross) Harter, also natives of that country, where the father engaged in farming and shoemaking for a number of years. He gave most of his time to the development of the old homestead, which has been in possession of members of his family for over three hundred years. Mr. and Mrs. George Harter became the parents of three children: George, who owns the old homestead in Germany; Mary, who also resides in the fatherland; and John, of this review.

The last named acquired his education in the public schools of Germany and remained upon the farm in his native province until 1882, assisting with its operation and completing his term of service in the German army. In the latter year he crossed the Atlantic to America and settled immediately in Pleasant township, Winneshiek county, Iowa, buying one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 5, whereon he has since resided. This he has developed along progressive and modern lines, erecting substantial buildings and installing the necessary machinery until today Pleasant Ridge Fruit Farm is one of the finest properties in this part of Iowa. For the past fifteen years Mr. Harter has given a great deal of his attention to making experiments in fruit growing and has developed a number of new and rare varieties, his efforts marking a distinct advance in methods of scientific fruit cultivation. He has perfected and recorded a number of varieties of hardy apples suited to this country and climate and besides this has the only nursery in Winneshiek county and one-sixth of an acre planted in grapes, this being the largest and best developed vineyard in this section of Iowa, The Harter's Red and Improved Briar Sweet are among the best known of his own varieties of apples and are so excellent in quality and taste that the Iowa State Horticultural Society in its report of 1912 speaks of them in terms of high praise, as it did in the report of 1910 of his other excellent apples. Mr. Harter has made a thorough and exhaustive study of the work to which he has devoted his life and is considered an expert in his special line, his work having received the commendation and approval of the state and United States pomologists who have examined his fruits. His attention is given over entirely to the development of his different varieties of fruits, to a study of conditions which improve or perfect them and to research on questions of grafting and transplanting. The general farming operations were in charge of his son George W., until the sudden death of the same on account of an accident which