

PAST AND PRESENT OF WINNESHIEK COUNTY 291

sections 13 and 14, Military township, and he gives a great deal of time and attention to the further development and improvement of these two farms, which are among the finest agricultural properties in the state. He engages in general farming and stock-raising and, being a reliable, farsighted and discriminating business man, has made both branches of his activities important and profitable. In addition to his extensive holdings in this county, he also has important landed and business interests in Oklahoma, having become interested in the development of that state in 1900, when he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land in Washita county at the time when the Choctow, Oklahoma & Gulf Railroad was constructed through that part of the state. He has gradually extended the scope of his interests, having been carried forward by his initiative spirit, his keen sense of business opportunity, his excellent administrative and organizing ability into important relations with financial affairs. In 1902 he organized in Canute, the Canute State Bank, of which he is now president and in which he owns a controlling interest, and he was also the leader in the founding of the German State Bank of Elk City, Oklahoma, an institution organized during the panic of 1907 with a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars. Mr. Scheidemantel is not now connected with that enterprise, having sold his stock in 1909. He assisted his brother Henry in organizing the Silver Springs Creamery Company and although they met with great opposition at the time, it was carried to a successful issue and our subject remained as general manager until success was assured.

Mr. Scheidemantel is a member of the Roman Catholic church and fraternally is connected with the Knights of Columbus and other organizations affiliated with his church. He is a democrat in his political views and a staunch supporter of the party's principles, although he never seeks public office for himself. A man of broad views, modern ideas and progressive spirit, he has left and is still leaving the impress of his work and personality upon the agricultural development of Winneshiek county and upon the financial history of that section of Oklahoma in which he is active, and he is in all respects a man of action and initiative—valuable as a factor in the promotion of the growth and advancement of the community in which he has spent his entire life.

CHRISTIAN RILLING.

Christian Rilling is living retired on his farm near Fort Atkinson in Washington township after many years devoted to the stone-mason's trade in Winneshiek county and a long period of identification with agricultural interests in this section of the state. His residence here dates from 1868, but he was born in Germany, on the 27th of April, 1848, a son of Adam and Mary (Uhlmer) Rilling, who lived and died in the fatherland. To their union were born four children: Barbara and Adam, who live in Germany; Lizzie, the widow of Henry Mohler, of Winneshiek county; and Christian, of this review.

Christian Rilling acquired his education in the public schools of his native country and there remained until he was eighteen years of age. He then crossed the Atlantic to America, locating first in New York and then in Philadelphia, whence after three years he came to Winneshiek county in 1868. He bought one