

operation of a farm in Illinois until his death. The family then removed to Rockwell, Iowa, where a few days later the death of the mother occurred. Mr. and Mrs. Casterton were the parents of ten children, namely: William O., a farmer of Winneshiek county; Emma J., the wife of Samuel Halse, who farms near Florence, South Dakota; Ellen, who married Isaac Fawcett, residing at Maple, Minnesota; Mary A., the wife of Thomas Ryan, residing at La Crosse, Wisconsin; Carrie, the widow of J. F. Humphrey, residing in North Dakota; Claire, who married Gordon F. Humphrey and they reside in North Dakota; Bertha, the wife of Archibald H. Bryant, an agriculturist of Highland township, Winneshiek county; Grace, the wife of William Aiken, who resides in Ventura, California; Charles O., who has agricultural interests in Highland township, this county; and Nettie, the wife of Granville Fawcett, of Maple, Minnesota. Mrs. Casterton passed away May 23, 1910, at the age of nearly eighty-one years, having been born August 12, 1829.

However, Mr. Casterton's activities have not only been confined to business interests, for he has also served effectively for a number of years as justice of the peace, filling this position with such fairness and impartiality that high commendation has been accorded him. While living on his farm he also served in various minor capacities, always manifesting a helpful interest in carrying responsibilities of American citizenship. Politically he is a democrat and his religion is that of the Episcopal church. A resident of Winneshiek county for nearly six decades, he has not only been an interested witness of the changes that have occurred, but has been a helpful and cooperant factor in the general advancement, and the honors which come to him on account of his attainments and on account of his long years of assiduous labor are well earned and well merited.

WILLIAM EHLER.

A valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres is the property of William Ehler, whose home is on section 12, Washington township. He has resided here since his birth and is today classed among the progressive farmers and extensive stock-raisers of his native community, his success coming as a direct result of his industry and ability. He was born on the 3d of March, 1873, and is a son of Barney and Johannah (Hunker) Ehler, natives of Germany, who came to America and settled in Washington township, upon the farm where the subject of this review now resides, in 1859. The father engaged in agricultural pursuits during the remainder of his life, dying June 10, 1888. His wife resides upon the homestead at the age of eighty-seven years. To their union were born four children: William, of this review; Lizzie, who married Frank Thuente, of Washington township; Joseph, who resides in Ossian; and Henry, of Kingsbury county, South Dakota.

William Ehler was reared upon his father's farm in Washington township and spent his childhood assisting in its cultivation, becoming before he was of age a practical and progressive agriculturist. In 1904 he purchased the homestead of one hundred and sixty acres and upon this carried on general farming