

Richard are living at home; Louisa married Louie Skou and they live at Ida Grove, Iowa; Anna and Anton live at home; two children died in early life. The wife and mother passed to her rest on November 9, 1909.

Mr. Pingel is a Republican and has taken a good citizen's interest in local public affairs. He has been a member of the school board for three years. He is a member of the Methodist church and faithful in his attendance on the same.

ELI MANUEL LEPLEY.

One of the larger landowners of Union township, and one of its most successful farmers, is a man who, when he began farming there, started in a very small way, but who, by diligence, industry and perseverance, has attained his present comfortable position, and Eli Manuel Lepley is widely known in Hardin county as one of her most representative farmers. He was born on July 13, 1842, in Knox county, Ohio.

Adam Lepley, grandfather of the subject, was a native of Germany, and with two brothers came to the United States in 1770 and settled in Somerset county, Pennsylvania. The two brothers were killed by Indians. Adam married and became the father of eight sons and two daughters. At an early day he walked through to Knox county, Ohio, leading a pack horse, and took up wild land. This he improved and was a farmer until his death.

John Lepley, the youngest child of Adam Lepley, was born on August 15, 1795, and married Mary Kemery, of Virginia, who was born on April 4, 1804. They were the parents of the following children: Barbara was born on December 28, 1823, married S. Myers, and came to Mahaska county, Iowa, in 1845, where she and her husband died. Peter was born on January 21, 1836, and married Elizabeth Harttinger, with whom he came to Union township, Hardin county, Iowa, and there he died on January 30, 1908. His widow is living in Union. Delilah was born on July 26, 1827, and married Martin Braddock. They moved to Marshall county, Iowa, in 1852, where he died and she still resides. Samuel was born on March 31, 1829, and was killed at the age of fifteen in Knox county, Ohio. William, who was born on October 11, 1830, died at the age of two. Christina was born on July 27, 1832, and is deceased. Josephus was born on June 20, 1834, and married Olive Horn, of Knox county, Ohio. He served three years in the Forty-third Ohio Infantry, and after the war went to Jasper county, Missouri, where he died six months later. His widow is now in Kansas. Melissa was born on June

19, 1836, married Hugh Dudgeon, who later moved to Kansas, where she died on August 15, 1910. John was born on August 19, 1840, and married Eunice Tracy. He died in 1899, his widow is living in Knox county, Ohio. Eli M. is the subject of this review. Nancy A. was born on May 26, 1844, and died at the age of eleven.

Eli M. Lepley had to go two and one-half miles to get the limited schooling which he received. He remained at home until he was twenty and in 1863 came west alone. For one year he lived with his brother Peter, then returned to Ohio, but later returned to Union township. Here he has since lived and has improved his lands and added to his holdings until now he owns four hundred and forty acres in Union township, and one hundred and twenty in Grundy county and a section of land in Canada. While following general farming, he has been for the last twenty years a breeder of registered Poland-China hogs, and keeps thoroughbred Hereford cattle and some horses and sheep, feeding on the farm all the hay and grain raised. He has won a reputation as a stock breeder. He has erected all the improvements on his farm, including a large and comfortable modern home, which contrasts greatly with the single-room, fourteen by sixteen shanty in which he and his wife first lived. Mrs. Lepley is a member of the Christian church at Union. In politics Mr. Lepley is a Democrat, and has held several local offices to the satisfaction of the community.

On April 14, 1868, Mr. Lepley was married to Katie Cramer, a native of Somerset county, Pennsylvania, the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Gisbert) Cramer. The Gisberts were of Irish stock. John Cramer was born in Germany on September 12, 1821, and died on September 4, 1873. His wife was born on March 14, 1820, and died on May 22, 1873. John Cramer went to Whiteside county, Illinois, then, in 1853, entered one hundred and sixty acres of land in section 5, Union township, Hardin county, Iowa, which he improved and sold, and then moved east of Steamboat Rock, where he and his wife both died. Their children were: Loraine, born on December 30, 1838, died in March, 1910; Hamilton, born on September 25, 1841, and served two years in Company A, Twelfth Iowa Infantry, after the war located in Union township, and later moved to South Dakota, and now resides in Kansas; Walter, born on November 20, 1842, died on April 15, 1856; Hudson, born on August 10, 1844, is now a ranchman in Oregon; Mary, born on June 10, 1846, is the wife of Sparks Beal, of Nebraska; Katie, Mr. Lepley's wife, was born on March 19, 1848; Sarah was born on February 10, 1850, and married William Moore, who died in Kansas in December, 1909; Leland, born on March 23, 1852, is a farmer in Minnesota.

To Mr. and Mrs. Lepley seven children have been born: Elliott, born on February 15, 1869, married Cora Walton, has five children, and is farming in Grundy county. His children are Marion, Maud, Katie, William and Silas. Erwin was born on April 23, 1870, and is farming in Grundy county. Samuel was born on June 23, 1872, married Callie Rowan, and is farming in Union township, Hardin county. Rose, born on October 11, 1873, married C. McMillian, of Pasadena, California, to whom she has borne two sons, Lawrence and Carlton. Ed, born on November 29, 1877, is at home. Peter, who was born on August 6, 1879, is farming in Providence township, Hardin county, married Nettie Gates, and has three children, Francis, Claire and Willet. Lillie, born on April 20, 1885, married L. Hutchins, of Deer Trail, Colorado. These children all received at the hands of their parents a good education.

Mr. Lepley is widely and favorably known in Hardin county, and those who know him esteem him highly on account of his many strong traits of character and affable nature. His business success, for farming today is a business, has been marked.

This is from the 1911 book "**Past and Present of Hardin County Iowa**".