

JOHN MARTH.

John Marth, well-known and well-to-do retired farmer and an honored veteran of the Civil War, throughout which he had seen much service, was born in Germany, but has been a resident of this country for sixty years, having come to the United States in 1857. He was born on June 6, 1837, the only son of George and Sophia (Hohman) Marth, also born in the Fatherland and who spent all their lives in that country.

George Marth was born in Germany in February, 1793, and was educated in the schools of his native land, where he followed the occupation of a farmer during all his active years. He died in the old country in 1876, having reached the advanced age of eighty-three years. He was twice married, his second wife being Sophia Hohman, who was born in Germany in 1814, and who died at the early age of twenty-nine years, in 1843. They were the parents of two children, Elizabeth Keiser, who lives in Delano, Minnesota, and John, the subject of this sketch.

John Marth was educated in the schools of Germany and was reared on his father's farm, where he helped in the agricultural labors up to the age of nineteen, when he immigrated to America, arriving in this country in 1857. He engaged in farming, at which he continued for a few years, and some six months after the Civil War began, he enlisted on October 4, 1861, and served to the end of the war. He enlisted at Ft. Snelling, Minnesota, and saw service in the battle of Shiloh and at the siege of Corinth, at the end of which engagement he followed General Price through Tennessee and Mem-



MR. AND MRS. JOHN MARTIL.

phis. He was also at the battle and siege of Vicksburg. He re-enlisted at the end of the first term and was with Sherman's army on the march to the sea. At the end of the conflict between the states he was honorably discharged at Ft. Snelling on June 1, 1865, having served three years and nine months on behalf of the Union cause. He was in ten battles and was never captured, nor did he receive any wound.

Following his discharge from the army, Mr. Marth engaged in the mercantile business in Wright county, this state, and continued in same until 1877, when he moved to Barnesville, Clay county, and built a store and stocked it with a full line of general merchandise, his venture in this line proving very successful. In 1908 he sold out the stock, but still retains the ownership of the building. In 1877 he had homesteaded a quarter section of land in section 18, Humboldt township, and continued to operate it for twenty-one years, selling out in 1899. About 1891 he bought a quarter section in section 18, Barnesville township, which he still retains, and is now the owner of six hundred and eighty acres in all. Mr. Marth carried out many valuable improvements on his holdings and during his active life on the land he was regarded as one of the most substantial farmers in that part of the township.

In June, 1867, John Marth was united in marriage to Wilhelmina Klement, who was born in Germany on February 15, 1851, and who came to America four years later, in 1855. The marriage took place in Wright county, Minnesota, and the following children were born: Mrs. Mathilda Englis, deceased; Sophia, at home; Amanda, deceased; John, who is now managing his father's farming interests; Rosa, a clerk at Frazee, Minnesota, and Mrs. Alvina Partridge, who lives at Dodge Center, this state. The senior John Marth, notwithstanding his extensive mercantile and land operations, found time to devote to matters connected with the civic affairs of the township. He was president of the township board of the village of Barnesville for several years, and at a later time, when the place was incorporated, he was alderman of the city of Barnesville, and in these representative positions he gave general satisfaction to the public. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and in that organization continues to take a warm interest. Mr. Marth is now living retired at Barnesville, and has reached ten years beyond the allotted span of three-score and ten years, still vigorous in mind and body.

The junior John Marth is now carrying on the farming operations since his father's retirement. He had been living in Canada, where he was engaged in farming, and sold his land there in 1916 and returned to the old

farm, which he is now managing very successfully. He carries on general farming and raises mule-foot hogs, and is doing very well. He was married to Ida Nelson on December 28, 1898, and they are parents of one child, a daughter, Winifred, now three years old.

An interesting item in connection with the Marth family on the female side is worth recording. Rosalia Zieberth, grandmother of Wilhelmina Klement, who became the wife of John Marth, Sr., was the third white woman to cross Crow river from Wright county, Minnesota.