

PHILIP KELLER, JR.

Among the wide-awake, enterprising and progressive farmers and stock men of Black Creek township, in this county, Philip Keller, Jr., is entitled to a high rank, both on account of his achievements in what he has done and his aims at higher and better results in stock breeding for himself and the people all around him. He has for years been active and energetic in his efforts to raise the standard of cattle in his township, and by his energy, foresight and persistency, he has been successful in a large measure.

Mr. Keller was born in Griesheim Hessen Darmstadt, Germany, on March 22, 1873, and came to the United States and Shelby county, Missouri, with his parents when he was a boy nine years old. He is a brother of Peter Keller, in a sketch of whom in this work the family history will be found. He began his education in the schools of his native land and completed it in those of this county. After leaving school he worked on his father's farm and assisted the family, remaining at home with his parents until 1895. He then bought the farm of 150 acres of land on which he now resides and since that time has been industrious and constantly engaged in cultivating, developing and improving it. He has made it a model of its size and character and increased its value considerably.

In connection with his farming he carries on an active and flourishing industry in raising live stock and otherwise handling this necessary commodity for the markets. His specialty in this line is thoroughbred Aberdeen-Angus cattle,

and his herd is one of the best known and most admired in this part of the state. From it he has introduced the breed into other herds, greatly to their advantage and that of the men who own them, and much to the improvement of the grade of cattle produced in the locality.

Mr. Keller is very energetic in the management of his business, losing no opportunity to enhance his prosperity and realize the desires he has in connection with the live stock industry in this county, and his enterprise in this behalf is highly appreciated by the people resident here. He is also alive and alert in reference to the general welfare of the region in other ways, giving his earnest aid to every worthy undertaking for the improvement of his township and county and the benefit of their inhabitants. In politics he is a Republican, and in religion he and his wife are Lutherans.

On November 3, 1895, he was united in marriage with Miss Lizzie Neuschafer, a daughter of the late John and Katherine Neuschafer, of this county. Two children have been born of this union, Lydia and Anna Marie, and both are still living at home with their parents. The latter are reckoned among the most worthy and estimable citizens of Black Creek township, as they are known to be faithful in the performance of every duty with reference to both public and private life, and to be impelled by lofty motives and aiming at highly commendable results in all their activities. They are consistent members of their church and zealous workers for its advancement in every way.