

DANIEL L. BARKER.

Daniel L. Barker, devoting his attention to agricultural pursuits and numbered among the highly respected citizens in the vicinity of Meridian, was born in Suffolk, England, April 3, 1851, and acquired his early education there, while later he attended a private school at Bingen on the Rhine. He was in Germany when the war of 1870 broke out and the town was the center of the rush. While there he learned to speak the German language and he also speaks French as well as his native tongue. When twenty-one years of age he came to the new world, making his way to Illinois, where he was first employed in a brickyard for a period of two years. At the end of that time he had accumulated sufficient money to purchase a team and wagon and in that manner he drove across the country to Nebraska, where he took up a homestead on the Loup river in Howard county in 1874. After living upon that place for five years he sold the property and bought one hundred and sixty acres on the Pawnee reservation when it was thrown open for settlement. He had engaged in farming in Nebraska for twenty years when he removed to Idaho in January, 1895, and settled on his present home near Meridian. Here he purchased sixty acres of land covered with sagebrush, not a furrow having been turned nor an improvement made upon the place. He employed help to assist him in clearing the land and he has today one of the model farms of Idaho. He raised fruit and cereals until recent years but is now giving his attention to general farming and to the raising of pure bred Hampshire sheep. In all of his business affairs he has been actuated by a most progressive spirit that has led to the successful accomplishment of his purpose. Not only is he numbered among the representative farmers of the district but has also done important work in other directions. He helped to organize the Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District for the purpose of putting water on seventy-five thousand acres in 1905 and acted as managing director thereof until January 1, 1919, since which time he has given his undivided attention to his private farming interests. The irrigation project was beset with great complications and it was the arduous duty of Mr. Barker to straighten all this out, which he did to the complete satisfaction of all concerned, and the project is today one of

the most successful irrigation interests of the state. He has made a scientific study of irrigation, reading broadly everything relating thereto throughout the entire period of his residence in Idaho.

In 1879 Mr. Barker was married to Miss Helen Walker, of Valley county, Nebraska, who passed away leaving three children: Jennie M., who is married and resides in Oregon; Daisy L., who is married and makes her home northwest of Meridian; and John W., who was an attorney of Lewistown, Montana, until America entered the war. He received his first commission at San Francisco, California, being made first lieutenant, was afterward promoted to captain, and later was major of the Thirteenth Infantry in the Eighth Division, stationed at Brest, France, in the inspector's department. In 1886 Mr. Barker was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Addie M. Egbert, of Austin, Minnesota, who by her former marriage had two children: E. Channing Egbert, who is married and resides at Rupert, Idaho; and Lee L., who is also married and has three children, his home being a mile south of the Barker farm. To Mr. Barker's second marriage there have been born three children. Anna E., who is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley of the class of 1914, is now the wife of J. H. Curtis, living in Meridian. Daniel L., aged twenty-nine years, has a homestead in British Columbia. He has just returned from overseas duty with the Canadian troops, having been a member of the Forty-ninth Battalion. He was in all of the hard fighting with that command, and although he escaped wounds, he was gassed. His homestead is situated in the Peace River country. Guy A., who is twenty-eight years of age, is married and lives in San Francisco, California. He was graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1914 and has recently returned from France, where he served as a captain of the Sixty-second Coast Artillery. J. H. Curtis enlisted in the Tank Corps but did not get across. Two of Mr. Barker's sons, Daniel L. and John W., visited the old home of their father in England while there during the war, but the only landmark which was left was an old pear tree.

Mr. and Mrs. Barker occupy a fine modern residence that stands on a prominence, commanding an unobstructed view of the surrounding country. Mr. Barker is a man of liberal education and culture, a wide reader and deep thinker, who has made wise use of his time, talents and opportunities not only to the betterment of his individual fortunes but also for the development of the community in which he has cast his lot.