

Ira L. Aiken, engaged in farming near Meridian, was born in Burt County Nebraska, February 14, 1869, a son of William and Clarissa (Lucas) Aiken. The father, a native of Ohio, born May 4, 1840; removed to Illinois with his parents when but a young lad and there his stepfather engaged in farming until his death in 1867. The family home was later established in Nebraska and once more attention was concentrated upon the work of tilling the soil. In 1877 William Aiken made his way to the northwest, going to Washington and settling near the present site of Clarkston. There he homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of wild land, which he cleared and improved residing there until 1882, when he sold the property and came to Idaho, settling in Ada county. Here he took up a timber culture claim of one hundred sixty acres and the farm upon which his son Ira now resides, seven miles northwest of Meridian, is eighty acres of the original tract. William Aiken sold the other eighty acres and is now living retired in Boise, where his wife passed away in 1907. As the family traveled westward across the plains they had no actual encounters with the Indians but manifested the utmost diligence in order to avoid the red men and thus escape their murderous intent.

Ira L. Aiken was but eight years of age when his parents left Nebraska and went to Washington. He was reared on his father's farm and acquired a public school education. When he was twenty years of age he began farming on his own account as a renter on the Boise river, but after two years he took up his abode where he is now residing and has since concentrated his efforts and attention upon the further cultivation and development of this place. He follows general farming, producing such crops as are best adapted to soil and climate, also raises some stock and until a recent date was quite extensively engaged in stock raising and at the same time he carries on dairying in a limited way. On the 1st of January, 1896 Mr. Aiken was married to Miss Ada Rambo, a native of Iowa and a daughter of James and Florilla (Taylor) Rambo. The mother is now deceased, while the father lives in Alaska. Mr. and Mrs. Aiken have four children: Lelia M., who is the wife of Clarence Walt, farming near her father's place, and by whom she has two children; Vernon, who is the second of the family and is now attending school at the age of fifteen years; and Laura M. and Arlie A. also under the parental roof.

Almost forty years have come and gone since the Aiken family arrived in Idaho and through this period Ira L. Aiken has not only been an interested witness of the changes which have occurred but has borne his part in bringing about the growth and progress of his section of the state, contributing particularly to its agricultural development.