

**HISTORY OF RICHLAND COUNTY WISCONSIN - 1906**  
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**WILLIS BRIGGS, one of the representative farmers of Eagle township and a member of the town board at the present time, claims Dane county, Wis., as the place of his nativity, and comes of stanch old New England stock. He was born June 4, 1861, and is a son of William and Mary Jane (Burlington) Briggs, both of whom were born and reared in Vermont. They came to Wisconsin in the pioneer days and settled in Dane county. In 1862, the year after the birth of the subject of this sketch, they came thence to Richland county and settled in the town of Eagle, where the father secured 220 acres of land, the greater portion of which he reclaimed from the wild state, developing a fine farm and erecting good buildings on the place. He finally retired from the farm and took up his residence in the village of Muscoda, just across the Wisconsin river, in Grant county, where he died April 1, 1900. His widow still survives him and is eighty-seven years of age, (1906.) They became the parents of three children, all of whom are living. The father was a prominent and influential citizen of Eagle, having served in all township offices except that of treasurer and having been chairman of the town board about fifteen years. He was a Democrat in his political affiliation and was identified with the Masonic fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His widow has long been a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal church and she still resides in Muscoda. Willis Briggs was reared on the home farm and secured his education in the local schools. He has never wavered in his allegiance to the agricultural industry and is now the owner of a fine landed estate of 320 acres, devoted to general farming, stock-growing and dairying. In politics he clings to the faith of his honored father and is a stanch supporter of the cause of the Democracy, taking an active interest in public affairs of a local order and having been a member of the town board since 1903. He enjoys unqualified popularity in the township which has been his home from his infancy, and is known as an enterprising and progressive business man. In September, 1881, Mr. Briggs was united in marriage to Miss Mary Hardy, who was born in Eagle township, May 15, 1862, being a daughter of Thomas and Sarah Hardy, both of whom died here, having been early settlers of the township. Mr. and Mrs. Briggs have seven children, namely: Bertie, Buford, Roy, Verney and Vernel (twins), Bud, and Donald.**