

WITH REFERENCE TO WIFE'S PARENTS AMMI AND TEMPY SHIREMAN

DENNIS J. MORRIS, dealer in farm implements, buggies, surries, and harvesting machinery, at Richland Center, was born two and one-half miles north of Rochester, on the Tippecanoe river, just below the old ironworks, in Fulton county, Ind., on Nov. 28, 1853, and he is the son of Edward and Rachel (McMehan) Morris, natives of Washington Court House, Fayette county, O. The paternal grandparents were Asa and Elizabeth (McMehan) Morris, the former of whom was a native of Wheeling, now West Virginia, and the latter was born in the same part of the Old Dominion. Asa Morris was born in 1807, and he came from Virginia to Ohio in early manhood, settling in Fayette county when that portion of the Buckeye State was a new country. He came to Indiana in 1842, settling, in Fulton county, near Rochester, and he remained there until 1854, when he removed to Richland county, Wis., and located in the town of Bloom. He afterward sold out there and went to Vernon county, where he died in 1868, at he age of sixty-one years, and he is buried in the cemetery at Viroqua. His wife died in 1882. In the Civil War, although considerably past the age of military requirement, Asa Morris enlisted, on Feb. 8, 1862, as a private in Company C of the Nineteenth Wisconsin volunteer infantry. His regiment was attached to the forces operating in Virginia, and he served with the command until June 15, 1863, when he was discharged from the service on account of disability. He was never in good health after being discharged. He and his good wife were the parents of nine children: Edward is the father of the subject of this review; Joseph is deceased; Mary Ann married Eli Mason, who is deceased, and she resides at Viroqua, Vernon county; Catherine married John Hurd and she and her husband are both deceased ; Dennis and Sarah, twins, are both deceased; Adaline married John Hawkenberry and resides in Viroqua; Lena is deceased; and Henry resides in Viroqua. Edward Morris, the eldest of the above named children and the father of our subject, remained with his parents during their residence in Ohio, and in Indiana until 1854, when he came to Wisconsin and settled in the town of Bloom, Richland county. Oct. 7, 1854, was the exact date of his settlement there, and at that time it was a wild and unbroken country, but he entered a half section of government land and bought an additional eighty-acre tract. Nine years later he removed to the town of Rockbridge, remaining at the latter place six years, and he then settled in the town of Richland, on the farm now owned by his son, Dennis J. Farming has always been the chief occupation of Edward Morris, and he is counted among the successful men of Richland county, contributing his full share to the development

of the region in which he lived. He retired from the active routine work of a farmer's life in 1883, and has since given considerable attention to business of other kinds. He owns two farms, one in the town of Dayton and the other in Richland. He was one of the promoters of and, during its existence, one of the trustees of the state bank at Richland Center, and he was also one of the stockholders in the original Pine River & Steven's Point Railroad, from Lone Rock to Richland Center. He has been a tax-payer in Richland county since 1854, and has held various local offices. In his political faith he is a staunch Democrat, and when he resided in the town of Bloom he usually represented his party organization in conventions. On Aug. 11, 1862, he enlisted as corporal in Company B, Twenty-fifth regiment, Wisconsin volunteer infantry, and first went to Fort Snelling, Minn., to aid in the suppression of the Indian uprising. From there his company was sent to Alexander, Minn., on the Dakota line, and it was stationed at a point further north than any other company of the regiment. Its duty being performed in that region the regiment returned to Camp Randall, Madison, where it remained until February, 1863, when it was sent to Kentucky and performed post and picket duty in that state. On May 23, 1863, Mr. Morris was discharged from the service on account of disability, he being seriously afflicted with hemorrhage of the lungs, and he was unable to do manual labor for years thereafter. He and his wife now reside in Richland Center. Edward Morris was married at Rochester, Ind., on Oct. 7, 1851, to Miss Rachel McMehan, a daughter of Isaac and Phoebe McMehan, who were also early settlers of Richland county, locating about 1850 on the "John Brown" farm in the town of Richland and later removing to the town of Bloom, where they both died and are buried in the Bloom cemetery. Dennis J. Morris is the eldest of a family of six children who were born to Edward Morris and wife, and these facts concerning the others are given a place in this review: Phoebe married Thomas McCasky and resides in the town of Marshall; Catherine married Allen Roy and resides in Richland Center; George is also a resident of Richland Center; Amy married Alexander Best and resides in Franklin county, Tenn.; and Isaac is a horseman of some note and resides on his father's farm in the town of Dayton. Dennis J. Morris was less than one year old when his parents came to Richland county, and there he was reared to manhood, receiving his education in the public schools. He began his independent career at the age of twenty-five years, as a farmer in the town of Richland on the place which he now owns. In 1879 he removed to Cresco, Ia., and followed farming there a couple of years, when he suffered the loss of his dwelling house by fire, and in 1881 he returned to Richland county, and after living upon a rented farm three years entered the employ of A. H. Krouskop as a buyer. After eighteen months in that capacity he resigned the position and made a trip to Indiana and Tennessee, buying a farm in the latter state. On Apr. 22, 1889, he took up a farm in Oklahoma territory, at the time of the

opening of a reservation to settlers, his location being three miles south of Kingfisher, on Uncle John's creek. He settled there with his family and remained eight years, when he traded his farm for one in Howell county, Mo., where he remained two years, and then returned to Richland county in 1899. Upon his return to the old home county he purchased the place which he still owns, one mile from Richland Center, and farmed there three years. In 1903 he removed to Richland Center and engaged in the implement business, in which he has since been engaged, handling the Deering and Champion reapers and mowers and all the machines of the International Harvester company, the J. I. Case threshers, buggies, surreys, wagons, and all kinds of farming implements, binder twine, etc. His store building, which he owns, is 28x70 feet, with two stories and a basement, equipped with elevators, etc., and it is all occupied by his extensive business. The building is located at the corner of Main and Mill streets, in the city of Richland Center, and he also has a warehouse near the railroad track. Our subject was married on July 24, 1878, to Miss Emma Shireman, who was born in Richland county, the daughter of Ami and Tempa Jane (Jones) Shireman, early settlers of the county. These parents came from the Shenandoah Valley, in Virginia, and settled on Horse creek, in the town of Marshall, both being now deceased. Dennis J. Morris and wife are the parents of two children—Virgil Edward, who resides in Colorado Springs, and Jennie Ethel, who for the past three years has officiated in the capacity of deputy register of deeds of Richland county. Prior to assuming the duties of her present position she taught fourteen terms of school. The subject of this review is a member of the Brotherhood of American Yeomen, and of the Mystic Workers, having held the position of foreman of the former four years. He represented the Richland Center organization as a delegate to the state meeting at La Crosse in 1905, and he was elected a delegate to the national meeting which was held at Colorado Springs on Nov. 21, of the same year. Mr. Morris is a Democrat in his political affiliations, and he served as the first trustee of the town of Harrison, Kingfisher county, Okla., occupying that position two terms. The office of trustee in Oklahoma is a very important one, as the man who occupies the position has all the business of the town to attend to, assessing the property, laying out and superintending the care of the roads, in a tract of territory, six by eight miles in extent, which at that time was the regulation size of the townships in that territory. Mr. Morris served as one of the delegates from Kingfisher county to an Oklahoma territorial convention. He is at present serving as alderman from the second ward in the common council of Richland Center, having been elected to that position by a large majority in the spring of 1905. Our subject is a stockholder in the First National Bank at Richland Center.