

then concentrating his attention upon dairying, later becoming state dairy commissioner. As his financial resources increased he extended the boundaries of his farm until it comprised three hundred acres. This he continuously cultivated and improved, transforming it into a very valuable and productive tract. Upon his farm he erected one of the finest homes in northern Iowa and also put up all new buildings for the shelter of grain and stock. His equipment was of the most advanced type, as he was at all times actuated by a progressiveness that manifested itself in every phase of his farm. He had electric appliances to do all his threshing, churning and creamery work, his house and barn were lighted with electricity and the farm was strictly modern in every particular. He ground his own feed for his cattle, piped water to the barn for his stock and for many years conducted a most profitable dairy business, first shipping butter to Chicago, while later he shipped to New Orleans. In addition to the home property he owned land in South Dakota, having an entire section in Sully county.

In 1874 Mr. Norton was united in marriage to Miss Stella A. Johnson, a daughter of Parker and Mary (Lowrey) Johnson. Mrs. Norton was born in the town of Waterloo, Jefferson county, Wisconsin, while her father and mother were natives of Massachusetts, in which state they were married. In the spring of 1846 they removed to the town of Waterloo, where the father took up government land and built a log house. Soon afterward he sold that property and purchased a farm at the head of Rock lake, Lake Mills, Wisconsin, upon which he built a good frame dwelling and then carried on the work of improving his place. He operated his land until 1867 and then removed to Chickasaw county, Iowa, settling near Bradford, where he purchased a farm of eighty acres. To that he added at a later date and spent his remaining days upon that place, his death occurring in 1877, when he was fifty-four years of age. His wife long survived him and had reached the age of eighty-one years when she passed away June 24, 1907. To Mr. and Mrs. Norton has been born a daughter, Ida J., who is now the wife of W. P. Bennett, of Austin, Minnesota.

In his fraternal relations Mr. Norton is an Odd Fellow and he belongs to the Congregational church. His aid and influence have ever been given on the side of progress and right and Howard county has long numbered him among its valued and progressive citizens. Moreover, he is one of its pioneers, for there were only two or three houses in Cresco at the time of his arrival and he has lived to witness the substantial growth of the city and county as the years have gone by. In fact, he has borne a most important part in the agricultural development of this section of the state and at all times the course which he has followed has made him a man whom to know is to esteem and honor. His memory forms a connecting link between the primitive past and the progressive present and his name stands high on the roll of the valued pioneer settlers of the community.

THOMAS J. DARGAN.

Thomas J. Dargan, a farmer living on section 28, Jamestown township, Howard county, was born in Columbus, Wisconsin, November 27, 1868, and is a son of John E. and Mary A. (Conlin) Dargan. The father is a native of Ireland, while the mother was born in the Badger state. Both are living and Mr. Dargan is now filling the position of postmaster in Riceville, Iowa.

Thomas J. Dargan spent his youthful days under the parental roof and acquired a public school education. When he was quite young his parents came to Howard county, settling in Jamestown township, where he was reared and where practically his entire life has been passed. On the 23d of February, 1914, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary H. Maruska, a daughter of Frank and Margaret (Rousch) Maruska.. the former a native of Bohemia, while the latter was born in the United States. They are still living and make their home in Howard township, Howard county. Mr. and Mrs. Dargan have become the parents of two children, Margaret M. and Thomas F., aged respectively four and two years.

Mr. and Mrs. Dargan are communicants of the Catholic church at Riceville and