

in 1849 and taking up their abode in Canada, where they resided for eight years. In 1857 they came to Howard county, Iowa, and the father purchased eighty acres of land from the government, the tract being situated four miles west of Lime Springs. Thereon he resided to the time of his retirement from active business in the late '80s, at which time he removed to Lime Springs, where his death occurred. His wife died in September, 1882.

John A. Cray was reared from infancy in Howard county and has therefore been a witness of practically its entire growth and development. He was educated in the district schools, attending school in private homes before a schoolhouse was erected in the section of the county in which he lived. He shared with the family in all the hardships and privations incident to the settlement of the frontier and through the period of his youth he aided in the work of the home farm, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. After attaining his majority he continued to farm the land on which he had been reared, for the father and sons had acquired more than a section, to a part of which John A. Cray held title. Year after year he gave his attention to agricultural pursuits, continuing the further development and improvement of his farm until 1894 save for a short period spent in the western country. In 1894 he took up his abode in Lime Springs, where he has since made his home. In the fall of 1892 he was elected to the board of county supervisors and abandoned farming in order to give more time to the duties of the office, for in those days much of the bridge building and other work of the county was done under the supervision of the supervisors and not through contract as is now the custom. Following his removal to Lime Springs, Mr. Cray became associated with his brother, S. R. Cray, in the farm implement and hardware business. They continued active in that line of trade for a number of years but finally sold their interests to A. E. Marsh. Through the intervening period Mr. Cray has lived retired, enjoying well earned rest which is possible through the fruits of his former toil.

In his political views Mr. Cray is a democrat, with firm faith in the principles of the party, and he has served as a member of the board of township trustees for many years. He was called to that office about the time he attained his majority and continued to fill the position until his removal to Lime Springs in 1894. Since that date he has served continuously as a member of the town council. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church and is a generous and earnest supporter thereof. He is keenly interested in everything that has to do with public welfare and progress and at all times he has contributed to the upbuilding and development of his section of the state. More than six decades have been added to the cycle of the centuries since he became a resident of Howard county and through this period he has witnessed the wonderful transformation wrought by time and man, Howard county taking its place with the most progressive counties of this great commonwealth.

#### O. A. CERWINSKE.

O. A. Cerwinske, who follows farming on section 8, Chickasaw township, in Chickasaw county, has been a lifelong resident of Iowa. His birth occurred near Rockford, in Floyd county, February 8, 1882, his parents being Joseph and Lena (Balitz) Cerwinske, who were natives of Germany but in early life came to the United States. They met and were married in Floyd county, Iowa, where for many years the family home was maintained.

O. A. Cerwinske, after attending the district schools of Floyd county, continued his education in a college at Charles City, Iowa, where for two years he pursued a commercial course, thus becoming well qualified for the duties and responsibilities of business life. During his youthful days to the time of his marriage he remained upon his father's farm and on the 16th of August, 1904, he wedded Cornea Robison, a daughter of George and Alice Robison, who are yet residents of Charles City, Iowa. The father of Mr. Cerwinske died in Floyd county in 1902, but the mother still survives,