

to a farm in Richland township, where they resided for ten years, and on the expiration of that period the father purchased a farm in Chickasaw county west of Ionia, occupying the place for a number of years. He then retired from active business life, sold his farm property and established his home in Nora Springs, Floyd county, where a daughter was teaching in the college. He passed away there two years later but the mother is still living at the advanced age of ninety-three years and is remarkably well preserved. She insists in going about the household duties as a younger woman and lends considerable assistance to her children, with whom she makes her home.

F. B. Strike was educated in the public schools, in Bradford Academy, in the Decorah Institute and in the Rich's Business College at Decorah, thus making steady advancement along lines that have rendered him an efficient factor in the world's work. He began his career as a school teacher and for ten years taught in the district schools, while for one year he was principal of the public schools of Bradford and for three years was connected with the schools of New Hampton, spending one year as principal and two years as superintendent. He became a resident of New Hampton in 1889 and in 1892, after giving up educational work, engaged in the fire and accident insurance business, with which he was identified for nine years. In 1901 the city took over the light and water plant, Mr. Strike was elected city clerk and was also installed as manager of the municipal plant, in which important capacity he has served continuously and most efficiently for eighteen years. The first year of municipal ownership of the plant the receipts were less than four thousand dollars. In 1918, with more than seven hundred patrons, the receipts reached twenty-two thousand dollars and the plant has fourteen thousand dollars in the city treasury. This is due to the excellent business management and splendid service given to the public under the direction of Mr. Strike.

In 1887 Mr. Strike was married to Miss Delphine M. Sheldon, of Richland township, Chickasaw county, a daughter of John Sheldon, who was one of the early pioneers of this county. To Mr. and Mrs. Strike were born nine children. Clarence L., who is a graduate of the University of Iowa in both the electrical and civil engineering courses, served with the rank of major with the One Hundred and Ninth Engineers in France. Clifford I., also an electrical engineer, is now superintendent of the electric light plant at Eureka, South Dakota. Hazel is the wife of G. L. Sheeny, a farmer of Chickasaw county. Clara acts as housekeeper for her father. Wallace was sergeant of Company B, One Hundred and Ninth Engineers, in France. Celia is a senior in the high school at New Hampton. Marion is a junior in the high school. Cora and Edith - are also pupils in the public schools of this city. The wife and mother passed away March 20, 1909, her death being the occasion of deep regret not only to her immediate family but to her many friends throughout the community.

Mr. Strike gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and fraternally is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, while he and his family religiously are of the Baptist faith. He is keenly interested in everything pertaining to the welfare and progress of his city and his cooperation has been most resultant in promoting public progress. He is now president of the city school board and his influence is ever on the side of advancement where the cause of public education is concerned.

OWEN O. WILLIAMS.

Owen O. Williams, a resident farmer of Howard county, his home being on section 18, Albion township, was born in Forest City township of the same county June 15, 1871, a son of Owen H. and Jane (Davis) Williams, both of whom were natives of Wales. The father came to the new world in young manhood, while the mother crossed the Atlantic when a maiden of thirteen years, making the voyage in company with her parents. They became residents of Waukesha county, Wisconsin, where their marriage was celebrated later, and after the close of the Civil war they came to Iowa. They took up their abode in Forest City township, Howard county, and in 1879 removed to the present home farm in Albion township, where the family has now lived for the past forty