

Marguerite (McDowell) Torney, who about 1870 left Canada and came with their family to Howard county, Iowa. At that time the father purchased what is now the home farm of W. E. Torney and concentrated his efforts and attention upon its further development and improvement until the time of his death, which occurred April 17, 1899. For five years he had survived his wife, who died March 27, 1894.

W. E. Torney was a lad of but fourteen years at the time the family home was established in Howard county and his youthful experiences were those of the farm-bred boy who attends the public schools- and works in the fields through vacation periods. He had begun his education in Canada and he continued his studies in Mitchell county, Iowa, when the parents came to this state. Since his father's death he has assumed the management and operation of the old home farm and now has one hundred and fifty-one acres of excellent land from which he derives a substantial annual income, for his methods of cultivating his fields are most practical and resultant.

On the 25th of June, 1895, Mr. Torney was married to Miss Emma Gertrude Mason, a daughter of Patrick James and Marguerite (Covey) Mason. Mrs. Torney was born in Canada and her people never came to Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Torney have no children of their own but are rearing an adopted daughter, Nellie Marie, who is now attending tile public school.

In political belief Mr. Torney is a republican but has never been an office seeker. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, belonging- to Lodge No. 211, and also has membership with the Modern Woodmen of America and with the Eastern Star. He is now occupying the position of township trustee for the first term. He and his family attend the Congregational church and their sterling worth has gained for them a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of their acquaintance.

FRANK KOBLISKA.

Frank Kobliska is numbered among those who have transformed Chickasaw county from an undeveloped tract into one of the garden spots of Iowa, beautiful in the development and improvement of its farming land. He makes his home on section 32, Deerfield township, and is surrounded by highly cultivated fields, from which he annually gathers substantial harvests. He was born in Bohemia in September, 1858, a son of Wensel and Eleanora Kobliska. He came to the United States when a lad of twelve years in company with his parents, the family home being first established near Spillville, in Winneshiek county, Iowa, where the father purchased a farm and continued to carry on general agricultural pursuits for nineteen years. He then removed to Deerfield township, Chickasaw county, and settled on a tract of one hundred and sixty acres, which remained his place of residence until his life's labors were ended in death in 1881. The mother survives and yet occupies the original old home place near Spillville, having returned to that farm after the death of her husband, taking her family with her. Her son, Matt Kobliska, is now conducting the farm.

Frank Kobliska was educated in the public schools of Spillville and at the time of his father's death, which occurred when he was twenty-three years of age, he inherited eighty acres of land in Deerfield township. A year later he was married to Miss Barbara Hernecek, the wedding being celebrated on the 20th of November, 1882. She is a daughter of Frank and Anna Hernecek, both of whom were natives of Bohemia. Following his marriage Mr. Kobliska took his bride to the farm which he had inherited and for eight years he devoted his attention to its further development and improvement. He then sold that property and bought his present place in 1891, becoming the owner of two hundred acres of land. He has since extended the boundaries of his place and in addition to his farm in Deerfield township, which now comprises two hundred and forty-nine acres, he owns three hundred and twenty acres in North Dakota. His success has been attained through persistent effort, intelligently directed. He has worked long and earnestly and by reason of his careful management and straightforward dealings has gained a