

1912, was the occasion of deep and widespread regret. His widow survives and makes her home with a son in Cresco.

Michael L. Barnes was educated in the district schools of Howard and Chickasaw counties and spent his youthful days under the parental roof. In 1901 he was married to Miss Verona Novak, a daughter of Thomas Novak, one of the early settlers of Howard county, now living retired in Cresco. In 1900 Mr. Barnes began farming on his own account on rented land and was thus engaged for five years, during which time he carefully saved his earnings, and in 1905 purchased the old homestead farm at Schley, which, is regarded as one of the best farm properties in Howard county.

Mr. and Mrs. Barnes have become the parents of eleven children, ten of whom are yet living, namely: Harry J., Cornelius M., Inez H., Winifred M., Kenneth G., Edmund T., Deloras T., Celesta E., Georgenia S. and Cyriac D. Virgil V., the eighth in order of birth, is deceased.

The family are communicants of the Catholic church, and Mr. Barnes is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters. He also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and in politics is a republican. His entire life has been passed in Howard county, and he has carried forward the work of development and improvement which was begun by his father and which has connected the name of Barnes with the upbuilding of the county from pioneer times.

THOMAS KAKAC.

Thomas Kakac is conducting a general merchandise establishment at Saratoga and the large line of goods which he carries signifies the liberal trade accorded him. He was born in Moravia, Austria, July 17, 1863, a son of Thomas and Anna (Popelka) Kakac, who in the year 1868 bade adieu to friends and native country and with their family sailed for the United States. They made their way to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where they took up their abode, and the father followed cabinet making in that city for a year. He then removed with his family to Chicago following the Chicago fire and Mr. Kakac worked at the cabinet maker's trade and afterward at cigar making until 1873, when the family home was established at Ely, Iowa. There Mr. Kakac resumed work at the carpenter's trade, which he followed until 1875, when he turned from industrial to agricultural pursuits and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Saratoga township, after which he bent his energies to the development and improvement of his farm. The mother of Thomas Kakac of this review died in 1897 and in 1898 the father married again and is now living at Haugen, Wisconsin, having reached the age of eighty-one years.

Thomas Kakac accompanied his parents to the new world and was with them on their various removals. He continued under the parental roof until 1878 and afterward went to Chicago, where he attended the public schools and then returned home, again taken up his abode upon the farm in Saratoga township in 1880. In 1881 the father rented the farm for five years and took his family to Chicago, where he engaged in carpentering, and there the son Thomas became active in the real estate business, in which he remained for six years.

While in Chicago, Mr. Kakac was married July 21, 1887, and not long after he and his wife, together with his parents, returned to the home farm in Saratoga township, Howard county. A year and a half was devoted by Mr. Kakac to general agricultural pursuits, at the end of which time he returned to Chicago with his wife and there became engaged in the insurance business, to which he devoted another period of a year and a half. Once more he came to Howard county and in connection with his brother John established a general store on the farm, conducting the business there for six months. Subsequently they bought out the business of C. W. Fields at Saratoga and for a year conducted the store. Later they erected the present store building which they now occupy. The brothers continued the partnership until 1906, when they divided their interests, Thomas Kakac remaining as owner of the store, while John Kakac took the farm as his share of the property. Thomas Kakac is now enjoying a liberal