

six years. He next rented the forty-acre farm of a Mrs. Thomas in Albion township and when not engaged in the cultivation of this tract worked at day labor. In 1907 he rented a farm across the state line in Fillmore county, Minnesota, where he carried on agricultural pursuits for six years or until the spring of 1913, when he rented the property on which he now resides on section 8, Forest City township, to the operation of which he has devoted his time and energies continuously since. In addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he also gives considerable attention to the raising of full-blooded Hereford cattle and Duroc Jersey hogs and in both branches of his business is meeting with well deserved success.

In 1901 Mr. Owens was united in marriage to Miss Tillie Leitz, of Forest City township, Howard county, a daughter of August Leitz, who was one of the early settlers of Forest City township but is now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Owens have become the parents of three children, Margaret, Owen and William, who are yet at home.

In politics Mr. Owens is a staunch republican, exercising his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of that party. Fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for here he has won prosperity and a position among the esteemed and representative citizens of his community.

GEORGE H. OWENS.

George H. Owens, who is engaged in the real estate and exchange business in Cresco and is also identified with banking interests in Howard county, has throughout his business career been actuated by a spirit of progress and advancement that has led to the achievement of substantial results. Iowa numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred near Clermont, Fayette county, August 5, 1876, his parents being William and Mary Ann (Carlin) Owens. The father was born in Ireland, while the mother's birth occurred in the state of New York. William Owens left Ireland when a youth of sixteen years in company with his father and sailed for the United States. He did not tarry on the Atlantic coast following his arrival in the new world but made his way to the town of West Union, Fayette county, Iowa, where he and his father engaged in mercantile pursuits for a number of years, and there the death of the grandfather of Mr. Owens of this review occurred. William Owens afterward engaged in business in connection with his brother John for five years and on the expiration of that period disposed of his interests to his brother and purchased a farm near West Union, comprising eighty acres of land, which he improved and cultivated for a number of years. He then sold the property and came to Howard township, Howard county, Iowa, where he invested in one hundred and sixty acres of land. He then bent his energies to the cultivation and further development of this property, which he continued to own and operate until 1909. He then removed to the town of Elma, Howard county, and retired from active business life. His wife passed away there in 1914 and Mr. Owens afterward came to Cresco, where he made his home with his son George until his death, which occurred in 1917, when he had reached the age of seventy-six years. He and his wife had been married in Fayette county, Iowa, and spent the entire period of their married life in this state. Mrs. Owens had come to the west from the state of New York with her parents, who settled in Fayette county, Iowa, where they engaged in farming throughout their remaining days. Mr. Owens was a democrat in his political faith and stood for all that was progressive in citizenship. He and his wife were well known in the communities in which they lived and commanded the warm regard of all with whom they came in contact.

George H. Owens spent his boyhood days in Howard county and is indebted to its public schools for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. He remained at home until he attained his majority and was well trained in farm work during that period. He then purchased a part of the old homestead and concentrated his