

By the terms of his father's will Adolph Arndt came into possession of the old homestead property and has by an active, useful and well spent life justified his right to be classed with the representative farmers of this section of the state. He was only five years of age at the time of the emigration and a little lad of six years when the family arrived in Howard county. Here he has lived through the intervening period, covering a half century, and has been an interested witness of the development and improvement of this section of the state and has at all times given active aid and cooperation to projects for the public good. His education was acquired in the public schools and his home training made him thoroughly familiar with the best methods of carrying on farm work. On his father's death he took over the management of the old home place, which he now owns and which is an excellent tract of land of one hundred and fifty-seven acres, situated on section 18, Afton township.

In 1899 Mr. Arndt was married to Miss Mary Hohn and they have become the parents of nine children, namely: Arthur, Walter, Gertie, Hedwig, Edith, Elbert, Marty, Edward and Minnie, all of whom are yet with their parents. The religious faith of the family is that of the German Lutheran church, their membership being in the church at Riceville. Mr. Arndt votes with the republican party and is a student of political questions and conditions, so that he is able to support his position by intelligent argument. He ranks with the substantial men and representative citizens of Afton township and with its history is largely familiar, for through fifty long years he has witnessed the changes that have occurred and the work that has been wrought as Howard county has been placed upon a par in its opportunities and advantages with the counties of the older east.

WESLEY O. SWENSON.

Among the attractive mercantile establishments of Cresco is the jewelry store of Wesley O. Swenson, who in the conduct of his business displays marked enterprise and progressiveness, utilizing every means at hand that will bring him legitimate success and basing his efforts largely upon his earnest desire to please his customers. He is a native son of Cresco, his birth having here occurred on the 23d of October, 1872, his parents being Ole and Almeda (Sloan) Swenson. The father was born in Skeen, Norway, in 1836 and was but four years of age when in 1840 he was brought to the United States on a sailing vessel by his parents, the voyage covering nine weeks. After reaching an American port they made their way westward by way of the Great Lakes to Milwaukee and proceeded thence to North Cape, Racine county, Wisconsin. There he remained until the outbreak of the Civil war, when, loyal to the cause of his adopted country, he donned the nation's blue uniform and went to the front as a member of the Union army. He was assigned to duty with Company C of the Fifteenth Regiment of Wisconsin Infantry, with which he remained until honorably discharged on the 31st of December, 1864, at Chattanooga, Tennessee. He participated in many hotly contested engagements, including the siege of Island No. 10 in the Mississippi river on the 10th of April, 1862; the battles of Jacinta and luka, Mississippi, on the 9th of September, 1862; of Champions Hill and Lancaster, Kentucky, Knox Gap, Tennessee, Stone river, Chickamauga, Georgia on the 19th and 20th of September 1863; the battle of Missionary Ridge on the 26th of November of the same year; the battle of Charlestown, Tennessee, of Tunnel Hill, Georgia, Dalton and Resaca, of Big Shanty, of Kenesaw Mountain and of Atlanta, Georgia. He was also in the engagement at Jonesboro and in others of minor importance. He participated in a very large percentage of the important battles of the war, however, and always proved a valorous and loyal soldier, patriotically doing his duty, whether called to the firing line or stationed on the lonely picket line. For a considerable period he was under the command of General Sherman. At the battle of Stone river he was taken prisoner on the 31st of December, 1862, by General Joe Wheeler's Texas Rangers but was recaptured by a regiment of United States Cavalry. He took part in eighteen battles altogether and His military record is a most creditable one. Since the 16th