

men and citizens of his town. He also owned extensive ranching interests in Nebraska and had one hundred and sixty acres of land adjoining the corporate limits of Lime Springs at the time of his death.

It was on the 26th of June, 1901, that Mr. Gates was again married, his second union being with Miss M. Jane Cray, a daughter of Joseph Cray, of whom extended mention is made elsewhere in this work in connection with the sketch of his son, John A. Cray. Mrs. Gates lived in Howard county during the early pioneer times and when a program was given at the Methodist Episcopal church on the 10th of March, 1916, called the "Old Fashioned School," she was asked to contribute a paper concerning pioneer school days. Her article was a most interesting one, beginning with her early experience as a pupil in the Beaver Creek school, which was a log cabin on the bank of Beaver creek. The school was taught by a neighbor woman, "Mrs. Mary Sage, whose household cares would admit of her being away from home a part of the day, thus avoiding the necessity of a teacher boarding around in the different homes." Only eight children attended that school, four being from the Cray family. They had to walk a mile and a half and the grass was so tall in many places along the path, and so thick, that if the children were a few feet apart they could not see each other. In her article Mrs. Gates says: "In one corner of this cabin which had been built for a dwelling was a ladder which went up to the loft; on the back of this nails had been driven where we hung our sunbonnets and dinner pails. One day when school was dismissed and we went for our things, a large snake was coiled on the floor under the lower round. You can imagine some excitement prevailed and the snake was disturbed; he began to slowly crawl out and around to the door; the teacher got hold of a large stick outside and slew the reptile, which was over eight feet long." In the winter time the children had to pick their way over snowdrifts higher than the fence and sometimes it was all they could do to get through. But there were many jolly good times mixed in with the hardships. After attending district schools in her early girlhood Mrs. Gates became a pupil in a school taught by the Rev. Adam. Craig in one room of his house, this constituting the beginning of the Lime Springs Academy. When but fourteen years of age Mrs. Gates received her certificate and at fifteen began teaching school, a profession which she actively followed for several years, making valuable contribution to the intellectual development of the district in which she was employed.

Mr. Gates was a member of Howard Lodge, No. 214, A. F. & A. M., of Lime Springs, and also a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He passed away December 30, 1903, and though sixteen years have since come and gone, he is yet remembered by many of the older people as a most substantial business man and most highly esteemed citizen. In politics he was a republican and served as a member of the town council for several years, during which time he closely studied the needs of the public and put forth every effort to advance the general welfare. His life was a busy and useful one, characterized by the most straightforward principles at all times, and those who knew him entertained for him warm regard. Mrs. Gates, who survives her husband, is a woman of refinement and of no little literary ability. In her home she is a gracious hostess, making every guest feel at ease, and through the long period of her residence in this section of the state she has gained a very extensive circle of warm friends.

L. V. SVESTKA.

The rich farming country of Howard county furnishes excellent opportunities to the progressive agriculturist and L. V. Svestka is numbered among those who have taken advantage of the opportunities thus afforded. He now follows farming on section 14, Paris township, and makes his home in the village of Schley. He was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, October 23, 1873, a son of Jacob and Mary (Kalishek) Svestka, both of whom were natives of Bohemia, where they were reared