

father departed this life in Washington township, Chickasaw county, while the mother died in La Grange, Illinois, her remains being brought back to Alta Vista for interment. Mr. and Mrs. Masemann have two living children, Fred and Alvina. The son served with the famous Thirty-third or Prairie Division during the European war, being a member of Company C of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Infantry. He was in France for a year and was on some of the most notable battle fronts.

Mr. Masemann and his family are members of the German Lutheran church of Alta Vista, and in politics he is a republican. He has served as school director in Washington township for several years and is a staunch advocate of progressive methods of education. In fact he stands for all that tends to promote improvement and upbuilding along any line vital to the welfare of the community. In his business affairs he has prospered and has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for he has here found the opportunities which he sought and in their utilization has gained a place among the substantial farmers and representative business men of northern Iowa.

FRANK SHORES.

The industry, enterprise and perseverance which Frank Shores displayed throughout a long and active business career spelled success which now enables him to live retired. He makes his home in Protivin, having divided the land that he had acquired among his children. He was born in Bohemia, January 15, 1839, and there spent the period of his boyhood and youth. It was in 1867 that he came to the United States, making his way first to Chicago, where he did factory work for three years. On the expiration of that period he removed to Crown Point, Indiana, where he took up his abode upon a farm. He purchased land, which he cultivated and improved for eight years, and on the expiration of that period sold it and removed to Howard county, Iowa, where he made investment in ninety acres of land. This constituted the nucleus of landed interests to which he constantly added as his financial resources permitted. In time he became the owner of four hundred and forty acres of very valuable land, which in recent years, since his retirement from active business, he has divided among his children.

Mr. Shores was married in Bohemia to Miss Josephine Mara and they became the parents of four sons and four daughters: Frank, John, James, Louis, Mary, Barbara, Anna and Emma. The last named is the wife of John Fanc[?], of Howard county, where he follows farming. All of the sons have married and are living on farms given them by their father.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church, Mr. Shores being a communicant of the church at Protivin, where he now makes his home, occupying a pleasant residence. He served as road supervisor while living in Chickasaw county, occupying the office for a number of years. His political allegiance has always been given to the democratic party and he has ever been loyal to any cause that he has espoused. Those who know him, and he has many staunch friends, entertain for him warm regard, and he ever manifests a kindly spirit in all of his relations with his fellowmen. He has now reached the advanced age of eighty years and is one of the highly respected and substantial citizens of New Oregon township.

JOHN P. BERCKES.

John P. Berckes, who follows farming on section 10, Howard township, and is a well known representative of the agricultural interests of Howard county, was born in Luxemburg, Germany, November 21, 1868, a son of Bernard and Margaret Berckes, who were also natives of Luxemburg, where they spent their entire lives.