

Etta, now the wife of E. W. Manning, a farmer of Deerfield township; George, who married Lulu Rose, a daughter of W. W. Rose, and is now engaged in farming in Chickasaw township; and Wilbur, at home.

Since becoming a naturalized American citizen A. J. Venz has given his political support to the republican party but has never sought nor desired office. His attention has been fully claimed by his business affairs and it has been through his own labor that he has gained his present day success. He started out in life empty-handed and has worked his way upward. He has never been afraid of hard labor, and his diligence and industry have placed him among the substantial farmers of this section.

JAMES W. MULICK, M. D.

Dr. James W. Mulick is a well known physician of northern Iowa practicing at Elma, where he enjoys a large and lucrative practice in medicine and surgery. He was born in Riceville, Iowa, February 4, 1867, and mention of his family is made in connection with the sketch of his brother, J. F. Mulick, on another page of this work. In his youthful days he lived on the home farm of his father and attended the common schools at Riceville. After he had completed the course of instruction in those institutions he became a student in the high school at Osage and was graduated therefrom in due time. In 1895 he determined to make the practice of medicine his life work and with this end in view went to Chicago, where he matriculated in the Rush Medical College, in which he completed the course and was graduated with the class of 1899. For a year thereafter he practiced medicine in McIntire, Iowa, and then removed to Elma, where he has since resided. Through the intervening period a large and very gratifying practice has been accorded him. He has been a most earnest and untiring student in his life's work.

On the 7th of June, 1905, Dr. Mulick was married to Miss Catherine Cullen, of Montreal, Canada, and they became the parents of four children: Mary Mildred, James Arthur, Catherine Marion and P. J. Clarence. The daughter Catherine M. died at Elma, March 15, 1912. The wife and mother passed away after a long illness on the 23d of October, 1918, her death being the occasion of deep and widespread regret, she being a most estimable young woman.

Dr. Mulick is a member of the Catholic church of Elma and belongs to the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Order of Foresters, He likewise has membership with the Modern Woodmen of America and with the Modern Brotherhood of America. During the years 1917-18 he was honored with the presidency of the Howard County Medical Society and he also belongs to the Iowa State and American Medical Associations. His political endorsement is usually given to the democratic party and he feels an interest in its success and the adoption of its principles. When not too busy with his practice he takes a keen interest in the improvement of his farm lands.

JOHN F. BAETHKE.

John F. Baethke, a resident farmer of Howard county, is living on section 6, Paris township, where he owns and cultivates eighty acres of good land. He was born in this county on the 27th of September, 1888, and is a son of Christ and Sophia (Suerbeer) Baethke, both of whom are natives of Germany, although they came to the United States in early life and were married on this side of the water. The father was born May 25, 1858, and after his arrival in Howard county he worked as a farm hand for a short time. He was ambitious, however, to engage in farming on his own account and he carefully saved his earnings, practicing the strictest economy as well as the closest industry in order to gain a start. He then purchased property and for many years was classed with the progressive and representative farmers of the community, tilling the soil until about a year ago, when he retired from active business life, rent-