

settlers of that county. Mr. and Mrs. Lyons have become the parents of eight children, six sons and two daughters, of whom two of the sons are deceased. The others are: Mary, the wife of O. J. McHugh, an implement dealer of Cresco; Angela, the wife of James Haney, of Miles City, Montana; J. Urban, who is employed by the International Harvester Company at Minot, North Dakota; Dennis A., Jr., who is with the International Harvester Company at Minot; Gerald E., an attorney connected with the firm of McCook & Lyons, of Cresco; and Leonard L., who is with the Cresco Union Savings Bank.

In his political views Mr. Lyons is a stalwart democrat and has long been a recognized leader in party ranks in the state. He served as mayor of Cresco for four years, being elected on a platform declaring for a waterworks system for the city, and the system was built under his administration. Various other needed reforms and improvements were instituted and the city benefited largely by his businesslike control of municipal affairs. In 1897 Mr. Lyons was nominated on the democratic ticket for the office of state senator and although he had for his opponent Dr. J. W. Danbury, who had served as mayor of Decorah for twenty years and was a very popular and capable man, he won the election by a majority of three hundred, overcoming a normal republican majority of twenty-four hundred. He was reelected for four succeeding terms, a fact which stands in unmistakable proof of his capability and devotion to the welfare of community and commonwealth. He has never been an aspirant for political preferment and every honor which has come to him in this capacity has been unsolicited. It has been a case of choosing a man whom the public has recognized as capable of valuable service in office and who by his work has fully justified the confidence reposed in him.

Mr. Lyons and his family are members of the Catholic church and he belongs to the Knights of Columbus and to the Woodmen of the World. He was likewise a member of the Decorah Lodge of Elks at one time but has allowed his membership in that organization to lapse. Cresco has long numbered him among her foremost citizens and in sending him to the legislature gave to Iowa a statesman of broad views and high principles.

JOSEPH SAMEC.

The life story of Joseph Samec is one of earnest endeavor, crowned with success. He is truly a self-made man, for all that he possesses and enjoys has come to him as the reward of his own labors. He now follows farming on section 31, New Oregon township, Howard county, where he has a good property. He was born in Bohemia, May 8, 1867, and his parents were also natives of that land. They came to the United States when their son Joseph was a young man of twenty-one years and made their way across the country to Howard county. Joseph Samec at once sought employment at farm labor and worked in that way for a few years, during which time he carefully saved his earnings until he was able to purchase a forty acre farm. With characteristic energy he began to develop and improve the property, which he later sold, and then bought his present farm of one hundred and forty-two acres. He has been the owner of this property for twenty years and all of the improvements upon it were placed there by him. He is energetic, enterprising and progressive and has made good use of his time, his talents and his opportunities.

In 1891 Mr. Samec was married to Miss Rosie Panoch, a daughter of Joe and Katie Panoch, of Winneshiek county, and they have become the parents of ten children: Alois, Joseph, Victoria, Frank, Emma, Edward, James, Charles, Mary and Rose. Joseph was for seventeen months a member of Company D, Three Hundred and Fourteenth Infantry, and saw overseas service in the World war. Victoria is the wife of Joe Bark, of Winneshiek county, where he follows farming. The others of the family are at home.