

of O. F. Burns, one of the prominent farmers of Stapleton township, and they became the parents of four children: Mabel, Russell, William and Helen.

Mr. Murray is a democrat in his political views and has served as a member of the town council. He has also filled the position of president of the Commercial Club for two years and this, added to his six years' service on the town council, has made his work in behalf of public progress and improvement one of great importance to the community. His family are members of the Catholic church, and he is identified with the Knights of Columbus, the Homesteaders and the Modern Woodmen of America.

J. C. HEWITT.

J. C. Hewitt is a member of the board of county supervisors in Chickasaw county and is well known in its business circles as a live stock dealer. He was born in this county, August 30, 1863, a son of John H. and Calista (Taylor) Hewitt, who were natives of the state of New York. In childhood they accompanied their respective parents to Whiteside county, Illinois, where they reached adult age and were married in 1855. In the same year they removed westward to Chickasaw county and they were the first couple to begin housekeeping in New Hampton. In 1858 they settled on a farm in Washington township, four miles north of New Hampton, where Mr. Hewitt acquired three hundred and twenty acres of land. As one of the pioneer settlers he contributed in marked measure to the early development and improvement of the district and was a most prominent and influential factor in the public life of the community. He held practically all of the offices in Washington township and was one of the foremost citizens of his part of the county, honored and respected for his sterling worth and his devotion to the public welfare. His death occurred in New Hampton in March, 1916, when he had reached his eighty-second year, and the mother still makes her home in New Hampton, being now in her eighty-fourth year.

J. C. Hewitt was educated in the district schools and in the public schools of New Hampton and at the age of twenty-one years worked in a general store of that place, occupying the position for a year. On the expiration of that period he returned to the home farm and assisted his father up to the time of his marriage, which was celebrated in 1888, Miss Amanda Davidson becoming his wife. Mrs. Hewitt is a daughter of John Davidson, a native of Union county, Pennsylvania, who removed with his parents to Ohio in 1835, when a boy of ten years. In 1845 he became a resident of Laporte county, Indiana, where he worked at the trade of carpentering and joining. The year 1856 witnessed his arrival in Iowa, at which time he took up his abode on Crane creek, in Jacksonville township, Chickasaw county, where he invested in forty acres of land. Two years later he bought land on section 10 of the same township and eventually by additional purchase acquired four hundred acres. He resided thereon to within five years of his death and during the last period of his life was a resident of New Hampton. Through his untiring efforts and indefatigable labors he had become the owner of one of the best improved farms of Chickasaw county.

After his marriage Mr. Hewitt served for one year in a clerkship in a New Hampton mercantile establishment and in 1889 he began farming on his own account, cultivating rented land for a period of five years, during which time he carefully saved his earnings, and in 1894 was enabled to purchase a farm of one hundred and eighty acres in Jacksonville township. He bought the same place which he had cultivated as a renter and which was the farm on which Mrs. Hewitt was born. He continued to reside thereon until 1909, when he removed to New Hampton and engaged in the live stock business. In 1914 his son Lucian B. was admitted to a partnership under the firm style of J. C. Hewitt & Son. Mr. Hewitt still owns his farm, which is now being operated as a stock farm by a tenant, who conducts it on shares. Mr. Hewitt is devoting his time and energies largely to his live stock dealing and has developed a business of extensive proportions.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt have been born five children, four of whom are yet living. Lucian B., a graduate of the New Hampton high school, is the junior partner of the