

this place he and his wife are now rearing an interesting little family of four children: Frank M., Edward, Mary and Angeline.

Mr. Klimesh and his wife are communicants of the Catholic church at Protivin, and his political endorsement is given to the democratic party. He has served as a member of the school board and is deeply and helpfully interested in many matters of public concern. That he is a most wide-awake and alert business man is indicated in his various connections with important corporations. He readily recognizes and utilizes opportunity and quickly differentiates between the essential and the nonessential in all business affairs.

JOHN McCOOK.

While numbered among the particularly successful lawyers of Cresco, Howard county, John McCook ranks as well among the most public-spirited of its citizens, willing to give of his time, his thought, his money and his energies to advancing the nation's interests. He comes of Irish and Scotch ancestry. His father was born in County Antrim, Ireland, while the mother was a native of Edinburg, Scotland. With her parents, however, she removed to Antrim, Ireland, in her girlhood days and was there married, after which Mr. and Mrs. McCook crossed the Atlantic to the United States, establishing their home first in Philadelphia, while subsequently they removed to Altoona, Pennsylvania. The father was a landscape gardener in Ireland but in later years gave his attention to agricultural pursuits. After living in the Keystone state for some time he brought his family to Iowa, settling at Riceville, Howard county, where he purchased a farm, upon which he erected a residence and at once began the further development and improvement of the property. The town now stands on a part of the old homestead. After devoting many years to the cultivation of his land Mr. McCook took up his abode in Riceville and was president of the Riceville State Bank, which was the first bank established there. He continued as the head of the institution until his death and his sons, Nelson, R. D. and J. B. were associated with him in the banking business. He became one of the most substantial and prominent residents of Howard county. He was a man of marked business ability and enterprise and as his financial resources increased he kept adding to his holdings until he had very extensive landed possessions in addition to his banking interests. He gave his political allegiance to the democratic party and for a number of years filled the office of supervisor, discharging his duties with marked promptness and capability. His religious faith was that of the Congregational church and its teachings guided him in all of the relations of life. He died at the age of eighty-three years, while his wife reached the age of seventy-eight years, and they were long numbered among the most esteemed and honored couples of Howard county.

As previously stated, John McCook accompanied his parents to Iowa and after completing his public school education he became a student in the Decorah Institute at Decorah, Iowa. His literary training served as an excellent foundation upon which to build the superstructure of professional knowledge. He determined upon the practice of law as a life work and to that end became a student in the office and under the direction of H. C. McCarty, of Cresco, with whom he continued his reading until April, 1882, when he was admitted to the bar. He afterward entered into partnership with his former preceptor, an association that was maintained until 1887. He then continued in the practice of law alone until 1916, when he admitted J. E. Lyons of Cresco to a partnership. The latter is now a first lieutenant in the One Hundred and Thirteenth Trench Mortar Battery and is stationed for training at Camp Dodge, Iowa. Mr. McCook has been in the practice of law in Cresco since 1885 and the consensus of public opinion names him as a leading attorney of Howard county. He has been connected with some very important cases and his opinions are largely accepted as authority upon legal questions. Thoroughly conversant with the principles of jurisprudence, he has been most accurate in applying these principles to the points in litigation, is clear in reasoning and logical in his deductions and the force of his argument drives home the truth which he presents.

On the 4th of January, 1888, Mr. McCook was united in marriage to Miss Clara E.