

ship. His worth as a man and citizen is widely acknowledged by those who know aught of his career. His course in business has been characterized by a diligence and determination that have enabled him to overcome all difficulties and obstacles in his path and work his way steadily upward. He has many admirable and substantial traits of character that have not only brought him success in business but have also gained for him the high regard of those with whom he has come in contact.

JOSEPH MALEK.

Bohemia has furnished a very large quota to the substantial citizenship of Howard county. Among those born in that land and now living in Paris township is Joseph Malek, who makes his home in Schley, while owning a good tract of land on section 13. He was born in Bohemia, October 17, 1841, and there spent the first twelve years of his life, coming to the United States in 1853 in company with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Malek. The father, settling in Cleveland, Ohio, worked in a stone quarry there for a brief period, after which he left that city and removed to Winneshiek county, Iowa, where he purchased land and began farming. Year after year he carefully tilled the soil and continued the work of improving his farm property, on which he resided to the time of his death in 1870, after which the farm was divided among his sons, while John was to take care of the mother. He afterward turned over the home farm to his brother Michael, who later sold the property.

His wife, Mrs. Sophronia Malek, was born in Bohemia, where her parents were farming people. Mr. Malek has served as school director for seven years and in politics has always been a democrat since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He belongs to the Catholic church of Protivin and is widely and favorably known throughout Howard county. At the present he is living retired, making his home in Schley. Throughout a long period he was an active factor in the agricultural development of the community and succeeded in bringing his fields under a high state of cultivation. He ever carried his work diligently forward and he never had occasion to regret the determination of the family to come to the new world, for he here found business opportunities which he sought and in their utilization made for himself a place among the men of affluence in his community.

OLE E. HOVEY.

Ole E. Hovey, who follows farming on section 11, Forest City township, Howard county, was born in Norway on the 22d of March, 1862, his parents being Andrew and Ture (Olson) Iverson. The father died in his native country, after which the mother came to the United States with her son Ole and at a subsequent period became the wife of Gilbert Olson, with whom she is now living in Minnesota.

Ole E. Hovey, spending his youthful days in the land of his nativity, attended the public schools there and after his father's death, which occurred when the son was eighteen years of age, he worked for two years at the shoemaker's trade. The favorable reports which he heard concerning business opportunities and conditions in the United States led him to the determination to try his fortune on this side of the Atlantic and in 1884 he bade adieu to friends and relatives and sailed for America. Traveling across the country to Decorah, Iowa, he hired out as a farm hand and for six years worked for wages, but was ambitious to engage in business on his own account and carefully saved his earnings during that period until his economy and labor had brought him a sufficient sum to enable him in 1890 to purchase a farm of one hundred and fifty acres. Since that time he has resided upon his present place, covering twenty-nine years, and the fruits of his toil are seen in the highly cultivated fields and splendid improvements. His has been a life of diligence, fraught with gratifying results.