

George Bernatz disposed of his interest to his brother Anthony, who continued operating the mills until 1903. In that year the latter retired and turned over the business to his sons, who have since operated the two flour mills under the same name—A. Bernatz & Sons. The Ice Cave mill has a capacity of two hundred barrels, while the other mill is largely utilized in the handling of feed of all kinds and rye flour. Their output includes the White Lily and Oneota brands of flour. The three sons engaged in the conduct of the business are Charles, who has charge of the Ice Cave mill; William, who has charge of the Stone mill; and John, who has general supervision and also goes on the road to dispose of their products. They are men of enterprise and good business ability who are following in the footsteps of their father and grandfather and are meeting with similar success.

On the 5th of August, 1866, Mr. Bernatz was united in marriage to Miss Cassie A. Minert, her parents being John and Amy (Dennis) Minert, the former a native of Holland and the latter of Ohio. John Minert, an agriculturist by occupation, emigrated to the United States, locating on the Wabash river in Indiana in an early day, and there he carried on farming for some time. Removing to Wisconsin, he purchased a tract of land which he cultivated for several years and then took up his abode in Postville, Allamakee county, Iowa, helping to organize the county. He entered and improved a tract of land and cultivated the same until 1867, when he met a tragic end, being killed with an ax by a drunken neighbor. His wife passed away in 1851. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bernatz were born nine children, as follows: Charles, William and John, who are engaged in the milling business at Decorah; Emily, the wife of Lewis Marsh, of Decorah, Iowa; Hallie M., whose demise occurred on the 26th of June, 1898; and Bertha, Archie Dennis, Blanche and Hazel, all at home.

Mr. Bernatz owns a handsome, modern residence at No. 300 East Decorah avenue, which stands in the center of ten city lots or one block. In political circles he is known as a Bryan democrat and for one term served as a member of the city council. He is now seventy years of age and by reason of a well spent life is enabled to spend his declining years in ease and comfort. The circle of his friends is a wide one, for he has won the warm regard and esteem of all with whom he has been associated in business or social relations.

EDWARD J. CURTIN.

One of the foremost business men of Decorah and since January, 1904, president of the Citizens Savings Bank, Edward J. Curtin has for nearly thirty years been connected with that institution, in which he began his career as bookkeeper, advancing step by step to the position of chief executive officer of the bank, having done during that time probably more than any other man to make it one of the strongest and foremost banking houses of this part of the state. Moreover, Mr. Curtin has extensive banking interests in North Dakota, in which state he is president of a number of banks which he has been instrumental in founding. A son of John and Mary P. (Powers) Curtin, he was born in Decorah, Iowa, June 2, 1865, his parents being natives of Ireland, coming with their respective