

The family are members of the Roman Catholic church and fraternally, Mr. Fleischer is identified with the Knights of Columbus and the Order of Foresters. He gives his political allegiance to the democratic party and is progressive and public-spirited in matters of citizenship, having served with credit and ability as township trustee and for three terms as a member of the town council. At all times he has been true to the obligations and responsibilities that have devolved upon him in every relation of life and he well merits the esteem and good-will which are uniformly accorded him.

A. J. SHARP.

A. J. Sharp, one of the prosperous farmers and successful stock dealers of Canoe township, is a native son of Winneshiek county, born December 9, 1859. His parents were William and Sarah (Smith) Sharp, natives of Yorkshire, England, where they were reared and married. About the year 1850 they came to the United States and, locating in Canoe township, Winneshiek county, Iowa, made their home upon a farm whereon they continued to reside until their deaths. Their property was at first raw and unimproved but the father set himself with characteristic energy to develop the homestead, from time to time adding to his holdings until he owned about three hundred acres of fine land lying on sections 19 and 30, Canoe township, and on section 30, Bluffton township. He was one of the most extensive landowners and progressive agriculturists in this community and held the high esteem and respect of all who knew him. He was a member of the Episcopal church and a republican in his political beliefs, taking part in public affairs and serving in various responsible positions of trust and honor. Eleven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. William Sharp, as follows: Elizabeth, who makes her home with her brother, Edward J.; Sarah, the deceased wife of Milo Emery; Clara, who married Philip Halse, of Canoe township; William, who resides with his brother Charles; A.J. the subject of this sketch; Ralph, of Bluffton township; Ella, the wife of William] Headington, of Canoe township; Josie, who resides in Chicago; Tillie, who married Lewis Burrack, of Detroit, Michigan; Edward J., who resides in Canoe township; and Charles, cultivating the old homestead.

A. J. Sharp grew to manhood on his father's farm, dividing his time in his childhood between his studies at the district school and work as assistant in the operation of the homestead. He remained with his parents until after his marriage and then purchased his present farm of one hundred and forty-eight acres on section 29. At that time this was an entirely uncultivated tract with not even a fence upon it, but with characteristic energy he set himself to improve and develop it, erecting modern and substantial buildings and installing the necessary machinery. His previous experience having made him a practical and progressive farmer, he met with success from the beginning and his property is today] one of the finest in this section, a visible evidence of his life of thrift, industry; and well directed labor. Mr. Sharp also does an extensive business as a buyer and shipper of cattle and this branch of his activities has become profitable and important under his able management.