

hood he engaged in teaching school for four terms and in 1879 began farming on his own account, being now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of rich and productive land in Springfield township, a part of which he inherited, purchasing the remainder. He has made excellent improvements upon his place, erecting a commodious and substantial residence, built in modern style of architecture. He has all the latest improved machinery to facilitate the work of the fields and none of the equipments of a model farm of the twentieth century are lacking.

On the 1st of October, 1878, Mr. De Cou was married to Miss Anna Weitgenant, a daughter of George V. Weitgenant, of Castalia, Iowa. The children of this marriage are three in number: John Vincent, who was born August 1, 1879, and who married Miss Tilla Peck in 1907, and is now engaged in farming in Bloomfield township; Ethel, the wife of August Peck, a farmer, by whom she has three children, Walter, Eldo Marion and Ruby Viola; and Edith, at home. The family are well known and their friends throughout the county are many.

Mr. De Cou is a democrat in his political views, but has never sought or held political office. He has served, however, as school director and is much interested in the cause of public education, believing it to be one of the bulwarks of the nation. His religious faith is that of the Episcopal church. His has been a well spent life, gaining for him the confidence and good-will of those with whom he has been associated and he is a worthy representative of one of the old pioneer families of the county.

FRANK W. DESSEL.

Frank W. Dessel is one of the prominent business men and extensive landowners of Winneshiek county, controlling an important trade in agricultural implements in Ossian and owning one hundred and forty-six acres of land, mostly within the corporation limits. Throughout his business career he has manifested sterling qualities of industry, perseverance and integrity and thus he has gained for himself the substantial prosperity which he now enjoys.

He dates his residence in Iowa from 1868, but was born in Germany on the 23d of April, 1846, a son of Henry and Mary Annette (Fegge) Dessel, also natives of that country. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, never came to America, dying in Germany. After his death the mother crossed the Atlantic, settling in Iowa in 1869 and passing away in this state June 26, 1909. In their family were ten children: Frank W. of this review; Ann Mary, the wife of Joseph Becker of Ossian; Thrasia, the wife of Peter Chuswell, of Ossian; Elizabeth; who married Joseph Becker of Ossian, a cousin to the husband of her sister, Ann Mary; Aldine, who became the wife of William Seipman, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Henry, who resides in Holstein, Iowa; Annie, the wife of Charles Meyer of Sioux City, Iowa; Pauline and Marie, who have passed away; and one son who died in infancy.

Frank W. Dessel was reared in Germany and at the early age of fifteen, following the death of his father, was called upon to assume the entire management of the homestead. He operated it successfully until he was twenty-two and then,