

home farm on section 23, Howard township. Six or seven years later he acquired another eighty-acre tract adjoining the first purchase and now has an excellent farm property of two hundred and forty acres. The land is rich and arable and his fields annually bring forth large crops as the reward of his care and labor. He is practical in all that he undertakes and his methods exemplify the most modern ideas of farming.

In 1886 Mr. Kobliska was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Kozebroctka, who was also a native of Bohemia and came to the United States when a young woman of seventeen years. To Mr. and Mrs. Kobliska were born seven children, as follows: Barbara, who is the wife of Joseph Etzler, of Philbrook, Minnesota; Mary, the wife of James Obat, who follows farming in Howard township; Anna, the wife of Frank Kaderabek, a butcher of Alta Vista, Iowa; and Frank, Christina, Elizabeth and Joseph, all at home. The wife and mother passed way January 29, 1917, her death being the occasion of deep and widespread regret among many friends.

Mr. Kobliska and his children are communicants of the Catholic church and in politics he is a democrat, having supported the party since becoming a naturalized American citizen. He has never had occasion to regret his determination to come to the new world, for he has here found the opportunities which he sought and in their utilization has won a most desirable place among the substantial farmers of Howard county.

HERMAN RADTKE.

Herman Radtke is one of Alta Vista's oldest business men. For a long period he was actively identified with blacksmithing and wagon making but is now living retired. He was born in Germany, December 3, 1849, a son of Carl and Henrietta Radtke, who came to the United States two and a half years after the arrival of their son Herman in this country. The latter was reared and educated in Germany, attending the public schools. His forefathers in both the paternal and maternal lines as far back as he has any knowledge were blacksmiths and at the age of fourteen he was apprenticed to the trade, serving a three years' term of indenture in his father's shop. He afterward spent the usual five years as a traveling journeyman and in 1871 he came to the United States, making his way first to Chicago. He arrived there at the time of the great fire and was afterward employed in that city as a journeyman blacksmith for three years. In 1874 he came to Alta Vista in search of a location, but the prairie country looked desolate and lonely after life in a big city and he returned to Chicago. He remained there, however, for only a few months and then again made his way to what is now known as Alta Vista. Here he made a permanent location in the fall of 1875 and established a shop, which was the first building of the town. In the intervening period he has conducted business and has become known as one of the most substantial and progressive citizens of the county. He continued in blacksmithing and wagon making, being, accorded a liberal patronage, and as the years passed his unfaltering industry and perseverance brought to him a measure of success that now enables him to live retired.

In 1880 Mr. Radtke was united in marriage to Miss Anna Bauer, of Chicago, who was born in Germany. They have become parents of three children, of whom two are living: Harry L., a blacksmith; and Oswald C., who has followed the same business. The latter was a member of the Fifty-fifth Engineers of the United States army, on active duty in France during the great World war. The two sons are now conducting the shop in Alta Vista which was long carried on by their father. Mr. and Mrs. Radtke have also reared a daughter, Mamie, who became a member of their household when two and a half years of age.

In politics Mr. Radtke is a staunch republican and became the first mayor of Alta Vista after the incorporation of the city. He has also served repeatedly as a member of the town board and has likewise been treasurer and member of the school board. Fraternally he is connected with Alta Vista Lodge, No. 658, I. O. O. F. The son Harry L. is a member of Maple Leaf Lodge, No. 528, A. F. & A. M., of Elma, and a member of Alta Vista Lodge, No. 658, I. O. O. F.", while the son Oswald also belongs to the Odd