

he is also identified with the Knights of Columbus, having membership in Council No. 1168 at Oelwein, Iowa. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party and for two terms he served as school director in Jamestown township. His attention, however, is chiefly given to his farming interests and he works diligently and persistently in the cultivation of his crops and the improvement of his property, having thus become the owner of an excellent farm in Jamestown township.

EZRA M. COLE.

Ezra M. Cole is one of the most venerable citizens of Howard county. He was born April 11, 1839, in Du Page county, Illinois, and makes his home on section 2, New Oregon township, in Howard county, Iowa. His father was born in Pennsylvania in the year 1808 and spent his last days in Howard county, where he departed this life at the age of ninety-two years. The mother was born in the state of New York and both were members of old families of the east.

Ezra M. Cole was a youth of fourteen when he accompanied his parents on their removal from Illinois to Howard county, Iowa, where the father, who had been educated in the public schools of Pennsylvania and had lived for some time in the Mississippi valley, now turned his attention to farming as one of the early residents of northern Iowa. Ezra M. Cole pursued his education in the public schools of Pennsylvania and of Howard county, Iowa, and through the periods of vacation worked upon the home farm. He continued to assist his father until 1862, when he felt that his first duty was to his country and he enlisted in defense of the Union. He went to the front and for three years fought in the Civil war, taking active part in the battles waged in defense of the Union until 1865, when victory crowned the efforts of the armies of the north. He was a private of Company I, Ninth Iowa Infantry, and on many a hotly contested battlefield he proved his loyalty to the Union cause by devotion to the duty assigned him.

Following his return from the war Mr. Cole was united in marriage to Miss Louisa Duff, of Howard county, who passed away in the year 1902. They were the parents of two sons and four daughters.

Mr. Cole is a school director and was sergeant at arms in the Grand Army of the Republic, a position which he filled for a number of years, while for the past eight years he has been flag bearer. He has ever been a loyal supporter of his country's best interests and manifests the same allegiance to every progressive movement that he displayed when he marched with the armies of the north to the defense of the Union. Those who know him, and he has a wide acquaintance, esteem him highly, finding that his life has ever measured up to the highest standards of manhood and citizenship.

ALF O. VAALA.

Alf O. Vaala, county superintendent of schools of Chickasaw county, was born in Saude, in the same county, on the 22d of April, 1885, a son of Ole and Carrie (Johnson) Vaala. The latter was born in Norway and came to the United States as an infant but a few months old, being brought to this country by his parents in 1849. The family home soon thereafter was established in Chickasaw county, so that Ole Vaala was numbered among the oldest of the pioneer settlers of this section of the state. The grandfather of Alf O. Vaala homesteaded one hundred and sixty acres of land in Utica township, on which he lived to the time of his death, converting the tract, which was wild and undeveloped when it came into his possession, into rich and fertile fields. This farm afterward passed into the possession of Ole Vaala and he resided thereon until 1916, when he removed to New Hampton, where he is now living retired in the enjoyment of a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves. He is a democrat in his political views and he served for four years as a member of the board of county