

which claimed his attention and brought to him a substantial measure of success until 1909, when he and his son established a real estate office under the firm style of John Burke & Son. Mr. Burke still continues in all of these enterprises and is one of the alert and energetic business men, wide-awake to opportunities, which he utilizes and improves to good advantage. Whatever he undertakes he carries forward to successful completion, allowing no obstacles or difficulties to bar his path if they can be overcome by persistent and earnest effort. In addition to his other interests he is the proprietor of the Burke Hotel and his social characteristics as well as his business qualities have gained for him warm regard among all who know him.

To Mr. and Mrs. Burke have been born six children: Raymond, who is married and is engaged in the real estate business with his father; Mary, who is looking after the hotel; Kittie, who works in the drug department of the Emporium at St. Paul, Minnesota; Norbert, who enlisted in the navy May 6, 1917, and saw twenty-nine months of service, making nine round trips across the Atlantic; and Florence and Genevieve, at home.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church and fraternally Mr. Burke is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. In politics he maintains an independent course but is keenly interested in all matters of progressive citizenship and was one of the very earnest workers in support of the Liberty Loan drives, doing everything in his power to promote the bond sales. He also served as food and fuel administrator of his township during the period of the war. He is one of the most prominent and influential residents of Riceville and without invidious distinction might be termed its foremost citizen.

JOHN C. WEBSTER.

John C. Webster who died May 2, 1918, was owner of farm lands and engaged in the sale of such property and in the abstract business in Cresco. He was born in Crawfordsville, Indiana, in 1856, a son of William and Mary Ann (Todd) Webster. The father was born in County Armagh, Ireland, as was the mother. The former left the Emerald isle when a youth of fifteen years in company with his parents and after reaching the United States they made their way westward to Montgomery county, Indiana. After their marriage William Webster and wife removed to Fremont township, Winneshiek county, Iowa, where they arrived in 1856. It was a wild and unsettled region at that time and Mr. Webster took up government land upon which not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made. He built a log house upon the place and began the improvement of his farm. At that date McGregor was the nearest market and teaming to and from the town was done with oxen, so that the Journey was a long and tedious one. The family remained upon the farm until 1902, at which time William Webster removed to a farm of forty acres adjoining the city limits of Cresco and spent his remaining days there, passing away in 1901, when seventy-six years of age. His wife had been brought to the United States by her mother when a little maiden of thirteen summers, the family settling in Elgin, Illinois. Her father had died in Ireland in 1837, after which the mother and her two daughters crossed the Atlantic and from Illinois they removed to Fremont township, Winneshiek county, Iowa. Three brothers of Mrs. Webster also became residents of this country. Following the death of her husband Mrs. Webster became a resident of Cresco, where she passed away in 1910. When Mr. Webster settled in Winneshiek county, the country was very new and wild—a tract of undeveloped prairie—and the Indians were numerous in that section of the state. The most farsighted could scarcely have dreamed of the changes which were to occur and bring about the present-day development and progress. The religious faith of Mr. and Mrs. Webster was that of the Presbyterian church and to its teachings they loyally adhered. In his political belief Mr. Webster was a republican and stanchly supported the principles of the party. He served on