

of township trustees and for seven years as a member of the school board, while in 1916 he was elected a member of the board of county supervisors and in 1918 was reelected to the board, his second term to date from January 1, 1920. He is most loyal in the discharge of his public duties, recognizing fully the obligations that devolve upon him in this connection and actuated at all times by a progressive spirit that has produced most substantial results for the public welfare. Mrs. Wells is a member of the Baptist church and both are highly esteemed in the community in which they make their home, having an extensive circle of warm friends in Howard county.

BERNARD E. THORNE.

Bernard E. Thorne, station agent for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad at Bonair, Iowa, was born in Schoharie county, New York, December 16, 1868, a son of Reuben and Mary Ellen (Cole) Thorne. The father was a native of Albany county, New York, while the mother's birth occurred in Schoharie county. They continued their residence in the Empire state until 1882, when they came west to Howard county, Iowa, where the father took up the occupation of farming, continuing active in agricultural pursuits to the time of his death. He rented the old George Webster farm and was quite successful in its conduct. He died in 1911, having for a considerable period survived his wife, who passed away in 1889.

Bernard E. Thorne was a lad of thirteen years when he came to Howard county with his parents. He was educated in the common schools and at the Lime Springs high school and also attended teachers' institutes. Through eight winter seasons he engaged in teaching school and made an excellent record in that connection, imparting readily and clearly to others the knowledge that he had acquired. On the 23d of May, 1903, he was appointed station agent at Bonair, in which capacity he has since served.

On the 23d of March, 1889, Mr. Thorne was married to Miss Mary Richards, a daughter of Thomas J. Richards, one of the pioneer settlers of Howard county. He is a native of Wales, born in 1840, and when a lad of twelve years came to the United States with his parents, who settled in Ixonia, Wisconsin, where they remained until called to their final rest. Their son, Thomas J., however, came to Howard county in 1868 and purchased land near Lime Springs. He now lives retired and is enjoying vigorous health, making his home in Lime Springs at the age of seventy-nine years. To Mr. and Mrs. Thorne have been born two children: Donald, who is a graduate of the Cresco high school of the class of 1918 and is now employed by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad; and Dorothy, who is a sophomore in the Cresco high school.

In his political views Mr. Thorne is a republican and fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. He has become a splendid representative of western enterprise and that he is a trusted railroad employee is indicated in the fact that he has so long been retained in his present position at Bonair..

CHARLES COMMERFORD.

Chickasaw county enjoys a well deserved reputation as a great agricultural district because of the fertility of the soil, which has been splendidly developed through the efforts and enterprise of such progressive farmers as Charles Commerford, who is living on section 1, Jacksonville township. He was born near Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 28, 1851, a son of Terrence and Mary (Galligan) Commerford, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work in connection with the sketch of their son. P. J. Commerford.

Through his boyhood days Charles Commerford was a pupil in the district schools