

and when his father died the former was a youth in his twentieth year and took charge of the home farm in connection with his younger brothers. They cultivated the old home place for some time and in 1874 Charles Commerford purchased one hundred and forty acres of his present home farm on which he took up his abode. He at once began the further development and improvement of this property and subsequently he bought one hundred and eighty acres more, so that he is today the owner of a valuable place comprising an entire half section of land. In the spring of 1884 he left the farm and opened a meat market at New Hampton, which he conducted for two years, but in 1886 he again took up general agricultural pursuits and devoted the succeeding six years to general farm work. In 1892 he bought a general merchandise store in Jerico and after a brief period was joined in the ownership and conduct of this business by his brother, P. J. Commerford. Still later the brother became sole owner of the business and Charles Commerford returned to the home farm, whereon he has since resided. He has diligently and persistently developed his fields, making his labors count for the utmost in the improvement of the property, and is now owner of an excellent place.

In 1884 Mr. Commerford was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Mullen, of Dayton township, Chickasaw county, by whom he had five children, as follows: Terrence J., who is deceased; Marie, the wife of William Costigan, of Utica township, Chickasaw county; Nellie, "who is the wife of James Carrigan, of Wenatchee, Washington; Grace, who is the wife of John Shekelton, of Stapelton township, Chickasaw county;" and Olive, at home. The wife and mother passed away in 1896 and in 1912 Mr. Commerford was again married, his second union being with Miss Anna McBride, of Jacksonville township, Chickasaw county.

Politically Mr. Commerford is an earnest democrat and for a number of years he served as a member of the board of trustees in Utica township, while subsequently he filled the office of member of the board of county supervisors for a period of six years or two terms. In public office he has been most loyal to the interests and welfare of the community which he has represented and he is justly accounted one of the foremost business men and officials of his section of the state. His religious belief is that of the Catholic church. He is a man of resolute purpose and his efforts have always been most intelligently directed. Aside from his farming interests he was one of the organizers of the Jerico Creamery Association and for six or seven years after the company was formed he served as its treasurer. He is now concentrating his time and thought, however, upon the further development of his home place, which constitutes one of the attractive features of the landscape owing to the care and labor which he bestows upon his fields.

FREDERICK MORTIMER CLARK.

Frederick Mortimer Clark, the founder of the first bank of Lime Springs and for many years a most honored and influential citizen of Howard county, was born in Oneida county, New York, January 11, 1836. He was a youth of seventeen years when in 1853 he accompanied his parents on their westward removal to Illinois, the family home being established near Chicago. In 1854 he became a resident of Waukon, Iowa, where he taught a term in a country school and then at the age of eighteen entered the employ of L. T. Woodcock, who was engaged in merchandising at Waukon. New York was then the market and Mr. Clark made trips to that city to buy goods for the store. He afterward took up the study of law with his father, John T. Clark, and on attaining his majority was admitted to the bar. The same year, on the 26th of November, 1857, he wedded Laura Ann Tuell, of Waukon, Iowa, and they became the parents of seven children.

In the year 1859 Mr. Clark removed to Decorah, Iowa, where he engaged in the practice of law with his father until 1862. Feeling that his duty to his country was paramount to all else, he then joined the army on the 4th of November, being mustered in at Dubuque as a member of Company E, Thirty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry.