

cultivation, and after his mother's death the forty-acre tract which belonged to her came to him by inheritance, as he was an only child. In 1893 he bought an adjoining forty-acre tract, so that his holdings now embrace one hundred and twenty acres. As the years have passed he has diligently carried on the farm work, following progressive methods in all that he has undertaken, and year by year he was able to add to his financial resources and is today in most comfortable circumstances. Aside from the farm, from which he derives a good income, he is a stockholder in the Colwell Grain Exchange.

In 1900 Mr. Whitney was united in marriage to Mrs. John Johnstone, who in her maidenhood was Miss Eliza Biggs, a native of the province of Ontario, Canada, where her parents lived and died. By her former marriage Mrs. Whitney had seven children, five of whom survive, as follows: Arthur A. Johnstone, who is with the Northwestern Trading Company of New York city; William O., who is engaged in the operation of the Babcock farm near New Hampton; Margaret I., who is a kindergarten teacher in Charles City; Ethel R., the wife of T. R. Ballentyne, who cultivates her father's farm; and Gladys E., who is employed in the navy department at Washington, D. C.

In his political views Mr. Whitney is an earnest republican, and while not an office seeker, he has served as president and secretary of the school board for several years. His wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and both are highly esteemed throughout the community by reason of their sterling worth, their social qualities and their thorough reliability. Whatever success Mr. Whitney has achieved is attributable entirely to his own labors and perseverance. He has worked his way steadily upward and his industry and determination have constituted, the foundation of his prosperity.

W. H. OWENS.

W. H. Owens, a representative farmer of Vernon Springs township living on section 14, is well known in Howard county by reason of the progressive methods which have brought him to a prominent position among the agriculturists of this section of the state. Iowa numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Chickasaw county on the 22d of February, 1863, his parents being Hugh and Sarah (Cull) Owens, both of whom were natives of Ireland. They came to the United States in early life and the father first made his way to Rock county, Wisconsin, while the mother became a resident of New Haven, Connecticut. It was about 1858 when Hugh Owens removed to Iowa and in 1860 the lady whom he afterward made his wife also became a resident of this state. It was in April, 1862, that they were married in Festina, Iowa, and soon afterward they removed to Chickasaw county, where Mr. Owens settled on a tract of virgin prairie in Washington township. There he built a log cabin and began the development of a farm upon which he resided for three or four years, when he removed to Conover, which was then the terminus of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. At that date he opened a hotel, which he conducted for a number of years, when the railroad was extended and he removed to Cresco; he was also proprietor of a hotel there for several years. Later he purchased a farm in Vernon Springs township and for a few years devoted his attention to the cultivation and development of that property. In 1900 he retired from active business life and removed to Cresco, where he spent his remaining days, his death there occurring April 26, 1907. He had for a number of years survived his wife, who died on the 1st of July, 1900.

Their son, W. H. Owens, was educated in the public schools of Cresco and also in the Upper Iowa University, in which he studied for a term. After reaching his majority he cooperated, with his father in the further development of the home farm until 1900. On the 2d of May of that year he was united in marriage to Miss Anna Dorgan, a daughter of Lawrence and Mary (Killoy) Dorgan, the former a native of Pennsylvania, while the latter was born in Wisconsin. They were married on the 3d of October, 1871, in Keyesville, Wisconsin, and the father devoted his active life to agricultural pursuits. He is still living and resides at Richland Center, Wisconsin but the mother passed away on the 15th of November, 1908. Mr. Dorgan has always been