

and his daughter, Alma, is a member of Utopia Chapter, No. 379, O. E. S. Mr. and Mrs. Bratrud and the daughter all held membership in the United Lutheran church. He guided his life by the teachings of the church and was a most honorable and upright man. In his business affairs he prospered and was thus able to leave his family in comfortable financial circumstances. In addition to his hardware and lumber business he was an extensive operator and owner of real estate, both in Iowa and Minnesota and he rejoiced in his success because of the opportunity which it gave him to provide liberally for those near and dear to him. He passed away April 5, 1906, to the deep regret not only of his immediate family but of all who had come in contact with him. His course in life had ever measured up to the highest standards of manhood and citizenship and he left to his family the priceless heritage of an untarnished name, which is rather to be chosen than great riches.

REV. P. H. RYAN.

The Church of the Assumption (Roman Catholic) was established in Cresco in 1870. Prior to that time, the religious needs of the few Catholic families were administered by pastors from Decorah, Fathers Linehan, Lowry and Harding. In 1869 the foundation to the present building was started, under the guidance of Father Harding. The following year Father McCartney was assigned as resident pastor, with out parishes at Lourdes and Plymouth Rock. The building was completed in 1871 and, with additions and improvements, still remains. Shortly after his assignment, Father McCartney organized a St. Matthews Temperance Society, which organization flourished and boasted an enrollment of practically every Catholic man in the parish. In 1883, the Worden Strother home was purchased by the parish and, after being remodeled, was used as a parochial school, under the direction and tutelage of the Sisters of Charity, B. V. M., and supervision of the Mother-house at Dubuque, Iowa. The school and buildings were enlarged and remodeled to meet the demands of increased enrollment and modern methods, and in 1910 the old school buildings were replaced with a modern fireproof structure, suitably equipped and adapted to all school uses and so located as to afford excellent playgrounds. In recognition of his executive ability and untiring zeal in this portion of the Lord's vineyard and the generous and unselfish response which was accorded to his every undertaking, the parish of Cresco was raised to the dignity of a deanery and Father McCartney was honored with the title of its first Very Reverend Dean. At the present time it has an enrollment of two hundred pupils, in the grades and high school courses, and the curriculum and course of study pursued are of the approved requirements.

In December, 1909, Father McCartney died, after having been pastor of this parish for thirty-nine years, during which time he had the respect and confidence of the whole community, regardless of creed. He had been a tireless worker in the cause of temperance and was an enthusiastic leader in civic affairs until the last few years of his life, when age had robbed him of his strength and, like the other pioneers, he was forced to surrender to the younger and more vigorous the tasks which he had so nobly and so capably started.

After Very Rev. Father McCartney's death, the duties as pastor were assumed by Very Rev. T. J. Murtagh, formerly of Masonville. In order to care for Mercy Hospital, which had been recently built, Father John Murtagh was assigned as assistant pastor and was succeeded as such in 1915 by Rev. Ernest J. McDonald, who, in 1918, was summoned to take charge of the parish at Sabula, Iowa, and whose place was taken in this parish by Rev. E. J. Bendlage. The Very Rev. Father T. J. Murtagh, under whose supervision the new school was erected, was called to his heavenly reward in 1918 and was succeeded as pastor of this parish by Very Rev. P. H. Ryan, formerly of Lawler and Ryan, Iowa.

The Assumption parish consists of one hundred and eighty families and during the late war boasted a service flag of forty-seven stars. At the present time the