

ever been an upright and honorable one, commending him to the confidence and good will of all. The most envious cannot grudge him his success, so honorably has it been won and so worthily used. He is now occupying a pleasant home in Colwell, enjoying not only the necessities and comforts of life but many of its luxuries as well.

WILLIAM B. GARDNER.

William B. Gardner, a lifelong resident of Iowa, is now carrying on general agricultural pursuits on section 29, Howard township, in Howard county. He was born in Deerfield township, Chickasaw county, July 23, 1878, and is a son of William and Mary (Brokamp) Gardner, the former a native of Germany, while the latter was born in Cumberland, Maryland, and her parents came to this country from Germany. William Gardner crossed the Atlantic in his childhood days with his father and mother and became a resident of Iowa. He was married in Festina, Winneshiek county, this state, and immediately afterward he and his wife began their domestic life upon a farm in Deerfield township, Chickasaw county, where they resided for many years. There the father passed away in 1907, but the mother survives and yet occupies the old homestead.

William B. Gardner attended the Normal & Commercial College of - New Hampton and the Highland Park College of Des Moines, Iowa. Following his graduation from the latter institution as a member of the class of 1906 he returned to the old homestead and began farming on his own account, purchasing eighty acres of his present place from his father. This was a tract of wild prairie land upon which not a furrow had been turned for an improvement made. He erected farm buildings and began the further development of the property and is now the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land, constituting one of the splendidly improved farms of Howard township. There are good buildings upon it and the place is divided into fields of convenient size by well kept fences. He uses the latest improved machinery to promote the work of the fields and annually gathers large crops as the reward of his labors.

In 1907 Mr. Gardner was married to Miss Mayme Butler, of Dyersville, who is a graduate of St. Francis Academy of Dyersville of the class of 1895 and who for nine years was engaged in educational work prior to her marriage. She has become the mother of six children, five of whom are living, namely: Linus J., Frank W., Joseph C., John P. and Marcella E. Marie Z. was killed by an automobile at the age of six years.

In politics Mr. Gardner is a democrat and in religious faith he and his family are Catholics. Political honors and emoluments, however, have no attraction for him as he has always preferred to concentrate his efforts and attention upon his business affairs and aside from farming he is a stockholder in the Elma Cooperative Creamery Company, of which he is the president, and a stockholder in the Howard County Equity Cooperative Association of Elma. His interests are therefore broad and varied, making him a leading and representative business man of Howard county.

JAMES PRASKA.

James Praska, who is carrying on general farming on section 34, Paris township, is a native son of Howard county, his birth having here occurred on the 20th of July, 1895. He is a son of Frank Praska, who was born in Bohemia and who came to the United States when a youth of eighteen years. Crossing the Atlantic, he made his way direct to Howard county and for several years was employed as a farm hand. When about twenty-five years of age he invested his earnings in a tract of farm land, which he sold a few years later. About nineteen years ago he purchased the present home farm, comprising two hundred and forty acres of rich and productive land.

James Praska was reared in the usual manner of the farm-bred boy. He at-