

of horses, harness and a wagon. With characteristic energy he then began the development of this property, which he continued to cultivate until 1912, when he sold the farm and bought his present home place of one hundred and sixty-six acres. Through the intervening period he has carried on its further development and improvement and his place is now most fertile and productive.

In 1889 Mr. Hovorka was united in marriage to Miss Mary Marovitz, of Paris township, Howard county, and to them have been born six children: Anna, the wife of Henry Novak, a farmer residing on section 6, New Oregon township, Howard county; Lizzie, the wife of Albert Cisar, who follows farming in Chickasaw county; and Aloise, Celia, Clara and Edward, all yet at home.

In addition to his home property Mr. Hovorka owned another farm of one hundred and sixty-two and a half acres, situated in Center township, Howard county, which he purchased in 1917 and sold in 1919. His landed possessions are the visible evidence of his life of well directed energy and thrift, showing what can be accomplished through determination and industry. In politics Mr. Hovorka is a democrat, keenly interested in the success of the party, yet has never been an office seeker. His religious faith is that of the Catholic church. He is regarded as one of the leading citizens of New Oregon township. He has never regretted his determination to come to America, for here he has found the business opportunities which he sought and in their employment has laid the foundation of a very substantial fortune. He is now classed with the representative and prosperous farmers of Howard county and his success is attributable entirely to his individual effort.

EDWIN A. CHURCH.

For a quarter of a century Edwin A. Church has been an active member of the bar, practicing since 1904 in Cresco. He is a native son of Howard county and his professional record stands in contradistinction to the old adage that a prophet is never without honor save in his own country, for in the community in which he was reared Edwin A. Church has made for himself a most creditable name and position. He was born in New Oregon township, April 20, 1867, a son of Gaius H. and Adeline R. (Gillette) Church, both of whom were born in South Bainbridge, now Afton, Chenango county, New York, and they were married while still residents of that state. The father in early life went to California but later returned to New York, and then, removing westward, settled in New Oregon township, Howard county, Iowa, where he took up land from the government. His were the usual experiences of pioneer life. He built a log cabin and the family faced many hardships and privations while they were making a start in the new country but the years wrought a change in their condition as a result of their persistent labors and for twenty-five years Mr. Church cultivated and improved his farm, which he transformed into a valuable property. He afterward sold his original claim and purchased another farm of eighty acres near Cresco. This he continued to further develop and improve for some time but ultimately retired from active business cares and took up his abode in Cresco, where he spent his remaining days in the enjoyment of a well earned rest. He died in 1903 at the age of seventy-three years, while his wife passed away in 1914, at the age of seventy-eight years. They were both consistent members of the Congregational church and people of the highest respectability, who enjoyed the warm regard, confidence and goodwill of those with whom they came in contact.

Edwin A. Church spent his boyhood days upon the old home farm near Cresco and pursued his education in the public schools being graduated from the high school of Cresco with the class of 1889. He determined upon a professional career and with that end in view went to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he entered the State University, there pursuing a law course. He there completed his studies in 1892 and in the spring entered upon the practice of his profession at Albert Lea, Minnesota, where he remained for about eleven years. In 1904 he returned to Cresco, where he opened an office and has since followed his profession. He prepares his cases with great thorough-