

northern Iowa but also possesses considerable inventive genius and may well be classed among the skilled craftsmen of this section of the state. He is an electrician, a steam-fitter, an architect and a decorator, having displayed notable skill along all these lines. He installed the steam heating plant in his parsonage and church at Ionia, as well as the electric lighting equipment.

#### CHARLES G. WALTERS.

Charles G. Walters is a wide-awake and enterprising farmer living on section 32, Paris township, Howard county, Minnesota numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred at Granger, Fillmore county, February 7, 1867, his parents being Samuel and Marietta (Rollins) Walters. The father was a native of Pennsylvania and the mother of Canada and they were married in Illinois, after which they removed to Fillmore county, Minnesota, and in 1883 became residents of Howard county, Iowa. Here the father purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land and the farm of Charles G. Walters constitutes the western half of what was once the father's property. The latter resided thereon until about 1900, when he retired from active business and removed to Elma, where he now makes his home.

Charles G. Walters was educated in the district schools of Minnesota and of Iowa and through the period of his youth aided in the farm work when his attention was not occupied with the duties of the schoolroom. After his textbooks were put aside he became the active assistant of his father on the farm and so continued until 1896, when he took up farming independently, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of the old homestead. He has since been active in the further development and improvement of this place and his labors are manifest in the highly cultivated fields and in the rich harvests which are annually gathered.

In 1901 Mr. Walters was married to Miss Nora Norton, a daughter of Barclay Norton, one of the pioneer settlers of Paris township, Howard county, who is still living on his old homestead farm. Mr. and Mrs. Walters have had two children: Charles J., yet living; and Mary, who died in infancy. The parents are members of the Catholic church. In politics Mr. Walters is a republican but has never been an aspirant for public office, as his time and energies have been wholly given to his business affairs, which are bringing him merited prosperity.

#### JAMES J. SMITH.

James J. Smith, who for many years was identified with farming interests in Howard county, was born March 29, 1864, near Watertown, Wisconsin, and spent his last days in Iowa, where he passed away September 28, 1913. He came to Howard county with his parents when but six years of age and remained upon the old homestead farm of the Smith family until he purchased the farm property that is now occupied by his widow. His education was acquired in the public schools and he worked in the fields through the summer months and after his school days were ended. On the 14th of January, 1892, he was united in marriage to Miss Anna Heller, of Howard county, a daughter of Mrs. Johanna Heller, mentioned elsewhere in this work.

Following his marriage Mr. Smith bent every energy to the development and improvement of his home place and the splendid appearance of the farm is due to his labors and enterprise. He carefully tilled his fields, rotating his crops so as to keep his land in good condition, and as the years passed he gathered excellent harvests. He belonged to the Modern Woodmen of America and was always loyal to the teachings and purposes of that organization.

To Mr. and Mrs. Smith were born four children: Harry B., William E., James J. and Esther M. The son Harry was a member of Company I, One Hundred and Nineteenth Infantry, of the Thirtieth Division, and saw overseas service for a year.