

The children are all living at home, the sons assisting in the work of the home farm and relieving their mother of much of the labor incident to its management and further development. The family circle was broken by the hand of death when on the 28th of September, 1913, the husband and father was called to his final rest, leaving a widow and four children to mourn his loss. His death was also the occasion of deep regret to many friends, for he was held in high esteem by all who knew him. Mrs. Smith still occupies the home farm, which is pleasantly situated on section 14, Afton township, and she and her family are widely and favorably known in this section of the state.

JOSEPH E. MALEK.

Joseph E. Malek is living on section 17, New Oregon township, Howard county, where he is engaged in farming. It was in this township that he was born, on the 19th of March, 1882. His father, Joseph Malek, and his mother, Mrs. Sophronia Malek, were natives of Bohemia. The former came to the United States when about thirteen years of age in company with his parents and settled in Winneshiek county, where the family took up the occupation of farming. The father of Joseph E. Malek, however, left the farm at the age of fourteen years and went to Cleveland, Ohio, where he turned his attention to the tailoring trade, remaining in that city for two years. He then returned to Winneshiek county and was employed at farm labor in that locality until he was twenty-eight years of age, when he married. After working for three years he became the owner of eighty acres of his present farm, which was then undeveloped and unimproved. He placed all of the improvements upon the property and brought his fields under a high state of cultivation. His father retired about ten years ago and removed to Schley, where he now makes his home, but he still retains title to his farm, which his son now rents from him.

It was on the 4th of June, 1907, that Joseph E. Malek was married to Miss Barbara Pecka, a daughter of Wenzel and Mary Pecka, the former a farmer of Winneshiek county. Mr. and Mrs. Malek have become the parents of five children: Ralph, Clarence, Evelyn, Louise and Helen, all of whom are upon the home farm with their father and mother and are being educated in the public schools of New Oregon township.

Joseph E. Malek is also indebted to the public school system of Howard county for the educational privileges he enjoyed and during his later life he has learned many valuable lessons in the school of experience. He is interested in all that pertains to the public welfare and has served as school director for three years. He has membership with the Modern Woodmen of America, having been identified with that order for about four years. His political faith is that of the democratic party and in religious belief he is a Catholic, his membership being in the church at Protivin. He has been a very active worker in support of the Red Cross and Liberty Loan drives and is one hundred per cent American in all that pertains to the welfare and development of the county, the commonwealth and the country.

JOSEPH KOUDELKA.

Joseph Koudelka, a farmer living on section 14, Utica township, Chickasaw county was born in Winneshiek county, Iowa, March 25, 1881. His parents, John and Catherine (Fenc) Koudelka are mentioned elsewhere in this work in connection with the sketch of their son, Anton Koudelka,

Joseph Koudelka, after acquiring a district school education, worked upon the home farm to the time of his marriage and gained practical and valuable knowledge concerning the best methods of tilling the fields and caring for the crops. On the 11th of June, 1907, he wedded Miss Anna Praska, a daughter of John Praska, one of