

Murray and now residing at Cresco; Elizabeth, the wife of Joseph O'Halloran, a resident of Chickasaw county; Nora, who married Charles G. Walters, a farmer of Paris township; Agnes, the wife of James McBride, a farmer of Howard county; John, who operates the home farm; and one who died in infancy.

Mr. Norton never falters in his allegiance as a supporter of democratic principles and for several years has served as township trustee and as road supervisor. He has likewise been a member of the school board and has been keenly interested in everything that pertains to the welfare and improvement of the community in which he has so long made his home. He has now reached the very advanced age of eighty-nine years, while his wife is eighty-two years of age, and they are regarded as one of the most interesting old couples of Howard county, retaining their mental faculties unimpaired and enjoying good health. They are still as active as many people twenty years their junior. While the son operates the farm, the father always finds something to do, for idleness and idleness have ever been utterly foreign to his nature and he still continues active. For a long time in the spring of 1914 he milked fourteen cows a day and did other chores around the place. The conversation of this worthy couple sparkles with good humor and good cheer and one cannot pay them a visit without coming away feeling more kindly toward all the world. They are sterling and lovable people with whom Father Time has dealt leniently and no history of Howard county would be complete without reference to them. They have long lived consistent Christian lives and are communicants of the Catholic church.

AUGUST BARTELS.

For twenty-seven years the Bartels family has been represented in Howard county and August Bartels is now an active and enterprising farmer of Howard township, living on section 17. He was less than a year old at the time of the removal of the family to Howard county, his birth having occurred in Bremer county, Iowa, on the 6th of October, 1891. He is a son of Ernest F. and Sophia (Eikoff) Bartels, the former a native of Illinois, while the latter was born in Germany but came to the United States when a girl of twelve years in company with her parents, who settled in Bremer county, Iowa. There she was reared to womanhood and became the wife of Ernest F. Bartels. They began their domestic life in Bremer county and there remained until 1892, when they removed to Howard county, the father purchasing a half section of land in Howard township. He continued active in farming until 1913, when he retired from business life and removed to Elma, where he now resides. He is numbered among the respected and valued residents of his section of the state because of the sterling worth which he has displayed in business and in citizenship.

No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for August Bartels in the days of his boyhood and youth, which were devoted to the acquirement of a district school education and such duties as were assigned him by parental authority. In January, 1913, he was married to Miss Fena Arndt, of Alta Vista, Chickasaw county, and in the spring following his marriage began farming for himself on his present home place of one hundred and sixty acres, which he purchased from his father at the time of his marriage. To Mr. and Mrs. Bartels have been born two interesting little daughters, Evelyn and Erna.

Before beginning farming independently August Bartels and his brother took over the operation of the home farm upon their father's retirement and were busily engaged in its further development for three years, at the end of which time their partnership was dissolved. In his chosen life work August Bartels has made steady advancement and each forward step in his career has brought him a broader outlook and wider opportunities. His early practical training well qualified him to begin farming on his own account and since becoming the owner of his present place he has brought it under a very high state of cultivation and made it one of the well improved properties of the district. He raises the cereals best adapted to soil and climatic conditions here and he also makes a specialty of the breeding of Holstein cattle