

of August, 1883, he has been a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and delights in meeting with his old army comrades and recalling the scenes and incidents of the Civil war, when with the "Boys in blue" he followed the nation's starry banner on the battlefields of the south. He is a Mason and is a loyal exemplar of the craft.

After the close of the Civil war Ole Swenson returned to his home in Wisconsin and in 1866 established a jewelry store at Waterford, that state. There he carried on business for about a year but in 1867 sold out and removed to Cresco, where he also opened a jewelry establishment, remaining in active connection with the business throughout his entire life in this city. He was regarded as a thoroughly reliable and progressive merchant and commanded at all times the confidence and good will of his fellowmen. He married Miss Almeda Sloan, a native of Indiana, and they became the parents of ten children, Etta, Wesley, William, Ole, Mae, Mabel, Winnie, Freddie, George and Emma. The family circle was broken by the hand of death when on the 15th of June, 1906, the father passed away at his home in Cresco, his demise being deeply regretted by all who knew him. His widow survives and yet makes her home in Cresco, where she has so long resided.

Wesley O. Swenson whose name introduces this review has been a lifelong resident of Iowa. Born in Cresco, he began his education in its public schools and after mastering the branches of learning taught in successive grades he attended the Decorah (Ia.) Business College. He afterward returned to his father's farm near Cresco, to the development and improvement of which he devoted his energies for six years, after which he became identified with his father in the jewelry business, that association being maintained until 1890. In 1899 he removed to the building which he now occupies and afterward purchased it. He has here remained, for twenty-seven years and is today the owner of the finest jewelry store in northern Iowa. It is most attractive in its appointments, with fine showcases and furnishings, and a most extensive and beautiful line of goods is carried, while the reasonable prices and straightforward business methods of the owner insure to him a continually growing patronage.

Mr. Swenson is a republican in his political views and he has membership in the Masonic lodge and the Eastern Star. He is also a charter member of the A. U. R. J. A. of America and of the Iowa State Jewelers Association. He has always lived in Howard county and the record which he has made places him among its representative citizens. The name of Swenson has long been associated with the jewelry trade in Cresco and the business which was instituted by his father at an early day has been carried forward by Mr. Swenson and for twenty-seven years he has conducted his commercial interests alone, following principles and methods which neither seek nor require disguise, but which on the other hand will bear the closest investigation and scrutiny. He is prompted by a progressive spirit in all that he does and is constantly seeking to upbuild his trade by the adoption of advanced ideas that will add to the attractiveness of his establishment. All who know him speak of him as a most representative, honorable and honored business man of Cresco.

#### CHARLES SIGLER.

Charles Sigler, a well known farmer of Saratoga township, Howard county, was born on the 11th of May, 1860, on the farm on section 20, where he still resides. His father, Jared Sigler, was a native of Pennsylvania, his birth occurring near McKeesport, November 8, 1813. At the age of eight years, in 1821, he lost his mother and soon afterward accompanied his father and two brothers, Charles and Henry, on their removal to Gallia county, Ohio. It was in that county that he became acquainted with Miss Rhoda Ripley, who subsequently became his wife. She was born in Gallia county, March 6, 1814, and they continued to reside there until 1853, when they came to Iowa, locating first at Nashua, Chickasaw county. Two years later, however, they removed to Saratoga township, Howard county, at which time their worldly possessions consisted of only three cows and three calves and one gold dollar in money and they were unfortunate in having one of the calves killed by a party of hunters from