

and married. Coming to the United States about 1866 or 1867, they settled in Winneshiek county, Iowa. They were accompanied by Mrs. Svestka's father, who, as well as Mr. Svestka, purchased forty acres of land in that county. The family there resided for twelve or thirteen years and about 1880 came to Howard county, at which time Mr. Svestka bought eighty acres of land in New Oregon township. He was one of the few men of his neighborhood who passed through the three years' wheat failure without being forced into bankruptcy. However, he escaped by only a small margin. As the years passed, however, his labors were rewarded with good crops and he subsequently purchased other land from time to time until he owned four hundred and eighty acres, which he converted into rich and productive fields. He has since divided this among his children save for the tract of eighty acres upon which he resides. He now makes his home in Protivin. His wife passed away in 1912.

Mr. Svestka was educated in the district and parochial schools of Spillville, Iowa, and in 1896 began farming on his own account, renting one hundred and sixty acres of land in Paris township from his father. The following year he purchased the farm and further made arrangements for having a home of his own by his marriage on the 29th of September of that year to Miss Mary Slama, of New Oregon township, Howard county. They have become the parents of five children: Reuben, Lillian, Grace, Arthur and Louverne, all of whom are yet at home.

In 1902 Mr. Svestka purchased his present home farm adjoining the village of Schley and a year later sold his other farm property. He now makes his home in Schley, so that he is able to enjoy the advantages of town life and at the same time have all of the opportunities afforded by residence on the farm. For several years he has conducted a woodworking shop in Schley, where he does repair work on wagons and also has followed plastering and building. He never served an apprenticeship at either trade but is a natural mechanic and has developed expert skill along various lines.

In politics Mr. Svestka is a democrat and served for several years as constable of his district, while for the past two years he has been treasurer of the school board. He and his family are identified with the Catholic church, and fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. His entire life has been passed in Iowa, and the spirit of western progress and enterprise which has been the dominant factor in the upbuilding of this section of the country has found expression in his life, making him one of the capable and representative farmers and business men of his district.

HENRY M. HANSEN.

On the roster of public officials in Howard county appears the name of Henry M. Hansen, who is ably filling the position of county treasurer. He is numbered among the worthy native sons of the county, his birth having occurred in Vernon Springs township on the 5th of March, 1890. His parents, Peter and Marie (Christensen) Hansen, both of whom are natives of Denmark, emigrated to the United States in young manhood and young womanhood and made their way directly west to Iowa. The father located near Lime Springs, in Howard county, and after his marriage took up his abode on a farm in Vernon Springs township, one mile west of his present home place, which comprises one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land and which he purchased about 1889. Through the intervening period of thirty years he has remained a resident of the same neighborhood and is widely and favorably known throughout the community. In addition to the home farm he owns another tract of one hundred and twenty acres in Howard Center township. Both he and his wife are consistent and devoted members of the Lutheran church.

Henry M. Hansen supplemented his early education, acquired in the district schools, by a course in the Cresco high school, from which he was graduated with the class of 1910. Subsequently he attended the Waterloo Business College and