

father's old farm. His first home in Iowa was likewise a log house, but when his financial resources increased and lumber could be more easily secured he built a frame dwelling. Year after year he carried on general agricultural pursuits with success and became one of the representative and valued farmers of his locality. At length he put aside active business cares and took up his abode in Cresco, where he spent his remaining days in the enjoyment of well earned rest, passing away in 1901 at the age of seventy-one years, while his wife, long surviving him, died in 1918 at the age of eighty-four years. Mrs. William. C. Nichols had removed westward with her parents from New York, the trip being made by boat to Chicago and with ox teams to Ogle county, Illinois. At that period Chicago was a small town and the most farsighted could scarcely have dreamed of the marvelous changes which were to occur within a comparatively short time. Her father took up government land and built a log house, which in time he replaced by a more commodious and modern residence, continuing to develop his farm until his death, and his wife also, passed away upon the farm.

Throughout the period of his boyhood and youth Charles D. Nichols remained upon the old homestead farm in Albion township, meeting with all the experiences which fall to the lot of the farm-bred hoy who divides his time between the acquirement of an education and the work of the fields. He mastered the branches of learning taught in the district schools, afterward attended the high school at Cresco and later became a student in the St. Paul Business College. He next took up the profession of teaching in Howard county, which he followed for five terms, but in 1882 turned his attention to commercial pursuits, becoming a partner of J. W. Wentworth in the clothing business, in which he has since been engaged, covering a period of thirty-six years. The partnership between them was maintained until 1888, when Mr. Nichols purchased the interest of Mr. Wentworth, who is now in business in Spokane, Washington. Mr. Nichols remained in the old store until 1901 and then erected his present business block, which he at once occupied. Throughout the intervening years he has maintained a most high grade store. In 1911 he admitted his son, William W. to a partnership and their interests are carried on under the name of the Nichols Clothing Store. They have a well equipped establishment, supplied with a very large and attractive stock of clothing and men's furnishings, and their business has reached very substantial and gratifying proportions. Mr. Nichols is also engaged in farming and stock raising, owning the old homestead farm of three hundred acres, in addition to which he has one hundred and twenty-four acres of rich and valuable land in the town of Cresco, This place constitutes the headquarters for the extensive cattle business which he is carrying-on and there he exhibits his fine stock. In this undertaking his son Charles is in partnership with him under the name of the Nichols Live Stock Company and they deal extensively in Aberdeen Angus cattle which they import from Scotland. They also handle Clydesdale horses and Shropshire sheep, having imported their first sheep from England. They buy and sell only the finest live stock and Charles D. Nichols has long been engaged in this business. At one time he was a partner with his father in the cattle industry and they imported Holstein cattle from Holland. Mr. Nichols is of a nature that could never be content with the second best. He is continually reaching out along the lines of improvement and successful achievement and whatever he undertakes is carried forward to successful completion. His commercial interests maintain the same high standard as his stock raising interests and he has the finest ladies' ready-to-wear clothing store in Cresco.

On the 1st of January, 1887, Mr. Nichols was united in marriage to Miss Virginia Strother, a native of New Oregon township, Howard county, and a daughter of Werdon and Louise M. (Niles) Strother. Her father was a native of Fauquier county, Virginia, born February 3, 1829, and at the age of eighteen years he removed to Columbus, Ohio, while later he became a resident of Racine, Wisconsin, where he engaged in the implement business. He next removed to Vernon Springs township, Howard county, Iowa, where he engaged in the drug business, taking up his abode in this state in 1856. He continued at his first location for a number of years and subsequently removed to New Oregon. The journey westward was