

made by wagon across the country and he cast in his lot with the pioneer settlers of Howard county and became one of the effective and earnest factors in the early development of this section of the state. In 1866, after the establishment of Cresco, he removed his business to the new town and remained a prominent factor in its commercial development to the time of his death, which occurred in the fall of 1899, when he was seventy years of age. His wife survived him for about ten years, dying in 1909 at the age of sixty-four years. For twenty years Mr. Strother was well known as a prominent hotel proprietor of Cresco and also engaged in the implement business. He was one of the early residents of the city and throughout the entire period of his connection with Cresco contributed in substantial measure to its growth, improvement and development. His name was an honored one wherever it was known and his death was the occasion of deep and widespread regret. His wife was born at Niagara Falls, Canada, and with her parents crossed the border into the United States, the family making their home in Vernon Springs township, Howard county, where her father followed the milling business. They arrived here about 1859 and Mr. Niles continued to engage in milling here until his death, after which his widow returned to Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. Nichols have long been consistent and active members of the Congregational church, contributing generously to its support. Fraternally he is a Mason, is also a charter member of the Knights of Pythias and has membership with the Modern Woodmen and the Woodmen of the World. His political endorsement is given to the republican party and he stands for all that is progressive and valuable in citizenship but does not seek nor desire office, preferring to concentrate his undivided attention and energies upon his business affairs. He stands as one of the leading merchants and live stock raisers and dealers in Howard county and the extent and importance of his interests indicate his marked ability and his enterprise. In all business affairs he readily discriminates between the essential and the non-essential and, discarding the latter, utilizes the former to the best possible advantage. He is fortunate in that he possesses character and ability that inspire confidence in others and the simple weight of his character and ability has carried him into important business relations.

JOSEPH D. BOUSKA.

Modern business activity finds expression in the life record of Joseph D. Bouska, who is proprietor of the Protivin Garage, is a successful dealer in automobiles and manager of the telephone company and also of the electric light and power plant at Protivin. He likewise operates a moving picture show and is identified with farming interests as the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of rich farm land, a part of which he personally cultivates. He is also filling the position of notary public and Protivin has no more active or energetic business man or one whose labors are more directly beneficial and resultant. He was born on the old homestead farm in Howard county, adjoining the present town of Protivin, on the 26th of May, 1885, and is a son of John Bouska, of whom extended mention is made elsewhere in this volume.

The son was educated in the public schools of Protivin and when twenty-three years of age was united in marriage to Miss Julia M. Huber, of Winneshiek county. He then began farming on his own account on a part of his father's land and throughout the intervening period has been identified with agricultural pursuits. Prospering in his undertakings, he has become the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land, which he purchased from his father. In 1911 he organized the Klimesh Auto Company and established a garage at Protivin and also one at Spillville. He became manager of the company and has not only done a garage and repair business, but has also engaged in the sale of automobiles. In December, 1915, he organized the Protivin Electric Light Company, which was incorporated on the 24th of December of that year with a twenty year franchise