

Upon the old homestead farm John F. Mulick spent the days of his boyhood and youth. He was reared as a member of a large household and the home training was such as developed in the children high principles and worthy characteristics. He attended the district schools and early became familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. In 1890 he purchased his present farm and was actively engaged in its further development and improvement until 1914, when his son Frank J. took over the further cultivation and management of the place.

Mr. Mulick was married to Miss Bridget Burns, a daughter of Patrick and Rose Burns, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who came, however, from Ireland to the new world. In 1908 Mr. Mulick was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who passed away on the 29th of July of that year, leaving many friends as well as her immediate family to mourn her loss. Mr. and Mrs. Mulick were the parents of four sons and two daughters: Frank J., who married; Charles G., at home; John B., who is also married; Edmond J., who served for thirteen months with the Twentieth Engineers of the American Expeditionary Force in France; Rose; and Mary. Mr. Mulick and his family are members of the Catholic church at Elma.

He is a democrat in politics and has served for several terms as school director in Afton township. He was also the president of the Farmers Cooperative Creamery of Elma for a number of years and he has always been keenly interested in everything that has had to do with the welfare of the agricultural community. He cooperates in any plan or measure for the general good and his worth as a man and citizen has long been acknowledged by those who know him. The greater part of his life has been passed in this county and his circle of friends is almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintance.

JOSEPH M. SVESTKA.

Joseph M. Svestka, who is engaged in general farming on section 9, New Oregon township, Howard county, is the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of land, which he has brought to a high state of cultivation. Iowa numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Winneshiek county on the 24th of February, 1876. His parents were born in Bohemia and the father is now living in Protivin at the advanced age of eighty-five years, but the mother passed away in 1913 at her home in Protivin, when sixty-eight years of age. Forty-six years ago the father came to the United States and rented a farm in Chickasaw county for a few years, after which he purchased eighty acres of his present farm and as the years passed increased it by additional purchase until it became one hundred and twenty acres in extent.

No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for Joseph M. Svestka in the days of his boyhood and youth. He attended the public schools and when not busy with his textbooks worked in the fields. In fact his time was given to planting, plowing and harvesting until the field work was over for the year. He continued to assist his father until twenty-three years of age, when he took over the home farm, purchasing a part of the land at that time and afterward acquiring the remainder by purchase. He has an excellent tract of one hundred and twenty acres, which he is most carefully cultivating, and nearly all of the improvements upon the farm have been placed there by him. He is practical and progressive in his methods and the air of neatness and thrift which characterizes the place indicates the spirit of advancement that actuates him at all times. In addition to his farming interests he is connected with the creamery and the United Shippers of Cresco.

On the 26th of September, 1899, Mr. Svestka was united in marriage to Miss Anna Hubka, a daughter of Albert and Anna Hubka, of Howard county. Mrs. Svestka was here reared and was educated in the graded schools. To Mr. and Mrs. Svestka have been born six children: Adella, Edward, William, Nora, Lillie and Anna, all of whom are upon the home farm with their parents.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church, they being communicants of the church at Protivin. In politics Mr. Svestka is a democrat. He has