

Mr. Samec gives his political allegiance to the democratic party but has never sought nor desired office, preferring to concentrate his efforts and his energies upon his business affairs. The family are members of the Catholic church at Protivin, and Mr. Samec belongs to the Catholic Workmen. By reason of what he has accomplished and the wise use which he has made of his time and opportunities, he is held in the highest esteem. He has never been afraid of hard work, and his industry and perseverance have been the elements in his growing success. All who know him, and he has a wide acquaintance, bear testimony to the sterling worth that he has displayed in wresting fortune from the hands of fate.

ALBERT P. BIWER.

The student of history cannot carry his investigations far into the records of Howard county without learning of the close and long connection of the Biwer family with the development and upbuilding of this section of the state. Albert P. Biwer belongs to a family that from pioneer times has borne its part in the work of progress and upbuilding. He is a son of John and Margaret (Clear) Biwer and was born March 21, 1869, in Howard township. He is now engaged in farming in that township and his business affairs are being carefully and profitably conducted.

Mr. Biwer was educated in the district schools, but his opportunities for attendance were very limited. In fact he did not see the inside of a schoolhouse until he was ten years of age and after that he could attend at only brief intervals, for his father was struggling to get a start and the services of the son were needed upon the home farm, he being the oldest of the living children. However, he has read broadly and thinks deeply and in this way he has educated himself, being now recognized as a man of good practical business judgment. In 1892, when he had reached his twenty-third year, he began farming on his own account, buying at that time eighty acres of land. He was ambitious to acquire a good farm and carefully saved his earnings until his industry and economy had brought him sufficient capital to enable him to purchase other land and at one time he was the owner of two hundred and eighty acres. He has subsequently sold two hundred and twenty acres of this property, however, in recent years and now retains in the home farm but sixty acres.

On the 18th of October, 1911, Mr. Biwer was married to Miss Catherine Stone, of Chicago, Illinois, who was born in England. Mr. Biwer is a member of the Catholic church, while his wife is of the Episcopal faith. His political views are in accord with the principles of the republican party, but he has never been an office seeker. His time and energies have been devoted to farm work and in this he has been very successful, being recognized today as one of the substantial agriculturists of Howard county. In addition to tilling the fields he raises Duroc Jersey hogs and Rhode Island Red chickens and both branches of his business are proving sources of substantial profit.

JONATHAN E. WELLS.

At the time of his death Jonathan E. Wells was living in retirement in Cresco but for many years of an active life was identified with agricultural pursuits and his labors resulted in the development of an excellent farm property. He was born in Franklin county, Vermont, on the 20th of March, 1838, so that he had passed the eightieth milestone on life's journey. His parents were Jonathan and Prudence (Chase) Wells, both of whom were natives of New Hampshire, where the father followed the occupation of farming in order to provide for the support of his family. Some time after his death the mother married a brother of Jonathan Wells and they, too, resided upon a farm in New Hampshire, where later both passed away.