

development of his home place independently. In 1915 he leased the farm and for three years conducted a garage in Elma, but in 1918 he returned to the farm and is now carrying on the work of further improvement there. He is a stockholder in the Howard County Cooperative Equity Association and also a stockholder in the Elma Cooperative Creamery Company.

In 1905 Mr. Biwer was united in marriage to Miss Cornelia Best, of Cresco, Howard county, by whom he has three children: Lillian, Inez and Lester. The attractiveness of Howard county as a place of residence is evidenced in the fact that many of her native sons have remained within her borders, feeling sure that they can have opportunities here equal to those to be secured elsewhere. Among this number is Leo P. Biwer, who has always lived in Howard county and with the exception of the three years spent in Elma has always remained upon the home farm, which he now owns and successfully cultivates.

HANS C. MOEN.

Hans C. Moen, who is engaged in the plumbing and heating business as a contractor at Cresco, was born at Christiania, Norway, in 1859 and is a son of Christian and Anna (Frantzen) Moen. Both were natives of the land of the midnight sun, where they were reared and married. There they remained until 1870, when they determined to try their fortune in the new world and made their way to the United States. They crossed the country to Racine county, Wisconsin, establishing their home at North Cape, where the father engaged in farming for ten years. On the expiration of that period he removed to Howard county, Iowa, and took up his abode in New Oregon township, where he purchased farm land that included the old town site of New Oregon. There he remained until his death and his efforts and energies were devoted to general agricultural pursuits. He was one of the pioneer residents of the district and he contributed much to its development and improvement. Both he and his wife passed away in the year 1899. He had always given his political allegiance to the republican party after becoming a naturalized American citizen and he and his wife had always given earnest support to the Lutheran church, of which they were consistent and devoted members. They reared a family of eight children, namely, John, Anna H., Johannah, Frank C., Thomas, Hans C., Anton and Martin.

Hans C. Moen spent his boyhood to the age of ten years in his native country and then bade adieu to friends and native land in order to accompany his parents as they sailed for the new world. He arrived in Racine county in 1870 and after ten years came to Howard county on the 1st of April 1880, the journey being made first to Cresco and then to New Oregon. Later he returned to Cresco and was employed in the Swenson foundry for three years. He afterward operated a threshing outfit in the west through the fall but returned home in the winter. In 1887 he became an engineer in the flour mill of John M. McCoy and occupied that position for three years. He next purchased a half interest in the foundry and eventually the company extended the scope of their business by adding plumbing and heating: They have a well equipped establishment and the trade has now reached gratifying proportions. The business was conducted for eight years under the firm name of Swenson & Moen, at the end of which time Mr. Moen started in business on his own account and is now alone. He has important contracts for plumbing and heating and the thoroughness of his work has insured a continuance of the trade. He also deals in farm lands and has become the owner of some excellent property.

In 1888 Mr. Moen was united in marriage to Miss Mary Rudi, a daughter of Knute K. and Gertrude (Lee) Rudi. Mrs. Moen was born in Norway and came to the United States with her brother Julius in 1882, making her way to Cresco, where she took up her abode. She has become the mother of five children. Amelia G. the eldest, is a trained nurse now at the Great Lakes training station. Clarence H. became a sergeant in the Ninety-ninth Division stationed at Wheeler and Atlanta, Georgia, but is now at home. Gertrude is now the wife of Donald Lent. Arthur T. is a lieutenant in the