

ties of the new world attracted him and in 1882, when twenty-three years of age, he severed home ties and sailed for the United States. He did not tarry upon the Atlantic coast but made his way into the interior of the country and settled at West Union, Iowa. Here he was married in 1889 to Miss Elizabeth Fritz, a daughter of George and Elizabeth Fritz, who were also natives of Germany but became residents of Iowa in early life. The father passed away in Alta Vista, and the mother's death occurred in Fayette county, this state. In the '90s Mr. Fichtel was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died in Alta Vista, leaving one son, Clifford Archie. Mr. Fichtel afterward married again, his second union being with Miss Mary Pohel, a daughter of Henry Pohel, who also came from Germany and established his home in Iowa. To the second marriage of Mr. Fichtel has been born a son Harry Henry.

The business career of Mr. Fichtel has been one of steady progress. After coming to Iowa he remained at West Union for three or four years and then removed to Alta Vista, where he engaged in the lumber business, at first entering the employ of Henry Kiene while later he worked for the Standard Lumber Company of Dubuque in the Alta Vista yards. He next became connected with the Central Lumber Company of Dubuque as its representative at Alta Vista and in 1909 the business was taken over by the Farmers Cooperative Lumber Company of Alta Vista, of which Mr. Fichtel is now the manager. He is thoroughly acquainted with every phase of the business, and his enterprise and industry have been salient factors in the success attained by the company. He is also one of the stockholders in the Farmers Cooperative Lumber Company and in all business affairs manifests sound judgment and unfaltering diligence.

Mr. Fichtel and his family are members of the German Lutheran church at Alta Vista and their aid and influence are given to every plan and project for the public good. He is a republican in politics and has served on the school board of Alta Vista for a number of years. When matters of public concern are at stake his aid and influence are always given on the side of general progress and improvement and he has gained recognition as one of the substantial citizens and leading business men of his adopted town.

JOHN S. OWENS.

John S. Owens, a farmer living on section 23, Dresden township, Chickasaw county, was born near Springfield, Illinois, June 18, 1852, a son of George and Minerva Jane (Staley) Owens. The father was a native of Tennessee, while the mother was born in Sangamon county, Illinois, where she formed the acquaintance of Mr. Owens, who sought her hand in marriage, the wedding being celebrated in 1847. Mr. Owens afterward worked as a farm hand for a year and then removed with his wife to Macoupin county, Illinois, settling near Scottville, where he purchased eighty acres of land for a dollar and a quarter per acre, the place being at that time a tract of raw prairie. About 1855 he bought two hundred acres additional of prairie land and eighty acres of timber land situated two and a half miles north of his first purchase. Some of the timber land was bought for twelve and a half cents per acre. Mr. Owens remained upon the farm which he there developed until his son John was seventeen years of age, at which time he bought one hundred and eighty acres adjoining his two hundred acre tract on the south and settled upon that place. He retained all of his land, putting all of the buildings and improvements upon his farm, and ere his death, which occurred in Macoupin county, Illinois, March 5, 1876, he had accumulated six hundred and twenty-six acres of valuable land. He farmed the entire place with the assistance of his children and some hired help. He had freed the entire place from indebtedness and was regarded as one of the most prominent, influential and successful farmers of his part of the state. His life record is indeed worthy of consideration and of emulation. Whatever he undertook he carried forward to successful completion, recognizing the fact that when one avenue of opportunity seemed closed he could carve out other