

for fourteen years and upon attaining his majority he began farming on his own account on a tract of rented land. He cultivated that place but made his home with his grandparents until he reached the age of twenty-six years, when he completed his arrangements for having a home of his own by his marriage.

It was on the 9th of December, 1897, that Norman L. Fritcher wedded Edith F. Read, a daughter of Smith and Sarah Read. Her mother is still living at Nashua, Iowa, but the father passed away in Chickasaw township in 1919. They were natives of England, where they remained until after their marriage and then sought the opportunities of the new world. They established their home in Bremer county, Iowa, and it was there that Mrs. Fritcher was born. By her marriage she has become the mother of a son, Dale Le Roy, who is twenty years of age and assists his father upon the home farm.

Three years after his marriage Mr. Fritcher bought his present farm, although at that time he acquired but twenty acres of the place. He has since extended its boundaries until he now has eighty acres and has converted this into a rich and productive tract, from which he annually gathers good harvests. He is a man of notable thrift and industry and in addition to the cultivation of his fields he does carpentering and mason work. He is likewise a member of the Farmers' Equity Company of Nashua.

In community affairs Mr. Fritcher is much interested and his aid is a valuable asset in the promotion of public progress along various lines. He is now serving as one of the trustees of Chickasaw township and for many years he has been one of the school directors, doing everything in his power to promote educational advancement in his community. He and his family are leading members of the Baptist church of Chickasaw and their genuine personal worth has made them most highly esteemed citizens of the district in which they make their home.

#### JOHN H. ERNWINE.

John H. Ernwine, deceased, was born, reared and always lived upon the farm on section 20, Bradford township, Chickasaw county, on which his death occurred. His natal day was September 7, 1857, his parents being Michael and Anna (Lyman) Ernwine, who came to this county about 1850. The father had served as a soldier of the Mexican war and after his discharge at the close of hostilities with Mexico he reenlisted in the regular army and served for five years on the frontier. In recognition of his military aid he received a land warrant from the government and applied this on the purchase of one hundred and sixty acres of land on the old military road in Bradford township. This is the present site of the Ernwine home. On this land Mr. Ernwine built a log cabin and made a home for himself and family. Pioneer conditions everywhere existed and residence in this section of the state was then fraught with various hardships and privations. He marketed his grain and stock in McGregor, selling dressed hogs for two dollars and a half per hundred after hauling them eighty miles to market by ox team. Prices were very low and times hard but he persevered and in the course of years his labors brought him substantial returns. He lived and died in the old pioneer cabin and was one of the well known early settlers of his section of the state.

Following the death of his father John H. Ernwine succeeded to the ownership of the home place and continued to live thereon until he was called to his final rest. At one time he owned three hundred and eighteen acres of rich and valuable land, of which two hundred and twenty-eight acres still remain in possession of the family. The farm is probably the oldest one in the township which has never passed out of the possession of one family.

In 1896 Mr. Ernwine was married to Miss Mina Cagley, a daughter of George W. Cagley and a granddaughter of Levi Cagley, one of the most prominent of the pioneer settlers of Chickasaw county, of whom extended mention is made elsewhere in this work. To Mr. and Mrs. Ernwine were born three children: Amy L.,