

Iowa farm which her husband had purchased and thereon they resided for ten years. On the expiration of that period they became residents of Clarksville and not long afterward removed to New Hampton. Mrs. Yarger passed away in 1906 in Eldora, Iowa, where she was then making her home, with a son.

J. A. Yarger of this review was educated in the common schools of Webster county and the public schools of Clarksville and when about eighteen years of age he began reading law in the office of D. W. Dow, of Hampton, Iowa. In January, 1889, he was admitted to the bar, taking his examination a few days before attaining his twenty-first year. For two years after his admission he remained with his preceptor, Mr. Dow, and in 1891 he came to Nashua, where he entered into partnership with the New Hampton law firm of Springer & Clary, conducting their Nashua office as a branch of the New Hampton office. The firm of Springer, Clary & Yarger continued its existence until the senior partner was elected to the bench, after which the firm became Clary & Yarger and so remained until Mr. Clary's death in 1915, since which time Mr. Yarger has practiced alone. He enjoys a large and distinctively representative clientage and is regarded as an able member of the bar, clear in his reasoning, logical in his deductions and seldom if ever at fault in the application of a legal principle.

On the 17th of September, 1894, Mr. Yarger was married to Miss Mary Davidson, of New Hampton, and they became the parents of two children: Edwin H., now an officer of the United States navy; and Austin M., a student in the Nashua high school. The wife and mother passed away January 22, 1903, her death being the occasion of deep regret to many friends as well as her immediate family.

Mr. Yarger belongs to Bradford Lodge, No. 129, A. F. & A. M., and to Charles City Lodge, B. P. O. E. His political endorsement is given to the republican party but he has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking. However, he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day and his fellow townsmen, recognizing his ability and his devotion to the public welfare, persuaded him to accept the mayoralty of Nashua and he is said to be one of the best city executives that Nashua has ever had. He studies closely the conditions here found and not only seeks to meet present needs but to prepare for the future as well. His administration is strictly businesslike and progressive, and Nashua has reason to be congratulated upon having at the head of her interests a man of such genuine public spirit and farsightedness. The practice of law, however, he regards as his real life work and his steady advancement in a profession where progress results only through merit and ability indicates the power that he has developed in his chosen life work.

#### J. R. WHITCOMB.

J. R. Whitcomb, a farmer of Fredericksburg township, Chickasaw county, living on section 17, was born in Cook county, Illinois, December 1, 1855, his parents being Justus and Lovisa (Putnam) Whitcomb, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume in connection with the sketch of their son, C. L. Whitcomb.

After attending the public schools of his native county and reaching man's estate J. R. Whitcomb was united in marriage on the 11th of March, 1880, to Miss Belle Webster, of Cook county, and immediately afterward the young couple took up their abode upon a rented farm in Kane county, Illinois. There they lived for three years and in 1883 removed to Chickasaw county, Iowa, where Mr. Whitcomb purchased two hundred and forty acres of land in Fredericksburg township in partnership with his brother, C. L. Whitcomb. Three years later the brothers divided their holdings and J. R. Whitcomb acquired one hundred acres on section 16, Fredericksburg township. He then began farming independently and as his financial resources increased he purchased eighty acres on section 8, directly across the road from his present home. He afterward sold twenty acres of his one hundred acre tract to his brother, C. L., and still later Mr. Whitcomb of this review and his son, Floyd W., bought the eighty-acre tract on section 17 whereon the family home now stands. As the years have passed Mr. Whitcomb has carefully carried on general agricultural pursuits and has brought his