

up his abode in the city Mr. McGinn has given his attention to the real estate and insurance business and has gained a very large clientage. He was one of the organizers of the Saude Cooperative Creamery Company and a member of the committee that drafted its by-laws. For ten years after its organization he served as president and placed the business upon a substantial basis.

Mr. McGinn has always been an earnest democrat in his political views and for many years was chairman of the Utica township democratic central committee, thus being very active in formulating the policy and directing the interests of the party in Chickasaw county. He has served as a member of the board of township trustees and was acting in that capacity when the board introduced the first tractor into the county for the purpose of road grading. He likewise served on the school board for a number of years and for eleven years was secretary of the school board. In the November election of 1914 he was chosen for the office of county auditor of Chickasaw county and it was in the fall of that year that he took up his abode in New Hampton in order to more easily discharge his duties. He filled the position for four years and upon his retirement from office entered upon the real estate and insurance business.

On the 19th of September, 1899, Mr. McGinn was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Commerford, a daughter of Terrence and Mary Commerford, who are numbered among the earliest of the pioneer settlers of Utica township, there being but two families in the township at the time of their arrival. Mr. and Mrs. McGinn are the parents of five children: Irene, James, Olivette, Ambrose and Virgil. All are yet at home and are being accorded excellent educational advantages. The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church and Mr. McGinn is identified with the Knights of Columbus. His position in Chickasaw county is that of a representative citizen, honored for his sterling worth, for what he has accomplished in a business way and for what he has done in behalf of public progress.

JOHN TRASK.

More than a century ago George Washington said that "agriculture is the most useful as well as the most honorable occupation of man." This statement is as true today as when uttered, it being a well known fact that farming is the basis of all business development and material progress. To the work of tilling the soil John Trask has confined his attention from early life and he is classed with the pioneer settlers of northern Iowa, although he was born in Franklin county, Massachusetts, near the town of Deerfield, August 19, 1845. He is a son of S. B. and Rebecca H. (Eaton) Trask, the former a native of Franklin county, Massachusetts, while the latter was born in New Hampshire. They became acquainted in Franklin county, Massachusetts, where they were married, and in 1854 they made arrangements to try their fortune in the growing west. Iowa was made their destination and in the old town of Chickasaw they lived for a year. During this period Mr. Trask was building the first frame house in Deerfield township—across the road from the present site of the home of John Trask. With the early development of the community the family became closely associated and with the passing years representatives of the name have ever borne their part in the work of general improvement and upbuilding.

John Trask was but eight years of age at the time the family home was established in Iowa and his education, begun in the common schools of Massachusetts, was continued in the graded schools of Waterloo, this state. He remained with his parents until they were called to the home beyond, both the father and mother dying at the home which John Trask now owns, the former departing this life at the advanced age of eighty-nine years, while the latter reached her eighty-seventh birthday. On the pages of pioneer history their names are emblazoned. The father was one of those who secured land from the government, obtaining one hundred and twenty acres as a preemption claim, for which he paid a dollar and a quarter