

terests in Howard county in early life. He was married when quite young to Mary Huka, of Howard county, and purchasing land, he became closely associated with the farming interests of the county. He actively tilled his fields until about four years ago, when his son took over the farm, since which time the father has lived retired. In community affairs he takes quite a deep interest, serving as school director for a considerable period and otherwise supporting plans and projects for the general good.

Joseph A. Hruska was reared to farm life, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He attended the public schools and after his textbooks were put aside concentrated his entire thought and attention upon farming. About 1915 he took over the old home place, purchasing eighty acres from his father, and at the present time he is renting an additional tract of eighty acres. He has placed many substantial improvements upon his land and now has an excellent farm property.

On the 19th of September, 1915, Mr. Hruska was united in marriage to Miss Mary Stika, a daughter of Frank and Helen Stika, of Howard county, and they have become the parents of a daughter, Helen. Mr. and Mrs. Hruska attend the Catholic church at Protivin and he gives his political allegiance to the democratic party. He does not seek nor desire office, however, preferring to concentrate his efforts and attention upon his business affairs, which are wisely and carefully managed and are bringing to him a substantial measure of success.

F. W. BROWN.

F. W. Brown is a dealer in farm lands at New Hampton, in which business he has continued successfully for a number of years. He had previously filled the position of sheriff for two terms and in all public relations has proven his fidelity to the general welfare and his interest in the progress and upbuilding of the community.

Mr. Brown is a native of the state of New York. He was born January 25, 1863, of the marriage of August and Julia Brown, who were natives of Germany. The father came to United States prior to his fifteenth year, following the death of his parents. He located in Erie county, New York, where he attained his majority. The mother came to the United States in her girlhood with her parents, who established their home in Erie county, New York, and it was there that Mr. and Mrs. Brown were married. For some years they continued to make their home in Erie county but afterward removed to Green Lake, Wisconsin, where they resided for ten years. In 1876 they came to Chickasaw county, Iowa, and Mr. Brown purchased a farm in Dayton township, upon which he still resides. He is now in the eighty-sixth year of his age.

F. W. Brown is indebted to the district schools for the educational opportunities which he enjoyed, but at an early age he began providing for his own support and this terminated his school life. He worked for a time as a farm hand and subsequently secured a position as clerk in a drug and grocery store in Ionia, in which the postoffice was also maintained. He thus received his initial commercial training. In 1886 he ventured in business on his own account, establishing a general merchandise store at Ionia, but after two years he disposed of that business and for a brief period resided in Nashua, Iowa. He next came to New Hampton, where he arrived in the latter part of the summer of 1888. He was appointed to a position in the railway mail service but after four months spent on the road he decided that the work held no future for him and he gave up the position. He then returned to New Hampton and accepted a clerkship in the postoffice. In the summer of 1889 he became active in politics and was elected sheriff of Chickasaw county, to which position he was reelected two years later. Upon the expiration of his second term as sheriff he established a real estate and loan business in New Hampton and has since been active along that line. For ten years he was identified with the First National Bank of West Minneapolis, with the Darrow Trust & Savings Bank of New Hampton and the State Bank of Waucoma as a stockholder, but disposed of all of his bank holdings in 1916 and has since given his entire at-