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would have sought opportunity and success elsewhere if it could not have been won in this district. He has, however, through the exercise of his industry and perseverance, intelligently directed, won a place among the substantial farmers of the community, and he has a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintance.

GEORGE BERNATZ.

George Bernatz, a well known and influential resident of Decorah, is successfully engaged in the grocery business at the corner of Mill and Water streets and enjoys a most gratifying patronage in this connection. His birth occurred in Rochester, New York, in March, 1847, his parents being Michael and Martha Bernatz, the former born in the kingdom of Bavaria, Germany, on the river Rhine, on the 4th of October, 1815. Michael Bernatz learned the baker's trade in that country and in 1846 crossed the Atlantic to the United States, locating in Rochester, New York, where he worked at his trade until 1849. In that year he went to Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, and there conducted a bakery until 1854, when his wife died. He then moved across the Mississippi river to McGregor, Iowa, where he built the fifth house in the town and opened a bakery which he conducted until 1857. In that year he erected the White Springs Brewery but did not find the business congenial and disposed of his interests in 1859. He then started for Texas but yellow fever then raging in that state, he turned back after journeying as far as New Orleans. In 1860 he purchased the Smith-field flouring mills at Smithfield, Iowa, and in 1865 bought the Eagle flouring mills in Winneshiek county, Iowa, east of Decorah, operating them for three years. On the expiration of that period they sold out and purchased the Rice-ford flour mill at Riceford, Houston county, Minnesota, which Michael Bernatz operated in association with his two sons, George and Anthony. Anthony Bernatz now operates a flour mill in Decorah, Iowa. In 1868 Michael Bernatz built a mill at Newburg, Minnesota, and two years later went to Chaska, that state, erecting a water power mill near Minneapolis. He operated his three mills until 1874 and in that year returned to Iowa because of impaired health, purchasing the Evergreen flour mill at Fort Atkinson, Winneshiek county, in partnership with his two sons. At the end of about fifteen years he retired and sold out to his sons, who continued the operation of the mill for about four years longer or until it was destroyed by fire. His demise occurred at Fort Atkinson, in 1886, and thus the community lost one of its most substantial and respected citizens.

George Bernatz obtained his education largely at McGregor, Iowa. After putting aside his textbooks he began working for his father and remained his associate until the latter retired and turned over his interests to him and his brother Anthony. When their mill at Fort Atkinson had burned the two brothers purchased the Ames flour mill at that place and operated the same for two years. At the end of that time George Bernatz sold out and came to Decorah, Iowa, here purchasing the Ice Cave and Hivly flour and feed mills, which he operated for about three years. On the expiration of that period he disposed