

of the same to his brother, who is still operating the mills in association with his sons. George Bernatz then embarked in the grocery business at the corner of Mill and Water streets and has been engaged therein to the present time, enjoying an extensive and well merited patronage. He owns the store building and carries a large and well selected line of staple and fancy groceries. He is also an engineer by profession and formerly made a specialty of dam building, constructing dams all over the country, including two at Decorah, which were built in an early day and are still in use. His dams have been very effective in checking floods and have proved far superior to others, which incurred damage to the amount of one or two thousand dollars annually. In 1863, when a youth of but fifteen, Mr. Bernatz enlisted in the Union army and served in the commissary department for five months. At the end of that time he contracted smallpox and was obliged to return home.

In June, 1873, Mr. Bernatz was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Shook, her parents being Jacob and Mary Shook, natives of Germany. They emigrated to the United States in an early day and located at Brownsville, Minnesota, where Mr. Shook conducted a hotel for three years. On the expiration of that period he sold out and went to La Crosse, Wisconsin, where he also conducted a hotel for some years and then removed to Riceford, Minnesota, purchasing a farm and hotel. Several years later he went to Hokah, Minnesota, and was there engaged in the hotel business during the remainder of his life. His demise occurred in 1881, while his wife passed away in South Dakota, in 1886. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Bernatz were born eight children, as follows: Nellie, who is the wife of Henry Gisen and resides at Calmar, Iowa; George, who is engaged in the milling business at Eldorado, Iowa; Bert, a railroad man who makes his home at Calmar; Frank, who is associated in business with his father; Mabel, the wife of Dr. Henry Diely, of Emery, South Dakota; Albert, at home; and two, who died in infancy. The wife and mother was called to her final rest on January 14, 1888, and since that time Mr. Bernatz has lived above his store, having sold his residence.

Politically Mr. Bernatz is a republican. He served as a member of the city council for three terms and also acted as a school director at Fort Atkinson, proving an able public servant in both connections. He was reared in the Catholic faith but is not connected with any church. His acquaintance is wide and all who know him speak of him in warm terms of praise and admiration by reason of his business ability and his attractive personal qualities.

CYRUS F. BARFOOT.

Cyrus F. Barfoot, who for the past nineteen years has operated his father's property of three hundred and fifty acres on sections 19 and 30, Madison township, was born in Decorah in 1858, a son of Benjamin T. and Jane (Dougherty) Barfoot, natives of Ohio. The father went to Freeport, Illinois, from that state and worked at the carpenter's trade for two years, moving to Decorah, Iowa, in 1855. He there resumed his former occupation and continued at it for a number of years, turning his attention to general farming in 1867. In that year he