

Pop 227  
H. R. BOOKNAU.

One of the finest farms in Poweshiek county is that owned by H. R. Booknau. It comprises nine hundred and sixty acres and is in many respects a model place, the barns being strictly modern and all utensils and appliances the best to be found in the market. This large and valuable property Mr. Booknau has acquired through his own exertions and it is, indeed, a monument to his ability and energy.

He is a native of Boston, Massachusetts, born June 22, 1848, a son of George and Christina (Lynn) Booknau, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father was born in 1809 and devoted his attention to farming in the old country. He came to America in 1842, and in 1850 removed with his family from Boston to Hartford, Wisconsin. He came to Poweshiek county, Iowa, in 1859, and after

spending one year at Montezuma removed to Grinnell, and in 1864 purchased a farm in Chester township. He applied himself with such diligence that in a few years he owned four hundred acres, but in 1870 met with financial reverses from which he did not recover. He died in 1890, his wife having passed away at Hartford, Wisconsin, forty years previously. There were five children in the family—four boys and one girl, the subject of this review being the fourth in order of birth.

Educated in the common schools and in an academy at Grinnell, H. R. Booknau early became acquainted with farm work under his father, and ever since his boyhood has devoted his attention to agriculture and stock-raising. The financial reverses of his father he regards, not as a misfortune, but rather as a blessing to himself. He went to work on his own account and thus developed the strength of character and clearness of judgment which carried him through many difficulties and finally made him financially independent. He purchased his first land in 1880, the cost being thirty-six dollars an acre, and in 1881 he acquired more land, being today one of the important landholders of the county. He makes a specialty of raising and feeding Poland China hogs and shorthorn cattle, marketing as many as three hundred cattle in a year. He is a large feeder, and as he is a good judge of livestock and understands his business thoroughly he usually receives the best prices quoted for his class of stock in the market.

In politics Mr. Booknau supports the republican party, and religiously he is connected with the Congregational church at Grinnell. He is a bachelor, his widowed sister, who has four children, keeping house for him. He has witnessed many changes in Poweshiek county, one of which is the advance in the price of land. He remembers when land sold at three dollars per acre and the same land now commands three hundred dollars per acre. He has also noted the remarkable improvements in farm methods, all branches of agriculture and stock-raising having been revolutionized since the early days of farming in this county. He is fond of building anchor posts, and has one two feet in diameter, which extends seven feet in the ground and six feet above, tapering to eighteen inches at the top. It is reinforced by steel wire and weighs seventy-five hundred pounds, and yet it is a cheap post, as it only cost sixteen dollars. This is believed to be the most remarkable anchor post in the county, if not in the state. He is a man of good education, a constant reader, a clear and logical thinker, and his advice is often sought by neighbors and friends, who seldom make a mistake if they follow the line he suggests.

TUESDAY, JULY 3, 1917.

OBITUARY.

cr Buchanan  
Henry R. Booknau.

In the death of Henry R. Booknau, Grinnell and Chester lose a typical, thrifty and industrious farmer, whose whole life practically has been spent here.

Henry Booknau was born in Boston, Mass., June 20, 1850, and so had just completed sixty-seven years of life. In 1852 the family moved to Hartford, Wis., and in 1859 to Montezuma, Iowa. Henry in common with many young men found employment as "hired man" on the farm. He came to Chester township, and in 1880 purchased the east part of the fine, large farm which he owned at the time of his death. However in 1875, though older than most men who enter college, he became fired with a desire to get a good education and entered the academy here. The writer first met Mr. Booknau in January, 1876. He was a young, strong, vigorous type of manhood, an earnest Christian, with lofty aspirations. He studied hard and his work in the old Philologist Society showed careful preparation and he put forth always his best efforts. He had accumulated some property, through economy and careful saving, and in the latter part of 1876 his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Robinson, with four small children, was invited to make a home for him, and in Grinnell she kept house for him until he decided to return to the farm. His education here was supplemented by a business course in college at a Davenport school, and he went back to the farm with a broad intelligence and strong ambition. Everything he did prospered, and the golden acres seemed to yield in ever-increasing quantities to his diligent hand.

In 1881 he purchased the A. R. Heald farm, the latter coming to Grinnell about January 1, 1882. Since that date Henry and his sister and her family occupied the farm where he lived when the accident occurred which caused his death. Both were happy in the love and care of the other. Here his nieces were married and here was a happy home, both brother and sister adding to the comfort and joy of the other.

Mr. Booknau never lost his interest in education, and always wanted others to enjoy the learning which he had not secured so much of as he desired. As a farmer, he was original and industrious. He found time to read and to think, and, as it seemed to us, was mainly right. Every one recognized him as a man of prudence, of skill and of original thought. He was invited to Ames to give his ideas about roadmaking, and was listened to with profit and pleasure.

Mr. Booknau was a man in every sense of the word. We found him universally kind, broad and vigorous in advocating his ideas. Few men have prospered as he has done, and few will be more missed than he.

In early life he joined the Congregational church in Chester and was long an active and efficient worker in the church.

Mr. Booknau's death was due to an accident which occurred on his farm June 21, when a runaway team ran into him as he was driving another team hitched to a corn cultivator. He was injured so severely that it was deemed best to take him to a Des Moines hospital, where he died early Saturday morning.

The body was brought to Grinnell, where the funeral occurred yesterday morning at the Congregational church, conducted by Rev. E. W. Cross. The music was by a quartet composed of Mrs. Snook, Miss Umbenhauer, Mr. Walker and Mr. Morrison; Mrs. Umbenhauer at the organ.

The pall bearers were Chester friends and neighbors: J. Hockman, Maynard Sears, Lewis Hafkey, George Horn, Edgar Harris and Edwin Dare.