

**B**E. HOSTETTER. This biographical sketch, in brief, is that of a man whose present substantial position in life has been reached entirely through his own perseverance and good judgment, and the facts connected with his operation and their results only show to what a person with courage and enlightened views can attain. Mr. Hostetter is one of the oldest settlers of Iowa County and is also numbered among the prominent and successful agriculturists of this section. He was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, June 12, 1843. His father, whose given name was Charles, was a native of the Keystone State, having been born in Hanover, Lancaster County, April 29, 1802. The grandfather of our subject, Jacob Hostetter, was also a native of Pennsylvania, but of German descent, and resided in the small town of Hanover, where he followed the trade of a jeweler, and died at a ripe old age. His wife passed to her final rest in Columbiana County, Ohio.

The father of our subject lived with his parents until he reached his eighteenth year, when he went to Columbiana County, where he learned the jeweler's trade, and immediately afterward started in the business on his own account at New Lisbon, the same county. Here he was greatly prospered, and finally decided to take unto himself a companion. Mr. Hostetter was Secretary of the Sandy and Beaver Canal Company for several years, after which he purchased land and followed the occupation of a farmer. He later went to Cleveland, Ohio, where he operated a planing-mill for three years, at the end of which time he removed to this county, in 1856. On arriving here he bought one hundred and sixty acres of uncultivated land, which now forms a part of his lauded possessions. On this

tract he erected a house and gave his sons entire control of the farm, while he went to Marengo City and opened a jewelry store, which he successfully managed until the time of his death, August 26, 1872. In his religious affiliations, Grandfather Hostetter was a member of the Lutheran Church, and in politics he was in early life a Whig, but during his declining years he was a staunch supporter of the Republican party and platform. He married Julinda H. Hannah, a native of Ohio, who bore him seven children, three of whom died in infancy. The names of these children were: Albert K., Susan A., Madona B., B. Franklin, Olive A., Mary A., and Emma. The mother of this family died December 4, 1854, at the age of forty-one years. She was reared in the Quaker views and was a modest, unassuming body. Her father was Benjamin Hannah, who was a native of Virginia, but of Scotch extraction, and was born in 1779. By occupation he was a farmer and merchant and died in Ohio at a good age.

Our subject came here when eleven years old, and was never afterward permitted to attend school, with the exception of one term, and that was afforded him in a private institution. However, he attended school in Cleveland before coming here, hence he received a common school education. At the time Charles Hostetter emigrated to Iowa County, the country was but sparsely settled, the nearest neighbor being five miles away. He was compelled to market his grain at Iowa City, which is thirty-one miles from here, but notwithstanding these disadvantages, Mr. Hostetter worked industriously and incessantly, thus gaining a good livelihood for himself and family. Young Hostetter assisted with the farm work until he was twenty-three years old, at which time an important event occurred, which changed the current of his life, he being united in marriage with Josie E. Wright, October 7, 1870. Mrs. Hostetter was born in Milwaukee, Wis., and was reared and educated at Fond du Lac.

Mr. Hostetter purchased his present farm when it was raw prairie; on it he has made all the modern improvements, and now carries on mixed farming, and stock-raising very successfully. His estate aggregates two hundred and forty acres of

raw land, which is all in one body, and on which has recently been erected a large barn, 18x32 feet in dimensions. To our subject and his wife have been born four children, namely: Elmer C., Mabel, who died at the age of six years; Carrie, and May. The family are members of the Congregational Church. In politics our subject is a Republican, has served Cass Township as Clerk and also been secretary of the School Board. He is a prominent and efficient citizen, who is respected by all who know him. He gets all his mail at Marengo.

## B. F. HOSTETTER

### ANSWERS SUDDEN

#### CALL OF DEATH

B. F. Hostetter was suddenly called by death last week, expiring at an early hour Saturday morning. Death was caused by sudden heart failure. He was aged 67 years, 11 months and 22 days.

Mr. Hostetter was apparently in his usual health on Friday and came down to the business section, as was his custom. In the evening he started home, but was taken with a sudden weakness and was sitting on the steps of V. G. Preston's store, unable to go farther, when noticed by H. A. Field, who took him to his home. He grew worse steadily, and the end came a few hours afterward.

The funeral was held this afternoon from the residence, at 1605 Sixth Avenue. Rev. H. N. Dascomb conducted the services. The pallbearers were G. B. Critchett, A. L. King, H. C. Morse, C. C. Keil, F. C. Wilson, and R. G. Coutts. Interment was in Hazlewood cemetery.

Mr. Hostetter had been a resident of Grinnell since 1898, coming from Iowa county, where he had lived since 1856. For some time he conducted a feed store at the corner of Main and Commercial streets, but as advanced age came on he withdrew from active business and had spent the last year or two in quiet retirement.

He was a friendly man of many friends, honest, trustworthy and a good citizen. He leaves a wife and two daughters, and a brother, A. K. Hostetter.

From Mrs. Porter's column in Grinnell Herald, 1932:

" Benjamin Franklin Hostetter; b Col. Co. O. June 12, 1843,  
d. June 4, 1910.  
m. Josephine E. Wright. Children: Chas; Elmer; Alice Mabel;  
Caro; Adel'am and Josephine May. Alice M. d. at the age of  
six. In 1899 he moved from Iowa Co. to Grinnell."