

CHARLES JOSEPH HOWELL.

Charles Joseph Howell, the son of John, now deceased, and Mary Ann Howell, was born near Oak Grove, Iowa, June 19th, 1868. He resided on a farm near Oak Grove and helped his father with the farm work; but when fifteen years of age his father purchased a farm near Sugar Creek church, which was his home for some years.

In October, 1891, he was married to Nellie Irwin. The eldest child of this union died in infancy, but there are eight living children, four girls and four boys; all under seventeen years of age, to mourn the loss of a father.

He has been a farmer by occupation and his life has been largely passed near Oak Grove, Sugar Creek and Bethel.

Since last New Years he has made his home on the old Albert Sharpless place.

On the evening of Tuesday, May 24th, he and his brother Linnie were cleaning an old well near his residence. Having worked in the well two or three hours the previous day, he thought of no danger and neglected to place a rope around his body. The greater part of the work had been done the day previous, but thinking to be more thorough in the work he went down and sent up one bucket of water and then the damps suffocated him. His brother was at the windlass when he saw that he was overcome but knowing that he could not rescue him alone he called the neighbors and when enough help was there one was lowered into the well, but he felt the poisonous effects so quickly that he had to be brought to the surface, and the body was rescued an hour later by means of hooks.

Dr. Squire of Lynnvillle and Dr. Carpenter of Sully were immediately called but the poisonous gas had done its work and no human power could restore life.

The funeral was held at the Sugar Creek Friends church on Thursday, conducted by Dr. David Edwards of Penn college, assisted by Rev. A. J. Hanson, of Lynnvillle, and the body was laid to rest near his father and sister who died years ago.

The mother, two sisters, three brothers and the wife with their eight children attended the funeral.

One brother, Fred, was so far away that he could not be present.

Sugar Creek church was filled and