

On the 9th of September, 1868, Mr. Whitcomb was united in marriage to Miss Minda C. Webster, of Cook county, Illinois, who died in January, 1901. They became the parents of three children, but only one survives, a son, Guy F., who is operating the home farm. He married Ruby Eastland, of Chickasaw county, and to them has been born a son, Howard R.

In his political views Mr. Whitcomb is a republican and has filled various local offices, serving as a member of the board of township trustees for several years, while at the present time he is serving as mayor of Fredericksburg. His interest in community affairs is deep and sincere, and he cooperates heartily in all plans and projects put forth for the benefit of the city, the development of its business conditions and the upholding of its civic standards. Fraternally he is connected with Mount Horeb Lodge, No. 33, A. F. & A. M., and his identification with Masonry covers a half century. He is also a member of J. V. Carpenter Post, G. A. R. He attends the Methodist Episcopal church, and his whole life has been characterized by high and honorable principles that have made him a man whom to know is to esteem and honor.

REV. JOHN P. WAGENER.

Rev. John P. Wagener, priest of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Cresco, was born at St. Donatus, Iowa, January 16, 1879, his parents being Nicholas and Elizabeth (Siren) Wagener. The son spent his boyhood days upon his father's farm at St. Donatus, where his youth was passed in the usual manner of the farm-bred boy, but he became ambitious to secure an education and ultimately formed the plan of preparing for the priesthood. In 1893 he became a student in St. Francis Seminary near Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he remained until 1896, when he entered St. Joseph's College at Dubuque, Iowa, and was graduated therefrom with the class of June, 1899. He next entered Grand Seminary at Montreal, Canada, and after studying theology there for a time was ordained to the priesthood on the 20th of December, 1902.

It was on the 3d of January, 1903, that Rev. Wagener, was appointed assistant of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Bellevue, Iowa, where he continued until May 7, 1910. He was then appointed priest of St. Joseph's Catholic church in Cresco and has since continued his labors there. The church property is one of the finest in northern Iowa and the work of the church is splendidly organized and is being pushed steadily forward through the earnest and untiring efforts of Father Wagener.

In July, 1910, he was instrumental in building the Sisters' residence, which was completed in October of that year. It was in September, 1910, that the Sisters of Notre Dame of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, established the parochial school and parish and in 1912 a new parochial school was erected. The present church was built in 1916 and the church, the residence and parochial school are all clear of debt, all indebtedness having been discharged on the completion of the different buildings. To Father Wagener is due the credit for promoting the work in these connections. He has labored most untiringly, earnestly and effectively to upbuild the Catholic cause in Cresco and in Howard county and his labors have been far reaching and resultant.

H. P. NEHL.

H. P. Nehl is numbered among the residents of New Hampton who have justly won the proud American title of a self-made man. With limited educational opportunities and no special advantages in life, he has steadily worked his way upward and is now recognized as one of New Hampton's representative business men, engaged in real estate dealing. He was born in Sauk City, Wisconsin, September 9, 1868, a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Beck) Nehl, who came to Chickasaw county from Sauk City on the 6th of September, 1874. They took up their abode upon a farm near North Washington, where both the father and mother remained until called to their final rest.