

Roosevelt and in fact he has been a stalwart advocate of the leading statesmen which the republican party has put up as its standard bearers. He has long been regarded as a very substantial and honored citizen of Albion township and ranks with its pioneer settlers who for many years have contributed to its upbuilding and progress. His has been an active and useful life and in all matters of citizenship he has been as true and loyal to his country as when he wore the nation's blue uniform and folio-wed the starry banner of the Union on the battlefields of the south.

#### JOE WILLIAMS.

Joe Williams, who is engaged in blacksmithing at Lime Springs and is numbered among the pioneer settlers of Howard county, was born in Wales on the 12th of June, 1850, a son of John H. and Mary (Jones) Williams, who came to the United States about 1851. They made their way to the interior of the country, settling in Cambria, Wisconsin, where they resided until 1869, when they came to Lime Springs, Iowa. After two years here spent, however, they returned to Wisconsin and became residents of Randolph, where they remained until called to their final rest.

Joe Williams was educated in the common schools of Wisconsin and preceded his parents to Howard county, where he arrived in June, 1869. His brother, John B. Williams, had already become a resident of Lime Springs and was conducting a blacksmith shop, which Joe Williams entered as an apprentice. He completed his term of indenture in his brother's shop and together they carried on the business for ten or fifteen years, at the end of which time John B. Williams went to Montana and Joe Williams continued to conduct the smithy in Lime Springs. He has now been identified with the trade in this town for a half century and is one of the best known and most highly respected citizens of the community, for his record throughout this entire period has been that of an honorable and straightforward man.

In 1877 Mr. Williams was married to Miss Lydia Frisbie, of Lime Springs, a daughter of Chester Frisbie, who was one of the early settlers of Lime Springs, where he arrived in 1866. To Mr. and Mrs. Williams were born two children: David Roy, railway agent at Hall, Montana, for the Northern Pacific Railroad Company; and Beulah Fay, the wife of C. V. Summers, living at Charles City, Iowa. Mrs. Williams was born in Middletown, New York, on the 11th of March, 1852, and died in Lime Springs, April 26, 1905. She was a member of the Presbyterian church and her many good qualities of heart and mind endeared her to all who knew her. Mr. Williams is well known in Masonic circles, belonging to Howard Lodge, No. 214, A. F. & A. M.; Shiloh Chapter, No. 150, R. A. M.; and Joppa Commandery, No. 55, K. T., of Charles City. Mr. Williams and his family are members of Utopia Chapter, No. 379, O. E. S. In politics he is a republican, well informed on the questions and issues of the day, but he has never been an aspirant for political office, always preferring to give his undivided thought and attention to his business affairs. That he is a man of sterling worth is indicated by the high regard in which he is uniformly held in the community in which he has made his home for a half century.

#### RALPH E. WATTS.

Ralph E. Watts, a hardware dealer of Ionia and one of the leading business men, was born in Chickasaw county, about one mile east of Bassett, on the 17th of November, 1893, his parents being Charles D. and Catherine (Miller) Watts. The father was a native of England and the mother was born in Chickasaw county, Iowa, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt Miller, who were among the earliest of the pioneer settlers of this section of the state. Charles D. Watts was twice married. In 1874 he wedded Miss Nettie Longley, who passed away in 1890, leaving two daughters: Eva, now the wife of