

upon him the right of franchise and for some time while at Lawler he filled the office of justice of the peace. He has served as a member of the town and city council of New Hampton, covering a period of fourteen years, a fact indicative of his loyalty to the best interests of the city and his active work for the upholding of its civic standards. He and his family are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church and he is a fourth degree member of the Knights of Columbus. Alert and energetic, he accomplishes what he undertakes, allowing no obstacles or difficulties to bar his path when they can be overcome by persistent and earnest effort. The reliability as well as the enterprise of his methods has been one of the strong features of his growing success, placing him with the prosperous business men of New Hampton.

FRED LEBOW.

Fred Lebow, living on section 6, Afton township, Howard county, was born in Germany, January 6, 1848, and is a son of Joseph and Frederika Lebow who in the year 1859 bade adieu to friends and native land and sailed for the United States with their family. They did not tarry on the Atlantic coast but made their way at once into the interior of the country, settling at Racine, Wisconsin, where the father worked out by the day. For ten years the family resided in Racine and then came to Iowa, settling in Afton township, Howard county, where Mr. Lebow purchased the farm upon which his son Fred now resides. He continued to devote his time and energies to the development of his fields until called to his final rest and his wife also died upon this farm.

At the death of his parents Fred Lebow came into possession of the old home place by the terms of his father's will and has since owned and occupied it. He had previously acquired a common school education and had been trained in the farm work by his father, so that he was well qualified to take up the duties and responsibilities that devolved upon him. He is now numbered among the substantial and successful farmers of Afton township, having between five and six hundred acres of excellent land, so that he is now in very comfortable financial circumstances, his well tilled fields annually bringing to him golden harvests that find a ready sale on the market.

In 1874 Mr. Lebow was married to Miss Bertha Gamrow, a daughter of Fred Gamrow, of Afton township, and both her father and mother have now passed away. Mr. and Mrs. Lebow have become the parents of five children: Minnie and Will, at home; Ephraim, who is married; Gustie Klingbottle, at home; and Fred, who is also married.

The religious belief of the family is that of the German Lutheran church and in his political faith Mr. Lebow is a republican. For several years he served as school director but has never sought or desired political office, preferring to concentrate his efforts and attention upon his business affairs. He has worked diligently and persistently in the further development and cultivation of his farm and has added to it many modern improvements, which make it one of the fine places of this part of the state.

CHARLES A. MEAD.

For fifty years Charles A. Mead has resided upon the farm on section 31, Howard township, in Howard county, which he now owns. Because of his long residence here he has been a witness of much of the growth and development of this section of the state and at all times has been keenly interested in its progress and has contributed in no small measure to its agricultural advancement.

He was born in Fayette county, Iowa, March 3, 1868, a son of Willis and Lodema (Smith) Mead, who were natives of Pennsylvania, where they were reared and married. About 1858 they came to the west, making Iowa their destination. They settled upon a farm a mile and a half east of West Union, in Fayette county, and there remained until the fall of 1868, when they removed to Howard county, establishing their home in Howard township, where they continued to reside until called to their final rest. The