

658, I. O. O. F., and also with Sumner Encampment, while he and his family are members of the Lutheran church. While he never had the advantage offered by higher education, he has been a broad reader and is today one of the well informed men of Howard township who recognizes the opportunities not only for his own advancement, but for the promotion of public welfare and at all times gives his aid and support to movements that are intended to upbuild the community, commonwealth or country.

THOMAS W. MUNSON.

Since 1905 Thomas W. Munson has resided upon the farm which he now occupies on section 20, Jacksonville township, Chickasaw county. In the meantime, however, he has extended its boundaries and has made it a valuable property owing to the thrift and industry which he has displayed in the management of his business affairs. He was born August 1, 1880, in the township which is still his home, his parents being Halvor and Anna (Aberg) Munson, who were natives of Norway. The father left the land of the midnight sun when a boy of eleven years in company with his parents, making the voyage across the Atlantic in 1857. The mother came alone to America when a girl of fourteen years and she, too, crossed the briny deep in 1857. Both became residents of Wisconsin, Mr. Munson living in Dane county and the lady who later became his wife making her home in Madison. The Munson family afterward removed to Union county, South Dakota, settling near Yankton, which was the capital of the territory of Dakota. There Halvor Munson, when not yet sixteen years of age, enlisted for service in the Civil war and was for three years and three months a member of Company I of the First Dakota Cavalry. He participated in a number of hotly contested engagements and with a most creditable military record returned to his home. After receiving an honorable discharge he hired out to the government to drive oxen on a government train used in hauling supplies from Sioux City, Iowa, to Salt Lake City, Utah. Thus the summer was passed and in the following winter he worked in a lumber camp in Montana. In the spring of 1867 he came to Iowa, his parents having removed to this state in 1862, during the Indian outbreaks in South Dakota and Minnesota. They settled in Utica township, Chickasaw county, and it was here that Halvor Munson met and married his life's companion, the marriage ceremony being performed in the church at Saude in the fall of 1867. The young couple located on a farm in Jacksonville township, where Mr. Munson continued to make his home and carried on general agricultural pursuits for thirty-nine years. In 1906 he left the farm and established his home in New Hampton, where he lived retired from active business until his death, which occurred April 26, 1918, when he was seventy-two years of age, for he was born in 1846. His wife, who was born in 1844, passed away December 18, 1915. In his business affairs Mr. Munson had won substantial success and at one time owned an entire section of land in Jacksonville township, Chickasaw county, and had large land holdings in Kansas. He was a republican in politics and he and his wife were members of the Lutheran church, consistently following its teachings. Mr. Munson ever enjoyed a well deserved reputation as an upright citizen and a man of sterling character.

Thomas W. Munson, after acquiring a district school education in Jacksonville township, took up farming on his own account in 1900, at the age of twenty years, operating a part of his father's land. In 1902 he was united in marriage to Miss Anna Robinson, of Jacksonville township, a daughter of Andrew Robinson, one of the early pioneers who is still living in this locality.

Following his marriage, in the fall of 1902, Mr. Munson removed to eastern Kansas, where he resided for three years, owning there two hundred and forty acres of land which he purchased from his father. In 1905 he traded his Kansas property for a part of his present home farm, obtaining one hundred and sixty acres. The boundaries of this he has since extended by additional purchase until he now has three hundred and seventy-six acres. At one time he bought a tract of one hundred and thirty-six acres and on another occasion eighty acres and today he is the owner of an extensive and valuable