

Since accompanying his parents to Iowa when a lad of ten years, James McMullen has continuously resided in Canoe township and has been an interested witness of the changes which have occurred throughout all that period to the present time. He was trained to the occupation of farming, early becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and cultivating the crops. He was married in 1866 to Miss Clara Wilson, who was born in Winnebago county, Illinois, November 1, 1846, and came with her parents to Iowa in 1850, since which time she has lived in Canoe township. She is a daughter of Justice and Lucinda Wilson, the former a native of Canada and of Welsh descent. He passed away in 1857 at the age of forty-one years, while his wife, who was born in County Donegal, Ireland, December 18, 1825, is now a resident of Everly, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. McMullen are the parents of six children: Robert, who is living in Alberta, Canada; Lucy, the wife of Thomas Gillman, of Decorah; Letitia, the wife of Albert Christian, of Decorah; Roy, of Decorah; Bessie, the wife of Pearle Bradrich, of Decorah; and Mattie, the wife of B. Schanck, of Wenatchee, Washington. The family still occupy the farm on section 18, Canoe township, which was once a part of his father-in-law's property and was secured as a claim from the government. Mr. McMullen has always made farming his life work and his carefully directed labors have been the basis of his growing and substantial success. He is well known in the county in which the greater part of his life has been passed and is classed among its worthy and representative pioneers, for he has not only witnessed the changes which have occurred, but has also taken part in the work of public progress and improvement.

EDWIN HOVER.

It is the enterprise and character of the citizen that enrich and ennoble the commonwealth and Iowa is indebted in large degree to men of the type of Edwin Hover for her stability and prosperity. He is one of Norway's native sons, his birth having occurred in Valdres, on the 5th of February, 1845, a son of Hover Evenson and Bertha (Larson) Hoyme. The parents were also natives of the land of the midnight sun, the father having been born on the 15th of June, 1818, and the mother on the 14th of March, 1822. They were married in their native country about 1843 and in 1848 came to the new world, locating near Cambridge, Dane county, Wisconsin. There the father engaged in the black-smithing trade, which he had learned in the city of Bergen, Norway, his time being thus occupied for three years. The year 1851 witnessed the arrival of the family in Iowa, the father settling on a farm on section 5, Pleasant township, Winneshiek county, where he spent his remaining days. In addition to general farming which he carried on during the daytime, he engaged at his trade in the evening hours, being the first blacksmith in the northern half of Winneshiek county. For a number of years the settlers of that district depended entirely upon him for all of their blacksmithing. At the time the family made settlement in Iowa, Winneshiek county was largely a frontier district and the family were confronted with many pioneer conditions. The father made all of the shoes and clothes for the family and it was a matter of two or three days' drive