

Willis is a republican in his political affiliations, and both he and his wife are devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which they give their moral and material support. Fraternally Mr. Willis is prominent, being a member of the lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Decorah, belonging also to the Rebekahs and Encampment of Boscobel, and is also a member of Decorah Lodge No. 443, B. P. O. E.; the Modern Woodmen of Boscobel, Wisconsin; and the Woodmen of the World, of Decorah. Mrs. Willis belongs to the Rebekahs and Royal Neighbors.

The furniture store of Willis & Ness is excellently appointed and they carry a large and complete stock, being able to fill any demands made upon them by their patrons. The line of goods they handle is so extensive that a storage annex is needed, which is situated across the street from their store. They have built up a reputation for a straightforward policy, honest dealing and honest goods at honest prices, which has brought them a gratifying and steadily increasing patronage. Both young men devote their entire attention to the management of their establishment, which not only is bringing them a gratifying income but is an important factor in the commercial development of Decorah and Winneshiek county.

THEODORE THOMPSON.

Theodore Thompson, who for many years has been associated in an influential way with farming and stock-raising interests of Winneshiek, his native county, was born March 5, 1876, and is a son of Ole and Rhoda (Johnson) Thompson, natives of Norway. The father came to America when he was but ten years of age and with his parents located in Decorah in 1855. He learned the blacksmith's trade and followed it for twelve years after beginning his independent career, later turning his attention to farming on shares. After one year he came to Springfield township and here purchased forty acres on section 13, developing this from a raw and unimproved tract into a productive and valuable property. Upon this he made his home until his death, which occurred in April, 1897, he having survived his wife since 1885. In this family were seven children: Henry A., deceased; Henry A., second of the name, who has also passed away; a child, who died in infancy; Andrew Albert, a resident of Decorah; Matilda, who has passed away; Bertha; and Theodore, of this review.

Theodore Thompson was reared upon his father's farm in Springfield township and acquired his education in the district schools of this section. He became a practical and able agriculturist and aided with the operation of the homestead until after his father's death, when he purchased the property which he has operated along practical and modern lines since that time. His farm is highly improved and in excellent condition, being provided with a comfortable dwelling, barns, outbuildings and the machinery necessary to facilitate the work of the fields. He has met with excellent success in his farming and stock-raising operations and although still a young man has attained a handsome competence through his intelligently directed labor.