

May 24, 1891; Helmer, born in 1893; Evelyn, July n, 1896; Edward S., January 5, 1899; and Clarence G., August 23, 1903.

Mr. Hovden is a member of the Lutheran church. He is a republican in his political beliefs and has held various official positions of trust and responsibility, in all of which he discharged his duties in a prompt, capable and efficient manner. For two years he served as trustee of this township and as assessor for one term and he was elected justice of the peace but did not qualify. Movements for the promotion of the general development and advancement receive his hearty cooperation and active support for he has lived in this part of Iowa practically all of his life and is interested in its growth and progress. He has made important contributions to farming interests and his success is well deserved, rewarding a busy, useful and upright life.

AARON L. ABBEY.

Aaron L. Abbey was actively engaged in the insurance business in Decorah until spring, 1913, retiring in his seventy-third year from a line of work with which he was continuously identified here for the past forty-six years. For many years he traveled as representative for various companies but later confined his activities more to local business. He also was closely connected with the agricultural development of this section, being still the owner of a large farm in Decorah township and has, moreover, a distinguished war record to his credit, having prominently participated in the great conflict between north and south, discharging his duties in a valiant and faithful manner.

Born near Armada, Macomb county, Michigan, on December 22, 1840, Aaron L. Abbey is a son of William and Mary Ann (Bray) Abbey, the former of whom was born in the eastern portion of Vermont on June 19, 1803, and the latter in Ontario county, New York, on December 20, 1806. The father was of Scotch-English and the mother of English and Dutch stock. A carpenter by trade and also a farmer, the father removed to Ontario county, New York, with his parents when twelve years of age. There he was married on February 9, 1827, and, giving evidence of the traditional family spirit of enterprise, moved two years later westward to Macomb county, Michigan, settling on one hundred and sixty acres of land. He remained there actively engaged in wresting a farm from the virgin country until 1861, when he sold out to good advantage and returned to Ontario county, New York, purchasing a small farm upon which he remained until his death in 1868. The mother had previously passed away on the farm in Macomb county, Michigan, on November 3, 1853, and is buried there.

Aaron L. Abbey is the youngest of nine children and the only one now living. Reared among pioneer conditions, he took good advantage of the educational opportunities such as were offered in the public schools of Armada, Michigan, at the time, and, when fifteen years of age, removed to Waupun, Wisconsin, where he continued his education, attending school during the winter months. Having lost his mother when but thirteen years of age he made his home in Waupun with an old friend of his father on a farm, assisting in the operation