

He went to the front as a sergeant and was afterward promoted to the rank of second lieutenant. He was on detached service, en staff duty, as adjutant of the regiment and again as quartermaster and commissary, occupying these various positions most of the time and proving a very efficient officer. He participated in the siege of Vicksburg and on account of illness was honorably discharged July 25, 1863. For a year after his return home he was unable to resume business. He then took up merchandising which he followed for nearly two years in the old town of New Oregon, Iowa, when he again became a resident of Waukon, where he conducted a store until 1879 with the exception of a period of four years spent in Postville, Iowa. In August, 1879, he removed to Lime Springs and was thereafter identified with merchandising and banking. In 1882 he organized the Exchange Bank, of which he remained president to the time of his death on the 18th of February, 1907. He was a man of excellent business ability, farsighted, energetic and determined, and the integrity of his methods was above question. He was a consistent member of the Masonic fraternity and his home lodge had charge of the funeral services when his remains were laid to rest. In every relation of life he commanded the respect, confidence and good will of those who knew him and he left to his family the priceless heritage of an untarnished name, while in his business enterprise and progressive citizenship he builded to himself an enduring monument in Howard county.

WILLIAM L. ASHLEY.

Historical records indicate the fact that the Ashley family have been identified with the development and upbuilding of Chickasaw county from pioneer times. It is of this family that William L. Ashley is a representative and he is now numbered among the prosperous farmers of Deerfield township, making his home on section 30. He was born in this township, April 11, 1865, his parents being Thomas and Lucinda H. (Larrabee) Ashley, who were natives of Deerfield and of Greenfield, Massachusetts, respectively. The mother was born June 7, 1882, and became the wife of Mr. Ashley on the 13th of November, 1851. In 1854 they joined a colony of Deerfield families that left Massachusetts for what was then the far west. They came to Chickasaw county, Iowa, and the district in which they established their homes they named Deerfield township in honor of their old home in Massachusetts. From that time forward the father was identified with the farming interests of Iowa. He was born in Deerfield, Massachusetts., January 18, 1822, and the schools of his native town afforded him his early educational opportunities, while later he was a pupil in Powers' Institute in Bernardston, Massachusetts. He was twice married, his first wife being Miss Marietta Hoyt, whom he wedded in Bernardston, October 9, 1844. They became the parents of two children, both of whom died in infancy, and the mother passed away in Deerfield, Massachusetts, August 18, 1849. It was subsequent to this time that Mr. Ashley wedded Lucinda H. Larrabee and started for the west. On coming to Chickasaw county he, like a few others who had money, made extensive investments in land, which then sold at a very low figure. However, grain brought but a small price and the farms were far distant from market. Grain had to be hauled eighty miles, for there were no railroads. After a few severe winters and a crop failure Mr. Ashley found himself with enough land on which to establish a colony, but there was no sale for farm property and no profit in farming. However, he continued to further develop and improve his fields and managed to pass over this period of distress. As the years went by and the country became more thickly settled he prospered in his undertakings and continued to carry on farming to the time of his death, which occurred January 28, 1888. He was an honest, upright citizen, a devout Christian man whose life was at all times characterized by high principles. He belonged to the Masonic fraternity and was ever a loyal follower of the craft. His second wife died on the 17th of February, 1870. They were the parents of seven children, of whom four are yet living: Charles Hart, a resident of Deerfield, Massachusetts; Mrs. Mary E.