

an ardent republican but is liberal in his views. He served for many years as justice of the peace and notary public and he has been an influential factor in the political councils of his party.

Following his marriage Mr. Owens rented and cultivated his father's farm for four years. In 1902 he purchased his present home property, to which he removed in March, 1904. In 1915 he built one of the handsome country homes of Howard county and he has erected all of the substantial and attractive buildings which are upon his farm and his is one of the most attractive properties in Vernon Springs township. He follows the most progressive methods in the conduct of his interests and his energy and enterprise have brought to him a very gratifying measure of success.

To Mr. and Mrs. Owens have been born five children: John Cletus, who is attending Dubuque College, in which he is pursuing a scientific course; William L.; Raymond A.; Sarah Geraldine; and Eleanor Mary.

The parents are members of the Catholic church and Mr. Owens belongs also to the Knights of Columbus. In politics he is a democrat. He is regarded as one of the leading citizens of Vernon Springs township and his life is indicative of the forcefulness of energy and enterprise as factors in business. Steadily he has worked his way upward and his progress is manifest in the fine appearance of the farm which he now owns.'

W. L. DARROW.

W. L. Darrow, who was a successful banker of New Hampton, passed away March 31, 1919, honored and respected by all who knew him in northern Iowa. He made his entrance into Chickasaw county behind a flock of sheep which for ten weeks had been driving across the country from New York to Iowa. He was then in limited financial circumstances, but was attracted by the opportunities of the west and was possessed of laudable ambition and determination—qualities that readily wrest fortune from the hands of fate. He became the president of the Darrow Trust & Savings Bank, one of the strong financial institutions of northern Iowa.

He was born in Genesee county, New York, September 18, 1835, a son of Luther and Hannah (Kinney) Darrow, both of whom were natives of the state of Vermont. They were married at Rupert, Vermont, and afterward took up their abode upon a farm in Genesee county, New York, which the father had previously secured, this being a part of the Holland land purchase. It was covered with a native growth of timber and he at once set himself to the arduous task of clearing away the trees, plowing the land and improving the place. His wife died there when their son, W. L. Darrow, was but five years of age. The father continued to reside upon the old homestead to the time of his death, which occurred when he was seventy-two years of age. He was a son of Zachariah Darrow, a Revolutionary war soldier, who died in Pembroke, New York, at the advanced age of ninety years. The maternal grandfather of W. L. Darrow was also a Revolutionary war hero and passed away at Rupert, Vermont, when ninety years of age.

In the common schools of Pembroke, New York, W. L. Darrow pursued his education and while still but a youth went to work for a brother in a mercantile store in Pembroke. At the age of eighteen years he first came to the west, making his way to the territory of Minnesota, where he drove oxen used in hauling logs during the first summer. For two or three years thereafter he worked in a store at Oronco and eventually made his way to Iowa. In this state he taught school in the winter months, while in the summer seasons he was employed in various ways until he returned to Pembroke, New York, about the latter part of the year 1856. Through the following eight years he taught school during the winter seasons and worked the farm during the summer months.

In 1864 Mr. Darrow was united in marriage to Miss Maria Douglas and the same year he again started for Iowa, making the entire journey on foot, driving