

O. Swenson and his mother carried on the business until February 4, 1908, after which the son became sole proprietor and has since conducted his interests as a plumbing and heating contractor. In 1909 he removed his shop from the old foundry building to its present location and has since continued in the business, winning a liberal patronage as the years have passed on and he has demonstrated his skill and efficiency in his chosen line.

On the 4th of February, 1908, Mr. Swenson was united in marriage to Miss Violet E. Hammond, who was born near Cresco, a daughter of William and Margaret (Clarke) Hammond. Her parents were natives of Illinois but came to Howard county at an early day, casting in their lot with its pioneer settlers before the town of Cresco had been established. To Mr. and Mrs. Swenson have been born four children: Marjorie, Robert, Ruth and Paul.

On July 8, 1918, Mr. Swenson went to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he worked a short time at his trade, after which he went to Nashville, Tennessee, and was employed as a pipe fitter by the Du Pont Engineering Company, constructing the Old Hickory powder plant at Jacksonville, Tennessee, sixteen miles northeast of Nashville and adjacent to The Hermitage, home of President Andrew Jackson. Mr. Swenson moved his family and mother to Lebanon, Tennessee, twenty-five miles southeast of the powder plant, September 28, 1918. His work ended there February 20, 1919. He then took heating and plumbing contracts for the Cedar City Machine Shop Company of Lebanon, Tennessee, securing considerable business until he accepted a position with the Lindle Plumbing & Heating Company of Akron, Ohio, August 20, 1919, his family and mother then returning to Cresco, Iowa, for a visit.

Mr. Swenson was a member of the fire company of Cresco for about ten years and acted as one of the foremen. In June, 1902, he joined as a charter member Company E, Forty-ninth Regiment, Iowa National Guard. During the summer of 1902 the Forty-ninth's Regiment number was changed to the Fifty-third, as the Forty-ninth was a Spanish War Regiment and the reorganized regiment was given a new number with the similar change in the other three state regiments. He served as second lieutenant in the Fifty-third Regiment from April 21, 1908, until May, 1909, when Company E was mustered out. He had worked his way up through the ranks to his position as a commissioned officer. Fraternally he is a connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and with the Masons and is a loyal adherent of their teachings and purposes. In fact he is regarded as a man of genuine worth in Cresco.

AUGUST MILHAM.

August Milham, who successfully followed farming on section 29, Afton township, Howard county, was born in Germany in 1843 and came to the United States when a young man of twenty-four years. He made the trip alone after bidding adieu to friends and native country, thinking that he would have better opportunities on this side of the Atlantic, nor did he ever regret his determination to come to the United States. He made his way first to Illinois, where he remained for two years, during which time he was engaged in hauling milk. On the expiration of that period he removed to Howard county, Iowa, and purchased a farm in Afton township, which he conducted for two years. He then sold that property and later was employed as a farm hand in Afton township for a time.

In 1876 Mr. Milham was united in marriage to Miss Amelia Arndt, a daughter of Fred Arndt, and they began their domestic life upon a rented farm. Mr. Milham continued to rent land for twenty years after his marriage and then purchased the present home farm, upon which he resided to the time of his death, which occurred on the 8th of December, 1916. He was an active and energetic farmer, who carefully tilled the soil and brought his fields under a high state of cultivation, putting forth every effort to provide a comfortable living for his family.