

Maxey A. Kepple was educated in the public schools of Nashua and Ionia and also in the Capital City Commercial College at Des Moines. Following the completion of his studies there he entered the bank of A. G. Case & Company at Nashua and thus received his initial training in financial affairs. He was later made assistant cashier and on the 1st of June, 1909, he left that institution and went to Sanborn, Iowa, to accept the cashiership of the Sanborn State Bank, in which capacity he served for two and a half years. On the 1st of August, 1911, he returned to Nashua and was made cashier of the private banking institution of A. G. Case & Company. In 1915 this bank was reorganized and incorporated as the Commercial State Savings Bank, Mr. Kepple continuing as cashier of the newly incorporated institution.

On the 10th of October, 1905, Mr. Kepple was married to Miss Harriet M. Crapser, of Nashua, and to them have been born two children, Maxine A. and John H. Fraternaly Mr. Kepple is connected with Bradford Lodge, A. F. & A. M.; with Nashua Lodge, I. O. O. F.; Nashua Lodge, No. 110, K. P.; and also with the Modern Woodmen of America. His political belief is that of the republican party, and in religious faith he and his wife are Congregationalists. Mrs. Kepple is also identified with the Order of the Eastern Star. Their lives are characterized by high and honorable purposes and principles, and their sterling worth is recognized by all who know them. Mr. Kepple has made steady advancement in his business career by reason of his persistency of purpose and fidelity, and his position is now an enviable one in the banking circles of his native county.

JAMES CURRAN.

James Curran, president of the State Savings Bank of Lawler, is an enterprising, alert and progressive business man whose labors have been an effective force in promoting progress and improvement in the district in which he lives. Iowa numbers him among her native sons, his birth having occurred in Jackson county, August 12, 1856, his parents being Patrick and Catherine (Savage) Curran, both of whom were natives of Ireland. The father was born in 1805 and in 1828 crossed the Atlantic to Newfoundland, where he was connected with the fishing industries for four years. He then came to the United States and was employed for a time on the construction of the first railroad built in this country—the line from Boston to Washington. Through the succeeding seven years he was engaged in railroad construction and on other public works throughout various parts of the country. In 1839 he returned to Ireland and was there married in 1840, after which he continued to make his home in his native land until 1847, when he again came to the new world. After some years spent in the New England states he made his way westward to Illinois and in 1854 became a resident of Iowa, settling on a farm in Jackson county, whereon he continued to reside until 1875. He then removed to Lawler to make his home with his son James, with whom he resided until his demise, which occurred June 9, 1885, when he had reached the advanced age of eighty years.

James Curran was reared on the old homestead farm in Jackson county and pursued his education in the rural schools. On attaining his majority he started out in the business world independently. He became a resident of Lawler in December, 1877, and here turned his attention to merchandising, with which business he was prominently identified for eighteen and a half years. In January, 1897, he established a private bank conducted under the name of the Merchants Exchange Bank, and he was at the head of this institution for nine years, during which period its business gradually increased. In 1906 he organized the State Savings Bank of Lawler, of which he has since been the president, and the success and growth of the institution are the direct outcome of his capability and effort. He is thoroughly acquainted with the various phases of the banking business and has made the institution one of thorough reliability. He extends credit wherever possible to his patrons and is ever ready to aid any project that will not endanger the safety of the bank.