

Forrest M. and Charles H., all at home with their mother. Mrs. Ernwine and her daughter are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are highly esteemed wherever known. They enjoy the hospitality of the best homes in the neighborhood and their friends are many.

In politics Mr. Ernwine was a republican but never an office seeker, yet he ever took a helpful interest in public affairs and especially in educational matters. For many years he was a member of the school board and exerted his official prerogatives in support of advanced standards in the schools at all times. He belonged to the Knights of Pythias lodge and also to the Modern Woodmen camp and he was accounted one of the foremost citizens of Bradford township, where he passed away February 25, 1914, being laid to rest in Greenwood cemetery. All who knew him attested the sterling worth of his character, his loyalty to principles, his fidelity in citizenship and his devotion to the welfare of his home and family.

HON. PRESLEY L. KEPPLE.

Hon. Presley L. Kepple is a member of the Iowa state legislature and not only is leaving the impress of his individuality and ability upon the records of the general assembly but is also contributing to the material development of Chickasaw county as one of the leading business men of Ionia. He was born in this county on the 11th of July, 1857, a son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Byers) Kepple, who were natives of the Keystone state, where they were reared and married. They resided in Pennsylvania until after the birth of two sons and in the fall of 1855 or 1856 came to Iowa, establishing their home in Washington township, Chickasaw county, where the father took up a claim of government land. Not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made on the property and with characteristic energy he began its development by building the little log cabin in which Presley L. Kepple was born. The family experienced many of the hardships and privations which are conditions of frontier settlement. About 1865 the father removed to Chickasaw township, where he became owner of two hundred acres of land, and later he lived for a number of years in the old town of Chickasaw, where he engaged in merchandising. He removed from there to Nashua and the last fifteen years of his life were passed in Ionia, during which time he was retired from active business, enjoying a rest which he had truly earned. He passed away in 1893, at the age of eighty- three years, and his wife died in 1894, at the age of seventy-eight years.

Presley L. Kepple has been a lifelong resident of Chickasaw county, acquainted with its development and progress through a period of sixty-two years. He was educated in the district schools and on attaining his majority began farming on his own account, devoting seven years to general agricultural pursuits. He then left the farm and in company with his brothers, John W. and Fred Kepple, engaged in merchandising at Ionia. After a considerable period the firm sold the business and for two years or more Presley L. Kepple was engaged in the real estate business. He afterward returned to mercantile pursuits, conducting a store independently, and was prominently associated with the commercial interests of the town until about 1912, when he was succeeded by his son, G. D. Kepple, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work. Not only did Mr. Kepple make for himself a place of prominence in commercial circles but also was actively identified with public interests. For twelve years he filled the position of postmaster of Ionia and occupied the office of justice of the peace, that of constable, member of the town council and member of the board of education for a number of years. His fellow townsmen at all times have recognized his capability and his loyalty and fidelity to public duty and thus have again and again called upon him for official service. He has ever been an earnest republican in politics and upon his party ticket was elected to represent his district in the Iowa state legislature in 1914. Commendation of his first term's service came to him in re-election and he has now been a member of the general assembly in the thirty-sixth, thirty-seventh