

where he put in a crop. There he left his family but the following spring came to Chickasaw county and took up his abode upon a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in New Hampton township. He entered this land from the government as a homestead claim and it was entirely destitute of improvements, not a furrow having been turned upon the tract. There were only seven families in this vicinity at that early day and they formed a Pioneers Association, agreeing to stand by each other in sickness and adversity as well as in prosperity. Mr. Kroninger built a log cabin upon his farm, and having thus prepared a home for his family, he removed his wife and children to Chickasaw county in 1856. He recalls the fact that his first crop of one hundred and fifty bushels of buckwheat and his corn crop were destroyed by a prairie fire, leaving only a few bushels of buckwheat in the center of the pile that were fit for use. Deer were numerous, however, in those early days and venison was easily secured. This, with the buckwheat, constituted the food of the family through the winter. The buckwheat was ground in an old coffee mill, one of the children grinding the amount necessary for breakfast, another for dinner, and a third for supper, each thus taking his turn. That season—the winter of 1856-57—was the winter of the big snow. The children of the family, H. J. Kroninger among the number, went through the winter without shoes, wrapping old sacks around their feet in lieu of other footwear. In later years, however, Joseph K. Kroninger prospered in his undertakings and to his home farm added a tract of forty acres. He was thus able to provide a good living for his family through the sale of his crops. He was one of the organizers of the first school district of the county—school district No. 1, comprising the four townships of Dresden, New Hampton, Stapleton and Fredericksburg, a log schoolhouse being built on the corner of the four townships. Mr. Kroninger served as a member of the first school board and was deeply interested in the work of progress and improvement in the county along all lines. In subsequent years he served as township trustee and in 1863 was elected a member of the board of county supervisors. His worth as a citizen was widely acknowledged and his labors proved a resultant force in bringing about progress along many lines. The community mourned the loss of one of its valued pioneer settlers when in 1894 he passed away. His widow survived him until March, 1898.

H. J. Kroninger acquired only such schooling as it was possible to obtain in early pioneer times. In those days the only qualifications required of a teacher were that he could give instruction in the three R's—"readin', writin' and 'rithmetic." When he reached the age of fourteen his schooldays were over. His father was a blacksmith by trade and devoted much of his time to the work of the shop, so that H. J. Kroninger took up the burden of operating the farm. He remained at home, giving his services to his father until he attained his twenty-first year, when he began farming on his own account as a renter. He was married in 1867 and in that year bought his first land, becoming the owner of forty acres in Dresden township, on which was a log house. To this place he removed with his wife and while farming his own land he also cultivated other land, which he rented in the neighborhood. In subsequent years he added to his original purchase until his present farm comprises one hundred and eighty acres, constituting a valuable place, to which he has added many modern improvements. He has divided his farm into fields of convenient size by well kept fences, has secured the best farm machinery and has done everything possible to enhance the value and productiveness of the place. In the spring of 1903, however, he left the farm and removed to Fredericksburg, where he has since made his home. He was one of the organizers of the First National Bank of Fredericksburg and was later made a member of its board of directors, while in 1912 he was elected vice president of the bank, in which official capacity he has since served.

On the 25th of March, 1867, Mr. Kroninger was united in marriage to Miss Rozena Zoller, of Winneshiek county, Iowa, a daughter of Frederick Zoller, who came to this country from Germany in 1854 and established his home in Winneshiek county, where he resided to the time of his death.

In his political views Mr. Kroninger is a republican, always giving staunch support to the party. He has served for several years as a member of the city council, having been the incumbent in that position when the electric light plant was installed, and he was also a member of the school board when the new school building of Fredericksburg