

of the place. In 1862 he returned to Armada, Michigan, and on August 15, of the same year, enlisted for service in the Civil war with Company A, Fifth Michigan Cavalry. On November 1, 1862, he was commissioned second lieutenant in Company L, Eighth Michigan Cavalry, and on June 16, 1864, promoted to the rank of first lieutenant. He received his honorable discharge at Columbus, Ohio, on May 15, 1865. Air. Abbey participated in a number of the principal battles of the war, never faltering in the performance of any duty, however arduous, however hazardous. His valor, his zeal, his devotion awakened and inspired courage in the men who served with and under him and his record was one of conspicuous gallantry. He was captured on August 3, 1864, in the Stone-man raid from Atlanta to Macon and taken to Macon prison, being subsequently removed to Charleston, South Carolina, thence to Columbia, that state, and last to Raleigh, North Carolina, undergoing all the hardships and terrors of captivity.

After being mustered out Mr. Abbey returned to Michigan and in June, 1865, came to Decorah, Winneshiek county, on a visit to his brother. Local conditions appealed to him and perceiving the opportunities the future held in store, he purchased land in Orleans township, this county, and engaged in farming. Ill health, however, prevented a continuance of this occupation and he soon disposed of his property, engaging in the insurance business, with which line he was continuously engaged for forty-six years. He acted, as special agent for various companies until a few years ago when he gave up the work on the road to devote himself entirely to the local business, which he recently turned over to his son E. R. Abbey. The many years of connection with business in Decorah have proven his worth and the name of Mr. Abbey is highly respected in commercial circles of the city.

On November 28, 1865, Air. Abbey was united in marriage to Miss Sarah M. Randall, a daughter of Felix and Marie (Ingraham) Randall, natives of Ohio and the former a prominent farmer of Macomb county, Michigan, in his days. Mrs. Abbey was born in Richmond, that state, October 23, 1841, and died on February 28, 1891, at Decorah. In 1893 Air. Abbey married again, his second union being with Airs. Minnie B. Brock, a daughter of George C. and Charlotte (Bradley) Winship. The father was born in Hartford, Connecticut, and the mother in Summit county, Ohio. He removed to the Buckeye state when a young man and there married, coming in 1845 with his wife to Winneshiek county, Iowa, among the earliest pioneers and purchasing a large tract of land near Decorah. He was a tinner by trade and when he first located in Decorah worked in the tin shop of a Mr. Bradish. Later he established a wood yard in Decorah and then followed farming until fourteen years ago, when on account of failing health he sold out and started west. He died at Tekoa, Washington, April 14, 1898, and is buried there. The mother had preceded him in death, passing away in Decorah, November 29, 1891, finding her last resting place in this city. Mr. Winship was prominent in public life in Decorah, having served as mayor of West Decorah and as county supervisor for a number of years. He was chairman of the bridge committee in that connection and also a member of the school board. Airs. Abbey is a native of Decorah. Air. Abbey by his first wife became the father of the following children: William F., born in Decorah, October 15, 1866, who is a traveling insurance agent and still makes his home here; Arthur L. born October 31, 1868, who died August 26, 1869;