

barns and sheds. He engages in general farming and stock-raising and has made both branches of his activities important and profitable.

On the 3d of February, 1903, Mr. Gehling was united in marriage to Miss Emma Frerich, and to their union have been born four children: Catherine, who died September 22, 1908; Joseph Barney, who was born on the 6th of January, 1908; Marie, whose birth occurred January 26, 1910; and Luverne, born January 16, 1912. Mr. Gehling is a democrat in his political beliefs and his religious views are in accord with the doctrines of the Roman Catholic church. He is accounted one of the active workers and progressive farmers of Washington township and has the unqualified esteem and confidence of the people among whom his entire life has been passed.

GEORGE F. BAKER.

A son of a prominent business man, George F. Baker has carried worthily forward the traditions of the family, being connected with some of the most important commercial interests of Decorah and Winneshiek county. He is a business man of the modern type, shrewd, able, progressive and straightforward, careful of his own interests, considerate of those of others and influenced at all times by the thought of the broader effect which his actions have upon the growth of his community. An indication of his influential position in the business world is given by the fact that he at present serves as the president of the Decorah Commercial Club, the Winneshiek County Agricultural Society and the Building & Loan Association of Decorah, being also connected with a number of other important enterprises and private interests. He is the owner of one of the largest lumberyards of Decorah and in that connection has interests which connect him with the far west of the country. A self-made man, due credit must be given for what he has attained, and due credit is given him by his fellowmen, who defer to his judgment and concede him to be a man of superior ability.

Born in Conover, Winneshiek county on October 11, 1868, George F. Baker is a son of James H. and Elizabeth (Flanders) Baker, the father a native of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, where he was born in 1838. He was of Irish stock, his parents coming to the United States from the Emerald isle at an early date, locating in Wisconsin. Elizabeth (Flanders) Baker was born in New York state on October 31, 1845, and is of Yankee descent. James H. Baker was a grain dealer, and stock buyer and shipper and prior to coming to Winneshiek county was engaged as agriculturist. He came to Conover in 1864, operating a grain elevator there and buying and shipping stock. In 1867 he removed to Decorah and successfully conducted business until his death in 1882. His widow still makes her home in Decorah. James H. Baker was considered one of the leading men of his community not only in business but also along public lines, serving at the time of his death as city alderman, having held that position for a number of years. He also was extensively interested in the city waterworks.

George F. Baker was educated in the public and high schools of Decorah and when he was fifteen years of age discontinued his lessons and engaged