

and stock-raising, his business interests being well conducted and, therefore, important and profitable. He has made substantial improvements upon the farm, erecting the necessary farm buildings and installing modern and labor-saving machinery, and his property is today one of the finest and best equipped in this section of Winneshiek county.

On the 23d of October, 1906, Mr. Ehler was united in marriage to Miss Rosie Mienert, and to their union were born two children: Felix, whose birth occurred January 1, 1908; and Ida Annie, born January 14, 1913. Mr. Ehler gives his allegiance to the democratic party, having served as road supervisor for two years, and his religious views are in accord with the doctrines of the Roman Catholic church. Everything that pertains to the welfare and advancement of his native section receives his indorsement and hearty support and in the community where he was born and where his entire life has been spent he commands the confidence and regard of all who know him.

MICHAEL A. HARMON.

Michael A. Harmon, who has been continuously engaged in the practice of law at Decorah for the past twenty-three years, having a handsomely equipped office in the National Bank building, has also ably served as city solicitor for twelve years, from 1900 to 1912. His birth occurred in Canoe township, Winneshiek county, Iowa, on the 13th of January, 1856, his parents being Bernard and Elizabeth (Fox) Harmon, both of whom were natives of Ireland. The father emigrated to America in 1837, locating first in Quebec, Canada, and later crossing the border into the United States and settling in Louisiana, where he was engaged in the contracting business for several years. Removing to Kentucky, he purchased a farm which he operated for several years and then went to Chicago but did not believe that the place held out any prospects and refused an offer of one hundred and sixty acres of land on what is now West Madison street, one of the principal thoroughfares of the western metropolis. In 1850 he came to Winneshiek county, Iowa, and entered one hundred and sixty acres of land in Canoe township, which he improved and cultivated for ten years. On the expiration of that period he disposed of the property and took up his abode in Decorah, where he spent the remainder of his life, passing away in 1867. His wife was called to her final rest in the year 1896.

Michael A. Harmon was reared and educated in this county, attending the district schools and the Decorah public schools. After completing his education he taught in the town and country schools for a period of ten years, imparting clearly and readily to others the knowledge that he had acquired. Having determined to make the practice of law his life work, he began the study of that profession under the direction of Judge Cooley and in June, 1881, was admitted to the bar. In 1883 he was elected county recorder and served in that capacity for three terms or until 1889. The following year he began practice and has remained an able representative of the legal fraternity in Decorah to the present time, maintaining a handsomely equipped office in the National Bank building and owning a splendid law library. His success in a professional way affords