

leading part in our country's history and progress. Our subject's mother was born at Middletown, Conn., and was a daughter of a sea-captain, who was at one time captured with his whole crew, ship and cargo in a foreign city, but was fortunate in making friends with the ruler, who allowed him to depart in peace. When Henry Parsons was about twelve years of age he commenced working in a cotton factory, where he continued for about ten years, beginning at \$1.50 per week, from which amount he paid his board. He became an expert workman, and toward the end of his engagement earned good wages. About 1835 he commenced keeping a livery stable at Jenksville, Mass., which occupation he followed in the various points of Springfield, Belchertown, Palmer and Thorndyke until 1861, carrying on stables in several towns at once.

In 1861 Mr. Parsons sold out his interests in the East, and going to the vicinity of Princeton, Ill., engaged in farming for about twelve years, at the same time keeping a livery at Wyanet and Princeton. The year 1873 witnessed his arrival in Iowa, where he located in Marion County, and engaged in farming for a short time. The following year he purchased his present farm in Malcom Township, Poweshiek County, where he still resides. During his whole life he has been much interested in horses, and has in his possession a diploma which he received at the first national exhibition of thoroughbred American horses, which was held at Springfield, Mass., in 1853. He is said to have owned more fine horses at one time than any other man in America, and was engaged in shipping horses to all parts of the country. Among several noted horses belonging to him was "Buck," with a 2:30 record, at a time when there were less than half a dozen horses making that time, and "Cayuga Maid," also quite famous.

On April 29, 1833, Henry H. Parsons and Louisa Kingsbury, a native of Springfield, Mass., were united in marriage. Her paternal grandfather kept an hotel in Boston. They have had a family of five children: Jane C., now Mrs. Hills, of Malcom Township; Charles H.; Emma E., Mrs. Merrick, of Chicago; and Delphina, who became the wife of T. C. Carroll, and makes her home in Montezuma.



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**H**ENRY H. PARSONS. Among the honored pioneers of Poweshiek County none have taken a more prominent part than our subject in advancing her best interests. For nearly twenty years he has been a resident of Malcom Township, making his home on section 13, and though he has passed his eightieth year he is still active, his mind being as acute and clear as in former years. He was born at Ludlow, near Springfield, Mass., September 12, 1812, his parents being Benjamin and Betsey (Shepherd) Parsons, the former also a native of Massachusetts. He was a soldier in the War of 1812, and was killed while in the service of the United States. The family is doubtless of English descent, and has ever taken a