

FRED HOLTBY.

That the United States affords the possibilities which warrant the ambitious young man or woman in aspiring to almost any goal with full confidence of attaining it is universally conceded and to such men as Fred Holtby it has ever proven not only the land of promise but of fulfillment. Mr. Holtby was born in Yorkshire, England, on the 10th of March, 1865, a son of Stephen and Ana (Holtby) Holtby, also natives of Yorkshire, where they lived and died. The father was a farmer by occupation.

Our subject was reared on the home farm, acquiring his preliminary education in the village school and later being sent to a boarding school for a more advanced course, as is the custom in that country. On attaining his majority he decided that conditions in the United States offered better opportunities to ambitious young men than those of conservative England. He, therefore, set sail for America, landing in New York with twelve dollars in his pocket. Undaunted, however, he made his way west and located in Morgan county, Illinois, where he worked as a farm hand. He remained there for six years, carefully laying aside a portion of his meager wage each month in order that he, too, might become a landowner. In June, 1892, he again set his face toward the west, Iowa being his destination this time. He stopped in Story county for a short time and then rented a farm just over the line in Jasper county, about five miles south of Collins, where he began farming for himself. After six years of economy, good management and unremitting toil he had secured sufficient means to enable him to make a start for himself, so he purchased a small farm in Jasper county.

Three years more of thrift, hard work and good judgment in the management of his affairs enabled him to buy a farm of one hundred and fifty-three acres in Story county, three miles east of Collins; here he resided for nine years, and then, in the spring of 1909, he sold his place and bought his present home farm of one hundred and ten acres in Indian Creek township. For the past twelve years Mr. Holtby has made a specialty of breeding and raising registered Shire horses. He has been most successful in this, being known throughout this section of the state not only for the excellent breeds he carries but for his ability in judging the good points of a horse. He began exhibiting his stock at the local fairs in 1896 and since then has taken many first premiums.

On the 16th of February, 1892, Mr. Holtby was united in marriage to Miss Ada M. Thursby, a native of Morgan county, Illinois, and a daughter of Charles and Ann (Smith) Thursby, both natives of England. They came to the United States in 1855, first locating in Stark county, Illinois, but later removing to Morgan county. Three children have been born of this union: Orlando O., now attending the Capital City Commercial College in Des Moines; Hazel and Ana.

The family attend the Methodist Episcopal church, of which the parents are members. Mr. Holtby's fraternal relations are confined to membership in the Modern Woodmen of America. After he had become a naturalized citizen of the United States he decided that the policy of the republican party best conformed to his ideas and has therefore always cast his vote for the candidates of that party. That he has ever proved a capable and loyal citizen is confirmed by the fact that for several years he has been elected to various township offices. He is known throughout the community where he makes his home as one of the thoroughly reliable and capable men of the county and is highly regarded by all.

Allen's

History of
Story Co.

page 403-
404

On the 16th of February, 1892, he was united in marriage to Miss Ada M. Thursby, of Franklin, Ill.

They came to Iowa in March and located on a farm near Collins. They resided near here until 1909 when they moved to the present home farm, near Maxwell.

He is survived by his wife, three children, Orlando Otto, Hazel and Ana Pauline, and one granddaughter, Mary Helen Holtby. He is also survived by several half brothers and sisters, most of whom reside in England, and a host of other relatives and friends.

He was converted at the Durbin Methodist church of Illinois forty years ago, under the pastorate of H. M. Hammell and was a member of the Maxwell Methodist church at the time of his death. He was also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America at Collins.

Mr. Holtby was a kind and loving

husband and father, and was known throughout the community where he has made his home as one of the thoroughly reliable and capable men and was highly regarded by all.