

of the silver mines in Ontonagon county and after several years of prospecting and mining, in which he met with little profit, the mines were closed down. Mr. Hooper then took charge of the Nonesuch copper mine, but one year later, on account of the death of the president, R. P. Wade, of Cleveland, this mine was closed. Mr. Hooper afterward leased the mine for a period of seven years and completed the railroad track extending from the mine to Lake Superior. He also built a dock on the lake shore and put in a small stamp mill at the mine. After a very successful operation of this mining property for two or three years he located elsewhere, owing to the fact that the mine was sold to a Milwaukee-Chicago syndicate. It was then that Mr. Hooper removed to Baraga county, Michigan, where he took charge of a slate roofing quarry. After seven or eight years the quarry was finally closed owing to the scarcity of the product. During its operation that quarry furnished the best slate found anywhere in the country. It was about this time that the silver mines in Canada were receiving the attention of the public and some excellent mines were discovered. Accordingly Mr. Hooper left Michigan to take charge of the Beaver silver mine in the district of Algona, in the province of Ontario. He there remained for eight years and at about the end of that period silver mining slumped all over the country, so that Mr. Hooper left that district. He then removed to Howard county, Iowa, and purchased the farm that is at present being conducted by his son, Thomas J. Hooper, who is engaged in raising thoroughbred cattle and horses. In 1902 Mr. Hooper was asked to take charge of the Victoria mine in Ontonagon county, Michigan, but refused, stating that he was through with all mines and mining. However, after some persuasion an arrangement was entered into whereby he accepted charge of the mine. For two years he there continued and completed one of the most startling engineering feats ever accomplished in connection with mining history. Without the use of a pound of coal or the turning of a wheel he was able to supply all the power needed to operate the mine machinery and engines. By diverting the course of a river into one, two or three large cylinders built in the rock sufficient air pressure is formed to run all the necessary machinery by compressed air. In 1905 Mr. Hooper's son George took over the superintendency of the mine and Mr. Hooper went to Goldfield, Nevada, where he became superintendent and manager of a mine syndicate. He there did considerable prospecting for four or five years but failed to find any bonanza ground and shortly afterward suspended operations. Since leaving Goldfield he has not been actively engaged in business, living retired at Cresco in the enjoyment of a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves.

On the 4th of July, 1862, Mr. Hooper was married to Miss Henrietta Augusta Firman, at Rockland, Michigan, a daughter of William Firman. Mr. and Mrs. Hooper have become the parents of six sons and six daughters. The family attends the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics Mr. Hooper gives his support to the republican party. His has been a most active life, fraught with many interesting experiences and much hard labor. He has worked diligently and persistently, making the best possible use of his time and opportunities, and as the years passed he became a well known figure in mining circles by reason of his ability and the successful achievement of his purpose. He is now numbered among the highly esteemed residents of Cresco, having a circle of friends almost coextensive with the circle of his acquaintance.

ROBERT A. DUNCAN.

The home farm of Robert A. Duncan is pleasantly situated on section 8, Deerfield, township, Chickasaw county, and in its development and improvement Mr. Duncan has displayed a progressive and enterprising spirit. He was born in Blackhawk county, Iowa, August 27, 1857, and is a son of Robert and Margaret (Walker) Duncan, who were natives of Scotland, the former born June 1, 1821, and the latter on the 11th of May of the same year. They were reared in the land of hills and heather and were