

there married in 1846, after which they came immediately to the United States. They first settled near St. Charles, Illinois, where they resided for only a brief period and in the spring of 1850 came to Iowa, taking up their home in Blackhawk county. In 1864 they removed to Chickasaw county, settling on the farm where their son, Robert A., now resides, the father purchasing eighty acres of land on which he made his home until his death in April, 1870. His widow survived him for forty-five years and passed away July 25, 1915, at the notable old age of ninety-four years, two months and ten days. In early life both were devout members of the Presbyterian church but after coming to Chickasaw county joined the Methodist Episcopal church. They ever lived consistent Christian lives and their many sterling traits of character endeared them to all who knew them. They were the parents of eight children: Jennett P.; Alice J.; John R.; William W. and Robert A., twins; Mary A.; James E.; and Thomas A. Of this family only three are living—Robert A., William W. and James E.

Robert A. Duncan has always been a resident of Iowa and his educational opportunities were those afforded by the district schools of Chickasaw county, to which his parents removed from Blackhawk county during his early youth. He was but thirteen years of age at the time of his father's death and for some years thereafter the cultivation of the home farm devolved upon him and his brothers, John and William, the eldest of the three being then but fifteen years of age, while Robert A. and William W., twins, were thirteen. Robert A. Duncan remained upon the home farm until about 1882, when he began farming on his own account, purchasing eighty acres of his present holdings on section 8, Deerfield township. In subsequent years he has bought more land from time to time and has acquired the ownership of the old homestead. His present holdings aggregate two hundred and eighty acres, constituting one of the excellent farm properties of Deerfield township. He is also a stockholder in the Colwell Grain Exchange and in his business career has demonstrated what can be accomplished through individual effort and perseverance. Steadily he has worked his way upward and may well be classed with the self-made men of Chickasaw county.

On the 1st of January, 1895, Mr. Duncan was united in marriage to Miss Nellie Newbury, a daughter of George Newbury, who was one of the early settlers of Floyd county, Iowa, and is now living retired at Osage, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Duncan have become the parents of four children, namely: Gladys M., Margaret R., Ruth A. and Donald G.

In his political views Mr. Duncan is a republican, having supported the party since attaining adult age. While he has never been an aspirant for public office, he has always taken an active and helpful interest in public affairs and has been especially active in support of educational work, serving for a number of years as a member of the school board. He was active in the organization of the Colwell consolidated school district, which includes the district in which Mr. Duncan resides, and he took a helpful interest in building the schoolhouse. Fraternally he is connected with Charles City Lodge, No. 65, I. O. O. P., and he and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he is serving as steward and trustee. Deerfield township names him as one of her most prominent and influential citizens—a man whose life has been of worth to the community, while at the same time he has carefully directed his business affairs so that he has advanced from a humble position in financial circles to one of affluence.

THOMAS J. COROLAN.

Thomas J. Corolan is a successful agriculturist residing on section 5, Vernon Springs township, Howard county, where he has owned and operated a farm of one hundred and sixty acres for the past twenty-one years and also cultivates a rented tract of similar size adjoining. His birth occurred in Winneshiek county, Iowa, on the 26th of June, 1867, his parents being John and Johanna (Casey) Corolan, natives of Ireland, who emigrated to the United States in young manhood and young womanhood. Both were in straitened financial circumstances and after coming to America began working by the month, being employed in New York and Ohio and journeying westward until