

Liams) Williams, both of whom were natives of Wales. The father came to the United States when a youth of eighteen years and the mother was brought to the new world when but two years of age by her parents, who settled in Wisconsin. For a number of years William R. Williams remained a resident of the east, working in the slate quarries of Vermont, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Thinking, however, that he might have still better business opportunities in the Mississippi valley, he made his way westward to Wisconsin and it was in that state that he was married. About 1868 or 1870 he came to Howard county, Iowa, taking up his abode upon a farm in Forest City township, having in the previous year purchased the land. With characteristic energy he bent his efforts to the development and improvement of the place, which he successfully cultivated until July, 1903, when he met an accidental death, being killed by lightning while plowing corn. His widow survives and now makes her home in Lime Springs

L. R. Williams was educated in the common schools and in the Decorah Institute, in which he pursued a normal course during two winter seasons. He then returned home and became an active assistant in the work of the farm, upon which he remained until the time of his marriage. On the 20th of November, 1901, he wedded Miss Jennie Jones, a daughter of William O. Jones, one of the early settlers of Forest City township, who had come to Iowa from Wales.

Following his marriage Mr. Williams took up the occupation of farming independently, renting the Thomas Jones place in Forest City township for four years. He then removed to his present home farm, which he cultivated as a renter for five years, and in the fall of 1910 he purchased the place, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of rich and fertile land. He has put many improvements upon the farm and it is now splendidly equipped, while the highly cultivated fields yield to him golden harvests. An air of neatness and thrift pervades the place and indicates the careful supervision of a practical and progressive owner.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams have become parents of three children, Blodwen E., Harlan and Earl, all at home. The parents are members of the Calvinistic Methodist church, and in politics Mr. Williams is a republican. He stands loyally by any cause or principle which he espouses and his position on any vital question is never an equivocal one. He is indeed a self-made man—one who by earnest effort has worked his way upward, and each forward step has brought him a broader outlook and wider opportunities.

#### EDWARD T. SMITH.

Edward T. Smith, who follows farming on section 32, Utica township, Chickasaw county, was born June 1, 1858, a half mile west and a quarter of a mile south of his present home. His parents were. Thomas and Rose (Galligan) Smith, the former a native of Massachusetts, while the latter was born in Ireland. With their removal westward in 1858 they first settled on section 5, Utica township, Chickasaw county, where the father purchased forty acres of land, for which he paid two and a half dollars per acre. He at once began the development and improvement of the property and continued to reside upon that place until his death, which occurred in the spring of 1912. He had long survived his wife, who died on the old homestead farm in 1872. They were worthy citizens and highly respected people of their community, and in his business career Mr. Smith had demonstrated what may be accomplished through individual effort and ability. Coming to the west without capital, he worked his way steadily upward and was the owner of a valuable farm of two hundred and eighty acres.

The common schools of Utica township afforded Edward T. Smith his educational opportunities. Having arrived at adult age. he was married in 1891 to Miss Margaret Masterson, a daughter of Patrick and Margaret Masterson, who came from Ireland in 1870 and established their home in Jacksonville township, Chickasaw county. They afterward removed to Utica township and were numbered among its worthy farming people to the time of their demise. In this section of the state they reared their daughter, Mrs. Smith, who by her marriage has become the mother of five living children: Eva M., Joseph H., Lucile, Margaret and Charles.