

took up their abode in St. Lawrence county, New York, where Mr. Wilson at once purchased a farm of fifty acres. He then concentrated his efforts and attention upon general farming in St. Lawrence county until the fall of 1865, when he sold his property there and with his family removed to Dane county, Wisconsin. His purchase of land in that locality made him owner of a tract of one hundred acres, which he cultivated, continuing its operation until his death and during that period added many improvements to the property. He sold his farm in Wisconsin, however, just prior to his demise and had arranged to purchase a farm in Howard county, Iowa, but a few days before he was to start upon the trip he was taken ill and passed away. His wife had died upon the old home farm in Wisconsin in June, 1866, soon after their removal to that state, so that she was not long permitted to enjoy her new home there. They were people of sterling worth and of the highest respectability and had the goodwill and confidence of all who knew them. Mr. Wilson was a stalwart republican in politics, giving unfaltering support and loyalty to the party, for he believed most firmly in its principles as factors in good government. He was a Knight Templar Mason, having become a member of the order when in Ireland. He was then demitted from his home lodge and transferred his membership to a lodge in this country, and throughout his entire life he was a worthy exemplar of the teachings and purposes of the craft. His life was further actuated by his belief in the Presbyterian church, in which he long held membership. His was a well spent life. He never rented land but always lived upon his own property and his children have followed his example in this respect.

Stewart Wilson, whose name introduces this review, spent his boyhood days in the Empire state to the age of seventeen years, when he accompanied his parents on their removal westward. He was educated in the rural schools of St. Lawrence county, New York, and also attended a select school, which was the best institution of learning in that part of the state at the time. The schoolhouse in which he began his education was a little log building, but he thoroughly mastered the branches of learning therein taught and laid the foundation for later intellectual progress. Mr. Wilson was nineteen years of age when in 1865 he left home for the west, taking up his abode in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he purchased a farm of fifty acres which he tilled and improved until 1872. He then disposed of his property in that state and removed to Iowa, locating in Howard county. He took up his abode in New Oregon township, five miles south of the town of Cresco, purchasing one hundred and sixty acres of land. Later he added eighty acres more and continued the work of development with excellent results. He brought his fields under a high state of cultivation and annually gathered good crops, for he studied the condition of the soil and the requirement of the crops and was thus able to secure a maximum yield from his planting. His business interests were always wisely, carefully and systematically conducted and he continued the active work of the farm until 1902, when he went to Cresco, establishing his home there on the 3d of April, 1903. He now occupies a fine residence. It is very modern and complete in every particular, is supplied with the latest comforts and conveniences and is attractively furnished.

On the 25th of September, 1872, Mr. Wilson was united in marriage to Miss Mary Wilson, a daughter of John and Katharine (Kent) Wilson. She was born in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, upon the homestead farm of her father, who was a native of Ohio, while her mother was a native of the state of New York. They were married in the Empire state and later removed to the west, settling in Jefferson county, Wisconsin, where Mr. Wilson purchased a tract of land which he continued to develop and improve until the outbreak of the Civil war. His patriotic purpose was then dominant to every other force of his character and he enlisted for active service with the Union army, with which he remained for three years. He served throughout the duration of the war and in July, 1865, he was honorably discharged. He participated in many hotly contested engagements. Mr. Wilson never faltered in the performance of his duty but met each task assigned him bravely, whether called to the firing line or stationed on the lonely picket line. After the war he was somewhat broken in health but continued to follow farming in Wisconsin to the