

newspapers both in the east and the west. In 1884 he purchased the New Hampton Courier, which he has owned and published for almost a third of a century. He has made of the Courier a clean paper and has been quite influential in promoting various reforms. Along this line he has done notable work in securing school books at a lower price, and, moreover, Mr. Fairbairn was the first to openly advocate through the columns of his paper the consolidation of rural schools in order to give the boys and girls of the rural districts just as good opportunities as those of the villages, towns and cities.

As a public speaker he is quite well known, having been employed by the state central committee to canvass Iowa in the interests of the republican party. He has an extensive acquaintance with the public men in the state, particularly men of ripe years who do not feature as prominently in politics as at a former period, but who have left the mark of their impress for good upon the public history of the state.

While never accumulating wealth, for he has never made that the end and aim of his existence, he has been generous in extending a helping hand to others and has been instrumental in sending more young men and women to college or to commercial schools perhaps than any man in the county where he resides. Not a college man himself, he has felt the handicap of a limited education all his life and has eked out with hard work that which would have been comparatively easy had he been more thoroughly equipped for the activities in which he has engaged.

Such is the man and such has been his work. Notwithstanding the handicap mentioned, he is yet found a virile writer, with a clear mind and good memory, his statements noted for their accuracy and for the broad charity that silences captious criticism. Perhaps the best criterion of his life is found in the fact that the friends of his youth are still his friends. To any work that he undertakes he gives most careful attention, and his knowledge of men, his memory of events, his industry and his desire to procure results constitute a desirable equipment for such a work as he has undertaken in the preparation of his history of Chickasaw and Howard counties.

TIMOTHY DONOVAN, SR.

Timothy Donovan, Sr., deceased, was born in Ross, Carberry, County Cork, Ireland, April 20, 1822, and died upon the old Donovan homestead in Jacksonville township, Chickasaw county, on the 17th of March, 1890. He came to the United States in 1837, when a youth of fifteen years, and first made his way to Boston, Massachusetts, where he became identified with railroad work, in which connection he rose to the position of roadmaster.

On the 1st of July, 1854, he was united in marriage in the Immaculate Conception church at Lawrence, Massachusetts, to Miss Abbie Harrington, who was born at Castletown, County Cork, Ireland, on the 20th of April, 1835. While she was still a small girl her parents died and at the age of fourteen years she came to the United States to make her home with a sister, who resided at New Market, New Hampshire. For a time after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Donovan lived in New Hampshire but on account of failing health he brought his family to Iowa, where he arrived in 1858, settling first on Crane creek, in Chickasaw county. Two years later he removed to what became the old family homestead in Jacksonville township and there he resided until his death.

Mr. Donovan was born to poverty in a land where, while men are not exiled to Siberia, many of them are at least deprived of the opportunity for education and culture and left to do as best they can the tasks incident to drawing their support from the earth. While Mr. Donovan had little chance of educational advancement, he seems to have overcome his lack of this advantage to a large degree. Nature endowed him with keen and quick perceptions and he was a close observer and a student of all that came within his grasp. He realized, however, the value of educational training and gave to each of his children the opportunity to obtain a good knowledge of the branches of learning necessary as a basis for business advancement. He qualified them for the duties of citizenship and instructed them concerning their obligations and responsibilities. He taught them to fear debt and despise shiftlessness, and he ever looked upon dishonesty with abhor