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320 N. Elm
Cresco, Iowa 52136

BIOGRAPHICAL

WILLIAM C. BROWN

Not by leaps and bounds but by orderly progression did William C. Brown advance from a humble position on a western railroad to the presidency of one of the greatest railroad systems of the country. Today he is practically living retired personally overseeing the operation of one of the finest farms of Iowa, situated near Lime Springs, in a district in which his boyhood days were passed. He has thus come to a fulfillment of one of the dreams of his life, his attention being now given to improved and scientific agriculture. Mr. Brown was born in Norway, Herkimer County, New York, July 29, 1853, his parents being the Rev. Charles E. and Frances (Lyon) Brown. He comes of Scotch Irish ancestry, the line being traced back to William Brown, who came from England in 1686 and established his home in Massachusetts, where he became a leader in civic affairs of the colony. He served as judge of the colonial court and was also a military officer. His son, Captain John Brown, was born near Concord in 1703 and served as a soldier in the French and Indian war, commanding a company in the Louisburg expedition of 1745. He became one of the prominent and influential citizens of his district and was a member of the general court of the colony for twenty years. His son, Parley Brown, born May 27, 1737, was one of the farmers who responded to the call of Paul Revere on his famous night ride on the 18th of April, 1775. He was in the fight at Lexington and was a member of the company commanded by Captain Seth Washburn at the battle of Bunker Hill, in which engagement his brother, John Brown, was badly wounded. Parley Brown carried his brother from the battlefield and afterward went west with the American army under command of General George Washington and was killed in the battle of White Plains, New York, on the 28th of October, 1776.

Nathaniel Brown, son of Parley Brown, was born in Leicester, Massachusetts, November 5, 1767, and afterward became a resident of Vermont, from which state he removed to New York, then a western wilderness. He died in Hamburg, New York, in 1854. His son, the Rev. Philip Perry Brown, was born in Bennington, Vermont, September 17, 1790 and was a Baptist missionary and preacher of central New York to the time of his death, which occurred in Madison, that state, on the 23d of September, 1876.

Charles Edwin Brown, father of William C. Brown of this review, was born February 23, 1813, in Augusta, New York, which at that time was situated on the frontier. In a volume of personal recollections written in his eightieth year, Elder Brown says "it was a new and heavily timbered country, and here, amid the privations and hardships of pioneer life with very limited means, we lived until my eighteenth year." He was converted at a revival meeting in September, 1832 was baptized by his father and joined the Baptist church. He became very strongly impressed with the conviction that it was his duty to preach the gospel and, giving up his employment, he entered upon a course of study preparatory for the ministry at the Hamilton Literary and Theological Seminary. By working after study hours and during vacation periods, in cutting timber in the woods and doing other jobs of manual labor that he could get, he met the expenses of his college course and was able to complete his studies in 1838. On the 20th of September of that year he was regularly ordained to the ministry and on the 26th of September he was married to Frances Lyon at Little Falls, New York. His bride was a school teacher, a woman of marked refinement and liberal education, a devoted Christian, and at