

of life. It was in 1893 that he became a resident of Afton township and took up his abode upon the farm which is now the home of his son William.

After acquiring a public school education William Ball concentrated his efforts and attention upon farm work and at his father's retirement took over the management and operation of the old homestead and has since successfully cultivated the fields. He has closely studied modern progressive methods of farming, keeps his land in good condition through the rotation of crops and the judicious use of fertilizer and has by reason of his success demonstrated that his methods are thoroughly practical and progressive. Aside from carrying on his home place he is a stockholder in the Maple Leaf Farmers Creamery.

Mr. Ball was united in marriage on the 15th of February, 1911, to Miss Clara Baethke, a daughter of Carl and Marie (Schall) Baethke, who are now residents of Saratoga, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Ball have three children: Hilda, Esther and Mabel, aged respectively six, five and three years. The parents are members of the German Lutheran church of Maple Leaf and in his political views Mr. Ball is a republican, having continuously supported the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise. He is always loyal to any cause in which he has faith and his position upon any vital question is never an equivocal one. It is a recognized fact that his aid and cooperation can be gained for any practical plan for the public good and he does everything in his power to promote the welfare and advance the upbuilding of his section of the state.

D. J. O'DONNELL.

D. J. O'Donnell was born in Riverton township, Floyd county, Iowa, September 29, 1867, a son of Peter and Mary (O'Donnell) O'Donnell, both of whom were natives of Emerald isle. The father came to the United States in young manhood and the mother crossed the Atlantic as a girl with her parents. They were married in Aurora, Kane county, Illinois, and soon afterward removed to Chickasaw county, Iowa, settling in Nashua, but after a short time removing to a farm three miles southwest of the town, the father there purchasing forty acres of government land upon which not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement made. He at once began the development of the farm, upon which he lived until 1874. The previous year he had purchased a farm of one hundred and forty-seven acres adjoining the city of Nashua and he removed to that place, upon which he remained to the time of his death, in 1881. His widow survived for a number of years, passing away in 1894.

Their son, D. J. O'Donnell, was educated in the schools of Nashua, passing through consecutive grades to the high school. He was but fourteen years of age when his father died and for some years thereafter he and his brother operated the home farm, after which the brother left the farm and D. J. O'Donnell continued its cultivation alone. He was thus engaged for several years, after which he and his mother in 1891 removed to Elma, where D. J. O'Donnell has since made his home. In the spring of 1892 he engaged in the fire insurance and real estate business and after about fifteen years he formed a partnership with the Hon. H. L. Spaulding, organizing the firm of Spaulding & O'Donnell to engage in the buying and selling of farm lands. Since then they have conducted an extensive business and they are heavy landholders in Howard county at the present time. Mr. O'Donnell conducts his insurance business independently. He is a member of the National Farm Loan Association and is the vice president of the First State Bank of Elma, of which he was one of the incorporators.

On the 15th of October, 1895, Mr. O'Donnell was married to Miss Agnes Roach, of Afton township, Howard county, and to them have been born eight children, of whom seven are living: Joseph E., who is associated with his father in the insurance business; Mary A., who is attending the Mount St. Joseph College at Dubuque,