

Alonzo W. Oxley was reared at home and became familiar in his childhood with the details of farm operation. Upon reaching manhood he assumed charge of the homestead and afterward purchased eighty acres of it. Later he bought the remainder and his holdings now comprise one hundred and sixty acres, lying on sections 4 and 5, Bloomfield township. This is known as the Wood-side Farm and is one of the finest agricultural properties in the neighborhood, reflecting everywhere in its neat and attractive appearance the owner's careful supervision and practical labors. For the past five years Mr. Oxley has devoted a large portion of his farm to the raising of alfalfa and now has the largest field in Iowa, cutting from it five tons to the acre. He has been very successful in this venture and has besides demonstrated the facility with which alfalfa may be raised in this state and the profits which may be gained from its production.

On the 27th of September, 1882, Mr. Oxley was united in marriage to Miss Libby Rathburn and they have become the parents of two children: Myrtle, who is employed in a bank at Selby, North Dakota; and Walter, who resides in Seattle, Washington.

Mr. Oxley is known in business circles of this city as the founder of the Pleasant Ridge Telephone Company and as the builder of those lines running between Ossian, Postville, Castalia, Clermont and West Union. He was for ten years president of the concern and in that position demonstrated his administrative and organizing ability and his power of control, much of the success of the institution being due to his well directed efforts. Fraternally he is connected with the Masonic lodge and the Modern Woodmen of America and he is a progressive in his political views, taking an intelligent interest in everything pertaining to the growth and development of the community. He merits the confidence and respect of all who know him and is numbered among the substantial citizens of the county.

WILLIAM MAILEY.

William Mailey, a prosperous and progressive farmer of Bluffton township, owning and operating three hundred and ninety-five acres of valuable land on sections 34 and 35, is a native of County Clare, Ireland, born in November, 1839. His parents, Martin and Mary (Twohey) Mailey, were also born in that county and the father came to the United States some time previous to the emigration of his family, settling in Winneshiek county, where he purchased a tract of wood and brush land. He was afterward joined by his wife and children. The family continued to reside upon this property for many years, it being still in possession of the subject of this review and his brother. The parents died upon the homestead in the same week, the father on the 15th of April and the mother on the 12th of that month, the former being seventy-five years of age and the latter sixty-eight. The estate consisted at that time of seven hundred acres of valuable land and this was divided between Mr. and Mrs. Martin Mailey's two sons, William and Michael, the latter of whom has passed away, leaving a widow and one daughter.