

WILLIAM W. CUMMINGS. *pp 223*

Among the citizens of Union township who have contributed toward the development of the agricultural interests of Poweshiek county is William W. Cummings, who was born in the township where he now resides on the 17th of February, 1858. His parents were Alexander and Jane (Duffus) Cummings, natives of Scotland, from which country they emigrated to the United States, locating in Ohio. Later they removed to Iowa, settling upon a farm in the vicinity of Ewart, in Pleasant township. The father, who was a stone-mason by trade, engaged in the cultivation of his homestead until he passed away. Both parents were members of the Presbyterian church, and his political support was accorded the republican party. They were the parents of six children, the order of their birth being as follows: Margaret, the widow of Moses Jacob, of Ewart; James A., who is a resident of Malcom; Ellen D., the wife of James Donnan, of Ewart; William W., our subject; George W., also a resident of Ewart; and John L., deceased.

After the completion of his education which was acquired in the common schools of Poweshiek county, William W. Cummings laid aside his text-books and gave his undivided attention to agricultural pursuits, assisting his father in the cultivation of the homestead. He remained a member of the parental household until he was twenty-two years of age, following which he rented some land, which he operated for three years. Subsequently he went to Ewart, where he engaged in the mercantile and stock business for several years. In 1898 he purchased his present homestead, containing four hundred and fifty-two acres within the corporate limits of Montezuma. Here he is engaging in the breeding and raising of stock in addition to the cultivation of his fields.

Mr. Cummings was married on the 17th of February, 1881, to Miss Ella J. Donnan, a daughter of James and Nancy (Hamilton) Donnan, of Ewart. Her parents were natives of Belfast, Ireland, coming from there to the United States and locating in Rock Island, Illinois, where the father engaged in agricultural

pursuits. Subsequently they came to Ewart, Iowa, again settling on a farm, and here the father passed away on the 31st of August, 1871, but the mother survived until the 20th of October, 1891. Six children were born to them as follows: Susanna, the wife of W. A. McGonigan, of Chicago; James, who is a resident of Ewart, Iowa; Ella J., now Mrs. Cummings, who was born in Rock Island on the 10th of March, 1857; Mary A., the wife of William McCormick, of Ewart; Elizabeth N., who is at home; and Sarah, the wife of Andrew McCormick, also of Ewart. The family affiliated with the Presbyterian church, of which the parents were active and earnest members, Mr. Donnan having been both an elder and trustee. His political support he always gave to the democratic party and he served his district in the capacity of school director.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Cummings were born five daughters and three sons in the following order: Charles G., who is a resident of Montezuma; James A.; Mae Agnes; Pearl Elizabeth; Sarah Jane; William J.; Florence S.; and Margaret, all of whom are at home. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cummings hold membership in the Presbyterian church, and fraternally he is identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. His political support he gives to the men and measures of the republican party. He is one of the representative citizens of Union township, where he and his family are held in high regard.

CUMMINGS, Wm. W., b. 1858,
s. of Alex. and Jane (Duffus)
Cummings, m. 1881 Ella J. Donnan
dau. of James and Mary (Hamil-
ton) Donnan of Ewart. 5 daus. and
3 sons. POP 2 p 223