

CHARLES A. DRAKE.

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The ranks of the Civil war veterans are fast becoming decimated, but there still survive, here and there, those who loyally went to the front in defense of the Union in the darkest hour of her history. This number includes Charles A. Drake. A native of Ohio, Mr. Drake was born in Wood county on the 3d of April, 1842, a son of Isaac and Nancy (Swaney) Drake. His parents were also born in Ohio, the father in Fairfield county on the 12th of January, 1816, and the mother in Richland county, April 28, 1818. They were married, however, in Hancock county and came to Iowa in 1854, driving the entire distance. They located first in Warren township, Poweshiek county, the father entering one hundred and sixty acres of land on sections 30 and 31. Only a very few families were living in this district at the time of the arrival of Isaac Drake, and these for the most part built their homes in the midst of heavy timber as a protection against the red men. Mr. Drake, however, braving the dangers of Indian interference, sought a location in the open and established his home farther out upon the prairie than any other family had thus far dared to venture. He became a prominent factor in community life and in 1855 was appointed one of the judges of election at the time of the organization of Warren township. A staunch champion of the cause of education, he filled the office of school trustee for many years and was trustee of the second school built in Warren township. This he helped to erect out of logs obtained



MR. AND MRS. C. A. DRAKE

from his farm. Both he and his wife were faithful members of the Methodist Protestant church and in their home many meetings of that denomination were held. He was closely identified with the interests of Warren township until 1864, when he left the farm and moved to Brooklyn. He passed away in Oskaloosa, April 9, 1888, but his wife survived until the 27th of March, 1894, her death occurring in that city.

They were the parents of five children. John T., the eldest, enlisted on the 11th of August, 1862, as a member of Company H, Twenty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and on the 24th of August, that year, was united in marriage to Miss A. M. Cuning. He then accompanied his regiment to Helena, Arkansas, where he passed away January 14, 1863. Prior to the Civil war he had been a student at Iowa College and would have graduated with the first class had he not entered the army. John T. Drake Post, No. 321, G. A. R., of Brooklyn, was named in his honor. Sarah Jane Drake became the wife of John P. Plummer, who also became a member of Company H, Twenty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and died at Champions Hill, Mississippi, June 6, 1863. Mrs. Plummer's death occurred in Brooklyn in May, 1869. Charles A. Drake, of this review, is the third in order of birth. Isaac N., the fourth, was married in March, 1871, to Miss S. A. Thomas, and resided at Long Beach, California, but died April 1, 1911. Cyrus C. Drake, the youngest, who also made his home in Long Beach, California, died February 26, 1911. He was married in 1872, to Miss C. Myers.

Charles A. Drake spent the first twelve years of his life in the state of his nativity and in 1854 accompanied his parents on their removal to Poweshiek county, Iowa. He continued to make his home with them until the period of the Civil war, when, with his elder brother, John T., he became a member of Company H, Twenty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, enlisting on the 11th of August, 1862. For three years, or throughout the remainder of the war, he served with that regiment and took part in every engagement in which it participated with the exception of Sabine Crossroads, the battle of Champions Hill and the siege of Vicksburg, his absence therefrom being caused by a severe wound received in the head by a minie-ball, the injury causing his detention in the hospital for two months. He was present at the engagement of Port Gibson and took part in three important battles of the Shenandoah valley campaign, and only when victory at last crowned the Union arms was he mustered out with his regiment, returning home with a most creditable military record.

In the fall following the close of the war Mr. Drake was married and at once began the occupation of farming on his own account, operating his father's farm in Warren township for one year. He then purchased a farm in Bear Creek township, north of Brooklyn, which remained his home for seven years, after which he sold out and invested in property in Madison township, five miles north of Brooklyn. This farm, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres of good land, is still in his possession, under the management of his son. To its cultivation and improvement he devoted his undivided time and attention for a number of years and by careful supervision developed it into a valuable property. Industry, energy, perseverance, close application and wise management figured as potent forces in the conduct of his affairs and in 1900, as a

result of his well directed efforts, he was able to withdraw from active business and removed to Brooklyn, where he is now living retired.

It was on the 23d of November, 1865, that Mr. Drake was united in marriage to Miss Eliza H. Cuning, who was born near New Philadelphia, Ohio, March 21, 1846, and in 1862 came to Iowa with her parents, Richard and Nancy (Swagler) Cuning. The father of Mrs. Drake was born in Delaware on the 7th of October, 1801, and the mother in Maryland, February 19, 1802. Both passed away in Poweshiek county, the former departing this life December 13, 1868, and the later December 9, 1881. Their daughter Eliza H. was the youngest of ten children and by her marriage with Mr. Drake became the mother of six children who are still living. Nettie, the eldest, is now the wife of Wesley Crawford, of Madison township. Arthur Drake is mentioned at length below. Florence I. is a graduate of Highland Park College and is now engaged in teaching school at Charter Oak. Katharine, who also graduated from Highland Park College, is a teacher at Scranton, Iowa. Lili E. is the wife of Homer Hall and they make their home at Huron, South Dakota. Fred C. Drake, who completes the family, is a railroad conductor in the employ of the Rock Island system at Brooklyn. He married Bessie Bailey. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Drake were born four children who are now deceased: Eugene passing away at the age of four and a half years; Ernest, at the age of two and a half years; Guy, when two-years of age; and Elbert, who died in infancy. Mrs. Charles A. Drake attended the first normal institute ever held in Brooklyn and for two years, 1864 and 1865, taught school in Jefferson township, a daughter and son having also taught in the same school.

Politically Mr. Drake gives his support to the principles of the republican party and has filled several township offices, including that of school director, in which he served for many years. Since their marriage he and his wife have been devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which they are deeply and helpfully interested, and Mr. Drake maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades through his membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. Fraternally he affiliates with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, which body he joined in 1865, being now the oldest member of Brooklyn Lodge, No. 114. His has ever been a well spent life, governed by honorable dealings in every relation, whether private or public, and his upright manhood and sterling qualities have gained for him the unqualified respect, confidence and good-will of all with whom he has come in contact.

DRAKE, Charles A., native of Ohio; b. Wood Co. 1842, son of Isaac and Nancy (Swaney) Drake. His parents were b. in Ohio, the father in Fairfield Co. 1816, and the mother in Richland Co. 1818, and m. in Hancock Co., Ia., 1854. Chas. Drake m. Eliza H. Cuning, who was b. in O. 1846, and came with her parents, Richard and Nancy (Swagler) Cuning, to Iowa. POP 2 p 464