

WILLIAM JAMES McLAIN.

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William James McLain has followed farming on his present property of three hundred and sixty-seven acres, located on section 5, Lincoln township, since 1897. He was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, January 21, 1866, a son of John and Sarah (Middleham) McLain, the former a native of Ireland and the latter of England. In 1848 the father emigrated to the United States and followed farming in Pennsylvania until about 1850, when he continued his journey westward, locating on a farm in Rock Island county, Illinois. About 1867 or 1868, he removed to Poweshiek county, Iowa, purchasing land in Scott township, which he cultivated until the time of his death in 1896 at the age of seventy years. He was a republican in his political faith and was a mem-

ber of the United Presbyterian church, in which he filled various offices, and he also assisted in building several churches. The mother of our subject still survives and makes her home on the farm in Scott township.

William James McLain was but an infant when brought to Poweshiek county by his parents, and in the schools of his home district he acquired his early education but later attended Grinnell Academy. During the periods of vacation he was trained in the work of the home farm and after completing his education he returned to the farm and there remained for some time. Eventually, however, he went to Colorado, where he remained for six months, but in 1897 returned once more to Poweshiek county and since that time has lived on his present place, consisting of three hundred and sixty-seven acres on section 5, Lincoln township. He has here a valuable property, his fields having been placed under a high state of cultivation, and in addition to general farming he raises Chester White hogs and shorthorn cattle on quite an extensive scale, making his shipments to the Chicago market. In addition to this property he is also interested in farm lands in Dakota and Montana. He has made wise use of his capital, investing it where it has brought substantial returns, and today he is classed with the well-to-do citizens of his section of the county.

Mr. McLain was married on the 24th of December, 1896, in Fort Collins, Colorado, to Miss Minnie L. Breniman, a daughter of Reuben and Minnie (Pierce) Breniman. The former, of Swiss descent, is a farmer by occupation, while the mother is of English descent. The father formerly owned the farm on which our subject now resides. Unto Mr. and Mrs. McLain have been born three daughters and two sons, Mildred, Margery, Miriam, Marvin and Maynard.

In politics Mr. McLain is a republican and for two terms served as township trustee. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in Harmony Methodist Episcopal church. His genial, cordial nature has endeared him to all with whom he comes in contact, and no man in the community has a wider circle of warm friends.