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DANIEL D. PROSSER has the honor of being the oldest settler now living in Washington Township, Poweshiek County, having here made his home since 1849. He has been a witness of the development of this locality, and was one of the jurymen in the first court ever held in the county, which convened in a log house. Starting with a team, wagon and \$50 in cash when he came here for his sole resources, he has been very successful and is numbered among the leading farmers and stock-raisers of the township.

Our subject was born in Pennsylvania, August 30, 1813. His grandfather, who bore the same Christian name, was a native of New England and of German descent. He was a valiant soldier during the struggles of the Colonists for Independence, and in later years drew a pension for his services during that stormy period in the history of our country. He was a farmer, a staunch Democrat, and a member of the Presbyterian Church, in the faith of which he died at the extreme old age of ninety-six. Our subject's father, whose given name was William, was a native of Virginia, and was also an agriculturist. Removing from his native State to Pennsylvania about the year 1810, he there remained a few years, thence going to Richland County, Ohio, where he purchased Government land and cleared and developed a farm in the wilderness. Some years later he removed to Brown County, Ind., where he operated a farm for about five years, after which he

settled in Morgan County, Ill. In 1849 he came to this county, where he resided for a quarter of a century. His death occurred July 27, 1874, at which time he was ninety-eight years of age. In this connection it is worthy of note that our subject comes from an extremely long-lived family, on both the paternal and maternal sides. The father was in active service during the War of 1812, was politically a Democrat, and a member of the Christian Church. His wife was before her marriage Catherine Dempsey, a native of Virginia, who was left an orphan at a tender age. Her ancestors were natives of the Emerald Isle. She reared seven children, of whom our subject was the third in order of birth, and at the time of her death, in 1861, she had reached the age of eighty-eight years.

Daniel D. Prosser was reared on his father's farm and attended the pioneer log schoolhouses of Richland County, Ohio, which were constructed with an open fireplace, slab benches, greased-paper windows and other furnishings of pioneer days. He began for himself upon reaching his majority, removed with the family to Indiana, and was there married on the 18th of June, 1840, to Miss Matilda Jenkins, who was born in Morgan Township, Monongahela County, Va., June 8, 1821, and removed with her parents when sixteen years of age to Ripley County, Ind., and several years later to Brown County, in the same State. She became the mother of ten children, seven of whom are living, namely: Thomas J., Catherine, Nancy, George, William, Daniel and Matilda. Margaret and two infants unnamed are deceased.

For several years after his marriage, Mr. Prosser remained in Brown County, Ind., and then made a settlement in Morgan County, Ill., where he resided for seven years. In April, 1848, with his family, he went to Jasper County, Iowa, making the journey in a wagon. After residing there for one season he came to this county, where he entered Government land. A few Indians were still in this locality, deer and wolves were plentiful, and a few elks were sometimes seen. Our subject built a log cabin, and with zeal and undaunted energy began the work of improving and developing a farm from the wilderness. The nearest mill

was eighteen miles distant, on the North and South Skunk Rivers. All of the trading had to be done at Pella, twenty-two miles southwest of his farm.

The farm belonging to Mr. Prosser now comprises two hundred and twenty acres of land, which he has improved himself. He is engaged in general farming, turning his special attention to raising stock and grain. He has a neat frame residence and good barns and keeps his place in a thrifty and careful manner. Though formerly a Democrat, he is now a member of the People's party. For many years he has served as Trustee of his township, and has always been prominently identified with everything pertaining to the good and development of this county and to the betterment of his neighbors.