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OBITUARY

William Prosser, Jr.

Wm. Prosser was a native of Richland county, Ohio, and was born November 25, 1821. He died Sept. 4, 1912, aged 90 years, 9 months and 9 days. He was a son of William and Catherine Prosser, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania. The father removed with the family to Brown county, Indiana and engaged in farming, and later continued in the same occupation in Morgan county, Illinois. In the spring of 1848 he arrived with his family in Poweshiek county where he and his wife spent the remaining years of their lives. They were both members of the Presbyterian church.

The father served as a private in the War of 1812, enlisting from Pennsylvania. Of the seven children reared at the fireside of Mr. and Mrs. Prosser, William of this review was the last to pass away.

William Prosser, Jr., received his preliminary education in the district schools of Ohio and Indiana. At the age of 21 he began working for wages in Indiana and continued as a wage earner in Illinois.

In 1848, being then 27 years of age, he came to Poweshiek county and took up government land which he later sold. In 1851 he yielded to the gold fever excitement, and crossed the plains to California where he spent four years in quest of the yellow metal. He met with many adventures, and with many strange characters who were attracted there from all parts of the world, by the love of wealth. The dreams of the great majority of the vast throng never became realized, and thousands of the weary wanderers were buried in unknown graves on the mountains and in the plains. Mr. Prosser met with a measure of success, and in 1855 he returned to Poweshiek county and purchased a farm upon which he established his homestead. As the years advanced he bought more land, until he became the owner of 312 acres, all of which is well improved. He has followed general farming; also raising and feeding stock; upon an extensive scale.

On the 16th of April, 1858, Mr. Prosser was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Jenkins who was born June 3, 1832, in West Virginia and is a daughter of Thomas and Nancy Stefford Jenkins. The parents were both born in West Virginia, and the family removed to Madison, Ind., where the father died April 30, 1857. Later the mother took up her residence in Poweshiek county, Iowa, where she died December 16, 1875. Both she and her husband were members of the Methodist church.

Mr. Prosser was one of the honored survivors of the white race that opened the way for the millions that now occupy the fertile lands of the West and have made them blossom as a garden.

The work of a pioneer is now completed and he has passed to rest in peace.