

ELLSWORTH DOWNING.

Ellsworth Downing, who is the owner of a well conducted farm of two hundred acres in Collins township and is recognized as one of the substantial citizens of Story county, was born in Hancock county, Ohio, October 8, 1864. He is a son of George and Lavina (Van Buskirk) Downing, the former of whom was born in Pike county, Ohio, February 11, 1819. Mrs. Downing was also a native of the Buckeye state and was born January 1, 1831. The father successfully engaged in farming in Ohio, but believing that more favorable opportunities were to be found in the west, he made a trip of inspection to Story county, Iowa, and traded his Ohio farm for a place of two hundred acres in Collins township. Returning to Ohio, he came west with his family in 1872, driving across the country with two covered wagons. He resided on a farm in Collins township until his children were all grown and married, subsequently taking up his home with the subject of this review, with whom he continued to live for ten years. He passed away September 6, 1904, in the eighty-sixth year of his age. His wife died in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1870. Mr. Downing was a stanch advocate of the republican party and was quite prominent as a political speaker in Story county, also filling various public offices in his township. He served as justice of the peace in Ohio and also in Iowa and was a man of considerable influence wherever he was known. He was not identified with any religious body but was a valued member of the Masonic order.

At eight years of age Ellsworth Downing came to Story county with his father, growing up under the influences of the home that prepared him well for the struggle of life. He was educated in the district schools and at the age of eighteen years, while assisting his father upon the home farm, also engaged modestly, as opportunity permitted, in farming on his own

account. At twenty-six years of age he was married and located upon the farm where he now lives. This place comprises forty acres but he also owns one hundred and sixty acres of the old homestead, thus being the possessor of some of the most desirable properties in the township. He makes a specialty of cattle feeding, in which he has been very successful.

On the 25th of March, 1890, Mr. Downing was united in marriage to Miss Laura Brown, a daughter of Levi Brown, who came to Story county from Fulton county, Illinois, about 1864 and settled in Collins township. He passed away in 1903 after a long and honorable career. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Downing: Crescy E., a graduate of the Collins high school and now a popular district school teacher; Ethel G., who is attending high school; Ica G., also a student in the high school; George L., who is attending the district school; and Esther B., at home.

Mr. Downing is a strong friend of education and as an active, progressive member of the community is always ready to assist in any worthy movement aiming to promote the general welfare. He has from his boyhood been industrious and enterprising and now enjoys the results of his self-denial in earlier years. He gives his allegiance to the republican party and the confidence of his neighbors in his judgment is indicated by the fact that for ten years past he has served as township assessor. Fraternally he is identified with Crescent Camp No. 2358, M. W. A. Mrs. Downing and her daughters are valued members of the United Brethren church. They are well known socially and have the warm regard of a large circle of friends.