

would undoubtedly have been defeated by their opponents. Local issues of vital concern to the citizens of the state motivated the voters more effectively and decisively than did the Nebraska agitation. What the Nebraska law did do was to provide the adhesive element which enabled the Whigs to fuse the various special interest groups into a solid unit of opposition to the Iowa Democracy. This was the essential significance of the Kansas-Nebraska issue in Iowa.

Hill's Mill

In 1868 William L. Hill and his brother Thomas moved to Linn County and purchased a mill known then as McQueen's Mill. This mill was built in 1853-4 by Mr. John McQueen and passed through several hands before Mr. Hill purchased the mill and 25 acres of surrounding property. The business prospered and the Hill's Mill on Buffalo Creek became known as the "best mill in this part of the state." In addition to the mill, William owned and operated a farm of 120 acres in Boulder Township.

William was born in Bradford, Yorkshire England, the son of one of the first photographers in England, in April, 1836. He received most of his formal education in Bradford, attending high school and several colleges there. At 15 years of age he was commissioned to learn the milling trade at Skipton, England, and worked and studied there for five years. In 1857 he crossed the Atlantic and settled for a time in York, Canada, then to Embra, Canada, finally traveling to Buffalo, N.Y. to further his education at Bryant and Stratton College.

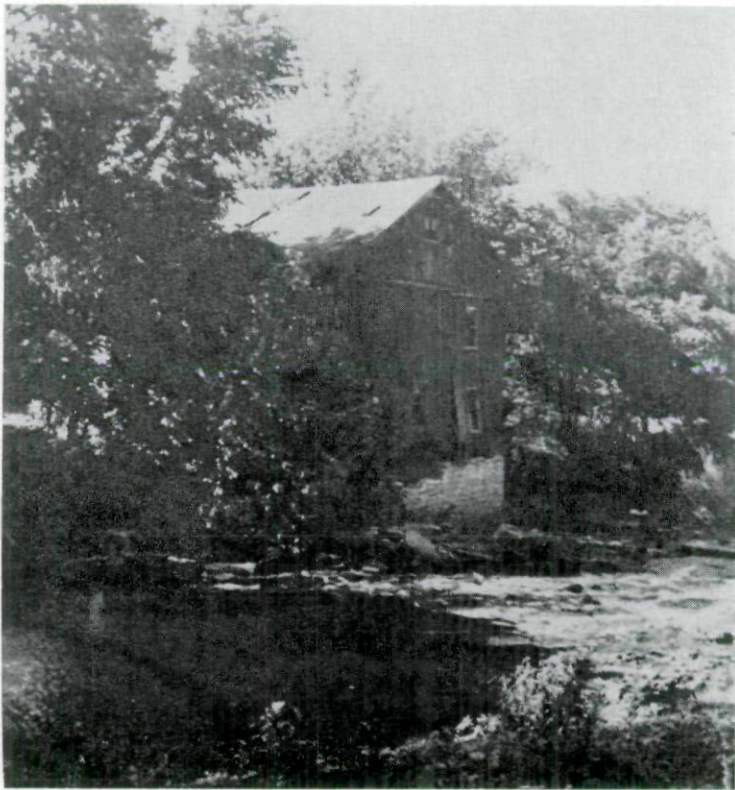
After working several places, including jobs in New York and Indiana he settled in Iowa after buying the McQueen's Mill. In 1875 he traveled back to Canada and married Miss Catherine Wilkinson, whom he knew in England, and brought his new bride to Iowa. They had three children—Alice, Wil-

liam, and Mary.

Thomas, in the meantime had married a local girl, Miss Sarah Brown, who enjoyed the distinction of being the first white child to be born in Boulder Township. They had four children, Rowland, Vincent, John, and Mary Elizabeth.

Thomas was born in Sept., 1845, and came to Canada in 1862, later moving to Linn County and entering in the milling business with his brother in 1868.

William died in March of 1926 at the age of 90 years, and the old mill was razed in 1933 to make way for a new road.



Photo—Jean Musgrove

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