

## THE LYANSES

Thomas Lyans was born Dec. 29, 1821, in Ohio. He married (1) April 15, 1851, Rebecca A. Guthrie, daughter of Robert Guthrie and Jane Cunningham, (see p. 255). Endowed by nature with sturdy physical frames and the adventuresome spirit of pioneers, they decided to make a home for themselves in the country immediately west of the Mississippi River, which at that time was rapidly being settled. Early in the year 1856, with their three small children they left Ohio, traveling by rail to Galena, Ill., thence crossing the Mississippi to Dubuque, Iowa, and settling first on a farm which they purchased some miles west of it. They remained there but a short time and then removed to Moniteau County, Mo., purchasing a farm of one thousand acres near the town of California. A very dry season discouraged Mr. Lyans with that location and disposing of his lands, he removed with his family to Jones County, Iowa, purchased a farm in Madison Township, and began the laborious and heroic life of an early settler. During the thirty years that followed, by good management and hard work he increased his holdings to nearly one thousand acres of improved land and reared a family of twelve children. Then misfortune came in the form of scarlet fever with which eleven children were ill at the same time. The fever left two boys and two girls in a very weak physical condition, which ran on into tuberculosis. The mother contracted the same disease while caring for them and another son contracted typhoid fever. All six died within the space of two years time. Rebecca A. (Guthrie) Lyans died Sept. 3, 1888, at her home near Center Junction, Iowa. Three years later he married a second wife, by whom he had one child, a son, born Feb. 1, 1893; died Dec. 21, 1896.

Thomas Lyans died Nov. 24, 1903, at Center Junction, Iowa. He was a just and upright man and was highly esteemed in his home community. After settling in Jones County, both he and his wife were members of the Scotch Grove Presbyterian Church, four miles north of their home, until a church was organized nearer at the new town of Center Junction and they became charter members of it. He was a ruling elder and one of the main supporters of both churches for many years. As mentioned above, the first three children of Thomas Lyans and Rebecca A. Guthrie were born in Ohio, the others in Jones County, Iowa.