

"P. S. Company G, Ninetieth Regiment Illinois Volunteers. First Brigade, Fourth Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, near Stevenson, Ala."

In the summer of 1868, John M. Keefe removed to Mitchell county, Iowa, driving across the country from Illinois. He cast in his lot among its pioneer settlers and contributed to its early development and improvement. He died September 9, 1917, and is still survived by his wife, who now makes her home in Elma. In politics Mr. Keefe was a republican but never held office.

R. P. Keefe was educated in the public schools of Paris township, Howard county, and when not busy with his textbooks worked in the fields. After his school days were over he continued to assist his father in the improvement of the home farm up to the time of his marriage. He then began farming on his own account. He has been a resident of Howard county for forty-three years and has done not a little to further its agricultural progress. His landed possessions now comprise one hundred and twenty acres, which he has brought under a high state of cultivation and from which he annually gathers rich harvests. He is also a stockholder of the Reward County Equity Cooperative Society. For the past eighteen years he has lived upon the farm which is now his place of residence and its excellent appearance attests a life of thrift and activity.

On the 5th of February, 1901, Mr. Keefe was married to Miss Elsa Richardson, who was born in Butler county, Iowa, a daughter of Henry and Mary (Marlow) Richardson, who have passed away. Her father was a native of the state of New York, while her mother was born in Jo Daviess county, Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Keefe have been born six children: Edward R., who is now a high school student; Gertrude, Leila and Katherine, who are attending the public schools; Veronica, who is four years of age; and John F., two years old.

The religious faith of the family is that of the Catholic church, of which they are faithful adherents. Mr. Keefe has been a member of the school board in his district for the past fifteen years and is now acting as president of the board. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America and his political belief is that of the republican party. While he has never been ambitious to hold office, he has always stood for progress and improvement in the county in which he lives and has cooperated in movements of general worth. During the war he was a liberal supporter of all the Liberty Loan drives and gave generous aid to the Red Cross. His son donated a pumpkin to the Red Cross chapter which netted them three hundred and forty-seven dollars and twenty-five cents, while pies made from the pumpkin brought a total of seventy-one dollars. Mr. Keefe was a prominent worker for the sale of War Savings Stamps and there was no feature of war work which did not receive his generous assistance and endorsement.

JAMES F. BABCOCK, SR.

It would be impossible to dissociate the life record of James F. Babcock, Sr., with the history of New Hampton and of Chickasaw county. He has long been a dominant figure in the development and upbuilding of this section of the state and has left the impress of his individuality upon many lines of business advancement and public progress. He was the builder of the first brick building in New Hampton and established its first drug store. He has actively engaged in farming and stock raising and banking interests have felt the stimulus of his cooperation and profited by his sound judgment. Nor has he made business the end and aim of his life. He has given to the city effective service as New Hampton's first mayor and he has contributed in substantial measure to the moral development of the district. His life record indeed constitutes an integral chapter in the annals of northern Iowa.

James F. Babcock was born in Steuben county, New York, November 27, 1833, a son of Amos and Elma (Cornell) Babcock, both of whom were natives of the Empire state, where they were reared and married. In 1868 they came with their