

brought to bear the same thoroughness, progressiveness and integrity of purpose that has characterized his activity along other lines.

On the 1st of January, 1862, Mr. Babcock was married to Miss Mary L. Robison, of Fayette county, Iowa, and they became the parents of four children, of whom two are living: James F., Jr., mentioned elsewhere in this work; and Mary, the wife of Charles A. Larson, a banker of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Babcock are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he is well known in Masonic circles, having for fifty-three years been a loyal and exemplary follower of the order, joining the lodge at West Union, Iowa, in 1866. He now holds membership in Arcana Lodge, No. 274, A. F. & A. M.; Adelpia Chapter, No. 113, R. A. M.; Eudora Commandery, No. 53, K. T. In 1877 Mr. Babcock made an extended tour of Europe, visiting England, Belgium, France, Holland and Germany, and on his return to this country wrote a series of letters for the press concerning his travels. He has always been a democrat in politics and is one of those who were fortunate enough to hear the famous Lincoln and Douglas debate at Freeport, Illinois, during the campaign when those two great statesmen were contending for senatorial honors. His life experiences have been broad, varied, interesting and educational in their scope and purpose. There are few men whose lives are crowned with the honor and respect which are uniformly accorded to James F. Babcock, for through more than a half century's connection with Iowa's history his has been an unblemished character. With him success in life has been reached by his sterling qualities of mind and a heart true to every manly principle. He has never deviated from what his judgment would indicate to be right and honorable between his fellowmen and himself. He has never swerved from the path of duty and now after a long and eventful career he can look back over the past with the consciousness of having gained for himself, by his honorable, straightforward career, the confidence and respect of the entire community in which he lives. We read of the lives of the heroes of the past and they not only prove of historical interest but serve to inspire and encourage. Yet we need not go to former ages for examples that are worthy of emulation. The men of today who have won distinction and honor excel in exemplary traits of character many of those who have passed away and the life record of James P. Babcock may well prove of great benefit if one will but heed and follow the obvious lessons which it contains.

JAMES F. BABCOCK, JR.

James F. Babcock, Jr., is a retired farmer and dairyman who is the present owner of the Holstein Farm, which adjoins New Hampton and which was originally established and developed by his father. It was upon this farm that James F. Babcock, Jr., was born October 19, 1875. He was educated in the city schools of New Hampton, in the New Hampton Business College and in the Iowa State Teachers' College at Cedar Falls. His father had founded the Gazette of New Hampton and the son entered the printing office, working at the trade for eight years. He then took up the operation of his father's farm, on which he continued actively and extensively in the dairy business which had been established by his father. He was thus active until the death of his mother on the 10th of August, 1918, when he left the farm and removed to the family home at New Hampton, in order to look after the care and comfort of his father in the sunset of his life.

In 1903 James F. Babcock, Jr., was united in marriage to Miss Pearl Poppleton, a native of Chickasaw county and a daughter of Oscar O. Poppleton, who came to the county in 1854, when the work of development and improvement was in its pioneer stages. He became one of the leading apiarists of the United States and conducted business along the line for a number of years in Florida, being known as the bee king of the eastern coast. He introduced migratory bee culture, having three hundred colonies of bees on a lighter which he moved up and down the coast wherever there was a crop of honey to be gathered. He was in Cuba for two years