

of J. L. and Ellen Cooper. She was born in Newcastle, Pennsylvania, and was taken by her parents to Ohio, where they resided for a time, and then became residents of Wisconsin. They afterward removed to Ossian, Iowa, and it was there that the marriage of Mr. Burgess and Miss Cooper was celebrated. They had a family of four children, of whom Harry H. died in infancy, while Charles, Ray and Joseph are continuing in the lumber trade as their father's successors in the conduct of the yards in Cresco and elsewhere.

Mr. Burgess was a republican in his political views and in 1906 was elected to represent the forty-second district, comprising Howard and Winneshiek counties, in the state senate, where he gave most careful consideration to all the vital questions that came up for settlement. He held membership in the Masonic fraternity, was a charter member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and his religious faith was that of the Congregational church. He came to Cresco when the country was wild and he lived to see it develop from a little village on the western prairie to a thriving and enterprising town. His death, which occurred on the 8th of March, 1917, was the occasion of deep and widespread regret because of the many sterling traits of his character. His personal qualities, too, were such as made for popularity among those who knew him, for he was of a kindly and genial disposition, often extending a helping hand to those who needed aid. In his business affairs he was thoroughly trustworthy and at all times he stood for progressive elements in citizenship. He had passed the Psalmist's allotted span of three score years and ten when called to his final rest, his death occurring when in his seventy-first year. Thus was terminated a life of usefulness, in which he accumulated a comfortable competence, but not only did he leave this to his family, but also that priceless heritage of an untarnished name, which is rather to be chosen than great riches.

#### P. H. BRANNON.

P. H. Brannon, numbered among the enterprising, farsighted and successful business men of New Hampton, is well known as the proprietor of the Brannon Grain Elevator. He is a western man by birth, training and preference. He was born at Waucoma, Iowa, on the 11th of October, 1857, and is a son of Lawrence and Julia (Griffin) Brannon, both of whom were natives of Ireland. The father came to the United States in his boyhood days with his parents in 1839, the family home being established in Ohio, and the mother came to this country to join an older brother after the death of her parents. This brother, Thomas Griffin, is a resident of Howard county, Iowa. In the spring of 1853 Lawrence Brannon removed with his parents to Iowa, the family home being established on a farm near Waucoma. In June, 1856, Lawrence Brannon and Julia Griffin were united in marriage and took up their abode upon a farm near Waucoma, where the active years of their life were spent. After his retirement from business they removed to Lawler, Chickasaw county, where they continued to reside until called to their final rest. Mr. Brannon passed away at the notable age of ninety-one years, while his wife died at the age of seventy-five.

Their son, P. H. Brannon, was educated in the common schools and in the Decorah Institute. Prior to becoming a student in the institute he taught school and later resumed educational work, covering a period of twenty-one terms. In 1892 he removed to New Hampton and has since been identified with the live stock and grain business, in which connection he has won substantial success. The Brannon Grain Elevator is now one of the important business features of the city and its annual purchases and sales reach a large figure.

In 1889 Mr. Brannon was united in marriage to Miss Catherine I. Quirk, of Delaware county, Iowa, and to them were born two children, but only one, Mary S., is now living. The wife and mother passed away in January, 1901, and in February, 1906, Mr. Brannon was married to Miss Hannah T. Boyle, of Edgerton, Wisconsin, by whom he has four children, namely: Grace Madeline, Lawrence V., Patricia Adelaide and James E.

In his political views Mr. Brannon has always been a democrat since age conferred