

JOEL G. HAMBLETON.

POP 706

A well known resident of Searsboro, who for many years was identified with the agricultural and commercial interests of Poweshiek county, is Joel G. Hambleton, now living retired. He was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, on the 16th of September, 1824, and is a son of Benjamin and Ann (Hanna) Hambleton. The father was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, on the farm where the battle of Brandywine was fought, on the 15th of March, 1789, while the birth of the mother occurred in Campbell county, Virginia, on the 30th of July, 1797. Mr. Hambleton was a miller by trade and in his early manhood he migrated to Ohio, where he met and married Miss Hanna, their union being solemnized in 1815. They continued to reside in the Buckeye state until 1864, when they came to Poweshiek county, Iowa, locating in Sugar Creek township, two miles east of Searsboro. There the father died on the 22d of April, 1865, but the mother survived until the 10th of March, 1867. Mr. Hambleton always

voted with the whigs until that party was merged into the republican, after which he affiliated with the latter organization. In matters religious he always remained true to the faith in which he had been reared, which was that of the Society of Friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Hambleton were the parents of ten children: Rachel, who was born on the 14th of October, 1816, and died in January, 1864, was the wife of Elisha Dutton, to whom she was married in 1853; Osborn, who was born on the 13th of June, 1818, died on the 25th of November, 1882; Levi, born on the 4th of August, 1820, died on the 2nd of April, 1899; Catherine, is deceased; Joel G., is the next of the family; Thomas is also deceased; Martha is the wife of Henry Craver, of Marshalltown, Iowa; Esther and Sarah are both deceased; and one died in infancy.

Joel G. Hambleton was educated in the schools of Butler township, Columbiana county, Ohio, following which he worked in his father's mill and assisted in the work of the homestead until he was twenty-one years of age. He and his brother Osborn then rented the mill, which they operated until 1852. He next went to Lorain county, Ohio, where he ran a sawmill for five years. At the expiration of that time he came to Poweshiek county, Iowa, locating in Sugar Creek township in the spring of 1857. He lived on his brother Levi's farm there for six years, and then bought a farm, which he cultivated until the Iowa Central Railroad was built. Withdrawing from agricultural pursuits at that time, he engaged in the lumber business at Searsboro with his brother Levi but still resided on the farm. Later they extended the scope of their business to include the grain trade. In 1874, however, Levi Hambleton sold his interest to Messrs. Craver and Steele, the firm then being reorganized under the name of J. G. Hambleton & Company, so continuing until 1876, when the partnership was dissolved. Joel G. Hambleton, however, continued to deal in grain and coal until 1879. In that year he sold his elevator and through the two subsequent years bought grain for Morse & Whitney. He then removed to Searsboro and for three years filled the position of postmaster at that place. He next gave his attention to his farms until the last one was sold three years ago. He is now living retired, receiving a sufficient income from his property and investments to enable him to live in comfort and free from care or responsibility.

On the 30th of March, 1851, Mr. Hambleton was united in marriage to Miss Phoebe Cooper, a daughter of Whitson and Rachel (Erskine) Cooper, of Clearfield county, Pennsylvania. Her father was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, and her mother in Clearfield county. Mr. Cooper died when his daughter Phoebe was a child of ten years. An active, public-spirited man, he always took