

The family of which J. A. Maxwell is a representative derived its name from the name of Maxwellton, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, whose "bonnie boys" are famed in song as the setting for the beautiful old Scotch ballad "Annie Laurie." The old Maxwellton House, the birthplace of Annie Laurie, is now owned by the Laurie family. All of the film scenes within the precincts of Maxwellton took the name of Maxwell, and representatives of the family are

often recognized by the tall, angular, muscular physique and sandy complexion which are strongly marked and distinguishing features of that clan. The first progenitor of the family in America was John Maxwell, who with his brother, James, came to this country in colonial days, landing at Jamestown, Virginia. They both served in the Revolutionary war, and later John Maxwell took up his abode in Kentucky, locating at Lexington, where the John Maxwell springs were named in his honor. Thomas Maxwell, the son of John Maxwell, was born in the Blue Grass state, served as a private in the latter part of the war of 1812 and in early life made his way to Indiana and subsequently to Illinois. His son, Thomas Maxwell, Jr., the father of our subject, was born in Kentucky on the 8th of March, 1813, and was a little lad when his parents went to Indiana. In 1824 the family home was established in Sangamon county, Illinois, and five years later a removal was made to Knox county, that state. He was married in the latter county, on the 6th of March, 1836, to Miss Rhoda Hodges, who was born in Tennessee on the 5th of September, 1820. In the following year they went to Missouri where they spent one summer, and while there their first child was born, its birth occurring in Polk county. They returned to Knox county, Illinois, in 1838, and in 1841 went to Texas, which at that time had not yet been admitted to the Union. In the winter of 1843 they again went to Knox county, and in 1844 made their way to Henry county, Illinois, where they resided until 1867. Another summer was then spent in Missouri, after which they returned to Knox county to establish a permanent home, there remaining until their decease. The father was a farmer by occupation, engaged very extensively in agricultural pursuits, and was the owner of a half section of valuable land. He was a democrat in politics and held several township offices, including that of trustee, assessor and justice of the peace, and he also held a county office. He was reared in the Universalist faith, although he was not affiliated with any church organization, and his wife was a Freewill Baptist. Following the example set by his father and grandfather before him he responded readily to the call of his country for assistance when in need of military aid, taking part in the Black Hawk war, and he also served throughout the Mexican war. He was killed accidentally while crossing some railroad tracks on the 8th of May, 1860, being survived for a number of years by his wife, who passed away on the 1st of September, 1908. Their family consisted of eleven children, as follows: Lucinda, who married T. Murphy and passed away in December, 1910, in Henry county, Illinois; Reuben, of Adams county, Illinois; Susan T., who married P. J. Mintell, of Grinnell; Ellen, the widow of Charles Smith, of Henry county, Illinois; W. H., of Lee Heights, South Dakota; John A., of this county; Margaret E., the wife of George Clark of Tracy, Colorado; Amanda, who married John Maxwell and passed away in 1870; Charles E., of Park, Texas; James, who passed away in 1866; and Robert E., whose death occurred in 1867.

John A. Maxwell, whose name introduces this sketch, was born in Henry county, Illinois, on the 9th of January, 1848, and there the first twenty years of his life were passed. He spent the winter of 1867 in Missouri, and again in 1872 went to that state. In September, 1872, he arrived in Malcom township, Poweshiek county, within whose borders he has since made his home. Reared

to rural life, he early chose as his life's vocation that occupation when vantage Washington once designated as the "most useful as well as the most honorable" work a man could do, and for more than a half century, or for fifty-four consecutive years, he has engaged in general agricultural pursuits, during which period he has taken a place among the most progressive, substantial and prosperous farmers of the county. Upon entering business circles on his own account he rented large tracts of land, which he continued to operate in that capacity until about three years ago, when he purchased his present home, comprising about seventy acres adjoining the town of Malcom. This place, which is highly improved, its value being greatly enhanced by the fine buildings which stand within the corporate limits of the town, is one of the desirable properties of the community. Aside from the care which he bestows upon his fields he gives a great share of his time and attention to his stock-raising interests, selling over a thousand dollars' worth of hogs each year. All of the grain raised upon his farm is fed to his stock and he has never had occasion to buy corn or other produce. He has always handled a high grade of stock, which has commanded for him ready sales and good prices upon the market, and his care-fully managed business interests have proved a source of most substantial and gratifying annual revenue.

Although his private affairs have demanded a large portion of his attention, he has nevertheless found time to participate in the public life of the community and has ever taken a deep and helpful interest in its welfare and growth. He gives constant allegiance to the democratic party and has been called upon at times to fill various public offices. For three terms he served as justice of the peace. He has been assessor for a number of terms and has held school offices throughout almost the entire period of his residence in Poweshiek county. His fellow citizens in recognition of his high personal worth and his public-spirited citizenship, have bestowed upon him the highest honor in their power to confer, electing him to the office of mayor of the town in April, 1910. In the capacity of chief executive he is giving the community a business-like, progressive and beneficial administration, in which he has inaugurated many needed reforms and improvements, and he has performed the duties of his office with an efficiency which indicates that the choice for the position was well made. Malcom is fortunate in having for its mayor a progressive, liberal-minded man whose life, whether in political, business or private relations, has ever been actuated by high principles and noble purposes.

On the 20th of January, 1869, Mr. Maxwell was united in marriage to Miss Louise Bick, who was born in Ohio on the 27th of January, 1850, and when but three years of age went to Illinois with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elsie Bick. Until Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell have been born five children, as follows: Catherine, the wife of George Brown of Washington township; Charles M., of Grinnell; Jennie J., the wife of Vernon Brown of Walla Walla, Washington; the wife of Forest Rector, of Perry, Iowa. They have also reared an adopted son, W. W. Luellen, now residing with them. In fraternal circles Mr. Maxwell is identified with the Masonic order at Grinnell and with the Knights of Pythias lodge at Malcom. He and his wife

### Malcom Pioneer Passes

John A. Maxwell Dies After Interesting Illness of Several Months Duration.

RESIDENT OF POWESHIK COUNTY FIFTY-FOUR YEARS.

Had Served Malcom In Various Offices, Including Justice of the Peace, Assessor and Mayor.

After a lingering illness of several months' duration Mr. John A. Maxwell passed peacefully away July 14, 1917, at Malcom, Iowa.

John Maxwell son of Thomas and Rhoda Maxwell, was born at Malcom, Henry county, Ill., on January 9th, 1848 and at the time of his death was aged 73 years, 6 months, and 4 days. He was the third son in a family of seven children, six of whom are deceased except Mr. Reuben Maxwell of Clinton, Ill. Mrs. Susan Maule of Clinton, Mo.; Margaret Reed of Des Moines; Mr. William Maxwell of Macacaeter, South Dakota; and Mr. Charles E. Maxwell of Mason, Georgia. Mr. Maxwell was married to Mrs. Louise Bick, January 10, 1869 in Camp Ridge, Henry Co. Ill., and immigrated to Poweshiek County in 1872 and has lived continuously in Malcom township excepting 11 years' residence in Chester township. He was engaged in farming until the last fifteen years, he has lived in the town of Malcom.

Mr. Maxwell has been very prominent in the civic matters of his community, serving as mayor for 2 years, nine months, 4 years, township assessor 1 year, and Justice of the Peace several years.

He performed his duties in the various offices to his best ability, faithfully striving to benefit his community in every way possible. He was also a free giver for charity work, a great reader and could freely converse on any subject.

His pleasant smile and kindly greeting will be long remembered by all who know him. He expressed himself freely on national matters and was ready and prompt to go. Mrs. Maxwell passed away June 9, 1917.

He is survived by five children, Mrs. Catherine Pearce of Grinnell, Charles Maxwell of Grinnell, Mrs. Jennie Brown of Walla Walla, Washington, Mrs. Alberta Roberts of Grinnell, Mrs. Vera Rector of Malcom, Iowa, and an adopted son, Walter Luellen of New Castle, Ind. In addition to these he leaves 10 grand children and six great grand children.

Funeral services were held July 20 at 2 o'clock from the Presbyterian Church in Malcom, conducted by Rev. Elmer Ahkema assisted by Rev. Mr. Burdick, pastor of the Methodist Church. A large attendance of friends and relatives of the deceased were present at the last rites and no respect to the memory of a kind and honorable man.

The floral tributes were numerous and beautiful.

Two songs, "Jesus Lover of My Soul," and "Saved by Grace," were ably rendered by Miss Vera Scott and Mr. W. P. Vogel. Miss Scott sang "Going Down the Valley One by One" at the grave.

Full bearers were 6 grand children, Herbert, Leonard, and Harold Pearce, Raymond Brown, Charles Roberts, and Clarence Bell.

His remains were tenderly laid to rest beside his faithful wife in 137 Hill Cemetery at Malcom.