

## JOHN J. GORSUCH.

Agricultural pursuits in Poweshiek county are ably represented by John J. Gorsuch, whose activities along this line are meeting with gratifying and substantial results. One of Iowa's native sons, he was born in Mahaska county, about a mile west of Barnes City, on the 12th of December, 1856. He is a representative of an old pioneer family of Iowa, his grandparents, Joshua and

Mary (Bosley) Gorsuch, having come to this state from Maryland as early as 1844, locating in Mahaska county.

His parents were Thomas B. and Margaret (Murrow) Gorsuch, natives of Maryland and Indiana respectively, who came to Iowa with their parents at an early day, the father arriving in 1844 and the mother in 1850. They were married in Mahaska county on the 11th of March, 1852, and for four years thereafter continued their residence in that county, after which they removed to Jackson county, Kansas, which remained their home for three years. On returning to Iowa in 1860 they took up their abode in Poweshiek county, locating on a farm near Montezuma, where their remaining days were spent. The father was a lifelong farmer, in which line of activity he proved very successful, being the owner of three hundred and thirty acres of rich land at the time of his death. He had an interesting military record, enlisting in August, 1862, as a member of Company B, Fortieth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, with which he served throughout the remainder of the war, or for a term of three years. He passed away on the 30th of December, 1884, and was survived by his wife for a number of years. Her birth occurred in Parke county, Indiana, on the 15th of August, 1835, her parents being Benjamin and Sally (Blue) Murrow. She was a consistent and faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, who daily exemplified in her life the teachings of the Golden Rule. Her death occurred on the 26th of February, 1910, at the age of seventy-four years. She passed away in the Montezuma home, to which she had removed with her two daughters, Laura and Edith, in 1902.

In early childhood John J. Gorsuch accompanied his parents on their removal to Kansas and was but four years of age when brought by them to Poweshiek county, within whose borders he has since made his home. He passed the period of his boyhood and youth upon the homestead near Montezuma, acquiring his education in the country schools of that locality, and he remained with his parents until he attained his majority. At the age of twenty-four he embarked in agricultural pursuits with his brother, D. T. Gorsuch, under the style of Gorsuch Brothers, this relationship continuing for nineteen years. They began as renters, carrying on general farming in that capacity until they had acquired sufficient money to enable them to invest in property of their own, when they purchased a farm, to the cultivation and development of which they gave their attention for a number of years. They became recognized throughout the community as progressive, practical farmers, and upon severing their partnership relations were the owners of an excellent tract of six hundred acres. Since that time John J. Gorsuch has engaged in farming and stock-raising independently and is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres located on sections 11 and 12, Jackson township, which is equipped with two sets of buildings, all in good condition, and has all of the accessories and conveniences of a model farm. His energy, perseverance and integrity are salient elements in his career and have proved potent forces in the acquirement of a success which now ranks him among the substantial and representative agriculturists of this section.

Mr. Gorsuch was married, in 1880, to Miss Lucy Webber, who was born in Pennsylvania on the 4th of July, 1860, and was brought to Iowa in early life

by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Webber. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gorsuch have been born four children, Guy W., Nellie, Madge and Louis.

Mr. Gorsuch is democratic in politics and has held several school and road offices although he has never sought nor desired public position as a reward for party fealty. He is a progressive and wide-awake farmer, always on the alert for and ready to incorporate in his business modern methods, and his industry and enterprise have not only enabled him to attain prosperity but have won him a high place in the respect and confidence of his neighbors.