

While a resident of Montezuma Harvey P. Johnson is nevertheless actively interested in farming and stock-raising, being extensively engaged in the live-stock business since 1882. He was born in Greene county, Ohio, April 22, 1840, and was only six months old when brought to Poweshiek county by his parents, Virgil H. and Mary V. (Wilson) Johnson, who were also natives of the Buckeye state. The father, who was born in Highland county, September 16, 1813, died on the 5th of April, 1893, spending his last days upon the farm in Union township where he located upon his arrival in this county. He was the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land, a half of

which he entered from the government, while the remaining eighty acres he purchased. It came into his possession a wild and uncultivated tract but he left it well improved, its excellent condition and attractive appearance indicating his useful and well spent life. Both he and his wife were faithful Christian people, holding membership in the Baptist church. Mrs. Johnson, who was born in 1816, passed away in Union township in 1898. Their family consisted of six children, namely: Lorenzo D., of Union township; Carrie, who passed away at the age of two years; Harvey P., of this review; Joseph A., of Maryland; William P., also residing in Union township; and Angeline, the widow of Oscar McNeill and a resident of Union township, making her home on her father's farm.

Upon the old homestead in Union township Harvey P. Johnson was reared and from an early age assisted in the development and improvement of the farm. The public schools afforded him his educational privileges and his time was divided between the duties of the schoolroom, the pleasures of the playground and the work of the fields. He continued to assist his father in the cultivation of the farm until thirty years of age, when he started for Kansas, traveling over that state and Colorado in search of a favorable location. However, he became convinced that there was no better farming country any place than in Iowa, and in December, 1879, he took up his abode upon a farm in Union township. For a time he lived in the timber regions, chopping and hauling timber, and in this way he saved the capital that enabled him to purchase a small tract of timber land. This he cleared and placed under cultivation and in time it brought to him profitable returns. As the years have passed on he has kept adding to his place until he is today one of the most extensive land-owners of the county, having about nineteen hundred acres in Union, Jackson and Pleasant townships. In addition he has made judicious investment in town property, owning in Montezuma a good business block and three dwellings in addition to his own home. He was busily engaged in farming until he took up his abode in Montezuma nine years ago. Even now he gives considerable time and attention to the operation of his farm near the city, having, however, a man employed to carry on the work of the place. He is the owner of seventy-five head of draft horses, and when on the farm he fed about three hundred head of cattle each year. He has been extensively engaged in the live-stock business since 1882, and his splendid success indicates his superior business ability, his sound judgment and his unfaltering enterprise. He has a beautiful residence on West Main street near the business section of the city, and his success enables him to enjoy all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

In December, 1879, occurred the marriage of Mr. Johnson and Martha E. Blaine, a native of Illinois, where her birth occurred in 1862. In early life she was brought to Poweshiek county by her parents, Josiah and Martha C. Blaine, both of whom are now deceased. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been born four children: Charles C., who was born February 21, 1881, and on the 22d of April, 1900, was killed by a horse; Ray, who married Gussie Stevens, by whom he has a son, Cannon, and now resides on one of his father's farms north of Montezuma; Cliff, who also operates one of his father's farms north

When the country no longer needed his services Mr. Johnson returned to civil life with a most creditable military record. He joined his parents, who had taken up their abode in Fayette County, Iowa, during his term of service, and on the 24th of January, 1866, was united in marriage to Miss Persis E. Eastman, who was born in southern Illinois, December 6, 1849, and went to Fayette county, Iowa, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Eastman.

After his marriage Mr. Johnson was associated with his father-in-law in the wagonmaking business for about two years, and then he removed to Fredericksburg, Iowa, where he was engaged at that trade for about four years. He then went to Dixon county, Nebraska, where he homesteaded a farm, but he was obliged to give up that place on account of the grasshopper plague, and he returned to Fredericksburg and again worked at his trade there. Later he went to Mitchellville, Polk county, Iowa, where as a member of the firm of Eastman & Johnson he engaged in the wagon and carriage-making business for four years, and during that period the partners marketed more new wagons than any other shop of its kind in Polk county. At the end of that time Mr. Johnson traded his interest in the firm for a farm and then entered the hardware business at Gowrie, Webster county. After a year there he removed his stock to Melford, Dixon county, establishing the first hardware enterprise at that place. In the following December he sold out his store and returned to Mitchellville, where he traded his farm for a stock of hardware and located at Exeter, at which place he carried on business for four years. The year 1880 witnessed his arrival in Brooklyn and here he conducted a hardware concern for four years, after which he sold out to enter the fire insurance business. In 1898 he went on the road as a special agent for the Hawkeye Insurance Company, whom he represented for seven years, and was then employed by the Iowa State Insurance Company for one year. The losses incurred through the

great San Francisco fire were such that that company was obliged to reinsure in other firms, and Mr. Johnson became connected with the German Insurance Company of Freeport, Illinois.

Subsequently he accepted a position with the Security Insurance Company of Davenport, and then, on the 1st of January, 1900, he left the road and has since conducted an agency in Brooklyn, representing several well known companies at this point. His office is in the new Brooklyn Opera House, and he handles a large amount of insurance, being accorded a most excellent patronage. His efforts in the various channels of business in which he has engaged have been successful, and today the consensus of public opinion accords him a prominent place among Poweshiek county's progressive and prosperous citizens. He has recently built a residence in Brooklyn, which is now the home of his family, and he is the owner of forty acres of land adjoining the corporation limits of the town, while in connection with his son-in-law he owns another valuable farm near Brooklyn.

With the passing of the years Mr. and Mrs. Johnson became the parents of four children, namely: Mabel E., the wife of W. R. Pierson, cashier of the Poweshiek County Savings Bank of Brooklyn; Paul E., who is engaged in the dairy business near Minneapolis, Minnesota; Genevieve, a teacher of music at San Fernando, California; and William Glenn, who passed away at the age of ten months.

In politics Mr. Johnson gives his support to the republican party, while fraternally he is a Master Mason and also belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. Johnson is a well developed man physically, giving the idea of great strength and reserve force, elements which have had their expression in a strenuous business life. His has been a career of constant activity along various lines, in which his well directed efforts, his keen sagacity and his unfaltering energy have been potent factors in the accumulation of a degree of prosperity which is both creditable and honorable.