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OBITUARY

Joseph M. Rayburn.

Joseph M. Rayburn was born in Highland county, Ohio, June 25, 1839. He was born into a family of eight children and while yet a small boy he moved to Iowa with his parents and grew to manhood on a farm in the vicinity of Montezuma. The Rayburns came to Iowa in 1855. When the war broke out Mr. Rayburn was the first man in Poweshiek county to enlist. He volunteered to enter the army May 31st, 1861, and became a member of Company H, 3rd Iowa. He was in the same company with Aaron Smith of Newton. Hon. John F. Lacey of Oskaloosa, ex-congressman from this district, was also a member of Company H and the deceased and Major Lacey were the closest of friends. Never did the well known congressman come to Newton without enjoying a visit although many times it was necessarily brief— with "Joe" Rayburn.

Mr. Rayburn was mustered out of the army at Louisville, Kentucky, July 12, 1865. During the war he did most valiant service and was identified with several of the most severe campaigns of the rebellion. He was wounded in the battle of Shiloh—being shot in the left cheek—the bullet having inflicted a scar that Mr. Rayburn carried all through his life. In the battle of Gettysburg—one of the most bloody conflicts of the civil war—Mr. Rayburn sustained a flesh wound and was carried from the battlefield in a critical condition. Mr. Rayburn was a member of the Newton Garret Post and was always—when health permitted, in attendance of the meetings of the body

After the war Mr. Rayburn returned to his home in Montezuma and December 2nd, 1868, was married to Miss Mary Shearer. Shortly after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Rayburn moved to Lynnville where Mr. Rayburn purchased a hardware and general stock and was a merchant there until January 1, 1893, when he took the office of Jasper county auditor at Newton. Shortly after this, he sold his business at Lynnville and moved his family to Newton. He held the office of county auditor for two terms and at present his son, Homer Rayburn, holds the same office.

After Mr. Rayburn had served two terms as county auditor he and his son, Homer, purchased the hardware store on the north side of the square here Marshall & Johnson are located, and here he was in business for several years. He finally was forced to quit business on account of impaired health and his son, Homer, managed the business alone.

Mr. Rayburn leaves a wife and two children—Homer who is now county auditor, and Miss Neva, who is at home. He leaves one brother, John G., of Montezuma, and two sisters—Mrs. Jane Anne Lisor of Montezuma and Mrs Sarah Sparks of New Sharon. He was affiliated with the Masonic order and both the Masons and the veterans of the civil war had a part in the funeral services which were held at the Rayburn home Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. Perdue of the Methodist church preached the sermon and burial was made in the Mausoleum.

Mr. Rayburn was a man of most optimistic disposition. He was a capable business man and a man who was always able to see the brighter