

## JOEL L. HOBBS

The best history of a community or state is that which deals most with the lives and activities of its people, especially of those who, by their own endeavor and indomitable energy, have forged to the front and placed them selves where they deserve the title of progressive men. In this brief review will be found the record of one who has outstripped the less active plodders on the highway of life and achieved a career surpassed by few of his contemporaries, a career of marked success in agricultural affairs and a name which all men who know him delight to honor owing to his upright life and habits of thrift and industry.

Joel L. Hobbs, the popular and well known member of the board of county commissioners of Lawrence county, Indiana, was born on November 7, 1858, in Granger county, Tennessee, and is the son of William G. and N. E. (Hopson) Hobbs, the father a native of Lee county, Virginia, and the mother of the state of Alabama. William G. Hobbs was reared in Lee county, Virginia, and after his marriage there he came to Indiana, locating east of Bedford, Lawrence county, where he acquired a tract of land about four miles distant from that city. He eventually acquired the ownership of several different farms, to the cultivation of which he devoted his attention through out his active life. He was energetic and a good manager and was very successful in his efforts. He and his wife both lived to advanced ages, his death occurring in 1907 at the age of eighty-one years, and his wife's death occurred in 1906, at the age of seventy-four years, at Henning, Illinois. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, while, politically, the father was an ardent supporter of the Republican party, taking a deep interest in public affairs, but never aspiring to public office. They were the parents of the following children: Samuel, a farmer at Redmon, Illinois; Caroline, deceased; Joel L., the immediate subject of this sketch; Minerva, the wife of Joseph Thrall, of Lawrence county, Indiana; Joseph, deceased, a soldier in 1861; William, Jr., a timber man in Michigan; Aylett, who is engaged in the lumber business at Arthur, Illinois; Florence is the wife of George J. Jones, of Eagle Grove, Iowa; John is a railroad man at Mount Carmel, Illinois; Leganie is the wife of George Simpson, of Lawrence county.

Joel L. Hobbs received only a limited school education, being denied the educational privileges which he would have enjoyed. He remained under the parental roof until twenty years of age and then after his first marriage he located east of Bedford, where he engaged in farming. He has devoted his attention to this vocation throughout his active life and in this has shown his wisdom, for he has achieved a success which has been both sure and continuous and today is numbered among the most successful, enterprising and progressive farmers of Lawrence county. He is the owner of one hundred and thirty-four acres of fine land in Shawswick township, Lawrence county, of which about one hundred acres are under cultivation, and here he carries on general farming, raising all the crops common to this locality and giving a share of his attention to the breeding and raising of live stock. His farm is well improved, his comfortable and attractive residence, commodious and well arranged barns and other features of the place showing him to be a man of sound judgment and wise discrimination. Mr. Hobbs has been twice married, his first union being with Nannie I. Younger, of Lawrence county Indiana, and the daughter of Michael and Mary (Cummings) Younger, also natives of Lawrence county, where the father followed farming. Mrs. Hobbs died in 1894, leaving

two children, Claude C. and Maude May, twins, the former dying in infancy. Maude May became the wife of N. C. Plummer, a farmer in Lawrence county. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Hobbs married Clara Ramsey, the widow of Logan Ramsey, and the daughter of Thomas T. and Susan Stipps. Mrs. Hobbs' mother is deceased, but her father is now a successful farmer in Shawswick township, Lawrence county. To the subject's second union has been born one son, Frank E., who is at home with his parents.

Politically a Republican, Mr. Hobbs has all his life taken an intelligent interest in public affairs, especially in reference to the locality in which the factory was his discharge of the official duties of this position that he was lives, and in recognition of his ability and splendid character he was nominated by his party and elected to the office of county commissioner. So satis- elected to succeed himself and is now a member of the board. Fraternaly, he has been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Bedford for twenty years, and takes an appreciative interest in the workings of that society. He is a member of the Christian church, while Mrs. Hobbs belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Hobbs, by her marriage with Logan Ramsey, was the mother of two children, namely: Nellie, the wife of Thomas Bair, of Lawrence county, and Blanche, the wife of William Woods, also of this county. In all the relations of life Mr. Hobbs has been found faithful to every trust confided in him and because of his genuine worth, courteous manners and genial disposition he has won and retained the warm regard of all with whom he has associated, the latter including the best people of the county.

*(History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties Indiana , 1914 B. F. Bowen & Co. Inc. Indianapolis, Indiana pgs 516-518)*