

mother. He remained among the kinsfolk until February 10, 1868 , and after a somewhat trying trip through the snow over the bleak, treeless prairies, they reached their new home. In time newcomers settled about them and the country was developed until today it has quite a different aspect, fine farms lying in all directions and elegant large dwellings standing all about. To the subject credit must be given for a full share in this work of transformation, for his bravery and courage in coming to a wild country and bearing its hardships and privations until it could be made to blossom as the rose" and take rank, as it does today, with the best sections of the great Hawkeye state. Renting his farm about 1869, he took his mother back to Wisconsin and spent part of his time there and in Illinois , resuming work on his place in 1872. On August 15 th of that year Joseph Lawless was married to Mary Doll, in Ackley, Hardin county, by Father O'Dowd. She was born near Shannon , Illinois , on Christmas day, 1856. They began to keep house on their farm in October, 1872. The mother of Mr. Lawless, to whom he was ever very much devoted, passed to the other world in March, 1873, and was buried in Beloit , Wisconsin , beside her husband, who has preceded her to the grave sixteen years. With the assistance of his young wife, Mr. Lawless was soon making money, and by thrift and industry added to his original place until he has one of the choice farms of the county, consisting of three hundred and twenty acres, which he has brought up to a high state of improvement and cultivation, and he has a beautiful home and substantial outbuildings. He has been very successful as a general farmer and stock raiser, having long been out of debt and had laid by for old age a comfortable competency. Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Lawless, namely: James, born October 28, 1873 , is farming in this ( Jackson ) township; Joseph, Jr., born February 11, 1876, is managing the old home place, his father having retired from active farming; Bertha, born June 25, 1878, remained single, and died when twenty-five years of age; John, born July 4, 1881, married Jennie Sharpshar, and they are living on a farm in Jackson township. They all received very good educations in the local schools and are well situated in life. Joseph Lawless is a man whom everybody likes and respects, having led an exemplary and useful life, and he and his wife number their friends by the scores wherever they are known. Joseph's wife Mary died on July 9, 1923 and he died on June 4, 1924 both at Eldora Township, Hardin County, Iowa and both are buried at St. Mary's Cemetery, Eldora Township.