

OBITUARY.

POWELL HOWLAND.

The subject of this brief sketch was born October 16, 1793, in Saratoga county, New York. He is a descendant of the Howland family that first landed in this country in the May Flower. His father, Elisha Howland, and his grandfather, Edward Howland, were born in the state of Rhode Island, and during the last century settled in Saratoga county, New York. Powell Howland is the oldest of a family of six children, all of whom survive him. The parents of Mr. Howland were people of integrity, energy and enterprise, and were always foremost in every movement for the improvement of the country. As a consequence the subject of this brief sketch received a good education; in fact it may be said his education was thorough and complete. He when quite young determined to qualify himself to enter upon the profession of law, and during his study his father was taken sick, and he being the oldest was requested to take charge of his father's business affairs, which he did, and as a consequence his mind was occupied in a different direction, and his desires in the direction of the law were relinquished.

On January 27, 1819, he was married to Tamma Morris, a woman of noble impulses, and the issue of this marriage was three children—Tamma Howland, Silas Howland and Morris Howland, who still live, excepting Silas Howland, who died in 1843. Tamma Howland married, and still resides near the old homestead, in Saratoga county, New York. Morris Howland resides near Southport, Marion county, Indiana, and is well known as a man of sterling integrity. His first wife died in a few years, and on December 2, 1823, he married Mahala Thurber, who still survives, and who by her many noble qualities of head and heart, during a long and useful life, has been one of the most useful women of the community in which she has lived. The issue of this marriage has been five children, four of which still survive, and are well known in Marion county—Pamella Johnson, wife of Oliver Johnson; Elisha J. Howland; Martha F. Hammond, wife of R. R. Hammond, and Charles A. Howland, of Indianapolis. With this family, when quite young, he came to Indiana, and landed on his farm on the 17th day of October, 1839, since which time he has been one of the most active businessmen in Marion county. He was possessed of uncommon energy and in the prime of life when he first settled in Marion county, Indiana, and at once took an active and prominent part in the organization of society and the development of the country. He was always foremost in educational matters, and is perhaps one of the oldest members of the Marion county library board of trustees in point of service. He was a member of the state horticultural society from its organization until his death; also a member of the county board of agriculture for many years. He was one of the first to engage under the direction of Governor Joseph A. Wright in the organization of the Indiana state board of agriculture, and for many years he was one of the most active supporters of the state board of agriculture. Who is it that has attended the Indiana state fair and has not seen the exhibition of apples and pears from Powell Howland's orchard? His selection of apples and pears now being cultivated is perhaps the best in Marion county. He also served one term as a member of the board of commissioners of Marion county, and in every business in which he engaged, either public or private, in the settlement of estates or in the management of trust funds during his long and useful life, he always brought to bear a superior capacity for business, excellent judgment, and in every detail exhibited that crowning trait of character which stamped upon his record the truth that Powell Howland lived and died an honest man.

It is believed he built the first gravel road in Marion county, and at the time of his death was actively engaged in the management of four gravel road companies. His position was that a good road always brought your market to the door, and made the land of much greater value than the cost of the road.

He was a successful business man. He was a man of sound judgment, careful and prudent, and seldom if ever made a business mistake. He was not easily influenced by excitement, and was always governed by certain fixed business rules that gave him a clear head in the management of his business affairs. He accumulated a very handsome estate, and was living surrounded by his family and had witnessed the success of all his children when death called him from earth. His family all reside within an hour's drive from his residence, except his oldest daughter, who resides in New York; and it will prove a great source of comfort to Mrs. Howland in her loneliness to know and feel that her children all reside near her and can be with her daily in her bereavement.

Mr. Howland during his entire life was a sterling democrat, and his advice and counsel was often sought in political matters.

On July 28, 1878, he was taken sick. He had for several years been afflicted with gravel, and the last attack came more violent than ever before. He called his wife to his bedside and said, "Mahala, we must part." He suffered without a murmur of complaint, until, on the evening of the eleventh day of his illness, August 7, 1878, at 8.25 in the evening,

"He wrapped the drapery of his couch about him,

And lay down to pleasant dreams"

A firm believer in the immortality of the soul, and that a just God would receive his soul in that house not made by hands, eternal in the heavens. W. A. L.