

of these paragraphs; Charles, who is also a resident of Colorado; and James, who lives in this county. The father was born in 1828 and came to Missouri in his boyhood with his parents. The family settled in Shelby county, and here he grew to manhood and obtained his education. He began life as a farmer and continued to follow this avocation until his death, in 1872. He was a Republican in politics and a member of the Southern Methodist church. His success and progress in his farming operations gave promise of making him a man of consequence and considerable worldly wealth, but his early death at the age of forty-four cut short his career and left its large promise unfulfilled, his plans incomplete and his family but indifferently provided for.

Orphaned at the age of ten years by the death of his father, John L. Kelso was obliged to make his own way in the world from an early age. He obtained a limited education in the district schools of Shelby county, where he has passed the whole of his life to this time, but his opportunities to attend school were scant and irregular, owing to the circumstances of the family, who needed what he could earn to aid in its support. He worked out by the month for a meager compensation for a time as a boy and youth, and later for better wages, all the while assisting the family and laying up what he could for himself. He was very frugal and industrious and by very slow accretions succeeded in accumulating a small sum of money. By this toilsome and painful process he climbed slowly upward on the rugged road to prosperity until 1885, when he bought 160 acres of

land and began farming and raising stock on his own account. Since then his progress has been more rapid, and he has at length, through arduous effort and close attention to his business, acquired a competency and is comfortably fixed, with assurance in his circumstances against all ordinary calamities and bright prospects for the future, for he is still full of energy and determination, and has all his past experience to guide and help him to greater success and prosperity, and feels every incentive of duty to make the most of his opportunities. He now has 280 acres of good land and nearly all of it at an advanced stage of cultivation.

Mr. Kelso was married on April 7, 1885, to Miss Laura B. Clark, a daughter of James and Isabelle (Graham) Clark, esteemed residents of Shelby county. James, Leta and Elva, the three children born of the union, are all living and still at home with their parents. The father is a Prohibitionist in politics and a member of the Holiness church in religion. His wife also embraced the Holiness religion until her death in 1902.

Mr. Kelso was again married in 1904 to Sarah Biglow, a widow of Frank Biglow and a sister of his first wife.

WILLIAM CLAUSSEN.

No element of the immigrant population of this country has done more for its development and improvement in a material way than that which the Fatherland has given it. The German is the great toiler in any field of effort suited to his taste or capacity, and his patience and persistency is always in proportion

to the task before him. His offspring, even though born in this country and reared amid circumstances very different from those of his own childhood and youth, inherits his traits and reproduces them in further usefulness to the community in which he lives.

William Claussen, one of the substantial and progressive farmers of Black Creek township, Shelby county, is of this class. He was born in Shelby county, Missouri, on January 30, 1878, and is a son of Henry and Anna Magdaline (Groezinger) Claussen, the former a native of Holstein, Germany, and the latter of Jo Daviess county, Illinois, but of German parentage. The father came to the United States in 1869 and found congenial surroundings and plentiful suggestions of his native land in a German Lutheran settlement in this county. But a short time after his arrival he went to Jo Daviess county, Illinois, where there was a similar settlement or colony. He remained there until after his marriage in 1873, then returned to Shelby county, and here he passed the remainder of his life, which ended on November 25, 1903.

In early life the father was a miller, but during almost the whole of his residence in this county he followed farming and raising stock and was very successful in his operations. In politics he was a Republican and in religious faith a Lutheran, with strong devotion to both his party and his church. He and his wife were the parents of four children, all of whom are living and residents of this county. They are: Christian, Mary, the wife of Valentine Nothnagel, a sketch of whom will be found in this

work; William and Paulina, who is still living at home with her mother.

William Claussen obtained his education at Red Star district school, in this county, and while attending it and for some years after leaving it worked on his father's farm, helping in its cultivation and assisting the family. He remained at home until March 8, 1903, when he was married to Miss Anna Neuschafer, of Shelby county. He then bought 160 acres of good land and began a farming and stock raising industry of his own. This he has ever since carried on with vigor and good judgment, and through it has risen to comfort for life, in a worldly way, and to consequence and standing in the township as a citizen. For he has been as energetic and judicious in aiding to promote the welfare of the locality of his home and advance the interests of its people as he has been in pushing his own affairs to profitable results, and by this means has won the regard and good will of all classes of those who live around him.

Mr. and Mrs. Claussen have had three children, their sons Henry and Elmer and their daughter Grace. They are all living and still members of the parental family circle. The father is a pronounced Republican in politics, with an ardent interest in the welfare of his party and a constant readiness to render it any service in his power. He and his wife are devoted members of the Lutheran church. Born and reared in Shelby county, and thoroughly at home among its people, with all their interests embarked upon its currents of prosperity and advancement, they are loyal to it and its general

weal in every way, and are known and acknowledged to be among the most estimable and useful citizens of this part of the state.

JOHN GEORGE BURCKHARDT.

(Deceased.)

It is a matter of gratification to the publishers of this history that within its pages will be found represented so large a quota of the men who have here attained to success and honor in their respective fields of endeavor and who have found within the gracious borders of the fine old county of Shelby ample scope for productive effort.

Of this number was John George Burckhardt, who was one of the enterprising farmers of Bethel township and who was a member of one of the sterling families of this section of the state, where he took up his abode more than forty years ago.

John G. Burckhardt was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, on the 27th of September, 1842. He was a son of John G. Burckhardt, also a native of Germany, who came with his family to America in the early '50s, and located on Long Island, New York, in which state he and his wife passed the residue of their lives.

Their son, John G., Jr., was twelve years of age at the time of the family removal to the United States. He was reared to maturity on historic old Long Island, at Glencove, and there he received a common school education. When the Civil war was precipitated upon a divided nation he gave distinctive evidence of his loyalty to the land of his adoption. Soon after the outbreak of

the war, at the age of nineteen years, he tendered his services in defense of the Union, by enlisting as a private in the 4th New York Volunteer Infantry, in which command he served two years. Through faithful and gallant service he won promotion to the office of corporal and later to that of sergeant of his company. At the expiration of his term of enlistment he received his honorable discharge, but shortly afterward, in 1863, he enlisted in the navy, becoming fireman on the gunboat "Anemana," and he continued in the navy arm of the Union service until the close of the war, when he received his final discharge, after having made an admirable record in both departments with which he was thus connected.

After the close of the war John G. Burckhardt located in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where he found employment in the steel rolling mills until 1869, when he came to Shelby county, Missouri and purchased a small tract of land in Bethel township, where he engaged in farming and stock-growing. As a raiser of high-grade live stock he eventually attained a wide reputation and pronounced success, and he ultimately became the owner of a fine landed estate of three hundred and ten acres. He gave special attention to the breeding of pedigree or registered stock, including Clydesdale horses, short-horn cattle and Shropshire sheep, and from his well-ordered stock farm were sold many fine animals for breeding purposes. He became one of the influential citizens of the county, where he ever commanded unqualified confidence and esteem, and where he ever gave his aid and influence in support of all measures tend-