

Having reached the age of three score and ten, Mr. Ridge might look upon himself as an old man and consider that his day is past. But his health, energy and clearness of faculty all forbid this view to all who know him and share the benefits of his wisdom, feel the force of his influence or yield to the stimulus of his worthy example. They know that the fire within him is not spent and the fruitfulness of his exemplary life is not over. And the esteem which all who know him bestow upon him as his due and the just tribute to his merit, shows that his years have been well passed in usefulness and the results of his labors are highly appreciated.

SHELBY NATIONAL BANK.

With a capital stock of \$30,000 and a wise and farseeing: directorate and official staff, the Shelby National Bank well sustains itself as one of the soundest, safest and best managed financial institutions in this portion of the state. It was founded in 1905 as the Farmers & Merchants Bank and became a national bank in 1908. The founders of the Farmers & Merchants Bank were: President, John Munch; vice-president, W. L. Shouse; cashier, E. J. King; directors, John Munch, George W. O'Bryan, James F. Allgaier, Thomas J. Rice, N. E. Williams, George Roff, W. S. Fox, H. M. Pollard and Weldon Cotton. George W. O'Bryan followed Mr. Munch as president, and T. A. Bailey succeeded E. J. King as cashier.

In January, 1907, J. H. Wood and W. H. Jones purchased an interest in the bank and the next year it was reorgan-

ized under its present name and with the following officers: President, J. H. Wood; vice-president, J. E. Ragsdale; cashier, W. H. Jones; directors, the above named officers and George W. O'Bryan, George Roff, E. W. Worland, O. F. Howell, G. G. Sanders and T. F. Bates. In March, 1910, Mr. W. H. Jones resigned as cashier and Oliver J. Lloyd was chosen to succeed him.

HIRAM COLLINS.

This veritable "Patriarch in Israel" among the people of Shelby county is not only one of the oldest and most esteemed citizens of this part of the state, but has been one of the most sturdy and industrious and one of those most truly representative of the founders and builders of the commonwealth, who laid the foundations of its greatness and planted in its soil the early seeds of civilization, which they and their successors have cultivated and developed into the magnitude, wealth and influence of the present day, when Missouri is an empire fragrant and fruitful in all the products of twentieth century life.

Mr. Collins was born in Monroe county, Missouri, on January 31, 1828, and is a son of James and Sarah (Oglesby) Collins, the father a Kentuckian by birth and rearing, and the mother a native of Illinois. They became residents of Missouri in 1836, making their home in Monroe county, where they engaged profitably in farming and raising live stock until the death of the father in 1853. He was always a Democrat in politics, a zealous promoter of the welfare of his community, an exemplar of sterling and pro-

gressive citizenship and a man of great industry and frugality in his own affairs. Of his two wives the one whose maiden name was Sarah Oglesby was the mother of his son Hiram and seven other children, of whom but two are living—Jackson, of Boonville, in this state, and Marion, a resident of Randolph county.

Hiram Collins grew to manhood on his father's farm in Monroe county and received his education in the district school near his home. When he reached the age of twenty-two he was roused to adventurous action by the alluring voices from the California gold mines and made his way to that then most promising region, which seemed to offer all the wealth and wonders of the Arabian tales to men of endurance and enterprise. He remained on the Pacific slope five years, passing a part of his time in the mines and a part in mercantile life as a grocer, being located on the American river, near Sacramento. What his adventures were, what measure of success he attained to, what hardships and privations he endured and what hopes and prospects he finally abandoned, need not be recited here. It is enough to say that Missouri looked better to him than California, and that even prosaic life and slow accretions of fortune on one of her farms were more to his liking than the dramatic or romantic experiences or the wild dreams of affluence in what was at that time the Eldorado of the world.

In 1855 he returned to this state and located in Shelby county, where he has ever since made his home. He once more turned his attention to farming and raising stock, continuing his efforts in these uneventful pursuits until 1894, when he

gave up active exertions and entered upon a restful and undisturbed residence in Shelbina. He kept his farm for a number of years, however, and superintended its operations until 1908, when he sold it.

For many years he has been a zealous member of the Christian church and a helpful factor in all its good work for the betterment of the people in and around it. His political activity has always been expended in behalf of the principles and candidates of the Democratic party, to which he has been earnestly devoted from his youth. On April 3, 1856, he was married to Miss Mary Gose, of Monroe county. They have had eight children, five of whom are living—Bettie, wife of C. W. Adams, of Clarence; Laura, wife of Calvin Garrison, of Shelbina; James, a resident of Choteau county, Montana; George, who lives in Jamestown, California; and Frank, who is one of the leading citizens of Sherburn, Minnesota. Mrs. Collins died in the fall of 1897.

HON. RICE G. MAUPIN.

This eminent citizen of Shelby county and successful farmer and stock breeder, who is also one of the leading professional men of Shelbina, is an ornament to the state of Missouri and a thoroughly representative man among her people. He has dignified and adorned several lines of serviceable endeavor, performing the duties of each in a manner highly creditable to himself and satisfactory to those around him, bearing himself in every walk of life in such a way as to win and hold the confidence and esteem of all who know him. He is a brother of William A. Maupin, a sketch of whom will be