

GEORGE W. CRAWFORD.

A native of the state of New York, born in St. Lawrence county on October 3, 1848, and of Scotch and English ancestry, George W. Crawford has exemplified in his career in Missouri the enterprise and progressiveness of the great state of his nativity and the sterling traits of the people from which his family are descended. His grandfather, John W. Crawford, was born and reared in Scotland, where his forefathers lived for many generations. His son, also named John W. Crawford, the father of George W., was a native of Canada, and when but a small boy was taken by his parents to New York state, where the family lived for a number of years and he grew to manhood. A few years later he moved to Illinois, when that now great state was opening its horn of plenty to the service of mankind and asking all who chose to come and share in its bounty.

John W. Crawford, the second, was a farmer all his life. On November 22, 1829, he was united in marriage with Miss Diana Fay, a daughter of Caleb Fay, a scion of old English families, long resident in Great Britain, but himself a native of Vermont and a son of Caleb Fay, who was killed at the battle of Bunker Hill. Eleven children were born in the older Crawford household, but only two of them are living, George W. and his older sister Mary. The father died on March 5, 1862, and the mother in 1889.

Their son George W. obtained his education in the district schools of New York and Illinois, and after leaving

school worked on farms in the latter state. In 1871 he came to Missouri and located in Clay township, Shelby county, and here he has been energetically and successfully engaged in farming and raising live stock from that time to the present. His farm comprises 420 acres and is well improved and highly cultivated. His stock industry is extensive and active and is managed with the same care and intelligence that he bestows on his farming operations, and like that is progressive and profitable. He is one of the leaders in both industries in this part of the state and has a high and widespread reputation for his activity and intelligence in both lines of endeavor and the excellence of his output in stock.

Mr. Crawford was married on December 24, 1873, to Miss Mary Bowman, a daughter of Aaron S. and Mary (Pierce) Bowman, who were natives of Tennessee and came to Missouri in 1853. On their arrival in this state they located in Ten Mile township, Macon county, where they lived until 1882, when they moved to Shelby county. Here the father was industriously engaged in farming until within a few years of his death, which occurred on March 25, 1892, when he was eighty-six years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford have had five children, but only two of them are living, their daughter Zella, the wife of Leslie Schwada, and their son Charley M. In politics the father is a Republican, with an abiding interest in the welfare of his party and an energy always ready for its service. He was a member of the school board for ten years or longer. In religious connection he and his wife are affiliated with the Evangelical church and

are very zealous and active church workers, serving as steward of the congregation to which he belongs and taking an earnest interest and leading part in all its benevolent activities and undertakings. He is generally esteemed as one of the best and most useful citizens of his township, who can be depended on to do his part in furthering the promotion of every worthy enterprise for its improvement and advancement.

JOHN WIGGINS.

Orphaned when he was but little over five years of age by the untimely death of his father, and thus thrown on his own resources at an early age, and now one of the successful and prosperous farmers of Shelby county, with a fine farm of 400 acres in Salt River township, John Wiggins has evidently had vision to see, alertness to seize and intelligence to use his opportunities for advancement to good advantage. What he has is the fruit of his own unassisted industry, ability and determined spirit, and it is therefore all the more to his credit that he has it, and all the more enjoyable to him in possession and use.

Mr. Wiggins is a Kentuckian by birth, but he was brought to this county by his parents when he was but seven years old, and he has lived here from then to the present time. He was born in Mason county, Kentucky, on May 10, 1846, and is a son of Thomas Wiggins and a grandson of Archibald Wiggins, the latter born and reared in Virginia and the former in Kentucky, his life beginning in Mason county of that state in 1806. He moved his family to Missouri in 1851,

and took up his residence in Carroll county. But he did not live long to realize the high hopes with which he had sought a new home in the distant West, as it was then. He died on the farm on which he had settled his family in September of the same year at the age of about forty-five years.

He was united in marriage with Miss Margaret Leach, of the same nativity as himself, and by this marriage became the father of six children, three of whom are living: John, the immediate subject of this brief review; Adelaide, the wife of John Onan, of Shelbina; and Julia, the wife of C. L. Wilkins, who also lives in Shelbina. In politics the father was a pronounced and loyal Democrat and a faithful worker for his party. He was industrious and frugal, making good provision for his family, according to his circumstances, and also took an active and helpful interest in the affairs of his township and county, in which he was esteemed as an excellent citizen. But his usefulness was cut short and his career ended before he had made much headway in his struggle for advancement, and he left his widow and offspring but slenderly provided for.

It thus happened that the mother of John Wiggins found herself with several children to rear and educate as best she could, and an undeveloped farm out of which to make a livelihood for her household. But she entered upon the task bravely and performed her duty faithfully. Nevertheless, it became necessary for her son John, her oldest child, to begin his work in the world at an early age. He obtained a limited education in the district schools of Carroll