

Clay, of this county; Mary Susan, the wife of John Brison, of Kansas City, Missouri; Squire P., who is also a resident of this county; Stephen F., also a Shelby county citizen; William W., whose home is in Omaha, Nebraska; and Morgan H., who lives in Shelby county. In politics the father was a pronounced and energetic Democrat. His religious affiliation was with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

His venerable widow, now eighty-four years old, as has been noted, is the oldest woman in Shelby county—a veritable and shining link between the bustling present, with its advanced development and strident progress, and the remote past of the pioneer days, with its ruggedness of life, its thrilling adventures, constant perils and almost ever-present privations and hardships. She has lived usefully and correctly among this people, and there is not one of them who does not do her reverence.

Her son, John S. Barton, was educated in the district schools of Shelby county, whither his parents moved from Monroe county in 1851. After leaving school he worked out on neighboring farms and assisted the family on the home farm until 1870, then bought the farm of 200 acres on which he now lives, and on this he has been actively, extensively and profitably engaged in farming and raising live stock ever since. He has been very successful in his operations, conducting them with intelligence and skill and managing his business with judgment and foresight. He has also been zealous and energetic in promoting the welfare of his township and county, serving as a member of the school board at several differ-

ent periods, and giving earnest attention to all projects for the advancement and improvement of the locality in which he has his home.

On December 22, 1872, Mr. Barton was united in marriage with Miss Sophronia Kidwell, a daughter of Henry and Nancy (Mullins) Kidwell, long esteemed residents of Shelby county. Of the seven children born of the union six are living: Lulu May, the wife of Rev. R. L. Carroll, of Liberty, Missouri; Etta B., the wife of Thomas Noel, of Lentner; George F., who still has his home with his parents; Edgar C., who is also a resident of Liberty; Jesse W., living in this county; and Eva V., who is still a member of the parental household. In political relations the father is allied with the Democratic party. He and his wife are active members of Missionary Baptist church. They are among the most highly respected citizens of Shelby county and fully deserve the regard and good will bestowed on them.

WILLIAM, GAMBLE.

Settling down to the quiet yet interesting and independent life of a farmer and live stock man after trying his hand at various other occupations and instructive experience in several different localities, William Gamble, of Legtner township, this county, has found the field of effort suited to his taste and made a success of gratifying proportions in working it. He has qualities of persevering industry and good business management that would have brought him profitable returns in almost any line of industry, but his bent is more decidedly in the line he is following than

any other, and he has been wise enough to adhere to it through all temptations to do otherwise, and these have been numerous in his case, as American life is full of allurements for men of capacity and enterprise.

Mr. Gamble was born in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on December 21, 1854, and is a son of Andrew and Patience (Pottercary) Gamble, both of whom met tragic fates after many years of usefulness and upright living. The father was born in Ireland and came to the United States in his boyhood, locating at Vicksburg, Mississippi. There he grew to manhood and became the owner of a cotton plantation east of the city. He also conducted a livery business and traded in horses and mules. In a trip down the Mississippi to New Orleans in 1860 he was accidentally drowned. He was a stone cutter and monument or tombstone maker by trade, but he did not work at that craft long after acquiring a knowledge of it. His widow was killed by a piece of a shell from the Federal army during the siege of Vicksburg. They had seven children, three of whom are living: Andrew, whose home is in St. Louis; William, the subject of this brief review; and Robert, who is a resident of Jackson, Mississippi. The father was a member of the Masonic order and his religious affiliation was with the Protestant Episcopal church.

His son William was educated in the public schools of Vicksburg and St. Louis, and after leaving school began the battle of life for himself by working in a harness manufactory. But he did not like this occupation and in a short

time transferred his energies to work in a machine shop, where he remained until 1870. He then came to Missouri and located for one year in Macon county. At the end of that period he settled in Shelby county on the farm two miles west of Shelbina, and in 1902 on the farm he now lives on and here he has been continuously and successfully engaged in farming and raising live stock ever since. He has increased his farm to 312 acres, one-half of which he has in grass and the rest under general cultivation. In addition to the live stock he raises he feeds numbers of cattle and ships his whole output to Chicago and markets farther east.

Mr. Gamble has taken an earnest interest and active part in promoting the welfare of his township and county, giving energetic attention to every worthy undertaking for their advancement and improvement, and contributing by all means in his power to the comfort and convenience of their people. He served on the school board seven years and in many other ways has shown his abiding interest in the good of his community. He was first married in 1876 to Miss Henrietta Kidwell of Shelby county. She died seven months after the marriage, and on February 12, 1880, he married a second time, his choice in this union being Miss Rosa Taylor, a daughter of Wesley and Emerine (Bowles) Taylor, esteemed residents of Marion county, this state, where Mrs. Gamble was born on April 19, 1856. They have had five children, but only two of them are living: Fannie, the wife of Earl Bowen, of Clarence, Missouri, and

Charles Milton, who is still at home with his parents. Politically the father is a Democrat and he and his wife are members of the Baptist church.

WILLIS J. MAGRUDER.

This prosperous and enterprising farmer and live stock man of Lentner township was born in Shelby county, near Maud, on August 13, 1865, and has passed the whole of his life to this time in the county of his nativity. From his boyhood he has been engaged in the two of its leading industries which now command his time and attention, and by that means has contributed materially to the wealth and commercial influence of his township and the consequence of its people. He has also taken an earnest interest in its welfare in all other ways, performing all the duties of good citizenship in a commendable manner and exemplifying in his daily life the best attributes of elevated American manhood.

Mr. Magruder is of Kentucky ancestry on his father's side of the house. His father, William Henry, and his grandfather, Willis Magruder, were born in the Blue Grass state and became early residents of Missouri, locating in Monroe county during the boyhood of the father. He came into being in 1839, and, after a residence of a few years in his native state, and one of several more in Monroe county, this state, moved to Shelby county in 1862. Here he followed farming and raising live stock until 1893, when he retired from active pursuits and has since been living with his chil-

dren in this and Monroe county. He still owns his farm in Shelby county and has it rented to a tenant who farms it under his direction and supervision.

He was married in 1862 to Miss Sarah Jane Weatherford, of Monroe county, Missouri. They have had nine children, three of whom have died. Those living are: Beauregard, a resident of Walla Walla, state of Washington; Willis J., the subject of this writing; Lucy Helen, the wife of E. R. Gaines, of Monroe county, Missouri; Henrietta, the wife of Alexander Stalcup, of Monroe county; Minnie Kate, the wife of Le Roy Harding, of Shelby county; and Beulah May, the wife, of George Ashford, of Shelbyna. In his political relations the father adheres to the principles of the Democratic party, and has long been a faithful worker in its service. His religious connection is with the Baptist church.

Willis J. Magruder obtained his education at the district school in Fairview, Monroe county, this state. After leaving school he studied telegraphy at Sedalia for one year, then farmed on the home place and assisted the family there until 1888. In that year he began a career in farming and raising live stock on his own account in Shelby county, and here he has been continuously and successfully engaged in those pursuits ever since. He makes a specialty of raising superior breeds of hogs, but also handles sheep and cattle in large numbers. He has studied all features of his business thoughtfully and observed all its manifestations with care, and by this means has become not only one of the most successful stock men in his township, but