

home; and Jane, who is the wife of S. V. Mackey, of Cheney, Washington.

Lewis Smith was but four years of age at the time of the family removal from Ohio to Missouri, and he has ever since been a resident of Shelby county. He was reared to maturity in Taylor township, and there his early educational discipline was secured in the Ernest district school and the school colloquially designated in those days as "Grub College." He continued to attend school at intervals until he was nineteen years of age, and in the meanwhile he early began to contribute his quota to the work of the home farm, with whose affairs he continued to be associated until 1879, when, at the age of twenty-four years, he began independent operations as a farmer and stock-grower, on a place of eighty acres that had been deeded to him by his father. He has improved the farm with good buildings, has added to its area until he now has 120 acres, the major portion of which is under effective cultivation, and on every side are evidences of thrift and good management. Mr. Smith is a man of indefatigable energy, enterprising methods and marked public spirit, and he has ever taken a lively interest in all that has touched the welfare and advancement of his home township and county, where he is well known and held in high popular esteem. Though he has never been ambitious for public office he has served with marked efficiency as school director of his district and is a staunch advocate of the principles and policies of the Republican party. Both he and his wife are zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Evans Chapel and take an

active interest in the various departments of its work.

On February 4, 1879, Mr. Smith was united in marriage to Miss Lorena Jennings, who was born and reared in Shelby county and who is a daughter of Wiley D. and Jane Jennings, the former of whom was born in Tennessee and the latter in Illinois. They are now both dead. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have two sons, both of whom are popular young men of Shelby county: John Everett, who was born on December 28, 1879, and Prentiss Eugene, who was born on September 27, 1883.

JOHN A. GILLASPY.

Within half a mile of his present attractive residence, in Taylor township, Shelby county, the birth of John A. Gillaspy occurred on February 22, 1838, and this date has its own significance, indicating as it does that he is a representative of a pioneer family of this now favored section of the state. His parents were numbered among the early settlers of the county, where they ever commanded unqualified esteem and where they did well their part in conserving both civic and industrial development. Further than this, he whose name initiates this paragraph had the distinction of being the first white child born within the borders of Taylor township, where he is now a substantial citizen and representative farmer and stock-grower, and where his course has been so directed as to retain to him inviolable confidence and esteem, the while he has well upheld the prestige of the honored name which he bears and which has been

prominently identified with the history of Shelby county for more than seventy years. He is a son of Lewis H. Gillaspy, concerning whom due mention is made in sketches relating to other representatives of the family in the county, and to these articles ready reference can be made as supplemental to the one here presented.

John A. Gillaspy was reared under the conditions and influences of the pioneer epoch in Shelby county, and as a boy he began to aid in the work of the home farm. His early educational training was secured in the Ernest schoolhouse and the old district school building that was formerly a Baptist church—one of the first church buildings erected in Taylor township. He continued to attend school, principally during the winter terms, until he was sixteen years of age, and in the intervening summer months he gave his attention to the sturdy work of the home farm, with whose management he continued to be identified until 1858, when, at the age of twenty years, he initiated his independent career by locating on a place of eighty acres given to him by his father. Here he has maintained his home during the long intervening years, which have been marked by earnest and well directed industry, through the medium of which he has gained a large measure of material success and achieved that independence which makes it possible for him to enjoy unequivocal peace and prosperity as the shadows of life begin to lengthen from the golden west. He has continuously given his attention to diversified agriculture and to the raising of high-grade live stock, and to his original

homestead he has added from time to time until he is now the owner of a finely improved landed estate of 404 acres. Mr. Gillaspy was one of the organizers and charter members of the Farmers' Bank of Leonard, in which substantial and popular financial institution he is still a stockholder.

Though never lacking in civic loyalty and ever standing ready to lend his influence and co-operation in the support of measures and enterprises projected for the general good of the community, Mr. Gillaspy has never found aught of allurements in public office, and the only position of which he has been incumbent in this line is that of school director. He takes due interest in the vital questions and issues of the hour and his political allegiance is given to the Democratic party. Both he and his wife have long been zealous and devoted members of the Christian church and he is a pillar in the church of his denomination at Leonard, in which he has held the office of elder for a number of years.

On December 2, 1858, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Gillaspy to Miss Crecy Peoples, who likewise was born and reared in Shelby county, where her parents, John and Rebecca (Bachman) Peoples were early settlers. To Mr. and Mrs. Gillaspy were born two children: Dora Alice, who is the wife of John W. McWilliams, a representative business man of the village of Leonard, this county; and Beatrice Orzelia, who is the wife of James H. Hall, who likewise is engaged in business at Leonard. As a worthy pioneer and as one of the oldest of the native sons of Shelby county there is special pleasure in presenting in this

volume this all too brief review of the career of Mr. Gillaspy, who has here lived and labored to goodly ends and who here commands a secure place in the confidence and regard of all who know him.

LAFAYETTE J. JOHNSTON.

In section 28, Taylor township, is located the well improved homestead farm of Mr. Johnston, who is entitled to consideration in this work as one of the representative farmers and stock-growers of Shelby county and as a citizen of distinctive loyalty and public spirit.

Lafayette J. Johnston is a scion of staunch Scottish ancestry, his grandfather, John Johnston, having been a native of Scotland and having come from the land of the hills and heather to America when young. He passed the major portion of his life in the dominion of Canada, where he continued to maintain his home until his death. His son Jacob W., father of him whose name initiates this review, was born in Weller county, province of Ontario, Canada, on June 28, 1836, and there he was reared and educated. He was there identified with agricultural pursuits and there also became a skilled workman at the trade of carpenter. He continued his residence in Weller county, Canada, until 1868, when he came with his family to Shelby county, Missouri, and secured a tract of land in Taylor township, where he engaged in farming, in connection with which he found much requisition for his services as a carpenter, having erected a number of houses and other buildings in this township. Here he continued to maintain his home until 1880,

when he removed to Elkhart county, Indiana, where he became a successful farmer and where he passed the residue of his life, which reached its close in 1900. In 1860 was solemnized his marriage to Miss Lydia Nygh, who likewise was born and reared in the Dominion of Canada and who is still living in Elkhart county, Indiana, both having been zealous members of the Mennonite church and having well exemplified in their daily lives the simple and noble faith they thus professed. They became the parents of ten children, of whom eight are now living, namely: Lafayette J., who is the immediate subject of this sketch; Clara, who is the wife of Jacob Mishler, a resident of Elkhart county, Indiana; Ida, who is the wife of Albert Brady, of New Paris, that state; Susan, who is the wife of George Walker, of Chicago, Illinois; Isaiah, who is a resident of Nappanee, Indiana; Esther, who is the wife of Elmer Grubb, of Los Angeles, California; Jacob, who maintains his home in Elkhart county, Indiana; and Mary, who is the wife of Leonard Stackhouse, of Nappanee, that state. It will thus be seen that the immediate family circle now finds representation in divers sections of the Union.

Lafayette J. Johnston, the immediate subject of this sketch, was born on a farm in Weller county, province of Ontario, Canada, on November 19, 1866, and thus he was about two years of age at the time of the family removal to Shelby county, Missouri, where he gained his rudimentary education in the district schools of Taylor township. When he had attained to the age of four-