

Thomas J., who is the immediate subject of this sketch. The father is an earnest Democrat in political faith and belongs to the Christian church. The mother died at the birth of our subject in 1858 and the father married a second time, his second wife being Ruhama Morrill who is still living. They had three sons and three daughters.

Thomas J. Rice attended the public schools in Scotland and Clark counties and also the Baptist College at Alexandria, Missouri. Upon the completion of his education he went to Arkansas, where he remained five years, teaching school during the winter months and acting as private secretary for Robert McClelland, a wealthy cattle man, during the summers. At the end of the period mentioned he returned to Missouri and passed one year in Shelbina as a clerk and salesman for W. H. Dye, then one of the leading general merchants of the city. He next located on a farm near Shelbina, on which he dwelt eleven years. From that farm he moved to another near Lentner which he occupied and worked for five years. In August, 1901, he returned to Shelbina, and here he has ever since resided. He is now busily engaged in the real estate and fire insurance business, largely in behalf of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Association of Shelby county, of which he has been president since 1897.

Mr. Rice's interests are numerous and valuable. He is a large landowner, a stockholder in the Old Bank of Shelbina and connected with several other enterprises of moment in themselves and highly beneficial to the community. He was also one of the founders of the

Farmers' & Merchants' Bank, which is now the Shelbina National Bank, and one of its first stockholders and directors. He is a Democrat in politics and holds membership in the Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Order of Royal Neighbors fraternally. He is also an active and zealous church worker, being steward of the congregation to which he belongs in the Methodist Episcopal church, South.

On April 30, 1885, Mr. Rice was married to Miss Ida M. Freeland, of this county. They have had five children, three of whom are living. These are: Vivian, wife of P. G. Fox, of Shelbina; and Giles G. and Freeland R., who are living at home. Margaret died in 1909. Exemplifying in their daily lives all domestic and social attributes, and giving to those around them examples in every relation which are worthy of all imitation, Mr. and Mrs. Rice are justly regarded as among the best and most estimable citizens of the county, and are universally respected and admired as such.

WILLIAM H. GILLISPIE.

Actively engaged in a business of universal interest and value to all classes of the community, prominent in social, fraternal and church relations, and taking always a good citizen's share of the burden of public affairs upon himself, William H. Gillispie, of Shelbina, is one of the leading and most serviceable men, in the world of Shelby county life, and is universally esteemed as such. He was born in this state on June 24, 1875, a native of Monroe county, but comes of good old Kentucky stock. His grand-

father, Angel Gillispie, was born and reared in the Blue Grass state and inherited from his ancestors a decided tendency to adventure and conquest. The same spirit that led' them to leave the older and more civilized sections of the country and brave the hardships and privations, the daily toils and nightly perils of frontier life in the wilds of Kentucky, impelled him to turn his back upon the home of his youth, and in early manhood become a pioneer in Missouri and hew out a pathway of progress in manly endeavor for himself in this then unsettled country, which was still fraught with hazards that always lie beyond the boundaries of civilization.

Accordingly he gathered his household goods 'about him, bringing his family to what is now Missouri when his son, John W. Gillispie, the father of William H., who is the occasion of this writing, was but a child. On the virgin soil of our present state John W. Gillispie grew to manhood and obtained the limited extent of scholastic training that was then available in the wilderness. Upon reaching his maturity he turned his attention to farming, and this proved to be his life's occupation, for he continued at it until his death in 1884. He was married in 1870 to Miss Alice Crow, of Monroe county, and they became the parents of six children, all of whom are living, and in various capacities contributing to the growth and development of the country. They are: Jacob C., who lives in Shelbina; Maude, the wife of R. A. Threlkeld, of Shelby county; Edward, who is a prominent citizen of Monroe county; William H., of Shelbina; Elsie, who is living at home; and John M., who is also

one of the wideawake and progressive men that give life and interest to the business and social life of Shelbina. The father was a devoted member of the Democratic party in whose principles he saw the best theory of government under our constitution, and in religious affairs, adhered to the doctrines and teachings of the Methodist Episcopal church, South.

William H. Gillispie obtained his early education in the district schools of Monroe county and later attended a *good* business college at Hannibal, Missouri, from which he was graduated in 1895. When his preparation for the battle of life was completed he entered upon the struggle as a clerk for his uncle, Frank Crow, who carried on an extensive milling business at Shelbina, Missouri. He then passed three years as a clerk in the employ of Messrs. Smith & Bowling, leading merchants of Shelbina.

He had not yet found his proper bearings in business and continued in search of them. He next engaged in the real estate and abstract business in association with the present state senator from Shelbina, Hon. George W. Humphrey, whose life story is briefly recorded on another page of this volume. He remained with Mr. Humphrey until 1902, when he purchased the interest of the senator in the business and took in as new partners J. H. Wood and R. L. Thomas, the firm name being Wood, Thomas & Gillispie. This firm continued in business until 1907. In that year Mr. Wood sold his interest in the enterprise to his partners, and they have since been conducting the business under the name and style of Thomas & Gillispie.

At all stages of the game Mr. Gillispie has been successful and prosperous. He owns considerable real estate in this county, in Kansas City, and in other parts of the state. He is widely and favorably known as a business man of integrity and intelligence, a citizen of great public spirit and progressiveness, and a gentleman of social culture and genial disposition and manners. He is a Democrat in politics, an Odd Fellow and a Modern Woodman of America in fraternal relations and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South in religious affiliation.

The city of Shelbina and the whole of the surrounding county are much indebted to him for his activity and stimulating example in the matter of improvement and development, and the people always expect to find him at the front in behalf of any worthy and commendable enterprise in which the welfare of the public is involved; and they are never disappointed in this respect. In addition to being active in such matters, he is also far-seeing and resourceful, and his aid is always valued whether it be given in counsel or in zealous and productive service as a worker. His citizenship is elevated and elevating; his example is impressive and stimulating; his fidelity to duty is constant and effective. No man stands higher in the regard of the people and none deserves more in the way of respect and good will.

JOHN T. GOSE.

John T. Gose and George Gose are the sole surviving children of John S. Gose and Margaret A. Gose. They were born on what is known as the Gose farm,

in Monroe county, Missouri, and one and one-half miles south of Shelbina. They lived on the farm until the death of their father in 1873, and then moved with their mother to Shelbina where they still live. Margaret A. Gose died in October, 1905.

John S. Gose was born in Virginia and was a son of Levi Gose and Mary Gose, nee Davis. They came to this state in the thirties and settled in Monroe county.

Margaret A. Gose was a daughter of Angel Gillispie and Lucinda Gillispie, nee Spencer. Her father and mother were native Kentuckians and came to Monroe county soon after Missouri became a state. She was born on the old Gillispie place near Old Clinton, Monroe county, in 1834, and first married to William Lasley. C. H. Lasley, of Shelbina, is the only surviving child of this marriage.

John T. Gose was two years old when the family moved to Shelbina. He attended the public schools and the Shelbina Collegiate Institute, graduating in 1888. He spent one year in the mercantile business in Monroe City, Missouri, and then entered Central College at Fayette, Missouri, from which institution he received the degree of A.B. in 1894. The following year he held a scholarship in Vanderbilt University at Nashville, Tennessee, and in 1896 this institution conferred upon him the degree of A. M.

In the fall of 1896 he returned to Central College as professor of philosophy, but soon resigned this position to enter the ministry. He spent the next two years preaching in Keytesville, Missouri, and then resigned from the ministry to become a post graduate student in the