

John D. The father died in 1868 and the mother in 1874.

Before coming to Missouri the family lived for a number of years in Schuyler county, Illinois, and there John D. Edwards was born in 1841. He attended the district schools near his home and assisted his father on the farm, taking an earnest interest in the welfare of the family and doing all he could to help it along. At the age of fifteen he accompanied his parents to this state and remained with them until he attained his majority. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, Ninety-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, in defense of the Union, and was soon afterward in the midst of unrolling columns on some of the historic battle fields of our Civil war. He took part in the battles of Mobile, Fort Blakeley and others of importance, and also in many minor engagements.

After the close of the war Mr. Edwards returned to his Missouri home, and for a time worked at the carpenter trade, of which he had previously acquired some knowledge. He then again turned his attention to farming, and continued his operations in that line until 1899, when he retired from all active pursuits. He was married at Shelbyville on February 10, 1867, to Miss Elizabeth Dehner, a daughter of Sebastian and Mary Dehner, natives of Germany, who came to this country and Missouri many years ago and located in Shelby county, where Mrs. Edwards was born and grew to womanhood. She and her husband became the parents of six children, five of whom are living: James E., who married Miss Louisa Bowman; Eliza, the wife of Hugh Wheeler; Milby I., whose

wife was Miss Fanny Eliza Copenhaver; John F., who married Miss Grace Albright, and Nina K., the wife of Charles Getchal. They are all upright and useful citizens, and are everywhere esteemed highly as such.

In political faith and allegiance the father is a pronounced Republican, with an earnest interest in the welfare of his party, and a heart and hand ever ready to promote its success. He keeps alive the agreeable and reminiscent features of his military service, without the bitterness of feeling that prevailed during the experiences they recall, by zealous and active membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. He is also a member of the Methodist church. In the affairs of the township and county he has always taken an earnest interest, manifesting this in a practical way by giving the people excellent service as a member of the school board for upwards of five years.

WILLIAM K. GUNBY.

All of the sixty-three years so far passed in the life of this enterprising and progressive farmer of Clay township, Shelby county, have been spent in the county except those which found him a soldier in the Union army during the Civil war, and they have all been employed in usefulness to the locality in which he lived since he arrived at years of discretion and the power to labor and produce. He was born in Shelby county in March, 1847, and is a grandson of Kirk Gunby, a native of Maryland who commanded a regiment of the Colonial troops at the Revolutionary battle of

Monmouth. His youngest son, Stephen Gunby, the father of William K., was also born and reared in Maryland, where his life began in 1817. He came to Missouri in 1836, when he was but nineteen years old, and took up his residence in Shelby county. Here he became a farmer of prominence and won a substantial estate by his industry, thrift and good management.

In 1846 he was married to Miss Mary Ann Coard, also a native of Maryland, where her father, William Coard, also was born. Of the five children born of the union only two are living, William K. and his brother, Thomas Samuel. Their mother died in 1859, and in 1860 the father married Miss Elizabeth Bynum, who is still living. By her marriage to Mr. Gunby she became the mother of four children: Martha, the wife of A. Crutchcain; Isabella, the wife of R. McRea; Elizabeth, the wife of William Hollyman, and Anna, the wife of W. H. McRea.

William K. Gunby attended the district school at Bacon Chapel, and later a private school in Shelbina. He then passed five or six months in the study of law, but not finding this to his taste, abandoned the profession and became a farmer. He has adhered to his chosen occupation ever since and has been very successful in it. His farming operations are extensive and are conducted with great vigor, intelligence and a wide and accurate knowledge of the requirements of the soil and the demands of the markets. The farm is well improved with commodious and comfortable buildings and fully provided with everything

needed for cultivating it in an intensive and highly productive manner, and it makes excellent returns to the persuasive hand of skillful husbandry which controls it.

Mr. Gunby was married in 1869 to Miss Perthrah Jackson, a daughter of Thomas and Mary Jackson, natives of Tennessee who came to Missouri many years ago and located in Shelby county, where Mrs. Gunby was born and reared, and where she obtained her education. She and her husband became the parents of five children, four of whom are living: Stella Augusta, Lily Irene, the wife of Ford Brown; Clara Ethel, and Lanius Wesley, a Methodist minister in Southern California.

During the Civil war the father enlisted in the Union army in Company D, Fourteenth Missouri Cavalry, serving as a private soldier. In his political faith and activity in national affairs he is allied with the Democratic party, and active in its service. But in local affairs his first consideration is the good of the township and county, and partisan interests are always secondary, if they are taken into the account at all. He served faithfully and acceptably as a member of the school board upwards of five years, and was also road overseer for a number of years. In religious affiliations he is allied with the Southern Methodist church, and for many years has taken very active part in all church work, holding in succession every office in the gift of the congregation to which he belongs. His wife died on July 15, 1908, after nearly forty years of commendable domestic life.