

continued to represent his home during the long intervening years. He initiated his independent career at the age of seventeen years, and for several years he was employed at farm work by various farmers of his home county. From 1859 until 1862 he conducted a general store at Hager's Grove, and after his marriage, in 1866, he located on his present homestead farm, having originally purchased forty acres, to which he has since added until he now has a well improved landed estate of 200 acres, all of which area is available for cultivation, making the farmstead a model place. For many years Mr. Osburn bent every energy to the improving and developing of his farm, guiding his course with marked discrimination and judgment, and in due time reaping the generous reward that was his just due. Now venerable in years he relegates the practical work of the farm to younger hands, though he still finds much of satisfaction in giving a general supervision to the same. His character has been moulded and formed in the practical school of experience, and he has ever been kindly and generous in his intercourse with his fellow men, tolerant in his judgment and imbued with an impregnable integrity of purpose, so that he has naturally held the unequivocal confidence and esteem of those with whom he has come in contact in the various relations of life. He has been one of the world's gallant army of workers and none has a deeper appreciation of the value and dignity of honest toil and endeavor.

Mr. Osburn is one of the honored and influential citizens of his township, is a stalwart in the local camp of the

Democratic party, and, while never ambitious for public office, he has given effective service as road overseer and school director. He and his wife are zealous and devout members of the Christian church and have been specially active in its work until advancing years have partially precluded this faithful and constant service.

On April 10, 1866, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Osburn to Miss Martha E. Smith, who was born in Harrison county, West Virginia, and reared in Shelby county, where her parents, Charles L. A. and Nancy (Parr) Smith, settled many years ago. Of the six children of Mr. and Mrs. Osburn, four are now living, the other two having died in childhood. Helen F. is the wife of William G. Vandiver, who is a successful farmer of this county; Dewitt C. has the practical management of the home farm; George M. likewise is a successful farmer of this county; and Samuel A. is associated in the work of the homestead farm.

GEORGE W. HALL.

It is gratifying to the editors and publishers of this history to be able to incorporate within its pages a review of the career of this venerable and honored citizen of the county, which has represented his home for more than half a century and been the scene of the earnest and honest endeavors that have gained him independence and enabled him to enjoy generous peace and prosperity as the shadows of his life begin to lengthen from the golden west. He has lived virtually retired on his fine

homestead farm for more than twenty-five years, the same being eligibly located in Taylor township, and he is here surrounded by a circle of loyal friends, being one of the well known and highly honored residents of this section of the county and commanding the high regard of all who know him.

Mr. Hall is a native of the state of Maryland, having been born in Worcester county on February 7, 1829. His father, James Hall, was born in the same county and passed his entire life in Maryland, where his active career was one of active identification with agricultural pursuits. He died in 1832, while still a young man, having been married in 1828 to Miss Louisa Grey, who was likewise born and reared in Maryland, where the respective families were early founded, and of the two children the subject of this sketch is the survivor, his brother, Thomas P., having died at the age of about fourteen years. A number of years after the death of her first husband, Mrs. Hall became the wife of William Webb, with whom she came to Missouri in the year 1835. They located in Marion county, whence they later removed to Monroe county, and both Mr. and Mrs. Webb passed the closing years of their lives in Shelby county, where her death occurred on March 3, 1891. Of the children of the second marriage, two are now living, Jacob and Elizabeth (now Mrs. Brewington), both of Shelby county.

George William Hall, the immediate subject of this review, was about six years of age at the time of the family removal to Missouri, and his early educational advantages were most meager,

being limited to a very irregular and brief attendance in the pioneer schools of Monroe and Scotland counties, this state, where he did not even become familiar with what were designated in the early days as the "Three R's," interpreted as "Reading, 'Riting and 'Rithmetic." Through the valuable lessons gained under the wise headmaster, experience, he later supplemented his limited early training, becoming a man of mature judgment, much business acumen and wide general information. When eleven years of age he went to live with his uncle, Jacob Grey, a farmer in Scotland county, and there he worked on the farm and in a blacksmith shop for the mere recompense of a home. He continued thus engaged until 1847, when, at the age of eighteen years, he began working by the month in Shelby county, devoting himself to farm labor in this way until 1849, when he married and initiated his independent career by renting land, upon which he farmed until the following year, when he purchased a tract of practically unimproved land near the village of Clarence, this county. A few years later he sold this property and purchased 110 acres in Salt River township, where he was engaged in farming until the close of the Civil war, having also operated a saw mill on Black creek. In 1866 he sold his farm and removed to the village of Clarence, this county, where he conducted a blacksmith shop until 1873, having built up a successful business. He then sold the shop and purchased 160 acres of his present homestead, in Taylor township, where he has since maintained his home and where he continued actively identi-

fied with the work of the place until 1882, since which time he has lived virtually retired. He has developed his land into one of the valuable farms of the county, and the area of the same is now 270 acres. Soon after locating here he established on his farm, contiguous to the village of Leonard, a blacksmith shop, which he conducted until his retirement from active labors, and of which he is still the owner.

Mr. Hall has been one of the progressive and loyal citizens of the county and has never failed in his duties as a citizen. He is a staunch supporter of the cause of the Democratic party, but the only office in which he has consented to serve is that of school trustee, of which he was incumbent for several years. His integrity of purpose has never been questioned, and his unassuming sincerity and honor have gained him the esteem and good will of all with whom he has come in contact.

On June 28, 1849, Mr. Hall was united in marriage to Miss Lovey Brewington, who was born and reared in Shelby county, where her father, Henry Brewington, was an early settler. Of the ten children of this union, six are living, and concerning them the following brief record is entered: James H. is engaged in the farming and blacksmithing business in the village of Leonard; Thomas B. is now a resident of the state of Idaho; Joseph N. resides in Baker City, Oregon; William P. is a physician of Macon county, Missouri; Martha S. is the wife of Edward Hines, of Shelbyville, this county; and George M. is identified with agricultural pursuits in British Columbia. His first wife died June

17, 1899. He was married to his present wife in June, 1910, her name being Mary Willis, widow of Finius Willis. Her maiden name was Mary Breeding. She was born in Randolph county, Missouri. She died in December, 1910.

WILLIAM L. GILLASPY.

In the attractive little village of Leonard Mr. Gillaspy is living virtually retired from active business, after having contributed his quota of service as one of the world's workers. He is a native son of the county and a member of one of its honored pioneer families, and the original progenitor in America settled in Virginia in the colonial epoch of our national history. There was born James Alexander Gillaspy, father of him whose name initiates this sketch, and this worthy man left the Old Dominion to become a pioneer of Kentucky, whence came the original representatives of the name in Missouri.

William L. Gillaspy was born in Taylor township, Shelby county, Missouri, on October 6, 1840, and is a son of Louis H. and Lucinda (Manuel) Gillaspy, both natives of Kentucky, where the former was born on July 5, 1806, and the latter on April 23, 1804. Their marriage was solemnized on January 1, 1835. In 1830 Louis H. Gillaspy had come from his native state to Missouri, first settling in Marion county, where he remained until his marriage, soon after which he came to Shelby county and secured 160 acres of government land, upon which a portion of the present city of Shelbyville is located. He reclaimed a portion of the tract to cultivation and there con-