

paroled to the plains of the West, he felt obliged to abide by the terms of his release and never entered the service of the Confederacy again.

Mr. Roff has been married twice. His first wife was Miss Julia Connolly, of Kentucky. They had one child, who died a number of years ago, as did the mother. On February 12, 1896, he was united with his second wife, who, before her marriage, was Miss Jennie Hinthorn, a native of McLean county, Illinois. He and his wife are highly respected and counted as among the best and most estimable citizens of the county. They are well and widely known and everywhere among their friends and acquaintances their lives are regarded as worthy of the good will of the people because of their uprightness and usefulness. Both have been active in all commendable projects for the good of the county and town, manifesting an earnest interest in their improvement and the lasting welfare of their inhabitants. Mr. Roff is a staunch Democrat in politics and he and his wife are members of the Christian church in religious faith and association.

JESSE T. HARDY.

This eminent jurist and esteemed citizen of Shelby county is an ornament to her public life, and his occupancy of the bench is a guaranty that the rights and interests of her people will be sedulously watched and guarded against wrong, so far as it is in the power of an upright and enlightened court to furnish such protection, her peace, order and good government will be preserved, and the laws of the state will be strictly and

properly enforced within her boundaries.

Judge Hardy is a native of the county, born on May 1, 1848. He was reared on its soil, educated in its public schools, for years engaged in tilling its fertile farm lands, and has been prominent in its professional and official circles. He is therefore closely connected with its people and has a personal as well as an official interest in their welfare. He is now serving his third term as county judge, and is more firmly entrenched in the confidence and esteem of the people than when his official life began. For his course on the bench has been eminently satisfactory to them and in the highest degree creditable to himself.

The Judge is a son of Samuel B. and Mary J. (Sparrow) Hardy, natives of Virginia and members of families that have dignified and adorned all walks of life in the history of that state. The father, impelled by a spirit of daring and self-reliance, and wishing to found a name for himself and his descendants on his own achievements, sought his opportunity in what was in his young manhood an unbroken wilderness. He came to Missouri in 1834 and took up a tract of wild land in what is now Shelby county and about eight miles northeast of the present city of Shelbina. He also opened a country store, and during the next few years was actively engaged in reducing his farm to subjection and productiveness and supplying the wants of the people around him from his mercantile establishment. When the railroad was partially completed he moved to Shelbina and built the Adams hotel, which he occupied and conducted for four or five years. He then returned to

his farm to pass the remainder of his days on the expanse he had redeemed from the wilds and die at last in the home which was hallowed as the product and the scene of his useful toil.

He was always deeply and intelligently interested in public affairs and freely gave time, attention and material help to direct their course aright according to his views. He served two terms as county judge in the early history of the county, and when the Civil war burst upon our unhappy country, fearful of the dismemberment of the Union, he enlisted in the Federal army in its defense. His command was a part of the army of General Glover, and was stationed at Palmyra. While it saw comparatively little active service, it was at all times ready for duty and willing to dare death on the field of carnage. In the engagements in which it took part it made its military spirit and capacity manifest and admirably exemplified the highest type of American manhood. The elder Judge Hardy was married in Virginia to Miss Mary J. Sparrow, who was, like himself, a native of Virginia, as has been stated. They had eight children, of whom the present Judge is the only one living. The father was a Republican in politics, a Freemason in fraternal life and a Southern Methodist in religion.

Judge Jesse T. Hardy obtained his education in the public schools of Shelby, and on leaving them turned his attention to farming and raising live stock, and also to contracting in works of construction. After a successful career of over a quarter of a century as a farmer and contractor he sold his farm, gave up his other business and moved to

Shelbina, making himself free to discharge his important and responsible duties as county judge, having been elected to the position in 1904. At the end of his first term he was re-elected, and at the close of the second received renewed and increased assurances of the confidence and esteem of the people by a very complimentary and enthusiastic election to a third term.

An analysis of his administration of the office of judge is not intended or necessary here. His official record so far has passed into the history of the county and been twice passed upon by the electorate with high approval, and this gives it higher standing and a firmer foundation in county and state chronicles than anything would that might be embodied in these paragraphs. It is enough for them to state that his services have been thoroughly satisfactory to the people of the county and have given him a high rank among the jurists of the state.

In political allegiance and activity Judge Hardy has always been a Democrat, and in fraternal affiliation he has long been an Odd Fellow. While free from offensive partisanship and undue political activity since he has been on the bench, he has nevertheless shown a keen interest in the welfare and success of his party on all occasions, as every good citizen should, and to the fraternal society in which he holds membership he has also given a commendable share of time and attention. He was married on February 22, 1868, to Miss Mary Elizabeth Maddox, of this county. They have had ten children, six of whom are living: Samuel Tolbert, of Shelby county; Dora Belle, wife of William Howell; John E.;

Jessie, wife of Perry Parsons, and Chester and Lee, all residents of Shelby county and prominent and useful in promoting its development and improvement.

WILLIAM T. SWEARINGEN.

Born in Monroe county on July 24, 1849, at a time when this portion of the state was almost virgin in its wilderness and unsettled condition, and growing to manhood here, taking part in all the stirring activities incident to peopling and developing a new country, William T. Swearingen, of Shelby county, has had fine opportunities for being useful to his locality and writing his name in enduring phrase among the monuments and products of its progress. That he has employed his opportunities to good advantage is proven by the numerous and imposing structures for residence and business purposes which he has erected in the county and city of his long home and by the universal esteem in which he is held by all classes of the people.

Mr. Swearingen is a son of Thomas and Polly (Ashcraft) Swearingen, the father a native of Kentucky, born in 1815, and the mother born and reared in Missouri. Thomas Swearingen came to Missouri early in the thirties and located in Monroe county. There, for a number of years, he was actively engaged in farming and raising live stock, giving his whole attention to his operations and making them as profitable as the circumstances would allow. In the course of time he became enamored of Shelby county, and, selling out his interests in Monroe, he moved to this county on a farm which he purchased,

and on which one of the old landmarks of the section was located in the form of a flour and saw mill on Salt river. He worked the farm and operated the mill greatly to the convenience and advantage of the people within a large extent of the surrounding country and his own profit for many years, when he sold all his real estate and farming appliances, and retired from active life to a home in Walkersville, in which he died in 1893.

In politics the father was a Democrat, firm in his devotion and zealous in his services to his party, and in religious connection was affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church, South, to which he also gave the benefit of his wisdom in council and his fidelity and industry in work. He was married twice, the first time to Miss Polly Ashcraft. Of the nine children born to them five are living and all but one are residents of Shelby county. They are: James, Sallie, the wife of John Wood; William T. and Malcomb, of this county, and Ephraim, who is a citizen of Monroe county. The second marriage of the head of the house occurred in 1868, and by it he was united with Miss Ellen Wood, of Shelby county. They became the parents of two children, Milton, who lives in St. Joseph, this state, and Ora, the wife of William Dungan, of Shelby county.

William T. Swearingen grew to manhood on the parental homestead in this county and obtained his education in its public schools. After leaving school he continued to work on his father's farm until 1869, doing also considerable work as a builder and contractor, having acquired a mastery of