

in banking circles in all parts of many neighboring states. Conducting a general banking business embracing all the desirable features of present-day banking, it seeks to meet all requirements in the way of accommodation to the community and its people and aid in every way available to it in the progress and development of the county. And that it is succeeding in these endeavors is shown by the extent of its operations and the high regard in which it is held by all classes of the people.

Mr. Dimmitt was married on March 17, 1881, to Miss Cora E. Schofield, a daughter of Ellis and Elizabeth (Baxter) Schofield, of Palmyra, Missouri. The seven children that have blessed their union and brightened their household are all living. They are: Nora L., the wife of Wallace Quinsberry, of Moberly, Missouri; Edith B., a teacher in the public schools in the state of Utah; Cora L., the wife of Robert Maupin, of Kansas City, Missouri, and Eula S., William P. E., Prince H., Jr., and Fannie Agee, all of whom are still members of the parental family circle.

With a broad enduring interest in the welfare of the masses of the people, and believing firmly in their right to a controlling voice in the public affairs of the country, Mr. Dimmitt has been a life-long Democrat, zealous and effective in the service of his party and holding high rank in its councils in the county. His religious affiliation is with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and he takes an active and serviceable interest in its affairs, being one of the trustees of the congregation to which he belongs and a teacher in its Sunday school. Well es-

teemed as a man and social companion, standing high as a citizen, and exhibiting on all occasions a deep and practical interest in the welfare of the whole county and all its people, he is one of its most worthy, popular and representative men.

#### JOHN J. HEWITT.

The president of the Citizens' Bank of Shelbyville has been a resident of Shelby county from the time of his nativity, is a member of one of the honored pioneer families of this favored section of the state, and in both business and civic affairs he has ever stood exponent of the highest type of citizenship, the while he has commanded to the fullest extent the high regard of the people of the community which has ever represented his home.

John J. Hewitt was born on the old homestead farm in Bethel township, Shelby county, Missouri, February 24, 1849, and is a son of Samuel M. and Caroline (Morgan) Hewitt, both natives of Kentucky, where the former was born in the year 1800 and the latter in 1810. The father was reared and educated in his native state, where he continued to reside until 1836, when he removed to Missouri and took up his abode in Marion county. In the following year he came to Shelby county, where he secured a tract of land, upon which practically no improvements had been made, and there instituted the work of developing a farm. He became eventually one of the leading farmers of the county, where he accumulated a fine landed estate of 260 acres in Bethel township, and he continued to reside on his homestead until

his death, in **1871**. He was a man of prominence and influence in his community, was a staunch Democrat in his political adherency, and he was a worthy and zealous member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, and his wife was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, South. Their marriage was solemnized in the state of Kentucky. Mrs. Hewitt was summoned to the life eternal in the year **1894**. They became the parents of ten children, and concerning the seven now living the following brief data are given: Russell is a resident of Guthrie, Oklahoma, where he is engaged in business; Samuel M. is a successful farmer of Shelby county; Luther G. is engaged in the real estate business in Shelbyville; Missouri is the wife of Jacob Curry and they reside in the eastern part of the state of Colorado; John J. is the immediate subject of this review; Isabelle is the widow of Frank M. Magruder and maintains her home in Shelby county; and Virginia is the wife of John W. Howe, of this county.

John J. Hewitt was reared on the old home farm, in whose work he early began to lend his aid, and his rudimentary education was secured in the country schools, after which he continued his studies in the high school of Shelbyville. He made good use of his opportunities and proved himself eligible for pedagogic honors, as he had devoted no little time to the study of the higher branches in a private way. He was known as a successful and popular teacher in the public schools during a period of ten years, and during the last two years of this interval he was principal of the vil-

lage schools of Newark, Knox county, Missouri.

In 1880 Mr. Hewitt engaged in the general merchandise business in Shelbyville, where he built up a large and substantial trade, becoming one of the leading merchants of this thriving little city, where he continued operations in this line for a period of nine years, or until **1894**, when he became one of the organizers and incorporators of the Citizens' Bank of Shelbyville, of which he has since been president and to whose upbuilding his personal popularity and able services have been largely contributory. A brief record concerning this well ordered and successful financial institution is given on other pages of this work. Mr. Hewitt now devotes himself largely to the active supervision of the executive affairs of the bank, and he is a citizen who manifests at all times a deep and helpful interest in all measures that tend to advance the welfare and progress of his home city and county.

In politics Mr. Hewitt is a staunch supporter of the cause of the Democratic party, and he has been called upon to serve in various positions of distinctive public trust. He was elected county school commissioner in 1890 and retained this incumbency for two years, within which he was most zealous and efficient in furthering educational interests in his jurisdiction. In **1892** he was elected county treasurer, of which office he remained in tenure for four years and in which he gave an admirable and popular administration of the fiscal affairs of the county. He also served four years as mayor of Shelbyville after a regime

marked by the strictest business methods and the most progressive policies. He has been active in the work of his political party in his native county, and is well fortified in his convictions as to matters of public polity. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, in which he is identified with the lodge and chapter in Shelbyville, and both he and his wife are devoted and zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church, South. In the Shelbyville church of this denomination he has held the position of Sunday-school superintendent for thirty years, and he is also actively concerned in all other departments of the church work.

On May 31, 1881, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Hewitt to Miss Lillian Turner, who was born and reared in Shelby county, where her father, the late Halman Turner, was a successful farmer and honored and influential citizen. Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt have four children, namely: Esta, who is the wife of Roy L. Dimmitt, of Birmingham, Alabama, where he is superintendent of manual training in the public schools. Mrs. Dimmitt is a graduate of the Howard Payne College of Missouri. John Vance, who is attending the law department of Columbia University of New York; Floyd, who is now attending the State University of Missouri, and Cresap, who remain at the parental home.

#### THE CITIZENS, BANK OF SHELBYVILLE.

There is no one factor that determines with so much of positive emphasis the status of the business and general prosperity of a community as the extent

and character of its banking institutions, and in this regard the financial interests of Shelby county are reposed in banks of ample capital and wise and conservative management, as well as by the enlistment of the support of citizens of the highest character and most thoroughly representative influence.

The Citizens' Bank of Shelbyville holds prestige as one of the substantial and ably directed financial institutions of the county, and though its age is comparatively represented by about half a decade, its effective policy and the personnel of its executive corps have gained to it an impregnable standing in the confidence and support of the community. The charter of the bank was granted in April, 1894, and it opened its doors for business on the 1st of the following month. It is incorporated with a capital stock of \$20,000 and the original board of directors comprised the following named citizens: John J. Hewitt, Alonzo Cooper, James T. Lloyd, James L. Feely, James Edelen, William A. Hughes and James M. Gentry. The personnel of the executive corps at the initiation of business was as follows: John J. Hewitt, president; James T. Lloyd, vice-president; and William W. Mitchell, cashier. Mr. Hewitt has retained the presidency to the present time and Mr. Mitchell served twelve years and was succeeded by James M. Pickett, besides being secretary of the board of directors, which now, includes, besides these two officers, the following named citizens: Alonzo Cooper, who is now vice-president; John W. Frye, Theo. B. Damrell and Mrs. Nanie Terrell.