

when he was twenty-seven years old, one year after his marriage, he brought his young wife to Missouri, both determined to brave the perils and privations of the western wilds in the hope of finding a fortune amid its boundless opportunities, and, at any rate, of securing a better chance of advancement than their own state at that time seemed to offer. They located in Shelby county on government land which they took up, and on this they expended their efforts to good purpose until the death of the husband in 1884. Mrs. Priest was born and reared in Hampshire county, Virginia, and her maiden name was Sarah A. Vandiver. They became the parents of five children, four of whom are living: William L., of Shelby county; Mary E., the widow of Robert M. Sprinkle, who lives in West Virginia; Silas W., whose home is in Leonard, this county; and John C., the immediate subject of this review. In politics the father was a Democrat and took an active interest in the affairs of his party. He was also energetic in promoting the welfare of his community by every means in his power.

John C. Priest obtained his education in the district schools and the Shelbyville high school. After leaving school he worked on the farm at home until 1894, laboring in connection with his father a portion of the time and on his own account during the remainder. In the year last mentioned he moved to Shelbyville, and here he has been continuously, prominently and successfully engaged in the real estate, loan and abstract business ever since. He has also, during the later years, been engaged in

farming and raising live stock in a general way and on a large scale.

In 1883 Mr. Priest was united in marriage with Miss Emma C. McMurray, a daughter of John F. and Martha C. (Dunn) McMurray, of Shelby county. Four children were born of the union and all of them are living. They are: Jessie, Minter, Vincil and Tommy D., the last three named are still living at home with their father. The mother died in 1894, and in 1896 the father married a second time, his choice on this occasion being Miss Nellie J. McMurray, a sister of his first wife. She, also, has passed away, leaving Mr. Priest a widower for a second time. In politics he is a Democrat and an earnest worker for his party. He is at the present public administrator of Shelby county and was mayor of Shelbyville two years, from 1902 to 1904. His fraternal relations are with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and in religious affiliation he is allied with the Methodist Episcopal church, South. Fortune has favored him in his business ventures because he has made her do it by his capacity, shrewdness and close attention to his affairs. And the people esteem him highly because they have found him worthy of their regard.

#### JAMES J. HILES.

Serving his country well in war and during the greater part of the rest of his life to this time (1910) helping to expand its greatness and augment its power through peaceful industry, James J. Hiles, of Black Creek township, Shelby

county, has proven himself an excellent citizen and worthy of the high and universal esteem in which he is held throughout this county and in many portions of those that surround it. He is a native of Kentucky, born in Scott county on May 18, 1839, has lived and was educated in Illinois, followed the flag through the terrible experiences of the Civil war, engaged in merchandising for a few years, served on the police force in the United States capitol at Washington, D. C., and has been one of the prominent, progressive and successful farmers of this county during the last thirty-nine years. Thus, tried in many lines of useful endeavor, he has proved faithful and capable in all, and won on honest and demonstrated merit the rank he holds in the general estimation and regard of the public.

Mr. Hiles is a son of Jacob and Mary (Haley) Hiles, the former born in Scott county, Kentucky, February 12, 1805, and the latter on June 1, 1813. His paternal grandfather, Palser Hiles, was a native of Germany. The father came to Missouri in 1863 and settled on eighty acres of land in this county, and on this land he was actively and continuously engaged in general farming until his death, which occurred January 17, 1881. He was married in Kentucky to Miss Mary Haley. Of the eight children born to them five are living: James J., the immediate subject of this review; Louisa, the wife of Zetos Beathards, of Shelby county; Alonzo, whose home is in St. Louis; Eliza, the wife of John Griffith, and Martha, the wife of E. A. Baker, of Shelbyville. In political faith and al-

legiance the father was a Democrat and in religion he belonged to the Christian church. He was active in the service of both organizations and made his membership in each valuable to it. His wife survived him some years, her death occurring on March 14, 1894.

James J. Hiles obtained his education in the district and select schools of Adams county, Illinois. After leaving school he enlisted in the Federal army at Quincy, Illinois, his company forming part of the Third Missouri Cavalry under command of Col. John M. Glover, his enlistment taking place in September, 1861. His regiment was soon at the front, and until the close of the momentous and sanguinary struggle was engaged in active service. Mr. Hiles participated in the battles of Mount Zion, in Boone county, Missouri, Little Rock, Arkansas, and a great many engagements of minor importance. He was discharged in New Orleans in 1865 and turned to his Shelby county home soon afterward.

After his return he located in Shelbyville and engaged in the grocery and confectionery trade with enterprise and profit until 1869, when he was appointed a member of the capitol police force in Washington, D. C. He remained there in that capacity until 1871, then came back to Shelby county and bought a farm, on which he has been energetically and continuously occupied in general farming ever since. In connection with his farming operations he carries on an extensive and active live stock business, and he conducts both lines of his work with a vigor and intelligence that bring

excellent returns for his efforts, and give him high rank as a farmer and stockman.

Mr. Hiles was married on July 18, 1871, to Miss Elizabeth S. Hill, a daughter of Z. B. Hill, of Shelbyville. They have had five children, four of whom are living: William R., Mary I., Lucy E. and Zerald A., all of them still members of the parental family circle. The father is a Republican in politics, a member of the Christian church, to which his wife also belongs, and an Odd Fellow and member of the Grand Army of the Republic fraternally. He is a very prominent and influential man.

#### THOMAS E. GARRISON.

This progressive and enterprising farmer and stock man of Bethel township, this county, has seen strenuous times in peace and war, but tried by the very extremity of fortune it did not subdue him, or even discourage his determined spirit, which has always felt itself equal to any emergency, and ready for any undertaking in the line of his desires and abilities. He is a native of Missouri, born in Knox county on April 9, 1841, and has been a resident of Shelby county since he reached the age of ten years. His father, Thomas E. Garrison, was born and reared in Virginia and came to Missouri in 1839. He took up his residence in Knox county, where for a number of years he was actively and progressively engaged in farming. His wife, whose maiden name was Jane C. Vandiver, was also a native of Virginia and a daughter of Samuel Vandiver. Six children were born of the union, all of

whom grew to maturity and four of them are living now. They are: James W., whose residence is in Shelbyville; Thomas E., the subject of this brief review; Francis N., who has his home in Adair county, this state; and Charles L., who is an esteemed citizen of the state of Arkansas. The mother died in 1877 and the father in 1883.

Thomas E. Garrison attended the district schools of Bethel township, Shelby county, and the high school in Shelbyville. After leaving school he enlisted in the Confederate army, Company E, Third Missouri Infantry, and served to the close of the war except for a period of ten months, during which he languished in a Federal war prison. He took part in the battles of Lexington, Missouri, Corinth, Mississippi, and numerous others of greater or less importance. Not long before the siege of Vicksburg he was taken prisoner, and during the next ten months, as has been stated, he was confined in a Federal prison.

At the close of the war Mr. Garrison returned to his Shelby county home, and since then he has been continuously, actively and very successfully engaged in farming and raising live stock on a large scale. His fine farm in Bethel township comprises 500 acres and he has it well improved and the most of it under advanced and skillful cultivation. He manages his operations with judgment and conducts them with vigor, making every effort to secure the best returns for his outlay of intelligence and labor, and usually succeeding through the superior quality of his work and management. His extensive stock industry is