

first wife was Miss Johanna Steer, a native of Connecticut, with whom he was united in 1853. They had two children, one of whom died in childhood and the other after reaching manhood. The second marriage of the father occurred on October 10, 1857, when he was united with Miss Mary Elizabeth Hickman, of this county. They became the parents of eight children, three of whom are living: Julian A., the immediate subject of this sketch; William D., a resident, also of Hunnewell; and Lena M., the wife of Herman C. Davis, of Lamar, Colorado. The father was a Republican in politics, a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and belonged to the Baptist church. He was highly esteemed and his early death was universally deplored.

Julian A. Wheeler began his education in the public schools of New York state, and finished it in those of Shelby county. After completing his academic training he turned his attention to farming and raising live stock, in which he was extensively engaged until 1898. In that year he was appointed postmaster of Hunnewell, a position which he has ever since filled in a manner that has fully satisfied the government and the patrons of the office. He still owns and operates his farm of 200 acres, and also has a controlling interest in the Hunnewell telephone system, in the ownership and management of which his brother, William D. Wheeler, is associated with him. In addition he owns a block of granitoid buildings and a very fine residence.

In politics Mr. Wheeler is an ardent Republican and has considerable influence in the councils of his party, in whose service he is always active and effective.

His fraternal relations are with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Court of Honor, and his church affiliation is with the Southern Methodists. He is a zealous church worker, taking a leading part in all the benevolent and evangelizing efforts of his congregation, of which he is one of the stewards, and renders excellent and appreciated service as superintendent of the Sunday school.

Two generations of this family of Wheelers have dignified and adorned public and private life in Hunnewell and given its people good examples of high character, ardent local and general patriotism, and fruitful and elevated citizenship. No name stands higher in the annals of the city than its name does, and none more truly deserves the esteem in which it is held. In business, in social and in domestic life its members have met every requirement of duty and in official station the one of whom these paragraphs are written has shown ability, fidelity and upright manhood of the highest order, greatly to his own credit and the substantial welfare of the people of the whole community.

WILLIAM P. JANES.

William P. Janes, one of the prosperous and progressive farmers of Shelby county, whose achievements as an agriculturist have given the people around him strong lessons as to what skill and intelligence allied with industry and good judgment can accomplish on the fertile and responsive soil of Missouri, is a native of Washington county, Kentucky, where he was born on March 10,

1840, and whence he came to Marion county in this state when he was eleven years old.

Mr. Janes is a son of John H. and Rebecca (Gibbs) Janes, both born, reared and educated in Washington county, Kentucky, where they were married. They were farmers in their native state, and after their arrival in Missouri, in 1851, they followed the same line of effort on a tract of land of which they became possessed in Marion county. There was a mill on the farm which the father also operated until 1879, and which was known far and wide during his management of it as a source of great convenience and help to the people because of the excellent work it did and the superior quality of its products. It is still known as Janes's mill, but has passed out of usefulness into history, being nothing now but an old landmark whereby some idea of the progress and development of the country can be gained, and standing in the public eye as a reminder of the strenuous days and nights of toil and privation, of arduous effort and constant peril of the pioneer period of the past.

In 1879 the father sold the farm and the mill and took up his residence in Shelby county, where he died, having done well his part in the life and development of this section and laying down his burden crowned with the esteem of the whole people. He and his wife were the parents of twelve children; six of whom are living: James G., a prominent citizen of Monroe county; Thomas B., who lives at Lakenan, in this county; John H., whose home is at Cortland, Nebraska; William P., of Hunnewell, the

immediate subject of this writing; Katharine, the wife of Benjamin Green, of Santa Fe, Missouri; and Rebecca, now Mrs. George Ruberson, of Marion county, on our eastern border. In politics the father was a pronounced Democrat, faithful in loyalty to his party and effective in its service. His religious affiliation was with the Catholic church, and to this also he gave firm and faithful support throughout his life, zealous in attention to his duties as a member and unswerving in his devotion to its teachings.

William P. Janes was reared on his father's farm in Marion county and obtained his education in the district schools of the neighborhood. After leaving school he operated the farm in connection with his father for a number of years, then moved to Hunnewell, where he carried on a flourishing business as a blacksmith and wagon maker until 1889. In that year he sold his business and outfit, and again engaged in farming, locating on a good farm in Shelby county, which he still manages, although practically retired from its more exacting duties and more arduous labors.

While living in Hunnewell Mr. Janes took an active and serviceable part in the public affairs of the city and contributed essentially to its growth, development and improvement. He was its first mayor and held a number of other city offices, all of which he filled acceptably, leaving a good record as an official and rearing monuments to his enterprise and public spirit in substantial contributions to the comfort, convenience and advancement of the people. He was also active, and still is, in national politics as a Dem-

ocrat of the old school, seeing in the principles of his party the best assurance of public and private security and clean and upright government, and standing by them as with the tug of gravitation. For over forty years he has been a member of the Masonic order and has studied with zeal and clearness of vision the lessons portrayed in the symbolism of the order, all of which he has tried to exemplify in his daily life. His religious connection is with the Methodist Episcopal Church South, in whose good works he has long been an active and potential factor.

Mr. Janes has been married twice. His first union was with Miss Sarah Meford, of Marion county, Missouri, and occurred on September 22, 1860. They had four children, all of whom are living. They are: Sarah Etta, wife of W. B. Thiehoff, of League City, Texas; William H., of Paris, Missouri; Vincie B., of Cameron City, Missouri; and Lula E., wife of Bruce Blackburn, of Los Angeles, California. Mr. Janes' second marriage took place on May 11, 1881. In this he became the husband of Mrs. Elizabeth Scratch, the widow of John D. Scratch, and a native of Pennsylvania. They are the parents of two children, both living: Lozetta, wife of William H. Jones, of Paris, Missouri; and Mattie, wife of James E. Spencer, of Hunnewell. Mr. Janes has known Shelby county from his childhood and has lived in it for more than a generation of human life. He is a living witness of its progress and also of the struggles and trials through which the advance has been won. He has borne his full share of the burden incident to the develop-

ment of the country and is therefore fully entitled to enjoy the fruits of the labors he has shared with others in this behalf. The people accord him this right without stint, regarding him as one of their most useful and representative citizens.

JOHN W. LAIR.

The interesting subject of this brief review, who has been one of the most successful and enterprising farmers in Shelby county, has passed the whole of his life until the summer of 1910, at which time he moved to Gordon, Nebraska. He was born in Shelby county on March 18, 1846, and is a son of Robert and Elizabeth (Culberson) Lair, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of North Carolina.

The father's life began in 1810, and he became a resident of Missouri in 1828, coming to the state as a youth of eighteen with his parents, who followed the example given them by their parents and emigrated from their native heath to the farther west when it was a part of the almost untrodden wilderness of our wide domain. The paternal grandfather of Mr. Lair, William Lair, was a native of Pennsylvania and became a resident of Kentucky when he was a young man, striding boldly into the wilds in the wake of that hardy adventurer, discoverer and civilizer, Daniel Boone, and taking up his part in the work of improvement in the region that great man and his followers were wresting from the dominion of the wild forces of nature and their offspring of the plains and the forest. In Kentucky he transformed a tract of wild land into a good farm and on it he