

1848. Of the eleven children of this union five are now living: Benjamin H. is associated with the subject of this sketch in business at Shelbyville; Adolphus H. is the next in order of birth; Jacob H. is a farmer of Shelby county; Ella is still at the old home in this county; and Cary remains with her mother on the old home farm.

Adolphus E. Singleton was reared under the beneficent influences of the home farm, to whose work he early began to contribute his quota, so that he learned the lessons of practical industry while he was also availing himself of the advantages of the public schools of the locality and period. He continued to be actively and successfully identified with diversified farming and stock-growing until August, 1905, when he left the farm and took up his residence in Shelbyville, where he is now engaged in business, as already noted. His elder son now operates the farm on shares and thus Judge Singleton himself still continues to exercise a general supervision of the fine old homestead which so long represented his abiding place and which gives evidence of his able and progressive management, being one of the model farms of the county. The place comprises 240 acres of most productive land, all being available for cultivation, and the permanent improvements are of excellent order, so that everything bears unmistakable evidence of thrift and prosperity. The farm is located in Taylor township, about fourteen miles distant from Shelbyville, the county seat.

In politics Judge Singleton has never wavered in his allegiance to the Democratic party and he has been a zealous

worker in its local ranks. He has held various minor offices of public trust and in 1898 he was elected county judge, of which position he continued incumbent for one term, or four years, and in which he gave an able and acceptable administration of the affairs assigned to him for adjudication. His wife holds membership in the Baptist church and they are liberal and zealous in the support of the various departments of its work.

On February 20, 1879, was solemnized the marriage of Judge Singleton to Miss Alice Magruder, who was born and reared in Shelby county and who is a daughter of the late Thomas G. Magruder, long a representative farmer of this county. Judge and Mrs. Singleton have four children: Walter T., who had charge of the home farm, married Miss Edna Moore and they have no children; Susan E., Ellen M. and Benjamin A. remain at the parental home in Shelbyville.

Judge Singleton was elected mayor of Shelbyville in 1906, serving two years as such.

CHARLES H. LASLEY.

For nearly forty years the subject of this brief memoir has been connected with the mercantile interests of that section of Missouri in which he now lives, and during the whole of that period he has given to the world around him a fine example of uprightness in private life and sterling integrity in business. Born, reared, educated and married in this state, and having made his excellent record among its people, whatever he is he is all Missouri's own, her product in every particular and her representative

in all that is worthy in manhood and elevated in citizenship.

Mr. Lasley is a native of Monroe county, in this state, where his life began on September 17, 1853. He is a son of William M. and Margaret A. (Gillispie) Lasley, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Kentucky. The father came to this state and located in Paris when he was but a young man. For a number of years he clerked for Mr. Parsons, one of the leading dry goods merchants of Paris, and after acquiring a thorough knowledge of the business started a store of his own in partnership with Marquis D. Blakey, under the firm name of Blakey & Lasley, the store being conducted at Clinton, in Monroe county, of this state.

The establishment was engaged in general merchandising and continued in operation for a number of years. Then Mr. Lasley's health failed and he retired to a farm in Monroe county, on which he died a few years later. His wife was Miss Margaret Gillispie before her marriage. She was born in Kentucky and became a resident of Missouri at an early age. They became the parents of two children, one of whom, a daughter (Virginia J.), has died, leaving Charles H. at this time the only survivor of his father's household. In politics the father was a pronounced and unyielding Democrat, but he was never an office seeker or desirous of public distinction of any kind. He lived for his home and his community, and gave his best energies at all times to promote the welfare of both. He was very successful in business and enjoyed a wide and well-founded popularity among the people.

His son, Charles H. Lasley, passed his

boyhood and youth on his father's farm, acquiring strength of sinew and flexibility of function in its exacting but vigorous labors. Through this steady communion with nature he also gained breadth of view, and like all farmers' sons who profit by the lessons of their homes, became a self-reliant and resourceful man. He was educated mainly in private schools, completing his academic training in a more advanced institution of learning at Palmyra. When he reached the age of seventeen he began the battle of life for himself by entering a dry goods store at Shelbina as a clerk and salesman. He remained in this store four years, giving his employer service that was entirely satisfactory, and acquiring a thorough knowledge of the business, for he was studious and attentive and allowed no opportunity to gain useful knowledge to escape him unused.

In 1875 Mr. Lasley formed a partnership with Mr. Cotton to conduct the dry goods business under the name and style of Cotton & Lasley. He was now fairly launched on the uncertain sea of mercantile life, and his career in business, engineered and captained by himself, was begun. The partnership with Mr. Cotton lasted six years, being dissolved in 1881. In September of that year Mr. Lasley formed a new business connection, his associate in this being Mr. Thompson, and the business which occupied their faculties being the dry goods and clothing trade. The partnership continued and the enterprise flourished until the death of Mr. Thompson in 1886. Mr. Lasley then entered into partnership with Mr. Million and started a store devoted exclusively to the clothing trade,

the firm name being Lasley & Million. In 1873 Mr. Lasley purchased Mr. Million's interest in the business and took his brother in as a partner, the firm being known as that of C. H. Lasley & Bro. Three years later he bought his brother's interest and gave two of his sons a half share in the undertaking, changing the style of the house to C. H. Lasley & Co., under which name it is still doing an extensive and profitable business.

Mr. Lasley has been very successful in all his operations and his success is the logical result of his excellent business capacity, superior judgment and close attention to all the details of what he has had in hand. He is a stockholder and director of the Old Bank of Shelby and is connected in a leading way with other commercial and financial enterprises. In the affairs of the community he has always taken an ardent and helpful interest, being among the foremost in all worthy projects for its improvement. In political faith he is a Democrat who supports his party wisely and loyally without seeking any of its honors or emoluments for himself. On June 18, 1879, he was united in marriage with Miss Anna Downing, a native of this state. They have five children, Roy D., Henry R., Roland R., Resie and William Kenneth, all of whom are still living at home and adding brightness and charm to the parental fireside. The scion of an old Virginia family, the father has well sustained the virtues and traditions of his ancestry and exemplified on the new soil of Missouri the sterling manhood which has so long dignified and adorned that of the "Old Dominion." He is one of Shelby

county's best citizens and richly deserves the high esteem in which he is held by all classes of its people.

BENJAMIN H. SINGLETON

The fine old state of Missouri has represented the home of this well known and popular citizen of Shelbyville from the time of his birth and he has here found adequate opportunities for the gaining of definite success. He was long identified with agricultural pursuits but is now well established in the coal, grain and feed business in Shelbyville as junior member of the firm of Singleton Brothers, in which his associate is his brother, Judge Adolphus Singleton, of whom individual mention is made on other pages of this work, together with adequate data concerning the family history, so that further reference to the same is not demanded in the present article.

Benjamin H. Singleton was born in Marion county, Missouri, February 6, 1850, and when he was but four years of age his parents removed to Shelby county, where he was reared to maturity on the home farm and where he had such educational advantages as were afforded by the common schools of the locality and period. He eventually initiated his independent career as a farmer and stock-grower and became the owner of a valuable farm of 240 acres in Monroe county, where he continued to be engaged in diversified agriculture and the raising of excellent grades of live stock from 1881 until 1906, in which latter year he sold his farm and removed to Shelbyville, where he has since been engaged in successful business with his brother,