

gressive citizenship and a man of great industry and frugality in his own affairs. Of his two wives the one whose maiden name was Sarah Oglesby was the mother of his son Hiram and seven other children, of whom but two are living—Jackson, of Boonville, in this state, and Marion, a resident of Randolph county.

Hiram Collins grew to manhood on his father's farm in Monroe county and received his education in the district school near his home. When he reached the age of twenty-two he was roused to adventurous action by the alluring voices from the California gold mines and made his way to that then most promising region, which seemed to offer all the wealth and wonders of the Arabian tales to men of endurance and enterprise. He remained on the Pacific slope five years, passing a part of his time in the mines and a part in mercantile life as a grocer, being located on the American river, near Sacramento. What his adventures were, what measure of success he attained to, what hardships and privations he endured and what hopes and prospects he finally abandoned, need not be recited here. It is enough to say that Missouri looked better to him than California, and that even prosaic life and slow accretions of fortune on one of her farms were more to his liking than the dramatic or romantic experiences or the wild dreams of affluence in what was at that time the Eldorado of the world.

In 1855 he returned to this state and located in Shelby county, where he has ever since made his home. He once more turned his attention to farming and raising stock, continuing his efforts in these uneventful pursuits until 1894, when he

gave up active exertions and entered upon a restful and undisturbed residence in Shelbina. He kept his farm for a number of years, however, and superintended its operations until 1908, when he sold it.

For many years he has been a zealous member of the Christian church and a helpful factor in all its good work for the betterment of the people in and around it. His political activity has always been expended in behalf of the principles and candidates of the Democratic party, to which he has been earnestly devoted from his youth. On April 3, 1856, he was married to Miss Mary Gose, of Monroe county. They have had eight children, five of whom are living—Bettie, wife of C. W. Adams, of Clarence; Laura, wife of Calvin Garrison, of Shelbina; James, a resident of Choteau county, Montana; George, who lives in Jamestown, California; and Frank, who is one of the leading citizens of Sherburn, Minnesota. Mrs. Collins died in the fall of 1897.

HON. RICE G. MAUPIN.

This eminent citizen of Shelby county and successful farmer and stock breeder, who is also one of the leading professional men of Shelbina, is an ornament to the state of Missouri and a thoroughly representative man among her people. He has dignified and adorned several lines of serviceable endeavor, performing the duties of each in a manner highly creditable to himself and satisfactory to those around him, bearing himself in every walk of life in such a way as to win and hold the confidence and esteem of all who know him. He is a brother of William A. Maupin, a sketch of whom will be

found in this work. In that sketch the history of the parents is given at some length, and from the recital an idea can be had of the atmosphere of the home in which Judge Maupin was reared and the lessons and examples given him at his parental fireside.

Judge Maupin was reared on a farm and educated in the district schools of Monroe county, the circumstances of his early life affording no opportunity for farther progress into the domain of scholastic acquirements save what was furnished by his own reading and reflection. But he made good use of the means he had in this direction and qualified himself well for the honorable career he has wrought out for himself. When he left school he was willing to freely dispense to others the stores of learning he had gathered, and did so as a school teacher for a period of nineteen years, two of which he devoted to schools in Shelbina. In the spring of 1897 he was elected commissioner of the schools of Shelby county, and the next year was chosen probate judge of the county, an honorable and responsible post, in which he is still giving the people excellent service.

While he was connected with the school system as teacher and commissioner he studied law as a matter of mental discipline and source of information, but not as yet with any view to practicing the profession. But in 1900 he determined to become a lawyer in fact and began to devote himself to the study with seriousness and close application. He was admitted to the bar in April, 1903, and since that time he has been actively engaged in the practice of the profession with a

steadily increasing clientage and elevation in rank as a practitioner, conducting his professional work in connection with his official duties and enlarging thereby his capacity for them. He also served as a member of the school board three years.

As a means of relaxation from more serious and onerous work and as a source of entertainment and profit to himself, he has always been interested in farming and breeding stock, and is at this time (1911) giving considerable attention to producing a superior strain of registered saddle horses. It is manifest that his contributions to the development and improvement of the county and state have been and are still extensive, and that his usefulness is well worthy of the high appreciation in which it is held. In other lines of endeavor besides those already mentioned he has done his part for the advancement and enjoyment of his fellow men. In fraternal life he has long held membership in several benevolent societies and devoted a liberal share of his time and energy to their advancement. He is a Knight of Pythias, a Knight of the Maccabess, a Modern Woodman of America and a member of the Court of Honor. His religious connection is with the Southern Methodist church and his political activity has always been devoted to the success and welfare of the Democratic party. In the work of both church and party he is zealous and energetic, and is recognized as an important factor, showing wisdom in council and great industry and resourcefulness in action, his primary consideration being the welfare of the cause to which he is attached, his own advance-

ment being a matter of secondary or incidental importance. It is this patriotic devotion to the general weal that has given him so firm a hold on the regard of the people and rendered his services to them so valuable and satisfactory.

On December 26, 1880, Judge Maupin was married to Miss Emma Chapman, of Monroe county, who is still the light and life of his pleasant home and the center of attraction for their hosts of admiring friends and appreciative acquaintances. Of the nine children which have brightened and sanctified their domestic shrine eight are living, one having died in infancy. Those living are: Elizabeth W., the wife of D. S. Buckman, of Chillicothe, Illinois; Minnie Lee, the wife of Arthur Lundin, of Orion, Illinois; Charles Byron and Paul Anderson, residents of Shelbina; and Anna Matt, Emma Ricie, Temple Graves and Bob N., who are still under the parental roof-tree.

Judge Maupin has been very successful in all his business undertakings and entirely faithful in the performance of his official duties in every post of public responsibility he has held. He ranks high in his profession and is elevated and high-toned in his citizenship. He is devoted to the welfare of the community in which he lives and interested earnestly and practically in the good of its people. His admirable qualities of head and heart, his wide fund of information and mastery and geniality in the use of it and his unvarying, grace and gentility of manner, whether as advisor or companion, have united to make him one of the most popular men in the county and give him a well deserved eminence in the state.

THOMAS L. PUCKETT.

Connected with the mercantile and other business interests of Shelbina from the time when he was twenty-one years of age and before that for two years with those of Pilot Grove, in Cooper county, Thomas L. Puckett has passed the whole of his mature life in usefulness to the people of this state, and by the manliness of his course, the loftiness of his character, the inflexibility of his integrity and his devotion to the welfare of the community in which he lives: has risen to a position of prominence and universal popularity among them. He has been successful in his operations, accumulating a competence for his family and by this means enlarging his own power for good to the town and county and extending its use in the service of the people as rapidly as it increased.

Mr. Puckett was born on September 7, 1864, in Hardeman county, Tennessee, and is a scion of old North Carolina families who dwelt in the Old North State from an early period in American history. His grandfather, Leonard A. Puckett, was a native of that state, but left it while he was yet a young man for what was then the wilderness of Southwestern Tennessee. There he located and passed the remainder of his life profitably engaged in farming and rearing his family with the best surroundings and opportunities in life he was able to give it under the circumstances. His son, Thomas A. Puckett, was born in that section, his life beginning in Hardeman county on June 4, 1833. He grew to manhood on the farm, aiding zealously in its arduous labors and helping to make it