

He was married in 1852 to Miss Eliza H. Hollyman, of Marion county. They have had eight children, four of whom are living: John W., a resident of Shelby county; Nancy E., the wife of Clay Dufer, of Shelby county; and James and Charles, who are also residents of this county. The father is a loyal and unwavering Democrat in his political relations and an earnest and effective worker for his party in all campaigns, although he has never sought a political office of any kind for himself. He is devoted to the progress and welfare of his township and county and shows his interest in their substantial advancement by zealous assistance in every worthy project involving the good of their people, among whom he is held in high esteem as one of the leading and most useful citizens of this portion of the state. His religious connection is with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and he is active in the service of the congregation to which he belongs. Now verging close upon eighty years of age, he can look back over his long career with the satisfaction that it has been profitable to himself and serviceable to the people around him, for he has been faithful in the performance of every duty and given an impressive illustration of the benefit and comfort of upright living.

#### GEORGE W. O'BRYAN.

It is not often that man who has lived to an almost patriarchal age in his native region moves to another, and on what is to him practically an alien soil lights the fires of a new domestic hearth, but this is what happened in the case of John

O'Bryan, the father of George W. O'Bryan, one of the enterprising and progressive farmers and stock men of Lentner township and one of the public spirited and broad minded citizens of this county, who came to Missouri when he was well advanced in years, and with all the energy of his youth repeated here what he had already achieved in the state of his nativity as a successful farmer and live stock man and a live and influential citizen.

Mr. O'Bryan is a native of Washington county, Virginia, where he was born on February 18, 1849. His parents, John and Sallie (Heninger) O'Bryan, were also natives of that state and descended of families resident there from early colonial days. They were married on June 28, 1829, and had four children, of whom George W. is the only one living. The father was born in Virginia in 1778 and came to Missouri in 1853. In his native state he was a shoemaker, but after coming to this state he followed farming and raising stock exclusively, which he had been engaged in in connection with working at his trade in Virginia. He died in Monroe county, which was the place of his Missouri residence, in 1862. He was married twice, the first time to Miss Anna Anderson, of Virginia, with whom he was united on July 29, 1804. They had five children, whose mother died a few years after the last one was born. His second wife was a daughter of Jacob and Mary Henninger, esteemed residents of Monroe county, and numbered among its most respected and useful citizens. In politics he belonged to the Whig party until the death of that organization, and afterward took but lit-

tle interest in public affairs. His religious affiliation was with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

His son, George W. O'Bryan, was educated, in the public schools of Monroe county, this state, of which he became a resident when he was four years old, and after leaving school bought sixty acres of land, which he farmed until **1893**. He then sold his farm in the autumn of that year and also everything pertaining to his farming operations, and went to California for the winter. On his return to Missouri he bought **327** acres of farm land in Shelby county, but took up his residence in Lentner. Here for six years he carried on a general merchandising establishment in connection with his farming and live stock operations. At the end of the period mentioned he sold out his interests in the store and since then he has done a little farming, but has had the greater part of his land worked by his sons. His farm now comprises **300** acres and is all under vigorous and skillful cultivation.

In **1904** he was elected president of the Farmers and Merchants' Bank of Shelbina, now the Shelbina National Bank. He resigned after a service of about two years in this capacity, but he still holds stock in the bank and is one of its directors. This plain narrative of his life, as far as it has proceeded, is sufficient to show that he is a man of character and force, but it has made no mention of the fact that, he has at all times been zealous and energetic in the service of his township and county, and has done all in his power to promote their welfare. Yet this is a well known fact and has secured for him the lasting regard and good will of

all classes of the people among whom he has so long lived and labored.

On September **11, 1877**, he was united in marriage with Miss Anna M. Hager, a native daughter of the town of Hager's Grove, in this county, to which her father, John Hager, gave its name, or rather, which was named in his honor. Of the eight children born of this union seven are living: Lena V., the wife of M. W. Moxley, of Merced, California; Laura F., the wife of Charles Brady, of Monroe county, Missouri; Anna Virginia, the wife of A. W. Byrum, of Santa Rosa, California; Jimmie Lee, who resides in Lentner, Missouri; Walter C., a resident of this county; George Vest, also a resident of Lentner; and Archie C., who lives in the same place.

In political affairs the father gives his allegiance to the Democratic party, and as he is a man of strong convictions he works for the success of the party he believes in with all his ardor in all its campaigns. The religious affiliation of himself and his wife is with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and both are active and effective church workers for the congregation to which they belong, and give serviceable aid to all worthy church enterprises without regard to denominational lines. Mr. O'Bryan has been very successful in business, prominent and influential for years as a citizen, and one of the leaders in the live stock industry in this state, especially in the production and handling of mules of the best grades, for his output in which he has a national reputation. He is the father of Jimmie O'Bryan, a sketch of whom will be found in this volume.