

tively labored for himself and all worthy undertakings involving the good of his community.

Mr. Von Thun obtained his education in the district schools of this county and at an early age began working on neighborhood farms, and when he grew older rented land for himself and did considerable cropping. He kept this up until 1891, when he bought the land on which he now lives, and which has been his home and the seat of his enterprise ever since. He has carried on vigorous farming operations in a general way, with skill and enterprise, and he has also conducted a very active and extensive live stock industry. His farm is a fine one, well improved and highly productive, and he makes every hour of his work on its tell to his advantage.

His religious affiliation is with the Lutheran church.

On January 15, 1891, he was united in marriage with Miss Augusta Doss, a daughter of John and Henrietta (Treadfald) Doss, first settlers in the German Lutheran community, coming here in 1865, and have since been worthy and appreciated residents of Shelby county. One child has been born of the union, a son named Albert, who is living at home with his parents. He is a young man of promise, zealous in the performance of his duties and a credit to the family, standing well in the community and generally esteemed, as his parents also are, and as they all deserve to stand and be esteemed.

HARRY H. PRANGE.

One of the most successful and progressive farmers and stock men of Black

Creek township, in this county, and one of the most energetic and public spirited of its citizens with reference to public improvements and the general progress and development of the township, Harry H. Prange is justly esteemed an excellent man to have as a resident of any wide-awake and enterprising community and as worthy of the regard and admiration of all persons who value his character of citizenship, which has been found very useful and based on proper ideals of manhood and duty to the region in which he lives.

Mr. Prange is a native of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he was born on September 11, 1863. He is a son of John and Catherine (Hyman) Prange, the former born in Germany in 1834, and the latter a native of Pennsylvania. The father came to the United States early in the 60's and located in Pennsylvania for a few years, then in 1866 moved his family to Missouri and found a new home in the German Lutheran colony in Shelby county. He was one of the first settlers in that colony and at once showed the sturdy and sterling traits of character and habits of industry and frugality which distinguished its residents and gave such an impetus to the development and improvement of the portion of the county in which the colony was located. He bought land there and followed farming and raising and feeding live stock for the markets with great vigor, skill and good management. He was successful in his business, and at the time of his death, which occurred on February 19, 1909, was a well-to-do man of considerable valuable property and excellent standing in his township. His marriage to

Miss Catherine Hyman took place in 1859, and by it he became the father of six children, all of whom are living, and all residents of Shelby county but one. They are: Harry, the subject of this brief memoir; Margaret, the wife of Jacob Gable; Isabelle, the wife of Justice Ehternacht; Christ, a prosperous Shelby county farmer; Anna, the wife of Simon Gingrich; and Mary, the wife of Frank Wilt, who lives in Monroe county, Missouri. The father was a Republican in his political adherence and a member of the Dunkard, or German Baptist church, in his religious affiliation. The wife and mother departed from this life January 20, 1911.

Harry H. Prange obtained a common school education at Hager's Grove, in this county, where the family located on its arrival in this part of the country. After leaving school he remained with his parents, working on the farm and assisting the family until 1900, when he bought a tract of land in the neighborhood of Kirby, on which he has been farming and raising live stock with success and increasing prosperity ever since, although he had practically nothing to start with. His farm comprises 160 acres of superior land, and he has cultivated it all in a manner in keeping with its high quality and great productiveness.

Mr. Prange was married on March 6, 1890, to Miss Minnie Doss, a daughter of John and Henrietta (Trefall) Doss, who have long been residents of Shelby county and enjoyed the respect of all its people. He did not, however, go at once to a farm of his own, but continued to live and work on the homestead of his pa-

rents ten years longer. The four children born of the union are all living and still have their home with their parents. They are Etta, Nannie, Ernest and Carl. The father trains with and supports the Republican party in political affairs, and has his religious affiliation with the Lutheran church, to which also the other members of the family belong and in which they all take an active and serviceable interest, as they do in all other commendable agencies for good, at work around them.

WILLIAM T. GIBSON.

Born and reared to manhood in Virginia, and descended from families long resident in that state, William T. Gibson, one of the most prosperous and progressive farmers and live stock men in Black Creek township, Shelby county, this state, had from his childhood examples and traditions of high emprise to stimulate him to vigorous exertion and elevated manhood, and he has been true to them, taking his fate into his own hands at the age of twenty-two and seeking the advancement in life he had determined to secure by coming to a region far distant from the home of his birth and outside the pale of family influence or the generosity of friends to help him along.

In his new home he has kept in serviceable action through daily diligence the forces of inspiration within him, and has achieved a very substantial success in life to this time (1911). He has also adhered to the lessons of good citizenship which he learned in his boyhood and youth, and through the steady practice