

for a number of years, and in many other ways manifested his cordial and serviceable interest in the community. He belonged to the Lutheran church and took an active part in promoting its progress, as does his widow, who is still living on the old homestead. He was an ardent Republican in politics and gave his party energetic and effective service, and, although deeply interested in his own affairs, never neglected those of the locality in which he lived. His father, Jacob Neuschafer, passed the whole of his life in Germany, where his forefathers lived for many generations. He was the father of six children, all now deceased.

Mr. Neuschafer was one of the most esteemed citizens of Black Creek township. He was enterprising, progressive and broad in his views, and was an inspiring force in his community, both through his own activity and the forces he stimulated to action and helped to direct into proper channels in others. His memory is embalmed in the lasting regard of his township as one of its most estimable and worthy citizens.

#### THOMAS E. PRIEST.

Young in years, as the statistical analyst counts age, but in full touch with the progress and aspirations of the times, and therefore of the proper make-up and caliber for any time in which his lot might have been cast; of an ancestry springing from the heroic age of our country's history, yet depending wholly on his own resources and capabilities, and therefore up to the requirements of any age, and under any circumstances wholly and sincerely a scion and repre-

sentative of Missouri and Shelby county of the present day, Thomas E. Priest, of Black Creek township is well worthy of a place in a work purporting to record the achievements and indicate or suggest the promise of the future of this portion of the middle West.

Mr. Priest is a native of Shelby county, born on June 6, 1885, and the son of William L. and Anna S. (Vandiver) Priest, the former also a native of this county and the latter of Virginia. He began his education in the district schools of Shelby county and completed it at a graded school in Shelbyville. After leaving school he worked on his father's farm and assisted the family until April 9, 1905, when he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Reinheimer, a native of this county, born on August 3, 1885, and daughter of Charles and Emma Reinheimer, well known and highly respected residents of the county.

Directly after his marriage Mr. Priest bought 185 acres of land and on that has been energetically and successfully engaged in farming and raising live stock ever since. His operations in both lines of his productive industry have been extensive and have been conducted with judgment and skill. He is studious of his business and ever on the alert to take advantage of any suggestion extensive reading of the best agricultural and stock publications or the lessons of experience given him, and so keeps his business up to date in every respect. He is accounted one of the most advanced and progressive farmers and stock men in his township and well deserves his rank. Two children have been born in this household, his daughters Myra C. and

Margaret, both of whom are living and help to brighten and warm the family hearthstone with their winsome presence. In politics Mr. Priest is a Democrat, in fraternal life a Modern Woodman of America, and in religious affiliation a Methodist Episcopalian, belonging to the Southern branch of that church, of which his wife is also a member.

Mr. Priest's grandfather, Matthew Priest, was a native of Virginia, where his forefathers were long residents and extensive planters. His father, William Priest, was born in Shelby county, Missouri, on November 4, 1837, and has passed the whole of his subsequent life in the county, except when he was absent on a short mining expedition to Colorado before the Civil war and another after it and during the years of that momentous sectional conflict, when he was in the Confederate army. He was educated in the district schools and at Shelbyville High school. After leaving the high school he taught for a year, then, in 1859, when the almost universal slogan was "Pike's Peak or Bust," he crossed the plains with a mule team to Denver in search of gold. But he did not remain long on this expedition. Returning to Shelby county, he clerked in a general store in Shelbina until 1861.

In that year, when martial music was all the American people heard, and the lowering of clouds of civil strife, which had so long darkened our whole sky, burst with all their fury on our unhappy country, he enlisted in the Confederate army under the command of Major Adams. He served to the end of the war, and at its close was mustered out of the service at Memphis, Tennessee.

He took part in the battles of Lexington, Missouri, and Corinth, Mississippi, and was then transferred to the cavalry division of the army under General Marmaduke as first lieutenant of Company F in what was known as the Burbridge Regiment. He was twice slightly wounded, but not seriously enough to incapacitate him for service, and took part in all of General Marmaduke's engagements.

After the close of the war Mr. Priest returned to Shelbina and clerked in the general store of Sigbert Parsons until fire destroyed the entire business block in which the store was located. The next five years were passed by him on his father's farm, of which he had charge as general manager, and at the end of that period he again went to Colorado on a prospecting tour, which lasted until the autumn of 1876. Returning at that time once more to Missouri, he turned his attention again to farming and raising live stock, and to those industries he adhered until 1904, when he gave up all active pursuits. Since then he has been living quietly with his two married children.

Mr. Priest was married in September, 1877, to Miss Anna S. Vandiver, a daughter of John W. Vandiver, of Shelby county, the patentee of the original corn planter. Of the four children born of this union three are living: William, who is a resident of Ogden, Utah; Susan F., the wife of Dean C. Demmitt, whose home is in this county; and Thomas E., with an account of whose life this memoir begins. In politics the father has been a life long Democrat. He has served the township long and well as school director and road overseer, and in other

ways of value and practical utility. He has for many years been a devout and zealous member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and has taken a leading part in all the work of the congregation to which he belongs.

#### HENRY S. FUNK.

The capacity to conduct affairs of magnitude and great moment and bring them to a successful conclusion is a rare one, and admirable wherever it is shown. The power to do this in the face of great and obstinate obstacles and to do it with seeming ease and freedom from anxiety or worry, is still rarer and more admirable. The commanding might of mind is involved in any case, and when that operates apparently without friction, easily, smoothly and without variation or delay toward the destined or desired end, the evidence is clear that there is serenity and loftiness of spirit, a healthy balance of attributes and personality and masterly self-mustering of forces, allied with the intellectual supremacy in the man who makes the exhibit. In other words, that a man who is master of the situation and of himself has the matter to be accomplished in hand and will achieve it.

In many ways in his career Henry S. Funk, of Clarence, Shelby county, Missouri, has shown that he is such a man. He has initiated, undertaken and accomplished great things, and has done it with such seeming ease that the magnitude of the achievements have not sufficiently impressed the public mind, and he has thereby robbed himself of a considerable measure of the credit that has been due

him. But he is not a man who cares for this. It is results he aims at, and he is willing to let the rest of the considerations involved take care of themselves.

Mr. Funk is a native of Vermilion county, Illinois, and was born on a farm two and one-half miles east of Danville in that county on August 22, 1862. He is a son of Christian W. Funk, a native of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, who came from there to Danville, Illinois, in company with his cousin, Dr. I. K. Funk, the celebrated publisher of New York, for the purpose of looking over the country. Christian Funk later located there, but I. K. Funk returned to New York City. Christian Funk was a farmer and general business man, and also a carpenter. He built the first large hotel in Danville, and he owned and conducted it for a number of years. He was a close student of agriculture and horticulture and was a general seed producer for a number of years.

The Funk family in this country originated with four Mennonite bishops who were exiled from Germany and came to the United States, locating on Indian creek, Pennsylvania. They founded the Mennonite college at Bethlehem, in that state, and in many other ways left their impress on their time and the locality in which they lived. For they were men of strong intellectual powers and extensive acquirements in wide and comprehensive learning, and also had a great force of character. One of them, Bishop Henry Funk, translated the celebrated work entitled "The Martyr's Mirror" from Dutch into English, and gave it currency in this country.

Rudolph Funk, the paternal grand-