

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

over from an unbroken wild into a cultivated and well improved farm. But profitable and independent as he found the farmer's industry in that time and locality, he had a taste and found within him capacity for a career of a different kind. He studied medicine, received the degree of M. D. from a medical college, and during all the peaceful years of his subsequent life devoted himself faithfully to his practice in the region of his nativity. He had been reared in loyalty to the doctrine of state sovereignty, and when he felt that it was assailed by the trend of national politics, in common with most other Southern people, he thought it his duty to resist what he considered dangerous encroachments on the fundamental principles of the government. Accordingly, at the beginning of the Civil war he enlisted in the Confederate army and during the continuance of that memorable struggle freely offered his life on the altar of his faith.

On June 19, 1860, he was united in marriage with Miss Susan Victoria Ford, who was born in Anderson county, Kentucky, in 1849. She shared his struggles and did her part toward winning his success. And when he felt impelled by his sense of duty to join the army, she did not resist his purpose, but rather fortified his convictions and helped him buckle on his armor. She was a woman of strong determination and purpose. After being left a widow she moved to Shelbina and taught in public schools of Shelbina for fourteen years. Of their offspring, which numbered five, namely: Jeremiah D., Thomas L., Charles F., Basil D., Mary A., their son Thomas, the immediate subject of this memoir, is the

only one now living and the only survivor of his family. The father died at his Tennessee home on April 17, 1872. The mother and the four last named children then moved to Shelbina, where she died on April 26, 1892. She was a true and devoted Christian of the Baptist church, of which she had been a member for many years. Basil D. and Mary A. died soon after moving to Shelbina; Jeremiah D. died in Tennessee; Charles F. grew to manhood in Shelbina.

Thomas L. Puckett obtained his early scholastic training in the public schools of Shelbina and completed the education begun in them at the Shelbina Collegiate Institute and the college at Pilot Grove, in Cooper county. After completing the course at Pilot Grove he passed a year in attendance at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy, and in 1882 began his mercantile career as a clerk in a drug store at Pilot Grove. Some time later he bought the business of his employer, W. F. White, and during the next two years he conducted it himself. At the end of that period he sold it and returned to Shelbina, where for three years he was one of the proprietors of a flourishing grocery. In time he sold his interest in this establishment and in 1894 began operating in real estate, loans and insurance in company with Charles B. Martin, under the name and style of Puckett & Martin. The firm is still in business and carrying on extensively. It is recognized as one of the leading ones in the line in this part of the state, and has a high reputation for integrity and business enterprise and progressiveness.

Mr. Puckett is interested, also, in other

business undertakings, being one of the stockholders in the Commercial Bank of Shelbina and owning and managing considerable real estate in business properties in the city and farm lands in Shelby and other counties. On June 28, 1888, he was married to Miss Ida M. Lyell, who was born and reared in Shelby county. They have two children, their sons, Thomas Lyell, born in Shelbina, August 27, 1891, and Charles E., born in Shelbina June 12, 1893, both of whom are still living at home with their parents.

Mr. Puckett has long been one of the leading and most active promoters of the development and improvement of the town and county. In 1906 he was elected mayor of Shelbina, and for a year he gave the city an excellent business administration of its affairs. But owing to the failing condition of the health of one of his sons (Charles), he resigned in 1907 and took the young man to California for the winter. During that year, while out driving, he was thrown from his buggy and sustained a broken leg. The fracture did not yield readily to treatment and the limb had to be amputated on account of dangerous complications. But notwithstanding his crippled condition, he still takes an active part in his business and the affairs of the community. He is a Democrat in political faith and a Southern Methodist in church connection and takes a leading place in the work of both his party and his church.

#### HALLEY THOMAS WILLIS, M. D.

To no other class of professional men is it given to administer so directly and completely to the comfort and happiness

of mankind as to physicians. They deal with all kinds of human ailments, both mental and physical, and are called upon to render services as wide in range as human suffering and human sorrow, and are often the only persons who can do it. To how many persons a country physician in active practice supplies aid in distress, hope in gloom, comfort in agony, solace in sorrow and even consolation in death, it would be idle to guess at. He is required to have a strong combination of qualities for his work, of which his professional and technical requirements are but a small part, and the necessity for their activity is always at hand, the reservoir is always on draft. Among the physicians of northern Missouri Dr. H. T. Willis, of Shelbina, occupied high rank for the full possession of these qualifications and the skillful use of them.

Dr. Willis was born in Monroe county, this state, on July 3, 1864. He came of Kentucky stock, both of his parents, Samuel Pierson and Elizabeth (Thomas) Willis, having been born and reared in that state. The father's life began in April, 1825, in Shelbyville, Kentucky, where his father, John Pierce Willis, was a manufacturer of wagons and carriages until 1851, when he and his family moved to Missouri, located in Monroe county and engaged extensively in farming and raising live stock. The grandfather died in 1874. The doctor's father farmed in his native county until the Western fever took possession of him and in 1851 he too came to this state and located on a farm in Monroe county. He raised stock in considerable numbers on his farm and dealt extensively in mules, at that time a nearly new article of sale