

Christian College at Columbia, Missouri, during his pastorate. In 1897 he moved to Shelbina and became pastor of the Christian church, which position he still fills. Was associated with Messrs. Thomas & Gillespie in the abstract business for three years, the firm being known as Wood, Thomas & Gillespie. In 1907 he became interested in the bank, to which his time has since been largely devoted. He is also president of the Shelbina Telephone Company, which he founded and incorporated in the autumn of 1908. In politics he is a Republican, but he has never been an active partisan or filled or desired a public office. His fraternal allegiance is given to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Masonic Order, in the latter of which he has risen to the degree of the Royal Arch. During the whole of his residence in Shelbina he has served as pastor of the Christian church, doing a great work for the congregation and building it up from a membership of 100 to one of 250. He is now engaged in the erection of a new church edifice which will be completed at an early date. He is much esteemed in church circles as well as in business relations, and illustrates in every walk in life the best attributes of an elevated, progressive and high-minded American citizenship.

In June, 1898, he was united in marriage with Miss Susan A. Jones, a sister of W. H. Jones, who was cashier of the bank of which he is president. They have no children, but take a warm and helpful interest in the education and well being of all the children in the community, being leaders and active workers in every good undertaking for the

welfare of the people and the promotion of every interest in which that is involved. Among the residents of Shelbina they are accounted as worthy of the highest regard and looked up to as examples of correct and upright living, which all might imitate with advantage to themselves and great benefit to the community.

Mr. Wood is a member of the board of regents of the Kirksville State Normal School, being chairman of the board, and is also a member of the board of trustees of Missouri Bible College at Columbia, Missouri.

GEORGE ROFF.

This estimable citizen of Shelbina, who is passing the closing years of his life in rest and quiet after a long struggle for advancement in a worldly way, in which he almost at times dared put himself into the lists and felt prepared to meet it on nearly equal terms, presents to the contemplation of the biographer a subject of unusual interest. He came of a family of roving and adventurous disposition, and although he showed his heritage in this respect in one particular he did not in others, for which his ancestors were distinguished. So far as daring danger, enduring hardship and undergoing arduous toil and privation are concerned, he has upheld the family traditions in a manly and admirable way. But he has never roamed far from the place of his nativity to seek a residence, but has helped to the limit of his ability and opportunities to develop the section and interests amid which he was born and reared.

Mr. Roff was born, reared, educated and married in Shelby county, and, as an industrious and skillful tiller of the soil, has contributed practically and essentially to its development and improvement. So that whatever he is, he is all the county's own. His life began on June 12, 1841, and for a full half century he was one of the producing forces of the county except during a short portion of the Civil war, when he was engaged in the defense of his political principles as a member of the Confederate army. His service in that memorable and Sanguinary contest lasted only about six months, for at the end of that period he was taken prisoner and soon after paroled on condition that he would return to the plains of the West and engage no further in the war. He is the grandson of Jonathan Roff, a native of New Jersey, and a son of Peter and Sarah (Anderson) Roff, the former born and reared in Mason county, Kentucky, where he made his advent into the world in 1800, and the latter a native of Virginia.

The father grew to manhood on his father's farm, assisting in its labors and attending the district school when his services were not needed at home. In 1832, while what is now the great and progressive state of Missouri was still a howling wilderness for the greatest part, he came west and located amid its unbroken wilds in this county. He took up a tract of mild land and devoted himself to its transformation into a cultivated and productive farm. He also raised stock in considerable numbers and thus helped materially to provide for the wants of the pioneers and build up the country around him.. His farming and stock-

raising operations continued until his death in 1866. He and his wife, whose maiden name was Sarah Anderson, became the parents of six children, of whom three are living. They are Carolina, the wife of Daniel Givens, of Shelbina; George, who is the inspiration of this sketch, and Thomas, also a resident of Shelbina. In political faith and adherence the father was an ardent Democrat. In fraternal relations he was a member of the Masonic order, and in religion belonged to the Christian church.

George Roff was reared on his father's farm in this county, and early in life began to learn the lessons of endurance, privation and self-reliance incident to residence and struggle with adversity and difficulty on the frontier. His only facilities for scholastic training were those supplied by the primitive schools of the wilderness at that early day, and when he had completed the course they covered, he at once went to work on the farm, again assisting his father until he started an enterprise in cultivating the soil and raising stock on his own account. This he continued until his retirement from all active pursuits in 1903, when he moved to Shelbina, and there he has ever since resided. He sold his farm and thus relieved his mind of all care concerning its management, and the only business he has given attention to since has been looking after his financial interests in connection with several business enterprises, among them the Shelbina National Bank, of which he is one of the stockholders and directors. As has been noted above, he was in the Confederate army six months at the beginning of the Civil war, but after being taken prisoner and

paroled to the plains of the West, he felt obliged to abide by the terms of his release and never entered the service of the Confederacy again.

Mr. Roff has been married twice. His first wife was Miss Julia Connolly, of Kentucky. They had one child, who died a number of years ago, as did the mother. On February 12, 1896, he was united with his second wife, who, before her marriage, was Miss Jennie Hinthorn, a native of McLean county, Illinois. He and his wife are highly respected and counted as among the best and most estimable citizens of the county. They are well and widely known and everywhere among their friends and acquaintances their lives are regarded as worthy of the good will of the people because of their uprightness and usefulness. Both have been active in all commendable projects for the good of the county and town, manifesting an earnest interest in their improvement and the lasting welfare of their inhabitants. Mr. Roff is a staunch Democrat in politics and he and his wife are members of the Christian church in religious faith and association.

JESSE T. HARDY.

This eminent jurist and esteemed citizen of Shelby county is an ornament to her public life, and his occupancy of the bench is a guaranty that the rights and interests of her people will be sedulously watched and guarded against wrong, so far as it is in the power of an upright and enlightened court to furnish such protection, her peace, order and good government will be preserved, and the laws of the state will be strictly and

properly enforced within her boundaries.

Judge Hardy is a native of the county, born on May 1, 1848. He was reared on its soil, educated in its public schools, for years engaged in tilling its fertile farm lands, and has been prominent in its professional and official circles. He is therefore closely connected with its people and has a personal as well as an official interest in their welfare. He is now serving his third term as county judge, and is more firmly intrenched in the confidence and esteem of the people than when his official life began. For his course on the bench has been eminently satisfactory to them and in the highest degree creditable to himself.

The Judge is a son of Samuel B. and Mary J. (Sparrow) Hardy, natives of Virginia and members of families that have dignified and adorned all walks of life in the history of that state. The father, impelled by a spirit of daring and self-reliance, and wishing to found a name for himself and his descendants on his own achievements, sought his opportunity in what was in his young manhood an unbroken wilderness. He came to Missouri in 1834 and took up a tract of wild land in what is now Shelby county and about eight miles northeast of the present city of Shelbina. He also opened a country store, and during the next few years was actively engaged in reducing his farm to subjection and productiveness and supplying the wants of the people around him from his mercantile establishment. **When** the railroad was partially completed he moved to Shelbina and built the Adams hotel, which he occupied and conducted for four or five years. He then returned to