

December 25, 1909; Benjamin, who resides in California; Frank, who lives in Shelby county; Mary A., the widow of the late George W. Drake, whose present home is in Quincy, Illinois; Douglas, also a resident of Monroe county, Missouri; Martin S., the subject of this brief review; Kate, the wife of Stephen Seward, of Monroe county; Elizabeth, who lives in this county; and George, who has his residence in the state of Nebraska. The father died in 1880. He was a Democrat in politics and a Catholic in religious faith and allegiance. He was twice married, his first wife having died in 1865. His second wife was Frances Fowler. George was born to the second marriage. His second wife died in 1872.

His son, Martin S. Buckman, grew to manhood on his father's farm and obtained a limited education in the district schools of Monroe county. After leaving school he worked on the home farms in Monroe and Shelby counties with his father until 1880. Then, by the death of the father the conditions of the home were changed, and he bought a farm of 240 acres of his own in Shelby county. On this as a nucleus he has ever since been energetically and skillfully engaged in farming and raising live stock, increasing his land and his business as Fortune has smiled on his enterprise and ability, until he now owns about 1,000 acres of good land and has it all under cultivation and brought to a high state of improvement and productiveness. He also holds stock in the Commercial Bank of Shelbina and is one of its directors, besides being interested in other industries of value.

On January 30, 1882, he was united in

marriage with Miss Emma Simms, of Monroe county, Missouri. They had eleven children, ten of whom are living: Olive, the wife of Loren Yates, of Monroe City; Lambert, Lillian, Alfred, Grigg, Julius, Benjamin, Mary (deceased), Otis, Martha and Genevieve. In politics the father is a Democrat and in religion a Catholic.

#### CHARLES N. SCHWIETERS.

Thrown on his own resources at the early age of fourteen years, and at that age leaving his home to try his fortunes in a distant and strange land in which he had no relatives and few, if any, acquaintances, Charles N. Schwieters, one of the substantial retired farmers and live stock men of Salt River township, Shelby county, has, in his subsequent career and achievements fully justified the faith of his friends and his own in his ability to take care of himself in a worldly way and make his own progress a certainty, and at the same time be of good service to any community which might have the benefit of his citizenship and good example of industry.

Mr. Schwieters was born in Prussia, Germany, on October 2, 1848. His father, Casper, and his grandfather, Joseph Schwieters, were natives of the Fatherland also, as was his mother, whose maiden name was Mary Gayner, and in that great empire their forefathers had lived many generations before them. The father was born in 1813 and married to Miss Gayner in 1846. They became the parents of seven children, four of whom are living: Sophia, the wife of Christopher Kuehne, of Lentner,

Missouri; Charles N., the interesting subject of this review; Clement, who resides in Los Angeles, California; and Barney, whose home is still in Germany. The father, Casper Schwieters, was a soldier in Germany and took an active part in the war of 1848 in that country, through the disastrous ending of which numbers of distinguished Germans became exiles from their native land.

Charles N. Schwieters began his education in Germany and completed it in night schools in this country. At the age of fourteen he came to the United States, and under the persuasive allurements of the West, which were based on a solid foundation of real wealth of opportunity, he left the Atlantic seaboard to those who found it satisfactory and himself hastened into the bustling activities and expanding hopes and prospects of the great Mississippi valley, locating in Quincy, Illinois, arriving in that city in 1863.

His resources financially were very limited and it was necessary for him to find employment at once. He soon found an engagement on implement and bridge work, on which he spent the hours of toil during the day, and with characteristic energy and foresight, attended school at night. He continued this arrangement until 1868, then moved to Warsaw, Illinois, where he worked in a woolen mill about two years. In 1870 he came to Missouri and located near Lentner in this county, where he passed one year on a farm. But there was still a voice from the farther West within him, pleading for recognition, and in 1871 he went to Colorado and in that

state and Nevada he passed the next five years.

He did not, however, find that section of the country as agreeable to him as this, and in 1877 he returned to Missouri and Shelby county, and located on a farm of eighty acres, which he occupied three years. The spirit of roving and adventure was not yet fully satisfied in him, and in 1880 he moved to Monroe county, and during the next ten years he was prosperously engaged in farming and raising live stock in that county. In 1890 he once more became a resident of Shelby county, and this has been his home ever since. He was industriously and skilfully engaged in farming here from that time until 1908, when he retired from active work and rented to his sons the 360 acres of fine land which he had acquired.

In November, 1868, he was united in marriage with Miss Johanna Moessmer, who was born in Germany in 1848 and is a daughter of Charles and Clara (Dehner) Moessmer of that country. By this marriage he became the father of eleven children, nine of whom are living: Clement J., John C., Frederick W., Henry V., Frank, Louis N., Joseph, William and Clara May. They are all residents of Shelby county but Frank, who lives in Monroe county. Louis lives on the old homestead, and Joseph, William and Clara May are living at home with their parents. The father is a Republican in politics, and ardently supports his political party in all its campaigns. He belongs to the Catholic church, and is devout and constant in his obedience to its teachings.

A poor boy with nothing but his own health, strength and unconquerable spirit, and a friendless exile from his native land, at the age of fourteen; a man of large means and a highly respected citizen in the country of his adoption at sixty; this is his record, and it is creditable to our land of great resources and abundant opportunities. But it is far more to his credit, because it has been his native ability, fidelity to duty and determined industry and frugality which have wrought such gratifying results. Others, many of them, have had similar or equal opportunities, but he has taken advantage of his and made the most of them. The people among whom he has lived, labored and succeeded so well recognize his merit and esteem him accordingly as one of their best citizens. He also owns two fine residences in Shelbina.

#### MORT. D. AYERS.

Orphaned in his infancy, when he was little more than one year old, by the untimely death of his father at the early age of forty-four, and being one of eight children left for the mother to rear and educate, Mort. D. Ayers, now one of the prosperous, progressive and enterprising farmers of Salt River township in this county, was forced to begin the battle of life for himself at an early age, and for years after beginning it found the struggle an arduous and trying one. But he had the make-up of a man of merit and determination, and never lost faith in himself or his ability to win out in the contest, whatever its difficulties.

Mr. Ayers was born at Bay City, Michigan, on May 30, 1867, and is a son of Wright and Clara (Wright) Ayers, natives of Massachusetts, where the father was born in 1824, and where they were married. They had eight children, only two of whom are now living, Mort. D. and his older sister, Mina, the wife of Mr. Middleton, of Allen, Michigan. The father was a carpenter and prospered at his trade, bidding fair to win a competence for himself and his family, when death ended his labors in 1868.

After his death, about one year, that is, in 1869, the mother brought her offspring to Missouri and located in Shelbina. Here the son obtained a limited common school education, and as soon as he completed it immediately engaged in farming and raising live stock on a farm of 120 acres of land three miles east of Shelbina. The career as a farmer which lie thus began he has continued to the present time, and in his efforts for advancement has been successful, winning a comfortable estate through his persistent and judiciously applied industry and his frugality and good management. He is now one of the substantial and well-to-do farmers and stock men of his township, and is also regarded as one of its most progressive and enterprising citizens in respect to all matters of public improvement. For he has taken a warm and helpful interest in every worthy undertaking designed to advance the welfare of the locality of his home or promote the good of its people.

On July 24, 1887, Mr. Ayers was united in marriage with Miss Julia Nitsche, a daughter of Fred and Minnie (Miller) Nitsche, of Shelbina, where