

Andrew Figh, who has her home in the state of Washington; Orlette, the wife of R. Hammond, a resident of Knox county, Missouri; Viva, the wife of W. Hammond; and Thomas, who also lives in Taylor township, Shelby county.

Joseph F. Cockrum was educated at Washington district school, in Knox county, and has been a farmer ever since he left school. For some years he worked with his father on the home farm and assisted the family. In 1882 he came to Shelby county and located in Taylor township, where he now lives. Born and reared on a farm and well trained to its requirements, he desired no other occupation than that of farming, and this he has followed with gratifying results ever since his advent into this county, and in connection with it has for years carried on a thriving industry in raising live stock for the markets. His valuable farm comprises 120 acres and is all under advanced cultivation and his live stock business is in proportion.

On March 25, 1875, Mr. Cockrum was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Boggs, a native of Kansas. They had two children, their son Gilbert E. and their daughter Carrie L., who is now the wife of Henry Hersher, a resident of Shelby county. Their mother died in 1885, and in 1887 the father married again, choosing as his partner on this occasion Miss Sarah Street, who was born and reared in Knox county, where he also had his nativity. They have no children. In politics Mr. Cockrum is a Democrat, but he has never been an active partisan and has never held a political office or sought one. He is a member of the Christian church.

WILLIAM STALCUP.

Although he is now prosperous and increasingly successful as a farmer and stock man, William Stalcup, of Jefferson township, Shelby county, started in life seriously handicapped by disaster. He was made an orphan when he was but five years old by the death of his father on the battlefield of Centralia, Missouri, where he was fighting for his convictions as a man and citizen. The son then grew to manhood amid the desolation and prostration of all enterprise in the community of his home brought about by the Civil war and the predatory sectional strife that preceded it. But he was made of stern stuff and the very trials of his lot toughened the fiber of his nature for the contest before him. And he has succeeded in the contest with adverse circumstances because he meant to and made the required efforts for the accomplishment of his purpose.

Mr. Stalcup was born in the township in Shelby county in which he now lives, his life beginning in 1859. He is a son of James and Mary (Byars) Stalcup, natives of Virginia, both of whom came to this state in early life. The father was a small boy when his parents moved the family to Missouri and found a new home in Jefferson township, Shelby county. He grew to manhood here and obtained a limited education in the district schools, or such as there were during his boyhood and youth. When he left school he turned his attention to farming, at that time the principal occupation of the men in this part of the state, and he adhered to his chosen vocation throughout the remainder of his life. He was a soldier in the Civil war and

was killed in the battle of Centralia, Missouri, in 1864, as has been noted. His widow is still living and resides in Clar-ence, Missouri. She and her husband were the parents of five children, two of whom are living, William and his brother G. W.

William Stalcup attended the country school near his home and through its ministrations secured a limited educa-tion. His opportunities for scholastic training were limited, owing to the con-ditions of the country and the circum-stances of the family, which forced him to look out for himself in the struggle for advancement at an early age. Since leaving school he has been engaged in farming, working under great difficulties and with very slow approaches toward his desired goal at first, but with increas-ing speed and greater prosperity after a few years as the harvest from his per-sistent industry and self-denying frugal-ity began to ripen and be gathered in. He now owns a valuable farm of more than 130 acres, which is well improved, fully equipped with the necessary ap-pliances for its vigorous and profitable cultivation and provided with all the re-quirements of an attractive and comfort-able country home.

On this farm he has for many years carried on general farming operations on a high plane of skill and enterprise, and also conducted a thriving live stock industry of good proportions and ele-vated character. In 1897 he embarked in a general mercantile enterprise at Maud in this county, but this was not to his taste, and after hanging to it three years he sold the business and returned to his farm. He was married in 1883 to Miss

Jennie Phillips, a native of Monroe county, Missouri. They have had four children, three of whom are living, Geor-gianna, James Thomas and Ethel. In political affiliation the father is a Repub-lican, and although he has never sought or desired a political office, he has always been active in the service of his party. For the good of the community he served on the school board about six years, but he prefers at all times the honorable post of private citizenship. He is a member of the Northern Methodist church.

W. J. KESNER.

During the last eighteen years this prosperous farmer and stock man of Jef-ferson township has been one of the use-ful factors in promoting the industrial and civil life of Shelby county, adding to its wealth in agricultural products and live stock, helping to advance it in public improvements and aiding in sustaining and strengthening all its moral, educa-tional and material interests. He has been faithful to the duties of citizenship and while pushing forward his own in-terests has always lent a willing hand to the advancement of those of the town-ship and county in which he lives.

Mr. Kesner was born on September 30, 1867, in Lewis county, Missouri. He is a son of G. W. and Mary J. (Allison) Kesner, the former a native of Indiana and the latter of Virginia. The father came to Missouri in 1840 and located in Lewis county. There for a period of forty-two years he was actively engaged in farming and raising stock, with stead-ily increasing prosperity in a worldly way and a strengthening hold on the con-