

Shelby county. He then preempted eighty acres of land in Knox county not far from the boundary of Shelby county, and on this farm he passed the remainder of his life, actively and prosperously engaged in general farming and raising live stock until his death in 1900.

He and his wife were the parents of eight children, six of whom are living: John W., Charles and James H., who are residents of Shelby county; and Jesse, Thomas and George W., who live in Knox county. The father was a Republican in politics and a member of the Baptist sect in religion. He was a man of great energy and activity, and rose to considerable prominence and influence because of his continued and general usefulness as a citizen. He took an earnest interest and an active part in the affairs of the counties in which he lived, helping to give their progress and development a substantial foundation and good speed in advancement.

His son, James H. Vanskike, grew to manhood on his father's farm and obtained his education in the Knox and Shelby county district schools. He took his part in the labors of the farm both while attending school and after completing his education, remaining with his parents and assisting the family until 1871. In that year he bought the farm on which he now lives seven miles west of Shelbyville. He has greatly improved it and added to its value by his industry and thrift and his excellent management of its general farming operations and the vigorous and enterprising live stock business which he has long been conducting on it.

Like his father, he has taken a very

earnest and serviceable interest in local public affairs, serving as a member of the school board sixteen years, and in many other ways doing his full part in promoting the welfare of the township and county of his home and ministering to the increased comfort and prosperity and general well being of their people. His political faith and zealous support are given to the principles and candidates of the Republican party, and in fraternal life he is an Odd Fellow and in religion a member of the Missionary Baptist church. He was married on September 14, 1871, to Mrs. Nannie C. (Duncan) Dunn, a daughter of John S. and Matilda (Lyne) Duncan, of Shelbyville. Two children were born of the union, Sallie May, who is living at home with her parents, and Joseph S., an esteemed and prosperous citizen of this county. All the members of the family stand well with the people of their locality, who have found them worthy and estimable in all the relations of life.

#### JAMES H. TARBET.

James H. Tarbet, who is one of the best known and most highly esteemed citizens of Black Creek township in this county, where he owns and operates a fine farm of eighty acres, and where he has been for many years prominent in the public and official life of the township, is not a native of Missouri, but has lived in Shelby county from the time when he was but a few months old, and may therefore be fairly regarded as a Shelby county product. He obtained his education in its district schools, has mingled for many years with apprecia-

tion in its social life, made his whole career as a public official in the service of its people, and has passed all the years of his activity to this time in energetic and successful management of two of its leading industries, contributing to their growth and development.

Mr. Tarbet was born on April 21, 1867, in Rush county, Indiana, and was brought to Shelby county, Missouri, before the end of the year of his birth. His grandfather, Robert Tarbet, was a native of Kentucky, and in Fleming county of that state Mr. Tarbet's father, John W. Tarbet, also came into being, his life having begun on October 16, 1840. He moved to Indiana a young man, and in 1867 brought his family to this state and located in Shelby county. For some years after his arrival here he farmed on land which he rented. But later in life bought a farm of 160 acres, which he cultivated with vigor and profit until 1900, when he moved to Haskell county, Texas. In connection with his farming he kept a general store at Kirby, this county, for eleven years and also operated a threshing outfit. When he decided to move to Texas he sold all his possessions here. He was prominent also in the official activities of the county, serving very acceptably as a justice of the peace for sixteen years and in other ways of value making himself useful to the county and its people, and acquiring extensive influence and popularity among them, as a merchant, a farmer and a public spirited citizen.

He was married in 1864 to Miss Nancy E. Kenning, a resident of Indiana at the time of the marriage. They became the parents of fourteen children, ten of

whom are living: James H., the subject of this review; John M., Charles F., George and Mary (twins), and Walter, all of whom reside in Haskell county, Texas; Jesse E., whose home is in Grant county, Kansas; Thomas H. and Grover C. (also twins), the former a resident of Haskell county and the latter of Denton county, Texas; and Josephine, whose home is also in Haskell county, Texas. In politics the father is a staunch and loyal Democrat, always active and effective in the service of his party. Fraternally he is allied with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and in religious affiliation he and his wife are members of the Christian church.

Their son, James H. Tarbet, grew to manhood on his father's farm, assisting in its labors while attending school, and working also on other farms in the neighborhood. He remained with his parents and gave them all the help he could until 1888, when he married and started a home of his own. During the next five years he rented farms, but in 1893, through industry, frugality and good management, found himself able to buy a farm and purchased the one on which he is still living. This comprises eighty acres of first rate land, and he has improved it with a taste and good judgment and brought it to a high state of productiveness by careful and intelligent cultivation. He also conducts a lively and profitable industry in raising and feeding live stock for the markets.

Mr. Tarbet has prospered in his business and has shown a good citizen's un-failing interest in the welfare and progress of the county. He was a member of the school board thirteen years and

is now serving as its clerk. In 1899 he was also appointed road overseer, and is still giving the people of the township excellent service in that capacity, having held the office continuously from the date of his first appointment. In political relations he adheres firmly to the principles of the Democratic party and is at all times one of its most energetic and effective working members. His fraternal connections are with the Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, and he and his wife are zealous and deeply interested communicants in the Christian church, in which they are both earnest and appreciated workers.

His marriage was solemnized on January 10, 1889, and was with Miss Harriet J. Robinson, a daughter of James and Matilda (Schudy) Robinson, prominent and highly esteemed residents of Shelby county. Three children have been born of the union, and they are all living and still at home with their parents. They are Omer J., Velma L., and Esther May.

#### JOHN G. VON THUN.

John G. Von Thun is one of the highly successful and prosperous farmers and live stock men of Black Creek township, in this county, whither he was brought by his parents from the far distant land of his birth when he was but two years old. He was born on June 2, 1866, in the colony of Victoria, Australia. There the father, Nicholas Von Thun, a native of Germany, born in 1827, passed ten or twelve years of his life engaged in farming and teaching school. In 1868 he

moved his family to Missouri and located in Shelby county. Here he bought land and was busily occupied in general farming until his death, in 1872.

He was married to Miss Caroline Burkhardt, who was also a native of Germany. They had six children, four of whom are living: Henry, a sketch of whom will be found in this work; and Harman, John G. and Paul, all four residents of this county. The parents belonged to the Lutheran church and were among the original settlers in the German Lutheran community in this county, to whom is much indebted the industry, thrift, progressiveness and general good citizenship of the colony, for there were excellent men and women, giving faithful attention to every duty in public and private life, and both through their labors and the force of their example they gave the portion of the county in which they lived substantial prosperity and good speed on the road to high development.

John G. Von Thun, as has been noted, was an infant but two years old when his parents moved to the United States and located in Shelby county. He has passed all his subsequent years here, and while he has prospered himself in a worldly way, he has also been an important factor in promoting the general welfare and steady improvement of his township and county. He has always been energetic and enterprising with reference to all public interests and has given everybody around him the stimulus of his own zeal and activity and the force of an excellent example for the good of the locality in which he has so long lived and so effec-