

course of special training for business at the Jones Commercial college in St. Louis. After leaving that institution he taught school three terms, and then located on a farm of 100 acres near Emden, on which he lived until 1889. In that year he moved to a farm of 200 acres near Shelbyville. This farm he occupied and improved until 1903, when he made his home on the one he now resides on, which is also near Shelbyville. This comprises 320 acres and is well improved and very skillfully cultivated. It has been brought to a high state of productiveness, and has handsomely supported and advanced the extensive industry in feeding and raising live stock for the markets which Mr. Churchwell has conducted on it from the time when he took possession of it. He is especially interested in breeding and raising mules, and deals in them extensively as an adjunct to his other live stock operations. He has been very successful in all his undertakings and is one of the leading and most substantial farmers and stock men in Black Creek township.

On October 31, 1867, Mr. Churchwell was united in marriage with Miss Sarah A. V. Durrett, a native of Marion county, Missouri. They have had eleven children and twenty-four grandchildren, all of whom are living: Richard H., of Cascade county, Montana; Frances J., the wife of A. C. Vawter, of Neosha, Missouri; Sarah A., the wife of Polk Connaway, of this county; Mary S., the wife of Frank Connaway, whose home is also in this county; Thomas H., a resident of Cascade county, Montana; Mona L., the wife of James T. Churchwell, of Raymon, Montana; Rebecca E., the wife of

Walter McCue, a resident of Shelby county, Missouri; Francis M., Jr., the third member of the family, whose home is in Cascade county, Montana; John S., who resides in Pratt county, Kansas; and William T. and Benjamin D., who are living at home with their parents. In politics the father is a Republican, and in religious association a member of the Missionary Baptist church. It goes without the saying that he is one of the highly esteemed citizens of Shelby county and is regarded as one of its leading and most useful men.

HENRY RATHJEN.

The early pioneers of Shelby county redeemed the region from the waste and laid the foundations of its present greatness and advanced development. The men and women of a later generation and all subsequent ones have gone on improving and enriching the domain according to their opportunities and capabilities, adding successive features of progress and forces of culture as the times demanded and their resources allowed. From the beginning the fortunes of this portion of the state have been in the hands of capable and self-reliant people, ready to take advantage of every circumstance for its aggrandizement and willing to make any sacrifice to accomplish its greatest good. The future of the county and the commonwealth depends upon the fiber and force of the present generation and those that shall come after it.

As an indication of what the present generation is doing to keep up the march of progress and meet the require-

ments of its duty, the career of Henry Rathjen, of Black Creek township, and others like him, is well worthy of consideration. He is a progressive and wide awake farmer and stock man, fully abreast with the times in his business and alive to all the elements and powers of good citizenship and what is demanded of it. What the young farmers and stockmen of the county are doing gives abundant assurance that there will be no backward step, and that no proper means of development, intellectual, moral or social will be overlooked and that no material advantages will pass unnoticed or neglected.

Mr. Rathjen is a native of the county and has passed the whole of his life to this time within its borders. He was born on February 17, 1877, and is a son of Christian and Elizabeth (Cordis) Rathjen, natives of Germany. The father was born in 1841 and came to the United States in 1868. He came at once to Shelby county, Missouri, on his arrival in this country, and found a home in a German settlement containing many of the friends of his earlier life in his native land. He took up as his own the leading occupation of the settlement, and the one to which he had been reared, becoming a farmer and stock-raiser. He continued his operations in this dual line of useful and profitable endeavor until his death on December 29, 1906, and was successful in all he undertook.

He was married on October 10, 1870, to Miss Elizabeth Cordis, and by this marriage became the father of four children, all of whom are living: Hiram, Lizzie, the wife of Theodore Heinze, Henry and Anna, the wife of Hugh Dane,

all of them residents of Shelby county. The father and mother were for many years devout and consistent workers of the Lutheran church and attentive to all the requirements of their duty as such.

Henry Rathjen was educated in the country schools of Shelby county and immediately after completing their course of instruction began the career of farmer and stock man in which he is still engaged. He now owns 100 acres of good land, well improved and nearly all under cultivation. He is a Democrat in politics and has his religious affiliation with the Lutheran church. On February 16, 1906, he was united in marriage with Miss Kate Keller, a daughter of Philip Keller, an esteemed resident of Shelby county. They have one child, their son Christian Henry. Mr. Rathjen is as enterprising and progressive with reference to the affairs of the county as he is in his own business. He is everywhere regarded as an excellent citizen and an upright and useful man, worthy of all esteem and earnestly interested in the enduring welfare of the township and county in which he lives.

JOHN S. CHINN.

Devoting the first few years of his early manhood to farming on his father's farm, and four of its most strenuous and trying ones to the defense of his political opinions during our Civil war, then returning to the peaceful and productive pursuit of agriculture, with a flourishing live stock industry in connection, John S. Chinn, of Black Creek township, in this county, has been tried in laborious exertion on the soil of our