

known in all parts of it. He has been helpful in developing it and is looked upon as one of its most worthy and estimable citizens.

#### JAMES A. SPENCER.

The interesting subject of this brief memoir, whose death on April 4, 1904, cast a gloom over the whole community in which he had so long been a leading citizen, successful merchant and prosperous and progressive farmer, was a native of Marion county, Missouri, where he was born on July 14, 1841. He was a son of Edward G. and Margaret (McElroy) Spencer, who were natives of Kentucky. They were married in Kentucky and had twelve children, five of whom are living: Wilson, a resident of Saline county, Missouri; Mollie, the wife of Douglas Ricks, of Taylorville, Illinois; Edward and Dorris, whose homes are in this county; and Henry C., who lives in Kansas City, Missouri.

The father came to Missouri at an early day and located in Marion county. There for a number of years he was prosperously engaged in farming, but late in life he changed his residence to Lafayette county, and there he died in 1871. He was a man of force and prominence, active in the early history of the locality in which he lived, esteemed by all who knew him, and deserving their regard and approbation by his uprightness and good influence as a man and his progressiveness and usefulness as a citizen.

His son, James A. Spencer, was educated in the public schools in Shelbyville and Paris, Missouri, and after se-

curing his own mental training for the duties of life shared the benefits he derived from it with others by teaching school at Paris for some years. He moved to Shelby county in 1869 and located at Hunnewell, where he followed the drug business four years. At the end of that period he changed the seat of his activity to Monroe county and his occupation to farming. His mind was too versatile and active to be confined to one line of employment, however, and in 1875 he returned to Hunnewell and to merchandising in connection with his farming and live stock industries. He was first a grocer and afterward a general merchant, carrying on an extensive business in each line and winning a very gratifying success in both. He was also postmaster of Hunnewell four years.

In 1894 he sold all his mercantile interests and began an active and successful career in the real estate business, still continuing his farming operations. His farm at that time comprised 253 acres, and this he enlarged by successive purchases until at the time of his death he owned and had under vigorous and progressive cultivation 753 acres. On this farm he passed the last twenty-six years of his life, and in that period greatly improved it and increased its value, *making it one* of the best and most desirable in Jackson township, in which it was located. He was also a stockholder in the Hunnewell bank, and was actively and serviceably connected with other institutions of value to the community of his home.

On October 5, 1869, Mr. Spencer united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Rags-

dale, a daughter of James and Sallie (Deaver) Ragsdale, of Monroe county, this state. Mrs. Spencer was born on December 3, 1849, and is still living. She and her husband became the parents of eight children, seven of whom are living. They are: James E., died September 29, 1910; Sidney H.; Ripley C.; Nellie A., the wife of T. J. Greening; Richard R.; Earl; Leta, the wife of Clancy Fitzsimons; and Orrie M., the wife of Charles M. Yancy. They are all residents of Shelby county. The parents were active and useful members of the Christian church. They were esteemed as among the best and most worthy citizens of the county and enjoyed the regard and good will of the whole people.

#### SIDNEY H. BROWNE, JR.

Of good old Pennsylvania stock, and inheriting from his ancestry the traits of industry, thrift and persevering self-reliance which are characteristic of the people of that great industrial hive, Sidney H. Browne, Jr., one of the enterprising and prosperous farmers and live stock men of Jackson township, in this county, has employed his native ability and used his opportunities to great advantage in improving his own worldly condition and helping to push forward the welfare and progress of the locality of his home. He has aptly exemplified on the soil of Missouri the qualities of diligence, frugality and good management that have so signally advanced the prosperity and made the greatness of his ancestral state, although he is not a native of it.

Mr. Browne was born in Quincy, Illi-

nois, on February 1, 1871, and is a grandson of George Blight Browne, a well-to-do business man of Pennsylvania, and a son of Peter A. and Lavena (Jordan) Browne, also natives of Pennsylvania, the latter born in the city of Philadelphia. The father's life began in 1837 and he became a resident of Missouri in 1872, after a residence of some years in Quincy, Illinois, and Hannibal, Missouri. On their arrival in this state the parents located at Hunnewell, where they lived one year. They then moved to a farm one mile and three-quarters from that town. The father engaged in farming and raising live stock, and also dealt extensively in cultivators for the benefit of the farmers living around him, and for his own profit as well. He was in this line of mercantile business about eight years. On March 10, 1900, his life ended on the old homestead.

He and his wife were the parents of six children, five of whom are living: Elizabeth J., the wife of F. E. Swift, of Hunter, Oklahoma; George Blight, a resident of Burlington, Iowa; Sidney H., the subject of these paragraphs; Penelope, the wife of J. A. O'Daniel, of Hunnewell; and Kenton S., who also lives at Hunnewell. The father was a Republican in his political faith and allegiance, and earnestly interested in the welfare of his party, although he was never a very active partisan. His fraternal affiliation was with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Sidney H. Browne, Jr., had the preparation for the battle of life usually secured by boys of his class and surroundings. He was trained to useful labor on his father's farm and in scholastic