

adherence to the Republican party, and both he and his wife are zealous members of the Baptist church, in which he is a deacon. During the Civil war Mr. Hawker was thoroughly in sympathy with the cause of the Union, and in 1862 he enlisted in the home guard, being a member of the company stationed at Palmyra, this state, under command of Captain Lear.

On the 11th of February, 1861, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Hawker to Miss Sarah F. Couch, who was born and reared in Marion county, this state, where her father, Marshall Couch, was an early settler. Mr. and Mrs. Hawker became the parents of eight children and all are living except one son that died. Mollie is the wife of Harry Huggins, of Shelbina, this county; Charles is engaged in farming in Salt River township; Elvira is the wife of Thomas Burdett, of Sharpsburg, Missouri; Frederick has charge of the old homestead farm, in Salt River township, Marion county; Vernie is engaged in farming in Shelby county; Myrtle is the widow of Charles Enyard and now resides in the city of St. Louis; and Gertrude is the wife of James Freshwater, a farmer of Marion county.

GEORGE E. STEWART.

All of the forty-two years of life which George E. Stewart, one of the enterprising, progressive and successful farmers living near Clarence, has lived from his birth, on January 13, 1868, to the present time (1910), have been passed in Shelby county, and those of them since he arrived at years of discretion and productiveness have been fruitful in good both

for himself and the locality in which he has spent them. For he has been one of the reliable men in promoting every form of public improvement and developing every resource of value whom his township has furnished to aid in pushing forward the car of progress in the agricultural, industrial and commercial life of the county.

Mr. Stewart was born in the county and has never felt any strong inclination to wander beyond its borders. He obtained his education in its public schools, grew to manhood on one of its fertile farms, married one of its esteemed daughters, and has, ever since he began the battle of life for himself, been a contributor directly and essentially to its welfare and the benefit of its people. He is a son of William and Elizabeth (Lasley) Stewart, natives of Ireland. The father was born in 1812, came to this country when he was a young man and located for a time in Pennsylvania. He then came West with the tide of migration that was surging toward the Rocky mountains and settled in Shelby county, Missouri, where he passed the remainder of his days. He was actively and profitably engaged in farming and raising live stock in this county until 1887. In that year he retired from active pursuits and from then until his death, on February 9, 1899, lived with his son George. In connection with his farming operations he also did considerable work at his trade as a stone mason in the neighborhood of his home. Among other buildings on which he worked, which are of historic interest, was the old Bethel mill, which was long a landmark in the region and a rallying place for the whole countryside,

of which he laid the foundation. His skill was employed also on other structures with histories, for he was an early arrival in the county and helped blaze the way for the civilization and development that was soon to follow in his wake.

He was married in 1845 to Miss Elizabeth Lasley, who also came to this country from Ireland, as has been stated, and they became the parents of twelve children, eight of whom are living: Margaret, the wife of William Stone, of Tama county, Iowa; Mary, the wife of George Sickle, of Shelby county, Missouri; Robert, whose home is in Shelbyville; Eliza, the wife of W. G. Chick, also a resident of Shelbyville; Alice, the wife of J. W. Ray, of this county; Andrew, a prosperous Shelby county farmer; Celestia, the wife of William West, of Kansas; and George E. In politics the father was a Republican, in fraternal life an Odd Fellow and in religion a Presbyterian.

George E. Stewart was educated in the district schools of this county and started his career as a farmer and stock man very early in life. His first venture was the purchase of 131 acres of land on which he went to work for himself, and from the start he has been successful and enjoyed increasing prosperity as the years have passed. He farms well and wisely and his farm responds generously to his skillful husbandry. His stock industry is extensive, and it, also, is active and profitable. Both are managed with intelligence and the most careful attention to every detail of the work connected with them from start to finish.

On September 3, 1890, Mr. Stewart was united in marriage with Miss Arminda Hirrlinger, a daughter of Jacob F. and

Martha (McCroskey) Hirrlinger, esteemed residents of this county. Three children have been born in the Stewart household, and all of them are living and still at home with their parents. They are two daughters, Geraldine E. and Elsie L., and a son, Kenneth W. In politics the father is a Prohibitionist and in religion a member of Holiness church, to which his wife belongs also. They are active and zealous workers in the church and take an earnest and serviceable interest in everything pertaining to the advancement and improvement of the township and county in which they live. Everybody that knows them respects them for their worth and the estimable quality of their citizenship.

HARMAN RATHJEN.

Beginning his career as a farmer on his own account at the dawn of his manhood, and continuing it without interruption through all the subsequent years of his busy life, Harman Rathjen, one of the wideawake and enterprising farmers and stock men of Black Creek township in this county, has given a fine example of what steadfastness of purpose and the use of every opportunity for advancement can accomplish even in the unobtrusive and often unnoted life of a husbandman in the rural districts of this state, far from the seaboard and aside from the highways of the world's great activities.

Mr. Rathjen is a native of Shelby county and was born in 1871. He was educated in the district schools of the county, attending for the most part the Red Star school in the township of his