

fidence and esteem of the people. In 1882 he moved his family to Monroe county, where he followed the same pursuits. He died on October 4, 1899.

His marriage with Miss Mary J. Allison occurred in 1856 and by this marriage became the father of six children, all of whom are living. They are Louisa, George W., Lina, Maggie, W. J. and Sarah. The mother is still living and makes her home in Clarence, Shelby county. Although advanced in years, she bears the burden of age well, being vigorous and energetic, and meeting the daily duties of life now with the same spirit of devotion and determination that characterized her in the earlier period of her residence in this state, when her experiences were largely those of a pioneer.

Her son, W. J. Kesner, who is the immediate subject of this brief memoir, began his education in the district schools of Lewis county and completed it in those of Monroe county, to which he removed with his parents in 1882. After leaving school he had the usual experience of country boys in Missouri at that time, working on his father's farm and assisting the family, learning in practical labor the art of farming and acquiring a knowledge of human nature by mingling freely in the social life of the neighborhood, thus gaining all the while additional strength and equipment for the battle of life in whatever phase it might present itself.

In 1890 he moved to Macon county and entered the contest for himself as a farmer and raiser of stock. Two years later he came to Shelby county and took up his residence in Clarence, and in the

vicinity of that town he has ever since been actively and prosperously engaged in farming and raising stock. He now owns and cultivates eighty acres of land and has his farm brought to a high state of development in its productive capacity and well improved with good buildings and all the other appurtenances of a comfortable country home of the present day requirements.

On February 12, 1891, Mr. Kesner was united in marriage with Miss Lily B. Craig, of Monroe county, in this state. They have one child, their daughter Nora Belle. In politics the father is a Republican, in fraternal life he is an Odd Fellow and a Modern Woodman, and in religious affiliation a member of Missionary Baptist church.

#### REUBEN LEE TAYLOR.

Reuben Lee Taylor, one of the prosperous, progressive and successful farmers of Jefferson township, in this county, has passed the whole of his life to this time (1910) in the county, and has been, for many years, one of the leading forces in its progress and development. He has helped to expand and augment its industrial and commercial power, the moral, social and educational agencies at work among its people have had the benefit of his services in counsel and active support and its advancement in the way of public improvements has always been aided by him to the full extent of his ability and influence.

Mr. Taylor is a native of Clay township, Shelby county, where he was born in 1863. His parents, F. P. and Mary H. (Henniger) Taylor, have registered

themselves among the most sterling and useful citizens of the county and won the regard and good will of the people by their acceptable lives and faithful attention to every duty in private and general life. The father, who was a son of Major Taylor, of Kentucky, was born in that state, but was brought by his parents to Missouri before he was a year old. He was reared in Shelby county and educated in the primitive schools of his day. After reaching years of maturity he began farming, and this pursuit he adhered to until his death in 1902.

Being a firm believer in the doctrine of state rights, when the Civil war began he enlisted in the Confederate army, and during the whole of our sanguinary sectional strife was in the field in defense of his convictions. He was through life an adherent of the Democratic party in politics and one of its most active and zealous supporters. He lived acceptably long years among this people, winning their favor by his valor in war and his industry, frugality and deep and serviceable interest in the general welfare of his community in peace.

The mother, who is a daughter of William and Susan (Kimball) Henniger, is still living at the age of seventy-eight years. Her marriage with Mr. Taylor took place in 1849, and they became the parents of nine children, eight of whom are living: Nathan R.; Susan E., the wife of H. C. Cross; William M.; Virginia, the wife of W. E. Warren, of Great Falls, Montana; Francis H., whose home is in Montana; Reuben L., the subject of this memoir; Milton H., another resident of the state of Montana; and

Hattie Belle, the wife of Charles Carroll, of this county.

Reuben Lee Taylor attended the district schools of Shelby county and also a school of higher grade in Clarence. He selected the vocation of farmer and raising stock early in life as his work for a livelihood, and as soon as he completed his scholastic training according to the opportunities available to him entered upon it with energy and a determination to make a success of it. He now owns and cultivates 300 acres of first rate land and carries on a flourishing business in raising stock in connection with his farming operations, and in both he has realized the determination of his youth, being at this time one of the most successful and progressive farmers in the township in which he lives.

In the public affairs of his township and county he has at all times taken an active and serviceable interest, giving his energetic and effective support to all undertakings for the improvement of the region of his home and stimulating others to exertion by the force of his example. He has been a member of the school board during the last ten years and for the greater part of the period its president. His religious connection is with the Southern Methodist church, and in the congregation to which he belongs he is one of the most active and zealous workers. He served as superintendent of its Sunday school for fourteen years, and in many other ways has been potential in promoting its welfare and extending its usefulness. In political adherence he has always been an ardent Democrat, with an earnest interest in the suc-

cess of his party and great efficiency in working for it.

In 1885 Mr. Taylor was united in marriage with Miss Hollie Evans, a daughter of William and Susan (Byars) Evans, and a native of Clarence in this county. She and her husband have had seven children, five of whom are living, William E., Perry P., Paul E., Reede L. and Frank, all of whom are as well thought of in the community as their parents.

#### ISAAC NOAH BAKER.

"Contentment, like the speedwell, grows along the common, beaten path." So sang a celebrated English poet long years ago, and so has life been found by Isaac N. Baker, one of the prosperous, enterprising and progressive farmers of Jefferson township, in this county. He has not sought the world's acclaim in official station of high or low degree. He has followed the beaten path of his chosen vocation as a farmer and stock man, and in its congenial duties and good returns for his labor he has found contentment, comfort and substantial progress, along with the opportunity to do much for the advancement of the township and county of his home and the general welfare of the people living in them, for he has been true to their every interest.

Mr. Baker is a native of Randolph county, Missouri, born on October 21, 1844. His father, whose name also was Isaac, was a native of Kentucky and came to Missouri at an early day, being one of the first three settlers in what is now Randolph county. His early home in this state was among the Indians, and

as he always treated them honestly and fairly, they were always friendly in their dealings with him and held him in high esteem. The mother, whose maiden name was Jane McCully, was a native of Tennessee. They were the parents of twelve children, all of whom grew to maturity. Five of them are living: Charles Thomas, who has his home at Albany, Texas; Nancy, the widow of William Tedford, who resides in California; Fanny, the wife of James Davis, of Moberly, Missouri; Sarah, the wife of Jefferson Snodgrass, of Oklahoma; and Isaac Noah, the subject of this writing. The mother died in 1871 and the father in 1896. They were highly respected and looked upon as among the most worthy and estimable citizens of the community in which they lived.

Their son Isaac Noah obtained his education in the district schools of his native county, and after completing it worked on the home farm with his father and assisted the family for a number of years. He then set up for himself on a farm and engaged in general farming and raising live stock in Randolph county for a time. In 1877 he moved to Shelby county and took up his residence in Jefferson township. He has an attractive and valuable farm and gives it close attention, intelligent supervision and skillful cultivation. It is well improved with good buildings and fully equipped with everything needed for its work according to the most approved modern methods in agriculture. The stock industry conducted on it is also well managed and as extensive as the circumstances and good business sense will permit, and both are profitable to their owner.