

two of whom are living: Lucretia, the widow of the late Jesse Smith, of Hannibal, Missouri, and Elias A. The latter was thus orphaned by the death of his mother when he was ten years old and doubly orphaned by that of his father when he was thirteen. Yet, in spite of the malignity of fate that thus bereaved him, he was able to secure a good education in the district schools of Shelby county and the high school in Shelbyville. But he was obliged to make his own way in the world from an early age, and he began his progress up the steep incline toward prosperity by working out as a hired hand on farms in the state of Illinois, which he did for a period of eighteen months.

Mr. McBride was industrious and frugal, and used every opportunity available to him to advance his fortunes, and at the end of the period named, he returned to Shelby county, Missouri, and took up his residence on a farm of 120 acres near Shelbyville. He now lives on one of 240 acres in the same locality. He has farmed his land vigorously and skillfully and has made it highly productive. And his success in developing it and enlarging his own prosperity, while the progress was slow and painful at first, has been continuous and considerable. He has also taken an earnest interest and an active part in helping to build up and improve his township and county, and is regarded as one of their most worthy and estimable citizens. In politics he is a Republican, in fraternal life an Odd Fellow, and in religion a member of Missionary Baptist church. On October 4, 1874, he was married to Miss Agnes Forman, a native of this

county. They have had four children, three of whom are living: Ernest H. and Everett T., prosperous citizens of Shelby county, and Emmet C., who is still living at home with his parents. Ely E. died on August 23, 1909, aged twelve years. Mrs. McBride died October 31, 1906. No persons in the county stand higher in public esteem than the members of this excellent family.

ROBERT EDGAR TAYLOR.

The son of an extensive live stock breeder and shipper, and who was also extensively engaged in farming, and himself occupied from the dawn of his manhood in the same lines of activity, with steadily increasing success, Robert Edgar Taylor, of Black Creek township, has contributed materially and effectively, in himself and through his parents, to the growth and development of Shelby county and its consequence, influence and power in the productive and commercial life of the state. The part his parents took in this commendable work is, however, by no means to be considered only on his account, nor is his part to be regarded only in connection with theirs. For each is worthy in itself of honorable mention, without reference to the other, as each has been considerable in magnitude and importance.

Mr. Taylor was born in this county on July 11, 1868, and is a son of Robert James and Louisa (Frye) Taylor, natives of Virginia, where their forefathers lived for generations. The father came to Missouri in 1849 and settled on a farm of 280 acres near Shelby-

ville. He carried on an active and extensive business as a general farmer, and also conducted one of equal magnitude in raising and shipping live stock for the Eastern markets. He was very successful in all his undertakings, devoting to them his whole attention and applying to them all his energy and intelligence, except what was given in behalf of the general interests of his township and county. He was so zealous in his industry and the management of his operations that he never laid aside his instruments of progress or abated his earnestness in the use of them until death ended his labors on January 26, 1909.

His union in marriage with Miss Frye took place in about 1850, and by it he became the father of eight children, three of whom are living: Maggie, the wife of I. N. Looney, of St. Louis, Missouri; Lula, the wife of Charles Ennis, of Shelbyville; and Robert E., the subject of this brief review. The father was an active and zealous Democrat in his political relations, a member of the Masonic order in fraternal life, and gave his religious allegiance to the Southern Methodist church.

Robert Edgar Taylor, like most of his boyhood associates, obtained his education in the public schools of Shelbyville. And, like the greater number of them also, began a career as a farmer and stock breeder as soon as he left school. The beginning of this career was on his father's farm and under the direction of that enterprising and progressive man, and the son continued this relation until 1899, when he bought the farm and began operations for himself on it.

All its industries and interests were thus transferred from father to son, although the former remained in his position as adviser of the latter to the end of his life. The business has gone on in the same steady strides of advancement and enlargement ever since the son took hold of it, and he has shown that his early training under the eye of a master in it was not lost upon him. He has kept up the general farming and also the live stock industry to their full capacity, and has also kept pace with the march of modern progress in conducting them.

He united in marriage with Miss Ollie Dines, a native of Shelby county, on September 16, 1891. The two children born to them are both living and still members of the parental household. They are Daniel E. and Clifford Lee, both youths of promise and giving excellent fruits of their home training in their fidelity to duty and admirable traits of character. The father is a Democrat in his political faith and activity and devoted to the welfare of his party. He is an Odd Fellow, and belongs to the Southern Methodist church.

HENRY G. MILLER.

The history of this sturdy farmer and stock man, sterling citizen and stimulating force in the affairs of Black Creek township, this county, and that of the family to which he belongs, presents a feature of very unusual occurrence and interest. Both he and his father were soldiers in defense of the Union during our Civil war of unhappy memory, and each saw three years' service in that sanguinary and momentous conflict, the