

ident of Shelby county; Virgie, the wife of Albert Bethards, a resident of Meade county, South Dakota; and Thomas E., Bertha, now Mrs. Roy Bethards, of Meade county, South Dakota; Maggie and Ella, all of whom still have their home with their parents. The father follows the fortunes of the Democratic party in faith and political action, and is a steady worker for the success of that organization. In religion he and his wife are Southern Methodists. All the members of the family are well esteemed, being accounted useful citizens, true to the best interests of their township and county and zealous in promoting the general welfare, the progress and the substantial improvement of both.

#### LUKE VAN OSDOL.

In his native township of Bethel Mr. Van Osdol is now to be accounted one of the successful farmers and stock-growers, and as a well known and highly esteemed citizen of the county which has represented his home from the time of his birth to the present. Through energy, industry and well directed enterprise he has gained a success worthy the name, and he well merits the high regard in which he is uniformly held.

Mr. Van Osdol was born on his father's homestead farm, in Bethel township, six miles distant from his own farm home today, and the date of his nativity was April 1, 1877. He is a scion of a family founded in the state of Indiana in the pioneer epoch of its history, and in that commonwealth his grandfather, Madison Van Osdol, a farmer by vocation, passed his entire life. The

original American progenitors came to this country from Holland. Thomas Jefferson Van Osdol, father of him whose name initiates this sketch, was born in Indiana, on Christmas day of the year 1835, and was there reared to maturity. At the age of twenty years he left the Hoosier state and came to Missouri, taking up his residence in Bethel township, Shelby county, where he secured a tract of land and developed a productive farm. Here he continued to reside until his death, which occurred on April 25, 1889. His wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Miller, was likewise a native of Indiana, and her death occurred in the fall of 1897. They became the parents of eleven children, of whom seven are living, namely: Joseph O., who is a resident of Linn county, Missouri; Oscar, who resides in Kirksville, this state; Annie, who is the wife of John K. Hiestand, of Harper county, Kansas; Weber, who resides at Plevna, Missouri; Susan, who is the wife of Lafayette Hunt, of Knox county, this state; Luke, who is the immediate subject of this sketch; and Maud, who is the wife of Coy D. Fox, of Linn county, Missouri.

Luke Van Osdol passed his boyhood and youth on the home farm and was not denied ample opportunity for the learning of the practical lessons of honest toil, while his educational advantages in the meantime were limited to the district school. He was a mere boy at the time of his father's death, and when twenty-one years of age he began working by the month as a farm hand, being thus engaged, with various farmers of the county, until 1899, when he initiated his independent career as an

agriculturist by purchasing forty acres of land in section 27, Bethel township, to which he has since added thirty acres lying contiguous, and here he has labored indefatigably and with marked judgment in the developing of one of the excellent farms of this section of the county, all of his land being available for cultivation. He gives his attention to diversified agriculture and stock raising, is enterprising and aggressive in his endeavors and has won his success through worthy means. He takes a loyal interest in all that concerns the welfare of the community, keeps in touch with matters of public polity and interest, and in politics is aligned as a supporter of the cause of legitimate Socialism. He is affiliated with the lodge of Independent Order of Odd Fellows in the village of Plevna, and both he and his wife are earnest members and regular attendants of the Missionary Baptist church at Mt. Pisgah.

On December 26, 1899, Mr. Van Osdol was united in marriage to Miss Florence Riley, daughter of Valentine and Martha Riley, of Florida, this county, within whose borders she was born and reared. Mr. and Mrs. Van Osdol have one son, Vance, who was born on June 3, 1906.

#### MORRIS OSBURN.

One of the honored and venerable pioneer citizens of the county, which has been his home from his boyhood days, is Morris Osburn, who resides on his finely improved homestead farm in Taylor township, where he is the owner of 200 acres, located in sections 33 and 27.

Mr. Osburn finds a due measure of

satisfaction in reverting to the historic Old Dominion as the place of his nativity, and the family was founded in Virginia in the colonial days, being of staunch English lineage. In that commonwealth was born his grandfather, Richard Osburn, and there also was born his father, John Osburn, in the year 1803. The father was reared and educated in his native state and was a man of excellent intellectual attainments, having been a successful and popular teacher in the schools of Loudoun county, Virginia, at the time of his death, which occurred in 1833, when he was a young man. In 1826 he was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Van Vactor, who was born and reared in Jefferson county, Virginia, and who survived him by many years, her death occurring in Shelby county, Missouri, in 1865, at which time she was about sixty-four years of age. Of the four children, the subject of this review is the only one now living.

Morris Osburn was born in Loudoun county, Virginia, on December 27, 1831, and in 1835 his widowed mother came to Missouri and took up her abode in Marion county, where she remained until 1838, when she established her permanent home in Shelby county, having passed the closing years of her life in Taylor township, this county. She was a woman of gracious and noble personality and her memory is revered by her only surviving child, to whose care and welfare she was ever devoted. Mr. Osburn is indebted to the district schools of the pioneer days for his early educational discipline and was reared to maturity in Shelby county, which has