

marked degree the respect and good will of all classes of the people around them and of all others who know them. They live acceptably and are faithful in the performance of every duty in private life and neighborhood affairs.

STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS WHITE.

In the life and family history of this successful, enterprising and progressive farmer and stock man, and also more truly a prominent and representative citizen of Clay township, Shelby county, Missouri, there are many features of unusual interest and significance. He is a grandson of Thomas and Jemima (Cooley) White, natives of Kentucky, who came to Missouri and located in Howard county in 1818, where his father, Mark White, was born in 1825. The latter was a farmer and money lender, and achieved great success in all departments of his business, being possessed of an estate worth more than \$100,000 at the time of his death, which occurred on December 9, 1896.

Soon after attaining his majority he moved to Macon county, Missouri, where he became an extensive dealer in farm lands and other real estate, and was very successful in his operations. He was an uneducated man in the teachings of the schools, but he had strong common sense, excellent judgment and great shrewdness in selecting his opportunities and making the most of them. He was also very energetic and industrious, making every hour of his time tell to his advantage, both for his own benefit and that of the township and county in which he lived.

By his first marriage, which took place

in 1845, and was with Miss Serelda Wright, a daughter of Summers and Naomi (Coffey) Wright, he became the father of nine children, six of whom grew to maturity and are living. They are: William C., a resident of Macon county; Mollie, the widow of the late John B. Richardson; Melissa, the wife of J. A. Banta, whose home is at Macksville, Kansas; Stephen A. Douglas, the immediate subject of this memoir; Benjamin F., who resides in Kansas City, Missouri; and Amy, the wife of William Gates, of Macon county, in this state.

The mother of these children, who was brought from Kentucky an infant in the arms of her mother, who made the trip on horseback, died on September 9, 1879, at the age of fifty-one years, and in 1880 the father married a second time, choosing as his companion on this occasion Mrs. Hattie J. Dixon, a daughter of Peter Ryther and wife, natives of Ohio. Two children were born of the father's second marriage: Serelda, who is now the wife of Ralph Talbot, of Macon county, and Mark, who is also a resident of that county.

Stephen A. Douglas White attended schools in Macon City, St. James Academy and the State Normal School at Kirksville. When he left school he at once entered upon his life work as a farmer and live stock man, and to this he has steadfastly adhered to the present time (1910), although for about eight months in 1898 he was also engaged in mercantile life. But this was not agreeable to him, and at the end of the period mentioned he sold his interests in it and again gave his whole attention to his farm and stock industry. In 1901 he

moved to Shelby county, and here he has continued his extensive operations in farming and raising stock, his principal product in the latter line of business being high-bred mules. He is also a stockholder in the Clarence Oil, Gas and Mineral Company and a member of its board of directors, and as such has an important bearing on its transactions and is potential in promoting its success and prosperity.

In December, 1880, Mr. White was united in marriage with Miss Laura Powell, a daughter of Henry M. and Itelia (Mathis) Powell. Of the four children born of the union, three are living: Della, the wife of Joseph Lowery, of Macon county; Alice, the wife of Harry W. Orr, of Shelby county; and Valley, the wife of Hood Shearon, of Narrows township, Macon county. Their mother died in September, 1889, and on February 17, 1892, the father married again, being united at this time with Miss Lillian Davis, a daughter of Durborn and Adelia (Wallace) Davis, natives of New Hampshire. Her grandparents on her mother's side were Reuben and Anna (Howard) Wallace, the former a native of New Hampshire and the latter of New York, the Wallace line in the family being of Scotch ancestry and belonging to the distinguished family of that name renowned in Scottish history, both for the great achievements of some of its members and the lamentable tragedies that followed them through the ingratitude of those whom they served so faithfully.

Durborn Davis, the father of the present Mrs. White, was a soldier in the Civil war, belonging to the Thirteenth

New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry. He became a resident of Clarence, in this county, in 1865, just after the close of the war, when the now prosperous little city was but a hamlet on the unbroken prairie. Here he developed and improved a good farm, and aided greatly in building up the town and surrounding country and making them progressive and prosperous. He died on March 13, 1899.

Mr. and Mrs. (Davis) White have had three children, two of whom are living. They are their daughters, Ruth Blanche and Rose. In politics the father adheres firmly and faithfully to the Democratic party, and is a very earnest and effective worker in its behalf. He has given the community more than ten years of excellent service on the school board, and his party vigor and inspiration as central Democratic committeemen for six years. In fraternal relations he is allied with the Masonic order, its adjunct, the Order of the Eastern Star, and the Knights of Pythias. No citizen of the county stands better in public esteem, and none is more worthy of high standing. His grandmother Wright was a remarkable woman, and lived to be within a few days of one hundred years of age.

SAMUEL H. MEARS.

Born and reared to the age of seventeen in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, and having acquired habits of industry and thrift in the strenuous and intense industrial life of that great commonwealth, Samuel H. Mears, of Clay township in this county, transferred to the almost virgin soil of Missouri the train-