

are very zealous and active church workers, serving as steward of the congregation to which he belongs and taking an earnest interest and leading part in all its benevolent activities and undertakings. He is generally esteemed as one of the best and most useful citizens of his township, who can be depended on to do his part in furthering the promotion of every worthy enterprise for its improvement and advancement.

JOHN WIGGINS.

Orphaned when he was but little over five years of age by the untimely death of his father, and thus thrown on his own resources at an early age, and now one of the successful and prosperous farmers of Shelby county, with a fine farm of 400 acres in Salt River township, John Wiggins has evidently had vision to see, alertness to seize and intelligence to use his opportunities for advancement to good advantage. What he has is the fruit of his own unassisted industry, ability and determined spirit, and it is therefore all the more to his credit that he has it, and all the more enjoyable to him in possession and use.

Mr. Wiggins is a Kentuckian by birth, but he was brought to this county by his parents when he was but seven years old, and he has lived here from then to the present time. He was born in Mason county, Kentucky, on May 10, 1846, and is a son of Thomas Wiggins and a grandson of Archibald Wiggins, the latter born and reared in Virginia and the former in Kentucky, his life beginning in Mason county of that state in 1806. He moved his family to Missouri in 1851,

and took up his residence in Carroll county. But he did not live long to realize the high hopes with which he had sought a new home in the distant West, as it was then. He died on the farm on which he had settled his family in September of the same year at the age of about forty-five years.

He was united in marriage with Miss Margaret Leach, of the same nativity as himself, and by this marriage became the father of six children, three of whom are living: John, the immediate subject of this brief review; Adelaide, the wife of John Onan, of Shelbina; and Julia, the wife of C. L. Wilkins, who also lives in Shelbina. In politics the father was a pronounced and loyal Democrat and a faithful worker for his party. He was industrious and frugal, making good provision for his family, according to his circumstances, and also took an active and helpful interest in the affairs of his township and county, in which he was esteemed as an excellent citizen. But his usefulness was cut short and his career ended before he had made much headway in his struggle for advancement, and he left his widow and offspring but slenderly provided for.

It thus happened that the mother of John Wiggins found herself with several children to rear and educate as best she could, and an undeveloped farm out of which to make a livelihood for her household. But she entered upon the task bravely and performed her duty faithfully. Nevertheless, it became necessary for her son John, her oldest child, to begin his work in the world at an early age. He obtained a limited education in the district schools of Carroll

county, just over the line from Ray county, in which his mother's farm was located, but was not allowed to attend them long or with any regularity while he went to them.

He remained at home assisting his mother on the farm until 1864, then moved to Shelby county and began farming and raising live stock on his own account. He has dwelt in this county continuously ever since and been engaged in the same occupations all the time. He has been very successful in his operations, having nothing to start with in the way of capital, and is now one of the substantial farmers of the township in which he lives. On December 8, 1870, he was married to Miss Martha Cadwell, of this county. Four children have been born to them and all of them are living. They are: Clara May, the wife of A. B. Stalcup; Birda Ethel McGee, whose home is in this county; Addie, the wife of Alonzo Keith, of Shelbina; and Allie, the wife of Elwood Snell, who resides in Texas. The parents are zealous members of the Missionary Baptist church and take an active part in the work of the congregation in the sect to which they belong.

WILLIAM L. DUNCAN.

A son of the late Judge Duncan, of this county, and taking from him the management of the farm on which he was born and reared, and on which he learned the art of farming under the careful tutelage of his father, William L. Duncan, of Black Creek township, in this county, has demonstrated in his successful career that the lessons of his

boyhood and youth were not lost upon him, and also that he had capacity to apply them in practice to his own advantage and the benefit of the township and county in which he lives and has passed the whole of his earthly existence to this time.

Mr. Duncan was born in this county on December 15, 1864, and is a son of William H. Duncan, who was born in this county in 1844, and a grandson of Levin Duncan, a native of Maryland, who was one of the early settlers of this part of Missouri. His son, William H. Duncan, the father of William L., was reared in this county and educated in its public schools. From the time when he left school until his death he was energetically and profitably engaged in farming and raising and feeding live stock for the markets, and in all his operations he was one of the most enterprising and successful men in his township, and one of its leading citizens.

His high character and great intelligence gave him influence with the people and made him something of a leader among them. And his interest in the progress and development of the county increased his prominence and power. In 1894 he was elected county judge and in 1896 he was re-elected to the same position. At the end of his second term, in 1898, he was elected judge at large for his judicial district, but he did not live to take his seat as such, dying before the end of the year in which he was elected to it. In politics he was a Democrat and in religious affiliation a member of the Southern Methodist Episcopal church.

He was married in 1864 to Miss Mary