

## BETHEL TOWNSHIP.

## HARRISON BAIR

(Dealer in Groceries, Queen's-ware, Glassware, etc., Bethel).

'Squire Bair comes of honest, thrifty old Pennsylvania stock, a class of people who almost invariably take rank among the best citizens of their respective communities. He himself, however, was born in Ohio, and principally reared in Missouri, but his parents, Reuben and Mary A. (Berlin) Bair, were natives of the old Keystone State. They were married in Ohio, where Reuben Bair had located when a young man, where his wife's parents had previously settled. Reuben Bair was born in Pennsylvania in 1805, and when a young man learned the wheelwright's trade in that State. Coming West, as far as Ohio, in 1832, two years afterwards, he was married and continued to reside in Ohio for some 11 years. He then came to Missouri and settled in Shelby county in 1845. He resided here until his death, one of the respected old citizens of the county. He died in 1863. The mother, however, is still living, and is now in the seventy-third year of her age. Harrison Bair, born in Trumbull county, O., on the 22d day of July 1835, was 10 years of age when his parents came to Missouri. He was particularly fond of study, and as he grew up acquired a good common English education. He subsequently taught school in this county for about 11 years. In 1860 he was elected justice of the peace and he has continued to hold that office ever since, a period now of some 20 years. He was, also, for some time, deputy county clerk, and has been notary public for some years. From time to time 'Squire Bair has engaged in different lines of business, and almost invariably with good success. He engaged in his present business in 1875, and has since continued it. He has a good stock of goods in his line and an excellent trade. 'Squire Bair is an intelligent, public-spirited citizen, and does his full share in keeping up the trade and prosperity at Bethel.

## JOHN G. BAUER

(Farmer, Druggist, Jeweler and Postmaster, Bethel).

Mr. Bauer's father, whose name was also John G. Bauer, was himself a native of Germany. He came to America in 1839, and settled in the state of Iowa with his family, where he resided for about six years. He then came to Shelby county, Mo., but died the following year, in 1846. His wife was a Miss Anna B. Keller before her marriage, to whom he was married in Germany. She died in Germany in 1837. John G. Bauer, the subject of this sketch, was the fifth in their family of seven children, three of whom are living, and was born in Germany on the first day of December, 1835. Ten

years of age when the family came to Shelby county, he was therefore reared in this county. In 1864 he was married to Miss Louise Stark, also formerly of Germany. They have had six children: August, who died in 1878; Jasper, who died in infancy in 1867; Julius, Christina, Louisa and Catharina. Mr. Bauer has been successfully engaged in business at Bethel for over 20 years, and during all this time he has been postmaster of the place. He has a good stock of drugs and jewelry combined, and also has a good farm in the vicinity of Bethel, which he carries on. He started out when a young man quite poor, but is now in comparatively comfortable circumstances and has made all he has by his own honest industry and good management.

### THEODORE, AUGUST AND DAVID BOWER

(Farmers and Stockmen, Bethel).

The Bower brothers, Theodore, August and David, among the leading farmers and stockmen in the northern part of Shelby county, and who also do a large business at Bethel in the general store line, were sons of John and Christina (Schnauffer) Bower, both natives of Germany, who came to this county from Indiana as far back as 1846. The father immigrated to America with his parents, or rather was brought to this country by them, in 1805. They settled in Pennsylvania, where John Bower grew to manhood and learned the cabinet maker's trade. Married in Pennsylvania, later along he removed to Indiana, and from that State to Missouri in 1846, as stated above. He died in this county in 1872, at the age of 72. His wife died in 1865, at the age of 54. They had a family of 12 children, of whom nine are living. Of these Theodore was the second, August the seventh and David the ninth. Theodore Bower was born in Pennsylvania on the 8th day of November, 1834; August was born in Missouri, October 24, 1846, and David was born in Missouri, December 22, 1850. John Bower, who followed the cabinet maker's trade most of his life and with good success, and who was a man of sterling character and untiring industry, brought up his sons to the same habits of indefatigable industry, and ideas of honest, fair dealing, which characterized his whole life. Reasonably successful himself, leaving a comfortable estate at his death to be divided among his children, he taught his sons those lessons of economy and thrift which he had learned by his own experience. It is therefore not surprising that the Bower brothers have come to be, by close attention to business and good management, among the more successful agriculturists and business men of the county. In accumulating means themselves, they have of course been of value to the county in the work of developing its resources and enhancing its prosperity. Starting only on about \$1,500 a-piece, they now have some 600 acres of as fine land, mostly improved, as is to be seen in the county, and they also handle stock on a large scale. In their store at Bethel they have an unusually full and complete stock of general merchandise, and their trade extends

almost to the suburbs of Shelbyville, and up into the edges of Knox and Lewis counties, while it reaches nearly to the borders of Macon on the West and Marion on the East. In other words, they have an unusually large and lucrative trade, and are doing a heavy business. As citizens of the county, they are men whose usefulness and value could hardly be over-estimated. Each of the brothers is married and has a family of children. Theodore Bower was married to Miss Catherine Link, formerly of Ohio, in 1864. They have four children: William, John, Carl and Clara. In 1874 August was married to Miss Priscilla Bair, of this county. They also have three children: Wesley A., Mary C. and Gertie E. Miss Malinda Bair became the wife of David Bower in 1883. They have but one child, Cora. Another brother, George Bower, was born in Missouri, September 20, 1852. Frederick C. Stecher, a brother-in-law to the Bower brothers, and now a prominent hardware merchant of the northern part of the county, at Bethel, like his wife's father, is also a native of Germany, and was born in Prussia on the 29th day of March, 1852. He was a son of George J. and Christina (Nollenberger) Stecher, and was brought to America by them in 1854, they settling in Ohio shortly after their immigration to this country. Frederick C. grew up in Ohio and received a good common English education in that State. He became a member of the Evangelical Association and in a short time was authorized to preach by that sect. He was an active minister of the church for some four years. Mr. Stecher came to Shelby county in 1878. On the 26th day of December, 1879, he was married to Miss Miranda Bower, a sister to the Bower brothers. One child is the result of this union: William E. Mr. Stecher is one of the enterprising, energetic business men of Bethel, and has been engaged in business at this place since 1879. He has a good trade and is quite a popular merchant. He was the first mayor of Bethel and is highly esteemed by all who know him. The firm is known as Bower & Stecher.

### S. BRAGG, JR.

(Farmer and Stock-dealer).

Mr. Bragg is the son of Sylvanus I. and Mary (McGraw) Bragg, natives of Kentucky, who came to Missouri in 1840. They still live in Tiger Fork township, Shelby county, where Sylvanus, Jr., was born, August 14, 1845. He grew up on the farm and was educated at Newark Academy, by Prof. James Batthrope. He left school in 1868, and for six years taught in the county schools of Shelby, Macon and Knox counties. In 1875, feeling the need of a home of his own, he married Miss Mary E., daughter of Elisha and Edmonia Moore, and soon after established himself at Newark, Knox county, in the drug business. After a year, however, he gave up and began farming. Mr. Bragg has a stock farm of 320 acres in Bethel township, where he usually keeps about 40 head. He is one of the most extensive shippers of stock in that section of the county. Mr. B. has never held any office, but is now a candidate for sheriff and collector. The first

Mrs. Bragg died March 10, 1880, leaving two children: Thomas Morton and Lena Moore, and Mr. B. married June 19, 1881, Miss Araminta Rutter, daughter of James Rutter, of Tiger Fork. Mrs. Bragg was born in La Plata, Macon county, December 3, 1861, and losing both parents at an early age, she was reared by her grandfather, Edmond Rutter, one of the old settlers of Tiger Fork township. By this marriage there are two children: Emma and Byron. Mr. Bragg is not a member of any religious denomination, but belongs to the Masonic order at Newark, Knox county.

### BEDFORD BROWN

(Deceased).

Died at his residence in this county, on the 20th of October, 1876, Bedford Brown, in the fifty-seventh year of his age. This brief announcement marks the close of a life which, though not a long one, was useful and well spent, and unmarred from the beginning to the end by a breath of reproach. To have thus lived is to have triumphed over life and won a victory over the grave. For such, the reward of the future can not be doubted; and it is a reward as lasting and precious as the conscience of God. To the flesh it may be more gratifying to strut out our brief period in this world, to exhibit our gaudy feathers in the bright noonday sun and thus attract the envy of those as empty-headed as we thus prove ourselves to be. But to the man or woman of conscience, of soul, of sober, sturdy intelligence, nothing could be less enviable than such vanity. To live right, to live plain and honestly, to do one's duty in life faithfully and well, and to keep ever before our eyes the laws of humanity and the laws of God, observing them in all things dutifully and with an earnest free will, is the truest and best mission of man. It was thus that Bedford Brown lived and it was such a life as this that he left behind him when he died. Born in the state of Ky., February 25, 1820, while yet early in youth he was brought to Missouri by his parents, Judge Levin Brown and wife, *nee* a Miss Mary Kidd, who removed to this State and resided for a time in Marion county. The family subsequently removed to Shelby county, and here Mr. Brown's father, Judge Brown, became a prosperous and highly respected citizen. He served for some years as judge of the county court, and was otherwise a leading man in the community. Bedford Brown, deceased, was reared partly in Kentucky and partly in this State, and was brought up by his father to steady habits of industry and sober frugality and honesty. He learned the great lesson that if one wishes to succeed in life honestly he can succeed only by persevering industry. He, too, became a farmer and became quite well-to-do. He left a good farm at his death of nearly 300 acres. His life was one of unbroken industry and upright citizenship, an energetic farmer, a law abiding, intelligent citizen, a kind and highly esteemed neighbor, and an affectionate, faithful husband and father. He died in the full faith of the Redeemer, being at the time of his death, and for years before, an

accepted and exemplary communicant in the Missionary Baptist Church. He left a family consisting of his widow and 10 children, the children being as follows: Anna E., the wife of Henry Nichol; Alexander, John, who is married and a resident of Vernon county; Lucinda E., the wife of James Nelson, of Knox county; Benjamin F., who with his brother Alexander has charge of the farm; Julia, the wife of James Gentry, of Ralls county; Mary E., at home; Lillie, at home; Kittie E., ditto; and Joseph B., ditto. Mrs. Brown, the mother of these, was a Miss Elizabeth Todd before her marriage, a daughter of William and Eleander Todd, who came to this county from Maryland in 1838. She was married in September, 1849. Two of her children besides those mentioned are deceased: James A., the eldest, and Alice, the third daughter. Mrs. Brown is also a member of the Missionary Baptist Church.

### JOHN G. BURCKHARDT

(Owner and Proprietor of Ivanhoe Stock Farm, Post-office, Bethel).

Prominent among the more enterprising and successful farmers and stock-raisers of the Northern part of the county stands Mr. Burckhardt, the subject of the present sketch. He has a handsome stock-farm of 300 acres, devoted to grain and grass. He has as fine blue grass pasturage as is to be seen in the county. Mr. Burekhardt makes a specialty of raising fine stock, particularly thoroughbred short-horn cattle and draft horses, also sheep, both for mutton and wool. He has a handsome herd of 20 head of short-horns, and also a large flock of fine sheep, as well as some high-bred draft horses. He also has numbers of other stock, having his place well stocked with all kinds of good farm animals. Mr. Burekhardt is a native of Germany, born in Wurtemberg, September 24, 1842, and is a representative of the same ancestral family from which Judge George H. Burckhartt (originally spelled "Burekhardt"), of Huntsville, descended. The branch of the family to which Judge Burekhardt belongs, however, came over to this country from Wurtemberg, prior to our Revolution; whilst the branch to which the subject of the present sketch belongs came over about a century afterwards, or in 1853. John G. Burekhardt's parents were John G., Sr., and Anna C. (Wahl) Burekhardt, who were married in 1836. John G., Jr., was 11 years of age when his parents came to America and was reared on Long Island, N. Y. In 1861, however, they removed to Pennsylvania, where the father lived until his death, which occurred at Allentown in the winter of 1874-75. John G., Jr., as he grew up learned the iron worker's trade at Allentown, Lehigh county, Pa., which he followed afterwards, except while in the army, until 1869. He enlisted in the Union service early in the war (1861), and was a member of the Fourth New York Regiment, Second Army Corps, Army of the Potomac. He participated during this time in the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. He then entered the Naval service of the United States, served on board of U. S. Gunboat Ane-

monie and was under Admiral Porter until the close of the war. After the war he resumed his trade, but in 1869 came to Missouri and improved his present farm, which is known as Ivanhoe stock farm. The following year after coming to this county, on the 18th of December, 1870, Mr. Burckhardt was married to Miss Frances Vawter, a daughter of John T. and Permelia Vawter, formerly of Indiana. They have seven children: Sallie, Frederick, Lulu, Margaret, Elizabeth, George and Mamie.

### GIDEON P. CHENVRONT, M. D.

(Physician and Surgeon, and Farmer and Stock-raiser, Post-office, Bethel).

Dr. Chenvront has been engaged in the practice of his profession for less than 10 years, but in that time, by his ability and clear-headed, close attention to the practice, he has succeeded in placing himself in the front ranks of the physicians of the county, and has been not less successful in accumulating the substantial evidences of prosperity in property affairs. With a large and steadily increasing practice on his hands, he is vice-president of the County Medical Society, and is one of the substantial, thriving agriculturists of Bethel township. Dr. Chenvront is a native of West Virginia, born in Lewis county, October 13, 1849. In 1856 his parents removed to Missouri and settled in Shelby county, where young Chenvront was reared. He was brought up to a farm life, and educated in the local district schools. When a young man 22 years of age, he began teaching school in the county, and taught with success for two years. During his second year of teaching he was also engaged in reading medicine under Dr. G. L. Smith, of Shelbyville. Continuing to read medicine a year longer, in 1874 he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Keokuk, Iowa, where he continued for two courses, graduating in 1876. He then immediately began the practice of medicine in his present neighborhood, in which he has since continued. On the 9th of March, 1880, Dr. Chenvront was married to Miss Fannie Allen, of Shelby county. They have two children, Edith and Carrie. In 1879 Dr. Chenvront bought a part of his present farm. Three years later he added to his first tract by another purchase, so that he now has a fine farm of 300 acres. He is farming in a general way and raising stock, in both of which he is having good success. Dr. Chenvront is one of the leading physicians of the northern part of the county, and one of its influential citizens. He is a member of the Christian Church, and his wife is a member of the Baptist Church.

### THOMAS H. CLAGGETT

(Farmer and Stock-raiser, Post-office, Bethel).

Mr. Claggett is a native Missourian, born in Lewis county, December 12, 1840. His parents, John D. and Margaret S. Claggett, are old and prominent residents of that county. Thomas H. was reared there on his father's farm, and attended the neighborhood schools,

principally during the winter months, as he grew up. Following the example of his father, he became a farmer, and has since followed that occupation without interruption. On the 7th of May, 1875, he was married to Mrs. Harriet Claggett, a widow, and a daughter of John H. and Sallie C. Stone, of Shelby county. After his marriage Mr. Claggett continued to reside in Lewis county until 1879, when he removed to Shelby county, where he made his permanent home. Here he has a good farm, embracing half of section 4, township 9, range 10. Mr. and Mrs. C. are members of the M. E. Church South. They have two children: Maggie and Minnie. Mr. Claggett's parents are both deceased, the father having died in 1872, and the mother in 1878. They were residents of Lewis county for about 40 years.

### JAMES W. COCHRAN

(Owner and Proprietor of the Holstein Stock Farm, Post-office, Bethel).

Holstein Stock Farm is conceded to be one of the finest farms, both for stock-raising purposes and as a homestead, in the northern part of the county. Indeed, in point of improvements, it is without a superior if it has an equal in all the country round about. The farm is largely run in blue grass for stock purposes, and his pastures are well watered and conveniently arranged for handling stock to the best advantage. Mr. Cochran has followed farming and handling stock from boyhood, and being a man of more than ordinary energy and intelligence, he has, of course, made a success of life in these lines of industry. He is one of those progressive, thorough-going men who never fail to go to the front in whatever they engage. Mr. Cochran is a native of Kentucky, born in Madison county, February 3, 1828. His father, Samuel Cochran, was originally from North Carolina, but was partly reared in Kentucky, and was married there to Miss Frances Wood in about 1826. A farmer by occupation, he resided in Kentucky for some seven years after his marriage, and then removed to Missouri and settled in Shelby county. He resided here until his death, a prosperous farmer and highly respected citizen. For some years he was justice of the peace. He died in 1847; his wife died eight years afterwards. Of their family of eight children, James W. was the eldest, and, like his brothers, was reared a farmer. James W. Cochran has been twice married. March 22, 1853, he was married to Miss Margaret Martin, formerly of Madison county, Ky. She died August 5, 1879, leaving him seven children, namely: Louisa, John R., William H., Nathaniel, Walter, Winnie and Thomas. Three, besides, are deceased. Mr. Cochran's present wife was previously a Mrs. Elvira Haman. Mr. Cochran's eldest daughter is the wife of James Nichol, now of Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Cochran are members of the Missionary Baptist Church. They have an adopted child, Charles W. Haamn, a son of Charles Haman, who was a brother-in-law to Mrs. Cochran. His present wife, Elvira E. Cochran, was born in Shelby county, Mo., April 9, 1838, and was the second daughter of Judge

Robert Lair. She was first married in 1859, and again in 1865, and to Mr. C. April 14, 1881.

### JACOB CURRY

(Farmer, Post-office, Bethel).

Mr. Curry settled permanently in Shelby county in 1882, when he bought the farm on which he now resides. He had previously spent two years in this county, but returned to Kentucky in 1877. Mr. Curry was born in Union county, Ky., March 4, 1842. The parental families of both his father and mother were originally from Virginia, but were long settled in Kentucky. His father, Benjamin Curry, was a farmer by occupation, and a consistent member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. He died in Union county, that State, May 3, 1884. Mr. C's. mother was a Miss Elizabeth Morgan before her marriage, a first cousin to Gen. John Morgan, of Confederate fame. She died in Kentucky November 12, 1868. Like her husband she died in the communion of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. They had a family of eight children, of whom Jacob Curry, the subject of this sketch, was the second. Reared in Kentucky, he followed farming there until his removal to Missouri. He was married November 7, 1871, to Miss Missouri Hewitt, a daughter of Samuel M. and Caroline Hewitt, now of Shelby county, Mo. Mr. and Mrs. C. are members of the Baptist Church. Mr. C. is one of the worthy and well-respected citizens of the township.

### M. W. DARE

(Farmer, Stock-raiser and Stock-dealer, Post-office, Newark).

Mr. Dare, born and reared in Indiana, has been a resident of Missouri for nearly half a century, and of Shelby county for just 30 years this spring. Reared to a farm life, he has been engaged in farming and handling stock from boyhood. An upright man, industrious and enterprising, his life has been one of satisfactory success, and now as the twilight of old age begins to shimmer against the Western horizon of his earthly career, he is blessed with an ample competence of the material comforts of life and with the physical health well preserved and a clear conscience to enjoy the fruits of his toil. He began when quite a young man, without a penny, and by his own industry and honest methods, has acquired what he now possesses. Mr. Dare has a good farm of over 200 acres in Bethel township, and has his place well stocked with good grades of cattle, horses, sheep, etc. He also ships considerable stock every year. Mr. Dare's father was Abel Dare, a native of New Jersey, as was also his mother, whose maiden name was Ellen Kent. His father was a tanner by trade, and served with conspicuous gallantry in the War of 1812. Subsequently he settled in Franklin county, Ind., with his family, where Maskel W. Dare, the subject of this sketch, was born, December 20, 1816. There were two daughters and six other sons



in the family, namely: Clement, Albert, Georgie, Keziah, John, Edmond, Ellen and Helen. The father died in Indiana in 1832. Maskel W. Dare was reared in that State, and came out to Missouri in 1840, and located in what was then Scotland, but now a part of Knox county. He resided in Knox county for 14 years, engaged in farming and dealing in stock, but principally in the latter. In 1854 he came to Shelby county, and has been a resident of this county ever since. October 18, 1864, Mr. Dare was married to Miss Laura Seber, of Lewis county. They have no children. The well known Clement Dare, a noted civil engineer of Indiana, is Mr. Dare's eldest brother. He surveyed many of the public works of the North-west, one of the earliest being the Cincinnati and Brookville canal, in Indiana.

### JOHN J. ELLIS

(Farmer and Stock-raiser, Post-office, Bethel).

Among the more energetic and successful young men of Bethel township engaged in agriculture and handling stock is the subject of the present sketch. Mr. Ellis is an Ohioan by birth and bringing up and came to Missouri in 1868, a young man without a dollar. He located in Shelby county, and worked here during the cropping season of that year as a farm laborer at \$14 per month. Rising in life by his own industry and intelligence, he now has a fine farm of 600 acres, handsomely improved and well stocked with excellent grades of cattle, etc. In fact, he is one of the leading farmers in the northern part of the county. He is also quite extensively engaged in raising and handling stock, being one of the prominent stock men of the county. This is a record that reflects no ordinary credit upon him who has made it. Mr. Ellis was born in Adams county, O., July 8, 1852. He is a son of Ephraim J. Ellis and wife, *nee* Margaret T. Baldwin. Both parents were natives of Ohio, and after their marriage were prominent residents of Manchester where they held a position among the best families of that place. The father was a prominent and successful merchant and was engaged in merchandising at Manchester until the outbreak of the war. A man of brave, generous and patriotic impulses, when the great struggle for the preservation of the Union came, he ardently threw himself into the conflict for the life of the Nation, and was active in enlisting troops for the service. Laying his business and all his business interests aside, he devoted himself with undivided zeal to the cause of his country, and became colonel of the Thirty-third Ohio Cavalry. He led his regiment with distinguished gallantry on many a hard-fought field of battle, and until that terrible *rencontre* at Chickamauga, when the bugle-call to arms, before even yet the gray dawn had lit the eastern sky, summoned many a hero-patriot to a soldier's grave: —

"To arms! To horse! the frantic cry  
 Which startled dreaming birds at dawn,  
 And ere the blood drenched day could die  
 How many a gallant soul had gone!  
 Forget them not whose spirits hang,  
 Like formless sprites above the scene;  
 Where the red flail of carnage swung,  
 And dyed with crimson all the green."

Col. Ellis, while leading his regiment in the thickest of the fight at Chickamauga, was pierced with a ball from the enemy and fell fainting and bleeding in death on the field of battle. When the Union was threatened he sacrificed everything for the cause of his country, tearing himself away from his business interests and from the bosom of his family; and now he had sacrificed his life. To-day, sleeping under the green sod of the South, where he was tenderly buried by his brave comrades, his children and his countrymen have the satisfaction of knowing that he sleeps where the bright folds of the flag for which he fought and died wave in triumph over a restored and reunited country. Thus, with those who fell around him, he will sleep on through the coming ages, bearing witness by his life and death and by the memory of his patriotism to the consecration of liberty and free government in the hearts of his countrymen; and the memory of his devotion and of that of his compatriots to the cause for which Washington fought; and the government which he founded will raise up other brave sons in the coming ages of time to fight and, if need be, to die for the same principles and institutions. There this patriotic soldier sleeps in a hero's grave; and, if death must come to all, none could wish him a prouder destiny than the grave which enshrouds him. So may he sleep until the divine design of the Creator of all shall have been accomplished:—

"Brave Ellis is sleeping  
 Where night dews are weeping  
 And pale leaves are falling  
 Like gift gems around;  
 Where sad winds are sighing  
 And sweet flowers dying  
 To mingle their breath  
 With the ashes they love."

By the death of his father young Ellis was left with his own way to make in the world, for little or nothing was left of his father's estate by the time the work of administration was over. But he has proved himself worthy of the name he bears and by his own exertions and personal worth has come to be one of the best citizens of the county where he resides. On the 19th of June, 1881, Mr. Ellis, the subject of this sketch, was married in Lewis county, Mo., to Miss Belle Baldwin, a second cousin of his. She was reared in Lewis county, and was educated at the Monticello Seminary. Mr. Ellis has been engaged in farming and stock-raising from a youth. His mother finds a welcome and pleasant home in his household.

## JUDGE MARION HOUGHLAND

(Farmer and Stock-raiser, Post-office, Newark).

Judge Houghland came to Shelby county in 1881 and bought his present farm. He has a fine tract of land of 200 acres in section 1, township 59, range 10, one of the choice farms of Bethel township. Judge Houghland had previously resided in Knox county, where he had been engaged in farming for about 22 years. He is a Kentuckian by nativity, and was for a number of years a successful and popular school teacher. Indeed, he was educated with a view to the educator's profession. Born in Trimble county, Ky., August 1, 1832, he was reared in that county, and took a course in the higher branches at Trimble Academy. He then engaged in teaching school, and taught for about five years in Kentucky. On the 25th of September, 1856, he was married to Miss Lucy J. Rouner. The following spring he removed to Missouri and located in Monroe county, where he taught school for two years. He then removed to Knox county, where he bought a farm, and engaged in farming and raising stock. Judge Houghland resided in Knox county from 1859 to 1881, coming thence to Shelby county, where he had bought his present farm. Judge and Mrs. Houghland have 11 children: Willie A., the wife of John T. Wilson; Edward D., Henry H., Mary E., the wife of W. H. Thoroughman; Minnie K., the wife of James Thoroughman; Susan L., Flora E., Lillie A., Joseph N., Malcolm and Benjamin A. Judge and Mrs. Houghland are members of the Shiloh Baptist Church, of which he is deacon and moderator. While a resident of Knox county Judge Houghland held different county offices, including those of county assessor and county judge, in each of which he acquitted himself with ability and with a hearty indorsement of his official record by the people. Mrs. Houghland's parents were Henry and Lucy Rouner, both now deceased. The Judge's parents were Isaac and Eliza (Morgan) Houghland, who are also both deceased. The Judge's brothers and sisters were John A., Edward C., Philip M., Amelia, Mattie, and Amanda A. He also has a half sister by his father's first marriage, Sarah.

## DANIEL KELLER

(Proprietor of the Bethel Hotel and Dealer in Boots and Shoes).

The Bethel settlement of Shelby county, one of the most prosperous and law-abiding communities in the county, was mainly established by Germans, either originally from the Old Country, or from Pennsylvania. As every one knows, the people of this settlement are among the most law-abiding and worthy citizens of the county, and by their honest industry and solid, intelligent enterprise they have contributed their full share to the general prosperity of the county. Among the rest Mr. Keller, the subject of this sketch, has not been wanting in performing his full duty as a citizen. He has lived for

nearly forty years, busily occupied with honest industry, and while accumulating something for himself has by his labor added to the general prosperity of the community. He was a son of Daniel and Mary (Forstner) Keller, both originally from Germany, and was born in Pennsylvania in 1834. Eleven years afterwards his parents removed to Shelby county and settled at Bethel. Here Daniel, as he grew up, learned the shoe-maker's trade. He subsequently worked at it continuously for nearly 25 years. In the course of time he established a boot and shoe store and is still engaged in this business, having an established custom that affords him a good trade. He is also running the Bethel Hotel, of which he is the owner and proprietor. In 1861 Mr. Keller was married to Miss Mary Bachert, formerly of Pennsylvania. They have eight children: Katrina, Christina, Frank, Sarah, Louise and Minnie.

#### F. W. MAGRUDER

(Farmer, Post-office, Bethel).

Mr. Magruder is a brother-in-law and a near neighbor to Jacob Curry, whose sketch appears on a previous page of these biographies in this township. Like the former, he has a neat farm of 80 acres in township 59, range 10, and has made his own start as a farmer. His parents, Thomas and Martha J. (Rucker) Magruder, came to Shelby county from Kentucky in about 1838. His father, a farmer by occupation, died here in March, 1876, and the mother in February, 1882. F. W. was the sixth of 11 children and was born on the family homestead in this county June 26, 1849. After he grew up he was married April 5, 1877, to Lillie Belle Hewitt and sister to Mrs. Jacob Curry. Mr. and Mrs. Magruder have one child. Since his marriage Mr. Magruder has been continuously engaged in farming in this county and in 1883 bought the place where he now resides. He has a neat home and is steadily coming to the front as a farmer. He is a member of the Baptist Church, and his wife of the M. E. Church.

#### PHILIP MASON

(Farmer, Post-office, Bethel).

Mr. Mason has been a resident of this county only about two years, though he has resided in Missouri, across in Knox county, for the last 20 years. On coming to this county he bought a good farm of nearly a quarter section of land in section 7, township 55, range 10, where he now resides. A man of industry, he is a valued acquisition to the community, and is well respected and esteemed by those who know him. Mr. Mason is a native of the Blue Grass State, born in Kentucky March 21, 1835. When he was about five years of age his parents, William and Mary (Spoonamore) Mason, removed to Illinois, where they resided for about 25 years. They then came to Missouri in 1865 and the father died here two years afterwards. Philip was the youngest of a family of 11 children and was reared in Illinois. January 13, 1859, he was married to Miss Susan McDaniel, a daugh-

ter of Josiah McDaniel, of Illinois. Six years later he, also, came to Missouri and located in Knox county, where he resided, engaged in farming, until his removal to Shelby county in 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Mason have five children: William R., Abraham L., Benjamin F., Zerilda E. and Ernest.

### WILLIAM MOORE

(Farmer, Stock-raiser and Stock-shipper, Post-office, Tiger Fork).

All old citizens of Shelby county remember Mr. Moore's father, Elisha Moore; he was for many years a leading and wealthy farmer and highly esteemed and influential citizen of the county. He died here in 1852. William Moore, the subject of this sketch, was the eldest of four children by his father's second marriage, his mother's maiden name having been Miss Edmonia M. Brown. The other children of the family were: John H., Ann C., Mary E. By his father's first marriage there are two children, James C. and Lucy. James C. is the cashier of the Merchants' Bank, of St. Louis. William Moore was born on his father's homestead in this county, April 17, 1846. He completed his education at the Shelbyville High School, and on the 15th of February, 1870, was married to Miss Laura Rutter, a daughter of Edmund and Jane Rutter, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Moore was educated at Newark High School. Immediately after his marriage, Mr. Moore settled on the farm where he now resides. He has 147 acres of good land, which is well and conveniently improved. He is engaged in farming in a general way, and in raising and feeding stock for the markets. Mr. Moore is a man of energy and good business tact, and is steadily coming to the front as one of the substantial farmers of the township.

### JOSEPH W. PEPPER

(Farmer and Stock-raiser, Post-office, Bethel).

The subject of this sketch, a substantial, thorough-going farmer of Bethel township, is a native Missourian, born in the county in which he now resides December 20, 1836. His father is a well-to-do farmer now a resident of Marion county, and Joseph W. was brought up to habits of industry on the farm and to understand the practical work and management of farm affairs and stock-raising thoroughly. His early life on the farm had the effect to give him a taste for farm life which led him to adopt it as a permanent calling. On the 20th of July, 1858, he was married to Miss Nancy Cochran, a daughter of Samuel and Frances Cochran, of Shelby county. After his marriage Mr. Pepper resided in Marion county engaged in farming for something over seven years. He then bought the farm which is now his homestead, one of the choice farms of the vicinity, a place of 200 acres well improved. Mr. Pepper makes a specialty of raising fine English draft horses, in which he has established quite a local reputation, and been entirely successful. Mr. and Mrs. Pepper have eight

children: James R., John F., Lena, Rosalie, Gabriel, William and Edward. Three are deceased, Elizabeth F., Lucy A. and Sallie. Lena is the wife of Henry Gaines of this county. Mrs. Pepper is a member of the Baptist Church.

### HIRAM PICKETT

(Farmer and Stock-raiser, Post-office, Bethel, Mo.).

The fifth in a family of eight children, all of whom are now deceased except three, Mr. Pickett was born in Fauquier county, Va., April 10, 1822. When thirteen years of age, in 1836, his parents, Sanford Pickett and Elizabeth, nee Rookwood, removed to Missouri and settled in Shelby county, where they reared their family and lived until their deaths. The father died here in 1845, and the mother in 1853. Hiram Pickett, after he grew up, was married to Miss Elizabeth Rookwood, a daughter of Hiram and Charlotte Rookwood, formerly of Virginia, Mr. P. and his wife being cousins-germain. This has proved a singularly long and happy union, and has been blessed with 12 children, namely: Sanford, who married Miss Millie C. West; Charlotte, the wife of Dr. George L. Turner, of Monroe City; Catherine, the wife of James L. Rouner, of Knox county; Hedge-man, who married Miss Kate Allen; Virginia, the wife of John Buè; Anna, John, James, Sarah, Julia, Gabie and Oscar. Mr. Pickett resides on the old family homestead where his father settled nearly half a century ago. He bought the place soon after his marriage, and has resided here ever since continuously. It is a fine grain and stock farm, and contains 360 acres. Mrs. P. is a member of the Christian Church. Mr. Pickett was a brother to Judge Pickett, who died in this county some years ago.

### HAMILTON SHOUSE (DECEASED)

(Bethel).

For forty-two years the subject of this memoir was a citizen of Shelby county, from the approaching meridian of life until its twilight faded into the darkness of the grave. For two score and more of years spent in this county were years of unceasing industry and of much usefulness to the county, for coming here in its pioneer days he was one of the early settlers whose labor transformed it from an uninhabited frontier country to that of a prosperous and populous community. He was a farmer by occupation and adhered with unfaltering resolution to his chosen calling. When at last he was called to join the innumerable caravan that moves on to that mysterious realm, eternity, he was not unprepared to go, and when he had passed away he left a memory behind him that is cherished by those who knew him for the good deeds with which his name is associated. He is a successful farmer and left a comfortable estate to his family, including a fine farm of 490 acres, as well as other valuable property, all the fruit of his own honest toil and sober, frugal manner of living. He was born

in Montgomery county, Ky., December 20, 1809, and was reared in that State. The second in a family of seven children of Abraham and Frances (Pritchett) Shouse, he was of German descent on his father's side and English ancestry on his mother's. The Shouses, however, settled in Pennsylvania prior to the War of the Revolution, several of whom served in the Continental army. His father was also a gallant soldier of the Republic, a dauntless volunteer under Jackson in the War of 1812. Hamilton Shouse, the subject of this sketch, was married twice; to his first wife, Miss Sarah Smallwood, in Kentucky, in 1833. She died in Shelby county in 1850, leaving two children, Sanford N. and James P. To his wife, who still survives him, Miss Frances M. Smith, he was married January 2, 1851. They reared a family of five children: Sarah, William, Melvina A., Wilson L. and Philip D. Mrs. Shouse was a daughter of Thomas S. and Michael Smith, and was reared in Knox county, Mo. She is a worthy and exemplary member of the Christian Church, and resides on the old Shouse homestead in this county, the farm referred to above, which her sons conduct. Mr. Shouse died April 6, 1883, and his remains now rest in peace in the Bethel Cemetery, where he was interred, amid the sorrow and regret of all who knew him that so good a man even at last had to be called away from those by whom he was so much loved and esteemed.

#### J. J. SMOOT, M. D.

(Physician and Surgeon, and Farmer, Section 15, T. 59, R. 10, Post-office, Bethel).

Dr. Smoot was born in Marion county, March 21, 1847. His father was Josiah Smoot and his mother's maiden name, Harriet Whitaker. Both were born and reared in Loudoun county, Va., and were married there in 1829. The father was a Baptist minister and also owned a farm where he carried on farming and stock-raising. The other children of their family besides the Doctor, were Susan, Mary, Thomas, Samuel, Lucinda, John, Isaac N., Hattie and Abbie. In 1833 the father removed to Missouri with his family and settled in Marion county, where he and his wife resided until their deaths. He died January 26, 1856, but his wife survived until December, 1881. Josiah J. Smoot, the Doctor, was the eighth in the family of children, and was reared in Marion county. He was educated first in the district schools and then attended the select school in Marion county. He was but nine years of age at the time of his father's death and by this misfortune to the family was thrown upon his own resources. When 18 years of age he worked out at farm labor and with the proceeds was able to attend school. He then taught school and afterwards attended school again, thus securing a more than average education in the common English branches. He was engaged in teaching for about five years, and meanwhile, during vacation and at other leisure times, studied medicine. His preceptor was Dr. Rains, of Emerson. In 1872 he entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Keokuk, Iowa, from which he graduated with credit in 1875. During the vacations between his terms at the Medical College he

taught school, and with the proceeds was able to complete his course. He also taught a term after graduating, and in March, 1876, began the practice of medicine. In April he located in Shelby county and has since been continuously engaged in the practice in this county. In 1879 he bought a small farm on which he located, and he has since added to it by successive purchases until he now has a place of 160 acres. The Doctor has barely reached the meridian of life, but has already succeeded in building up an excellent practice, which is steadily increasing, and in situating himself comfortably in life. September 18, 1877, Dr. Smoot was married to Miss Mollie W. Wilson, of Shelby county. He and his excellent wife have a family of two children, a bright little one four years of age, Edward Mason, and a little daughter, not inappropriately named for the fairest of the earth, according to ancient history, Lena Cleopatra. The Doctor and Mrs. S. are members of the Shiloh Baptist Church. Rev. Thomas E. Smoot, pastor of the churches at Shiloh, Ebenezer, Mt. Pleasant and Prairie View, is a brother to the Doctor, and Rev. S. C. Taylor, of La Grange is his brother-in-law. Mrs. Smoot's parents are Robert M. and Lavina Wilson, old and respected citizens of this county.

#### JOHN T. AND JAMES E. WILSON

(Farmers and Stock-raisers, Post-office, Bethel).

John T. and James E. were respectively the eldest and third in the family of five children of Robert M. and Levina (Lear) Wilson, the father originally from Loudoun county, Va., but the mother born and reared in Marion county. The father came out to Missouri when a young man and located in Shelby county, where he met and married Miss Lear, whose parents had also removed to this county. After his marriage Mr. Wilson, *pere*, removed to Knox county, where he bought the woolen factory, and saw and grist mill, at Newark. He ran the factory and mill there for about eight years, and then came back to Shelby county, and settled where his son, James E., now resides. He died here July 25, 1880. The mother is still living. She is a member of the Primitive Baptist Church, as was also the father. He was also a member of the A. F. and A. M. John T. Wilson was born at Newark, in Knox county, July 21, 1849; and James E., after the family removed back to this county, October 16, 1856. Both were reared on the farm in Shelby county, and John T. took a somewhat advanced course of study with a view to the teacher's profession. He subsequently followed teaching for about three years, and on the 5th of October, 1879, was married to Miss Willie A. Houghland, a daughter of Judge Marion Houghland, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. Prior to his marriage he had bought 50 acres of land, which he improved, and he has since added 80 acres to his original purchase, so that he has a neat farm of 130 acres. A man of good education, irreproachable character, and thorough-going industry and enterprise, he is steadily coming to the front as a substantial farmer and influential citizen of the township. He



and wife have two children: Marion M. and Obea M. Both parents are members of the Missionary Baptist Church. James E., the second subject of this sketch, was educated at the State Normal School at Kirksville and taught school for a year or two. He was married April 9, 1882, to Miss Phœbe Elgin, a daughter of George and Belle Elgin, worthy and respected residents of this county. James E. still resides on the old Wilson homestead, of which he has the management and control. This is a good farm of nearly 200 acres, and he is conducting it with that energy and enterprise that stamp him one of the leading progressive farmers of the township. He can hardly fail of becoming a successful agriculturist and leading, influential citizen of this section of the county. He and wife are members of the Missionary Baptist Church.

### JONATHAN H. WRIGHT

(Farmer, Post-office, Bethel).

Mr. Wright comes of brave old Carolina stock, his father, Joshua Wright, having been a native of the Palmetto State, and his mother, whose maiden name was Rebecca Sumner, having been a daughter of the Old North State. They early came out to Ohio and were married in Highland county, of that State, away back in 1809. In early life the father was a school teacher, and afterwards a physician. At one time he was quite well to do and was extensively engaged in farming, and also in merchandising. He reared his family in Ohio, but late in life went to Texas, where he died in 1851. The mother had preceded him to the grave in 1832. They had a family 13 children, of whom Jonathan H. was third. He was born in Highland county, O., May 28, 1813. After he grew up he was married in Indiana, March 5, 1835, to Miss Elvira Shaul, of Hamilton county, Ind. He then located in that county, and resided there engaged in farming for about 17 years. His wife died there in 1839. There is one child living of his first marriage, Lucinda; William and Malinda are deceased. To his present wife Mr. Wright was married August 6, 1843; when a maid her name was Miss Indian Moore. Soon after his second marriage Mr. Wright removed to Missouri. He settled in Shelby county in 1851. For 25 years afterwards he was engaged in the nursery business, since that time he has been engaged in farming exclusively. He has a neat place of about 80 acres. Mr. and Mrs. Wright have ten children, namely: Matilda J., Amos M., Elvira, Martha, Allen S., Ann, Louisa, John, George and Henry. Five of the above are married and are themselves the heads of families.

### HENRY ZIEGLER

(Of Ziegler & Co. — J. G. Bauer and Moses Miller — Owners and Proprietors of the Bethel Flouring Mill).

Like many of the better class of citizens of the northern part of the county, Mr. Ziegler is of sturdy, intelligent German stock, but is

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