

SAMUEL J. BAIR.

It is gratifying to be able to enter in this volume even a brief review of the career of this well known and honored citizen of Bethel, who is a member of one of the sterling pioneer families of Shelby county, which has represented his home from his childhood days and which has been the scene of large and worthy accomplishment on his part, in connection with the practical and productive activities of life. He rendered valiant and faithful service as a Union soldier in the Civil war and in the "piping times of peace" his loyalty has ever been of the same insistent type, the while he has so ordered his life as to merit and receive the unqualified confidence and esteem of his fellow men.

Mr. Bair claims the old Buckeye state as the place of his nativity, as he was born in Stark county, Ohio, in the year 1843. He is a son of Reuben and Mary (Berlin) Bair, both of staunch German lineage, and when he was about three years of age, in 1846, his parents came from Ohio to Missouri and numbered themselves among the German colonists in Bethel and vicinity, thus becoming pioneers of Shelby county, where they passed the remainder of their lives, secure in the respect and confidence of all who knew them. Mr. Bair's educational privileges were those afforded in the village schools of Bethel and were somewhat limited, owing to the exigencies of time and place. As a youth he found employment in a local furniture shop, where he worked at the trade of cabinet making, to which he devoted his attention for two years. At the age of nine-

teen years he subordinated all other interests to tender his aid in defense of the Union, whose integrity was in jeopardy through armed rebellion. On February 14, 1862, he enlisted as a private in the Eleventh Regiment of Missouri State Militia, under Capt. James B. Lambkin, and he received his discharge at the expiration of his term, on September 27 following. On May 14, 1863, he re-enlisted in the Eleventh Missouri Cavalry, which was regularly mustered into the United States service, and he was assigned to Company G, under Captain Collier. He participated in a number of the important engagements marking the conflict between the opposing forces in Missouri and Arkansas, and among the more notable of these may be mentioned those of Cherry Grove, Kirksville, Walkersville, Little Rock, Devall's Bluff and Clarendon, besides which he took part in many skirmishes and other minor engagements. He continued with his regiment until the close of the war and was mustered out in the city of New Orleans on July 27, 1865, duly receiving his honorable discharge.

After thus admirably acquitting himself as a loyal and faithful soldier of the republic, Mr. Bair returned to his native county and located in Shelbyville, where he served as carrier of mail between the local postoffice and La Grange for nearly a year, at the expiration of which period he returned to Bethel and in this immediate vicinity identified himself with farming and stock raising, in which connection he gained marked success through his close application and well directed energies, and he continued to give the same his personal supervision until

1906, when he sold the property. Since that time he has lived virtually retired in the village of Bethel, where he has an attractive home and is surrounded by friends who are tried and true. In politics he gives a staunch support to the cause of the Republican party, taking an intelligent interest in the questions and issues of the hour. He is identified with the Grand Army of the Republic, and both he and his wife are zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is now serving as justice of the peace.

On November 4, 1869, Mr. Bair was united in marriage to Miss Rebecca E. Gooden, who was born in Indiana, whence her parents, John and Elizabeth Gooden, came to Shelby county, Missouri, when she was eighteen years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Bair became the parents of five children, of whom four are living—William W., who is engaged in farming at Bethel; Harry C., who is individually mentioned on other pages of this work; Mary, who is the wife of Bruce Runyon, of Bethel township, this county; and Reuben, who lives in this county.

THOMAS W. P. REED.

In even a cursory review of the careers of the honored business men of the city of Shelbina there is eminent consistency and, in fact, imperative demand that recognition be given the late Thomas W. P. Reed, who was for more than a fourth of a century engaged in the real estate and loan business. He was a dominating figure in the business circles of Shelbina, and through his well-directed efforts accumulated a modest fortune. Progress-

sive in both private and public affairs, he proved a most valuable citizen, and he so ordered his course as to retain at all times the confidence and esteem of his fellow men.

Mr. Reed was born near Sidney, in Shelby county, Ohio, December 2, 1842. His parents, James and Mary (Johnston) Reed, were natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively. His father, James S. Reed, was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania; but spent the most of his youth in Richland county, Ohio. In 1863 he moved to Iowa, in 1866 to Saline county, Missouri, and the following year to Monroe county. After a residence there of a few years he became a resident of Shelby county, where he passed the residue of his life, his death occurring at Shelbina on February 27, 1874, and that of his wife in 1880. Of their four children one is now living. The father was possessed of a fine landed estate at the time of his death, besides a considerable amount of city property. He was a man whom every one respected for his many sterling qualities, and was ever ready to promote the best interests of the people among whom he resided.

Thomas W. P. Reed was a young man at the time of the family removal to Missouri. After assisting for a short time with the labors of the home farm in Monroe county, he purchased a farm near Paris, Monroe county, in company with his brother Charles. This they successfully operated until 1876, when failing health compelled him to dispose of his interest in the same; and for a year following was engaged in business at Ottumwa, Iowa. In 1878 he became a resident of Shelbina, and was here actively