

dent at the time of Shelby county. By his second marriage he became the father of eight children, seven of whom are living: Charles, a resident of Lakenan; Marion F., a sketch of whom appears in this volume; John and Henry F., who also reside in this county, a sketch of the latter being included in this work; Belle, the wife of Frank Erwin; Joseph, another prosperous Shelby county citizen; and Ida, the wife of Thomas O'Daniel. In his political allegiance the father belonged to the Democratic party and gave it loyal and effective service. His religious affiliation was with the Presbyterian church.

Peter A. Snider obtained his education in the district schools of this county and a graded school in Runnewell. After leaving school he worked on the farm with his father until 1862, when he enlisted in the service of the Confederate army under Gen. Joseph Porter. But he found military life altogether intolerable to him, and, after being in the army two months, just before the battle of Kirksville he returned to his home and surrendered to Federal General McNeil, who was then in command of this military district. Under orders from General McNeil he was taken to St. Louis and incarcerated in a military prison. After languishing in this place of torture from October, 1862, to September, 1863, he was released on parole to await further orders. He then again returned to his home, and six months later was set free from his parole.

Being thus at liberty to do as he pleased, and finding the state of life in his home locality one of incessant strife and deadly hazard, he went to Califor-

nia to remain until the war should be over. In 1866 he came back to Shelby county and began farming and raising live stock, in which he has been continuously and profitably engaged until his death, May 29, 1910. He prospered in his undertakings since the war, in a worldly way, and rose to high esteem and consideration among the people of his township. He owned 160 acres of good land, which he had highly improved, and nearly all under intelligent and profitable cultivation.

In November, 1867, Mr. Snider was united in marriage with Miss Martha Utz, of this county. They had six children, five of whom are living: Anna May, the wife of Oscar Blackford, of Shelbina; Noah, an esteemed resident of this county; Barbara, the wife of W. S. Parker, also living here; Winifred, the wife of Larue Wood, of Sedalia, Missouri; and Abbie Belle, who is still at home with her mother. In politics the father was a staunch and active Democrat, and was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, South. He was held in high approval by the people around him and was considered a most estimable and worthy citizen.

WESLEY BAKER.

Of Pennsylvania ancestry and Iowa nativity, and for some years a resident of Kansas and twenty-one years of Missouri, Wesley Baker, of Jackson township, in this county, where he is a prosperous and progressive farmer and live stock man and a highly esteemed citizen, has had the influence of four of the great states of the American Union in molding

his career, and that influence has worked well to his advantage and the benefit of the several communities in which he has lived. He has done his part to be worthy of it and true to the incentives of industry, frugality and enterprise it has given him, using his opportunities with judgment and making them all minister to his advancement and the good of the people among whom he has dwelt.

Mr. Baker was born in Poweshieak county, Iowa, on December 7, 1861. His father, John Baker, was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, in October, 1834, and his grandfather, Richard W. Baker, was also native in that state. In his young manhood the father took passage on the tide of migration to the throbbing West and established for himself a new home in Poweshieak county, Iowa. There, in 1859, he was married to Miss Julia Stanley of that county, and he is still living in the state. He was reared on a farm and he has followed farming continuously from his boyhood. He and his wife became the parents of eight children, five of whom are living: Mary, the wife of Paul Nelson, of Rochester, Minnesota; Wesley, the interesting subject of this brief review; George M., a resident of Iowa; Clara A., who also lives in that state; and Cora, the wife of Albert Sexton, another member of the family whose home is in Iowa. In politics the father is a Republican.

His son Wesley was educated in the district schools of his native county, and after completing their course of instruction, worked for a short time for his father on the home farm. But he was ambitious to do something material and considerable on his own account, and

accordingly he rented some land in the neighborhood of his home, which he farmed for four years. At the end of that period he left Iowa and went to southwestern Kansas, where he took up a homestead. He lived on this and improved it until he received a government patent for it. In 1890 he sold his homestead in Kansas and sought another new home in Shelby county, Missouri.

He looked forward to his opportunities in this county with high hopes and pleasing anticipations of advantage to himself, and cheerfully dared all the dangers and privations of a journey to his new location overland in a covered wagon. The journey was made in safety, the destination was reached without greater inconvenience than the weariness incident to the long trip and slow progress, land was secured in Jackson township on his arrival, and he at once began the career in farming and raising live stock which is still in progress, and which has made him one of the substantial farmers and stock men of the county and raised him to consequence and general esteem among the people here.

Mr. Baker now has a farm of 330 acres, all under cultivation, highly improved with good buildings and in an advanced state of productiveness. He is also a stockholder and vice-president of the Hunnewell Bank, and has other interests of value in the county. But his own affairs have not been allowed to engross all his time and energy. He has taken an earnest interest and active part in those of his township and county and rendered them good service. For a number of years he has been one of the leading members of the local school

board, and in many other ways has been influential and effective in helping to advance public, business and social interests to the advantage of the people, the development of the locality of his home and the general welfare of the county and state.

On December 23, 1896, Mr. Baker was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Bell Perry, a resident of this county. Six children have blessed their union and five of them are living. They are: Ura A., John T., Walter O., Charles L. and George W., all of whom are still members of the parental household. Politically the father is a Democrat; fraternally he is an Odd Fellow, and in religious affiliation he belongs to the Missionary Baptist church. He is regarded as one of the leading citizens of his township, enterprising and progressive, intelligent and broad-minded, and true to every public and private duty.

HENRY F. SNIDER.

A native of Shelby county, and having passed his whole life to this time within its borders engaged from his youth in helping to promote its industrial, civil and social life, Henry F. Snider, of Jackson township, has been of great service to this portion of the state and admirably upheld the credit of his family, two other members of which have honorable mention in this work. He has been successful in building up his own estate, although he began the struggle for advancement among men with practically nothing in the way of capital but his own natural ability and determined spirit, and the same qualities have made

him both useful as a citizen and worthy of the high esteem in which he is held as a man.

Mr. Snider was born on October 2, 1857, near where he now resides, and is a son of John Henry and Sarah (Utz) Snider, the story of whose lives of success and disaster is told in a sketch of his half-brother, Peter A. Snider, to be found on another page of this history. Since leaving the country school in which he obtained his scholastic training, Henry has been continuously and profitably engaged in farming and raising stock for the markets. He has a farm of 100 acres of superior land, all of which he cultivates with skill and industry, and which he has improved with good buildings and other necessary structures.

Mr. Snider takes a warm and serviceable interest in the affairs of his township and county, rendering the people excellent returns for their confidence in calling him to the school board, of which he has been a member and the clerk for a number of years, and in numerous other ways proving himself worthy of their regard and efficient in their behalf. He was married on October 25, 1883, to Miss Fanny B. Metcalf, of Howard county, this state. Of the four children which have blessed their union and brightened their household three are living: John W., who resides in this county; Lillian F., the wife of Forrest McGlasson, of Pullman, state of Washington; and Henry H., who still dwells under the parental roof-tree.

The father gives his political allegiance and support to the Democratic party and is at all times zealous in its service. Fraternally he is allied with