

mon school education in the district schools of his native county and those of this county. At an early age, even before attaining his majority in years, he began farming and raising stock on his own account, and from the beginning of his venture in these two lines of industry he has been successful and steadily increased in prosperity, having acquired the ownership of 195 acres of good farming land, as has been noted, and brought it to a high state of fruitfulness.

Mr. Dempsey has also steadily risen in the good opinion and appreciation of his township and county. He was fourteen when he became a resident of the county, and during the forty-four years of his residence among its people has so demeaned himself as a man and been so active and useful as a citizen that he has won universal regard and good will in this part of the state. He rendered excellent service to the public as a member of the local school board for a period of fifteen years, and in reference to every other public interest has always been active and helpful in behalf of the enduring welfare of the locality of his home.

On December 28, 1875, he was married to Miss Jane Baker, a daughter of Reason and Dorenda (Dudgeon) Baker, long esteemed residents of this county. Of the six children born to the union, four are living, all of them still in the parental family circle. They are: Charles E., Georgia, Anna and Reason B. The father belongs to the Democratic party in politics and the Catholic church in religion. He is firm in his allegiance to both party and church and a faithful worker in each.

#### JAMES S. BARKER.

Venerable in years and venerated for his long usefulness to his country in many different localities and lines of endeavor, including faithful services on the battlefield and activity in several of the industries of peaceful production, James S. Barker, of Salt River township, is one of the memorable and striking personages in Shelby county. At the advanced age of ninety, he is resting from labor and enjoying the twilight of his long day of toil, amply provided for by the competence he has gained through his own efforts, and secure in the high regard of the people of the whole county because of the uprightness, consistency and general worthiness of his career among men.

Mr. Barker was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, on April 21, 1821. His grandfather located in that state on his arrival in this country from Ireland, where his family had dwelt for many generations. For a time he resided at Carlisle, in Cumberland county, and there his son, John Barker, the father of James S., was born, in 1773. The greater part of John Barker's life was passed in Carlisle, but he died at Lockhaven, Clinton county, in 1850, having moved to that city from the adjoining county of Lycoming some time previously. He was a millwright and worked at the trade for a time. But he was most prominently and extensively known as a very successful pilot on the Susquehanna river.

In 1801 he was married to Miss Nancy Ramsey, also a native of Pennsylvania. Of the ten children born to them, only

one is now living, James S. His older sister, Elizabeth, the wife of William Dunn, of Great Island, Pennsylvania, died in October, 1910, in her ninety-ninth year. The father was a man of great force of character and wonderful physique and endurance. The trials and exertions of his life on the river, the nervous strain under which he constantly labored, the dangers of his calling, the rigors of the seasons and rage of the elements to which he was frequently subjected, all passed over his stalwart frame in vain. He lived to the age of seventy-seven and retained much of his vigor of body and all of his clearness of mind to the last.

James S. Barker obtained his education in the district schools of his native county, and while attending them acquired a good knowledge of blacksmithing, working at the trade when he had leisure from school sessions. After leaving school he followed the craft for a time with success and good prospects. But the outbreak of the Mexican war called him to higher duties, and he enlisted in the American army under Col. John C. Hayes, being enrolled in Company K, First Regiment, on July 3, 1847, at Dallas, Texas, where he happened to be at the time, having made the trip from Shelbyville on horse back, over 1,300 miles. He served to the end of the war and took part in several engagements, notably the battle of Laquetapan, which was a hot fight in which the Mexican loss was 150 men killed. Mr. Barker was mustered out of the service on April 30, 1848, at Vera Cruz, Mexico, the war having been ended by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

Mr. Barker did not, however, work at the trade of blacksmithing until the beginning of the Mexican war. He became a Susquehanna river pilot, like his father, and was employed as such until 1842. He then came to Missouri and located at Walkersville in this county." In connection with his brothers, George and Thomas, he built four mills on Salt river, but soon after their completion all but one, a saw mill, were washed away in a flood. This the three brothers operated until 1849. James then sold his interests in the mill to his brothers, and the next year he returned to Pennsylvania and again became a pilot on the Susquehanna, continuing as such four years. In 1854 he came back to Missouri and once more located in Shelby county. Here, during the next two years, he farmed in connection with Charles Smith, his father-in-law. At the end of the period named he opened a general merchandising establishment at Walkersville, which he conducted with great success and profit for two years. But mercantile life was not to his taste, and in 1858 he sold his business and returned to farming and raising live stock, in which he was very actively and extensively engaged until about ten years ago. Then advancing years impelled him to retire from all active pursuits, although he was at the time and is now in good health.

On July 17, 1849, Mr. Barker was united in marriage with Miss Sibbella Smith, of this county. Eight children were born of their union and six of them are living: Emma Belle, the wife of Andrew Baker, of this county; William, who lives in California; Elizabeth, the

wife of James A. Kent, of Shelby county; Caroline, the wife of James Cooter, of Holden, Missouri; Jennie L., the wife of John W. Wilson; and Gertrude, the wife of John H. Lancaster. The two last named are residents of Shelby county, Missouri. The wife and mother died October 20, 1893, aged sixty-three years.

Mr. Baker's political faith has been pinned to the Republican party from its organization, and he has at all times given it loyal support, acting on honest convictions in this, as he does in everything else. For many years he has found entertainment and inspiration in the teachings and social features of the Masonic fraternity and the Order of Odd Fellows, and religious comfort in the doctrines of the Christian church, of all of which he has been an active and consistent member. His life in the past, his present peace and contentment, and his hopes for the future give force to the words of the Psalmist: "Behold the upright man, for the end of that man is peace."

#### HENRY WILL.

Mr. Will, who is one of the substantial citizens, large landholders and successful business men of Shelby county, maintaining his home in the village of Bethel, has been a resident of this county from the time of his birth and is a scion of one of its sterling pioneer families, the name which he bears having been identified with the annals of the county for more than half a century.

Mr. Will was born in the village of Bethel, this county, on July 15, 1848, and

his father was one of the original members of the colony here founded by a number of substantial and worthy citizens of German birth or ancestry. John Will, grandfather of the subject of this review, was a native of Germany and passed the closing years of his life in Missouri. Mr. Will is a son of Nicholas and Catherine (Ziegler) Will. They were both natives of Germany. Their marriage was solemnized in Shelby county, Missouri, in 1847. The father came to this county in 1845 and to America in 1839. He became one of the colonists at Bethel, where he followed his trade, that of tailor, until the colony was disbanded, and thereafter he devoted his attention to farming on a small scale and to the raising of bees, being long known as one of the successful apiarists of this section of the state, and continuing to be actively identified with this line of enterprise until his death, which occurred on October 25, 1900, at which time he was seventy-nine years of age, having been one of the honored and well known pioneer citizens of the county. His devoted wife was summoned to the life eternal December 12, 1902, at the age of seventy-seven years. She came to America in 1831 and to Bethel in 1844. The mother had been a zealous member of the Methodist Episcopal church and the father had been a supporter of the cause of the Republican party from the time of its organization until his demise. Of the ten children five are mentioned in this sketch. Of the number the subject of this sketch is the eldest; Christine is the wife of Henry Schriever, of Bethel; Julius E. is a resident of Green City, this state; Louise is the wife of Freder-