

mer of 1871 he settled in Hannibal, Missouri, in which city he continued to reside until the spring of the following year, when he came to Shelby county and took up his abode in Shelbina, where he followed his trade of brick mason until 1874, when he established his permanent home in Bethel, where he has gained a large measure of success through his well-directed efforts as a contractor in the line of his trade, having erected many of the best buildings in this part of the county and also having done a large amount of other contract structural work. His career has been marked by indefatigable industry and judicious employment of the agencies at his command, the while he has been guided and governed by those high principles of integrity and honor that ever beget popular confidence and esteem. He is one of the stockholders of the Bank of Bethel and is a valued member of its directorate, and he is also the owner of a considerable amount of improved real estate in his home village, including his attractive and commodious residence. In politics, though never a seeker of official preferment, he is aligned as a staunch supporter of the cause of the Democratic party, and both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. He is affiliated with Bethel Lodge, No. 537, Free and Accepted Masons.

In the year 1879 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Noll to Miss Emily Will, daughter of the late Nicholas Will, of Bethel, and of their seven children five are living, namely: Sophia, who is the wife of George Keefe, of Marysville, this state; Julius and William, who are

residents of Bethel; Ella, who now resides in Marysville; and Frank, who remains at the paternal home. Mrs. Emily (Will) Noll was summoned to the life eternal in July, 1897, and on November 28, 1899, Mr. Noll was married to Mrs. Alvina C. Arnold, of Bethel, a daughter of George Fahler, who was a well known citizen of Lewis county.

JAMES G. BLACKFORD.

Having enlisted in the Federal army in defense of the Union when he was but eighteen years old and passed the next three years in active service, in which he faced death on many a well fought field of conflict, James G. Blackford, now one of the prosperous and progressive farmers of Jackson township, in this county, began life for himself under conditions of great danger, privation and arduous exactions. He met the requirements of those conditions with manliness and fidelity, and in their stern discipline acquired both self-control and self-knowledge which have been of great value to him throughout all his subsequent years.

Mr. Blackford was born in this county on April 13, 1844, and is a grandson of Benjamin Blackford, a native of Kentucky, and a son of James M. Blackford, who was also a native of that state, born in 1810. The father came to Missouri among the early settlers and located in Marion county, where he remained until 1832. He then moved to Shelby county, and there he was actively and successfully engaged in farming and raising stock until his death. He was one of the leading men in his township and es-

teemed on all sides as one of its most representative citizens.

He was married to Miss Eliza Deedman, like himself, a native of Kentucky, and by this marriage became the father of thirteen children, six of whom are living: Mary Ann, the wife of William Finney; Lucy, the wife of Charles Collier; James G., the subject of this sketch; Clementine, the wife of Jacob Melson; Jessamine; Susan, the wife of William Fitzpatrick; and Benjamin G. They are all residents of this county except Mrs. Collier, whose home is in Grundy county, Missouri. The father followed faithfully the fortunes of the Democratic party in political affairs, and gave his allegiance to the Christian church in religious matters.

The educational advantages of his son, James G. Blackford, were limited to the curriculum of the district schools of this county and his own study, reading and reflection. He left school in 1862, when he was eighteen years of age, and enlisted in the Union army, Company G, Second Missouri Cavalry, under command of Colonel Lipscomb and Brigadier-General McNeil. He served the full three years of his term of enlistment and took part in several of the historical battles of the war and numerous minor engagements. His discharge from the service came at the close of the war.

When the "war drum throbbed no longer and the battle flags were furled," he returned to his Missouri home, and since that time has been altogether occupied with progressive and profitable farming operations on his excellent farm in Jackson township, which now comprises 210 acres and is very pro-

ductive and nearly all under advanced and skillful cultivation according to the most approved modern methods of farming. As he was faithful to his country in time of war, so he has been faithful to his township and county in time of peace, taking an active interest in their advancement and improvement, and at all times showing an eager desire and a willing hand to aid in caring for and promoting their best interests.

On February 14, 1878, Mr. Blackford was united in marriage with Miss Mary Givans, of this county. They have had two children, both of whom are living, their sons, Wayne, who resides in Columbia, Boone county, and Lloyd, whose home is in Shelby county, this state. Like their parents, the sons are well esteemed by the people who know them, and regarded as excellent men and exemplars of the most sturdy and serviceable American citizenship.

FREDERICK G. SPEYERER.

Farming and raising live stock are two of the leading industries of Shelby county, and the men who have helped to develop them and build them up to their present high state of prosperity and activity are entitled to high praise and the general approval of the people whose welfare is promoted by them. In this number is to be found Frederick G. Speyerer, one of the progressive and successful farmers and live stock men of Lentner township, whose operations in the industries mentioned have long been extensive and fruitful in good for the township and the county.

Mr. Speyerer is a native of Germany,