

EDWARD PENDLETON ALEXANDER.

Pursuing the even tenor of his way from year to year as a farmer of enterprise and progressiveness, never mingling with the noisy affairs of the world, yet shirking no duty of citizenship, Edward Pendleton Alexander, of Taylor township, in this county, has entitled himself to general regard and favor by his industry, ability and success as a farmer and his uprightness and high character as a man. His valuable farm of 190 acres is altogether his own acquisition, as he had nothing to start with and has had no favors of Fortune to help him along since, and all that it is he has made it. It stands forth, therefore as a monument to his business ability, good judgment and persevering diligence in the work that has been allotted to him.

Mr. Alexander was born in Monroe county, Missouri, on October 18, 1855, and is a son of John Morris and Cordia (Gaines) Alexander, natives of Kentucky. The father came to Missouri when he was yet a young man, and in this state he put in practice the lessons in advanced and progressive farming that he had learned in that of his nativity. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, five of whom are living: James Thomas, whose home is in Shelby; William Franklin, Edward P. and Samuel L., now at Denver, Colorado, all of whom are prospering in their several callings. Both parents died in the same year, 1901.

Edward P. Alexander attended the district schools in his boyhood and youth

when he had opportunity, but his advantages were limited. He left school at an early age, and after working on the home farm with his father and assisting the family for a few years, he began farming on his own account and has been doing so ever since. He was married in 1880 to Miss Louisa Cook, a native of Kentucky. Four of their five children are living: John W., Cordia Frances, Samuel Grover and Goldie. The father is a Democrat in politics and belongs to the Christian church.

JOSEPH FRANKLIN COCKRUM.

Conducting a prosperous and progressive business as a general farmer and stock man in Taylor township, this county, and representing in his character, habits and attention to every duty the best attributes of the people of his locality, Joseph F. Cockrum is justly deserving of the universal esteem he enjoys as a citizen and the high position he holds as a farmer. He is a native of Missouri, born in Knox county, in 1853. His parents, James and Elizabeth (Shaw) Cockrum, were farmers also. The father was born and reared in Kentucky and came to Missouri when he was a young man. He located in Knox county and followed farming and raising stock there until a few years ago, when he retired from all active pursuits. There, also, he met with and married his wife, who died in 1857. He is still living and is now eighty-eight years of age. They were the parents of seven children, six of whom grew to maturity. Four besides Joseph Franklin are living: Ange, the wife of

Andrew Figh, who has her home in the state of Washington; Orlette, the wife of R. Hammond, a resident of Knox county, Missouri; Viva, the wife of W. Hammond; and Thomas, who also lives in Taylor township, Shelby county.

Joseph F. Cockrum was educated at Washington district school, in Knox county, and has been a farmer ever since he left school. For some years he worked with his father on the home farm and assisted the family. In 1882 he came to Shelby county and located in Taylor township, where he now lives. Born and reared on a farm and well trained to its requirements, he desired no other occupation than that of farming, and this he has followed with gratifying results ever since his advent into this county, and in connection with it has for years carried on a thriving industry in raising live stock for the markets. His valuable farm comprises 120 acres and is all under advanced cultivation and his live stock business is in proportion.

On March 25, 1875, Mr. Cockrum was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Boggs, a native of Kansas. They had two children, their son Gilbert E. and their daughter Carrie L., who is now the wife of Henry Hersher, a resident of Shelby county. Their mother died in 1885, and in 1887 the father married again, choosing as his partner on this occasion Miss Sarah Street, who was born and reared in Knox county, where he also had his nativity. They have no children. In politics Mr. Cockrum is a Democrat, but he has never been an active partisan and has never held a political office or sought one. He is a member of the Christian church.

WILLIAM STALCUP.

Although he is now prosperous and increasingly successful as a farmer and stock man, William Stalcup, of Jefferson township, Shelby county, started in life seriously handicapped by disaster. He was made an orphan when he was but five years old by the death of his father on the battlefield of Centralia, Missouri, where he was fighting for his convictions as a man and citizen. The son then grew to manhood amid the desolation and prostration of all enterprise in the community of his home brought about by the Civil war and the predatory sectional strife that preceded it. But he was made of stern stuff and the very trials of his lot toughened the fiber of his nature for the contest before him. And he has succeeded in the contest with adverse circumstances because he meant to and made the required efforts for the accomplishment of his purpose.

Mr. Stalcup was born in the township in Shelby county in which he now lives, his life beginning in 1859. He is a son of James and Mary (Byars) Stalcup, natives of Virginia, both of whom came to this state in early life. The father was a small boy when his parents moved the family to Missouri and found a new home in Jefferson township, Shelby county. He grew to manhood here and obtained a limited education in the district schools, or such as there were during his boyhood and youth. When he left school he turned his attention to farming, at that time the principal occupation of the men in this part of the state, and he adhered to his chosen vocation throughout the remainder of his life. He was a soldier in the Civil war and