

ous and industrious in making investments for those who have capital and leading them to a wise use of their money, his judgment in this respect being highly valued and generally relied on. He is active in the affairs of the county, state and nation as a Democrat of firm convictions and serviceable loyalty, and in the fraternal life around him as a Modern Woodman of America and a Knight of the Maccabees.

Mr. Maupin has been very successful in business and he 'stands high in the social world. On all sides he is regarded as a leading and representative citizen, and as such he enjoys the esteem and good will of the whole community. On October 8, 1886, he was married to Miss Carrie Morrison, of Monroe county. They have four children all of whom are living at home with their parents and adding brightness and happiness to the domestic fireside. They are three sons, Howard S., now attending the Chicago Medical University; James and Warren, and one daughter, Mildred.

For three generations this family has been a potential element in the development and progress of Missouri, and now that it is firmly planted on the soil of the state and become a part of its productive and advancing life, the increasing usefulness of its members in all social, political and religious relations, as time passes, may be counted upon for higher achievements and more extensive results. That is the promise embodied in its past and plainly shown in the present. For the children of the household are imbued with the spirit of their parents and are day by day exemplifying

the teachings given them by precept and example' around the family hearthstone.

JOHN T. COOPER

Among the citizens of Shelby county, Missouri, from the beginning of its authentic history, none has stood higher in public esteem or been more entitled to universal regard than the late John T. Cooper, of Shelbyville, who became a resident of the county in 1846 and passed the remainder of his life in that city, ending a useful career as a merchant, manufacturer, farmer, stockman and banker, which covered nearly fifty years there, on July 31, 1893, and was altogether successful in every particular. He became master of every occupation in which he engaged and of every situation in which he found himself, and gave to this locality a fine example of the vigor, resourcefulness and self-reliance of American manhood.

Mr. Cooper was born in Scott county, Kentucky, on September 1, 1817, and was a son of Samuel and Jane (Tarlton) Cooper, also natives of Kentucky. He came to Missouri in 1842 and located in Paris, Monroe county, where he worked at his trade as a saddler and harness maker for a period of four years. He learned his trade in his native state and learned it well. He had also fine business ability, and this helped to develop and expand his usefulness to the communities in which he lived and his own prosperity. In 1846 he moved to Shelbyville, and here he founded his first saddlery and harness shop. He gave his business close and careful attention and, for a time, devoted himself exclusively

to building it up. It grew to great importance in this part of the state, having the advantages of early establishment, excellent management and first class reputation for the quality of its output in material and workmanship.

Having gained a foothold in the city and won substantial prosperity, Mr. Cooper turned his attention to farming and raising live stock as a side line for the employment of his surplus energy. He bought 1,000 acres of land and on it conducted extensive operations in farming and raising stock. He gave special attention to raising mules, handling from 125 to 150 annually for a number of years with great success and profit. When his three sons arrived at the necessary capacity and development to handle this business he turned it over to them, and from that time until his death gave his whole attention to his harness and saddlery business and a lively trade in real estate which he had worked up from a small beginning, and his banking interests.

He was one of the founders of the 'Shelby County Savings Bank, which was started in 1874, and one of the most potential factors in preparing the way for it. When it was organized he was elected president and as such conducted its affairs for several years. Then he and Mr. Dimmitt, his partner in another enterprise, bought all the stock of the institution and converted it into a private bank known as the Cooper & Dimmitt **bank**, to which for awhile he gave his whole energy, leaving the management of his harness trade to Julies Ritter. He was also a member of the firm of W. A. Dimmitt & Co., dealers in carriages and

other road vehicles. The Cooper & Dimmitt Bank was one of the soundest and best managed financial institutions in this part of the state and enjoyed a wide and exalted reputation in the business world.

Mr. Cooper was married on September 6, 1848, to Miss Frances Shambaugh, a native of Caroline county, Virginia. They had three children, their sons, Alonzo, John H. and David L., all residents of this county, where John and David died some years ago, leaving Alonzo the only survivor of the family. A sketch of his life will be found in this work. The father retired from active work a few years before his death, but to the end kept his finger on the pulse of all his business interests.

JAMES E. RAGSDALE.

From his boyhood James E. Ragsdale, of Shelbina, has mingled with the people of Missouri and been a part of the state's productive activity. He was born in Monroe county on April 23, 1841, and is a son of James and Sallie (Deaver) Ragsdale, natives of Kentucky. The father came to this state in 1830 and located in Monroe county, where he was extensively engaged in farming and raising live stock until his death on June 9, 1850. High hopes blazed his way into the wilderness and he was subsequently rewarded by their full fruition. Fortune did not jest with him, as she does with many, but gave him opportunity to secure her bounty if he was willing to pay the price she exacted in sacrifice, endurance and patient toil. She was dealing with sturdiness of character and deter-