

## ELI C. DAVIS, M. D.

All his life a resident and for more than fifty years an active physician and surgeon among the people of Missouri, and in every relation and under all circumstances an exemplar of all the bland amenities of social culture and natural gentility, Dr. Eli C. Davis, of Hunnewell, is justly esteemed as among the finest types of citizenship the state has to offer for the consideration and high regard of men. The best estimate of his elevated character, extensive professional attainments and generous and courtly disposition is to be found among the people of this county who have dwelt with him and had the benefit of his labors for a period of half a century.

Dr. Davis was born in Marion county, this state, on March 3, 1830, and is a descendant of old North Carolina families, which dignified and adorned the professional, business and public life of that good old state for generations before the branch to which he belongs founded a new home for the name in Kentucky, whither his grandfather, John Davis, moved in his early manhood. The Doctor's parents, John and Elizabeth (Dick) Davis, were born in North Carolina and reared in Kentucky, the father's life beginning in 1790. He farmed for a living, and while the fruits of his labors were considerable in the state of his adoption, either because they were not all he wished, or because he had inherited a love of adventure and conquest from his ancestors, he determined in 1824 to leave the region which had welcomed him into being and try his fortunes in the farther wilderness of that day.

On his arrival in this state in the year last mentioned the elder Davis located in what is now Marion county and continued his farming and stock-raising operations until 1856, when he became an invalid and was forced to give up all active pursuits. He died in September, 1859, generally esteemed as a good man who was called from his earthly labors at an age when he was just prepared to enjoy the rest he had so richly earned. He was a firm believer in the principles and theories of government proclaimed by the Whig party and gave that organization his earnest and effective support from the dawn of his manhood to the close of his long and useful life. His religious feelings found a suitable field for their exercise and employment in the doctrines of the Baptist church, of which he was long a member and in which he was for many years an active worker. He was married in 1811 to Miss Elizabeth Dick, a native of North Carolina. They had twelve children, of whom the Doctor is the only one now living.

Dr. Davis obtained his scholastic training in the district schools of Marion county, the only means available to him for such discipline, and might have been expected to turn his attention to the occupation of his father and his forefathers, situated as he was. But he had aspirations to a different career, and supplemented his slender academic acquisitions by industrious and reflective reading as a means to the end he had in view. In 1856 he entered the medical department of the Iowa State University at Keokuk, and from this he was graduated in 1858 with the degree of M. D. He at once began the practice of his pro-

fession in Knox county, but a short time afterward located at Hunnewell, where he found a ripe field for his labors, and in this county he has ever since resided. He continued in active practice until 1906, when he deemed that he had earned the right to retire in obedience to the admonitions of advancing years. For a long time he has been an active member of the Shelby County and the Northern Missouri Medical associations and taken a prominent part in their proceedings, contributing to their deliberations all the light he could from his experience and observation and drawing unto himself from them all the benefit his opportunities allowed.

On November 9, 1858, the Doctor was united in marriage with Miss Susan Day, of Marion county. They became the parents of thirteen children, ten of whom are living: Lily Jane, wife of Charles T. Cox, of Hunnewell; John Thomas, a resident of Kansas; Jennie, wife of Dr. William T. Bell, of Stoutsville, Monroe county; Herman C.; Myrta Ellen, wife of W. L. Pollard, of Montrose, Colorado; Ida Elizabeth, wife of Fletcher Blanford, of Lebanon, Kentucky; Effie, of Lamar, Colorado; Alice, wife of S. C. McAtee, of Lamar, Colorado; Florence Dixie, of Denver, Colorado; and Susan, who is still at home.

The Doctor is allied with the Democratic party in national politics and has long followed its fortunes in success and defeat, at all times doing what he could to win the former, and bearing the latter with all the resignation of a philosopher and the enthusiasm of youth, which hopes for better results next time. He belongs to the Masonic order and the

Odd Fellows in fraternal relations and has been prominent and zealous in behalf of the enduring welfare of both orders. In his Masonic Lodge he has served well as Worshipful Master, and in his Odd Fellows lodge has occupied every chair in succession to the highest. In his profession he has been eminent in this section of the state, and as a citizen he has always been held in the highest esteem. The nearly sixty years of his mature life have been crowded with usefulness and its evening is full of benignant cheerfulness while he rests calmly under its retiring sun crowned with the laurels of a faithful performance of duty and a record of achievements not many men, even of his years, can surpass and but few can equal.

#### FRANK DIMMITT.

Frank Dimmitt, who is president of the "Old Bank of Shelbina," has been an important factor in connection with the industrial and business affairs of Shelby county, which has represented his home from his boyhood days, and he stands today as one of the honored and influential citizens of the county in which he has attained to success and prestige through well-directed efforts along normal lines of productive enterprise.

As a banker he has long been prominent and influential and as a citizen and man of affairs he stands exponent of the utmost loyalty and public spirit.

Mr. Dimmitt, who has been from the start its leading impulse and controlling spirit of the "Old Bank of Shelbina," was born on December 2, 1857, near Boonville, Cooper county, Missouri, and