

interfere with his extensive operations in it. He has been very successful in the business and, as has been noted, has reached considerable prominence and won a national reputation for himself in it as one of the best and most intelligent horsemen in the state of his residence.

On February 5, 1895, he was united in marriage with Miss Sallie Churchwell, of Shelby county, Missouri. The five children born of this union are all living and still reside under the parental roof-tree. They are: Anna Valience, James Lester, Ethel C., Mattie Hazel, and an infant daughter, named Tomie D. The father gives his active support and loyal allegiance to the principles and candidates of the Republican party in political affairs, and to the Modern Woodmen of America in fraternal relations. He is highly esteemed for his public spirit and enterprise in connection with the progress and improvement of his township and county, and held in strong regard for the elevated character and general usefulness of his citizenship.

#### HUGH DEMPSEY.

Starting with practically nothing in the way of financial resources, and now owning and cultivating a fine farm of 195 acres in an advanced state of improvement and productiveness, Hugh Dempsey, of Salt River township, in this county, furnishes an impressive illustration of the possibilities of industry, enterprise, thrift and good business management in our land of unmeasured resources and great wealth of opportunity. His career also gives another proof of

the versatility, adaptability and readiness for any conditions so characteristic of the Irish race, and its powers of achievement in every field of human endeavor to which it sedulously devotes itself, whatever the circumstances.

Although born in Adams county, Illinois, on November 7, 1852, Mr. Dempsey is but one generation removed from the Emerald Isle, where his father, Charles Dempsey, and his mother, Sarah (Dempsey) Dempsey, were born and reared, the father's life beginning in that country in 1815, and the mother's two or three years later. The father came to the United States a very young man and located first in Pennsylvania. A few years afterward he moved to Adams county, Illinois, and in 1866 brought his family to Missouri and took up his residence in Shelby county. Here he was energetically and continuously engaged in farming and raising live stock until his death in 1882.

By his marriage to Miss Sarah Dempsey he became the father of eight children, six of whom are living: Edward J., of St. Louis, Missouri; Hugh, whose life story this review especially records; Lizzie, the wife of Marshall Baker, a resident of this county; Nancy, the wife of William Barry, of St. Louis; Charles Mark, who is also a resident of this county; and Margaret, the wife of Thomas Finney, another member of the family who is adding to the growth, improvement and prosperity of Shelby county. In politics the father adhered to the Democratic party and in religion to the tenets of the Catholic church.

His son Hugh obtained a limited com-

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