

len & Co. The large and well equipped establishment handles a stock whose average valuation is fully \$20,000, and the trade of the concern extends throughout the territory normally tributary to Shelbyville. The business represents one of the leading mercantile concerns of the county, and the reputation of the firm is of the highest order, as fair and honorable dealings have begotten the most implicit popular confidence and esteem. Mr. Edelen is a man of excellent judgment and much executive and initiative ability, as is evident when we revert to the fact that no enterprise with which he has identified himself during his long and active career has been a failure. In politics he is a staunch adherent of the Democratic party, though never ambitious for the honors and emoluments of public office, and both he and his wife are earnest and zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

On September 1, 1864, Mr. Edelen was united in marriage to Miss Susan Sheetz, who was born and reared in Shelby county, being a daughter of the late Henry Sheetz, who was a pioneer of the county. They have never had children, but have reared and educated a boy and girl.

#### WALTER A. DIMMITT.

A scion of one of the honored and prominent pioneer families of Missouri and standing well to the forefront as one of the representative citizens of Shelby county, where he has extensive real estate and capitalistic interests, Mr. Dimmitt holds the well merited prestige appertaining to large and definite accomplishment through individual ability and

effort, and he is thus specially well entitled to recognition in this historical publication, which has to do with Shelby county and its people. He was for many years one of the leading merchants of the county and he continued to maintain his home in Shelbyville, where he still has large interests, until May, 1909, when he established his home in the attractive village of Shelbina. His course has been marked by inviolable integrity and honor and in all the relations of life, and he commands the unqualified esteem of all who know him.

Walter A. Dimmitt was born in Monticello, Lewis county, Missouri, on November 22, 1850, and is a son of Dr. Philip Dimmitt, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

He gained his early educational discipline in the country schools of Shelby county, having been a lad of ten years at the time of the family removal from Booneville to this county. After completing this limited curriculum he continued his studies in the high school in Shelbyville, and that he duly profited by his scholastic advantages is shown in the fact that for four years he was a successful teacher in the district schools of this county, devoting his attention to such pedagogic labors during the winter terms and being identified with agricultural pursuits during the intervening periods. In 1874 he engaged in the general merchandise business in Shelbyville, and for more than a score of years he was actively identified with this line of enterprise, in connection with which he built up a business of wide scope and importance and one through which he gained large financial returns. He re-

tired from this business in 1902, and upon his career in connection with the practical activities of life there rests no shadow of wrong or injustice. Thus it may well be understood that he holds as his own the unqualified confidence and esteem of the people of the community in which practically his entire life has been passed. From 1897 until 1905 Mr. Dimmitt was editor and publisher of the Shelby County Guard, a weekly paper, and he made the same an effective exponent of local interests and also of the cause of the Democratic party, of which he has ever been a staunch adherent. Mr. Dimmitt is one of the extensive landholders of the county, where he is the owner of 1,060 acres, and in the thriving little city of Shelbyville he is the owner of an entire block of buildings used for business purposes. For twelve years he was a stockholder and director in the Citizens' Bank of Shelbyville, and he served fourteen years as a member of the board of education of this city. He is one of the substantial capitalists and progressive and public-spirited citizens of Shelby county, and his aid and influence are ever to be relied upon in the support of measures and enterprises tending to advance the material and civic welfare of the community. He was one of the charter members of the Shelby County Railroad Company, in which he is still the owner of a considerable amount of stock. His various business interests are still centered in Shelbyville, though he now resides in Shelbina, as has already been noted, having purchased an attractive, modern residence in the latter village. Both he and his wife hold membership

in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

June 4, 1872, bore record of the marriage of Mr. Dimmitt to Miss Ann Elizabeth Vaughn, who was born and reared in Shelby county, and who is a daughter of the late Wilson Vaughn, a prominent business man and influential citizen of Shelbyville. To Mr. and Mrs. Dimmitt have been born five children, all of whom are living and concerning whom the following brief data are entered: Philip V. is now a resident of the city of St. Louis, where he is engaged in the post-office; Walter T. is engaged in the jewelry business at Shelbyville, this state; Roy is identified with business interests in the city of Birmingham, Alabama; Joseph holds a position in a business house in St. Louis; and Bertha remains at the parental home.

#### ROBERT T. JACKSON.

The senior member of the real estate firm of Jackson & Neff, of Shelbyville, the subject of this sketch, is a native son of Shelby county, with whose annals the family name has been identified for nearly seventy years, and he is one of the well known citizens and successful business men of the county, where he commands unqualified popular esteem. He is the owner of a valuable farm property in the county, and was for many years actively identified with agricultural pursuits.

Mr. Jackson was born on the old Marmaduke homestead farm, in Black Creek township, this county, on May 23, 1851, and is a son of Thomas and Mary (Fer-