

respect. Mrs. Terrill has endeavored to emulate his example in this regard and is known as a woman of exceptional business acumen and as one who takes a lively interest in all that touches the welfare of the community. She was a charter member of the Shelby County Railroad Company, and had the distinction of being the only woman to become thus identified with the enterprise, to which she gave her support more through public spirit than from speculative motives. She is now associated with her brother, James Edelen, in the dry-goods and millinery business in Shelbyville, where she is thus an interested principal in the firm of James Edelen & Company, whose establishment is one of the leading mercantile concerns of the county. Mrs. Terrill is a devoted and zealous member of the Presbyterian church, as was also her husband, and in politics he was found arrayed as a staunch and effective exponent of the principles and policies of the Democratic party, though he never was a seeker of public office.

On November 13, 1866, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Terrill to Miss Nannie Edelen, who was born in Marion county, this state, on April 25, 1843, and who is a daughter of George and Ann (McElroy) Edelen, the both of whom were born in Kentucky. The parents were numbered among the sterling pioneers of this section of the state and the father was a merchant by vocation. The father died at Hannibal on October 20, 1843, and mother at Shelbyville on June 25, 1899, aged eighty-six years. Mr. and Mrs. Terrill had no children. Mrs. Terrill has been a prominent and popular member of the social circles of Shelby-

ville, and here her friends are in number as her acquaintances.

JAMES EDELEN.

One of the venerable and essentially representative business men of Shelbyville is James Edelen, who is here engaged in the general merchandise business, as head of the well known firm of James Edelen & Co. His career has been one of marked productive activity and much success, and he is one of the honored citizens of the county which has represented his home during the major portion of his life, being a native son of Missouri and a member of one of its sterling pioneer families. His status in the community renders specially consistent a review of his career within the pages of this historical publication touching Shelby county.

James Edelen was born in the little village of Warren, Marion county, Missouri, on July 25, 1839. His father, George Edelen, was born in the state of Kentucky in 1808, and was a scion of a worthy pioneer family of that commonwealth. George Edelen was reared to manhood in Kentucky and there he initiated his efforts in connection with the general merchandise business, with which he continued to be identified in his native state until about 1833, when he came to Missouri and settled in the village of Warren, Marion county, where he opened a general store, to the conducting of which he continued to give his attention until his death, which occurred in 1843, having been fairly successful in his business affairs after coming to Missouri. In 1838 he was united in mar-

riage to Miss Ann McElroy, who likewise was a native of Kentucky and who survived him by a number of years, her death having occurred in Shelbyville in Shelby county, in 1899, whither she removed with her two children after the death of the husband and father. Of the children the subject of this sketch is the elder, and Nannie, the widow of John M. Terrill, now maintains her home in Shelbyville, Missouri.

James Edelen gained his early educational discipline in the common schools of his native county, and he was eighteen years of age at the time of the family removal to Shelby county, where he continued his studies for a time in the public schools of Shelbyville. He and his mother purchased a farm of 120 acres near Shelbyville, and after leaving school he there continued to devote his attention to farming and stock growing for the ensuing five years, at the expiration of which, in 1864, he and his mother and sister removed from the farm to Shelbyville, where he was engaged in the general merchandise business for three years, as a member of the firm of Vaughn & Edelen, his associate being Wilson Vaughn. He then sold his interest in this enterprise, having also disposed of the farm previously mentioned, and after his retirement from the mercantile trade he purchased 176 acres of excellent land in Black Creek township. He removed with his family to this place, upon which he made many substantial improvements, developing the property into one of the model farms of the county. There he continued his active operations as a general agriculturist and stock grower until 1881, and in the mean-

while he had also become one of the interested principals in the firm of himself, John Sattles, Charles A. Haskins, James Vandever and James Gevin, which engaged in the importing of high-grade draft horses from France, the animals being sold from the well-equipped sales stables maintained by the firm in the village of Shelbina. The enterprise proved very profitable to those concerned, and Mr. Edelen also found that his farm contributed much to the success of the business, affording fodder and pasturage for the horses imported and raised by the firm of which he was a member. Upon leaving the farm, in 1881, he took up his residence in Shelbina, and after disposing of his interest in the horse-importing business at a distinctive profit, he returned to the farm, to which he continued to give his attention until 1887, when he sold the property and removed to Kansas, establishing his home in McCracken, Rush county, that state, where he became a prominent and influential citizen, having there become associated in the ownership and operation of a well equipped flour mill and also having become one of the principal stockholders of the Bank of Mecracken, in McCracken, in which institution he still continues to be thus interested, also owning village property and farm land in that section of the Sunflower state. While a resident of Mecracken he also conducted a prosperous enterprise in the buying and selling of farm lands and in the conducting of a general real estate business.

In the year 1890 Mr. Edelen returned to Shelbyville, where he has since been engaged in the general merchandise business, as head of the firm of James Ede-

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-