

dent before he had much opportunity to become acquainted with the institutions and opportunities for advancement in the land in which he had sought a new home.

Mark Dempsey grew to manhood in this county and was educated in its public schools, as has been stated. At the age of nineteen he began farming as a tenant on land he rented, and a few years later he bought the farm on which he now lives in Jackson township, where he owns 310 acres and has the whole tract under advanced and skillful cultivation. From the time when he began farming until now (1910) he has been continuously engaged in this interesting and progressive pursuit, and in connection with his farming operations he has conducted also an extensive business in raising and feeding live stock for the markets. He has been highly successful in both lines of his industry, and has risen to consequence and esteem among the people as one of their most enterprising, progressive and representative citizens.

So well has he established himself in the public regard, and so thoroughly has he demonstrated his ability, integrity and fitness for official duties, and his abiding interest in the welfare of the county and its people, that he was elected county judge for a term of four years, and during the last eight has been the county assessor, filling the office with great credit to himself and decided benefit and acceptability to the people. His political allegiance is given firmly and faithfully to the Democratic party, and he has made himself so serviceable in helping to guide its activities and make

them effective for continued success that he has risen to leadership in it and is highly esteemed by both its members of prominence and its rank and file, all of whom have found his counsel wise and his energy in the party's behalf continuous and effective.

On January 28, 1889, Mr. Dempsey was married in this county to Miss Catherine Hurley, a native of Adams county, Illinois, and a daughter of James and Alice Hurley, highly respected residents of that county. Six children have been born in the Dempsey household and five of them are living, and all still members of the parental family circle. They are: William Hurley, Edward James, Alice Loretta, Margaret and Patrick Leo. All the members of the family belong to the Catholic church.

#### JOHN ERTEL.

Although a native of this county, John Ertel, one of the prominent and progressive farmers of Salt River township, this county, is of French parentage and ancestry, and comes of a military strain. His forefathers fought from time to time in the French army, and his grandfather made a creditable record under Napoleon, following the eagles of the empire from field to field until they were altogether overthrown in the historic battle of Waterloo. In his turn the grandson took the field in defense of the Union when war desolated our own unhappy country, and in many a well-fought battle admirably sustained the examples and history of his family.

Mr. Ertel was born in Quincy, Illinois, on June 26, 1844, and is a son of Daniel

and Mary (Louckinbill) Ertel, the former in France in 1815 and the latter a native of Switzerland. The father came to the United States in 1832 and located in Quincy, Illinois. There he worked as a carpenter and millwright until 1860. In that year he moved into the country in Adams county, Illinois, a few miles from Quincy, and turned his attention to general farming, which he followed until 1898. He then returned to Quincy to pass the remainder of his days, and in that city he died in 1899. He was very successful in his several lines of industry, and when he died left an Illinois farm of 400 acres and other property.

His marriage with Miss Mary Louckinbill took place in 1839, and by it he became the father of twelve children, seven of whom are living: John, who is the only one of them residing in this county; Fred J., whose home is in Quincy, Illinois; George, a resident of Adams county, Illinois; Albert, who lives in Hannibal, Missouri; Daniel, of Adams county, Illinois; Emma, the wife of Nicholas Haufner, of Quincy, Illinois; and Louisa, the wife of Wilkie Brunts, also of Adams county, Illinois. In American political affairs the father adhered to the Democratic party, and, although he had no official aspirations for himself, always gave his organization the most loyal and effective support, and was a man of influence in its local councils.

John Ertel grew to the age of sixteen in Quincy, Illinois, and then accompanied his parents to the farm. He obtained his education in the public schools

of his native city, and was about to enter upon a career for himself as a farmer when the Civil war broke out and called him to another department of service. In 1864, when he was but twenty years old, he enlisted in the Union army, Company H, Fifty-first Illinois Infantry, under command of Major Beatty. His service in the army lasted one year and was then ended by his muster out at Columbus, Georgia, and his discharge soon afterward at Springfield, Illinois. But while his term was short his service was active, and took him into the battles of Chickamauga, Georgia, and Knoxville, Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee, and several minor engagements. He was wounded twice in battle.

After the close of the war he returned to his father's farm, on which he worked until 1868. He was married in that year and began life for himself as a general farmer. He has adhered to this occupation ever since and has been very successful at it. In 1890 he became a resident of Shelby county, Missouri, and he now owns 280 acres of fine land in Salt River township, the farm being well improved and nearly all under cultivation. He was married in 1868 to Miss Nancy Wilhoit, of Adams county, Illinois. Eight of the ten children born of this union are living: William, of this county; Daniel L., of St. Louis, Missouri; and Jane, George, Anna, Delilah, Nancy and John, all of whom are still living at home with their parents. In politics the father is a Republican. He is loyal to his party and zealous in its service, but has never sought a political office of any kind for himself.