

a cousin of Thomas Sidner, who was one of the men killed at the cruel and brutal Palmyra massacre of 1864. Mrs. Ridings was born in Monroe county on September 17, 1867. She and her husband have had *six* children, four of whom are living, and all of them are still at home with their parents. They are: Leonard, Dollie, Clarence and Lucy, and add great life and light to the family circle. In politics the father is a hard working Democrat; in fraternal life he is connected with the Knights of the Maccabees, and in religious affiliation he is a member of the Southern Methodist Episcopal church, which his wife also attends.

HON. RUFUS FARRELL.

In the life story of this eminent citizen of Shelby county and esfeemed jurist and publicist of Missouri, will be found a most impressive illustration of the number and variety of claims that are likely to be made on almost any American citizen of parts and acquirements, and also of the great versatility and adaptability of the American mind, which is always found equal to all demands and ready to exercise its mastery over any circumstances, however unusual or trying. Farmer, commission merchant, hotel keeper, live stock man of active business, following other lines of trade, and finally judge of the highest court in the county, and turning his faculties from one calling to another almost with the ease of a proteus, Judge Farrell has shown himself to be a man of great capacity and resourcefulness, and has clone credit to the ancestry from which he sprang and also to the section of

country in which he got his training and preparation for life's unending and ever exacting battle.

Judge Rufus Farrell was born on March 25, 1850, in Madison, Monroe county, Missouri, and is a grandson of William Farrell, a native of Kentucky, where the family lived for generations and held an honorable place in the history of that state. The judge is a son of John and Mary Ann (Grove) Farrell, also natives of Kentucky, the former born in Madison county on July 14, 1826, and the latter in Oldham county only a little later. The father came to Missouri in 1839 with his parents, and the family located in Monroe county. There he grew to manhood and learned the blacksmith trade, and this he followed in connection with farming and raising live stock until 1885, when he retired from active pursuits and moved to Madison, where he remained until his death on July 15, 1905.

At one time the Judge's father owned 800 acres of land in adjoining tracts, although they were located in two counties—Monroe and Shelby. His marriage with Miss Mary Ann Grove took place in 1845, and by it he became the father of thirteen children, six of whom are now living: W. M., a resident of Paris, Missouri; Judge Rufus, who lives in Clarence, this county; Thomas J., whose home is in St. Louis; John W., who resides in Madison; Mary Catherine, the wife of O. T. Hall, of Shelby county; and Ira Stanberry, a prominent citizen of Billings, Montana. In politics the father was an ardent and steadfast Democrat, and in religious connection belonged to the Christian church. He al-

ways took a very active and serviceable interest in church work, serving his congregation as deacon and elder at intervals for fifty years.

Judge Rufys Farrell was educated in a private school at Clarence, under the management and instruction of Professor Johnson. After leaving school he was associated with his uncle, James M. Farrell, six years in extensive farming operations, and at the end of that period he went to St. Louis and took up the live-stock commission business in partnership with Metcalf, Moore & Company, and this occupied him until 1879. In that year he changed his plans and took charge of the Commercial hotel at Moberly, Missouri, and carried it on until 1882. Tiring of the life of a publican by that time, he sold out in that year and returned to farming on 120 acres of his father's old place in Shelby county. He continued his activity in this line of endeavor and the allied ones of raising and feeding live stock, and shipping hogs and cattle to the markets for fifteen years, until 1897, in fact, when he took up his residence in Clarence and gave his attention to the grain elevator and stock business in association with J. B. Shale. This business connection lasted until 1902, when Mr. Farrell was elected district judge. He served one term of four years, and at the end of that, in 1906, he was chosen presiding judge of Shelby county. Since his accession to this office, through his efforts, the county has built a fine infirmary, which was very badly needed, and which is now highly appreciated by the people.

Judge Farrell was first married in 1871, to Miss Florence Martin, of this

county. One child was born to them in 1872, and died in 1874. Mrs. Farrell died in 1875, of tuberculosis. On November 4, 1883, the Judge contracted a second marriage, being united on this occasion with Miss Bettie Wright, a resident of Maud, Missouri. Ten children have been born to them, and all of them are living: Ruby, the wife of Dr. S. J. Miller, of Liberal, Kansas; Gentry T., a resident of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Una May, the wife of Earl Ray, of Louisiana, Missouri; and Blanche, John W., Madge, Maurine, Manuel, Juanita and Elizabeth, all of whom are living at home with their parents. In politics, Judge Farrell is a Democrat in his faith and allegiance, but since his accession to the bench he has not been an active partisan, although outside of political considerations he takes a great and very helpful interest in all the public affairs of the county, state and nation. He has also been energetic and progressive with reference to local improvements and everything involving the comfort, convenience and enduring welfare of the people of the locality in which he lives. His religious affiliation is with the Christian church. Of the Judge's legal attainments, course on the bench, judicial temperament, or other qualifications for the high office he fills, it is not for the present biographer to speak. They are written in enduring phrase in the records of his court, the decisions he has rendered, and the general and high estimation in which he is held as a jurist all over the state of Missouri and those that are adjacent to it. There is tribute to his attainments, also, in the fact that he has been the choice of the people for a higher

position on the bench after having given them appreciated service in a lower one, and that his popularity at home and renown abroad in the exalted station he fills increases and intensifies as the years pass and add their testimony in favor of his excellence as a judge, his usefulness as a citizen and his worth as a man.

ALONZO L. GRISWOLD.

Making his struggle for advancement in life in several different occupations—agricultural, mechanical and mercantile—Alonzo L. Griswold, one of the leading merchants of Clarence, in this county, has been successful in all, and his progress has been steady and continued. He has enterprise and perseverance, and through his varied experience has acquired a good knowledge of the world and of human nature in its many forms of development and activity. And he is industrious in the application of his knowledge to his business, adapting himself to the tastes and requirements of his patrons with a zealous determination to meet their wants and satisfy their wishes.

Mr. Griswold was born in Aberdeen, Indiana, on February 18, 1863, and came to Missouri with his parents when he was but five years old. He is a son of Washington R. and Louisa (Larue) Griswold, the former born in Trumbull county, Ohio, on June 4, 1828, and the latter a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Their marriage occurred in 1851 and they were the parents of nine children, eight of whom are living: William E., a resident of Clarence, Missouri; Ida, the wife of Dr. J. D. McNeely, of

Sual, Iowa; Clarence T., who has his home in Clarence, this county; Charles W., also a resident of Clarence; Emma, the wife of John Thorne, of Sumner, Missouri; Abbie, the wife of E. W. Black, of Chillicothe, Missouri, and Harry A., a prosperous citizen of Colorado Springs, Colorado, in addition to Alonzo L., the subject of this brief review, who is sixth in order of birth of the eight living children of the household.

In early life the father moved from his native state to Aberdeen, Indiana, and in 1868 brought his family to Missouri, locating at Clarence, in this county. He worked at his trade of blacksmithing all of his mature life until about twenty years before his death, when he retired from active work. He died on January 6, 1906. He was a Republican in political faith and activity, and devoted to the success and general welfare of his party. In fraternal relations he was for many years actively and prominently connected with the Masonic order, and when he died was buried by his lodge according to the ritual of the order. His religious connection was with the Presbyterian church.

Alonzo L. Griswold obtained a district school education in Clarence, and after leaving school engaged in farming until 1882. During the next six years he and his brother, Clarence T. Griswold, conducted a flourishing blacksmithing business in partnership. Tiring of this line of work, he abandoned it in 1888, and became a clerk in the dry goods and clothing store of Marvin Dimmitt, in Clarence. He was employed in the store in the capacity of clerk and salesman for six years, and at the end of that period