

daughter of the late John S. Snider, who was a representative merchant and farmer of the county. To Judge and Mrs. Perry were born seven children, of whom five are living, namely: Mary M., who is the wife of Prof. Ira Richardson, a member of the faculty of the Missouri State Normal School at Springfield; Margaret M., who remains at the parental home; John O., who is engaged in farming at Epworth; Myrtle, who is the wife of H. G. Kellogg, of Kirksville, this state; and Clarence, who remains with his parents and is attending the public schools.

#### JAMES M. FREEMAN.

This well known and highly esteemed citizen of Shelbyville is a native son of Shelby county, with whose annals the name has been identified for more than three-quarters of a century, implying that the family was here founded in the pioneer days. He is known as one of the aggressive, energetic and successful business men and loyal and progressive citizens of the county, and is now engaged in the jewelry business in Shelbyville, of which city he served as postmaster for more than a decade. Such is his standing in the community that a work of this nature most consistently may give brief record of his career, thus paying a slight tribute to a worthy citizen who has contributed generously to the industrial, commercial and civic progress of his home city and county.

James M. Freeman was born on the homestead farm of his parents, in Black Creek township, Shelby county, Missouri, on March 19, 1862, and is a son of James

M. and Nannie (Blackford) Freeman, the former of whom was born in the state of Kentucky, in 1832, and the latter of whom was born in Shelby county, Missouri, in 1838, being a daughter of Hardin Blackford, an honored pioneer of this section of the state. In 1844, when James M. Freeman, Sr., was a lad of about twelve years, his parents removed from Kentucky to Missouri and took up their residence in Marion county, where his father secured a tract of wild land and engaged in general agricultural pursuits. About four years later, in the memorable year 1849, young James M. Freeman, who was then seventeen years of age, joined the hegira to California, whither so many ambitious and intrepid argonauts were wending their way in search of gold. Mr. Freeman made the long, tedious and perilous trip across the plains and passed four years in California, where he did a successful teaming business among the various mining camps and where he also met with no little success in his own mining operations. After his return to Missouri he was associated in the work and management of his father's farm, in Marion county, until the time of his marriage in 1854, when he removed to Shelby county and purchased a farm in Black Creek township, where he passed the residue of his long and useful life, becoming one of the representative agriculturists and stock-growers of the county and a citizen whose influence was always exerted in support of all that makes for the best in social and material affairs. He became the owner of a landed estate of 1,000 acres, and the fine old homestead bears today unmistakable

evidences of his thrift and well directed industry. He was summoned to his reward on May 8, 1891. His wife is still living. In politics he was a staunch and intelligent supporter of the principles and policies for which the Republican party stands sponsor. During the Civil war his sympathies and support were given to the cause of the Union. Of the ten children of James M. and Nannie (Blackford) Freeman five are now living, and concerning them the following brief data are consistently incorporated for perpetuation in this sketch: John is engaged in business in the city of Spokane, Washington; Kate is the wife of John M. Peacher, of Shelby county; James M. is the immediate subject of this sketch; Thomas is a prosperous farmer of Shelby county; and Cora is the wife of Thomas Turner, of this county.

James M. Freeman, Jr., whose name introduces this article, was reared to the study and invigorating discipline of the home farm, in whose work he early began to lend his quota of aid, while he was also afforded the advantages of the district schools, so that he waxed strong in both mind and body, and later he was for two years a student in the Novelty High School, a well conducted institution of high academic order, in Knox county. After the completion of his school work he returned to the home farm, in the operation and management of which he was associated with his honored father until the death of the latter. In 1895 he removed to Shelbyville, though he still continued to give a general supervision to the farm. and dealt somewhat extensively in live stock.

On June 6, 1896, under the administration of President McKinley, Mr. Freeman was appointed postmaster of Shelbyville, and his service in this position was one marked by care, discrimination and marked executive ability. The public appreciation of his labors in the office was shown in his long retention of the same, for he continued incumbent during the remainder of the administration of the lamented and martyred president and also the two terms of his successor, President Roosevelt, having retired from the office in February, 1908. He soon afterward sold his interest in the old home farm and made a number of judicious investments in real estate in Shelbyville, where he erected a number of substantial business buildings, which he still owns, together with other realty in the city. In the year of 1909 he engaged in the jewelry business in Shelbyville, where he now has an attractive and well-stocked establishment and caters to a substantial and representative trade. He is essentially progressive and public-spirited as a citizen, has been a leader in the local ranks of the Republican party for a number of years, and he has done much to further the civic and material upbuilding and advancement of his home city and native county, where he is well known and held in unequivocal confidence and esteem. He was one of the charter members of the Shelby County Railway Company and is still a stockholder of the same. He is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

On April 14, 1886, was recorded the marriage of Mr. Freeman to Miss Ella

M. Stuart, of Shelbyville, who was born and reared in this county, and who is a daughter of J. G. Stuart, a successful merchant of Shelbyville.

#### ADOLPHUS E. SINGLETON.

A native son of Shelby county, where he has maintained his home from the time of his birth, Judge Singleton has here been a prominent factor in connection with industrial and business affairs and has also been influential in connection with matters of public import. He is the owner of a fine farm estate in the county and is at the present time successfully engaged in the handling of coal, grain and feed in the thriving little city of Shelbyville, where he is associated with his brother in this important line of enterprise, under the firm name of Singleton Brothers. He has served as county judge and has ever shown a lively interest in all that has concerned the progress and prosperity of his native county and its people. As a thoroughly representative and highly esteemed citizen of Shelby county he is most consistently accorded recognition in this publication.

The Singleton family was early founded in the Old Dominion commonwealth of Virginia, that cradle of so much of our national history, and the lineage is traced back to staunch English origin. In that state was born Minor Singleton, who was the paternal grandfather of the subject of this review and who there passed his entire life, devoting his active career principally to agricultural pursuits; with which basic line of industry the name has been identified prominently

in succeeding generations. William Singleton, the honored father of him whose name initiates this article, was born in Virginia in the year 1818, and was there reared to maturity, receiving a common school education. In 1834, when sixteen years of age, he came to Missouri, first taking up his abode in Marion county, whence he later removed to Lewis county, where he remained until 1854, when he removed with his family to Shelby county, where he became the owner of a large tract of land in Taylor township, and where he developed a fine farm, passing the residue of his long and useful life on this old homestead, which is still in the possession of the family. He was a man of exemplary character, leal and loyal in all the relations of life, zealous and earnest in the furtherance of his business affairs and successful in his well directed endeavors. He wielded much influence in his community and none could have held a more secure place in popular confidence and esteem. In politics he was a staunch adherent of the Democratic party and his religious faith was that of the Baptist church. His wife is a devoted member of the M. E. church, South. He died on January 1, 1894, at the age of seventy-five years, and his widow still remains on the old homestead, having attained to the venerable age of eighty-seven years (1910) and being admirably preserved in both mental and physical faculties. She is one of the revered pioneer women of the county, being held in affectionate regard by all who know her. Her maiden name was Susan Vandiver and she was born in Virginia, where her marriage to Mr. Singleton was solemnized in the year