

as has already been noted in this context. He is a progressive business man and public-spirited citizen, is a staunch advocate of the principles and policies for which the Democratic party stands sponsor, is a charter member of the local organization of the Court of Honor, and his wife is a member of the Baptist church.

On January 29, 1879, Mr. Singleton was united in marriage to Miss Florida Fields, who was born in Kentucky, and who was a child at the time of her parents, removal to Missouri. Her father, Henry H. Fields, settled in Monroe county, this state, where he passed the remainder of his life. Mr. and Mrs. Singleton became the parents of five children, of whom three are living: Martha, who remains at the parental home; Dennis E., of Fulton, Missouri; and Benjamin Clay, of Shelbyville.

JOHN W. FRYE.

Though a native of West Virginia and a scion of one of the sterling families early founded in the historic Old Dominion, this well known and honored citizen of Shelbyville has been a resident of this county from his boyhood days and has here risen to a position of prominence and influence as a citizen of utmost loyalty and public spirit, and as one who has ably contributed to the industrial and civic development and progress of this attractive and favored section of the state. He was long identified in an active way with agriculture and stock-growing and still retains his fine landed estate of 220 acres in Black Creek township, the same constituting

one of the best improved and most valuable farms of the county. He is now living virtually retired in the thriving little city of Shelbyville, where he is the owner of a considerable amount of real estate and has various capitalistic interests of importance.

Mr. Frye was born in Hardin county, West Virginia, May 22, 1856, and in that commonwealth also were born his grandfather, Westfall Frye, and his father, Benjamin F. Frye, the date of the latter's nativity having been November 18, 1829, at which time the state was still an integral part of Virginia. There the grandfather passed his entire life and his active career was devoted principally to agricultural pursuits, in which connection he was the owner of a good plantation. Benjamin F. Frye was reared and educated in his native state, where he continued to reside until 1852, when, at the age of about twenty-three years, he came to Missouri for the purpose of investigating conditions with a view to permanent location. He passed about two years in Shelby county and then returned to West Virginia, where, in 1855, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Eliza Clagett, who likewise was born in Hardin county, that state. They continued their residence there until 1857, when they came to Missouri and established their home on a farm in Black Creek township, where the father was actively engaged in diversified farming and stock-growing, in connection with extensive dealing in live stock, until 1895, when he retired, removing to Shelbyville, where he passed the closing years of his life in the home of his son, John W., subject of this review. He was

summoned to the life eternal July 30, 1902, at the venerable age of seventy-two years, eight months and twelve days, his loved and devoted wife having passed away in December, 1905. He was a staunch supporter of the cause of the Democratic party, was affiliated with the Masonic fraternity, and both he and his wife were worthy members of the Baptist church. He was a citizen who ever commanded the unqualified confidence and high regard of his fellow men, and his life was one of signal usefulness and honor. He attained definite success in his various business operations, was a charter member of both banking institutions in Shelbyville and was a stockholder of the Citizens' Bank at the time of his demise. Of the three children in the family, one daughter died in early childhood, and of the two surviving, John W., of this sketch, is the elder; Chester C. is now a resident of Fresno, California.

John W. Frye was reared to maturity on the home farm and after availing himself of the advantages of the district schools he continued his studies for three years in the Shelbyville high school. During his active career he never found it expedient nor did he desire to sever his allegiance to the great basic industry of agriculture, and through his association therewith, he achieved a high degree of success, becoming one of the representative farmers and stock-raisers of the county and accumulating a fine estate of 220 acres, eligibly located about one mile northeast of Shelbyville. He made the best of improvements on his farm, which bears every evidence of thrift and prosperity

and is considered one of the model places of the county. He still gives a general supervision to the farm but has lived essentially retired in Shelbyville since 1908, enjoying the just reward of former years of earnest toil and endeavor. He is a stockholder and director of the Citizens' Bank of Shelbyville, was a charter member of the Shelby County Railroad Company, is the owner of a considerable amount of valuable realty in his home city, including his attractive residence property, and is known as one of the substantial citizens of the county which has represented his home during practically his entire life thus far. He has so ordered his course as to retain at all times the unqualified esteem of those with whom he has come in contact in business and social relations and he stands representative of loyal and liberal citizenship. Though never an aspirant for office and never specially active in the domain of practical politics, he takes a deep interest in all that concerns the general welfare of the community and gives his support to the cause of the Democratic party. He is affiliated with the Shelbyville lodge of Free & Accepted Masons and both he and his wife are zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Has served for several years as a member of the school board.

On the 25th of March, 1885, Mr. Frye was united in marriage to Miss Ella Vannort, daughter of Cyrus W. Vannort, an honored citizen of Shelbyville, and of the five children of this union three are now living,—Elmer R., Grover F. and Mary S., all of whom remain at the parental home.