

Miss Catherine Hyman took place in 1859, and by it he became the father of six children, all of whom are living, and all residents of Shelby county but one. They are: Harry, the subject of this brief memoir; Margaret, the wife of Jacob Gable; Isabelle, the wife of Justice Echtenacht; Christ, a prosperous Shelby county farmer; Anna, the wife of Simon Gingrich; and Mary, the wife of Frank Wilt, who lives in Monroe county, Missouri. The father was a Republican in his political adherence and a member of the Dunkard, or German Baptist church, in his religious affiliation. The wife and mother departed from this life January 20, 1911.

Harry H. Prange obtained a common school education at Hager's Grove, in this county, where the family located on its arrival in this part of the country. After leaving school he remained with his parents, working on the farm and assisting the family until 1900, when he bought a tract of land in the neighborhood of Kirby, on which he has been farming and raising live stock with success and increasing prosperity ever since, although he had practically nothing to start with. His farm comprises 160 acres of superior land, and he has cultivated it all in a manner in keeping with its high quality and great productivity.

Mr. Prange was married on March 6, 1890, to Miss Minnie Doss, a daughter of John and Henrietta (Trefall) Doss, who have long been residents of Shelby county and enjoyed the respect of all its people. He did not, however, go at once to a farm of his own, but continued to live and work on the homestead of his pa-

rents ten years longer. The four children born of the union are all living and still have their home with their parents. They are Etta, Nannie, Ernest and Carl. The father trains with and supports the Republican party in political affairs, and has his religious affiliation with the Lutheran church, to which also the other members of the family belong and in which they all take an active and serviceable interest, as they do in all other commendable agencies for good, at work around them.

#### WILLIAM T. GIBSON.

Born and reared to manhood in Virginia, and descended from families long resident in that state, William T. Gibson, one of the most prosperous and progressive farmers and live stock men in Black Creek township, Shelby county, this state, had from his childhood examples and traditions of high enterprise to stimulate him to vigorous exertion and elevated manhood, and he has been true to them, taking his fate into his own hands at the age of twenty-two and seeking the advancement in life he had determined to secure by coming to a region far distant from the home of his birth and outside the pale of family influence or the generosity of friends to help him along.

In his new home he has kept in serviceable action through daily diligence the forces of inspiration within him, and has achieved a very substantial success in life to this time (1911). He has also adhered to the lessons of good citizenship which he learned in his boyhood and youth, and through the steady practice

of the principles of manhood involved in them has risen to consequence and influence among the people, being regarded not only as one of the most enterprising and intelligent farmers in their midst, but also as one of the best citizens of his township.

Mr. Gibson was born on January 30, 1863, in Montgomery county, Virginia, and is a son of John and Olive (Howrey) Gibson, the former born in the same county as his son and the latter in Floyd county in the same state, these being adjoining counties. His grandfather, also named John Gibson, was a native of Virginia, too, and passed the whole of his life in that state. The father was a general farmer and also a preacher of the gospel. He came to Missouri and resided in Shelby county until his death. In politics he was a Republican and his religious affiliation was with the Christian church. His marriage with Miss Olive Howrey took place in Virginia, and by it he became the father of nine children, seven of whom are living: Alice, the wife of Joseph Hall, of Virginia; William T., to whom these paragraphs are specially devoted; John, who is a resident of Shelby county; Anna, the wife of Grant Winter, of Virginia; James, who also lives in that state; Lynn, who is a resident of Nebraska; Ernest, whose home is in this county; and Mary, the wife of William Haffner, also a resident of Shelby county.

William T. Gibson obtained his education in the country schools of his native county. In 1885, when he was twenty-two years old, he came to Missouri and took up his residence in Shelby county. During the first three years of his resi-

dence in this county he worked as a hired man on farms, and in 1888 and 1889, just after his marriage, he lived on a farm he rented. In the year last mentioned he bought 140 acres of land and settled down on it with a view to improving it and making the most he could out of its cultivation and the live stock industry he started in connection with that. He has been very successful in his undertakings, and now owns and cultivates with vigor, enterprise and intelligence 540 acres, his farm being one of the best in Black Creek township. He has worked hard and attributes his success to his energy, continued industry and careful attention to every feature, phase and detail of his work.

Mr. Gibson was married on January 21, 1888, to Miss Lydia M. Boyles, a daughter of Archibald Boyles, a resident of this county. Of the five children born of the union three are living, Ernest, Florence and Floyd, and all are still members of the parental family circle. The father is a Prohibitionist in politics and a member of the Christian church in his religious affiliation.

#### JACOB H. MERRIN.

This venerable and honored citizen of the city of Clarence, where he has maintained his home for more than forty years, and where he was president of the Clarence Savings Bank, has been closely identified with the civic and industrial upbuilding of this section of the state and is one of the substantial capitalists and representative men of Shelby county, where he has ever commanded unqualified popular confidence and regard.