

the carpenter trade, for which he had a natural aptitude. He put up many of the best dwellings and other buildings in the neighborhood, and they still stand out among the improvements in the county as evidences of his skill and ability as a builder. Since taking up his residence in Shelbina, which he did in 1904, he has devoted himself exclusively to contracting and building on a large scale and with great success in results, both in the products of his art and the profits reaped from them. He has worked at his trade practically for forty-one years, and has won a reputation for mastery of it that is second to none in this portion of the state and that places him in the first rank among mechanics wherever he is known.

In all parts of Shelbina, and in many other localities, stand structures built by him which are admirably adapted to the purposes for which they were erected, and which potentially proclaim his merit as a builder. For he has been a student of his craft and has enlarged and trained his natural ability in it by keeping himself posted in its latest phases and higher developments, acquiring some skill as an architect along with fine mechanical execution, and placing all his attainments liberally at the service of his patrons and his employes, thus enriching the property of the one class and the acquisitions of the other.

On July 21, 1870, he united in marriage with Miss Isabelle Wood, of Shelbina. Of the five children who have blessed and brightened their home four are living and all dwelling in Shelbina. They are George, Claudia, wife of Harry Keith, and Mabelle and Freda, both of

whom are still members of the parental household. It is much to have lived sixty years among the same people and to have grown steadily in their respect and esteem, but this is what Mr. Swearingen has accomplished. For his life has been clean and useful, constant in its fidelity to duty in all private and public relations, and ennobling in the high example of worthy citizenship it has given those associated with and living around him. It is of men like him that the best American manhood is made, and it is from such lives as his that our most stable and valued standards are taken.

#### GEORGE C. GRANT.

Although for nearly twelve years a member of the bar, and during a portion of that period an active practitioner of the profession, George C. Grant, of Shelbina, has found mercantile life of the most strenuous and exacting character more to his taste than professional pursuits, and during the last seven years has devoted himself principally to that as an extensive dealer in real estate and was the junior member of the firm of Cleek & Grant, but is now doing business under the style name of George C. Grant, Real Estate Dealer, Shelbina, Missouri. He has been very successful in his undertakings and is accounted one of the best and wisest business men in Shelby county.

Mr. Grant was born on November 4, 1875, in the adjacent county of Monroe and village of Granville, where his parents, William and Mary A. (Moulton) Grant, then lived. The father was born and grew to the age of fourteen in Eng-

land. His life began in 1831, and was like that of most English boys of his station until 1845. He attended school and engaged in the pastimes of the day, as his companions did, but in the year last named he had an experience which was denied to most of them and was probably desired by all. He was brought by his parents to the American continent, his young life being enriched by the experiences of an ocean voyage across the stormy Atlantic and the novel incidents, adventures and surroundings of existence in a new world. The family located in Canada and William remained there until 1871, marrying Miss Mary A. Moulton, of that country, in 1861, who now resides at Clarence, Missouri, and taking his part in the productive industries of the land as an active and energetic farmer.

In 1871 he came to the United States and took up his residence at Granville, in Monroe county, of this state. There he again gave his attention to farming and raising live stock on a large scale, and in addition carried on a flourishing business as a merchant in shoes and boots. Some years later he sold his interests in Monroe county and moved over into Shelby county, making his home in Shelbina. Here he again engaged in mercantile life, in the shoe trade, for some years. He then sold his business and turned his attention to insurance, which occupied him until his death in February, 1894. Eight children were born in his household and all of them save one are living and adding to the wealth and greatness of the country in various localities and occupations. They are: Charles E., who lives in Butte, Montana; Elizabeth E., the wife of Up-

ton Moreman, of Lake Howell, Florida; William H., of La Belle, Missouri; Albert L., of Baker City, Oregon; Alicia, the wife of Hon. H. J. Simmons, of Clarence, this county; George C., the subject of this memoir; and the only one of this large family now remaining at Shelbina, Missouri; and Edward B. who died in St. Louis, Missouri, July 30, 1910, after an operation for appendicitis, having gone there from his home in Clarence, Missouri, where he was engaged in the newspaper business and under the name of Simmons & Grant, published the "Clarence Courier." Agnes B., also resident of Clarence. The father was a Democrat in the politics of this country, a Freemason in its fraternal life and a member of the Southern Methodist church in religion. He was very zealous in the work of his church, teaching the Bible class in its Sunday school for a number of years.

George C. Grant became a resident of Shelbina when he was but a child and has passed all his subsequent years in the city. He obtained his education in its public schools, graduating with credit from the high school, then pursued a course of special business training at the Shelbina Commercial College. As a preparation for what he looked forward to as his life work he studied law under the direction of R. A. Cleek, Esq., then state's attorney, and was admitted to the bar in 1898. During the next few years he practiced his profession at Clarence, and then for several years in Shelbina. In 1902 he formed a partnership with Mr. Cleek, under the name of Cleek & Grant, for the purpose of engaging in the real estate business, but this partnership

was dissolved in the year 1910, and since then he has been engaged individually in that line of mercantile effort. He is now a leading real estate dealer in this part of the state and does a very extensive business. He owns considerable real estate in farm lands and city property, and handles enormous extents of it in supplying an active demand in a busy and engrossing market. He also owns two very fine highly improved farms of 440 acres in Monroe county, Missouri, where Marion and Shelby counties corner with the north line of Monroe county, a short distance south and east of Hunnewell, which are said by many to be two of the best farms in the three counties. Mr. Grant is also connected with some of the leading financial and industrial institutions of the city and county, among them the Old Bank of Shelbina, in which he is one of the stockholders. He has been very successful in all his projects, showing fine business capacity with great industry in conducting his affairs, and at the same time the utmost fairness and consideration toward others in all his dealings. He is an excellent judge of real estate, both as to its character and its value, and keeps in touch with all that is likely to be available for his purposes; so that he is prepared at all times to secure for any purchaser just what the buyer needs.

On May 7, 1901, Mr. Grant was united in marriage with Miss L. Virginia Swearingen, of Shelby county. They have two children, their son, Malcolm E., and their daughter, Alicia M., both of whom still help to warm and brighten the family hearthstone, being yet children of tender ages. The father believes firmly in

the principles of the Democratic party and lends it his active and effective aid in all its campaigns, although he is not desirous of any of the honors or emoluments of official station for himself. Fraternally he is a Knight of Pythias and a Modern Woodman of America, and in religious affairs is affiliated with the Southern Methodist church. Although he is yet a young man he has won high rank in business circles and has a firm hold on the regard and good will of the people as an upright, progressive and altogether useful and estimable citizen.

#### SILAS THRELKELD.

Born on May 19, 1833, in Henry county, Kentucky, reared and educated in Boone county, Indiana, where he worked for years at his trade as a carpenter, and during the last fifty years a resident of Missouri, Silas Threlkeld has been a part of the human history of three great states in the American Union and a valued contributor to the productive industries of two of them. He is now not far from four score years of age, and the retrospect of his long and useful life must bring before his mental vision many scenes of the highest dramatic interest, many incidents of heroic struggle and endurance, many startling changes in American life, conditions and aspirations, all of which he has witnessed and been a part of. And through the whole warp and woof of the extended period his friends can see his own record running like a veritable thread of gold, bright in the luster of its excellence, valuable in the strength it adds to the fabric and suggestive in its unyielding texture