

Judge Moran is a native of Mason county, Kentucky, where he was born on May 16, 1858, being a representative of a family early founded in the fine old Bluegrass commonwealth, where he was reared and educated and where he continued to reside until 1880, when, as a young man of twenty-two years, he came to Missouri and took up his residence in Shelby county. He purchased a farm of eighty acres, northwest of the village of Bethel, where he was engaged in farming for six years, at the expiration of which he disposed of the property and removed to a farm three miles southwest of Shelbyville, where he remained until he removed to his present fine homestead in Bethel township, where he now has a well improved farm of 256 acres. The place bears every evidence of thrift and prosperity and shows the interposition of an owner of marked energy and progressive ideas. The buildings are of substantial order and Judge Moran is constantly devising ways and means for the further improvement of his farm, which is devoted to diversified agriculture and the raising of excellent grades of live stock.

Judge Moran has maintained a liberal and loyal attitude as a citizen and has given his influence and tangible co-operation in the support of measures and enterprises tending to further the material and civic prosperity of the community. In politics he is found arrayed as a stalwart advocate of the principles of the Democratic party, and in 1902 he was elected county judge, being chosen as his own successor at the expiration of his first term and thus serving in this office for four consecutive years. He has

also given efficient service in the offices of school director and road overseer. He and his wife are earnest and zealous members of the Missionary Baptist church.

On October 26, 1880, was solemnized the marriage of Judge Moran to Miss Ocea E. Clift, who was born and reared in Mason county, Kentucky, being a daughter of Silas A. and Ellen (Dye) Clift, who still reside in that state. Judge and Mrs. Moran are the parents of five children, namely: William R., who resides in Shelbyville; Ambrose, who is a resident of Republican City, Nebraska; and Albert W., Shelbina; Mary Fay, and Alice, who remain at the parental home.

The parents of Judge Moran were Robert and Bridget (Fay) Moran, both natives of Ireland. They were both brought to the United States as children and were married in Kentucky. The father was a blacksmith and followed it through life. The mother still resides in Kentucky, the judge being the only one residing in Missouri.

JAMES L. HOLLIDAY.

Born in Shelby county, Missouri, nearly sixty-two years ago, on December 13, 1848, and having passed all his subsequent years within its borders, attending its public schools, working on his father's farm and later farming one of his own, and thus contributing essentially and practically to the growth and development of the county and the promotion of some of its leading industries, James L. Holliday, of Black Creek township, has proven himself a citizen of

value to this part of the state, and fully worthy of the confidence and esteem of the people, which he enjoys wherever he is known.

His grandfather was a native of Virginia, and a descendant of families domesticated in that state and factors in its history from early times. Mr. Holliday's father, James M. Holliday, and his mother, whose maiden name was Emily Vandiver, were also born and reared in Virginia. They were married in Shelby county, and had seven children, three of whom are living: Richard S., whose home is in Carroll county, Arkansas; James L., the subject of this brief memoir; and Emma, the wife of Arthur Freeland, who also lives in this county.

The father came to Missouri in about 1832. He had been a trader between St. Louis and Santa Fe, New Mexico, at an early period in the history of this part of the country under American rule. On his arrival and location in Shelby county he took up his residence on a tract of 160 acres of wild land, which was yet virgin to the plow and still luxuriated in the unpruned growth of centuries. After bringing this tract to a somewhat advanced stage of systematic productiveness and converting it into a home for his family, he bought another tract of the same size and repeated his work of improvement on that, thereafter working both tracts under his personal management and supervision until his death in May, 1857. He had been successful as a traveling trader and he was highly successful for his day as a farmer and live stock breeder and feeder. His localized industries in this county were of great importance to a wide extent of country, for

while he was carrying them on, at least during the first years of his residence here, the population was sparse, supplies were scarce and every kind of production for the sustenance and comfort of the people was of great value. He met the requirements of the situation as far as his facilities would permit, and being an important factor in the work of providing the necessities of life for an extensive frontier, he became a man of consequence in the public affairs of the region, as well as a highly appreciated purveyor for the physical wants of its scattered inhabitants. In politics he was a Whig and took a very serviceable part in the activities of his party. His religious affiliation was with the Southern Methodist church. His wife died in 1865, after many years of great usefulness as his assistant in everything he undertook in the way of business.

Their son James L. began his education in the district school near his home and completed it at a high school in Shelbyville. After leaving school he worked as a hired hand on farms for a period of five years. At the end of that time he settled on a farm of sixty acres which he inherited from his father and which he has since increased to 208 acres, all of which he has improved to high value and made extensively productive. He has also been long engaged in raising live stock steadily, enlarging his operations in this line as his prosperity increased and his facilities became greater.

Mr. Holliday was married on March 5, 1878, to Miss Sarah C. Tingle, a native of Shelby county. They have had seven children, six of whom are living—Maud E., the wife of Joseph O. Foreman, a res-

ident of Shelby county; Virgie, the wife of Albert Bethards, a resident of Meade county, South Dakota; and Thomas E., Bertha, now Mrs. Roy Bethards, of Meade county, South Dakota; Maggie and Ella, all of whom still have their home with their parents. The father follows the fortunes of the Democratic party in faith and political action, and is a steady worker for the success of that organization. In religion he and his wife are Southern Methodists. All the members of the family are well esteemed, being accounted useful citizens, true to the best interests of their township and county and zealous in promoting the general welfare, the progress and the substantial improvement of both.

LUKE VAN OSDOL.

In his native township of Bethel Mr. Van Osdol is now to be accounted one of the successful farmers and stock-growers, and as a well known and highly esteemed citizen of the county which has represented his home from the time of his birth to the present. Through energy, industry and well directed enterprise he has gained a success worthy the name, and he well merits the high regard in which he is uniformly held.

Mr. Van Osdol was born on his father's homestead farm, in Bethel township, six miles distant from his own farm home today, and the date of his nativity was April 1, 1877. He is a scion of a family founded in the state of Indiana in the pioneer epoch of its history, and in that commonwealth his grandfather, Madison Van Osdol, a farmer by vocation, passed his entire life. The

original American progenitors came to this country from Holland. Thomas Jefferson Van Osdol, father of him whose name initiates this sketch, was born in Indiana, on Christmas day of the year 1835, and was there reared to maturity. At the age of twenty years he left the Hoosier state and came to Missouri, taking up his residence in Bethel township, Shelby county, where he secured a tract of land and developed a productive farm. Here he continued to reside until his death, which occurred on April 25, 1889. His wife, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Miller, was likewise a native of Indiana, and her death occurred in the fall of 1897. They became the parents of eleven children, of whom seven are living, namely: Joseph O., who is a resident of Linn county, Missouri; Oscar, who resides in Kirksville, this state; Annie, who is the wife of John K. Hiestand, of Harper county, Kansas; Weber, who resides at Plevna, Missouri; Susan, who is the wife of Lafayette Hunt, of Knox county, this state; Luke, who is the immediate subject of this sketch; and Maud, who is the wife of Coy D. Fox, of Linn county, Missouri.

Luke Van Osdol passed his boyhood and youth on the home farm and was not denied ample opportunity for the learning of the practical lessons of honest toil, while his educational advantages in the meantime were limited to the district school. He was a mere boy at the time of his father's death, and when twenty-one years of age he began working by the month as a farm hand, being thus engaged, with various farmers of the county, until 1899, when he initiated his independent career as an