

dealer in horses of the better grade and where he continued to reside until 1886, when he returned to Shelby county, where he engaged in general farming, in connection with the handling of fancy horses and mules. In 1889 he left his farm and took up his abode in the city of Shelbyville, where he became senior member of the firm of Damrell & Sanders, dealers in general merchandise. This association continued for a period of six years, at the expiration of which Mr. Damrell's brother, Edwin M., purchased Mr. Sanders' interest in the business, which was thereafter successfully continued under the firm title of Damrell Brothers until 1901, when the stock and business were sold to the present owner, Preston B. Dunn, Jr. Since that time Mr. Damrell has given his attention principally to the buying of horses, mules and jacks of the best type, and he has built up a large business, shipping principally into the western states and being one of the leading dealers in this kind of stock in this section. He is a stockholder of the Citizens' Bank of Shelbyville, of whose directorate he is a member, and was a charter member and director of the Shelby County Railroad Company, the construction and operation of whose line was promoted and financed by the citizens of the county. Mr. Damrell never denies the support of his influence and tangible aid in the furthering of measures advanced for the general good of the community, and his attitude is essentially that of a broad-minded, progressive and loyal citizen, while his course in life has been so guided and governed that he has never been denied the fullest measure of popular confi-

dence and esteem. He has served for eight years as a member of the board of aldermen of Shelbyville and at the present time is serving his first term as a member of the board of education of his home city. He is a stalwart in the local camp of the Democratic party and takes an active part in its work. He is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, and both he and his wife are zealous members of the Christian church, giving a liberal support to the various departments of its work.

On January 19, 1888, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Damrell to Miss Nellie E. Hughes, who was born and reared in Shelby county, being a daughter of the late William A. Hughes, an honored pioneer settler and the organizer of the first bank in the county. Mr. and Mrs. Damrell have one daughter, Mary Hughes Damrell, who remains at the parental home and is one of the popular figures in connection with the social activities of the community.

JAMES M. HOLLIDAY.

The subject of this sketch has been an intimate friend of the writer for more than fifty years, and at our own request the county historian has kindly permitted us to write this brief sketch of the life of our friend as connected with the people of Shelby county.

James M. Holliday was born in Scotland county, Missouri, January 2, 1839, moved to Shelby county, Missouri, with his parents in the month of November, 1852. His father, his father's brother, and their mother were among the pio-

neer settlers of Shelby county, and were connected with its early history. His uncle, Judge William J. Holliday, was Shelby county's first representative in the Missouri legislature.

Our friend like most of our pioneer fathers who prepared this great country for its present civilization, was deprived of a college education, but he through his own effort and resources amassed a wonderful volume of information.

He was an untiring reader, a deep thinker, and a walking encyclopedia. He never forgot anything he heard or read, if it interested him. He was enthusiastic in his convictions and loyal to his friends; a man who would boldly do battle in the conflicts of life for the success of his friends; honest in purpose, resourceful in strength, and judicious in his executive accomplishments. Religiously he was a member of the Christian church, his biblical information equal to many who have made the Bible a life study.

Politically, a Democrat, while he never held a very lucrative office he has many times been honored with positions of trust.

He was appointed constable of Taylor township in 1871, was elected public administrator of Shelby county and commissioned by Governor Woodson in 1874, but never qualified. Was elected justice of the peace of Taylor township in 1876 and held that office for six years; was appointed and commissioned by Governor Francis in 1890 as a notary public of Shelby county and filled that office for four years, and in 1894, at the solicitation of Congressman William H. Hatch, he was appointed, by Mr. Hurt,

the doorkeeper of the house of representatives of the fifty-third congress, messenger and assigned to the committee on agriculture, which was Colonel Hatch's committee. This position he filled during the rest of Colonel Hatch's career as congressman, and the Hon. William H. Hatch never had a warmer friend or a greater admirer than James M. Holliday.

While in Washington Mr. Holliday visited Memorial Hall and was mortified to find Missouri with her long list of illustrious men without a representative. Mr. Holliday, being a student of Missouri's great men and an admirer of Col. Thomas H. Benton, at once begun the agitation of the question of having the statue of Thomas H. Benton placed in Statuary Hall in Washington, D. C. He wrote an article and had it published in the Shelbina "Democrat," calling attention to this neglect.

He also wrote a letter to Governor Stone, urging him to take up the matter, to which Governor Stone replied, promising to bring the matter before the legislature in his message, and this was done and Squire Holliday's work was accomplished, which is a jewel among his successes of which he has always been proud.

It was his especial desire to have Col. Thomas H. Benton represent Missouri in Statuary Hall in Washington, D. C., but along with this the Missouri legislature placed the statue of Francis P. Blair.

James M. Holliday left Shelby county in November, 1896, moving to the state of Montana, again entering into the hardships and enjoying the hospitalities

of pioneer life. He located on and homesteaded 160 acres of land, lived on it five years, proved up and got a deed to it. Has been successful in other ventures and has a nice competency to lean upon in his declining years.

He has had the confidence of the Democratic party in the great state of Montana, as evidenced by his nominations for the legislature and county commissioner without his solicitation.

He has while in Montana filled the office of postmaster four years, road supervisor six years, and has been honored many times with various minor offices. He is now living in Helena, Montana, and is a constant reader of the "Shelby County Herald" and "Shelbina Democrat," and has never lost interest in Shelby county people and their enterprises or its history.

WILLIAM A. HIRRLINGER.

William A. Hirrlinger, one of the leading farmers of Jefferson township, in this county, was born in Richland county, Ohio, on June 28, 1846, but came to Missouri with his parents in 1852. The family took up its residence at Shelbyville, and here he grew to manhood and obtained his education. He has passed all his subsequent years in this county, and may therefore, without impropriety, be called a product of Shelby county, and in all respects except his birth a Missourian. For he is thoroughly imbued with the spirit of the people of this state, and devoted to its welfare in every way.

Mr. Hirrlinger's paternal grandfather, Frederick Hirrlinger, was born and

passed his life in Germany. His son, William, the father of William A., was also born in that country, his life beginning in the city of Wittenburg in 1822. In 1844 he came to the United States and during the next six years had his home in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1850 he moved to Illinois, and in 1852 to Missouri, settling his family at Shelbyville. During the Civil war he enlisted in the army, his regiment becoming a part of the command of General Greene, and while the conflict lasted he saw considerable active service, taking part in the battles of Lexington and Pea Ridge, Missouri, and a number of other engagements of great or small importance.

He was a cabinet maker, and at the close of his military service returned to Shelbyville and worked at his trade until 1865. He then turned his attention to farming, which he followed until his death in May, 1871. The mother, whose maiden name was Magdalena Doerr, was also a native of Germany and a daughter of Jacob and Magdalena Doerr, who were born and reared in that country, and belonged to families long resident there. She died on July 11, 1887. By their marriage they became the parents of seven children. One of them died in infancy and the rest grew to maturity. Those now living are: William A., the subject of this sketch; Magdalena, the wife of Stephen M. Hancock, of Marion, Indiana; Eliza, the wife of John Van Houten; Emma, the wife of Charles Rheinheimer, of Shelbyville; and Cora, the wife of L. L. Wheeler, of Clarence.

William A. Hirrlinger attended the schools in Shelbyville, and after completing their course of study worked at