

owner of a fine landed estate of 240 acres near the village of Maud, in Jefferson township. He developed the property into one of the productive and valuable farms of the county, made excellent improvements upon the place, and continued to reside on this homestead 'until 1899, when he retired from active labors and removed to the village of Clarence, where he has since maintained his home. He disposed of his farm several years ago. He is a stockholder of the Clarence Savings Bank and has other substantial capitalistic investments in his home county.

In politics Mr. Lewis is found arrayed as a stalwart advocate of the principles and policies for which the Democratic party stands sponsor, and he continues to take a lively and intelligent interest in the questions and issues of the hour, the while exemplifying the highest standard of loyal and public-spirited citizenship. He is affiliated with the local lodge of Free & Accepted Masons, and attends and supports the Methodist Episcopal church, South, of which his wife is a zealous member.

On August 25, 1870, Mr. Lewis was united in marriage to Miss Rosa Conrardt, who was born in Germany, on July 25, 1848, and who was a resident of Shelby county at the time of her marriage. Her father, the late Jacob Conrardt, settled in this county many years ago and became one of its substantial farmers and honored citizens. To Mr. and Mrs. Lewis have been born six children, all of whom are living, namely: Minus H., who is engaged in banking in Clarence; Katherine, who is the wife of Willis Cross, of Clarence; Della May, who re-

mains at the parental home; Mollie, who is the wife of Samuel Sanner, a prosperous farmer of this county; John E., who is now a resident of the state of Wyoming; and Nora, who is the wife of Porter Robuck, of Shelby county.

#### WILLIAM L. JACOBS.

Bearing a name that has been long and prominently identified with the annals of Shelby county, where this well known and honored family was founded in the early pioneer days, William L. Jacobs has well upheld the prestige of the name and is now recognized as one of the representative business men and influential citizens of his native county, where he has a secure place in popular confidence and regard. He is now engaged in the general merchandise business in the thriving little city of Clarence, and he is one of the leading and most progressive merchants of the county, controlling a large and appreciative trade, which is based on fair and honorable dealings and which extends throughout the fine agricultural territory normally tributary to Clarence as a distributing center. Adequate review of the family history is given in the memoir dedicated to his honored father, the late John W. Jacobs, on other pages of this publication.

William L. Jacobs was born on the old homestead farm of his father, in Clay township, Shelby county, Missouri, and the date of his nativity was September 6, 1858. He has naught to regret in connection with the sturdy discipline which he received in connection with the work of the farm and under

the direction of a father of marked energy and excellent business judgment. He was afforded the advantages of the well conducted public schools of the village of Clarence, and this training was supplemented by an effective course in the Gem City Business College, at Quincy, Illinois. In 1877, soon after attaining to his legal majority, Mr. Jacobs took up his residence in Lacygne, Kansas, where he was engaged in the grocery business for the ensuing five years, the venture proving successful and affording him excellent business experience of a practical order. In 1882 he returned to his native county and for the ensuing two years he was identified with various business interests in the village of Clarence. At the expiration of this period, January 1, 1884, he engaged in the general merchandise business in this city, a line of enterprise with which he has here continued to be successfully identified since that time. The business was at the start conducted under the firm name of Whitby, Jacobs & Company, his father being a silent partner in the concern and the other active member having been Stephen M. Whitby. The father continued to be passively interested in the enterprise until his demise, and after the death of Mr. Whitby the subject of this sketch continued the business in partnership with his brother, Robert L. Jacobs, until 1898, when he purchased his brother's interest. Since that time he has individually conducted the business under his own name, and his large and well equipped establishment caters most effectively to its extensive and representative patronage. Clothing, boots and shoes, and furnish-

ing goods are handled, and Mr. Jacobs has shown unqualified discrimination in the selection of goods and in meeting the demands of his ever increasing trade.

Mr. Jacobs has not hedged himself in with his personal affairs and the promotion of his business, but has manifested a broad-minded, liberal and loyal attitude as a citizen, giving his influence and co-operation in the support of all measures and enterprises tending to advance the material and civic prosperity of the community. His political allegiance is given to the Democratic party, and, while he has never been ambitious for public office, he has been called upon to serve as a member of the board of city aldermen, of which position he was a valued incumbent for some years. He is an appreciative and popular member of Clarence Lodge, No. 305, Free & Accepted Masons, of which he served as worshipful master for three terms.

On May 29, 1889, Mr. Jacobs was united in marriage to Miss Emma Seeley, who was born in this state, and who is a daughter of the late James Seeley, an honored citizen of Clarence at the time of his death. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs became the parents of four children, of whom one, Mary A., died at the age of four years. The surviving children—Louis S., Aileen and Nellie E.—remain at the parental home, which is a recognized center of gracious hospitality.

#### JOHN W. JACOBS.

A strong, noble, forceful and beneficent influence was that exercised by the