

## JOHN THORNTON KEITH.

Highly successful in his vocation of farmer and live stock man, and prominent and influential in county affairs for many years, John T. Keith, of Salt River township, Shelby county, has served his day and generation well and given an excellent example for the guidance and stimulation of the next. He is one of the leading farmers of his township and one of the most useful and important men in his county, exemplifying in his career the virtue and the value of industry and frugality in business and of high character and public spirit in regard to community affairs.

Mr. Keith was born in Monroe county, Missouri, on August 13, 1847, and is a grandson of John H. Keith, a native of Virginia, who left the home of his ancestors in his early manhood to make a new one for himself in what was then the wilds of Kentucky. There, on the frontier, or near it, his son, William T. Keith, the father of John T., was born in 1821. While he was yet a boy the family moved to Missouri, and in this state he grew to manhood, received his scholastic training and prepared himself for a short but useful professional life. His academic education was completed at McDowell college in St. Louis, and after leaving that institution as a graduate, he studied medicine in Marion county. When he was ready to enter the profession he began his practice in Monroe county and later was associated with Dr. Bowen at Old Clinton in Monroe county. He rose rapidly in his profession and was fast approaching the first rank in the medical fraternity in this part of the

state, when death ended his useful labors in 1855.

The doctor did some farming in connection with his practice. He owned a farm of 240 acres which his slaves cultivated under his direction and supervision. He was married in 1849 to Miss Mary Ann Smith, of Kentucky, and by this marriage became the father of one child, his son John T., the immediate subject of this sketch. His first wife died, and in 1851 he was married a second time, being united on this occasion with Miss Mary Lipscomb, of Monroe county, Missouri. They had one child also, who is now deceased. In politics the father trained with the old Whig party, and in religious association he was connected with the Missionary Baptist church.

John Thornton Keith began his education in the district schools of Monroe county and completed it at Bethel college in Palmyra. He afterward pursued a course of special training at the Jones Commercial college in St. Louis. After leaving school he bought a farm of 120 acres in this county four miles southwest of Shelbina, and on this tract and the additions he made to it by subsequent purchases, he has been actively engaged in farming and raising live stock, also in feeding and shipping stock, ever since until, recently he sold 260 of the 380 acres of land which he owned. His operations are now confined to his original 120 acres, and on this his specialty is handling jacks and jennets, and for his output in this department of the live stock industry he is prominently and favorably known

throughout a wide extent of the country. He also buys and feeds mules for the market, handling, over 100 head annually.

Locally he is best esteemed for his public spirit and devotion to the welfare and improvement of Shelby county. He is an ardent worker and stimulating force in all matters of progress and development, with a fine initiative spirit for designs and great energy and zeal in working them out. For more than forty years he has been president of the school board, and for a long time has served in the same capacity in the Shelbina Fair association, which has prospered admirably under his skillful management.

On November 12, 1867, Mr. Keith married with Miss Martha Ellen Maddox, a native of Monroe county and a daughter of Marcus D. and Sarah M. (Sparks) Maddox, esteemed residents of that county. Eight children have been born of the union, seven of whom are living: Ernest, resident in this county; Lena, the wife of Samuel Kimble, also dwelling in Shelby county; Alonzo, whose home is here too; Harry, who lives in Shelbina; Bertie, the wife of Luther Fitzpatsick, of Monroe county; and Myrtle and Lester, who are still under the parental roof-tree.

The father is an earnest and devoted member of the Democratic party in his political relations and a faithful and effective worker for the success of his party. His church affiliation is with the Southern Methodists, as is also his family. With his mind alert and fruitful and his hand open and free for every worthy undertaking for the good of his township and county in a material way,

and all his faculties ready at all times to aid in expanding and intensifying the power and usefulness of the moral agencies at work among their people, and with conscientious attention to every duty of citizenship, he is universally and justly regarded as one of the leading and most serviceable men in this part of the state.

#### JOHN WAY.

Born and reared in that great hive of industry, the state of Pennsylvania, in which almost every form of human endeavor finds expression if the latitude permits, and there trained to useful labor from his boyhood, enlisting in the Union army when he was eighteen, and during the four terrible years of our Civil war facing death on the battlefield and enduring the hardships and privations of the march and the camp, John Way, one of the progressive and prosperous farmers and live stock men of Salt River township, in this county, had a discipline in duty that fitted him for almost any requirement and made him equal to almost any emergency in peace or war.

Mr. Way was born on January 10, 1844, in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, and is a son of Frederick and Harriet (Sprinkle) Way, natives of Maryland. The father was born near Hagerstown in that state, in 1815, and after a residence there and in Pennsylvania of fifty-seven years, came to Missouri in 1871 and located in Shelby county, five miles southwest of Shelbina. Here he acquired land and was actively engaged in farming and raising live stock until 1891, when death