

present residence. He is a brother of Henry Rathjen, a sketch of whom appears in this work in which the history of the parents will be found. After leaving school, and while attending, he worked on the home farm with his father, remaining at home and assisting the family until 1893. He then bought the farm on which he now resides and to the development, improvement and cultivation of which he has ever since devoted the greater part of his time and energies. This farm comprises 129 acres and is one of the best of its size in the township. It is well improved, vigorously and skilfully cultivated and has been brought by his labors and good management to a high state of productiveness. The live stock industry carried on in connection with the farming operations is extensive and active, and sedulous care to every requirement of the business, with a view to securing the best results, has made it highly profitable. The specialties of this industry are cattle and hogs of superior breeds.

Mr. Rathjen was married on February 17, 1896, to Miss Elizabeth Neuschafer, a daughter of the late John and Catherine (Reinheimer) Neuschafer, of this county. Four children were born of the union, three of whom are living, and all still at home with their parents. They are Amelia, the daughter of the house, and Edward and Alfred, the sons. In politics the father is a Democrat of the reliable and constant kind, and in religion he and his wife are Lutherans, devotedly loyal to their church and serviceable to the congregation to which they belong.

Mr. Rathjen has been successful in his

business, building it to good proportions and conducting it with vigor, enterprise and progressiveness. He has also been attentive to the wants of his township and county, and given his energetic and helpful aid to every worthy undertaking for their advancement. While not an office seeker in any sense, he has been of great service to his political party in all the campaigns it has conducted since his youth, and by the spirit and effectiveness of his work in its behalf has won the appreciative regard of both its leaders and its rank and file. He is considered one of the best and most representative citizens of his township, and is correspondingly esteemed by all its inhabitants.

VALENTINE KRAUTER.

With filial devotion to his parents that is altogether commendable, this esteemed farmer and stock man of Clay township, Shelby county, has passed with them the years of his maturity as he did those of his childhood and youth, assisting in providing for the wants of the family and helping in every way available to him in bettering the condition of its members. Since the death of his father in 1908, at the age of seventy-seven years, he has stood loyally by his nearer parent and looked after her comfort with constant and considerate attention.

He was born on March 13, 1870, in Grossherzogthum Hessen, Germany, and is a son of Peter and Margareta (Borok) Krauter, also natives of that place. The father was born there in 1831 and came to the United States in 1881, settling among the German Lutherans in Shelby

county, Missouri. Here he engaged in general farming until his death, which occurred in 1908. His marriage occurred in 1859, and he and his wife were the parents of four children, two of whom are living, Valentine and his older sister Katharine, the wife of James Sass, of this county, a sketch of whom will be found in this volume. The father was a Republican in politics and a Lutheran in religion.

His son Valentine began his education in his native land and completed it in a district school in Shelby county, which he attended for a short time. He came to this country and Shelby county with his parents when he was eleven years old and grew to manhood here, where he has lived and labored ever since, giving all his energies to the advancement of his own fortunes and the development and improvement of the township and county in which he lives. While growing to manhood he worked on the farm operated by his father and he has been actively and prosperously engaged in the same occupation during all the subsequent years of his life.

Mr. Krauter began operations for himself with literally nothing in the way of capital or worldly possessions, and has made all he now owns by his own unaided efforts, to use his own expressive utterance on the subject, digging all he has out of the ground. His success in his careful and continued industry is a tribute alike to his own enterprise and good management and to the land which he has cultivated—the ground out of which he has dug the substance of his estate. He now owns 160 acres of land which he cultivates and twenty acres of

valuable timber land. He also carries on a very active and flourishing live stock industry, which he manages with the same care, intelligence and attention to details that he employs in his farming, and he makes it profitable by this method of conducting it.

Since the death of his father, as has been stated, he has lived with and cared for his mother, who is now sixty-nine years of age. In his political faith and allegiance he is connected with the Republican party, and although he has no aspiration to official station and desires nothing of public life, he is loyal and serviceable to his party and true to the political convictions he holds. In religion he is a Lutheran, cordially interested in his church and at all times ready to do what he can to advance its interests. He is also true to the locality in which he lives, giving his energetic and effective support to every commendable undertaking for its advancement, and helping in every way at his command to augment and intensify the mental, moral and social agencies at work among its people. The duties of citizenship rest upon him as an imperative obligation, and none of them is neglected or slighted by him. He is well worthy of the universal esteem in which he is held throughout Clay township and in all other parts of Shelby county.

JONATHAN JARRELL.

This successful, enterprising and progressive farmer and stock man of Black Creek township, this county, is a native of Kent county, state of Delaware, whose boast has long been that she represents