

Mary (Wilson) Lowman, a sketch of whom will be found in this work. He had no educational facilities but those furnished by the country schools of this county, but he has been an industrious reader and student on his own account, and is a well-informed man. After leaving school he worked on his father's farm and assisted the family until 1891. He then bought a farm and began a progressive and profitable career in farming and raising live stock for himself, which he is still extending under flourishing conditions. His farm comprises 160 acres and he has made it one of the most attractive and valuable of its size in the township. Nearly all of the land is under cultivation, and every acre that is farmed yields first rate returns for the labor and care bestowed on it.

Mr. Lowman was married on August 20, 1902, to Miss Ida B. Fagan, of Marion county, Missouri. Mrs. Lowman is a daughter of George W. and Susan E. (Barnett) Fagan, residents of Philadelphia, Missouri. His political allegiance is given loyally and faithfully to the Democratic party, and, while he seeks no political honors or advancement for himself, he is impelled by the force of his convictions to zealous and effective efforts for the success of his party in all its campaigns. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, and his wife of the Missionary Baptist church. They stand well in their community socially, take an earnest interest and an active part in the work of all the intellectual and moral agencies alive and vigorous around them, and in every way do their part as upright, progressive and estimable citizens, and they are held in

high regard by all classes of the people wherever they are known.

#### SAMSON B. LOWMAN.

Although of Virginia nativity and parentage, Samson B. Lowman, of Black Creek township in this county, who has made his mark indelibly on the record of the county's history both as a farmer and a public official, and is one of its best known and most esteemed citizens, is of Pennsylvania ancestry. His grandfather, Bernard Lowman, was born and reared in the city of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, but in his early manhood moved to Middlebrook, Virginia, and there his son, William O. Lowman, the father of Samson B., was born in 1815. There also he grew to manhood, was educated and learned the trade of tanner, which he followed in his native state for a number of years.

In February, 1835, he was married to Miss Sarah Eagon, of Staunton, Virginia, and by this marriage became the father of four children, two of whom are living, Samson B. and his sister, Mary Jane, the wife of William H. Duncan, of Shelbyville, this county. In the fall of 1856 the father moved his family to Missouri, and, after passing the winter at Canton, Lewis county, settled in Shelby county, where he spent the remainder of his life and died in 1900, passing away at Shelbyville. In this county he was engaged in farming until about fifteen years before his death, when he retired on the competency he had acquired to enjoy the rest he had richly earned. In politics he was a Democrat, in fraternal life an Odd Fellow,

and in religious connection a member of the Southern Methodist Episcopal church.

Samson B. Lowman was educated in private schools at Middlebrook, Virginia, and, after completing his scholastic training, worked on the home farm with his father until 1860, having come to this state and Shelby county with his parents. In the year last named he bought 160 acres of land in Black Creek township and began farming and raising live stock on his own account. He has followed these pursuits with unceasing devotion from that time to the present, and has won a very gratifying success in pursuing them. In 1876 he was elected county surveyor and road and bridge commissioner of Shelby county, and he held the office until 1892, and during his tenure built the bridge over Salt river, between Shelbina and Shelbyville, the first iron bridge in the county. But ever since he located on his farm it has been his home.

As has been indicated, Mr. Lowman has been entirely successful in his business operations, and has also risen to prominence and influence in his township and county. His farm now comprises 360 acres, and all but twenty acres of it is under cultivation. With his intelligence and progressiveness in view, it is needless to say that his farming and live stock operations are conducted according to the most approved modern methods and with the application to them of all that is latest and best in theory and practice in the industries involved. And, with knowledge of his public spirit, enterprise and interest in his locality, it seems equally needless to say

that he is among the leading and most esteemed citizens of the county.

Mr. Lowman has been married twice. His first marriage took place on November 26, 1860, and was with Miss Mary Wilson, who died in 1877. They had four children and two of them are living: John D., an account of whose life appears in this volume, and his older brother, William M., both residents of this county. On June 26, 1879, the father was married a second time, being united on this occasion with Miss Angie Bryan, of Chillicothe, Missouri. Of the two children born of this marriage only one is living, Florence B., who is Mrs. Joseph C. Graddy, of Lexington, Missouri. The father is a Democrat in his political allegiance and belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church, South, in religious affiliation.

#### JAMES A. SMITH.

A native of Sussex county, Delaware, where his forefathers lived for several generations, and since 1865, except for a short interval of six months, during which he lived in Atchison, Kansas, a resident of Shelby county, Missouri, James A. Smith, of Lentner township, has passed the greater part of his life to this time amid scenes far different from those of his childhood, youth and early manhood, and among people whose habits and institutions are, in many respects, greatly unlike those amid which he grew to maturity. He has had experience in both country and city life, and followed Fortune's unreliable promise in several occupations. Yet he has at all times met the requirements of his