

and feeding live stock. He has been very successful in both lines of activity, and his success is due to his energy, capacity and general good management. He has been a student of his business in all its details, and has applied the results of his reading, reflection and practical observation with skill and judgment, expanding his intelligence and broadening his views as the years have rolled away in their course. He is now considered one of the best and most practical farmers and stock men in his township.

On December 23, 1873, Mr. Bethards was united in marriage with Miss Ann Eliza Jordan, who was born in Michigan. They have had nine children, eight of whom are living: Minnie, Frank, Omer, Louis and Elva, all of whom are still at home with their parents; Albert, the third in the order of birth, who is a resident of South Dakota, and Roy and Ray, whose homes are also in South Dakota. In political affairs the father follows the fortunes of the Democratic party and is active and serviceable in his support of its principles and candidates, although he is not desirous of any of its honors or emoluments for himself. Mrs. Bethards is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, South.

ELIAS A. McBRIDE.

The fine old state of Virginia has made her name glorious in history by her production of many of the most distinguished men this country has known, and also by rearing on her historic soil a whole race of chivalric and high-minded men and graceful, cultivated and elegant women.

From her prolific and teeming population and liberal institutions have gone forth in addition hosts of sturdy and self-reliant emigrants to other states, which they have helped to build up and develop in every element and feature of industrial, commercial and civil power.

In this last class belongs Elias A. McBride, one of the sterling yeomanry of this county, and the family from which he sprang, whose activities in this section of the state form part of the productive force which has been at work in developing its resources during the last three generations. He was born on October 13, 1850, in that portion of Virginia which was torn from the mother state by the stern arbitrament of the Civil war. There also was the place of nativity of his grandfather, Stephen McBride, and his parents, James J. and Ellen (Horn) McBride. He came to Missouri with his parents in 1858, and the family located in Sheridan county, where the father was actively engaged in general farming and raising live stock until the beginning of the Civil war. When that memorable conflict between the sections of our torn and distracted country began he went into the Confederate army as a drill master. But before he served any great length of time he was captured by the opposing forces, and from then until his death, which occurred in 1863, he languished in a Federal military prison in St. Louis, and there he died. The mother was spared the sadness of knowing his fate, for she died in 1860, more than a year before his military service began.

They were the parents of six children,

two of whom are living: Lucretia, the widow of the late Jesse Smith, of Hannibal, Missouri, and Elias A. The latter was thus orphaned by the death of his mother when he was ten years old and doubly orphaned by that of his father when he was thirteen. Yet, in spite of the malignity of fate that thus bereaved him, he was able to secure a good education in the district schools of Shelby county and the high school in Shelbyville. But he was obliged to make his own way in the world from an early age, and he began his progress up the steep incline toward prosperity by working out as a hired hand on farms in the state of Illinois, which he did for a period of eighteen months.

Mr. McBride was industrious and frugal, and used every opportunity available to him to advance his fortunes, and at the end of the period named, he returned to Shelby county, Missouri, and took up his residence on a farm of 120 acres near Shelbyville. He now lives on one of 240 acres in the same locality. He has farmed his land vigorously and skillfully and has made it highly productive. And his success in developing it and enlarging his own prosperity, while the progress was slow and painful at first, has been continuous and considerable. He has also taken an earnest interest and an active part in helping to build up and improve his township and county, and is regarded as one of their most worthy and estimable citizens. In politics he is a Republican, in fraternal life an Odd Fellow, and in religion a member of Missionary Baptist church. On October 4, 1874, he was married to Miss Agnes Forman, a native of this

county. They have had four children, three of whom are living: Ernest H. and Everett T., prosperous citizens of Shelby county, and Emmet C., who is still living at home with his parents. Ely E. died on August 23, 1909, aged twelve years. Mrs. McBride died October 31, 1906. No persons in the county stand higher in public esteem than the members of this excellent family.

ROBERT EDGAR TAYLOR.

The son of an extensive live stock breeder and shipper, and who was also extensively engaged in farming, and himself occupied from the dawn of his manhood in the same lines of activity, with steadily increasing success, Robert Edgar Taylor, of Black Creek township, has contributed materially and effectively, in himself and through his parents, to the growth and development of Shelby county and its consequence, influence and power in the productive and commercial life of the state. The part his parents took in this commendable work is, however, by no means to be considered only on his account, nor is his part to be regarded only in connection with theirs. For each is worthy in itself of honorable mention, without reference to the other, as each has been considerable in magnitude and importance.

Mr. Taylor was born in this county on July 11, 1868, and is a son of Robert James and Louisa (Frye) Taylor, natives of Virginia, where their forefathers lived for generations. The father came to Missouri in 1849 and settled on a farm of 280 acres near Shelby-