

the wife of Edward Achuff, of Gallatin, Missouri; James E.; Sallie Belle, the wife of W. S. Eller, of Mexico, Missouri; Lelia M., the wife of Ripley Spencer, who lives in Shelby county; and Mrs. Bird Estes, a resident of Shelbina, who married Dr. Selsor, also of Shelbina, in the fall of 1910.

Mr. Ragsdale is nearing the limit of human life fixed by the Psalmist, but he is yet hale, vigorous and energetic. Whether there be much or little of an earthly career vouchsafed to him yet, the sunset of his day is mild and benignant, and the retrospect of its period of toil and trial must be pleasing to him. For he has lived acceptably and usefully, and can now see blooming and bearing fruit around him the progress and development of a great commonwealth to whose advancement he has essentially contributed, and many valued institutions which he has helped to found and has sustained and fostered with assiduous devotion and commendable generosity. He has lived for the community and its people, even while most industriously pushing forward his own fortunes, and their appreciation of his career is shown by the universal esteem with which they regard him and his family.

JOHN S. MILES.

From his youth John S. Miles, who is now one of the leading merchants of Shelbina, has been connected with the mercantile life of the city. All the activities of his life in business have been given to that line of endeavor, and as he started in it with natural aptitude for its requirements and has had his faculties

trained and developed in long experience, it is not surprising that he has succeeded and now stands in the front rank among the business men of this part of the state.

Mr. Miles was born in Monroe county, this state, on April 19, 1864, and is a son of William F. and Nancy W. (Jackson) Miles, natives of Kentucky. The father passed many years of his life in his native state, coming to Missouri in 1849 with a colony of Kentuckians, who located near Paris, in the adjoining county of Monroe. There the father reared his family and passed his time in farming and raising live stock until 1866, when he sold the farm and moved to Shelbina, retiring from all active pursuits. He was married to Miss Nancy W. Jackson, a Kentuckian by birth and belonging to families long resident in that state. Mr. and Mrs. Miles became the parents of six children, three of whom are living—R. E., a resident of Santa Ana, California; Susie, the wife of N. H. Langford, of Hannibal, Missouri; and John S., who still lives at Shelbina. The father is an ardent Democrat in political allegiance and adheres to the principles of his party with steadfast loyalty, giving it active and effective aid in all its campaigns. His church relations are with the Baptists.

John S. Miles obtained his education in the public schools of Shelbina, and having a decided turn toward merchandising, left school early to follow the path in life which nature and his own predilection seemed to have marked out for him. He began his mercantile career as a clerk and salesman in a hardware store, to which he rendered faithful

service for three years, using all his opportunities and facilities in learning the business in detail and the ins and outs of mercantile life in general. He then clerked in the clothing establishment of Thompson & Miles until 1892, all the while expanding his knowledge of business, his acquaintance with men and his general intelligence concerning mercantile pursuits.

In 1892 he formed a partnership with his older brother under the firm name of R. E. Miles & Bro., and during the next sixteen years they were extensively engaged in the clothing trade with great benefit to the community and considerable profit to themselves. In 1908 the store and business was sold to W. H. Hanly, and Mr. Miles formed a new association in the same line of trade with T. F. Bates, with whom he is still connected and carrying on a vigorous and flourishing business, the firm being known as Miles & Bates.

Mr. Miles is a man of substance and connected with a number of business enterprises in the city and surrounding country, among them being the Old Bank of Shelbina, of which he is one of the stockholders. His political faith is fixed on the principles of the Democratic party, whose campaigns always enlist his attention and bring forth his active efforts for success, although he has no ambition for official station or public life for himself. Fraternally he is a Knight of Pythias, and in religion he and his wife belong to the Baptist church. He is a zealous worker for both his fraternal order and his church, and both enjoy the benefit of his helpful zeal and energy. On October 19, 1892, he was married to

Miss Lillian D. Sparks, of Shelbina. They have one child, their daughter Adaline, who is the light and life of their pleasant home.

JOHN T. BAILEY.

Almost from his boyhood John T. Bailey, of Shelbina, who is one of the leading business men of the city, has been contributing to the enjoyment of the people among whom he has lived, long as a teacher of vocal music and for nearly a quarter of a century as a dealer in musical instruments. All living in his range who find pleasure in the "concord of sweet sounds" have been indebted to him for many a soothing or a stirring entertainment and have ever been willing to acknowledge the obligation. He is now conducting also a flourishing business in undertaking and embalming, in which he has been interested since 1892.

Mr. Bailey was born in Monroe county, in this state, on September 25, 1851, and is a son of Tilmon O. and Sarah A. (Stalcup) Bailey, the former born in Harrison county, Kentucky, and the latter in Virginia. The father's life began on October 29, 1822, and the first twenty-one years of it were passed in his native state, where he obtained his education and fitted himself for the active duties of progressive farming, which was his occupation until he retired from all active pursuits in 1904. He left the home of his childhood and youth as soon as he reached his majority and strode with confident step into the wilderness of the farther West with a view to making a home and a name for himself, daring the dangers and privations of the frontier