

esteemed by them as a citizen and venerated as a patriarch. He has richly earned the rest he now enjoys after his long day of toil and trial, and is fully entitled to the mildness and benignity of his life's evening. And by the uprightness and usefulness of his residence among them he has fairly won the entire regard and good will of the people of Shelby county. They recognize this fact and freely accord him the prominence as one of their leading men his merit has brought him.

#### JOHN NEUSCHAFFER.

The late John Neuschafer, whose untimely death on October 5, 1888, cut short a luminous career full of usefulness to the community in which he lived; was a native of Hesse Cassel, Germany, born on January 11, 1839. He came to the United States in 1868 and at once located in Shelby county, Missouri, in a German colony established here, where he found many of the customs and characteristics of his native land and people of tastes, habits and aspirations kindred with his own. The German Lutheran settlement in which he took up his residence was essentially a farming community and as he had been trained to the pursuit its people followed, he entered upon it with energy and spirit in their midst.

Mr. Neuschafer bought land and was actively and profitably engaged in cultivating, developing and improving it, with gratifying present success and great future promise, when death ended him and his useful labors at the early age of forty-nine years. But, during the twenty years of his residence in this

county he gave abundant proof of his skill and good judgment as a farmer and his uprightness and public spirit as a citizen, becoming as warmly attached to the land of his adoption as he was to that of his nativity, and taking an earnest and helpful interest in all its public affairs—civil, educational and religious institutions and its industrial and commercial activities and contributing his full share to their advancement, according to the measure of his capacity and opportunities. He was very successful in his own affairs, beginning work here on a farm of 100 acres and ending his life on that farm enlarged to 356 acres.

On December 14, 1869, Mr. Neuschafer was united in marriage with Miss Catherine Reinheimer, a German, like himself, but born and reared in Australia, where her life began on November 1, 1851. They became the parents of eleven children, and all of them are living and own their own homes in Shelby county. In their several stations and localities they carry out the teachings of the family fireside around which they grew to maturity, following with fidelity the excellent example given them by their parents and adding not only to the wealth and material strength of the county, but also to the power, sterling worth and progressive spirit of its citizenship. They are: Mary, the wife of Henry Von Thun; Elizabeth, the wife of Harmon Rathjen; Louise, the wife of Philip Keller; Emma, the wife of Christian Prange; Henry; Sarah, the wife of John Werr; Anna, the wife of William Claussen; Peter; Catherine, the wife of Albert Kuehner; Louis and John.

The father served as road overseer

for a number of years, and in many other ways manifested his cordial and serviceable interest in the community. He belonged to the Lutheran church and took an active part in promoting its progress, as does his widow, who is still living on the old homestead. He was an ardent Republican in politics and gave his party energetic and effective service, and, although deeply interested in his own affairs, never neglected those of the locality in which he lived. His father, Jacob Neuschafer, passed the whole of his life in Germany, where his forefathers lived for many generations. He was the father of six children, all now deceased.

Mr. Neuschafer was one of the most esteemed citizens of Black Creek township. He was enterprising, progressive and broad in his views, and was an inspiring force in his community, both through his own activity and the forces he stimulated to action and helped to direct into proper channels in others. His memory is embalmed in the lasting regard of his township as one of its most estimable and worthy citizens.

#### THOMAS E. PRIEST.

Young in years, as the statistical analyst counts age, but in full touch with the progress and aspirations of the times, and therefore of the proper make-up and caliber for any time in which his lot might have been cast; of an ancestry springing from the heroic age of our country's history, yet depending wholly on his own resources and capabilities, and therefore up to the requirements of any age, and under any circumstances wholly and sincerely a scion and repre-

sentative of Missouri and Shelby county of the present day, Thomas E. Priest, of Black Creek township is well worthy of a place in a work purporting to record the achievements and indicate or suggest the promise of the future of this portion of the middle West.

Mr. Priest is a native of Shelby county, born on June 6, 1885, and the son of William L. and Anna S. (Vandiver) Priest, the former also a native of this county and the latter of Virginia. He began his education in the district schools of Shelby county and completed it at a graded school in Shelbyville. After leaving school he worked on his father's farm and assisted the family until April 9, 1905, when he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Reinheimer, a native of this county, born on August 3, 1885, and daughter of Charles and Emma Reinheimer, well known and highly respected residents of the county.

Directly after his marriage Mr. Priest bought 185 acres of land and on that has been energetically and successfully engaged in farming and raising live stock ever since. His operations in both lines of his productive industry have been extensive and have been conducted with judgment and skill. He is studious of his business and ever on the alert to take advantage of any suggestion extensive reading of the best agricultural and stock publications or the lessons of experience given him, and so keeps his business up to date in every respect. He is accounted one of the most advanced and progressive farmers and stock men in his township and well deserves his rank. Two children have been born in this household, his daughters Myra C. and