

mercial benefits. For many years he has given his attention in the stock industry to raising, feeding and dealing in fancy live stock, and he is now known prominently and favorably for the character of his output in all the alert and commanding stock markets of the country, and in some other countries as well. His farm at present comprises 326 acres of superior land, which has been developed by every means known to advanced agriculture and improved with judgment and good taste.

On November 28, 1888, he was married to Miss Bertie Blackburn, a daughter of Samuel Blackburn, now county judge of Shelby county. They have had five children, two of whom are living, Horace T. and Mary M., both residents of Shelby county. The father is a Democrat politically, and belongs to the Court of Honor and the Brotherhood of America fraternally, and takes a cordial interest in all these organizations.

MELCHIOR NOLL.

The great empire of Germany has contributed to the complex social fabric of the United States a most valuable element of citizenship, and from this source our nation has had much to gain and nothing to lose. The sturdy equipoise, practical judgment and well-directed industry that characterizes our citizens of German birth or lineage act as a balance wheel in connection with the adjustment of civic and industrial activities, and even the most casual observer cannot fail to note that thrift and prosperity are in evidence wherever the average citizen

of German extraction and training directs his energies.

Melchior Noll, the only representative of his immediate family in the state of Missouri, is one of the substantial and honored citizens of Shelby county and is a successful business man of the thriving little village of Bethel, where he is engaged in contracting as a brick mason and where he has maintained his home for more than thirty-five years, ever commanding the most unequivocal confidence and esteem in the community.

Mr. Noll was born in Keibersdorf, Germany, on January 6, 1848, and is a son of Melchior and Madeline (Christ) Noll, both of whom passed their entire lives in Germany, where the father followed the vocation of farming during the major portion of his active career. Of the seven children two of the number are residents of America, the subject of this review being the only representative in Missouri, as previously stated. Mr. Noll was reared and educated in Germany, and in 1872, when twenty-three years of age, he severed the gracious ties that bound him to home and fatherland and set forth to win for himself such benefices as could be wrested from the hands of fortune under the auspicious conditions existing in America. He had little in the way of financial resources, but was endowed with ambition, sterling integrity of purpose, diligence and self reliance, so that he came to the new world with an equipment equal to that of many others of his countrymen who have here achieved success and independence. Soon after his arrival in America Mr. Noll made his way westward, and in the sum-

mer of 1871 he settled in Hannibal, Missouri, in which city he continued to reside until the spring of the following year, when he came to Shelby county and took up his abode in Shelbina, where he followed his trade of brick mason until 1874, when he established his permanent home in Bethel, where he has gained a large measure of success through his well-directed efforts as a contractor in the line of his trade, having erected many of the best buildings in this part of the county and also having done a large amount of other contract structural work. His career has been marked by indefatigable industry and judicious employment of the agencies at his command, the while he has been guided and governed by those high principles of integrity and honor that ever beget popular confidence and esteem. He is one of the stockholders of the Bank of Bethel and is a valued member of its directorate, and he is also the owner of a considerable amount of improved real estate in his home village, including his attractive and commodious residence. In politics, though never a seeker of official preferment, he is aligned as a staunch supporter of the cause of the Democratic party, and both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. He is affiliated with Bethel Lodge, No. 537, Free and Accepted Masons.

In the year 1879 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Noll to Miss Emily Will, daughter of the late Nicholas Will, of Bethel, and of their seven children five are living, namely: Sophia, who is the wife of George Keefe, of Marysville, this state; Julius and William, who are

residents of Bethel; Ella, who now resides in Marysville; and Frank, who remains at the paternal home. Mrs. Emily (Will) Noll was summoned to the life eternal in July, 1897, and on November 28, 1899, Mr. Noll was married to Mrs. Alvina C. Arnold, of Bethel, a daughter of George Fahler, who was a well known citizen of Lewis county.

JAMES G. BLACKFORD.

Having enlisted in the Federal army in defense of the Union when he was but eighteen years old and passed the next three years in active service, in which he faced death on many a well fought field of conflict, James G. Blackford, now one of the prosperous and progressive farmers of Jackson township, in this county, began life for himself under conditions of great danger, privation and arduous exactions. He met the requirements of those conditions with manliness and fidelity, and in their stern discipline acquired both self-control and self-knowledge which have been of great value to him throughout all his subsequent years.

Mr. Blackford was born in this county on April 13, 1844, and is a grandson of Benjamin Blackford, a native of Kentucky, and a son of James M. Blackford, who was also a native of that state, born in 1810. The father came to Missouri among the early settlers and located in Marion county, where he remained until 1832. He then moved to Shelby county, and there he was actively and successfully engaged in farming and raising stock until his death. He was one of the leading men in his township and es-