

children were born of this union, four of whom are living, William, John H., Tandy G. and Mary E., the wife of S. Bragg, of Bethel. The father was a Whig in politics. His death occurred in 1851 and that of the mother on August 7, 1891.

Their son John H. began his education in the district schools of this county and completed it at a high school. Since leaving school he has been continuously and energetically engaged in farming and raising stock, and by industry and good management has become one of the most extensive farmers in the county. He owns over 1,200 acres of land, which is of good quality and the greater part of it is under advanced and skillful cultivation. The stock industry connected with the farming operations is also extensive and conducted with great enterprise and excellent judgment. Mr. Moore is also a leading stockholder in the Shelby County Railroad Company and has other interests of value in the county and elsewhere.

On July 15, 1879, he was united in marriage with Miss Nannie Moran, a daughter of Solon and Mary Winifred (Martin) Moran, natives of Madison county, Kentucky, who came to Missouri when their daughter, now Mrs. Moore, was but six months old. By her marriage to Mr. Moore she has become the mother of eight children, seven of whom are living—Mary Edna, the wife of Walter Singleton; James C., Lulu D., Hattie, Lucy R., John, Jr., and Frankie, the wife of Charles E. Baldwin, of Knox county, Missouri. In politics the father is an active, working Democrat, always zealous and effective in the service of

his party, but never desirous of official station of any kind, although he, has served on the school board for a period of over twenty-five years. He does not belong to any fraternal or social organization, but is a devoted and serviceable member of the Baptist church. He has been very successful and always manifested a lively and helpful interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of his township and county. He is looked upon as a model farmer of large enterprise and great progressiveness and is universally esteemed as a citizen and a man correct in his demeanor in every relation of life. And as he has passed all the years of his life in the locality of his present home the people around him have full knowledge of his worth.

#### RICHARD O'DONNELL.

This prosperous and highly respected retired farmer of Shelby county, whose well improved and skillfully cultivated farm of eighty acres lies in Salt River township, is a good illustration of the adaptability of the Irish race and its readiness to grapple with any condition in life and secure advancement if given a fair chance. He came to this country after going from his native land to Australia and passing a few years there. He had practically nothing when he came, but the qualities of pluck, perseverance and shrewdness, with which nature had endowed him, and he is now a man of substance, with a comfortable competence for life and stands high in the esteem of all who know him.

Mr. O'Donnell was born in Ireland on September 15, 1833. His father, John

O'Donnell, and his grandfather, Richard O'Donnell, were also natives of the Emerald Isle, and there their forefathers lived many generations. The father came to the United States in 1845 and located in New York City, but three years later returned to Ireland, and there passed the balance of his life. He was a stone mason by occupation and did well at his trade. He was married in 1832 to Miss Mary Shea, also of Ireland, and they had six children.

Richard O'Donnell obtained his education in Ireland and passed the years of his early manhood in Australia, where he was engaged in building bridges and saw mills. It was natural that he should seek better opportunities away from his native heath than the political and social conditions in his own country afforded, and as Australia was a new and progressive land, with seeming abundance of opportunity for a poor but ambitious young man, he went there. And the qualities of head and hand and heart which he possessed, which would have won him success almost anywhere, were serviceable to him there. But still he hankered for America, and in 1877 he came to this country and found a home in Chicago, where he worked six months. He then moved to Shelby county and located on the farm in Salt River township on which he now lives, and on which he was actively and profitably engaged in farming and raising live stock until his retirement from active work in 1904.

Mr. O'Donnell's farm comprises eighty acres of good land and is well improved. He applied to its cultivation while he was in charge of it the intelligence he had gained in his extensive and

varied experience, and also what he had gained in study and from observation and reflection, and he brought it to a high state of fertility and productiveness. It is now farmed by tenants, but Mr. O'Donnell still supervises the farming, and the same care and systematic work that he performed is the rule governing all its operations, and the standard of excellence in farming set up by him still prevails in every feature of what is done on the place.

Mr. O'Donnell was married in 1870 to Miss Jane Cross, also a native of Ireland. They have had eight children, six of whom are living, and all residents of Shelby county. They are: John, also a prosperous farmer; Thomas, who resides in Shelbina; Richard, Jr.; Mary, the widow of Eugene Bailey; Eugene, who is a farmer of this county; and Evelyn, who is at home with her parents. The father is a pronounced Democrat in his political faith and allegiance, and his religious connection is with the Catholic church, of which he is a devout and faithful member.

#### JOHN F. SPARKS.

Born of one of the sturdy strains of Virginia yeomanry on his father's side of the house, his paternal grandfather, Robert Sparks, having been a product of old families in the Old Dominion, and of Kentucky parentage on both sides, John F. Sparks, of Salt River township, in this county, has reproduced in his own career on the soil of Missouri the best historical and traditional life features of his ancestry in the two older states of the South, and shown that whatever the