

agriculturist by purchasing forty acres of land in section 27, Bethel township, to which he has since added thirty acres lying contiguous, and here he has labored indefatigably and with marked judgment in the developing of one of the excellent farms of this section of the county, all of his land being available for cultivation. He gives his attention to diversified agriculture and stock raising, is enterprising and aggressive in his endeavors and has won his success through worthy means. He takes a loyal interest in all that concerns the welfare of the community, keeps in touch with matters of public polity and interest, and in politics is aligned as a supporter of the cause of legitimate Socialism. He is affiliated with the lodge of Independent Order of Odd Fellows in the village of Plevna, and both he and his wife are earnest members and regular attendants of the Missionary Baptist church at Mt. Pisgah.

On December 26, 1899, Mr. Van Osdol was united in marriage to Miss Florence Riley, daughter of Valentine and Martha Riley, of Florida, this county, within whose borders she was born and reared. Mr. and Mrs. Van Osdol have one son, Vance, who was born on June 3, 1906.

MORRIS OSBURN.

One of the honored and venerable pioneer citizens of the county, which has been his home from his boyhood days, is Morris Osburn, who resides on his finely improved homestead farm in Taylor township, where he is the owner of 200 acres, located in sections 33 and 27.

Mr. Osburn finds a due measure of

satisfaction in reverting to the historic Old Dominion as the place of his nativity, and the family was founded in Virginia in the colonial days, being of staunch English lineage. In that commonwealth was born his grandfather, Richard Osburn, and there also was born his father, John Osburn, in the year 1803. The father was reared and educated in his native state and was a man of excellent intellectual attainments, having been a successful and popular teacher in the schools of Loudoun county, Virginia, at the time of his death, which occurred in 1833, when he was a young man. In 1826 he was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Van Vactor, who was born and reared in Jefferson county, Virginia, and who survived him by many years, her death occurring in Shelby county, Missouri, in 1865, at which time she was about sixty-four years of age. Of the four children, the subject of this review is the only one now living.

Morris Osburn was born in Loudoun county, Virginia, on December 27, 1831, and in 1835 his widowed mother came to Missouri and took up her abode in Marion county, where she remained until 1838, when she established her permanent home in Shelby county, having passed the closing years of her life in Taylor township, this county. She was a woman of gracious and noble personality and her memory is revered by her only surviving child, to whose care and welfare she was ever devoted. Mr. Osburn is indebted to the district schools of the pioneer days for his early educational discipline and was reared to maturity in Shelby county, which has

continued to represent his home during the long intervening years. He initiated his independent career at the age of seventeen years, and for several years he was employed at farm work by various farmers of his home county. From 1859 until 1862 he conducted a general store at Hager's Grove, and after his marriage, in 1866, he located on his present homestead farm, having originally purchased forty acres, to which he has since added until he now has a well improved landed estate of 200 acres, all of which area is available for cultivation, making the farmstead a model place. For many years Mr. Osburn bent every energy to the improving and developing of his farm, guiding his course with marked discrimination and judgment, and in due time reaping the generous reward that was his just due. Now venerable in years he relegates the practical work of the farm to younger hands, though he still finds much of satisfaction in giving a general supervision to the same. His character has been moulded and formed in the practical school of experience, and he has ever been kindly and generous in his intercourse with his fellow men, tolerant in his judgment and imbued with an impregnable integrity of purpose, so that he has naturally held the unequivocal confidence and esteem of those with whom he has come in contact in the various relations of life. He has been one of the world's gallant army of workers and none has a deeper appreciation of the value and dignity of honest toil and endeavor.

Mr. Osburn is one of the honored and influential citizens of his township, is a stalwart in the local camp of the

Democratic party, and, while never ambitious for public office, he has given effective service as road overseer and school director. He and his wife are zealous and devout members of the Christian church and have been specially active in its work until advancing years have partially precluded this faithful and constant service.

On April 10, 1866, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Osburn to Miss Martha E. Smith, who was born in Harrison county, West Virginia, and reared in Shelby county, where her parents, Charles L. A. and Nancy (Parr) Smith, settled many years ago. Of the six children of Mr. and Mrs. Osburn, four are now living, the other two having died in childhood. Helen F. is the wife of William G. Vandiver, who is a successful farmer of this county; Dewitt C. has the practical management of the home farm; George M. likewise is a successful farmer of this county; and Samuel A. is associated in the work of the homestead farm.

GEORGE W. HALL.

It is gratifying to the editors and publishers of this history to be able to incorporate within its pages a review of the career of this venerable and honored citizen of the county, which has represented his home for more than half a century and been the scene of the earnest and honest endeavors that have gained him independence and enabled him to enjoy generous peace and prosperity as the shadows of his life begin to lengthen from the golden west. He has lived virtually retired on his fine