

In the same township is located the fine farm of his mother, the same comprising 200 acres, and this is operated under his direct supervision and management, being devoted to diversified agriculture and the raising of excellent grades of live stock. Mr. Turner was the first man to bring the famous Hampshire sheep into the state of Missouri, which is now so popular in this section of the country, and is essentially enterprising and progressive in his methods, bringing to bear indefatigable energy and marked discrimination in the forwarding of his farming operations, so that he is able to reap generous rewards from the efforts put forth. He is one of the substantial farmers and representative citizens of his township and is well upholding the prestige of the honored family name which he bears, being held in high regard by all who know him. Though never ambitious for public office he accords a loyal and zealous support to the cause of the Democratic party, and both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, South.

In August, 1889, Mr. Turner was united in marriage to Miss Ruth A. Garrison, who was born and reared in Shelby county and who died in 1887, being survived by one child, Gaynell, who remains at the paternal home. On March 1, 1899, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Turner to Miss Nora Shudy, of Shelbyville, who likewise was born and reared in this county and who is a daughter of Johanna Shudy, a representative citizen of Shelbyville. Mr. and Mrs. Turner have two children—James Francis and Victor Ellis. Mrs. Turner is an active member of the Christian church, giving

her most able support to the religious sect she is most interested in.

S. G. PARSONS.

From her sister county of Monroe on her southern border, Shelby county has received from time to time valued contributions in elevated manhood, fine business capacity and sterling citizenship in every sense of the word. Among them all none has stood higher, been more successful or attained to more general confidence and esteem than S. G. Parsons, the first pioneer of Shelby and long one of the leading merchants of that progressive and enterprising community. He was born at Paris, Monroe county, on August 29, 1843, a son of John N. and Jane M. (Gilbert) Parsons, the former a native of Frederick county, Maryland, and the latter of Virginia.

The father was born on July 24, 1804, and although a native of Maryland, was reared and educated in Virginia, where his grandfather lived. He came to Missouri in 1829 and located in St. Louis, where he worked at his trade as a carpenter and found a great demand for his services. He helped to build the courthouse of that day and many other imposing structures in that city. In 1832 he moved to Pike county in this state and there was engaged in the dry goods trade for a period of two years. In 1834 he changed his residence to Monroe county, and during the next four years sold dry goods at Middlegrove. At the end of the period last mentioned he took up his residence at Paris, and there he engaged in merchandising in dry goods until 1854, when he retired from business. He took

a leading part in the local affairs of every community in which he dwelt and was always at the front in all undertakings for the development and improvement of the section. At Paris he helped to found the first bank in the county, and also represented the county in the legislature, being elected as a member in 1858.

It was in Paris also that the golden web of sentiment enmeshed him in its gleaming net. In that city in November, **1842**, he was united in marriage with Mrs. Jane M. Gilbert, who was born in Virginia. They had six children, four of whom are living: S. G. Parsons, of Shelbina, the immediate subject of these paragraphs; Sallie P., the widow of Taylor Thompson, who is now living in Oakland, California; Mary C., the wife of J. A. Dawson, of Chillicothe, Missouri; and Annie E., the wife of R. E. Bodine, of Memphis, Tennessee. In politics the father was a Democrat and in fraternal life a member of the Masonic order. He was very successful in business and left a large estate at his death, which occurred on April 11, 1885, in Shelbina.

S. G. Parsons was reared in Paris and educated in the private schools of his boyhood in that city. At the age of twenty he located at Shelbina and started a dry goods store in-company with Mr. Miller, the firm name being Miller & Parsons. The firm lasted eighteen months. Then Mr. Parsons turned his attention to the grocery trade, with which he has ever since been connected, except during a period of five years, when he gave his time and energies exclusively to farming and raising live stock. He is still engaged in this interesting pursuit, in addition to his merchandising, and finds in it

an agreeable relief from the annoyances and vexations of mercantile life.

His first marriage occurred on May 5, 1865, and was with Miss Mary T. Hanger, a native of Monroe county. They had eight children, seven of whom are living. Jennie T. and Lelia; Kitty Belle, the wife of Lee Francis, of Shelbina; Newton H., who died in 1910; John R., of Kansas City, Missouri; Annie E.; Mary, the wife of Frank Henninger, of Shelbina; and Nellie, the wife of Charles Murphy, who is living in the state of Oregon. He was married a second time in **1904** to Mrs. P. A. Sparks, of Shelbina.

From the dawn of his manhood Mr. Parsons has been a firm and faithful Democrat in political faith and practice. And although he has never sought or desired official station for himself, he has always taken a zealous part in the campaign of his party and given earnest and effective support to its candidates. At the same time he is not a hide-bound or narrow partisan, and never allows his ardent interest in the welfare of his community to be over-borne by political or personal considerations. Living in an age of progress and a section of the country that is making rapid and substantial advances, he is not only in the procession of development and improvement but one of its trusted and influential leaders. Having helped to found the municipality of Shelbina, he has been constant and effective in his efforts to build it up to its highest and best development according to the demands of the time, and has left his impress on every mental, moral and mercantile agency at work among its people. He has found

nothing in which the welfare of the community was involved too small for his attention and nothing too great for his daring. Shelby county has no better, wiser or more progressive citizen, and none who is more generally recognized as a truly representative man of lofty ideals, right purposes and commanding resources. And on all sides he is esteemed in a just estimate of his worth and usefulness.

EDWARD C. SHAIN.

A prominent and influential factor in the financial and business affairs of Shelby county is Edward C. Shain, who was president of the Shelby County Savings Bank, at Clarence, of which institution he was the founder, and of which he was the executive head from the time of its incorporation until he retired in January, 1911. He holds an untarnished reputation as an able and progressive business man and upright and loyal citizen, and such is his high standing in the community that he is eminently entitled to representation in this publication, on other pages of which may also be found a brief record concerning the staunch banking institution of which he was president.

Mr. Shain is a scion of a family that was founded in the Old Dominion state of Virginia in the colonial epoch of our national history, and in that state was born his paternal grandfather, John Shain, who eventually became a pioneer in Kentucky, and who continued to reside in that state until 1830, when he removed to Sangamon county, Illinois, and died there. William Shain, father

of him whose name initiates this sketch, was born in Kentucky in November, 1803, and there was reared to manhood, receiving such educational advantages as were afforded in the locality and period. He in turn gained a full quota of experience as a pioneer, having come to Missouri in the year 1824, and having first settled in Randolph county, where he developed a farm, and where he continued to be identified with agricultural pursuits and stock-growing for a decade, at the expiration of which, in 1834, he removed to Macon county, this state, where he became the owner of a good farm, and where he passed the residue of his life. He retired from active labors in 1870 and continued to reside on his old homestead until his death, which occurred in March, 1882. He had the distinction of being the first incumbent of the office of deputy sheriff and collector of Macon, Schuyler and Adair counties, all of which were then included in Macon county, and of this dual office he continued in tenure for a period of four years. He was a staunch Democrat in his political proclivities, and both he and his wife were zealous and consistent members of the Baptist church. Mrs. Shain likewise was a native of Kentucky, and her maiden name was Catherine Smoot. She was summoned to the life eternal in 1877, and her memory is revered by all who came within the sphere of her gentle and gracious influence. Of the twelve children, seven are living, and concerning them the following brief record is entered for consistent perpetuation in this article: Bettie Jane is the widow of John Griffin, of Tishomingo, Oklahoma; Edward C. is the im-