

were early settlers of this county, the father having been a native of Kentucky and the mother of Virginia. As already stated, Mrs. Glahn survives her honored husband, as do also eleven of their children. Concerning the children the following brief record is given as a fitting conclusion of this brief memoir: Benjamin F. is engaged in the practice of law in the village of Palmyra, Marion county; Fannie is the wife of Robert Ray, a farmer of this county; Christian P. is engaged in the practice of medicine at Palmyra; Charles E., James O. and Ernest are associated in the management of the home farm; Mary is the wife of Stephen A. Bryant, of Cleveland, Oklahoma; and Alma, Ethel, Milton and Gertrude remain with their mother on the old homestead.

JOHN PEOPLES.

This venerable and honored citizen, who resided on his fine homestead farm in section 29, Taylor township, was a resident of Shelby county from his childhood days and was a member of one of its sterling pioneer families, of which detailed mention is made in the sketch of the career of his brother, William Z. T. Peoples, on other pages of this work, so that a repetition of the data is not demanded in the present connection. Mr. Peoples lived retired for a number of years, after having devoted a long period to the great basic industry of agriculture, in connection with which he gained definite success and prosperity, as is attested by his ownership of the valuable homestead on which he resided until his death on January 11, 1911.

John Peoples was a native of Sullivan county, Tennessee, where he was born on September 6, 1833, and he was a child of about six years at the time of the family removal to Missouri, his parents first settling in Marion county, whence they removed to Shelby county about one year later. Here he was reared to maturity under the invigorating and somewhat strenuous discipline of the pioneer farm, in Taylor township, in whose primitive schools he gained his limited educational training. He often recalled the scenes, conditions and incidents of the days when this section was practically a wilderness, and he assisted in the breaking of many acres of the fine prairie land, in which connection he contributed materially to the development of the county in which he continued to maintain his home through the long intervening years, marked by the upbuilding of one of the most prosperous and attractive sections of the state. In 1861 Mr. Peoples initiated his independent career as a farmer and stock-grower, and in this line of enterprise he labored earnestly and effectively, so that he was not denied a due recompense. He lived virtually retired since 1885, and his homestead farm, equipped with substantial improvements and under effective cultivation, comprises 183 acres, which he disposed of in 1909.

Mr. Peoples gave his support to the enterprises and objects that have conserved industrial and civic progress, and his influence in the community was ever on the right side, as he was a man of inflexible integrity and honor, of mature judgment and of strong mentality. In politics he was aligned as a staunch ad-

vocate of the principles and policies of the Democratic party. He held membership in the Grange, and was a zealous member of the Christian church at Leonard, in which he had been an elder for many years. At the time of the Civil war he served about six months in the state militia.

In 1860 was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Peoples to Miss Minerva Patton, who was born in Kentucky, from whence her parents came to Missouri when she was a child. She died in 1865, and of her two children one is living, Eldridge, who is a successful farmer of Custer county, Nebraska. In 1868 Mr. Peoples contracted a second marriage, being then united to Miss Amanda Fink, who was born in Shelby county, where her father, the late John Fink, was an early settler. Of the seven children of this union four are now living: William, a resident of Shelbyville; Christine, wife of George Jarrell, of this county; Laura, wife of Louis Perry, of Shelby county; and John, who is identified with agricultural pursuits in this county. The mother of these children died August 6, 1881.

BENJAMIN F. VAN VACTER.

This well known and highly esteemed business man and influential citizen of the village of Leonard, where he is engaged in the real estate business, is a native of Shelby county and a scion of one of its sterling pioneer families, as his father, Benjamin Van Vacter, here took up his abode more than eighty years ago, having settled in Taylor township when this section was a veritable wilderness, wild game being plentiful and pro-

viding much for the larders of the sturdy pioneers, whose slumbers were often interrupted by the howls of the predatory wolves. The subject of this sketch recalls many of the scenes and conditions of the pioneer epoch, and he has not only witnessed but has also assisted in the development of this county into one of the most attractive and prosperous in the great state of Missouri.

Mr. Van Vacter was born on the old homestead of his father, in Taylor township, this county, one mile east of the present village of Leonard, February 5, 1846. His father was born in Jefferson county, Virginia, of staunch Holland Dutch ancestry, in the year 1797, and he was reared to maturity in the historic Old Dominion state, where he continued to reside and where he followed agricultural pursuits until 1837, when he set forth for the wilds of the far West, as Missouri was then considered on the very frontier. Soon after his arrival in this state he came to Shelby county, which at that time had very few settlers, and here he entered claim to 400 acres of government land, the entire tract being in a state of primitive wildness. He here set himself vigorously to the strenuous work of reclaiming his land to cultivation and in due time he developed one of the productive farms of the county, continuing to reside on his homestead, one mile east of Leonard, until his death, which occurred in February, 1866. He was one of the honored and influential citizens of this section of the country, honest and straightforward in all the relations of life, industrious and energetic, and possessed of strong mentality and individuality, so that he was not denied