

passed his majority in age he traveled considerably, and finally located in this county as one of the most desirable regions he had seen for his purposes. He was a stonemason and worked at his trade in many localities. After settling in Shelby county he purchased some land and farmed in connection with his mechanical industry for a number of years, then gave up the trade and devoted himself exclusively to farming and raising stock until his death, which occurred in 1893. His wife died in 1875. They had one child, their son, George W. The father was a Democrat in political faith and he and his wife belonged to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Their son G. W., who has passed the whole of his life to the present time in this county, was educated in its district schools. After completing their course of instruction he worked on his father's farm and assisted the family until the death of his parents. He has since been active and constant in his work as a farmer and stock man, and by close attention to his business, and judicious judgment of it has made a great success of it. His farm comprises 180 acres of superior land and he has the greater part of it under excellent cultivation. He is a skillful farmer and a careful and studious stock-raiser, and he makes both industries minister to his advantage. His farm is well improved and fully provided with the necessary appliances for its successful tillage, and he has one of the most attractive and valuable country homes in his township.

Mr. Moore has not neglected the interests of his township and county while building his own fortunes. He has been

energetic and enterprising in aiding all commendable public improvements and worthy undertakings for the development and advancement of his locality. In politics he is a firm and faithful Democrat, with great interest in the success of his party and effective activity in promoting it. He is regarded on all sides as a very worthy and useful citizen and enjoys the esteem of all who know him. He was married on May 3, 1877, to Miss Elizabeth Perry, a daughter of B. F. and Margaret (Carroll) Perry, well known and highly respected residents of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Moore have had six children and four of them are living: Magazine, the wife of Don McIntyre, of Shelby county; and Mollie, George T. and Dulcie, all of whom are still living at home with their parents.

#### BENJAMIN F. PERRY.

The life story of this successful farmer and valued citizen of Shelby county, who lives in Lentner township, and is now retired from active pursuits, if written out in full would form a narrative of thrilling adventure, considerable romance and variety of feature and tragical experiences, followed by gratifying success in his business and the esteem and good will of the people among whom he has lived and labored during the last forty-four years, and to whom he has demonstrated his worth and his title to their regard by his industry and prosperity as a farmer and his usefulness as a man.

Mr. Perry was born in Morgan county, Indiana, on August 25, 1827. His father, William Perry, was a native of Kentucky. And in that state his grand-

father, whose name was William, also first saw the light of this world. The father settled in Morgan county, Indiana, at an early day and died there in 1839. He was an extensive farmer, owning and cultivating with success and profit a quarter section of land. He was married in Indiana to Miss Elsie Ennis, a native of Pennsylvania, and they became the parents of seven children, of whom the only one now living is Benjamin F., the interesting and venerable subject of these paragraphs.

Benjamin F. Perry had no opportunities whatever for attending school. In his boyhood and youth the family lived in a new country and had to endure the hardships and privations of pioneers. Every available force was required to aid in the development and cultivation of the land, and like the sons of other pioneers, Mr. Perry was obliged to do his part of the farm work from a very early age, while before beginning that the unsettled condition of the country made schools scarce and there was danger to young children who attended them. He worked on the home farm and assisted the family until 1843, often hiring out as a hand to other farmers in the neighborhood. This sturdy and laborious life deprived him of all chance for mental training in the schools, but it developed his body, giving him vigor and suppleness of frame, and it also cultivated in him a spirit of daring and self reliance and awakened in him a desire for travel and adventure.

In the year last named, when he was but sixteen years old, he began a season of wandering from place to place which lasted six years. At the end of that

period he married and settled down in Indiana. But the longing for variety of surroundings and conditions would not be stilled, and after two years of quiet life in his native state he procured a team and house wagon and during the next fifteen years journeyed through many states working on farms. In 1866 he came to Shelby county and bought land on which he has ever since been living and until 1904 was energetically engaged in farming. In that year he gave up active work, dividing among his children the 300 acres of land which he had acquired, all except thirty-seven acres, which he retained for his own use.

During the Civil war he refused to take either side of the sectional controversy and was persecuted by the partisans of both, losing everything he possessed, and then left the region of his losses and sought a location free from the danger of further persecution. He was married in 1848 to Miss Margaret Carroll, a resident of Indiana. Of the ten children born to them eight are living: Jerusha, the wife of Louis Perry, of Nebraska; Alexander, whose home is in Kansas City, Missouri; Nannie Elizabeth, the wife of G. W. Moore, of this county, a sketch of whom will be found in this volume; Savannah, the wife of George Coonrod, of Shelby county; Benjamin and William, who live in this county; Margaret, the wife of Homer Kendall, of Oglesby, Illinois; and Eliota, the wife of I. Kite, of Anabel, Missouri.

Having reached the age of eighty-three years and lived acceptably and serviceably more than half of that period among this people, with an enduring and helpful interest in their welfare, Mr. Perry is

esteemed by them as a citizen and venerated as a patriarch. He has richly earned the rest he now enjoys after his long day of toil and trial, and is fully entitled to the mildness and benignity of his life's evening. And by the uprightness and usefulness of his residence among them he has fairly won the entire regard and good will of the people of Shelby county. They recognize this fact and freely accord him the prominence as one of their leading men his merit has brought him.

#### JOHN NEUSCHAFFER.

The late John Neuschafer, whose untimely death on October 5, 1888, cut short a luminous career full of usefulness to the community in which he lived; was a native of Hesse Cassel, Germany, born on January 11, 1839. He came to the United States in 1868 and at once located in Shelby county, Missouri, in a German colony established here, where he found many of the customs and characteristics of his native land and people of tastes, habits and aspirations kindred with his own. The German Lutheran settlement in which he took up his residence was essentially a farming community and as he had been trained to the pursuit its people followed, he entered upon it with energy and spirit in their midst.

Mr. Neuschafer bought land and was actively and profitably engaged in cultivating, developing and improving it, with gratifying present success and great future promise, when death ended him and his useful labors at the early age of forty-nine years. But, during the twenty years of his residence in this

county he gave abundant proof of his skill and good judgment as a farmer and his uprightness and public spirit as a citizen, becoming as warmly attached to the land of his adoption as he was to that of his nativity, and taking an earnest and helpful interest in all its public affairs—civil, educational and religious institutions and its industrial and commercial activities and contributing his full share to their advancement, according to the measure of his capacity and opportunities. He was very successful in his own affairs, beginning work here on a farm of 100 acres and ending his life on that farm enlarged to 356 acres.

On December 14, 1869, Mr. Neuschafer was united in marriage with Miss Catherine Reinheimer, a German, like himself, but born and reared in Australia, where her life began on November 1, 1851. They became the parents of eleven children, and all of them are living and own their own homes in Shelby county. In their several stations and localities they carry out the teachings of the family fireside around which they grew to maturity, following with fidelity the excellent example given them by their parents and adding not only to the wealth and material strength of the county, but also to the power, sterling worth and progressive spirit of its citizenship. They are: Mary, the wife of Henry Von Thun; Elizabeth, the wife of Harmon Rathjen; Louise, the wife of Philip Keller; Emma, the wife of Christian Prange; Henry; Sarah, the wife of John Werr; Anna, the wife of William Claussen; Peter; Catherine, the wife of Albert Kuehner; Louis and John.

The father served as road overseer