

JOHN T. PERRY.

Judge Perry is another of the honored citizens contributed to Shelby county by the fine old Bluegrass state, whence have come many whose names have been prominently identified with the annals of Missouri history. Judge Perry has followed various lines of activity and has ever stood representative of the most loyal and useful citizenship. He served on the bench of the County court for six years, has held the office of county clerk for twelve years, and is at the present time (1909) representative of Shelby county in the state legislature, to which he was elected in the autumn of 1908. As a lawyer, judge, teacher in the public schools and business man he has acquitted himself well, and the diversity of his services bears evidence of his versatility and also stands as voucher of the trust reposed in him in the county which has represented his home for more than thirty-eight years. He is now living virtually retired in the city of Shelbyville.

Judge Perry is a native of Anderson county, Kentucky, where he was born on July 22, 1850, and he is a scion of a family early founded in Virginia, the fine Old Dominion that cradled so much of our national history. In that state was born his grandfather, William Perry, who was a youth at the time of the family removal to Kentucky, with whose pioneer history the name became intimately identified. The judge is a son of Berry and Polly (Searcy) Perry, both of whom were born and reared in Kentucky, where their marriage was solemnized in the year 1849. The father was born on June 7, 1826, and is still

living, maintaining his home with his son Alfred on the old farmstead which he secured nearly forty years ago and which has since continued as his place of abode. He has attained to the venerable age of nearly eighty-four years and is admirably preserved in both his mental and physical faculties, while he has the respect and esteem that have been gained by righteousness of life and that are the grateful concomitants of worthy old age. His cherished and devoted wife died in September 1898. Berry Perry devoted practically his entire active career to the great basic industry of agriculture, with the allied enterprise of stock-growing. He came to Missouri in the year 1871 and purchased a farm in Jackson township, Shelby county, where he continued to be successfully engaged in general farming and stock-growing until 1895, when he sold his farm to his son Alfred, who now operates the same. He, himself, continued to reside on the homestead, as already noted. He is an honored veteran of the Mexican war, in which he served in the command of Gen. Zachary Taylor, and in the company of which John H. McBrier was captain. This Kentucky regiment saw much active service and he continued with the same until the battle of Buena Vista, in which he was so severely wounded as to incapacitate him for further service, whereupon he was granted his honorable discharge. During the Civil war his sympathies were with the cause of the South. He is one of the now comparatively few Mexican war veterans still living in Missouri. In politics he has ever rendered a staunch allegiance to the Democratic party, and he has long

been a consistent member of the Baptist church, of which his wife also was a devout adherent. They became the parents of twelve children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the eldest of the six now living: George W., now deceased, was a resident of Hunnewell, this state; Alfred resides on the old homestead, as already stated; William is a resident of Eneho, Oklahoma; Sarah Belle is the wife of Wesley Barker, of Shelby county; Charles is now a resident of Oakdale; and Nannie G. is the wife of William F. Kincheloe, of Shelby county, Missouri.

John T. Perry, the immediate subject of this review, received his educational discipline in the public schools of his native county, including a course in the special school of higher academic order maintained in the Camden district. That he did not neglect the advantages thus afforded him is evidenced in the fact that he became a successful teacher, having been employed as such in the common schools of his native state from 1867 until 1872, in which latter year he joined his parents in Missouri. Thereafter he taught in the schools of Shelby and Monroe counties at intervals until 1884, becoming one of the successful and popular exponents of the pedagogic profession in this section of the state. In the meanwhile he had taken up his residence on a farm in the vicinity of Hunnewell, Shelby county, and he continued to be identified with agricultural pursuits in this county for many years, having sold his farm in Jackson township in 1904. In 1880, he was elected judge of the County court, retaining this incumbency for six years and giving an admirable administration. In the mean-

while he also taught school and gave a general supervision to his farm. In 1886 he was elected county clerk, in which office he served for three successive terms, within which he did much to systematize the work of the office and bring it up to a high standard of efficiency. During his tenure of this position he devoted careful attention to the study of law and he was admitted to the bar in 1898, after which he was engaged in the general practice of his profession in Shelbyville for a period of five years, controlling a successful business and having a representative clientele. Upon his retirement from practice he engaged in the hardware business in this city in partnership with his son John O., with whom he was thus associated until 1906, when they sold the business. He was one of the organizers and incorporators of the Bank of Lentner in the village of Lentner, this county, and served as its cashier for several months. In 1908 he was elected representative of Shelby county in the state legislature, and he has proved an able, conscientious and discriminating legislator. He has given loyal service in behalf of the cause of the Democratic party and is an able exponent of its principles and policies. Judge Perry and his wife are zealous members of the Baptist church in their home city and he is affiliated with St. Andrews Lodge, No. 96, Free and Accepted Masons, and with the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

On September 4, 1873, was solemnized the marriage of Judge Perry to Miss Rosa A. Snider, who was born and reared in Shelby county and who is a

daughter of the late John S. Snider, who was a representative merchant and farmer of the county. To Judge and Mrs. Perry were born seven children, of whom five are living, namely: Mary M., who is the wife of Prof. Ira Richardson, a member of the faculty of the Missouri State Normal School at Springfield; Margaret M., who remains at the parental home; John O., who is engaged in farming at Epworth; Myrtle, who is the wife of H. G. Kellogg, of Kirksville, this state; and Clarence, who remains with his parents and is attending the public schools.

JAMES M. FREEMAN.

This well known and highly esteemed citizen of Shelbyville is a native son of Shelby county, with whose annals the name has been identified for more than three-quarters of a century, implying that the family was here founded in the pioneer days. He is known as one of the aggressive, energetic and successful business men and loyal and progressive citizens of the county, and is now engaged in the jewelry business in Shelbyville, of which city he served as postmaster for more than a decade. Such is his standing in the community that a work of this nature most consistently may give brief record of his career, thus paying a slight tribute to a worthy citizen who has contributed generously to the industrial, commercial and civic progress of his home city and county.

James M. Freeman was born on the homestead farm of his parents, in Black Creek township, Shelby county, Missouri, on March 19, 1862, and is a son of James

M. and Nannie (Blackford) Freeman, the former of whom was born in the state of Kentucky, in 1832, and the latter of whom was born in Shelby county, Missouri, in 1838, being a daughter of Hardin Blackford, an honored pioneer of this section of the state. In 1844, when James M. Freeman, Sr., was a lad of about twelve years, his parents removed from Kentucky to Missouri and took up their residence in Marion county, where his father secured a tract of wild land and engaged in general agricultural pursuits. About four years later, in the memorable year 1849, young James M. Freeman, who was then seventeen years of age, joined the hegira to California, whither so many ambitious and intrepid argonauts were wending their way in search of gold. Mr. Freeman made the long, tedious and perilous trip across the plains and passed four years in California, where he did a successful teaming business among the various mining camps and where he also met with no little success in his own mining operations. After his return to Missouri he was associated in the work and management of his father's farm, in Marion county, until the time of his marriage in 1854, when he removed to Shelby county and purchased a farm in Black Creek township, where he passed the residue of his long and useful life, becoming one of the representative agriculturists and stock-growers of the county and a citizen whose influence was always exerted in support of all that makes for the best in social and material affairs. He became the owner of a landed estate of 1,000 acres, and the fine old homestead bears today unmistakable