

Baptist in religious faith and allegiance. He was an important man in the early history of the county, having great force of character, an extensive knowledge of affairs and excellent judgment, and helped materially to lay the foundations of civilization and governmental institutions in this part of the state.

James W. Howe obtained his education in the country schools of Shelby county, and when he had gone as far with it as his circumstances would allow began life for himself as a farm hand in the employ of his father on the home place. He remained there until 1865 engaged in farming and raising live stock with increasing success. During the Civil war he served about three months in the Union army under the command of Colonel Graham, but did not see much active service. From 1881 to 1885 he farmed in Monroe county, this state, but in the year last named returned to Shelby county. Here he has been energetically and profitably engaged in his chosen pursuits of farming and raising live stock ever since. His farm comprises 420 acres of superior land, the greater part of which is under cultivation, and has been brought to a high state of development and judicious improvement.

Mr. Howe is a man of great public spirit and one of the stimulating forces in all worthy enterprises for the progress and improvement of the township and county in which he lives. Nothing of value involving the good of the region or the enduring welfare of its people escapes his notice or goes without his active aid and encouragement. He is intelligent and far-seeing with reference to

such matters, and the people hold him in high esteem as the source of much of what is best in their advancement and one of the most estimable and representative of their citizens. He is a member of the Hunnewell school board and a stockholder in the Hunnewell bank, and in addition is connected with other institutions of value and service to the inhabitants of the township and county.

On January 2, 1881, he was united in marriage with Miss Drucilla Mayes, a daughter of William T. and Sarah (Robb) Mayes, of this county, where Mrs. Howe was born on March 12, 1859. They have had five children and all of them are living. They are Olie R., Arthur E., Chester W., Sadie May and James Albert. All are still members of the parental household except Arthur E., who lives in Kansas City, Missouri. The father is a Democrat in his political allegiance and a member of the Masonic order fraternally.

#### EUGENE C. PHILLIPS.

The descendant of old Irish and English families which have resided in this country for generations, the paternal grandfather having emigrated to New England from the Emerald Isle and the ancestors of the mother having come over in the Mayflower, Eugene C. Phillips, of Jackson township, Shelby county has passed the seventy years of his life up to this time (1911) in a manner worthy of his forebears and in keeping with the family traditions of patriotism and elevated citizenship. He has also exemplified in his career the versatility of the Irish race and the

sturdy manhood of the English, uniting both with the thrift and resourcefulness that distinguish the people of New England.

Mr. Phillips was born in Wyoming county, New York, on June 16, 1841, and is a son of William H. and Phileta (Pier-son) Phillips, the former a native of New Hampshire, born in 1801, and the latter born in 1810 and reared in Connecticut. The father was a farmer and passed the whole of his life after the removal of the family to the state of New York on the parental homestead actively engaged in farming. He died in 1869, but throughout his career relied on his own exertions for advancement, and never made much of the fact that he was a descendant of Lord Phillips of Ireland. In politics he was a Whig until the extinction of the party, and after that a Republican. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, five of whom are living—Arabella, of Harvey, Illinois; Mary, of Lakenan, in this county; Kitty P., the widow of H. M. Johnson, and now a resident of Live Oak, Florida; and the immediate subject of this brief review; Bessie V., now the widow of William H. Cushman, resides at Phoenix, Arizona.

Eugene C. Phillips obtained his education in the public schools of Erie county, New York. On leaving school he showed his fidelity to the Union by enlisting for the Civil war in the Thirty-third New York Battery of Light Artillery under Capt. A. M. Wheeler. The battery was an independent organization, but wholly devoted to the cause of the Union and worked in perfect harmony and co-operation with the Federal

forces. It was stationed most of the time at or near Petersburg, and was actively engaged in all the operations around that historic center of the storm of the great Civil war.

Mr. Phillips was mustered out of the service in June, 1865, and returned to the home of his parents in Erie county, New York, and worked his father's farm as a tenant for two years. In the spring of 1870 he became a resident of Missouri, locating on a farm he purchased in Shelby county. He cultivated and improved this farm until 1908, and in connection with his farming operations carried on an extensive enterprise in stock breeding. In the year last mentioned he retired from active pursuits and has since been enjoying the rest to which his long years of faithful and productive toil entitled him. He has his farm rented and gives his attention to other interests which command and reward it. He is a stockholder in the Commercial Bank of Shelbina, and is now and long has been a stockholder in and director of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Association of Shelby County.

In March, 1867, Mr. Phillips was married to Miss Helen Churchill, of Niagara county, New York, and by this marriage became the father of three children, all of whom are living. They are: Edwin P., of Hannibal, Missouri; Gertrude, who is the wife of Robert McIlvoy, of Troy, Missouri, and Ernest, a successful business man, now living in Chicago. In politics the father is an ardent Prohibitionist and in religion a devout and serviceable member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. He is well esteemed in the county and is favorably

known in all parts of it. He has been helpful in developing it and is looked upon as one of its most worthy and estimable citizens.

#### JAMES A. SPENCER.

The interesting subject of this brief memoir, whose death on April 4, 1904, cast a gloom over the whole community in which he had so long been a leading citizen, successful merchant and prosperous and progressive farmer, was a native of Marion county, Missouri, where he was born on July 14, 1841. He was a son of Edward G. and Margaret (McElroy) Spencer, who were natives of Kentucky. They were married in Kentucky and had twelve children, five of whom are living: Wilson, a resident of Saline county, Missouri; Mollie, the wife of Douglas Ricks, of Taylorville, Illinois; Edward and Dorris, whose homes are in this county; and Henry C., who lives in Kansas City, Missouri.

The father came to Missouri at an early day and located in Marion county. There for a number of years he was prosperously engaged in farming, but late in life he changed his residence to Lafayette county, and there he died in 1871. He was a man of force and prominence, active in the early history of the locality in which he lived, esteemed by all who knew him, and deserving their regard and approbation by his uprightness and good influence as a man and his progressiveness and usefulness as a citizen.

His son, James A. Spencer, was educated in the public schools in Shelbyville and Paris, Missouri, and after se-

curing his own mental training for the duties of life shared the benefits he derived from it with others by teaching school at Paris for some years. He moved to Shelby county in 1869 and located at Hunnewell, where he followed the drug business four years. At the end of that period he changed the seat of his activity to Monroe county and his occupation to farming. His mind was too versatile and active to be confined to one line of employment, however, and in 1875 he returned to Hunnewell and to merchandising in connection with his farming and live stock industries. He was first a grocer and afterward a general merchant, carrying on an extensive business in each line and winning a very gratifying success in both. He was also postmaster of Hunnewell four years.

In 1894 he sold all his mercantile interests and began an active and successful career in the real estate business, still continuing his farming operations. His farm at that time comprised 253 acres, and this he enlarged by successive purchases until at the time of his death he owned and had under vigorous and progressive cultivation 753 acres. On this farm he passed the last twenty-six years of his life, and in that period greatly improved it and increased its value, *making it one* of the best and most desirable in Jackson township, in which it was located. He was also a stockholder in the Hunnewell bank, and was actively and serviceably connected with other institutions of value to the community of his home.

On October 5, 1869, Mr. Spencer united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Raggs-