

from Mr. Clark, and they prospered in the undertaking until 1910. Mr. McDaniel then sold his interest to Mr. Hawkins, and the firm name became Swinney & Hawkins. Under the new arrangement the business has gone steadily ahead to larger proportions, a higher reputation and more considerable importance. It is now one of the leaders in its line in this part of the state.

On December 25, 1883, Mr. Swinney was united in marriage with Miss Mattie Rutter, a native of this county, born in 1863, and a daughter of James and Mary Rutter, esteemed citizen of the county. All of the three children born of the union are living. They are Edward, Effie and Wade. The father has long been prominent in local public affairs and the fraternal life of his community. He has been secretary of the Odd Fellows' lodge in Shelbina during all of the last fifteen years, and has made a very creditable record in that important and responsible office. He is a member of the Missionary Baptist church and takes an earnest interest and active part in all its uplifting and benevolent work.

In the affairs of his city and county Mr. Swinney has also been zealous and very helpful. No worthy undertaking for the benefit of the people has ever gone without his energetic support, and by the wisdom of his counsel and the force of his example, as well as by his influence and efforts, others have been brought into line and made effective for good. Shelby county has no more estimable citizen, and none who is more justly held in high esteem and good will by the people of every class.

ELMER B. RAY.

Elmer B. Ray, who conducted the leading livery and horse sales barn in Shelbina, which was, at the time, one of the principal establishments of its kind in this part of the state of Missouri, is a native of Shelby county, and was born here on January 11, 1878. He is a grandson of Felon Ray, a native of Kentucky, and a son of Andrew B. Ray, also a native of that state. The Ray family was among the pioneer families in Kentucky, its earlier members who went to what is now that great state when it was literally a howling wilderness having been companions of Daniel Boone and the heroic men who associated with him in laying the foundations of the commonwealth. Their descendants repeated on the soil of Missouri their performances on that of Kentucky, for Andrew B. Ray, the father of the subject of this writing, was brought to this state by his parents when he was but one year old.

The family located in Shelby county on arriving in Missouri, and here its members passed the remainder of their lives actively engaged in farming and raising live stock. Andrew B. Ray grew to manhood on his father's farm and attended the primitive frontier schools of his boyhood and youth. After reaching man's estate he started a farming enterprise of his own near Shelbyville, and in time acquired the ownership of 420 acres of land there. When advancing years made him desire to retire from active pursuits, he moved to Shelbyville, where he still lives.

He was married to Miss Orzella Bond, a native of Missouri. Of the three children born to them Elmer B. is the only one living. His mother died on July 14,

1900. She and her husband saw this country in its state of almost primitive wildness, and encountered all the hardships and faced all the perils of frontier life. But they bore their destiny bravely and performed its duties faithfully, in accordance with the heroic spirit of the pioneers, whose exploits in various places embody many of the most thrilling and spectacular features of American history.

Elmer B. Ray shared the fate of country boys of his day in Missouri. He worked on his father's farm, attending the district school in the neighborhood of his home when he had opportunity, and reached manhood with no other prospect in life than that of following the occupation of his forefathers. He had, however, one advantage over many of his boyhood associates. He was allowed to take a finishing course of instruction at Leonard college, and this brought him near to his majority. So, after working a short time longer at home, he began farming on his own account on a farm of 120 acres in the vicinity of Shelbyville. Some time afterward he moved to his father's farm, which he cultivated during the next seven years.

But, while he was an excellent farmer and found both pleasure and profit in his occupation as such, he had a longing for mercantile life and mingling somewhat in the great world of business. Accordingly, he moved to Shelbina and opened a livery and sales stable. The results have realized his hopes of advancement and proved that his venture was not a mistake. He made a success of his present business and won a reputation for himself as a capable and enterprising

manager of it. His stable was known throughout a large extent of the surrounding country and to hosts of traveling men for the excellence of its equipment and service, and its sales feature was equally well known and popular.

On November 14, 1900, Mr. Ray was united in marriage with Miss Jennie Rankin, a native of this state. He is a prominent member of the Order of Odd Fellows, in whose progress he takes an interest and an active part. His religious connection is with the Christian church, and in this he is also zealous and serviceable, especially in the affairs of the congregation of which he is a member, but he is helpful to all churches without regard to creed or denominational differences.

In connection with the interests of his city and county Mr. Ray is a man of public spirit and enterprise. He is always ready to bear his portion of the burden of improvements and assist every worthy undertaking in the most practical and effective way. And he is intelligent and far-seeing in respect to such matters, and never narrow, obstinate or dogmatic. He expresses his own views freely and as freely accords to every other citizen the same right. And he welcomes every suggestion and examines it carefully, giving it weight in proportion to its merit as he sees it. He is universally regarded as one of the most enterprising and progressive citizens of the county, and as such is held in high esteem.

MARVIN WHITBY.

"Equal to either fortune," was the motto of Lord Byron, a mighty though