

1906, when he sold the property. Since that time he has lived virtually retired in the village of Bethel, where he has an attractive home and is surrounded by friends who are tried and true. In politics he gives a staunch support to the cause of the Republican party, taking an intelligent interest in the questions and issues of the hour. He is identified with the Grand Army of the Republic, and both he and his wife are zealous members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is now serving as justice of the peace.

On November 4, 1869, Mr. Bair was united in marriage to Miss Rebecca E. Gooden, who was born in Indiana, whence her parents, John and Elizabeth Gooden, came to Shelby county, Missouri, when she was eighteen years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Bair became the parents of five children, of whom four are living—William W., who is engaged in farming at Bethel; Harry C., who is individually mentioned on other pages of this work; Mary, who is the wife of Bruce Runyon, of Bethel township, this county; and Reuben, who lives in this county.

THOMAS W. P. REED.

In even a cursory review of the careers of the honored business men of the city of Shelbina there is eminent consistency and, in fact, imperative demand that recognition be given the late Thomas W. P. Reed, who was for more than a fourth of a century engaged in the real estate and loan business. He was a dominating figure in the business circles of Shelbina, and through his well-directed efforts accumulated a modest fortune. Progress-

sive in both private and public affairs, he proved a most valuable citizen, and he so ordered his course as to retain at all times the confidence and esteem of his fellow men.

Mr. Reed was born near Sidney, in Shelby county, Ohio, December 2, 1842. His parents, James and Mary (Johnston) Reed, were natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively. His father, James S. Reed, was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania: but spent the most of his youth in Richland county, Ohio. In 1863 he moved to Iowa, in 1866 to Saline county, Missouri, and the following year to Monroe county. After a residence there of a few years he became a resident of Shelby county, where he passed the residue of his life, his death occurring at Shelbina on February 27, 1874, and that of his wife in 1880. Of their four children one is now living. The father was possessed of a fine landed estate at the time of his death, besides a considerable amount of city property. He was a man whom every one respected for his many sterling qualities, and was ever ready to promote the best interests of the people among whom he resided.

Thomas W. P. Reed was a young man at the time of the family removal to Missouri. After assisting for a short time with the labors of the home farm in Monroe county, he purchased a farm near Paris, Monroe county, in company with his brother Charles. This they successfully operated until 1876, when failing health compelled him to dispose of his interest in the same; and for a year following was engaged in business at Ottumwa, Iowa. In 1878 he became a resident of Shelbina, and was here actively

and successfully engaged in the real estate business until his death, on March 31, 1900.

In 1895 Mr. Reed was one of the ten men who formed what was known as "The Shelbina Corn Company." This company purchased the surplus corn crop of that year, placing the same in cribs along the railroad, and were compelled to hold it for over three years, finally disposing of it at a loss of several thousand dollars to themselves, but they prevented many a poor farmer from losing everything he possessed by thus furnishing a market for his crop and at a price far in advance of what was being offered for it elsewhere. Mr. Reed was a large stockholder of "The Old Bank of Shelbina" at the time of his death, besides having a large amount of city property.

He was married March 23, 1869, at Dayton, Ohio, to Miss Isabella Hoover. One child was born to them, Mary L., who is now the wife of John R. Morgan, of Shelbina, a sketch of whom will be found on other pages of this work. Both he and his wife were active and leading members of the Christian church. In politics he was ever found arrayed with the Democratic party, but never consented to hold public office of any kind, though often urged to allow his name to go before the people. He preferred to serve in the more humble position of a private citizen, though no worthy project ever went without his earnest support. He was a man who had unbounded confidence in the future of northern Missouri, and was ever ready to lend his aid and support to any plan that promised to

promote the best interests of her people. His wife's death occurred July 1, 1895.

AUGUST BOWER.

This well known business man and honored citizen of Bethel is a native son of Shelby county and a member of one of its sterling pioneer families. In the sketch of the career of his elder brother, John C. Bower, on other pages of this work, is given a review of the family history, so that it is not necessary to repeat the data in the present sketch.

August Bower was born in the village of Bethel, his present place of residence, on October 24, 1846, in which year his parents, John L. and Christina (Schnauffer) Bower, had taken up their residence in Shelby county, whither they came from the state of Pennsylvania. In the village schools of Bethel Mr. Bower secured his early educational training, and after leaving school he served a thorough apprenticeship to the trade of shoemaker, following the old German custom of the sturdy founders of the Bethel colony. After the completion of his apprenticeship he continued to follow the work of his trade for a period of three years and he then became associated with his father in the general merchandise business in Bethel. In 1867 he and his brother, Theodore L., purchased their father's interest in the enterprise, which they thereafter continued with ever increasing success, under the firm name of T. & A. Bower, until 1884, when their brother David purchased an interest in the business, which was continued under the title of Bower Bros. for the ensuing