

## JOHN C. RICKEY.

Mr. Rickey is known as one of the progressive business men and loyal and public-spirited citizens of Shelby county, where he has maintained his home since 1887. He is now incumbent of the office of postmaster in the thriving village of Clarence, where he is also identified with the cement-contracting business, in which connection a very successful enterprise has been built up. He has gained a secure place in the confidence and esteem of the community and as one of its representative citizens is well entitled to consideration in this publication.

John C. Rickey claims the fine old Buckeye state as the place of his nativity, as he was born at Athens, Athens county, Ohio, July 11, 1863. He is a scion of one of the honored pioneer families of that commonwealth, in which his grandfather, John Rickey, was born in Belmont county and moved to Athens county, having there passed his entire life. Henry B. Rickey, father of him whose name initiates this article, was born in Athens county, Ohio, November 16, 1844, and in his native state he was reared and educated. There he continued to be actively identified with the great basic industry of agriculture until 1885, when he sold his property in Ohio and removed to Eskridge, Kansas, where he remained about four months, at the expiration of which he located in Lawrence, that state, where he was engaged in the hotel business until 1887, when he came to Shelby county, Missouri, where he passed the remainder of his life. Here he purchased a farm, in Clay

township, where he continued successfully identified with farming and stock-growing, becoming one of the substantial farmers and highly honored citizens of the county. He passed the closing years of his life in the village of Clarence, and here he was shot and killed January 9, 1909, while in discharge of his duty as village marshal. He was a citizen of sterling integrity of character and his genial personality had won to him a wide circle of friends in the community, so that his death was deeply deplored. He was a staunch Republican in his political proclivities, and he served as a valiant soldier of the Union in the Civil war, having enlisted in a regiment of Ohio volunteer infantry. He was a valued member of the Grand Army of the Republic up to the time of his demise, and his religious faith was that of the Methodist Episcopal church, as was also his wife's, who died September 12, 1905.

In the year 1862 was solemnized the marriage of Henry B. Rickey to Miss Susan Ford, who was born and reared in Harrison county, Ohio, and they became the parents of six children, all of whom are living, and concerning whom the following brief record is here entered: John C., subject of this review, is the eldest of the number; Samuel is engaged in the fur and hide business in Moberly; James A. is also a resident of Moberly, Missouri; Cora is the wife of Charles J. Woolridge, of Sioux City, Iowa; Charles H. resides in Clarence, as does also Edna, who is the wife of John Larkin.

John C. Rickey gained his early educational discipline in the excellent pub-

lie schools of Athens and Pleasanton, Ohio, and after leaving school he continued to be associated with his father in the work and management of the home farm until 1883, when he went to Mount Sterling, Illinois, where he was associated with his uncle, Dr. John C. Rickey, where he spent two and a half years after a severe spell of typhoid fever, at the expiration of which he returned to the parental home. He accompanied his parents on their removal to Kansas and was associated with his father in the hotel business in Lawrence, after which he came with the family to Shelby county, Missouri, in 1887. For two years he was here associated with his brother-in-law, Charles J. Woolridge, in the grocery business in Clarence, and thereafter he was engaged in the same line of enterprise in an individual way until 1897, when he founded a successful business in contracting work for the constructing of cement walks, buildings and other structural work. He is still interested in this enterprise, which has grown to be one of no inconsiderable scope and importance. As a business man he has shown marked energy, discrimination and progressiveness, and his course has been so directed as to retain to him the unqualified confidence and esteem of the community, the while he has ever manifested a loyal interest in all that has tended to conserve the general welfare.

In politics Mr. Rickey is found aligned as a stalwart supporter of the principles and policies for which the Republican party stands sponsor, and he has given effective service in its cause. On April 19, 1906, under the administration of

President Roosevelt, he received appointment to the office of postmaster of Clarence, of which position he has since remained the able and popular incumbent, besides which he served two years as a member of the village council of Clarence. He is affiliated with the Court of Honor, and his wife is a member of the Christian church.

On January 23, 1895, Mr. Rickey was united in marriage to Miss Emma Carey, of Clarence, who was born near Eldera, Pike county, Illinois, and who is a daughter of William Carey, a representative citizen of Shelby county. Mr. and Mrs. Rickey have two children, Merle and Claremont, both of whom are attending the public schools of their home village.

#### CITIZENS' BANK OF CLARENCE.

One of the ably managed and essentially substantial financial institutions of Shelby county is that whose title initiates this paragraph and which is established in the thriving and attractive city of Clarence. This bank was organized in 1900, and its charter bears date of June 13th of that year. It began operations upon a capital stock of \$10,000, and the personnel of the original official corps was as here noted : John R. Jones, president ; Jacob H. Merrin, vice-president ; B. B. Asbury, cashier ; and William B. Pritchard, assistant cashier. On September 2, 1902, the capital stock was increased to \$15,000, and on September 8th of the following year the stock was raised to \$20,000. On March 30, 1905, Theodore P. Manuel, Charles F. Afflick and others purchased the interests of Messrs. Asbury and Pritchard and in-