

JAMES SASS.

Black Creek township has upon its fertile and highly productive soil a number of the most progressive and successful farmers in Shelby county. They are men of thrift and enterprise, and they study the nature of the soil they cultivate, its possibilities and requirements and by reading and good judgment keep themselves in touch with all the latest developments in the science of agriculture, so as to secure the best results in their work. Among them none stands higher in public esteem as a farmer and as a citizen than James Sass, whose well improved and attractive farm of 224 acres is in section 29, and is one of the best in the township.

Mr. Sass is a native of Holstein, Germany, where he was born on December 7, 1851, and where he lived until he was seventeen years of age and obtained his education. He is a son of Jergin and Louisa (Widow) Sass, also natives of Germany. They were the parents of seven children, four of whom are living: Nicholas, Catherine, the wife of Emil Claussen; James and Agnes, all residents of Shelby county. The mother died in her native land, and in 1871 the father brought the rest of the family to the United States and direct to this county, following hither his son James, who came to the county in 1869. The father was a farmer all his life, and after conducting a profitable industry in his chosen vocation for a period of twenty years in Shelby county, died here in 1891.

James Sass has been of a resolute and energetic nature from his childhood, and

as he was approaching his manhood began to think of better opportunities for advancement in life than his own land seemed to offer, and to study where he could find them. He was well informed as to the boundless resources of the United States and the wealth of opportunity in them, and determined to avail himself of the promise the land across the sea held out to industry, thrift and good management. Accordingly, youth of seventeen as he was, he braved the heaving Atlantic, without friend or kindred in his company, and in due course of time arrived in Shelby county.

He had been well trained to farming and at once entered upon that occupation as his life work. He has been engaged in it ever since, and has been successful and prosperous from the start. For he has known how to do his work well and manage his operations skillfully, and although his progress was slow at first, it was steady and rapidly increased. In connection with his farming he has carried on a flourishing stock industry, and in this line of effort he has also succeeded, making it pay good returns for the labor and care he bestowed on it. As has been noted, he owns and cultivates 224 acres of fine land and has his farm well improved.

He has taken an active interest in public affairs and risen to prominence in the community. All the duties of good citizenship have found him ready for their performance, and the people esteem his devotion to the welfare of the township and county in which he has lived and labored so effectually to his own advantage and for the benefit of the locality. In politics he is a Prohibition-

ist and in religion a member of Independent Holiness church, and in both his party and his church organizations he has long taken an earnest and serviceable interest.

Mr. Sass has been married twice, first in 1877 to Miss Mary Doss, a resident of Shelby county. They had one child, their son John, who is living. The mother died in 1884, and in 1885 the father married a second time, making Miss Catherine Krauter, also of Shelby county, his choice. Of their three children, one, their son Henry, is living and is still at home.

FRANCIS M. CHURCHWELL.

From its very beginning the career of Francis M. Churchwell, who lives on a fine farm of 320 acres near Shelbyville, as a farmer and live stock breeder and dealer, has been successful and progressive. He is a gentleman of great enterprise and industry, thoroughly familiar with all that is latest in discovery and methods in the lines of endeavor to which his life to this time (1911) has been devoted, and decidedly skilful in the application of his extensive knowledge concerning them. He is a native of Missouri and has never lived in any other state, but has devoted all his years of maturity to its welfare and the advancements of its agricultural and live stock industries, and at the same time has given the general welfare of the locality of his home earnest and intelligent attention.

Mr. Churchwell was born in Marion county, this state, on August 4, 1843. He is of English ancestry, his grandfather, Samuel Churchwell, having been

born and reared in that country, and of Virginia parentage, his father, Thomas Churchwell, and his mother, whose maiden name was Susan E. Tarpley, having been natives of the Old Dominion. The father was born on March 22, 1810, and came to Missouri in 1836. He took up his residence in Marion county on a farm of eighty acres, and there he was actively and successfully engaged in farming and rearing live stock until his death.

On November 30, 1837, he solemnized his marriage with Miss Tarpley, who was born on January 16, 1818, and they became the parents of seven children, six of whom are living: Eliza J., the wife of John T. Poor, of Garfield county, Oklahoma; Meredith T., whose home is in Shelbyville; Francis M., who also lives in this county; Thomas J., a resident of the state of Nebraska; William Harvey, another of the family residing in this county; and Sarah Ann V., the wife of Isaac Bethards, whose home is also in Shelby county. The father died on July 12, 1886, having survived his wife thirty-six years, her death having occurred on November 12, 1850. In politics he was a Whig until the death of the party of that name, and after that a Republican. His religious association was with the Missionary Baptist church, and he was devoted to the welfare of his sect. But, although a man of peace in times of peace, he did not hesitate, in his young manhood, to take up arms in defense of his country, having been a volunteer and valiant soldier in the Black Hawk war.

Francis M. Churchwell received his academic education in the district schools of Marion county, and later pursued a