

## HIRAM SELSOR.

This enterprising and progressive farmer and live stock breeder of North River township, Shelby county, has had a somewhat checkered and spectacular career in the nearly seventy years he has lived since his birth, and while the incidents and events that make up the story are all interesting, they are also altogether creditable to the subject of it in that they show him up as a man of force and self-reliance under all circumstances, and impelled by a high sense of duty in every case.

Mr. Selsor was born in Shelbyville, Missouri, on March 21, 1841, and is a grandson of Larkin Selsor, a native of Virginia who moved to Missouri and located in Shelby county among its early settlers. John W. Selsor, the son of Larkin and father of Hiram, was born in 1816 in Scott county, Virginia, where he grew to the age of sixteen. He was of an adventurous disposition and longed to go abroad from his home and see something of the world. He therefore left Virginia in 1832 and came to Missouri, locating near Walkersville in Shelby county, and finding a home temporarily with the family of Richard Perry. From that home as a basis he went forth from time to time to different parts of the county, working on farms and as a carpenter in every section. Then during a period of about ten years he was engaged in the furniture trade in Shelbyville. He died at Hunnewell in 1881.

The elder Mr. Selsor, father of Hiram, while not a great success in his business undertakings, was a good man and highly respected all over the county. In about 1838 he was married to Miss Keturah

Matlack, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the daughter of Abraham Matlack, of that city, a retired sea captain. Of the ten children born of the union three are living: Hiram, the subject of this article; Henrietta, the wife of Marion Dill, of this county; and Anna, the widow of the late Frederick Munch, of Shelbina. In politics the father was first a Whig and afterward a Republican. The mother, even though a married woman, was busily occupied in teaching school for many years, about twenty-five in all, although not continuously for that length of time. And it must be said in all truth to her credit that she was regarded as one of the best teachers in the county in her day.

Hiram Selsor attended the district schools in the county and the Shelbyville high school until he was about eighteen years of age. He then worked on the home place and assisted the family until August, 1861, when he enlisted in the Federal army in defense of the Union, first in Berry's cavalry, which was stationed at St. Joseph, Missouri, and later in the Third Missouri cavalry under Col. John M. Glover. He was soon afterward commissioned as first lieutenant in Company A, 4th Arkansas Cavalry. This position was gained by a competitive examination, several hundred competing, and his commission as lieutenant was signed by President Lincoln personally, and in that capacity he served until the close of the war, when he was mustered out at Little Rock. While in the 3rd Missouri Cavalry he took part in fifty-eight engagements, among them the principal ones being those at Bayumetre, Brownsville, and the capture of Little

Rock. And while in the 4th Arkansas Cavalry many skirmishes made it warm and life active for the regiment.

After the war Mr. Selsor returned to Shelby county, and on November 2, 1865, was united in marriage with Miss Kate Hesler, of Lone House, a daughter of Fleming and Mary (Jordon) Hesler, natives of Kentucky, but for many years esteemed residents of this county. He then located on a farm and began a career as a farmer and live stock breeder, which has continued to the present time, except during the ten years he passed in Hunnewell in the drug trade. He now owns and cultivates 200 acres of land and carries on a flourishing live stock business as extensive as his acreage and other facilities will permit. He pushes both departments of his business with enterprise and manages them with good judgment, and they are both profitable to him as well as important to the township and county because of the aid they give in expanding the production and commerce of this portion of the state.

By his marriage with Miss Hesler Mr. Selsor became the father of six children, five of whom are living: Dr. William L. Selsor, of Shelbina; Catherine, the wife of Ray Moss, of Hunnewell; Fred, who resides and is in business in Kansas City, Missouri; and Francis Ella and Beatrice, who are living at home with their parents. The father has always taken an earnest interest and an active part in the local public affairs of the township and county, and has been serviceable in promoting the welfare of both. Before his children grew to maturity he served on the school board, and in many

other ways made his mark as a progressive and public-spirited citizen in reference to the general well-being and substantial progress of his locality. In politics he is a Republican, in fraternal life a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. In belief Mr. Selsor is an agnostic, while his wife is a member of the Christian church.

#### JAMES H. VANSKIKE.

A scion of old Kentucky and Maryland families, James H. Vanskike, one of the substantial, enterprising and progressive farmers and stock men of Shelby county, whose fine farm of 190 acres is located in Black Creek township, has well exemplified in his career the salient and sterling traits of character and habits of useful industry for which his ancestors were distinguished, and which have made the people of those two states prosperous and progressive at home and well esteemed abroad, securing for them honorable names in history and creditable mention in all the undertakings of the United States in peace and war.

Mr. Vanskike was born in Knox county, Missouri, on January 25, 1848, and is a grandson of Jesse Vanskike, a native of Kentucky, where Jesse's son William, the father of James H., also was born, and where his life began in 1820. He became a resident of Missouri in 1835 and, after a short residence in Monroe county, moved to Shelby county. Here he remained until his marriage with Miss Sarah Todd, who was born in Maryland, the marriage taking place in