

his marriage. In 1882 he bought land in Shelby county, on which he engaged in farming and raising live stock until 1891. He then sold his farm of 160 acres and accepted the position of manager of the Alliance flour mill at Shelbina. In 1893 he bought the mill in association with other men and continued to conduct its operation until 1901. In that year he sold his interest in it, but continued to live at Shelbina until 1904, when he moved to Clarence, and here he has ever since been actively engaged in the harness and road vehicle trade. He has been successful in all his undertakings and is one of the substantial and prominent citizens of the town in which he lives, active in promoting its progress and development and looking after the best interests of its people, and those of a large extent of the surrounding country. He has always taken an earnest interest and an active part in the public affairs of the community of his home and been of very substantial service to the people. While living in Shelbina he served as alderman of the city, and much of its progress is due to his wise and judicious care of everything involving the welfare of its people, both as a public official and a private citizen.

Mr. Hamilton was married in 1879 to Miss Cecilia T. Worland, of Lakenan, Shelby county, Missouri. They have had four children, three of whom are living: John C., who resides in the state of Montana; Margaret, the wife of E. C. Davis, of Brookfield, Missouri; and Winona, who is living at home with her parents: In politics the father is a Democrat, in fraternal relations a Modern Woodman

of America, and in religious affiliation a member of the Catholic church.

HON. H. JEANE SIMMONS.

The Clarence Courier, published at Clarence in this county, is one of the bright, lively, up-to-date and progressive newspapers of our country which enjoys an unusual allotment of Fortune's favors. It is doubly endowed in its editorial department, combining therein the delicacy and grace of woman with the strength and aggressiveness of man—the endearing arms of tenderness engirdled with the steel bracelets of power. Its editorial staff includes Hon. H. Jeane Simmons, its owner and publisher, and his accomplished wife, Mrs. Alice (Grant) Simmons, one of the most successful and pleasing literary ladies in this part of the country. It is to this duplex torch that this volume is indebted for the luminous, interesting and comprehensive general history of Shelby county which sparkles on its pages. That attractive chronicle of the life, progress, aspirations and achievements of the people of the county is the joint product of Mr. and Mrs. Simmons, and it proclaims their mastery of facts and the best method of grouping and presenting them for the entertainment of the reader in every paragraph. But it must speak for itself, and it does so in a voice of no uncertain sound or meaning.

Mr. Simmons represented Shelby county in the lower branch of the state legislature continuously from 1900 to 1908, and was again chosen as its representative in that body on November 8,

1910. He was born in the village of Girard, Branch county, Michigan, on March 6, 1869, and is a son of Watson C. and Etta J. (Brown) Simmons. The father was a native of Erie county, New York, where his life began on July 6, 1841. He died in Monroe county, Missouri, on April 5, 1870, closing at the age of twenty-nine years a life of unusual promise and of considerable achievement, short as it was.

During his boyhood his parents moved to Branch county, Michigan, and there he grew to manhood and obtained his education. On June 20, 1861, he hearkened to one of the first calls for volunteers for the defense of the Union and enlisted in Company E, Fourth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, in the federal army, for a term of three years. But he suffered in the service, and in April, 1862, was discharged on account of disability, receiving his release at Georgetown, Kentucky. He returned home and recuperated his health, and then, still fired with patriotic ardor, again enlisted in the Union army, this time becoming a member of Company H, Ninth Michigan Volunteer Infantry, and being enrolled in the City of Kalamazoo. Under his second enlistment he served to the close of the war, and was mustered out at Nashville, Tennessee, on September 15, 1865. The next four years were passed by him in his native county. In 1869 he moved his family to Monroe county in this state and engaged in farming six miles south of Hunnewell. But he had not more than fairly started his useful labors in this state before death ended them, and left his son Jeane an orphan aged thirteen months.

The father was married on October 7, 1863, to Miss Etta J. Brown, who is still living. They had two children, the immediate subject of this review, and his brother, Glenn C. Simmons, who is now a resident of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The family had its origin in this country in the east, the grandparents of Mr. Simmons of this sketch being natives of the state of New York, and descended from families long resident in that part of the country. But they were versatile and could easily adapt themselves to circumstances. Although reared amid the customs and trained to the ideals of the east they met all the requirements of the west and prospered on its soil and were esteemed by its people. The same adaptability to requirements distinguishes the present representatives of the family, and has enabled them to do well wherever they have found themselves and in whatever they have undertaken.

The mother of Hon. H. Jeane Simmons married again after the death of his father, and during the childhood of her two sons became a resident of Shelby county, locating on a farm three miles south of Clarence. Here Mr. Simmons passed his boyhood and youth in the pursuits and experiences customary in this region. The family moved to Clarence in 1875 and here he began his scholastic training in the public schools and completed it at the college in Glasgow, Howard county, from which he was graduated, after a four years' course of study, in 1889. After receiving his college degree he followed teaching school one year, then entered the employ of the Missouri Lumber & Mining Company,

with which he remained a year. Following that engagement he was variously occupied until June of 1894, when he purchased The Clarence Courier, which he has edited and published ever since. From 1901 to 1910 he was assisted in publishing the paper by his brother-in-law, Edward B. Grant, whose connection with the Courier was severed by his death in July of the year last mentioned.

In politics Mr. Simmons has been a life-long Democrat. He has been very energetic and effective in the service of his party, and has risen to commanding influence and leadership in its councils, both in Shelby county and the state at large. He served as mayor of Clarence from 1895 to 1899, and as city clerk for two terms previous to his first election as mayor. In 1900 he was elected to the state house of representatives, and so satisfactory were his services in that assemblage that he was re-elected in 1902, and again in 1904 and 1906. He was chosen for a fifth term in the fall election of 1910. He was also a candidate for the office of lieutenant governor in the fall of 1908, but was defeated for the nomination by a small majority in the primary election. During his service in the house of representatives he has served as chairman of the committees on Life Insurance and Ways and Means, and as a member of the committee on Railroads and Internal Improvements, and several others of leading importance. He was also a member of the commission appointed to make arrangements for the centennial celebration of the Louisiana Purchase by a world's fair in St. Louis.

In the session of 1907, Mr. Simmons introduced and secured the passage of the two cent railroad fare law, which is now being tested as to its constitutionality in the Supreme Court of the United States. He was also the father of the law providing for the choice of United States senators at primary elections, the law regulating the taxation of franchises and the compulsory education law. In 1903, Governor Dockery appointed him a member of the commission to audit the books of all state officials, and in 1907 he was chairman of the committee which was appointed to refurbish the legislative halls and other rooms in the state capitol.

On May 23, 1894, Mr. Simmons united in marriage with Miss Alice Grant, a daughter of William and Mary A. (Moulton) Grant, the former a native of England and the latter of the province of Ontario, Canada. They located in Monroe county, Missouri, in 1869, and in 1879 moved to Shelbina, where the father died in 1893. The mother is now living at Clarence. Mr. and Mrs. Simmons have had two children, their daughters, Alice Jean and Annette, the former of whom died at the age of eighteen months. Annette is still living at home with her parents.

Mrs. Simmons, who has won renown by her versatile and graceful pen, and is one of the distinguished literary lights of Missouri, was educated in the schools of Shelbina, being graduated from the high school in 1888. For three years she taught schools at different places in Shelby county, and during another period of equal length was principal of the

Intermediate department of the Shelby schools. Her whole life has been passed in touch with literature, of which she has been a diligent and discriminating student, and she has its best spirit of productiveness largely developed in her nature. She has for years been a valued contributor to the Women's department of a number of the papers in this state, and is now held in high esteem as a writer for several ladies' journals in different parts of the country. While her husband was absent from the city during the first three terms of his service, she successfully edited The Clarence Courier, and neither its influence nor its force diminished while it was under her control. Her reputation as a newspaper writer of brilliancy, power and directness is 'coextensive with the state and extends far beyond its borders. She assisted largely in the compilation of the general history of Shelby county that is published in this work.

Mr. and Mrs. Simmons are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, and both are active in all the good work of the congregation to which they belong. Mr. Simmons is chairman of its board of stewards and superintendent of its Sunday school. He was also chairman of the building committee during the erection of the church edifice now occupied by the congregation. Fraternally he is allied with the Masonic order, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. Shelby county has no citizens more estimable than these, and none whom the people of all classes respect more highly or regard with more genuine and well merited pride and esteem.

J. SIDNER SMITH.

Having passed the three score years and ten allowed by the sacred writer as the ordinary span of a complete life and during more than fifty of the period having toiled faithfully and effectively in advancing his fortunes and promoting the welfare of the region of his activities, J. Sidner Smith, of Clarence, is now living retired from active pursuits and enjoying the rest he has so richly earned and the fruits of the labors he so faithfully performed during the heat and burden of his day. He is a fine representative of the best and most useful Shelby county citizenship, and as such is universally esteemed by the people of the county.

Mr. Smith was born in Monroe county, Missouri, on October 7, 1839, and is a son of Thornton and Ann (Sidner) Smith, the former born in Bourbon county, Kentucky, on July 12, 1809, and the latter a native of Fayette county in the same state. They were married on November 19, 1829, and became residents of Missouri in 1835, locating in Monroe county, north of Paris. There the father was actively and successfully engaged in farming and raising live stock until his death, which occurred in 1878.

He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, seven of whom are living: Nancy J., the wife of Sam Baker, a resident of Clarence; J. Sidner, also living in Clarence; Fannie, the wife of John Williamson; Emma, the wife of Henry Glasscock, of Monroe county, Missouri; John T., who also lives in Monroe county; M. C., whose home is in Shelby county; and Robert C., a resident of the