

the firm name being Lasley & Million. In 1873 Mr. Lasley purchased Mr. Million's interest in the business and took his brother in as a partner, the firm being known as that of C. H. Lasley & Bro. Three years later he bought his brother's interest and gave two of his sons a half share in the undertaking, changing the style of the house to C. H. Lasley & Co., under which name it is still doing an extensive and profitable business.

Mr. Lasley has been very successful in all his operations and his success is the logical result of his excellent business capacity, superior judgment and close attention to all the details of what he has had in hand. He is a stockholder and director of the Old Bank of Shelby and is connected in a leading way with other commercial and financial enterprises. In the affairs of the community he has always taken an ardent and helpful interest, being among the foremost in all worthy projects for its improvement. In political faith he is a Democrat who supports his party wisely and loyally without seeking any of its honors or emoluments for himself. On June 18, 1879, he was united in marriage with Miss Anna Downing, a native of this state. They have five children, Roy D., Henry R., Roland R., Res-sie and William Kenneth, all of whom are still living at home and adding brightness and charm to the parental fireside. The scion of an old Virginia family, the father has well sustained the virtues and traditions of his ancestry and exemplified on the new soil of Missouri the sterling manhood which has so long dignified and adorned that of the "Old Dominion." He is one of Shelby

county's best citizens and richly deserves the high esteem in which he is held by all classes of its people.

#### BENJAMIN H. SINGLETON

The fine old state of Missouri has represented the home of this well known and popular citizen of Shelbyville from the time of his birth and he has here found adequate opportunities for the gaining of definite success. He was long identified with agricultural pursuits but is now well established in the coal, grain and feed business in Shelbyville as junior member of the firm of Singleton Brothers, in which his associate is his brother, Judge Adolphus Singleton, of whom individual mention is made on other pages of this work, together with adequate data concerning the family history, so that further reference to the same is not demanded in the present article.

Benjamin H. Singleton was born in Marion county, Missouri, February 6, 1850, and when he was but four years of age his parents removed to Shelby county, where he was reared to maturity on the home farm and where he had such educational advantages as were afforded by the common schools of the locality and period. He eventually initiated his independent career as a farmer and stock-grower and became the owner of a valuable farm of 240 acres in Monroe county, where he continued to be engaged in diversified agriculture and the raising of excellent grades of live stock from 1881 until 1906, in which latter year he sold his farm and removed to Shelbyville, where he has since been engaged in successful business with his brother,

as has already been noted in this context. He is a progressive business man and public-spirited citizen, is a staunch advocate of the principles and policies for which the Democratic party stands sponsor, is a charter member of the local organization of the Court of Honor, and his wife is a member of the Baptist church.

On January 29, 1879, Mr. Singleton was united in marriage to Miss Florida Fields, who was born in Kentucky, and who was a child at the time of her parents, removal to Missouri. Her father, Henry H. Fields, settled in Monroe county, this state, where he passed the remainder of his life. Mr. and Mrs. Singleton became the parents of five children, of whom three are living: Martha, who remains at the parental home; Dennis E., of Fulton, Missouri; and Benjamin Clay, of Shelbyville.

#### JOHN W. FRYE.

Though a native of West Virginia and a scion of one of the sterling families early founded in the historic Old Dominion, this well known and honored citizen of Shelbyville has been a resident of this county from his boyhood days and has here risen to a position of prominence and influence as a citizen of utmost loyalty and public spirit, and as one who has ably contributed to the industrial and civic development and progress of this attractive and favored section of the state. He was long identified in an active way with agriculture and stock-growing and still retains his fine landed estate of 220 acres in Black Creek township, the same constituting

one of the best improved and most valuable farms of the county. He is now living virtually retired in the thriving little city of Shelbyville, where he is the owner of a considerable amount of real estate and has various capitalistic interests of importance.

Mr. Frye was born in Hardin county, West Virginia, May 22, 1856, and in that commonwealth also were born his grandfather, Westfall Frye, and his father, Benjamin F. Frye, the date of the latter's nativity having been November 18, 1829, at which time the state was still an integral part of Virginia. There the grandfather passed his entire life and his active career was devoted principally to agricultural pursuits, in which connection he was the owner of a good plantation. Benjamin F. Frye was reared and educated in his native state, where he continued to reside until 1852, when, at the age of about twenty-three years, he came to Missouri for the purpose of investigating conditions with a view to permanent location. He passed about two years in Shelby county and then returned to West Virginia, where, in 1855, was solemnized his marriage to Miss Eliza Clagett, who likewise was born in Hardin county, that state. They continued their residence there until 1857, when they came to Missouri and established their home on a farm in Black Creek township, where the father was actively engaged in diversified farming and stock-growing, in connection with extensive dealing in live stock, until 1895, when he retired, removing to Shelbyville, where he passed the closing years of his life in the home of his son, John W., subject of this review. He was