

township; Effie M. is the wife of Robert S. Magruder, of Clarence, this county; Anna L. is the wife of John Kyle, of Rush county, Kansas; Callie B. is the wife of William Pepper, of Ranchester, Wyoming; George C. is a representative farmer of Taylor township; William N. is a resident of La Crosse, Kansas; and Fannie remains at the parental home.

#### JACOB H. SINGLETON.

It is gratifying to be able to present in this historical compilation record concerning so large a percentage of the essentially representative farmers who are ably aiding in upholding the industrial prestige of the county, and among this number is he whose name introduces this paragraph. Mr. Singleton is the owner of a well improved farm in Taylor township, is a citizen to whom is accorded unqualified popular esteem, and is a native son of the township in which he now maintains his home. He is a brother of Judge Adolphus E. Singleton, of whom individual mention is made on other pages of this volume, so that detailed review of the family history is not demanded in this article.

Jacob H. Singleton was born in Taylor township, this county, on October 8, 1857, and is a son of William and Susan (Vandiver) Singleton, both natives of Virginia, where the former was born in 1817 and the latter in 1824. The paternal grandfather, Myron Singleton, was likewise a native of the Old Dominion, in which was cradled so much of our national history, and there the family was founded in the colonial epoch. William Singleton was reared to maturity in

his native state and came to Missouri in the pioneer days, first locating in Marion county, whence he soon afterward removed to Shelby county, becoming one of the pioneers of Taylor township, where he secured 200 acres of government land, which he eventually reclaimed, developing a productive farm and becoming one of the honored and substantial citizens of the county. He continued to be actively identified with the great basic industries of farming and stock-raising throughout his entire business career, save for one year passed in the village of Clarence, this county, and he was summoned to "that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns" in the year 1894. He was a loyal supporter of the cause of the Democratic party and both he and his wife, who is still living, became known as zealous members of the M. E. church, South. Of their eight children five are now living, namely: Benjamin H., a resident of Shelbyville; Judge Adolphus E., of the same city; Jacob H., subject of this sketch; and Ella and Cary, who remain with their widowed mother on the old homestead.

Jacob H. Singleton was reared to the sturdy discipline of the home farm and the district schools afforded him his early educational advantages. He continued at the parental home, assisting in the work and management of the farm, until 1886, when he purchased seventy acres of land in section 33, Taylor township, where he continued operations as a thrifty and progressive farmer and stock-grower, having added to the area of his original tract until he now has a well improved farm of 134 acres, all of

which is available for cultivation. He is a Democrat in his political allegiance, takes a loyal interest in public affairs of a local order, was incumbent of the office of school director of his district, is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America, and both he and his wife are zealous members of the Christian church at Leonard.

On October 3, 1886, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Singleton to Miss Vassie McDaniel, who was born in this county, being a daughter of Cornelius and Susan McDaniel and a member of one of the old and honored families of this section of the state. Mr. and Mrs. Singleton became the parents of eight children, and the four living children all remain at the parental home, namely: Leila, Clark V., Guy and Vance, who are popular young folk of this part of the county.

#### ALEXANDER BURNETT.

One of the most successful and enterprising farmers of the present day and having made his own way to his present consequence and standing in the estimation of the people, Alexander Burnett, of Black Creek township, Shelby county, has richly earned his prosperity in worldly wealth and shown himself to be a man of great energy and resourcefulness, warmly interested in the welfare of the people of his township and county, and at all times ready to exert himself wisely and effectively in their behalf. His devotion to the interests of the region in which he lives has won him the universal confidence and esteem of its inhabitants and given him a strong hold on public regard in other parts of the state.

Mr. Burnett was born in Sauk county, Wisconsin, on July 10, 1855. He is the oldest son and second child of his parents, Thomas and Isabella (Osborn) Burnett, the former a native of Scotland, where his parents were also born and the families were domesticated many years. The father was born in 1824 and came to the United States with his parents in 1838. During the next seven years the family lived in the city of New York, but in 1845 moved to Wisconsin, and in 1858 moved to Iowa, and there the father was actively engaged in general farming until his death, which occurred on October 11, 1887. His marriage took place in 1851, and by it he became the father of seven children, all of whom are living. They are: Mary, the wife of Gilbert Palmer, of Aledo, Illinois; Alexander, the subject of this review; Malissa, the wife of John Brown, of Des Moines, Iowa; Robert, Grant and Thomas, all of whom live in Iowa; and Zachariah, who is a resident of Jacksonville, Missouri. The father was a Republican in politics and a Baptist in church affiliation. The mother was a native of Indiana. She died in Iowa in May, 1898.

Their son Alexander grew to manhood on his father's farm in Iowa and obtained his education in the country schools and the high school at Bonaparte, in that state. For two years after leaving school he clerked in a dry goods store in Des Moines, then passed one year working again with his father on the farm. At the end of that period he moved to Shelby county, Missouri, and during the next three years worked for Alonzo Cooper. His next step in business was general merchandising, which he fol-