

but forty of which are under skillful and systematic cultivation according to the most approved methods of husbandry. It is one of the best and most valuable farms in the township, and has been made so by his persistent industry and the wisdom and intelligence with which he has managed his business and looked after every detail of the work.

But Mr. Pickett has not employed his energy and capacity wholly in his own affairs. He is a progressive and public-spirited man and takes great interest in the needs and possibilities of the community around him and does all in his power to promote its welfare. He is a school director and has been road commissioner, rendering approved service to the people in both offices and retaining their confidence and regard by his general and active work in their behalf in many ways and holding their admiration and his widespread popularity by the excellent example he gives as a citizen.

Mr. Pickett was married on February 17, 1880, to Miss Sarah Catherine Allen, who was born in Shelby county on September 17, 1861, a daughter of David and Sarah Ann (Ford) Allen, natives of Kentucky, but long esteemed, prominent and useful residents of this portion of Missouri, having come to Shelby county many years ago. The union has resulted in the birth of six children, five of whom are living—Edgar, who is farming on his own account in this county, and Sylvia, Frank, Bessie and Charles, who are dwelling yet under the family roof-tree and helping to enliven the parental family circle. In politics the father is a Democrat of firm convictions and continued loyalty to his party. He

is influential in its councils and effective in its service, but he neither seeks nor desires any of its honors or emoluments for himself, being well content to serve the state from the honorable post of private and faithful citizenship. His wife is an active and interested member of the Missionary Baptist church.

#### MARION F. SNIDER.

Owning 211 acres of excellent land in Jackson township, this county, and making this the base of active, enterprising and progressive industries in farming and raising live stock, Marion F. Snider stands among the leading men in the township engaged in those pursuits. He is also held in high esteem as one of the influential and serviceable citizens of the township, with cordial interest in the progress and development of the region in which he lives, integrity and uprightness of life as a man, and energy and breadth of view with reference to public affairs as the foundation on which the popular estimation of his worth rests.

Mr. Snider was born in Shelby county, Missouri, on May 6, 1850. He is a half-brother of Peter A. Snider, in a sketch of whom, to be found elsewhere in this book, an account is given of the lives of his father and mother, John Henry and Sarah (Utz) Snider, long residents of the county and accounted as among its most estimable citizens. After obtaining the limited education which the Shelby county country schools of his boyhood and youth afforded, the subject of this brief review worked on his father's farm and assisted the family until 1872.

By this time Mr. Snider's mind was firmly fixed on establishing a home of his own, and in accordance with his desire to do this, he began farming and raising live stock on his own account. Although his progress was slow at first, it has been steady from the beginning. The way before him was ascending and rugged, for he was without material resources, and had nothing but his personal qualities of head, heart and spirit to depend on, but he kept climbing it, whatever the difficulties, and as he gained higher ground and surer footing, he enlarged his estate and his business operations in proportion to his increasing prosperity.

His farm, as has been stated, comprises 211 acres and it is well improved, highly developed and very productive. It is all under cultivation and is tilled with intelligence and vigor, every acre being made to yield the best result the most advanced modern agricultural methods can produce, according to the season and other circumstances. He studies his work with earnest thought and reflective observation, and he applies the information he thus gains to all his efforts with energy and zeal that leave nothing to chance, in so far as such industry can overcome or command it.

In December, 1873, Mr. Snider united in marriage with Miss Ella Coleman, of Hannibal, Missouri. Three children were born to them, but one of whom is living, their daughter Allie P., the wife of Alvin Lippincott, who lives in this county and stands well among the people. Her father follows faithfully the fortunes of the Democratic party and is loyal in his service to it, although he

seeks none of its honors or profits for himself. He and his wife are zealous and devoted members of the Southern Methodist Episcopal church and are held in high regard as useful forces in the congregation to which they belong.

#### BYRON L. SWIFT.

Although not a native of Missouri, Byron L. Swift, one of the successful farmers and representative citizens of Salt River township, has lived in Shelby county most of the time since he reached the age of five years, when he came to this state and county with his parents. He grew to manhood on the soil of Shelby county, drew from it his stature and his strength, obtained his education in its public schools and from the dawn of his maturity has been engaged in helping to promote its industrial greatness and power in his quiet and unassuming way, but with material enterprise and substantial results for the good of the people.

Mr. Swift was born in the town of Richfield, Summit county, Ohio, on March 20, 1860, and is a son of Stiles P. and Delia Elizabeth (Stofer) Swift, the former a native of Michigan and the latter of Ohio. In 1863 the father moved to Missouri and located in Shelby county. His family came two years later. Here he practiced medicine in the Homeopathic school for a number of years, and also conducted farming operations in connection with raising live stock. In 1865 he changed his residence to Shelbyville and there devoted himself wholly to the practice of his profession. Some years afterward he moved to Burling-