

six children, three of whom are living: George H., of Edna, Missouri, and a twin son and daughter—Edward, who now lives in Manila, Philippine Islands, and Effie, the wife of H. M. Gould, of Hunnewell. In politics Mr. Hickman was a loyal and determined Republican, and as he did not hesitate to enforce his convictions on the field of carnage during the Civil war, so he never hid them in political affairs. He was always earnest and effective in the service of his party and his efforts in its behalf were highly appreciated by its leaders. He kept alive the memories of his military service by active and ardent membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. For many years he was a faithful and zealous member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and took a leading part in its works of benevolence. He was also energetic in promoting the welfare of the community around him and was esteemed as one of its best and most useful and representative citizens.

JAMES A. SPALDING.

Although born of a martial strain whose family name has been written in enduring phrase on the military annals of our country, James A. Spalding, of Hunnewell, has passed his life in the pursuits of peaceful and productive industry, depending wholly on himself for his advancement and on his own merit to win the regard and good will of his fellow men, without counting on any family record or heroic traditions to help him in the effort. By steady adherence to his chosen lines of endeavor and by fidelity to every duty he has succeeded

admirably in both, and now stands among the people who have witnessed his long years of effort and his upright and useful life a veritable patriarch of more than four-score years, venerated and beloved by all who know him.

Mr. Spalding was born in Marion county, Kentucky, on October 17, 1828, and is a son of James A. and Sarah (Green) Spalding, natives of Maryland and early settlers in Kentucky, going to that then distant region while it was yet under the dominion of barbarism, with the wild denizens of the forest roaming freely over its wide domain and exacting tribute from the invading race that was to exterminate them and call the waste they had so long used fruitlessly from its sleep of ages and make it minister to the general welfare of mankind. The father was a son of John Aaron Spalding, who served in the Revolutionary war and rendered his name immortal by being one of the captors of Major Andre, the unfortunate tool of our historic traitor, Benedict Arnold. He came into being in 1788 and moved to Kentucky while yet a mere youth. There he engaged in farming and blacksmithing until his death on March 4, 1833, except for a short period during which he rendered his country valiant service as a soldier in the Black Hawk Indian war. He was married in 1820 to Miss Sarah Green, who, like himself, migrated from the cultivated society and comfortable civilization of her native state at an early age, and found a new home with all its trials and privations in the wilds of the West, locating in what is now Marion county, Kentucky, where the marriage occurred. They became the parents of eight chil-

dren, all but two of whom have passed over to the activities that know no weariness, those living being the venerable subject of this memoir and his sister, Sarah E., who is now the widow of A. B. Thiehoff, of Hunnewell. The father was a Democrat in political faith and a Catholic in religion, and was faithful and constant in his devotion to both his political party and his church.

James A. Spalding was reared in his native county and educated mainly in private schools there. He also attended St. Mary's College in that county. In the spring of 1850, taking his parents' example as his guide and inspiration, he sought his fortune on his own hook and also in the farther wake of the setting sun. He came to Missouri and located in Ralls county, where he started an enterprise in blacksmithing, having learned the trade under the instruction of his father and others. He also followed farming in connection with working at his trade. In 1859 he moved to Shelby county and opened a blacksmithing establishment at Hunnewell. This he conducted until 1861, when he bought a farm about a half mile from Hunnewell, and on this he has ever since lived. He is now eighty-two years of age, but still manages his farm of 240 acres with vigor and progressiveness, although he has some of the land rented. But his activity remains despite his weight of years, and his faculties seem to be as keen and his enterprise as great as when he was a much younger man. It is given to few men to accomplish as much as Mr. Spalding has, even with his length of life, and to still fewer to retain health and strength at his advanced age. It is

probable that the toughening of tissue he received in his early years of outdoor toil has been one source of his long continued vigor and uniform good health. And it is certain that the self reliance and need of readiness for emergencies, which began with him in his youth, have been of great benefit in all his subsequent undertakings, both to himself and to those who have shared in the fruits of his industry, frugality and prudence.

Mr. Spalding was married on September 21, 1858, to Miss Mary Isabelle Leake, of Monroe county, Missouri. They became the parents of fourteen children, seven of whom are living: William B., of Monroe City; Martin J., of Venetia, Oklahoma; Sarah J., who is living at home; John A., of Chelcia, Oklahoma; Alice A., who is still a member of the parental household; Eva M., who is devoting her life to religious work and is now Sister Mary Crescentia of the Loretta Order; and Rose, at Sapulpa, Oklahoma. Charles Albert died in Montana in 1909 and Joseph L. died at Sapulpa, Oklahoma, March, 1910.

In political faith the father has been a lifelong Democrat, true and faithful to his convictions and strong and sedulous in the support of his party. In religion he is a devout and consistent Catholic, earnest for the welfare of his church and with an abiding reliance on its teachings. He has passed half a century of usefulness in Shelby county, contributing to its development and improvement by his useful labors and helping to give its fiscal and political affairs proper trend and guidance. No man among this people is more highly esteemed by them, and none has better deserved their regard, confi-

dence and good will. They celebrated their golden wedding in 1908, going through the entire Catholic ceremony.

PETER J. REARDON.

In the life of this highly useful and esteemed citizen of Jackson township, Shelby county, the pathetic is mingled with the sentimental, and eminent success has followed heavy trials, exacting privations and arduous industry. He came to this country when he was a young man, with no capital but his own energy, capacity and indomitable spirit. He confronted the difficulties of his situation with calm but determined courage, met its requirements with intelligence and fidelity and compelled reluctant Fortune to give him tribute of her bounty by the persistency and skill with which he wooed her favor.

Mr. Reardon was born and reared in Ireland, where his ancestors for many generations lived and labored and in the soil of which the mortal remains of his father, Eugene Reardon, and his grandfather, John Reardon, were laid to rest amid scenes of private grief and public lamentation, which he witnessed. On the death of his father the care of the family devolved upon the sorrowing mother, whose maiden name was Julia Curtis. She performed her duty to her offspring faithfully, meeting all difficulties with a resolute determination to yield to none, and giving the members of her household an excellent example as well as good counsel. She was the mother of eight children, of whom but two are living, her sons, Peter J., of Shelby county; and Daniel, now a resident of Kansas City,

Missouri. Feeling that this country offered her better opportunities for comfort and further success in life, she came over in 1882, following her son Peter, who emigrated from his native land to this state in 1881. She took up her residence in Shelby county, and here she passed the remainder of her days, dying in 1906 respected and lamented by all who knew her.

Peter J. Reardon grew to manhood in his inhospitable native land and realized fully that, while its inhospitality was not due to either the character or the habits of its own people, but to outside influences, it was, nevertheless, cruel and oppressive to the toiling millions and prevented the business success and social standing to which many of them felt that they might properly aspire. He therefore determined as soon as manhood "darkened on his downy cheek" to gratify a longing which had long stirred within him and seek his fortunes in the New World, which seemed to beckon him to its shores with open hands and golden promises. Accordingly, in 1881, he dared the heaving bosom of the stormy Atlantic and soon afterward landed in the United States. He came at once to Missouri and found a new home in Randolph county, where he engaged in telegraph construction work for four years. Following that occupation he served as foreman of a section gang on the Hannibal & St. Joseph railroad, which is now a part of the Burlington system, for eighteen years.

Mr. Reardon had received but a limited education in his native land, but he had aspirations to better things than his service for the railroad company af-