

born on May 29, 1842, and a scion of families long domesticated in that country. His father, John Speyerer, and his grandfather, Frederick G. Speyerer, were natives of the Fatherland, and their forefathers lived in it for many generations. The father was born in 1816 and came to the United States in 1852. His first location in this country was in the state of New York, where he remained until 1863. He then moved to Illinois, and in that state passed the remainder of his life, busily and profitably engaged in farming. He died there June 11, 1867.

Before he left his native land he served his required term in the German army, acquiring in its discipline a control of himself and a use of his faculties which was of benefit to him throughout the rest of his life. In 1841 he was united in marriage with Miss Catherine Heintz, who was also a native of Germany. They had nine children, three of whom are living: Their sons Frederick and John, who reside in Shelby county, and their son Michael, whose home is in Texas. In politics the father was a Republican in this country, and in religion he belonged to the Lutheran church.

Frederick G. Speyerer was but ten years of age when his parents brought him to this country. His opportunities for scholastic training were limited to those afforded by the district schools of Erie county, New York, but he was of a studious mind and read a great deal at home, and in this way acquired a large fund of general information. Soon after leaving school he became a sailor on the great lakes, and gave himself up to the hazards of wind and wave for a period

of ten years. At the end of that time he came to Missouri and located in Shelby county, and from the year of his arrival here he has been very actively and successfully occupied in farming and raising, feeding and shipping live stock.

He has taken an active part in the affairs of the township and county of his home, giving his energetic and helpful aid to every commendable undertaking involving the welfare of their people. Politically he is a Republican. Fraternally he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and in religion he is affiliated with the German Lutheran church. On April 18, 1872, he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Dilcam, of Pennsylvania. Eight children were born to them and all of them are living: John B., who resides in Illinois; George F., whose home is in this county; Frederick C., a resident of the state of Wyoming; Elizabeth, who lives at Marceline, Missouri; and Etta V., Rosa C., Grace and Ino, all of whom are still at home with their parents. The latter stand well in the community in which they live and are highly respected by the people among whom they have so long lived and labored. They are regarded as excellent citizens, with an abiding interest in the substantial and enduring good of their county and a constant readiness to promote it in every way they can, and in reference to its every material, mental and moral need.

#### GEORGE W. STALCUP.

With good old Virginia ancestry to give him examples of upright and elevated living in his family history, and a

residence in three states of the American Union to give him knowledge of men in different parts of the country and the varying application of American institutions to the daily economies of life, according to location and circumstantial requirements, George W. Stalcup, of Lentner township, Shelby county, has had many incentives to duty in his citizenship, and his nature has responded to them in a very satisfactory manner. He is progressive, successful and prosperous as a farmer and producer of superior strains of live stock, leading and enterprising as a citizen, and upright and esteemed as a man.

Mr. Stalcup is a native of this county, where his life began on January 24, 1863. He is a grandson of William Stalcup, who was born and reared in Virginia, and a son of James Stalcup, also a native of that state. The father came to Missouri in the early days and located in Shelby county. Here he was actively and extensively occupied in farming and raising live stock until the beginning of the Civil war. Soon after the start of that unfortunate and sanguinary conflict between the sections of our land he followed his belief in the doctrine of state sovereignty into the Confederate army and defended it on the field of battle until he was killed in the massacre at Centralia, Missouri. He enlisted under Captain Johnson and his command saw a great deal of active service until its existence was disastrously ended by the event in which he lost his life, along with many other brave men who deserved a better fate. They dared the hazards of war, espousing their cause warmly and defending it valiantly, and they should

have died, if at all, in fair and open battle, as true soldiers always prefer, and not in such unmanly and brutal warfare as that in which they fell.

Mr. Stalcup was married in Missouri to Miss Mary Byars, like himself, a native of Virginia. They had six children, but only two of them are living: George W. and his older brother William, both of whom are residents of this county. During his life the father was a man of force and influence in his community and his death was widely lamented. He was active in promoting the development of his township and county until the iron heel of war crushed out all enterprise and left every industry inert and languishing. But he did his part while he had opportunity, and his name is remembered among the people with great respect and general approval.

George W. Stalcup thus had his childhood and youth overshadowed by the terrible storm cloud of our Civil war, and began life for himself amid trying circumstances which were due to it. He obtained a limited education in the district schools of Shelby county and after leaving school worked on the home farm for two years. He then went to California in search of better opportunities for advancement, but only remained in that state one year. The next four were passed by him in South Dakota. At the end of that period he returned to this state and Shelby county, and since his return has been actively, continuously and successfully engaged in farming and raising and feeding stock for the markets. He has made a specialty of fine saddle horses and won a national reputation for the excellence of his output in

this department of the stock industry. His farm comprises 235 acres of good farm land, is well improved, highly cultivated and pleasantly located near Lentner. On September 18, 1889, he was married to Miss Alice Kimble, of this county. Two children have been born to them, but only one of them is living, their daughter Elsie, who is still at home with her parents.

#### MARK DEMPSEY.

Forty-four years of the forty-seven which Mark Dempsey, the present county assessor of Shelby county, has lived have been passed in this county, to which he was brought by his parents when he was but three years old. He was educated in the county schools, acquired his social habits in free and friendly intercourse with the people here, has taken a leading part in the industrial life of the county, and for a number of years has been one of its most capable, reliable and upright public officials. He is therefore to all intents and purposes a Shelby countian, although he is a native of Adams county, Illinois, where he was born, near the city of Quincy, on September 3, 1863.

He is a son of Charles and Sarah (Dempsey) Dempsey, natives of Ireland, the father born in County Derry and the mother in Belfast. The father was reared to the age of twenty-one in his native land and came to the United States about 1833. He first located in Pennsylvania and entered the employ of the Crane Iron Works at Allentown, in that state. But the enormous migration from the eastern states to the prairies of

the West, as it was then, attracted his attention and enlisted his interest, and in time the influence became so potential with him that he joined the tide and moved to Adams county, Illinois. There he engaged in farming for some years, and in 1866, when the Civil war cloud had vanished from our country, he moved his family to Missouri and located in Shelby county. On his arrival here he bought a tract of unbroken land in Jackson township, and to the development and improvement of this he devoted the remaining years of his life, which ended in 1877. His widow survived him eight years, dying in May, 1885.

Of the eight children born to them five are living, and all but one are residents of this county. They are: Hugh; Elizabeth, the wife of Marshall Baker; Nancy, the wife of William Barry, of St. Louis, Missouri; Mark, and Maggie, the wife of T. J. Finney. Each of them in their several locations and occupations exemplifies in daily life the lessons of thrift, industry and upright living inculcated around the family fireside and by the example of their parents, and each is highly respected by all classes of the people among whom they are known.

The father was an active and loyal Democrat in his political faith, but he never held or sought a political office. His religious connection was with the Catholic church. Some years after he was well established in this country, and had become a prosperous farmer in Adams county, Illinois, his father, Patrick Dempsey, brought the rest of the family to that county, and there he met with a tragic fate, being killed by acci-