

a very active and prominent part. He is now the chief mustering officer for the state of Missouri, and officer of the day in the post to which he belongs at Clarence. He is also a past-commander and has been state and national aide-de-camp. His fervor in devotion to the organization, like that of many other veterans who are members of it, seems to grow in intensity as the years pass and its fast-fading ranks melt away. So, also, does his interest in and zeal in behalf of the Christian church, of which he and his entire family have long been devout and consistent members, and he a leader in the congregation to which he belongs, taking an active part in all its worthy and commendable work. In all the requirements of good citizenship he has measured up to the highest standard, giving his community the best service and example he has been capable of. The people of the township and county are well advised of this fact, and of all else that is creditable in his record, and they esteem him accordingly, holding him to be one of the best and most useful men among them.

#### LEWIS CASS STOVER.

Successful, prosperous and highly progressive as a farmer and stock man, long a valued member of the local school board, for many years an elder in his church, and at all times deeply and serviceably interested in public affairs and the development and improvement of the township and county of his home, Lewis Cass Stover, whose fine farm of 120 acres, near Clarence in Clay township, this county, is one of the choice ones in

that locality, has proven himself to be a very useful citizen and altogether worthy of the confidence and esteem of his community, which he enjoys in full measure.

Mr. Stover was born in September, 1848, in Hannibal, Missouri, and is a son of Jacob and Polly (Baker) Stover, both natives of Maryland. The father came to Missouri in 1833 and located in Hannibal. He was a blacksmith and for a number of years operated the largest blacksmithing establishment in Hannibal. His marriage with Miss Polly Baker, a daughter of Alexander Baker, took place in 1843. They had three children, but their son, Lewis Cass Stover, is the only one of them living. His mother died in June, 1851, when he was but three years old, and in 1855 his father went to Texas, where he remained eleven years. While there he married a second wife, Miss Mary Race, a Kentuckian by nativity. They also had three children. In 1866 the father returned to Missouri, and here he remained until his death in 1886.

Left largely to his own resources in boyhood and youth, Lewis Cass Stover realized early in life that he had only his own capabilities to look to for advancement among men and success in life. He attended the public schools in his native city for a time, securing what he could in the way of scholastic training, then went to work on a farm as a hired hand. By this means, and by diligent use of his every opportunity for the acquisition of useful knowledge, he gained a thorough mastery of agricultural pursuits, and as they were suited to his taste and capacity, he determined

to devote his life to them. He has adhered to this resolution to the present time (1910), and has won a gratifying success by doing so. He has an excellent farm, which is well improved, highly cultivated and very productive. His special industry, however, is raising good breeds of live stock for the markets, and to this he gives the greater part of his attention and care, making every effort to keep his output up to the highest standard of excellence and maintain the good reputation it has wherever he is known.

Mr. Stover was married in 1882 to Miss Kittie Arnett, a daughter of Macajah Arnett, of Kentucky, and Judith (Frances) Arnett, a native of Virginia. They came to Missouri at an early day and located in Shelby county, where Mrs. Stover was born. She and her husband were the parents of four children, of whom three are living: Sybel, Neva, the wife of James Copenhaver, and Mildred. In politics the father is a lifelong Democrat, with an abiding interest in the welfare of his party and an energy and intelligence in effort ever ready for its service. He has rendered the people excellent service as a member of the school board for more than fifteen years, and in every other way available to him has contributed to their benefit and the advancement of the township and county in which he lives. His religious connection is with the Christian church, and he has been one of the elders of the congregation to which he belongs for many years. He takes a great interest and a leading part in church work, and his activity in this behalf is highly appreciated by all church

people, as his energy and progressiveness as a citizen are by the whole community and all classes of its residents.

#### JOHN D. EDWARDS.

The last survivor of his father's household and representing the fourth generation of his family that has been loyal to the American flag and helped to develop and build up the country in peace and defend it in war, John D. Edwards, of Clay township in this county, is a shining link in the chain which connects the present day with our remote and historic past. His great-grandfather, William Edwards, was a native of Wales, and brought his family to this country in colonial times, locating in Virginia. He was a tailor and made clothing for General Washington. He joined the Colonial army and fought valiantly under the great commander for American independence.

His son, also named William, the grandfather of John D., was also born in Wales and came to America with his parents in his childhood. After he grew to maturity he moved to Kentucky, where he farmed for many years and where he at last laid down his trust. In that state the third William Edwards in direct descent, the father of John D., whose life story is our present theme, was born and reared on the farm. He, also, was a farmer, and, after following his chosen occupation in his native state some years, came to Missouri in 1856 and located in Clay township, Shelby county. His wife was Miss Eliza Davidson, a native of Tennessee, and they had twelve children, all now deceased but