

Jessie, wife of Perry Parsons, and Chester and Lee, all residents of Shelby county and prominent and useful in promoting its development and improvement.

WILLIAM T. SWEARINGEN.

Born in Monroe county on July 24, 1849, at a time when this portion of the state was almost virgin in its wilderness and unsettled condition, and growing to manhood here, taking part in all the stirring activities incident to peopling and developing a new country, William T. Swearingen, of Shelbina, has had fine opportunities for being useful to his locality and writing his name in enduring phrase among the monuments and products of its progress. That he has employed his opportunities to good advantage is proven by the numerous and imposing structures for residence and business purposes which he has erected in the county and city of his long home and by the universal esteem in which he is held by all classes of the people.

Mr. Swearingen is a son of Thomas and Polly (Ashcraft) Swearingen, the father a native of Kentucky, born in 1815, and the mother born and reared in Missouri. Thomas Swearingen came to Missouri early in the thirties and located in Monroe county. There, for a number of years, he was actively engaged in farming and raising live stock, giving his whole attention to his operations and making them as profitable as the circumstances would allow. In the course of time he became enamored of Shelby county, and, selling out his interests in Monroe, he moved to this county on a farm which he purchased,

and on which one of the old landmarks of the section was located in the form of a flour and saw mill on Salt river. He worked the farm and operated the mill greatly to the convenience and advantage of the people within a large extent of the surrounding country and his own profit for many years, when he sold all his real estate and farming appliances, and retired from active life to a home in Walkersville, in which he died in 1893.

In politics the father was a Democrat, firm in his devotion and zealous in his services to his party, and in religious connection was affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal church, South, to which he also gave the benefit of his wisdom in council and his fidelity and industry in work. He was married twice, the first time to Miss Polly Ashcraft. Of the nine children born to them five are living and all but one are residents of Shelby county. They are: James, Sallie, the wife of John Wood; William T. and Malcomb, of this county, and Ephraim, who is a citizen of Monroe county. The second marriage of the head of the house occurred in 1868, and by it he was united with Miss Ellen Wood, of Shelby county. They became the parents of two children, Milton, who lives in St. Joseph, this state, and Ora, the wife of William Dungan, of Shelby county.

William T. Swearingen grew to manhood on the parental homestead in this county and obtained his education in its public schools. After leaving school he continued to work on his father's farm until 1869, doing also considerable work as a builder and contractor, having acquired a mastery of

the carpenter trade, for which he had a natural aptitude. He put up many of the best dwellings and other buildings in the neighborhood, and they still stand out among the improvements in the county as evidences of his skill and ability as a builder. Since taking up his residence in Shelbina, which he did in 1904, he has devoted himself exclusively to contracting and building on a large scale and with great success in results, both in the products of his art and the profits reaped from them. He has worked at his trade practically for forty-one years, and has won a reputation for mastery of it that is second to none in this portion of the state and that places him in the first rank among mechanics wherever he is known.

In all parts of Shelbina, and in many other localities, stand structures built by him which are admirably adapted to the purposes for which they were erected, and which potentially proclaim his merit as a builder. For he has been a student of his craft and has enlarged and trained his natural ability in it by keeping himself posted in its latest phases and higher developments, acquiring some skill as an architect along with fine mechanical execution, and placing all his attainments liberally at the service of his patrons and his employes, thus enriching the property of the one class and the acquisitions of the other.

On July 21, 1870, he united in marriage with Miss Isabelle Wood, of Shelbina. Of the five children who have blessed and brightened their home four are living and all dwelling in Shelbina. They are George, Claudia, wife of Harry Keith, and Mabelle and Freda, both of

whom are still members of the parental household. It is much to have lived sixty years among the same people and to have grown steadily in their respect and esteem, but this is what Mr. Swearingen has accomplished. For his life has been clean and useful, constant in its fidelity to duty in all private and public relations, and ennobling in the high example of worthy citizenship it has given those associated with and living around him. It is of men like him that the best American manhood is made, and it is from such lives as his that our most stable and valued standards are taken.

GEORGE C. GRANT.

Although for nearly twelve years a member of the bar, and during a portion of that period an active practitioner of the profession, George C. Grant, of Shelbina, has found mercantile life of the most strenuous and exacting character more to his taste than professional pursuits, and during the last seven years has devoted himself principally to that as an extensive dealer in real estate and was the junior member of the firm of Cleek & Grant, but is now doing business under the style name of George C. Grant, Real Estate Dealer, Shelbina, Missouri. He has been very successful in his undertakings and is accounted one of the best and wisest business men in Shelby county.

Mr. Grant was born on November 4, 1875, in the adjacent county of Monroe and village of Granville, where his parents, William and Mary A. (Moulton) Grant, then lived. The father was born and grew to the age of fourteen in Eng-