

is now serving as its clerk. In 1899 he was also appointed road overseer, and is still giving the people of the township excellent service in that capacity, having held the office continuously from the date of his first appointment. In political relations he adheres firmly to the principles of the Democratic party and is at all times one of its most energetic and effective working members. His fraternal connections are with the Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America, and he and his wife are zealous and deeply interested communicants in the Christian church, in which they are both earnest and appreciated workers.

His marriage was solemnized on January 10, 1889, and was with Miss Harriet J. Robinson, a daughter of James and Matilda (Schudy) Robinson, prominent and highly esteemed residents of Shelby county. Three children have been born of the union, and they are all living and still at home with their parents. They are Omer J., Velma L., and Esther May.

JOHN G. VON THUN.

John G. Von Thun is one of the highly successful and prosperous farmers and live stock men of Black Creek township, in this county, whither he was brought by his parents from the far distant land of his birth when he was but two years old. He was born on June 2, 1866, in the colony of Victoria, Australia. There the father, Nicholas Von Thun, a native of Germany, born in 1827, passed ten or twelve years of his life engaged in farming and teaching school. In 1868 he

moved his family to Missouri and located in Shelby county. Here he bought land and was busily occupied in general farming until his death, in 1872.

He was married to Miss Caroline Burkhardt, who was also a native of Germany. They had six children, four of whom are living: Henry, a sketch of whom will be found in this work; and Harman, John G. and Paul, all four residents of this county. The parents belonged to the Lutheran church and were among the original settlers in the German Lutheran community in this county, to whom is much indebted the industry, thrift, progressiveness and general good citizenship of the colony, for there were excellent men and women, giving faithful attention to every duty in public and private life, and both through their labors and the force of their example they gave the portion of the county in which they lived substantial prosperity and good speed on the road to high development.

John G. Von Thun, as has been noted, was an infant but two years old when his parents moved to the United States and located in Shelby county. He has passed all his subsequent years here, and while he has prospered himself in a worldly way, he has also been an important factor in promoting the general welfare and steady improvement of his township and county. He has always been energetic and enterprising with reference to all public interests and has given everybody around him the stimulus of his own zeal and activity and the force of an excellent example for the good of the locality in which he has so long lived and so effec-

tively labored for himself and all worthy undertakings involving the good of his community.

Mr. Von Thun obtained his education in the district schools of this county and at an early age began working on neighborhood farms, and when he grew older rented land for himself and did considerable cropping. He kept this up until 1891, when he bought the land on which he now lives, and which has been his home and the seat of his enterprise ever since. He has carried on vigorous farming operations in a general way, with skill and enterprise, and he has also conducted a very active and extensive live stock industry. His farm is a fine one, well improved and highly productive, and he makes every hour of his work on its tell to his advantage.

His religious affiliation is with the Lutheran church.

On January 15, 1891, he was united in marriage with Miss Augusta Doss, a daughter of John and Henrietta (Treadfald) Doss, first settlers in the German Lutheran community, coming here in 1865, and have since been worthy and appreciated residents of Shelby county. One child has been born of the union, a son named Albert, who is living at home with his parents. He is a young man of promise, zealous in the performance of his duties and a credit to the family, standing well in the community and generally esteemed, as his parents also are, and as they all deserve to stand and be esteemed.

HARRY H. PRANGE.

One of the most successful and progressive farmers and stock men of Black

Creek township, in this county, and one of the most energetic and public spirited of its citizens with reference to public improvements and the general progress and development of the township, Harry H. Prange is justly esteemed an excellent man to have as a resident of any wide-awake and enterprising community and as worthy of the regard and admiration of all persons who value his character of citizenship, which has been found very useful and based on proper ideals of manhood and duty to the region in which he lives.

Mr. Prange is a native of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he was born on September 11, 1863. He is a son of John and Catherine (Hyman) Prange, the former born in Germany in 1834, and the latter a native of Pennsylvania. The father came to the United States early in the 60's and located in Pennsylvania for a few years, then in 1866 moved his family to Missouri and found a new home in the German Lutheran colony in Shelby county. He was one of the first settlers in that colony and at once showed the sturdy and sterling traits of character and habits of industry and frugality which distinguished its residents and gave such an impetus to the development and improvement of the portion of the county in which the colony was located. He bought land there and followed farming and raising and feeding live stock for the markets with great vigor, skill and good management. He was successful in his business, and at the time of his death, which occurred on February 19, 1909, was a well-to-do man of considerable valuable property and excellent standing in his township. His marriage to