

business undertakings, being one of the stockholders in the Commercial Bank of Shelbina and owning and managing considerable real estate in business properties in the city and farm lands in Shelby and other counties. On June 28, 1888, he was married to Miss Ida M. Lyell, who was born and reared in Shelby county. They have two children, their sons, Thomas Lyell, born in Shelbina, August 27, 1891, and Charles E., born in Shelbina June 12, 1893, both of whom are still living at home with their parents.

Mr. Puckett has long been one of the leading and most active promoters of the development and improvement of the town and county. In 1906 he was elected mayor of Shelbina, and for a year he gave the city an excellent business administration of its affairs. But owing to the failing condition of the health of one of his sons (Charles), he resigned in 1907 and took the young man to California for the winter. During that year, while out driving, he was thrown from his buggy and sustained a broken leg. The fracture did not yield readily to treatment and the limb had to be amputated on account of dangerous complications. But notwithstanding his crippled condition, he still takes an active part in his business and the affairs of the community. He is a Democrat in political faith and a Southern Methodist in church connection and takes a leading place in the work of both his party and his church.

HALLEY THOMAS WILLIS, M. D.

To no other class of professional men is it given to administer so directly and completely to the comfort and happiness

of mankind as to physicians. They deal with all kinds of human ailments, both mental and physical, and are called upon to render services as wide in range as human suffering and human sorrow, and are often the only persons who can do it. To how many persons a country physician in active practice supplies aid in distress, hope in gloom, comfort in agony, solace in sorrow and even consolation in death, it would be idle to guess at. He is required to have a strong combination of qualities for his work, of which his professional and technical requirements are but a small part, and the necessity for their activity is always at hand, the reservoir is always on draft. Among the physicians of northern Missouri Dr. H. T. Willis, of Shelbina, occupied high rank for the full possession of these qualifications and the skillful use of them.

Dr. Willis was born in Monroe county, this state, on July 3, 1864. He came of Kentucky stock, both of his parents, Samuel Pierson and Elizabeth (Thomas) Willis, having been born and reared in that state. The father's life began in April, 1825, in Shelbyville, Kentucky, where his father, John Pierce Willis, was a manufacturer of wagons and carriages until 1851, when he and his family moved to Missouri, located in Monroe county and engaged extensively in farming and raising live stock. The grandfather died in 1874. The doctor's father farmed in his native county until the Western fever took possession of him and in 1851 he too came to this state and located on a farm in Monroe county. He raised stock in considerable numbers on his farm and dealt extensively in mules, at that time a nearly new article of sale

and production in this part of the state. In 1868 he sold his farm in Monroe county and bought one in this county, on which he lived and labored until 1885, when he moved to Shelbina, determined to pass the remainder of his days in the enjoyment of the rest he had so well earned and the competence he had so laboriously acquired. He sold his farm and resided here until his death, October 30, 1904. In 1852 he married Miss Elizabeth Thomas, a native of Nelson county, Kentucky. They had two children. The father was a zealous and energetic Democrat in politics and a devout and loyal Baptist in religious affiliation. He gave a great deal of his time and energy to church work, in which his services were recognized as most effective and valuable. The wife and mother died in July, 1903.

Dr. H. T. Willis obtained his scholastic training in the public schools of Shelbina and at the Shelbina Collegiate Institute, which latter he attended five years. His professional studies were pursued in private reading and at the University Medical College, of Kansas City, which he entered in 1895, and from which he was graduated with the degree of M. D. in 1898. During his period of study at this institution he was first assistant to Dr. C. W. Adams, an eminent physician of the western Missouri metropolis, in his private practice, and the training he received through this experience was both extensive and, thoroughly practical.

After receiving his degree the doctor took up his residence in Shelbina and entered at once on the active practice of his profession. He made that city his home and was industriously engaged in

a general practice which grew steadily in magnitude from year to year, as he had the esteem and confidence of the people and the regard of his professional colleagues. He was a close and reflective student of the literature of his profession, keeping abreast with its advancement and in touch with its latest thought and discoveries. He also took an active part in the societies organized for its improvement, being a valued and helpful contributor to the deliberations of the state and county medical associations, to both of which he belonged. He was also medical examiner for the Knights of the Maccabees and International Life Insurance Company of St. Louis. In 1902 he was appointed county physician and he served as such until his death, February 25, 1910.

Politically the doctor was a firm and energetic Democrat. He was always interested in the welfare of his party and did effective work in helping it to success in all its contests. Fraternally he belonged to the Masonic order, Knights of the Maccabees and the Modern Woodmen of America. His church connection was with the Baptist sect. On December 29, 1904, he was united in marriage with Miss Mamie J. Lamb, of Port Republic, Virginia. In the cultivated social circles of Shelbina she had ample scope for the exemplification of the mental force, delicacy of feeling and grace of manner she inherited from long lines of Virginia ancestry and abundant opportunity to employ her faculties in connection with those of her husband in promoting the general welfare of the community in which they both felt an earnest and continuing interest. They were hospitable

in their home, helpful to every mental and moral agency at work among the people and zealous in the performance of every social and religious duty.

CHARLES BOGGS MARTIN.

Actively connected with the real estate and loan business in Shelbina for twenty consecutive years, and for six years prior to his entrance into that line one of the leading fire insurance agents of the city, county and surrounding country, Charles B. Martin has had an extensive opportunity to demonstrate his capacity for business and his right to the confidence and esteem of the people who have the pleasure of his acquaintance and the advantage of doing business with him. He is now the junior member of the firm of Puckett & Martin, real estate and loan operators, and as such enjoys in a high degree the regard and good will of the community.

Mr. Martin is a Virginian by nativity, having been born at Lexington, Rockbridge county, in the Old Dominion, on March 28, 1853. His ancestors lived for generations in the state that is known as the "Mother of States and of Statesmen," his grandfather, James Wesley Martin having been born and reared there, and having had before him a long line of progenitors born and reared in the same neighborhood, which was Greenbrier county, in that part of the state now known as West Virginia, which was torn from its maternal breast in the violence and unreason of the Civil war.

Mr. Martin, the interesting subject of this brief review, is a son of James Wesley and Nannie O. (Green) Martin, the

former born and reared in Greenbrier county, West Virginia, where his life began in 1812, and the latter a native of Rockbridge county, in the mother state. The father farmed for a number of years in West Virginia and became a resident of Missouri in 1869, reaching the state in November of that year. He located in Marion county and there farmed and raised live stock until 1883, when he sold his interests in that county and moved to Shelby county, purchasing a farm there and continuing to operate it until his death, in September, 1886, carrying on at the same time an active and flourishing business in raising live stock, and thereby contributing to the improvement of the stock in the county and aiding in supplying, by the excellence of his products, the best markets in the country.

He was married to Miss Nannie O. Green, of Rockbridge county, Virginia, who is still living at the advanced age of eighty-nine, with all her faculties yet vigorous and her sinews strong. They became the parents of twelve children, seven of whom are living—Alexander J., a resident of Rockbridge county, Virginia; William P., who lives at Moberly, Missouri; Reuben L., a citizen of Washington, D. C.; Charles B., whose interesting life story these paragraphs record; Samuel S. and Albert A., residents of this county; and Emmett, who lives in the state of California. In politics the father was a Democrat and in church relations a Southern Methodist. He was an active worker in both his party and his church and was esteemed by the members of each as a helpful factor in all their undertakings.

Charles B. Martin, like the majority of