

From Beloit he moved to Hannibal, Missouri, where he followed the same business nine years. He then took up his residence in Shelby county and changed his occupation to farming and raising live stock. He has been industriously occupied in these pursuits ever since until a few months ago, when he determined to retire from active pursuits and moved to Shelbina, where he is now living in comfort and contentment after a long and arduous struggle for advancement in prosperity and enduring many privations and hardships at different periods of his life.

Mr. Powell has been successful in his undertakings, winning a competence for himself and his family and rising to a high position in the regard and good will of the people of this county. He has been active in promoting their welfare and given them an excellent example in elevated citizenship. His political connection is with the Republican party, of which he is an earnest and zealous member, and in religion he is affiliated with the Christian church at Lentner. Fraternally he belongs to the Masonic order and the Grand Army of the Republic. On July 10, 1866, he was united in marriage with Miss Eusebia Meeter, of Beloit, Wisconsin. She is still living. They have no children. Mr. Powell's four score and three years sit lightly on him. He is still a man of vigor and enterprise, as earnestly interested in the progress of his county and state, as faithful and energetic in the performance of the duties of citizenship, and as genial, obliging and companionable in social relations as he ever was. He is justly

esteemed as one of the best and most estimable men in Shelby county.

HUGH W. WOOD.

Aiming at no high-flown or spectacular success in life, and seeking no avenues to preferment but that of honest fidelity to daily duty in his chosen vocation, but adhering steadfastly and zealously to that, Hugh W. Wood, one of the substantial and prosperous farmers and stock men of Lentner township in this county, has made steady progress in advancement and attained a position of prominence and permanency in the respect and good opinion of the people in all parts of this and the adjoining counties.

Mr. Wood is wholly a product of Shelby county. He was born within its borders on April 11, 1861, obtained his education in its public schools, has passed all the active years of his life to the present time (1910) in helping to promote its industrial and commercial growth and the elevation of its civil and social institutions, and taken the mistress of his home and helpmate in life's arduous struggle from among its agreeable daughters. All that he is, therefore, Shelby county has made him, and all that he has done and achieved has redounded to its credit and advantage.

It is to be said, however, that he had native force and capacity which enabled him to take advantage of the opportunities presented for his betterment, and has shown great industry and business acumen in managing his affairs. He is a son of John Wesley and Kitty (Robb)

Wood, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of the state of Tennessee. The father's father, William Wood, was also born and reared in Kentucky, where his parents were among the pioneers of that great and progressive state. There John Wesley Wood, father of Hugh W., was born on May 3, 1831, and from there he accompanied his parents to Missouri and Shelby county in 1835, when he was but four years old. He grew to manhood and secured a common school education in the primitive country schools of his boyhood, the best then attainable in the undeveloped state of this region.

After leaving school he started the battle of life for himself as a farmer on a tract of forty acres of wild land. This he reduced to subjection and fertility, improved it into a comfortable country home and, as his prosperity increased, added to its extent by additional purchases. He is now seventy-eight years of age and is still actively engaged in farming and raising live stock, his farm now comprising 180 acres of superior land and being all under skillful and vigorous cultivation. It is located three miles northwest of Shelbina.

Mr. Wood, the elder, married Miss Kitty Robb, a native daughter of Tennessee, as has been stated, but long resident in this county. Of the nine children born of this union six are living: Meredith, the wife of Malcolm Swearing, of Shelbina; Hugh W., the subject of this sketch; Meretta, the wife of L. W. Duncan; Laura Frances, the wife of Ollie Fletcher; and Myrtle, the wife of W. H. Tenney, all residents of Shelby county, the last named having her home

in Shelbina. The father adheres faithfully and firmly to the Democratic party in political matters and belongs to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in his religious relations.

Hugh W. Wood was educated in the public schools of Shelby county and, after completing their course of instruction, helped his father on the home farm until he reached the age of twenty-seven years. In the autumn of 1888 he began the career in farming and raising live stock which he is still extending. His fine farm of eighty-five acres is a model of its size and capacity in the development to which it has been brought and the skill and intelligence with which it is managed. For, having no ambition in any other line of effort, Mr. Wood studies what he is engaged in and applies to his operations in both farming and the live stock industry all that he can acquire of valuable information from judicious reading and reflection. All this is greatly to his credit and of material benefit to his township and county, in which he has always manifested a very active and helpful interest.

On October 3, 1888, Mr. Wood was united in marriage with Miss Mary L. Fletcher, a daughter of Charles A. Fletcher, who was a prominent resident of Shelbina. His political allegiance is given to the Democratic party and in all its campaigns he is one of its serviceable and appreciated workers, although never seeking any of its honors or official positions for himself. His religious affiliation is with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and in this also he takes an earnest and productive interest,

as he does in the work of all church organizations without regard to creed or denominational differences.

JOHN T. DAVIS.

Looking well always to the interests of his country and freely offering his life and all its energies to the service of that country, whether the call of duty took him to the gory field of battle trampled by the relentless iron heel of civil war or those white with the harvests of peaceful and productive industry, John T. Davis, one of the leading and most successful farmers and live stock men of Jackson township in this county, has vindicated his patriotism and sterling citizenship in peace and war.

He was born in Marion county, Missouri, in 1833, and is a son of Gabriel and Cynthia (Kinkaid) Davis, the former a native of Kentucky and the latter of Virginia. They were married in 1832 and had six children, two of whom are living: John T. and his brother Wallace, who is also a resident of Shelby county. The father was born in 1809 and came to Missouri in 1828. Through the agency of his ancestors and other hardy pioneers his native state had by that time been largely redeemed from its wild and unpruned condition and made highly productive and progressive. But when he became a resident of Missouri at the age of nineteen he found the frontier conditions still extensively prevalent and himself face to face with the problem that had engaged the energies of his forefathers one and two generations earlier in Kentucky. But he was of heroic mold and accepted the situation and its

obligations with cheerfulness, entered upon the duties before him with alacrity and did his part toward the development and improvement of the region in which he had taken up his residence with diligence and fidelity to every requirement. He located in Marion county and engaged in farming and raising live stock, which he followed continuously and with success until 1884, when he retired from active labor. In 1848 he sold his Marion county property and bought a farm in Shelby county, on which he passed the remainder of his life and died in 1894. He was a Republican in political faith and allegiance from the foundation of the party and always gave its principles and candidates his earnest and effective support.

John T. Davis was educated in the country schools of this county and after leaving school learned the carpenter's trade. He worked at this until 1864, when he enlisted in the Union army, Company F, Thirty-ninth Missouri Infantry, under command of Captain Poe. The Civil war was in its last stage of vigor, however, at the time of his enlistment, and his military service lasted only six months. At the end of that time he was mustered out of the army at St. Louis, Missouri. He was ready for more arduous trials in the service than he experienced, as he was familiar with military tactics and knew something of the possible hazards and hardships of war, having belonged to the state militia for some years before the Civil war began and during the war until his enlistment.

After his discharge from military service he returned to his Shelby county home and remained there two years. In