

teemed citizens of the county that has been his home from his childhood days, and is now engaged in the retail hardware trade in the thriving village of Bethel, where he controls a large and substantial business.

Walter C. Bower was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, on September 21, 1841, and he was about five years of age at the time of the family removal to Shelby county, Missouri, his father, the late John L. Bower, having been one of the early members of the staunch German colony which had as its center the village of Bethel. In the schools of this village Walter C. Bower secured his early education, and after completing his studies he worked with his father at the cabinet maker's trade until 1869, when he became associated with his brother, John C., in the purchase of the furniture business conducted by their father. After a short interval he bought his brother's interest in the enterprise and he continued to be successfully engaged in the manufacturing and sale of furniture and the conducting of a general repair shop in this line until 1893, when he sold the business and engaged in the hardware trade, in which he has since continued with success, having a commodious and well equipped establishment, in which are handled a full assortment of heavy and shelf hardware, stoves, ranges, paints, oils, builders' supplies, etc. Mr. Bower has been a thorough and enterprising business man and has gained a large measure of success through his honorable and well directed efforts, so ordering his course as to maintain a sure hold upon the confidence and esteem of the community that has represented his

home from his childhood days. He is a stockholder in the Bank of Bethel and also in the Farmers' Bank of this village. He is the owner of valuable real estate in the village and also has well improved farm land in the county.

Though never ambitious for public office of any description, Mr. Bower is aligned as a loyal supporter of the cause of the Republican party, he is affiliated with the Masonic fraternity and both he and his wife hold membership in the German Methodist Episcopal church in their home town.

In 1868 Mr. Bower was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Carroll, of Shelby county, and their only child died in infancy. Mrs. Bower died in 1870, and on December 8, 1876, Mr. Bower was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Fox, who was born in Germany, whence she came with her parents to America, the family home being finally established in Shelby county. Of the eight children of this union, seven are living, namely: Anna, who is the wife of Rev. William R. Velte, a clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal church and now a resident of Denver, Colorado; Ida, who is the wife of Frederick Morris, of Green City, Missouri; Walter G., who is engaged in business in Bethel; and Nora, Adam, Clarence and Monroe, who remain at the parental home.

WILLIAM T. ZIEGLER.

Mr. Ziegler is one of the well known and popular citizens of his native village of Bethel, where he conducts a prosperous business as a blacksmith and where he is a representative of one of

the sterling pioneer families of the county. He was born in Bethel, September 9, 1856, and is a son of George and Sophia (Steinbach) Ziegler, both of whom were natives of Germany. The father was born in the year 1810 and was a boy at the time of the family immigration to America, having been reared and educated in one of the eastern states and having come to Missouri in 1844 and numbered himself among the sturdy German founders of the colony of Bethel, Shelby county, where he became a citizen of influence and one who commanded the unreserved esteem of the community. Here he followed the blacksmith trade for nearly half a century, and here his death occurred in the year 1884. His marriage to Sophia Steinbach occurred prior to the removal to Shelby county and her death occurred in 1892. Of their thirteen children, ten are living, and concerning them the following brief record is consistently entered for perpetuation in this volume: Catherine is the wife of Michael Durrstein, of Quincy, Illinois; George is a resident of the state of Oregon; Henry resides in Bethel; Sophia is the wife of Henry L. Hoffman, and they reside in the state of California; Wilhelmina is the wife of Herman Erich, a farmer of Shelby county; Mary is the wife of William Steinbach, of Bethel; Matilda is the wife of Thomas Shadel, of Edina, Missouri; Julia is unmarried and resides in California and is a twin of William T., subject of this sketch; and Christina is the wife of John L. Smith, of La-Grange, Missouri. The father was a staunch adherent of the Republican party and took an intelligent interest in

the questions and issues of the day, and both he and his wife held membership in the German Lutheran church.

William T. Ziegler is indebted to the schools of Bethel for his early educational discipline, and after leaving the same he was engaged in farm work for three years, after which he followed the trade of tinsmith for two years. He then turned his attention to the sturdy trade of blacksmithing, and he has followed the same consecutively and successfully during the long intervening years, being known as a skilled artisan and having a large and representative patronage. He is the owner of a nice home and other property in his native town, and he gives his support to all measures and enterprises that tend to further the progress and prosperity of the village and county. He and his wife are zealous in the work of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which they are devoted members; he is affiliated with the Bethel lodge of Free & Accepted Masons, and I. O. O. F., No. 603, Hebron Lodge; and in politics, though never an aspirant for public office, he gives a staunch support to the cause for which the Republican party stands sponsor.

On December 2, 1878, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Ziegler to Miss Emma Pflum, of La Grange, this state. She was born and reared in Missouri and is a daughter of the late S. Pflum, who was a sterling, citizen and successful business man of Marion county. Mr. and Mrs. Ziegler became the parents of seven children, of whom four are living, namely: Carl F., who is engaged in business at Laclede, this state; Bertha, who is the wife of Harry C. Bair, of Bethel,

individually mentioned on other pages of this work; and William H. and Leslie E., who remain at the parental home.

JOHN G. BAUER.

Among the sterling and honored citizens contributed to Shelby county by the great empire of Germany is John G. Bauer, who is a member of one of the honored pioneer families of the county and who has here gained a generous measure of success through his own well directed efforts. He is one of the representative business men and influential citizens of Bethel, where he has maintained his home for more than sixty years and where his sterling attributes of character have retained *bo* him impregnable popular confidence and esteem.

Mr. Bauer was born in the kingdom of Bavaria, Germany, December 1, 1835, and is a son of John G. and Nat Bauer, who immigrated to America in 1839, when he was a child of four years. The little family disembarked in the city of New Orleans, from which point they proceeded by packet boat on the Mississippi river to Muscatine, Iowa, in which vicinity the father purchased a tract of land and engaged in farming. He was one of the pioneers of that section of the Hawkeye state, where he continued his residence until 1845, when he came with his family to Missouri and numbered himself as one of the sturdy German colonists of Bethel, Shelby county. Here he engaged in agricultural pursuits, but he was not long permitted to continue his endeavors? as his death occurred in 1846, less than a

year after his settlement here. His wife preceded him by a number of years, her death occurring in 1836. He was a devout member of the Christian church. Of their five children, two are now living, the subject of this review being the younger and his sister, Christina, being the wife of Moses Miller, of Bethel.

John G. Bauer, whose name initiates this article, gained his rudimentary education in the common schools of Iowa and continued his studies in the Bethel schools, having been about ten years of age at the time of the family removal to Missouri and having been reared to manhood in the staunch old Bethel colony. After leaving school he served an apprenticeship to the shoemaker's trade, to which he devoted his attention for several years, after which he engaged in the jewelry business, in which he has since continued, being now one of the pioneer merchants of Bethel, where he has directed his efforts along normal and straightforward lines of enterprise and where he has gained a large and well merited success. After the close of the Civil war he took a course in pharmacy, under the preceptorship of Professor Fink, of Bethel, and prior to the disbanding of the original colony he conducted a drug store for a number of years, in connection with his jewelry business, and still continues it.

In 1882 Mr. Bauer became associated with three other substantial citizens in purchasing the Bethel grist mill in Bethel, after the division of the colony, and in 1902 he purchased the interests of the other stockholders, since which time he has continued to operate the mill in an individual way. In addition to