

1887, for a term of two years. He is a well-to-do farmer, and owns 160 acres of meadow and plow land, upon which is a comfortable house, good outbuildings, etc. Mrs. Smith is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Otho Staggs, farmer and stock raiser, was born in Belmont County, Ohio, in 1835, and is a son of Christopher and Anna Staggs, formerly of Hampshire County, Va. When about twenty-six years old the father went to Belmont County, Ohio, where he was married, and spent the remainder of his life in farming. He died in 1858, when about sixty-six years old, and his first wife died in 1842. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the father was a member of the Baptist Church. He was twice married. Otho Staggs remained at home until seventeen years of age, receiving a limited education. In 1858 he married Amy Mercer, of Tuscarawas County, Ohio, daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Mercer. Mrs. Staggs was born in Belmont County, Ohio, at which place they lived four years, then moving to Coshocton County, Ohio. In 1866 they moved to Putnam County, Mo., locating twelve miles northeast of Unionville, where he purchased eighty acres of land; to his original purchase he has since added until he now owns 500 acres, 125 situated in Appanoose County, Iowa. His farm is very nicely improved and cultivated, and his barn and dwelling are among the best in the county. He is one of the self-made men of the county, and the property is the result of his own unassisted toil and good management, as he was obliged to go in debt for his first purchase. In the fall of 1875 Mrs. Staggs visited her former home and parents in Ohio; and in the fall of 1882 Mr. and Mrs. Staggs were both back and visited relatives and friends. He is a Republican, and cast his first vote for Lincoln in 1860. They are both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church; have had ten children, eight of whom are now living: Henry B. (of Kansas), Mary C., William M. (of Kansas), Ella E. (wife of Theophilus Phillips, of Appanoose County, Iowa), John W., Anna E., Jesse R. and Addison E.

David E. Statton, farmer and stock raiser, was born in Hampshire County, Va., December 18, 1834, and is a son of Jacob and Margaret (High) Statton, who were of English descent. The father was born in Virginia. Jacob Statton grew to manhood in his native State, and was there united in marriage to Miss Margaret High, a native of that State. Mr. Statton remained in Hampshire County until his death in 1856. He served during the War of 1812 as teamster. The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Hampshire County on the farm. In 1857 he came to Missouri, and settled in Putnam County, in the section where

he now resides. He was accompanied by his mother who kept house for him several years, and who died in the spring of 1878. Mr. Statton was married, in Putnam County, in June, 1858, to Miss Celemma Thompson, a daughter of Jackson Thompson, of St. John, who came to the county from West Virginia during its early history. Mrs. Statton was born in Indiana, and reared in that State and Virginia. She is the mother of nine children: Minta (wife of Lafayette McKee, of Iowa), David E., George, Tessie, Maggie, Frank, Katie, Orië and Burlie. Mr. Statton is a well-to-do farmer and stock raiser, having 960 acres of meadow, plow and blue-grass pasture land, all fenced, and is living in a good house surrounded by comfortable outbuildings and a nice orchard. He had about 200 acres of land in grain this season, and keeps about 200 head of stock. Mr. and Mrs. Statton are both united with the United Brethren Church, of which the former is a minister. He was ordained in 1858, although he began to preach in 1855. During 1858-59 he traveled as a circuit preacher. In 1866 and 1867 he traveled as elder of the United Brethren Church, but since that has acted only in a local capacity. He is a highly honored and conscientious gentleman, and one of the most popular men in the vicinity in which he lives.

George N. Stille, editor of the *Unionville Republican*, is a native of Clermont County, Ohio, and was born on April 26, 1857, three years later being brought by his parents to Putnam County, Mo., where they located in Unionville, in 1860. Here our subject has since resided save two years, from 1884 to 1886, spent in Milan. At the age of twelve he began working in the *Republican* office, where he remained until 1881, when he served two terms as sheriff, being elected in 1880, and again in 1882. In May, 1884, he purchased the *Milan Republican*, taking charge of that paper, and conducting it until December 13, 1886, when he sold it, and returned to Unionville, and February 12, 1887, purchased the *Unionville Republican*, which he has since edited. June 15, 1881, he was united in marriage to Hattie E. Loring, a native of Mount Pleasant, Iowa. Mr. Stille is an Odd Fellow, which order he joined in October, 1879, and has also been a member of the Encampment. He is one of the enterprising and public-spirited men of the town, and a journalist of extraordinary ability. His father, Joseph R. Stille, was born in Brown County, Ohio, and reared in that and Clermont County, Ohio, by Dr. McLain, his parents having died in his infancy. He graduated in medicine in Cincinnati, and was married, at Bethel, Ohio, to Amanda M. Bradwell, a native of Clermont County, Ohio. He practiced his profession until the war, and then enlisted in Com-

pany E, Eighteenth Missouri Infantry, serving as surgeon part of the time, and afterward was made first lieutenant. He died from the effects of a wound received at the battle of Shiloh, October 2, 1868. The mother still resides in Unionville, and our subject is one of a family of six sons and two daughters, two sons and two daughters living.

E. M. Strauser was born in Northumberland County, Penn. (then Armstrong County), and is a son of David and Ellen (Solady) Strauser, natives of Eastern Pennsylvania. His father was married four times. After the death of his first wife, in 1847, he married Miss Elizabeth Troutman, by whom three children were born. This lady died in 1866, and he then married Mrs. Lankard, who bore him three children. After her death, in 1860, he was united in marriage to Mrs. Motter (Fanny Bailey). Mr. and Mrs. Strauser are now living in Jefferson County, Penn., he being seventy years of age. His father, Jacob Strauser, was born near Philadelphia, Penn. E. M. Strauser moved to Louisa County, Iowa, in 1857, and in the spring of 1865 came to Putnam County, where he has since lived. He was educated in the common schools of Pennsylvania, and when sixteen years old began life upon his own responsibility, and is now a well-to-do and prosperous citizen, owning 622 acres of land besides town property, which he possesses elsewhere. During his youth he learned the blacksmith's trade, which he followed to some extent until the fall of 1866. He also conducted a dry goods' store in Newtown for five months, and then engaged in the hardware and the harness business for fifteen and seven years, respectively. He is now interested in the lumber business in Newtown, in connection with his farming. April 7, 1861, he married Miss Lucy Williams, daughter of G. B. Williams and Mary (Hall) Williams, natives of Indiana. To this union nine children have been born: Gamalia W., Mary J., Alice, David Z., Augusta, Lizzie, Jalia, Elijah and Clinia. Mr. and Mrs. Strauser are both identified with the Christian Church. Mr. Strauser is a Republican, and has served his township as notary public four years, and in the spring of 1887 was elected justice of the peace. He is a member of the Blue Lodge, No. 190, A. F. & A. M., in Masonry.

Jonathan D. Summers was born in Randolph County, Mo., September 20, 1832. His father, Isaac Summers, was born in Virginia, in 1801, and accompanied his father, Simeon Summers, to Kentucky, in 1802. Simeon was an early settler of Kentucky, who moved to Indiana in 1814, and there spent his last days. Isaac grew to manhood in Indiana, and was there married to Rachel Cozad, who was born near Dayton, Ohio. Isaac moved from Indiana to Illinois, and from the latter State to Randolph

County, Mo., about 1831. He moved from there to Macon County, and from there to Putnam County, in the fall of 1840, entering the land upon which J. D. now resides, which he improved and upon which he died in 1859. Of a family of four children, J. D. and his sister, Mary M., wife of Henry Johnson, of Putnam County, are the only survivors. Our subject came with his father to Putnam County when eight years old, at a time when Indians and wild animals inhabited the country. Here he arrived at maturity and was married three times, the first two ceremonies having been performed in Unionville. August 29, 1860, he was married to Catherine, daughter of Crawford Odam, and a native of Illinois, by whom he has had four sons and two daughters. One daughter was born to his second marriage. He is the father of the following named children: Martha (widow of Joseph Denslow), Maryetta (wife of James A. McKinley, of Putnam County), Simeon F., Ettie M., Jonathan D., Crawford O. and Benjamin C. Mr. Summers' first wife was Cavy M. Weatherford, to whom he was married February 14, 1856, and who only lived a short time; the second wife was Martha Smith, daughter of Dr. Smith, of Iowa, to whom he was married December 24, 1857, and who died December 11, 1858. Mr. Summers sold goods in his neighborhood for one year, about 1856, and then moved his stock to Unionville, where he kept a general store until 1865. He was reared a Whig, but is now a Democrat, although he voted for both Lincoln and Grant. While in Unionville he served as postmaster from 1859 until the fall of 1864. He is now the owner of 360 acres of land, 200 fenced and well-improved, and lives in a comfortable residence, near which is an orchard of 400 apple bearing trees. He has been a member of the Masonic lodge at Hartford for about fifteen years, and himself and wife are Adventists.

L. D. Thomas, dentist, was born in La Salle County, Ill., in 1857, and in 1869 accompanied his parents to Putnam County, locating on a farm in Medicine Township, and in 1877 began the study of dentistry under Mr. Fox, at Milan, with whom he remained two years, and then practiced in the western part of Putnam County until June, 1885, when he located at Unionville. His office was first in the Marshall Bank Building, but in the fall of 1887 he removed to his present office over Harkins Hart Company store. He can be found at his office in Unionville the latter half of each month, but the rest of his time is spent in the western part of the county and in Iowa. His father was born in New London County, Conn., March 19, 1822, and after the age of two until he reached maturity lived in Wayne County, Penn., where he learned the wagon trade with his father, and

also taught school during his early manhood, having been an attendant at the Bethany High School, Penn., for three years. In 1844 he located at Lowell, Ill., where he worked at his trade and taught school. In January, 1850, he married Sarah Cushing, who died two years later; this lady was a niece of Gen. Pratt, of Missouri. After her death Mr. Thomas studied medicine. In the fall of 1854 he married Nancy Reed, a native of Ohio, and to this union three sons and one daughter were born, our subject being the second child. The others are Charles C., F. F. and Lucy. Alfred, the paternal grandfather, lived the most of his life in Wayne County, Penn., and died in Linn County, Iowa.

Burrell B. Thompson, farmer and stock raiser of Sherman Township, was born in Barbour County, Va., September 13, 1833, and is a son of S. J. and Jane (Booth) Thompson, also natives of Virginia. In about 1839 the family moved to Ohio, and the following year to Indiana, where they located in Cass County and resided for seven years. They then returned to and lived in Barbour County, Va., for several years, and in the fall of 1849 went to Illinois. After remaining in Whiteside County, of that State, about three years, they immigrated to Missouri, and located in 1852 in St. John Township, Putnam County, where the father still resides. Our subject grew to manhood in Virginia and Indiana, and in 1852 located in Putnam County. Here he was married, in August, 1853, to Miss Catherine R. Daniels, daughter of William Daniels, formerly of Virginia. Mrs. Thompson was born in Marion County, Ohio, and reared in Virginia. After his marriage Mr. Thompson improved a farm in Sherman Township, which is in the northern part of Putnam County. Some three years later he moved to the west of St. John Township and improved a farm there, which he afterward sold, and then moved upon his present location. He now has a well-improved place, with 210 acres in the homestead, all fenced, and about 130 acres in meadow and plow land. Their union has been blessed with only one son—Marshall Thompson—who married Melissa Skipper, and has an eighty-acre farm adjoining that of his father's. He is a young man of good character and is well situated in a comfortable house, and has a fairly improved home place. Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Thompson are members of the Methodist Church of St. John.

Edward Titus was born in Dutchess County, N. Y., in 1827, and is the eldest child of Obadiah and Mary (Townsend) Titus, natives of New York State. Mr. Titus was a prominent man in his county, serving as judge of the county court, and sheriff of Dutchess County, N. Y., and in 1836 was elected to Congress, serving one year. He was a soldier in the War of 1812 for

three months, and commanded a company of State militia. He was of Welsh-English, and his wife of English descent. His parents, Samuel and Ruth (Titus) Titus, were natives of Dutchess County and Long Island, N. Y., respectively. The mother was a daughter of George and Phoebe (Willett) Townsend, natives of New York. Her grandfather, George Townsend, was a staunch Whig, and during the Revolution served on a prison ship. Edward Titus, the subject of this sketch, moved to Putnam County, Mo., in January, 1872, where he has since resided. He received a good academical education, and passed his youth upon a farm. Farming has been his life occupation, with the exception of five years, during which he was employed in the New York Custom House, engaged in the manufacture of butter and cheese, and served in the war. He enlisted in the fall of 1861 in Company H, Sixth New York Cavalry, officiating as second lieutenant. He afterward served in Company A, in the same capacity, but after being transferred to Company I was made captain. He was wounded at the battle of Winchester on Opequah Creek, and January 16, 1865, was discharged at Annapolis, Md., on account of disability. In January, 1862, he married Rachel Spielman, a native of New York, by whom he has had six children: Catherine, Mary, Maud, Percy (deceased), Jessie and Floyd. He is a Royal Arch Mason, and a Knight Templar, and has served his township as justice of the peace four years.

Benjamin F. Todd, farmer and stock raiser, of Section 33, Jackson Township, Post-office, West Liberty, was born in Pulaski County, Ky., March 30, 1823, and is a son of Thomas and Mary (Vanhook) Todd, also natives of Kentucky. The family moved to Sangamon County, Ill., about 1851, locating near Springfield, where the father died about 1866. Benjamin F. Todd spent his youth in Kentucky upon the farm. He was married in Lincoln County, in 1850, to Miss Julia Ann Bowman, a native of Rock Castle County, Ky., and after his marriage farmed there about three years. In 1853 he went to Christian County, Ill., and after a year's residence moved to Sangamon County, where he farmed about ten years. He sold out in 1864, and sought a home in Missouri, farming first two years in Scotland County. He then sold out and returned to Sangamon County, Ill., and two years later sold again, and went to Marshall County, Iowa. In 1871 he located in Putnam County, Mo., and bought 120 acres of raw land, which he proceeded to cultivate. He now owns 205 acres, 160 in the home place, forty in another tract and five in timber land. He has a nice one-and-a-half story house, etc., and a good bearing orchard of about 150 select apple trees.

Mr. Todd lost his first wife in 1864. Of this marriage there are three living children: Leander, married; Julia, wife of William Francisco, of Kansas, and Alice, wife of David Tompkins. Three children died—one at the age of two, Belle aged eight, and James aged twelve. June 4, 1864, Mr. Todd married Miss Sarah Elizabeth, daughter of William Martin McClain, of Scotland County, Mo. This lady was born in Galena, Ill., and reared in Scotland County. To her and our subject ten children have been born. The eldest, Benjamin F., died July 13, 1886, aged twenty; Sallie, wife of John Mowry; Hattie J., Charles W., William B., Rollie B., Harlie M., Lucy Blanche, Daisy E. and Fronie C. Mr. Todd is a Republican, but has never sought nor wished to obtain political prominence. Himself, wife and a daughter, Hattie, are members of the Christian Church.

J. C. Triplett was born in Monroe County, Mo., in 1839, moved to Sullivan County with his parents when a small boy, and from there came to Putnam County in the fall of 1853, where he has since resided. When of age he began life as a day laborer, soon accumulated a little money, and upon the death of his father inherited forty acres of land and \$600 in money; the balance of his property is mostly the result of his own labor and business ability. He has a finely improved farm of 440 acres, upon which he resides (forty acres of which belonged to his wife at their marriage), and is considered one of the respected and well-to-do farmers of the township. In 1862 he enlisted in Company D, First Missouri State Militia Cavalry, and served in 1861 as a home guard. He was first appointed corporal, but for his efficient service was afterward made sergeant, which office he held until March 11, 1865, when he was mustered out at Warrensburg, Mo. He was wounded by Price's men at Castle Rock, in October, 1864. October 8, 1866, he married Miss Nancy Shelton, daughter of John and Frances (Mason) Shelton, the former of Tennessee, and the latter a native of Virginia. They were reared in Kentucky, moving to Putnam County, Mo., in the spring of 1850. To Mr. and Mrs. Triplett six children have been born: Julia F., Ulysses L., John W., Viola E., Daisy L. and James O. Mr. Triplett is a Republican in politics, and is a member of the G. A. R. He is the third child of five born to James and Frances (Crutcher) Triplett, natives of Virginia, who were reared in Kentucky. They were of Irish and Dutch descent, respectively, and the father served as assessor of Monroe County, Mo., and represented Putnam County in the Legislature one term. Mr. Triplett's first wife was Miss Nancy Lidick, by whom three children were born. Mrs. Frances Triplett was a daughter of Charles Crutcher, an early settler of Monroe County, Mo.

Leander Todd was born October 29, 1854, in Rock Castle County, Ky., and is the second child born to Benjamin F. and Julia A. (Bowman) Todd, natives of the same county and State. The former was of Irish and the latter of German descent. The father was a successful man, being considered one of the best farmers in his county. Mr. Todd died in February, 1866, and the fall of the following year Mr. Todd married Miss Sarah McLain, by whom he has had nine children. Both are members of the Christian Church. Mr. Todd is a staunch Republican in politics. His father, Thomas Todd, was a native of Kentucky. Leander Todd was taken by his parents to Sangamon County, Ill., when a year old, and eight years later moved to Scotland County, Mo. He afterward returned to Sangamon County, then went to Marshall County, Iowa, and in 1871 came to Putnam County, Mo., where he has since resided. He received a common-school education in Sangamon County, Ill., and in the State of Iowa, and when eighteen years old began life on his own account. As the result of economy and good management he now owns 444 acres of well improved and cultivated land, and is one of the successful farmer citizens of the township. In 1876 he wedded Miss Maggie Morehead, by whom he had one child—Isadora. Mrs. Todd died in 1880, and in March of the following year he married Miss Sallie Howe. To this union three children have been born: Nellie, Walter M. and Frank. Mr. Todd is a member of the Christian Church. He is a member of the Republican party, and belongs to the I. O. O. F.

James Turner, one of the largest and most enterprising merchants of Northeast Missouri, was born in Salisbury, Wiltshire County, England, in 1839, and at the age of sixteen immigrated to Canada, where he remained three years, then removing to McLean County, Ill., and, after a year's residence there, moved to Louisa County, Iowa. At the commencement of the war he went to Burlington and enlisted in the Sixth Iowa Infantry, with which he remained until the close of the war, being mustered out at Davenport, Iowa, as captain of Company I. After returning from the war he went to Wapello, Iowa, and engaged in the grocery business for four years, and then accepted a position in the mail service on the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad, but resigned in two years and opened supply stores at Unionville, Mo., and Moulton and Cincinnati, Iowa, all on the line of the Chicago, Burlington & Kansas City Railroad, then in the course of construction. After the completion of the railroad he only continued to conduct the store at Unionville, which he soon made one of the most popular stores in Northeast Missouri. In 1873 he built the main part of his present store, a handsome two-

story brick structure, 24x120 feet, which is a model in all departments. Ten men are constantly employed in his store to supply the demands of his continually increasing trade. Besides superintending his business in the store Mr. Turner buys and ships large quantities of grain. In 1866 he was united in marriage to Sarah E. Stewart, a native of Ohio, and is now the father of two children: Daisy and Nellie. Mr. Turner is a member of the orders of I. O. O. F., A. O. U. W. and G. A. R., and is a strong temperance advocate. Both the maternal and paternal grandfathers of our subject were Methodist ministers, and lived and died in England. The father, William Turner, was born in the same county as James, and there married Anna Willett, afterward immigrating to Canada in 1854, and is now residing at Burlington, Iowa. Mr. Turner is the second of twelve children—four sons and eight daughters—born to this union. Two sons and four daughters reached maturity, and are still living.

J. P. Vandevort was born in Ross County, Ohio, in 1814, and is a son of James and Rachel (Peters) Vandevort, natives of Virginia. The father served in the War of 1812, as sergeant of his company, and was a son of Charles Vandevort, a native of New Jersey, and a soldier in the Revolutionary War. The mother was a son of John Peters, a native of Pennsylvania, and a soldier in the Revolutionary War. Mr. and Mrs. Vandevort were of English and Dutch descent, respectively. J. P. Vandevort remained in his native county until about 1839, when he went to Morgan County, Ill., a year later removing to Louisa County, Iowa. About 1855 he came to Putnam County, where he has since resided. He has devoted his attention to farming since his boyhood, and at the age of twenty began life for himself. By good management and industry he has amassed a comfortable competence, and is the owner of 180 acres of good land, under good cultivation. In 1837 he married Miss Sophia Beck, a native of Pike County, Ohio, by whom five children have been born—James Milton, William Asberry, John C., Elizabeth and Phoebe. Mr. Vandevort lost his first wife in 1849, and in 1853 was married to Mrs. Adaline Snyder, whose maiden name was Ritew. This lady was born in Lancaster County, Penn., and is the mother of the following children: Winfield Scott, George R., Albert, Addie and Jane. Mr. and Mrs. Vandevort belong to no church, but sympathize with the doctrines of the Universalist and Methodist Churches, respectively. Mr. Vandevort is always interested in the welfare of his county and country, and during the late war served in Company I, Third State Militia Cavalry, from 1862 until the fall of 1863, when he was wounded

in a severe skirmish at Newtonia, and returned home. He is a Republican, and, although he has served his township in various official capacities, is no aspirant for political honors.

S. B. Walton, jeweler and silversmith of Unionville, was born in Davis County, Iowa, in 1852, and is one of six sons and two daughters born to Ira D. and Cynthia (Alexander) Walton, natives of Ohio and Indiana, who now reside at Bloomfield, Iowa. All the children were reared to maturity, but one brother is now deceased. Our subject learned his trade at Bloomfield, Iowa, and in 1877 went to Hutchinson, Kas, where he opened a stock of jeweler's goods and remained three years. He then returned to Bloomfield and from there went to Unionville in 1880. He first located on the south side of the square, and afterward on the west side, where he was burned out in 1882. He was then, for a year and a half, on the northwest corner of the square, on the west side of the street, and in the fall of 1884 formed a partnership with E. N. Monroe, the druggist, in whose room he has since carried a fine stock of silver tableware, jewelry, gold and silver watches, clocks, diamonds, etc., his stock being valued at about \$4,000. His stock is well assorted and very complete, and would be of credit to a town five times larger than Unionville. In the fall of 1877 Mr. Walton was married to Neatie Goss, a native of Jackson County, Ind.

George W. Warren was born in Hamilton County, Ohio, October 11, 1828, and is a son of Levi and Mary (Dacon) Warren, natives of Ohio and New York, respectively. They moved to Illinois in 1835 and settled in McDonough County, where the father entered land and improved a farm near McComb. After a number of years the family moved to Mercer County, and from there, in 1879, to Keokuk, where the father died the same year. G. W. Warren arrived at maturity in McDonough County, Ill., upon the farm, and was married in that county September 9, 1856, to Mary Jane Yard, daughter of Job and Frances Yard, of McDonough County, formerly of England. Mrs. Warren was born on the Mississippi River while her parents were on the trip west. After his marriage Mr. Warren farmed in McDonough County until he came to Missouri, in May, 1886. He then bought 220 acres of land where he now resides, to which he has added, and he is now the owner of 280 acres, 200 well cultivated and improved. He lives in a good one-and-a-half story house, and has a nice orchard of 300 trees. There are eight children in his family: Ida A., Amy E., Byron, Effie, Job, Olive C., Mary Theodosia and Nora L. One child, Fannie E., died in early childhood. Mr. and Mrs. Warren and his family, with the exception of the youngest child, are members of the Christian