

## *WILLIAM H. THOMAS*

It is specially gratifying to accord in this history specific recognition to a fine contingent of the able and progressive farmers who are aiding gallantly in upholding the high prestige of Kentucky as an agricultural state, and in Montgomery County a successful and popular exponent of agricultural and livestock industry is he whose name initiates this paragraph and whose excellent farm homestead is situated two miles east of Mount Sterling, the county seat. Mr. Thomas has been identified with farm enterprise on an extensive scale in this section of the Bluegrass state and has demonstrated his versatility by former prosperous activities in connection with the general merchandise business. He is essentially one of the vital and representative farmers of this history of his native state.

Mr. Thomas was born in Rowan County, Kentucky on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of August 1872, and is a son of Andrew J. And Josephine (Reed) Thomas, the former of who was born in Bath County, this state, October 12 1840, and the latter of whom was born June 30, 1854. The mother passed to the life eternal in January 1903, and the father's death occurred on 19<sup>th</sup> of September of the following year. Andrew J Thomas, was but twelve ears old at the time of his father's death, was early thrown upon his on resources and consequently received only limited educational privileges. As a boy and youth he was employed by the day at farm work and he was one of the sturdy young Kentuckians who went forth in defense of the confederate cause when the Civil war was precipitated on the nation, his service in the ranks having continued for three years. Within a short time after the close of the war he married Miss Lizzie Utterback, who died when a young woman who is survived by one child Lydia, who was born in 1867. Mr Thomas later married Josephine Reed, and of the four children of this union William H., of this review is the first born; Rudolph A. who was born August 13, 1874, resides at Newcastle, Indiana; Samuel, who was born in 1877, died in the year 1884; and Mollie, who was born August 3, 1890, is the wife of Sanford Ratliff of Bath County. Andrew J. Thomas devoted a greater part of his active life

to farm enterprise and both he and his wife were residents of Rowan County at the time of their deaths.

The sturdy discipline of the farm compassed the boyhood and youth of William H. Thomas, and his public school training was supplemented by his attending high school at Owingsville, Bath County and the Kentucky State Normal School at Morehead, Rowan County. He put his scholastic acquirements to practical test and use by becoming a teacher in the rural schools, and he continued his successful service in the pedagogic profession for a period of eleven years, for six years after his marriage in 1892, he engaged in farming on rented land, and he then purchased 170 acres of land in the river bottoms of Rowan County. He made a payment of \$800.00 in purchasing this farm, which he sold three years later at an appreciable advance. Within a short time thereafter he repurchased the same property, to which he gradually added until he was the owner of a valuable tract of 1,500 acres in Bath and Rowan counties. He established himself also in the general merchandise business, and after conducting the same successfully for six years he sold the stock and business. He continued his farm enterprise, and for two and one-half years was again engaged in the mercantile business. He finally sold 1,000 acres of his landed estate, and in 1919 he purchased his present fine farm of 427 acres in Montgomery County, besides which he retains an excellent farm property of 500 acres in Bath County.

Mr Thomas has been not only a progressive farmer and merchant, but has also shown marked loyalty and public spirit as a citizen. His political faith is that of the democratic party and he served two years as postmaster at Farmer, Rowan County, besides having given a similar period of service as a trustee of his school district in that county. He and his wife are active members of the Christian Church at Mount Sterling.

December 22, 1892, recorded the marriage of Mr Thomas and Miss Dolly Grayson, in conclusion is offered brief record concerning the children his union: Sudie M. Is the wife of Stanley R. Thomas; May is the wife of Reid Ledford; and Banta, Mattie, William, Lucile, and Dorothy are still members of the parental home circle.

Mr. Thomas has made a record of substantial and worthy

achievement , and has so ordered his course as to merit and receive the unqualified respect and good will of his fellow citizens.

HISTORY OF KENTUCKY

Published 1922

Volume 4, Page 609