

JAMES F. BOALS.

James Francis Boals, formerly the sheriff of Richland county, is descended from two of the pioneer settlers of the county. His grandfather, James Boals, an Irishman by birth, came to this country in early life, and was one of the primitive settlers of Weller township, this county, where he

entered a tract of government land and developed the same into a farm. On this farm, in 1830, his son John was born. John Boals grew up here and for a number of years made this place his home, taking an active part in local affairs and being recognized as one of the leading spirits of the community. He married Miss Eliza Ashton, also a native of Weller township. Her parents were Francis and Elizabeth Ashton, the former an Englishman, who, on coming to this country, at once located in Weller township. He entered the land now known as the A. L. Martin farm. Subsequently he moved to Hardin county and thence to Allen county, Ohio, and during his active, useful life he accumulated a fortune, most of it, however, in Allen county. At his death his estate was valued at two hundred thousand dollars. John Boals and his wife reared six sons and four daughters. One of the latter, Esther, is the wife of William G. Hughes, and resides in Weller township, she and the subject of this sketch being the only members of the family now living in Richland county. The parents and other children are residents of Hardin county.

James F. Boals was born July 30, 1854, in the same house, in Weller township, in which his father was ushered into life. Reared on the farm, and early giving his assistance to its various kinds of work, he developed a rugged constitution and a fine physique. He remained at home until he was twenty-two years of age, when, in 1877, he married and started out in life on his own account. His first business venture was with a sawmill and threshing machine, which he operated for some years in Weller and Franklin townships, and with which he was successful, running the Aultman-Taylor machinery. Selling out in 1884, he went to work for the Aultman-Taylor Machinery Company, with which he was connected from that time until 1896, as a traveling representative. His travels covered all parts of the United States and numerous foreign lands, including England, Holland, Germany, Turkey, Roumania, Egypt, South America and Mexico. On one occasion he was shipwrecked. That was in 1887, in the North sea. He had sailed from Amsterdam at noon on Sunday, for South America, and at 2 A. M. the next morning the vessel collided with another vessel, both sinking shortly afterward. Passengers and crew, numbering in all six hundred and two people, were saved in life boats and were picked up at 4 P. M. on Monday by a vessel bound for Hamburg. A keen observer with a just appreciation of the variety and novelty of travel abroad, Mr. Boals has a fund of information that is seemingly inexhaustible, and he has a pleasing way of reciting the incidents which occurred on his various trips. A description of his travels would make a volume of much interest and no small proportions.

In November, 1896, Mr. Boals was elected sheriff of Richland county, and in performing the duties of this office gave such general satisfaction that in 1898 he was elected for a second term, without any opposition whatever. His term of office expiring January 1, 1900, he became connected with the Twentieth Century Manufacturing Company, of Mansfield, with which he is at present identified. He is a member of the board of directors of the Mansfield, Savannah & Wellington Electric Railway Company.

Mr. Boals was married March 29, 1877, to Miss Eunice Cline, a daughter of Louis Cline, one of the pioneers of Weller township. They have no children.

Of a genial social nature, Mr. Boals has identified himself with fraternal organizations. For fifteen years he has been an Odd Fellow, having advanced through the various I. O. O. F. degrees, and both he and his wife are members of the Rebekah-degree Lodge. From his boyhood he has been a lover of fine horses, and has seldom, if ever, been without one or more; at this writing he has seven. He is a member of the Mansfield Driving Association, which has two race meetings each year, and he is now serving his third term as the president of the association. Also at this writing he is serving as a member of the Mansfield city council, to which office he was elected in April, 1900.