

WILLIAM WALLACE JOHNSON.

Descended from long lines of Irish and Welch ancestry, who were among the pioneer settlers in Alabama, bearing their part well in the affairs of their adopted country, as their progenitors had done in the land of their nativity, William Wallace Johnson, now of Robertson, Wyoming, came into life and its duties with family traditions and records that were an inspiration to lofty endeavor, attaining man's estate under domestic training well adapted to the development of the manly and self-reliant traits for which his race has ever been distinguished. He was born at St. Charles, Idaho, on February 5, 1867, the son of Snellen M. (popularly known as Cub) and of Rebecca (Baker) Johnson. The father was a native of Alabama, where his parents, Willis and Nancy (Greer) Johnson, of Irish and Welch origin respectively, were pioneers, and where they resided on a large plantation until he was seven years old, when they emigrated to Texas, rearing their family on a cotton plantation in that then young and undeveloped country. Later, while they were crossing the plains to Utah to join their religious associates in the Mormon church, Willis Johnson died of cholera; and his widow was accidentally drowned in Twin Creek, Wyo., in 1879. Their active son, Snellen M. Johnson, was reared and educated in Texas, and there he married. After his arrival in Utah, in 1853, he became a member of the Mormon faith and married Miss Rebecca Baker, a native of Iowa, but then a resi-

dent in Utah. Her father was one of the personal followers of Joseph Smith, and was at Nauvoo, Illinois, in 1846 when his sect was expelled from that state, himself crossing the Mississippi on horseback to save his life. In the autumn of 1879 Snellen Johnson started with his father's family to Arizona, but, on account of the hostility of the Indians they settled in Wyoming, taking up a homestead on Henry's Fork, in what is now Uinta county. Here they lived for several years, the father directing an enterprise in farming and stockraising, but not being able to do much physical labor, owing to disability incurred in his military service in the Mexican War, throughout the whole of which he participated as a Texan ranger. And, while on account of this disability he received a pension from his grateful government, that was no recompense for his inability to take his place among the workers of the community to perform his part in actual labor towards advancing its interests. He, however, three times bought cattle and drove them across the plains to Utah in the early and dangerous days, and thus gratified his ambition for productive effort. He died at the home of his son, Snelling, on Smith's Fork, Uinta county, Wyo., on June 10, 1890, leaving a widow, who still survives, living at Robertson. William Wallace Johnson was thirteen years old when his parents settled in Wyoming, where he received a limited public-school education, when he was eighteen taking up a squatter's claim on the Henry's Fork, filing on and completing his title to it when he was twenty-one. He has since greatly improved the place and made it comfortable as a home for his mother. In 1895 he went to Idaho, spent six years working in the mines, returning to Wyoming in 1901 and purchasing 160 acres of superior land on Smith's Fork, to which he has since added eighty acres. On these tracts he has a pleasant home and conducts a profitable stock industry. On November 25, 1901, he married with Miss Alice May Townsend, a native of Silver City, Idaho, and a daughter of William H. and Nellie (Scales) Townsend, the former born in the state of Maine and the lat-

ter in Ireland, from whence she came to America with her parents when she was eight years old. They are Methodists in religious affiliation, and in politics he is an ardent Democrat, giving his party good service in all its campaigns.