

Biographical and Historical  
Memoirs of  
Woodruff County

Woodruff County, Arkansas

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1890

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Introduction to the  
Hearthstone Legacy Publications  
Ebook edition of

## Woodruff County, Arkansas 1890 History

During the 1880's and 1890's an ambitious project was underway by The Goodspeed Publishing Company and several others to document the history of numerous American counties. These histories documented the earliest settlement of the county as well as the events that shaped its history such as natural disasters, political events, crimes, Civil War events, and its prominent citizens and organizations.

Among those county histories was a combined volume titled "Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas". From that volume, we have extracted and present here, the complete Woodruff County, Arkansas section, including the biographical section.

This edition is a photo replica of the pages from the original edition and so is an exact copy of the pages pertaining to Woodruff County exactly as they appeared in 1890. The original grammar and spellings (and misspellings) are exactly as they appeared in the original printing.

The page numbering of the original edition has been retained in this edition. As a result, you will note that the history of Woodruff County begins on page 272 and concludes on page 320. (Note: The engravings have been included in an different order than the original book printing)

Turn the page and you will have stepped back more than 115 years in the history of Woodruff County, Arkansas. You will read of the ordinary as well the extraordinary people and events who shaped the communities and organizations that continue to this day. May you enjoy the journey back to pioneer times in this newly settled land!

## CHAPTER XVI.

WOODRUFF COUNTY—PERIOD OF SETTLEMENT—FIRST PIONEERS—COUNTY FORMATION—SEAT OF JUSTICE—BUILDINGS FOR PUBLIC USE—JUDICIAL HISTORY—LEGAL BAR—POLITICAL STATUS—DIRECTORY OF OFFICIALS—MILITARY AFFAIRS—GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION—BOUNDARY AND AREA—TOPOGRAPHY—PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION—RESOURCES—CENSUS STATISTICS—VALUATION AND TAXATION—TRANSPORTATION—POPULATION—EDUCATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS FACILITIES—SOCIETY—COMMERCIAL CENTERS.

Look forward what's to come, and back what's past;  
Thy life will be with praise and prudence graced;  
What loss or gain may follow thou may'st guess,  
Then wilt thou be secure of the success.



**B**EFORE the settlement of Arkansas by the Americans began, the Chickasaw Indians occupied the eastern part, and the Quawpaws were located on and along the Arkansas River in the western part. In visiting each other these tribes crossed White

River at the point where Augusta is now located. Hence long before Augusta was established its site was called Chickasaw Crossing. The first white settler of the territory composing Woodruff County was a Mr. Hamilton, who, about the year 1820, landed at Chickasaw Crossing, and "squatted" upon the present site of Augusta. Soon thereafter—say some time between

1822 and 1826—Rolla Gray, with his family and others, came up the river in a small boat from a former settlement made near Indian Bay, or mouth of Cache River, near the present town of Clarendon,

and landed at Chickasaw Crossing. Mr. Gray then bought the right, "good-will or possession," of Mr. Hamilton, became a permanent settler, and lived here until his death. The sons of Mr. Gray, who came and settled with him, were John, Jesse, Daniel, Samuel and Jacob, all of whom afterward made individual settlements. John Gray and two of his brothers settled in that part of the county now known as the Point, in the southern part of the county. John became a stock raiser, and succeeded so well that in 1840, he owned "upward of 100 horses," and in 1841 he drove "400 or 500" head of cattle to Jacksonport, and there shipped them to New Orleans. The two brothers built the first mill in the Point, on Bayou Cache. These three constituted the entire settlement of that section until 1843, when Durant H. Bell, of Tennessee, came and settled there. Others then followed in rapid succession until the Point was

\*In the compilation of the history of Woodruff County, acknowledgments are due to Thomas E. Erwin and wife, Dr. F. D. Dale, writer of the pamphlet entitled "Woodruff County," and others for valuable information furnished.



Gives Truly  
Jas B Dent

WOODRUFF COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

(Backside of  
engraving page)

fully settled. Daniel Gray is said to have been a great bear hunter.

In 1827 John Dennis, a son-in-law of Rolla Gray, settled about three miles south of Chickasaw Crossing, and near the same time two brothers, Michael and Joseph Haggerdon, settled in the vicinity of the Crossing. Redding Stokes and his two sons, George Hatch and Samuel Taylor, were the first settlers on Taylor's Bay, it being named after the latter. Dudley Glass and John Teague settled the O'Neal place, four miles north of Augusta. Teague Lake was named after the latter. In 1835 Maj. John Roddy and his brother, Elias B., natives of South Carolina, settled in the vicinity about three miles northeast of Chickasaw Crossing. In the latter part of 1840, or early in 1841, James Barnes, an eccentric pioneer, founded the Jennie Colony between Cache River and Bayou De View, now De View Township. He named it in honor of his wife, whose first name was Jennie. Thomas Arnold, Abealom Arnold and his son Jerry, were the next settlers of the Jennie Colony. The fame of this colony "spread round about," and it soon became more fully settled. Perhaps the most noted pioneer settler, though not the first, was Thomas Hough, the founder of Augusta. His work as a public man will be mentioned further on. Among what may properly be called the second early settlers, were Thomas E. Erwin, J. L. Murphy and Lieut. L. M. Sawyer, all of whom are living. Mr. Erwin settled in the territory composing Woodruff County, on Taylor's Bay, in 1840, and is now the oldest surviving settler. Mr. Lewis settled ten miles south of Augusta, in 1846. [For further mention of pioneer settlers see Biographical Department.]

Inasmuch as the territory composing this county was nearly all taken from Jackson, it is proper here to mention the formation of that county. Jackson County was organized in accordance with an act of the legislature of the Territory of Arkansas, approved November 5, 1829, and early in 1830 the first courts were held at the house of Thomas Wideman, where Erwin Station\* is now situated,

\*This was the oldest cleared place in Jackson County, having been cleared by the Indians over 100 years ago.

on the Batesville & Brinkley Railroad. The courts were continued to be held there until 1832, when the seat of justice was established at the town of Litchfield, which was located on Village Creek, at the crossing of the Jacksonport and Augusta wagon road. The county seat remained at this place until 1839, when it was removed to Elizabeth, on White River, midway between the present towns of Jacksonport and Newport, on the same river. Here it remained until 1852, when it was removed to Augusta (the present county seat of Woodruff County). The following year it was removed to Jacksonport, where it has ever since remained.

The assertion that the county seat of Jackson County was held at Augusta in 1852 and 1853 has been strenuously disputed by certain later citizens of that place, but the statement is made upon the authority of personal examination of the county records; additional conclusive proof of this avowal is seen by the following letter from the present clerk of Jackson County:

Jacksonport, Ark., July 15, 1880.

SIR: The record here shows that the county court of the county was held from April, 1852, to October, 1852, at Augusta. The opening order for the April term, 1852, reads as follows: "At a county court begun and held for the county of Jackson, at the court house in the town of Augusta, on Monday the 12th day of April, 1852, present Hon. John H. T. Webb, presiding judge." The circuit, chancery and probate courts were also held at Augusta.

Respectfully yours, J. J. WALKER, clerk.  
Per E. L. BOYCE, D. C.

Certainly this *record evidence* is all that is necessary to settle the question, as the county court and all the other courts of Jackson County would not have been held at Augusta if it had not been the county seat.

Woodruff County was created by a vote of the people in pursuance to ordinance of the State Convention of 1861, and was organized in 1862. It was named in honor of William E. Woodruff, editor of the first paper published in Arkansas, the Arkansas Gazette, first published at Arkansas Post, in 1819. He was one of the most distinguished pioneers of the State, and died recently, at Little

It was the site of the old Shawnee Indian village, but abandoned as such when Mr. Wideman settled thereon.



Rock, at a very advanced age. It being during the war period, the organization of the county was not fully and permanently completed until 1865, the end of that period. The county court record prior to September, 1865, seems not to have been preserved, at least it does not appear on file in the clerk's office.

Immediately upon the organization of the county, the seat of justice was established at Augusta, where it has ever since remained. The first court house erected at Augusta was a one-story frame building, which is still standing on the west side of Second Street, on Lots 11 and 12, in Block 8, according to the original plat of the town. The second court house was a residence with two rooms (frame), and stood on the northwest corner of Block 22. It was purchased by the county, but used only a short time, until the present court house was occupied. This latter house was built just before the Civil War, by Thomas Hough, for a residence, and was used as such by his family, through the war period and later. On April 21, 1870, Mr. Hough, for the consideration of \$28,000, conveyed the realty on which this house stands, consisting of a full block of ground, according to the plat of that part of the town, to the county for a court house and public square. The building is a large, two-story brick structure, and, though built for a residence, it answers very well for a court house. It stands in the northern suburbs of the town.

Soon after this property was purchased, a stone jail was erected on the southeast corner of the square, and was afterward set on fire by prisoners and destroyed. The present jail is in a brick building, which was erected by Mr. Hough near his residence for the occupancy of his servants. The county owns a "poor farm," with fair average buildings thereon, for the home of its paupers. This farm lies in Section 16, Township 8 north, Range 3 west.

The courts of the county consist of the county, probate and circuit. The regular terms of the former begin on the first Mondays of January, April, July and October of each year, and the regular terms of the probate court on the fourth Mon-

days of the same months. The regular terms of the circuit court convene the third Mondays of February and August. The first term of this court, as appears of record, was held in October, 1865, by Hon. William R. Cain, judge presiding. The grand jury selected and empaneled at this term consisted of the following-named gentlemen: James P. Ferguson (foreman), Edmond N. Shelton, William Kemble, Andrew J. Henry, Y. B. Brantley, Littleberry G. Wilkerson, Thomas B. Roddy, Thomas H. Penn, Gabriel Couch, Gabriel M. Couch, George Mayfield, Henry W. Linthicum, Jesse H. Wolf, Samuel Whitcomb, William B. Tilmon and Oliver O'Neal. The Woodruff Circuit Court belongs to the First judicial district, composed of the counties of Phillips, Lee, St. Francis, Prairie, Woodruff, White and Monroe. The present judge is M. T. Sanders, of Helena, and the prosecuting attorney is S. Brundidge, of Searcy. The local legal bar of this county consists of: T. E. Stanley and D. D. Leach, of Augusta, and A. F. Maberry and Will T. Trice, of Cotton Plant. It is evident from the small number of attorneys that there is but little litigation carried on in the county.

To show the political aspect of Woodruff County, the votes cast for the candidates for Governor and for President at the late elections is here given: For Governor at the September election, 1888, James P. Eagle (Dem.), 1,548; C. N. Norwood (Com. Opp.), 1,375; for President, at the November election, 1888, Cleveland (Dem.), 1,236; Harrison (Rep.), 1,021; Streeter (U. L.), 192; Fiske (Pro.), 2.

The following is a list of the names of the county officers of Woodruff County, with date of terms of service annexed, from the time of organization:

Judges: I. McCurdy, 1862-64; E. T. Jones, 1864-65; R. W. Martin, 1865-66; E. T. Jones, 1866-68; A. D. Blanchard, 1868-72; L. M. Ramsaur, 1874-76; E. T. Jones, 1876-82; J. B. Dent, 1882-88; W. T. Trice, present incumbent, elected in 1888.

Clerks: V. L. Walters, 1862-64; D. H. Johnson, 1864-66; W. P. Campbell, 1866-68; D. H.

Johnson, 1868-74; W. P. Campbell, 1874-82; A. W. Jones, 1882-86; W. E. Ferguson, present incumbent, first elected in 1886.

Sheriffs: J. R. Jelks, 1862-64; John Thorp, 1864-66; J. R. Jelks, 1866-68; J. N. Bosley, 1868-74; J. R. Jelks, 1874-76; A. W. Jones, 1876-78; Ed. Roddy, 1878-80; A. W. Jones, 1880-82; W. E. Ferguson, 1882-86; Ed. Roddy, present incumbent, first elected in 1886.

Treasurers: James Smock, 1862-64; T. E. Erwin, 1864-66; R. L. Barnes, 1866-68; W. M. Reynolds, 1868-71; E. H. Shelton, 1871-72; T. E. Erwin, 1872-74; C. T. Petit, 1874-82; Warren Sale, 1882-84; J. W. Sallee, 1884-86; Warren Sale, present incumbent, first elected in 1886.

Coroners: James Crawford, 1862-64; William Cornelius, 1864-66; W. H. Dickinson, 1866-68; Edwin Wilson, 1868-72; J. A. Hamlet, 1874-76; B. F. Hawkins, 1876-78; N. J. Barbee, 1878-80; William Elsberry, 1880-82; C. H. Devain, 1882-84; R. W. Stokes, 1884-86; H. D. Spivey, 1886-88; W. A. Harper, present incumbent, elected in 1888.

Surveyors: C. S. Cabler, 1862-64; R. H. Cotney, 1864-68; G. D. F. Malone, 1868-72; C. W. Montague, 1872-74; R. T. Cotney, 1874-78; R. K. Fitzhugh, 1878-82; W. F. Fesperman, 1882-84; E. S. Freeman, 1884-86; L. H. Weed, 1886-88; R. K. Fitzhugh, present incumbent, elected in 1888.

Assessors: W. P. Anderson, 1868-72; J. H. Johnson, 1872 to May, 1874; James B. Dent, from May, 1874; W. W. Garland, 1874-80; W. E. Ferguson, 1880-82; G. W. Gordon, 1882-86; J. P. Hobbs, 1886-88; J. W. Sallee, present incumbent, elected in 1888.

Delegates in State Conventions: W. H. Gray was elected to represent the county in the State convention held January 7 to February 18, 1868, but did not attend. William J. Thompson represented the county in the State convention held July 14 to October 31, 1874.

Upon the approach of the Civil War of 1861-65, many of the citizens of the territory now embraced in Woodruff County, were opposed to secession, but when actual operations of a warlike nature began, they generally cast their lot with the proposed

Southern Confederacy, and did what they could to help establish it. In May, 1861, Capt. Charles Matlock organized a company of State troops at Augusta, and in July following, it was mustered into the Confederate service at Mazzard Prairie near Fort Smith, and became a part of Col. Churchill's regiment—the First Arkansas Mounted Rifles. Capt. James H. Patterson raised the second company at Augusta, in July, 1861, "The Independent Jackson Rangers," as they were called, and soon after this company moved to Mammoth Springs in Fulton County, and there joined Col. Snavell's battalion of Missouri Cavalry. Later, in 1861, Capt. Robert Anthony, Jr., raised a company, mostly in what is now the northern part of Woodruff County, and it joined and became a part of the Eighth Arkansas Infantry. Afterward, in May, 1862, Capt. Ed. T. Jones raised a company at Augusta, and, moving to Little Rock, it joined Col. Pleasant's regiment of the Trans-Mississippi Department. Subsequently Capt. John Bland raised a company, or part of a company, in the territory now composing Woodruff County. This company was composed largely of deserters from the army and conscripts.

All of these companies served in the Confederate army, and acquitted themselves as gallant soldiers. No troops were raised within what is now the limits of the county for the Federal army. In the spring of 1864, Gen. Davidson came up the river in a boat or boats with the Third Minnesota Infantry, landed at Augusta and sent out a company of about ninety men to reconnoiter. On or near the Fitz Hugh farm about six miles northeast of Augusta, this company encountered several hundred Confederate soldiers under command of Gen. McRae. A fight ensued and the Federals fell back in good order to Augusta, suffering a small loss in killed and wounded. Capt. John Bland of the Confederate force and a few of his men were killed. It is said that he and his men did most of the fighting in this engagement, on the part of the Confederates. This was the only skirmish of note that occurred during the war in what is now Woodruff County.

In moving southward, Gen. Steele, command-

ing a portion of the Union Army, stopped and spent the first week in July, 1862, at Augusta, making his headquarters at the residence of Thomas Hough, now the court house. The General pitched his tent on the lawn near the house, and near where lay a large pile of earth (probably thrown from the cellar). Presently a party of soldiers came and began to dig into the earth pile, but the General stopped them and demanded to know what they expected to find; he was informed that a "nigger," one of Mr. Hough's servants had informed them that a keg of currant wine was buried there. The General at once put an end to further pursuit for the wine, and informed Mr. Hough that he had better remove it. The latter was a Union man but would not fight against his neighbors. Gen. Steele and his staff boarded at Mr. Hough's table. The wine was removed from its hiding place, and there is no doubt about the knowledge that the General and his staff had of its quality. Mr. Hough (now deceased) was very liberal, and the wine was free.

Steele's army then moved on toward Helena, and afterward, in the winter of 1864-65, a small force of Federal troops occupied Augusta for a short time. A portion of Gen. Price's Confederate army passed through Augusta on the occasion of his last raid into Missouri, and some of Gen. Joe Shelby's men passed through it frequently. It was never occupied as a military post by either of the contending armies.

The county of Woodruff, in Eastern Arkansas, is bounded north by Jackson, east by Cross and St. Francis, south by St. Francis and Monroe, and west by Prairie and White Counties. It lies mostly in the 36° of north latitude, and between the fifth principal meridian of the United States surveys, and longitude 14° 21' west from Washington. It comprises an area of 590 square miles, of which less than one-fifth is under cultivation.

Its boundary lines are as follows: Beginning on the fifth principal meridian, where the line between Townships 8 and 9 north, crosses it; thence south on said meridian line to the line dividing Townships 4 and 5 north; thence west on the township line to the southwest corner of Section

32, Township 5 north, Range 2 west; thence south to the southeast corner of Section 6, Township 4 north, Range 2 west; thence west to the southwest corner of Section 2, Township 4 north, Range 3 west; thence south on section lines to the line dividing Townships 3 and 4 north; thence west on the township line to the line dividing Ranges 3 and 4 west; thence north on the range line to the line dividing Townships 4 and 5 north; thence west on the township line to the line dividing Ranges 4 and 5 west; thence north on the range line to White River; thence up White River following its meanders to the line dividing Townships 7 and 8 north; thence west on the township line to the southwest corner of Section 35, Township 8 north, Range 4 west; thence north on section lines until White River is again intersected; thence up White River, following its meanders to the line dividing Townships 9 and 10 north; thence east on the township line to the line dividing Ranges 2 and 3 west; thence south on the range line to the line dividing Townships 8 and 9 north; thence east on the township line to the place of beginning.

Of the area of the county, the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway Company, owns between 2,000 and 3,000 acres, and between 30,000 and 40,000 acres is public property, and the balance is owned by individuals.

Its meteorology for the past forty years gives no record of cyclones or other character of violent storms. The annual mean of barometer officially given for the county is  $30\frac{1}{4}\frac{1}{4}\frac{1}{4}\frac{1}{4}$ ". The rain fall is from 44 to 49 inches annually. The mean temperature for the year is 60°. The isothermal belt crossing the county is that which includes the vicinity of Norfolk, Va., Raleigh, N. C., Atlanta, Ga., Nashville, Tenn., Fort Smith, Ark., and El Paso, N. M.

Woodruff County is a part of the vast scope of lowland farm country, lying between White River, below its confluence with the Black and the Mississippi. There are no hills in the county. The surface is comparatively level, its uplands comprising above five-eighths of the whole area, ranging from one to fifteen feet above high water mark. White River, as has been shown, runs

nearly all the way along the western boundary of the county. Cache River, a confluent of the White enters the county from the north, near the middle of Range 2 west, and flows thence in a general direction a little west of south, and leaves the county near the southwest corner of Township 4 north, Range 3 west, its average distance from the White being between eight and nine miles. Bayou De View, another confluent of the White, enters the county from the north about two miles west of the northeast corner, and flows southward in nearly the same direction as that of Cache River, leaving the county near the middle of Range 2 west, its average distance east from the Cache being between seven and eight miles. Eastward from this latter stream, the country rises gently to the summit of the ridge between it and L'Anguille River, which flows in a southerly direction through the western part of Cross and St. Francis Counties. Nearly all the natural drainage of the county is through White and Cache Rivers, Bayou De View and their tributaries.

The longitudinal course of these streams has the effect of dividing the county into three great bodies, viz.: that portion lying between White and Cache Rivers, and that lying between Cache River and Bayou De View, and that lying east of the latter. These again are subdivided into small bodies or slight ridges by the smaller streams. The bottom lands along the large water courses, comprising perhaps nearly three-eighths of the area of the county, and known as the "slashes," are more or less subject to overflow. The major part of these lands, however, can be reclaimed and made tillable by levees and a proper system of drainage. The lands thus far cleared and occupied are on the ridges between the streams. The soil of the entire county is very rich and fertile. It has two grades known as the "gum lands and the white oak lands," the former being the strongest and most productive. The soil of the uplands is a rich, dark, sandy loam, quick and generous, deep and durable; that of the lowlands is more tenacious. The soil in general is composed of vegetable mold, clay and sand, and much of it is of the alluvial deposits.

The territory of Woodruff County was originally an unbroken forest of timber, large and dense, and it is estimated that over five-eighths of its area is yet covered with timber. The remaining forests as yet are mostly unbroken, and throughout the uplands are accessible at all times of the year. The varieties of timber are white, red, black, overcup, burr and swamp oak, gum, cypress, ash, walnut, hickory, etc. A number of saw-mills and an extensive stove factory are now in operation in the county, cutting the timber into lumber and staves for shipping purposes, and much of it is thus going to distant markets. A large amount of timber is also floated down the streams in the log.

There are but few, if any, valuable springs in Woodruff County, but well water of an unexcelled quality, is everywhere obtainable at a depth varying from twenty to forty feet, without digging or boring through any solid rock. Driven wells are in general use, and they can be easily put in and at a cost comparatively low. Some cisterns are found, though driven wells are preferable, as from them a fresh and pure supply of water can always be had. From the sources named, an abundant supply of water for all purposes is obtained. No minerals have been found to exist here.

At present, and for some time to come, there is and will be, a considerable income from the timber resources of the county, but this can not always continue, for the supply will sooner or later become exhausted. Agriculture, horticulture and the raising of live stock are the principal resources, and these will be permanent. The soil is well adapted to the growing of cotton, corn, oats, millet, clover, the tame grasses, and all kinds of vegetables. With proper cultivation it will yield, in fair seasons, from 1,000 to 1,500 pounds of seed cotton to the acre, forty to sixty bushels of corn, thirty to fifty bushels of oats, from 200 to 300 bushels of Irish or sweet potatoes, and other things in proportion. Wheat sometimes does well, but it can not be claimed as a good wheat-producing country. Immense quantities of hay can be produced, but as yet the farmers have not turned their attention, to any considerable extent, to its production. Clover and the tame grasses are but little culti-

vated. The soil has continued to produce so well that cotton and corn have been raised from year to year, on some lands for half a century, without returning anything to the land to refertilize it. Fertilizing matter is seldom gathered and returned to the soil. Clover has not been grown at all as a fertilizer. A better and more economical system of farming should be adopted. The price of improved lands varies, according to quality, from \$10 to \$40 per acre, and unimproved lands from \$2 to \$10. "Cotton is King," but still a great amount of corn is produced.

According to the United States census of 1880, there were 934 farms in Woodruff County, and the amount of improved land was 40,671 acres, and from these the estimated value of all farm products raised in the year 1879, was \$684,059. Following are the number of bushels, pounds, etc., of the cereal and vegetable productions of the county for that year: Indian corn, 229,962 bushels; oats, 9,908 bushels; wheat, 1,867 bushels; hay, 124 tons; cotton, 12,311 bales; Irish potatoes, 3,691; sweet potatoes, 6,960 bushels; tobacco, 2,435 pounds. The products of the present year, 1889, will be given in the next United States census reports, and will be interesting to compare with the products here given for the year 1879. In the last ten years the area of improved land has been largely increased, and the productions in proportion. In 1880 there were 1,455 horses, 1,038 mules and asses, 7,720 neat cattle, 1,107 sheep and 10,539 hogs in the county, and in 1888, according to the assessor's reports, 2,135 horses, 1,755 mules and asses, 8,941 neat cattle, 403 sheep and 6,356 hogs, a large increase in horses, mules and asses and neat cattle, but a material decrease in the number of sheep and hogs. The decrease in the number of sheep is probably due, largely, to the reduction in the price of wool, while the decrease in the number of hogs is wholly due to the fact that the number shown on the assessment rolls is only the number that was "on hand" when the assessment was taken, and did not, as did the census report of 1880, include those slaughtered, sold or otherwise disposed of during the previous year. When these figures are compared with the forthcoming census

of 1890, a large increase in the number of all, excepting, perhaps, sheep, will appear. Woodruff County is well adapted to the raising of live stock, on account of the productiveness of its soil, the mildness of its climate and its abundant supply of water. But little feed is required, except for a short season in the winter, and costly buildings for shelter are not required at all. Cheap buildings with good roofs, and single board walls are all sufficient for wintering stock here. Horticulture has not yet been developed, except for the home supply of fruits. Apples, pears and cherries do not succeed so well as in the more elevated portions of the State, but peaches and plums thrive well, and the smaller fruits and berries can be raised in unlimited quantities, the soil and climate being so well adapted for them. For strawberries the soil is unsurpassed. The market facilities by rail to the city markets being so good, the county must eventually become largely a garden of small fruits and berries.

In 1880, the real estate of Woodruff County was assessed for taxation at \$898,316, the personal property \$330,121; thus making a total of \$1,228,437; and the total taxes charged thereon were \$31,278. In 1888 the real estate of the county was assessed for taxation at \$1,337,297, and the personal property at \$582,402, making a total of \$1,919,699, and the total amount of taxes charged thereon was \$30,170.64. By comparison it will be seen that during the eight years the taxable wealth of the county increased to the amount of \$691,262, or 56 per cent, while the amount of taxes slightly decreased.

Woodruff is traversed by three railroads. The St. Louis, Arkansas & Texas Railroad (the Cotton Belt) enters on the fifth principal meridian, near the middle of Township 7 north, and runs thence in a southwesterly direction, leaving it near the southwest corner of Township 5 north, Range 1 west, the length of its line within the county being sixteen miles. The Batesville & Brinkley Railroad runs north and south through the center of the county, the length of its line through these limits being twenty-four miles. The Bald Knob & Memphis branch of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railway, crosses Woodruff

County east and west, near the line dividing Townships 7 and 8 north, thus leaving about one-fourth of the area to the north and three-fourths to the south. The length of its line here is twenty miles. This makes the combined length of railroads in the county sixty miles, and for the year 1888 they were assessed for taxation at \$310,470. The railroad property constitutes a large proportion of the county's taxable wealth, and, accordingly, pays a large percentage of the several taxes.

The population of Woodruff County was, in 1870, white, 4,205, colored, 2,888, total, 8,891; in 1880, white, 4,163, colored, 4,483, total, 8,648. The increase since 1880, on account of the large immigration, has been so great that the population is now estimated at 14,000; the late immigrants being mostly white has caused the white population to exceed the colored by several hundred.

The educational facilities of Woodruff County consist of the free schools, with now and then a private school. The following statistics pertaining to the free schools of the county are taken from the report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for the year ending, June 30, 1888: Scholastic population: white, males, 975, females, 835, total, 1,810; colored, males, 1,185, females, 1,173, total, 2,358; total, white and colored, 4,165. Number of pupils taught in the public schools: white, males, 641, females, 516, total, 1,157; colored, males, 845, females, 790, total, 1,635; aggregate, 2,792. Number of school districts, 25; number reporting enrollment, 18; number voting tax, 15. Number of teachers employed, males, 45, females, 30, total, 75. Average monthly salaries paid teachers: first grade, males, \$45, females, \$35; second grade, males, \$40, females, \$40; third grade, males, \$35. Amount expended for the support of the schools, all purposes, \$10,318.79.

By comparing the above figures it will be seen that only 64 per cent of the white, and only 70 per cent of the colored scholastic population were taught in the public schools. In most of counties a greater per cent of the white than of the colored children are taught in the public schools. That the reverse of this is true in Woodruff County,

speaks well for the system, as it shows that the authorities have provided ample facilities for the education of the colored, as well as for the white children. It will also be observed that a less per cent of the white than of the colored children were taught in the free schools. This is accounted for by the fact that some of the white children were taught in private schools at home, and in colleges or schools abroad. The public school at Augusta is graded, and upon the whole Woodruff is fully up with other counties in sustaining the free school system. A teachers' institute was held at Augusta, beginning July 30, 1888, with only a small number of teachers present.

Of the various religious denominations, it seems that the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, has Woodruff County as an almost exclusive field of labor. Early in the 50's Mr. Thomas Hough, of Augusta, built at that place a substantial two-story frame edifice, at a cost of about \$6,000, and donated it to the religious denominations and the Masonic fraternity, the lower story to be used as a church and the upper as a lodge hall. The church was dedicated for union religious services in June, 1854, by Rev. Joshua F. Green, a Presbyterian minister at Little Rock. The denominations that occupied it were the Methodists and Presbyterians. In the course of time the latter retired, and for a consideration, conveyed their interest in the property to the former, and finally the Methodists became the sole owners thereof. During the month of July, 1889, they removed the upper story, elevated the lower, and remodeled the building entirely and made a complete church edifice of it. This was the first church house erected in what is now Woodruff County.

On retiring from this building, the Presbyterians received by donation from the hands of Mr. Hough, a beautiful site upon which to erect a separate church edifice, and with the able assistance of the liberal donor and his estimable wife, they erected, in 1876, the present large and handsome brick church. This was the only Presbyterian Church erected in the county, and unfortunately the Presbyterian society has become, in a measure, disorganized and regular preaching has been dispensed

with. A site was also donated by Mr. Hough to the Baptists, on which they built a frame church edifice, prospered for a few years and then disorganizing sold the property to the colored people who now use it for religious purposes. White Church, in the northern part of the county, is owned by the Baptists, but the latter are scattered throughout the county and are not generally organized.

Of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, there is Augusta Station, Rev. N. B. Fizer, pastor, membership 132; De View Circuit, consisting of five appointments, Rev. Thomas Whittaker, pastor, membership 327; Howell Circuit, with four appointments, Rev. M. U. Umstead, pastor, membership 168; Union and Revel Circuit, with four appointments, Rev. G. A. Dannelly, pastor, membership 142, and a part of the Weldon Circuit, located mostly in Jackson County. Augusta Station and Union and Revel Circuit belong to the Searcy District; De View and Howell Circuits to the Helena District, and all belong to the White River Conference.

The people of Woodruff county, excepting those born there, are from many different parts of the Union, and a few are from "foreign lands." In the language of Dr. Dale, "Society is well organized, but without any cliques or 'sets' to set their faces against any lady or gentleman who is entitled to recognition; the people are not distant toward strangers, but, on the contrary, cordial and hospitable, and the lines of their lives having been in pleasant places, their visions of the world are not hedged by State or county boundaries."

Augusta, the county seat of Woodruff County, is situated on the east bank of White River, a mile and a quarter north of the Bald Knob & Memphis Branch of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, and is connected with the latter by means of a street-car railway. As elsewhere stated, the place was originally called Chickasaw Crossing, and here, in the spring of 1847, John R. Elliott, from Philadelphia, Penn., in partnership with William Polite, opened the first store in the town, at the point where the printing office now stands, at the west end of Main Street. Elliott soon

retired from the business, and his partner, Polite, entered a piece of land adjacent, and moved the store thereto. Thomas Hough then began business in the building first occupied by Elliott & Polite. In March, 1848, the town was surveyed and laid out by Thomas S. Carter, of Independence County, for Thomas Hough, its proprietor and founder, who named it Augusta in honor of his favorite cousin, Miss Augusta, daughter of S. B. T. Cald, of Virginia, where Mr. Hough formerly resided.

The town has a beautiful site, and is well laid out, with streets crossing at right angles and running east and west and north and south. The site is at least ten feet above high-water mark, and there is a good river landing. After the town was laid out the second business house on the site proper was erected on the opposite side of the street from the first one, and from thenceforward the place began to grow, and at the beginning of the Civil War it had attained a population of about 600. During the war the town was almost entirely destroyed. On the approach of the Federal army, in 1862, the citizens generally fled and abandoned their houses, which were then torn down by the soldiers, who used the material to build shanties in their camps. At the close of the war many of the citizens who had fled returned, and together with those who had remained and some newcomers, began to rebuild the town, which, having the advantages of a good navigable river, and, there being no railroads through the adjacent territory to interfere with or draw its trade away, it soon recovered and became prosperous, doing a good business and an immense amount of shipping by river communication. It reached its climax early in the decade of the seventies, when it had a population of about 1,000. Since that time three railroads, the Iron Mountain, Batesville & Brinkley, and the Bald Knob & Memphis have been constructed, all missing the town except the latter, which is a mile and a quarter distant. On these railroads villages have sprung up all around Augusta, and compelled it to divide its former trade with them, and consequently it has declined so that its population is now estimated by the best-informed citizens, at about 700 to 800. However,

having the advantages of one railroad, a navigable river and the county seat, it will continue to be a good trading point and a desirable place in which to live. It has many handsome residences, with beautiful and well kept lawns. White River is navigable to this point for large vessels, at all seasons of the year, and at low water it is the point at which the freight bulk is broken for steamers which ply the upper White and Black Rivers.

Augusta has suffered great loss by fire, but it has been rebuilt, and now contains six general, two drug, six grocery, one harness and saddle, one confectionery and two furniture stores, four hotels (including boarding houses), a restaurant, two meat markets, a jewelry store, two livery stables, a complement of mechanics' shops, a saw-mill, four church edifices (two each for the white and the colored people), two public school-houses (one for the white and one for the colored people), three physicians, two lawyers, etc. Also Augusta Lodge No. 45, A. F. & A. M., Augusta Chapter No. 37, Augusta Council No. 22, Augusta Lodge, K. of H., No. 1122 and Chickasaw Lodge No. 244, K. & L. of H. The Augusta and White River Street Railway connects the town with the Bald Knob & Memphis Railroad at Augusta Station. The "Chickasaw" steamboat, during the summer months, makes one trip per week between Augusta and Memphis, and during the cotton-shipping season other boats also ply the river regularly. Augusta is incorporated and has a full line of corporate officers. E. E. Blackman was mayor at the time of compilation (July, 1889). The town consists almost wholly of wooden buildings.

The Woodruff County Vidette, now in its twelfth volume, is published weekly at Augusta, by W. W. Folsom, editor and proprietor. It is an eight-column folio, is neatly printed and ably edited, and is Democratic in politics. The first newspaper published in Augusta was The Augusta Sentinel, established about the year 1860, by Maurice Lewis, and printed on a press owned by Thomas Hough. The press was destroyed by Federal soldiers, and the editor, Mr. Lewis, was killed in the Confederate army in front of Atlanta, Ga.

Dr. F. D. Dale, in his pamphlet on "Woodruff

County," says: "Cotton Plant is located in Cotton Plant Township, in the southern portion of the County, on the Batesville & Brinkley Railroad. Its shipments per annum are from 1,500 to 2,000 tons of cotton seed and from 4,000 to 7,000 bales of cotton. The directory of the place gives seven cotton buyers and general merchants, one mill, two druggists, four grocers, one cabinet-maker and undertaker, one carpenter, one blacksmith, one wheelwright, two physicians, two lawyers, two hotels, one restaurant, one butcher shop, one livery stable, one steam saw and grist mill, with gin attached. The population numbers from 500 to 600. According to size it is one of the busiest hives of industry in Eastern Arkansas. It is the natural center for all the trade of Freeman, Cotton Plant and Cane Townships." Since this sketch of Dr. Dale was written there has been much additional improvement in the town, and being situated, as it is, in a representative cotton-growing district, it is destined to continue a prosperous and substantial town. It has been wholly built since the construction of the Batesville & Brinkley Railroad.

De View is an old village situated two miles south of McCrory, containing two general stores, a drug store, blacksmith and wood shop, a church edifice, and a school-house, with a Masonic hall in the second story. It has only a few families, and its business is being absorbed by the neighboring towns on the railroads.

Gray's Station, on the Batesville & Brinkley Railroad, two and a half miles south of its crossing with the Bald Knob & Memphis Railroad, contains two general stores, a "temperance saloon," a boarding house, restaurant, school-house and church combined, a blacksmith shop and a livery stable.

Howell Station, also on the Batesville & Brinkley Railroad, about eight miles farther south, contains three general stores, a blacksmith shop, church edifice, etc.

McCrory, on the Bald Knob & Memphis Railroad, two miles east of its crossing with the Batesville & Brinkley Railroad, is only two years old and contains seven general stores, two grocery stores, a hardware and furniture store, a comple-



ment of mechanics' shops, one of the largest stove factories in the State, a hotel, livery stable, two restaurants, two frame church edifices (one for the white and one for the colored people), a public school-house, two physicians and from 250 to 300 people. It was named after its founder, Wade McCrory, the owner of its site. It has a beautiful location, and being near the railroad crossing is the most accessible town from all parts of the county, and is, therefore, a prospective candidate for the subsequent location of the county seat, which in due time it will make an effort to secure. The town is well laid out, the streets running north and south and east and west, and being of good width. It is also easy of access by important wagon roads. It has a large area of excellent farming country tributary to it.

Riverside, located on the Batesville & Brinkley Railroad, two miles north of its crossing with the Bald Knob & Memphis Railroad, contains three general, a drug and a grocery store, a "temperance saloon," hotel, livery stable, blacksmith shop, a steam saw-mill, a church and school-house combined, three physicians, etc.

The intersection of the two railroads above named is called Martin Crossing, and there is nothing there but a depot and a small dwelling house near by. All the towns named above, that are situated on railroads, have each a railroad depot and a postoffice, and all do their proportion of shipping products. The county has a few other post hamlets or villages, consisting of a postoffice, store, etc.

I. T. Andrews, planter, of Cotton Plant, Ark., is one of the leading planters of Woodruff County, and was born in Limestone County, Ala., in 1837, being the son of Daniel and Mary (Morris) Andrews, natives of Virginia and North Carolina, and born in 1814 and 1815, respectively. The parents were married in 1836, and to their union were born two children, a son and daughter: I. T. and Dionitia, wife of T. L. Westmoreland. Daniel Andrews died in 1841, and Mrs. Andrews was married the second time in 1843 to J. H. Deaver. By this union she became the mother of five children:

Mary A. (wife of Dr. J. W. Westmoreland), Thomas H., Martha J. (widow of Saul Slinger), Bettie (wife of H. C. McLawrence) and D. J. (wife of J. B. Whitfield). J. H. Deaver died in 1853, and Mrs. Deaver, who survived her husband, now lives with her widowed daughter, Mrs. Slinger, at Cotton Plant. She is and has been for many years a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. I. T. Andrews started into business for himself in 1858, by farming his mother's land in Tennessee, but left that State and immigrated to Arkansas in 1860, locating in Poinsett County. His mother purchased 240 acres of land, which he farmed until the breaking out of the war when he enlisted in the infantry under Capt. Westmoreland, and served until July 9, 1863. He was then captured at Port Hudson, taken to Johnson's Island and there held until February 9, 1864, when he was transferred to Point Lookout; there retained until March 3, when he was sent to City Point and was there paroled. After the war he resumed farming, also operated a cotton-gin in Woodruff County. He selected as his companion in life, Miss Martha Westmoreland, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Westmoreland, and was united in marriage to her in 1858. This union has been blessed by the birth of three children, but only one is now living: Samuel, who married a Miss C. Keath, and resides on a farm in this county. The children deceased were named: Edione and Minnie. Mrs. Andrews was born in Giles County, Tenn., in 1836. Her father died in 1865, and her mother in 1887, both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Andrews is a member of the I. O. O. F., Lodge No. 76, and he and wife have been members of the Methodist Episcopal Church for seventeen years. Mr. Andrews is one of the enterprising farmers of the county, is the owner of 230 acres of land in Woodruff County, Ark., with 120 acres under cultivation and his principal crops are corn and cotton.

Dr. L. L. Battle, a man of remarkable ability and great prominence in the profession, is numbered among the leading members of the medical fraternity in Woodruff County, Ark., and originally came from Wake County, N. C., where he was born March 20, 1828. He was reared in

Shelby County, Tenn., whither his parents, William and Chloe (Body) Battle, moved from their native State of North Carolina, both dying in Memphis, Tenn., and here our subject received a liberal education. He began the study of medicine when eighteen years of age, and having chosen this profession as his life's vocation, he graduated from the Memphis Medical College in 1849, and in 1851 from the Jefferson Medical College, of Philadelphia, Penn. Thus becoming thoroughly fitted to successfully pursue his calling, he settled in Shelby County, Tenn, but at the end of two years came to Mississippi County, Ark., and in 1855 returned to his first location. Here he remained until 1885, then came to Riverside, where he has since successfully practiced, and is now a member of the Woodruff County Medical Association, and is vice-president of the Trio-State Medical Society of Memphis. He is a Royal Arch Mason, and since 1854 has been a married man, his first wife being Miss Martha B. Chester, a daughter of Robert I. Chester, of Jackson, Tenn., by whom he has the following children: Dr. William B., Mrs. Dr. J. W. Jones, Mrs. L. P. Cooper, Jr., Mrs. John Cunningham and Miss Patsey C. Dr. Battle's second wife was a Mrs. Preston, who bore him one son, Preston, and for his third wife he took Mrs. M. W. Riley. The Doctor is one of the wealthy men of the county, and owns about 1,500 acres of land, of which 375 acres are under cultivation. In 1849 he was appointed surgeon of a company of men on their way to California to dig gold, but before reaching their destination thirteen men starved to death and the Doctor was reduced in flesh thirty-five pounds. His expedition suffered many hardships and privations, and met with many thrilling adventures, too numerous to be given to this volume. During the hostilities between the foreigners and Americans in South California, in the winter of 1849 and 1850, he was appointed surgeon of the latter's forces.

John B. Beard, a prosperous and well-known farmer and ginner of Howell Station, is a native of Arkansas and was born in 1851, being the son of Samuel and Eliza (Beaty) Beard. Samuel Beard came to Arkansas from Mississippi, at an early day,

and settled in Woodruff County. He was an industrious, enterprising farmer and citizen, and his death, which occurred in 1857, was mourned by many. His excellent wife survived him about fifteen years. Of a family of seven children, John B. and one other are the only surviving members, he being the younger. He was reared by his widowed mother, and as the school facilities of his boyhood were few, his education was of necessity neglected, but by constant reading and his keen sense of observation he has become a well-informed man. In 1881 Mr. Beard was married to Mollie, daughter of Thomas and Esther Berry. Mrs. Beard is a native of Arkansas, her birth occurring in Woodruff County, where her aged father is now residing, her mother having died some years ago. Mr. Berry was one of the early settlers of this portion of the country, and relates many interesting episodes of the first experience of the pioneers, what they were-obliged to submit to their privations and inconveniences without number; these now seem almost improbable. To Mr. and Mrs Beard a family of four children have been born, three sons and one daughter. He has 600 acres of land with 300 under cultivation, and in connection with the substantial buildings of his farm he owns a fine town residence. His farm is only three miles from town, which of course makes it very much more valuable. He certainly is justified in feeling proud of his possessions, for they are his only by personal efforts and hard work. He is a Democrat and voted for Greeley in 1872. He is a liberal contributor, and lends his support to all worthy movements for the good or growth of the county. Mrs. Beard is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

John W. Becton, planter and ginner of Cotton Plant, owes his nativity to North Carolina, his birth occurring in that State in 1834, and he is the son of Thomas and Nancy M. (White) Becton, also of North Carolina origin, born in the year 1814. Mr. Becton was a prosperous planter, and at the time of the war was worth \$100,000, but, like many others, lost all he had during that disastrous period. He was a well-educated gentleman, a Universalist in his religious belief, and a great Bible

reader, oftentimes being able to speak fluently on subjects at a better advantage than those who professed a clearer knowledge of the same. His death, which occurred in 1867, was regretted by his many friends and acquaintances. His father, John B. Becton, a wealthy planter, was born and died in North Carolina, the date of his birth being in the year 1777. His father was one Michael Becton. Mrs. Becton, the wife of Thomas Becton, died in 1869. Her father, Reuben White, was a native of North Carolina, and a man of unusual attainments and business qualifications. John W. Becton, the subject of this sketch, is the eldest of four sons and daughters: Corie (now the wife of ex-Gov. James Robinson, now of Kentucky, and one of the war Governors of that State), Mary E. (the wife of Rev. B. F. Mills. Mr. Mills was an ex-Federal officer in the Civil War, married during that time, and is now residing in Michigan), Sarah A. (Mrs. West, of Durham, N. C.), Olie (Mrs. Kornezy, of Kingston, N. C.), Edward G. (holding a prominent position as teacher in Texas), Fred B. (a merchant of Kingston, N. C.) and William R. (died in 1878). John W. Becton was given the advantages of a good common-school education, and these facilities he was not slow to improve, being to-day a well-educated man. He was married in 1859 to Miss Sallie, daughter of James and Pearcy Nunn, of North Carolina, where Mr. Nunn died in 1861. Mrs. Nunn survives her husband, and though at quite an advanced age enjoys ordinary health. Mrs. Becton was born in North Carolina, and died May 5, 1886, having borne twelve children, all of them deceased. She was a member, in excellent standing, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and respected by her many friends and acquaintances. On December 15, 1886, Mr. Becton was united in marriage to Miss Alice Foy, daughter of James H. and Catherine Foy, who resided in North Carolina the greater portion of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Becton are the parents of two children, only one now living. In January of 1860 Mr. Becton moved to Prairie County, Ark., and after a residence of seven years came to Woodruff, having lived on his present farm for seventeen years. His plantation is among the

best in the county, consisting of 720 acres, with 225 under cultivation. Among the improvements, which are numerous, he owns and operates a good gin. One of the finest fruit and grain farms in the State is the property of Mr. Becton, situated in Boone County. He also raises and deals in stock quite extensively, being considered a superior judge of all breeds. He served in the late war, enlisting in Company G, Twenty-first Arkansas Infantry, and remained in Tennessee until the fall of Vicksburg. There he was captured, but soon after paroled, returning at once to Arkansas. He accompanied Gen. Price on his raid through Missouri and Kansas, and surrendered at Devall's Bluff. At the close of hostilities Mr. Becton found himself almost destitute, with a wife and three children dependent on him, but, nothing daunted, he never lost courage, and by his untiring energy and great ambition stands to-day one of the wealthy and influential men of the county. He served as justice of the peace two years in Woodruff County, and since the war has been a staunch Republican, though formerly a Whig. His first vote was cast for President Fillmore. Mr. and Mrs. Becton are held in high esteem by their many friends. The latter is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Eli Burkett, an enterprising planter, blacksmith and wood workman, first saw the light of day in Upson County, Ga., January 28, 1828, being the son of John and Celia (Ethridge) Burkett. John Burkett was born September 10, 1805, in Marlborough District, S. C., and was reared to farm life, which occupation he followed the remainder of his years. He was married to Miss Ethridge, in Wilkinson County, Ga., August 4, 1826, and by her became the father of eight children, four of them now living: Enoch V., William L., Mary (the wife of J. A. Baley) and Eli. Mr. Burkett was a member of the Baptist Church, as was also his wife; his death occurred December 29, 1869. Mrs. Burkett was born in Cumberland County, N. C., August 5, 1803, and died in 1885. Her parents were natives of North Carolina. Eli Burkett's early life was passed on the farm helping his father, and attending school a few months

in the year. He was married to Miss Rosanah Gilbert, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jabez Gilbert, of Butts County, Ga. Their marriage was solemnized June 4, 1850, and to them were born seven children: John, Jabez, Margaret (the wife of J. B. McMurtrie), Drewry, Thomas, Davis and Lee. Mr. Burkett immigrated from Georgia to Arkansas, in 1860, locating in Woodruff County, where he bought 140 acres of land, with sixty under cultivation. In connection with his farming, Mr. Burkett owns and operates a blacksmith and wood shop, which he established in 1873. He manufactures wagons, buggies and farming implements; he has built up a good trade, of which he is well deserving, being an industrious, hard-working man, and respected by all. In societies he is identified with A. F. & A. M., Colony Lodge No. 190, and of the I. O. O. F., De View Lodge No. 71. At the breaking out of the late war, Mr. Burkett enlisted in January, 1862, in the Thirty-second Georgia Infantry, Company I, where he served as a private, until November, 1864, when he was promoted to second lieutenant, and commanded his company on that memorable day, March 19, 1865, at Bentonville, N. C., in which eight of his company was killed and thirteen wounded, he receiving a wound in this battle, which disabled him until April 16, when he was discharged at the hospital at Thomasville, N. C. Mrs. Burkett is a native of Butts County, Ga., this county being the place of her birth, which occurred April 15, 1825. Her parents were residing in Georgia at the time of her demise, Mr. Gilbert dying February 4, 1864, his wife surviving him until April 29, 1888.

J. W. Buster & Bro. Throughout Woodruff County and vicinity there is probably no more favorably known business firm than that of Buster Bros., which has been established since 1877. They are careful and painstaking buyers, and are thrifty merchants, strictly attending to business, thereby gaining a large share of the county's patronage. They established the postoffice at Riverside, and kept it in charge for two years. Conjointly the members of the firm own 500 acres of land, with about 270 under cultivation. Their parents, Samuel and Emily K.

(Lewis) Buster, were of Virginia and Alabama, respectively, and were married in Germantown, Shelby County, Tenn. In 1850 they came to Arkansas, and located in Woodruff County, where the father purchased a farm, cultivating and living on it until his death, which occurred in 1852, that of his wife occurring in 1880. To the father and mother was born a family of eight children, three now living: John W., Lucy and Thomas M. The latter was born in Shelby County, Tenn., January 4, 1844, but was principally reared in the home of his parents' adoption (Woodruff County), and from his earliest youth has given much of his attention and time to farming, and in connection with his duties at the store assists his brother in the management of their extensive plantation. Thomas M. was married, in 1872, to Miss Rebecca Bellington, who departed this life in 1879, leaving two children: Fannie and Rebecca. He and his brother are Masons, having been initiated into the secrets and sworn allegiance to this society; they also belong to the K. of H. J. W. Buster came into this world in 1834, and like his brother, spent most of his boyhood and received his education in the State of Tennessee. During the war he enrolled himself with the Fifth Arkansas Regiment, was wounded by a gunshot at Mark's Mills, and was captured at Decatur, Ala., but managed to make his escape. He served until the surrender, which sounded the bugle-note of peace, then returned home. He is unmarried.

N. D. Byrd, a prominent merchant of De View Township, who, by his pleasing and affable manner and keen sense of honor, has won many friends, is the son of Bryan and Sallie (Ross) Byrd, of Henry County, Tenn., nativity, being born in 1826. Bryan Byrd, N. D.'s father, was born in Chester County, S. C., and reared to farm life; was a carpenter by trade, and eventually became a minister of the Baptist Church. He immigrated from Tennessee to Arkansas in 1855, locating in Yell County. His marriage with Miss Ross was solemnized in North Carolina and by her became the father of twelve children; only one of that large family is now living, N. D., the subject of this sketch. The senior Byrd was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and

died in Yell County in 1856, his wife surviving him until 1864. He and his wife were connected with the Baptist Church. N. D. Byrd started out in the world for himself in 1847, his first venture was farming on rented land in Tennessee in which he was quite successful. On December 30, 1847, he was united in holy matrimony with Miss Frances J. True, and to them were born six children, four boys and two girls, three of them now living: Josephine (the wife of L. B. Smith), Leonidas and Thomas C. Mrs. Byrd died in 1855 in full faith of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Byrd remained a widower until 1865, then married Miss Alice Crook, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Crook, of Marshall County, Miss. Mr. Byrd came to Arkansas from Tennessee in 1870, locating in Van Buren, Crawford County, residing here one year, then came to this place where he engaged in farming until 1886. Since 1886 he has been occupied in the mercantile business and has established a most lucrative trade. He served in the late war, enlisting in the cavalry in 1863, and received his discharge after one year of brave and chivalrous service. Mr. and Mrs. Byrd are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and are highly esteemed by all who are fortunate in knowing them.

James H. Campbell, merchant, Augusta, Ark. This successful and enterprising business man owes his nativity to Mecklenburg County, Ky., where his birth occurred in November, 1843, and is one of six children, three now living: William P., James H. and Mrs. R. D. Hopkins, born to the union of Alexander and Sallie W. (Kenchelve) Campbell, the father a native of Ireland, and the mother of Kentucky. The father died in the last-named State, but the mother died in Woodruff County, Ark. James H. Campbell attained his growth and received his education in Kentucky. In 1861 he came to Augusta, and the same year he enlisted in Company A, First Kentucky Cavalry, and served until the surrender. He was wounded through the right shoulder-blade by a gunshot at a railroad fight under Gen. Forrest, and was in the principal engagements of his regiment. At the close of service he returned to Kentucky, and there remained until 1870, when he came back to

Augusta, where he has since resided. The firm of W. P. Campbell & Bros. was organized in 1872, and still continues. They carry a large stock of goods and general merchandise, and handle a great deal of cotton each season. They are also interested in considerable real estate. Mr. Campbell is secretary and treasurer of the White River Hedge Company, which has sold over 100 miles this season. He was married, in 1872, to Miss Eliza Hopkins, of Kentucky, and a daughter of Dr. H. H. Hopkins. To this union were born two children: Tilman and Alex. H. Mr. Campbell is a member of the Knights of Honor, and has been recorder of same since the organization, in 1878. He has been mayor for several years.

R. Cariker. In numerating the names of the prominent planters of Woodruff County, the name of R. Cariker should not be omitted. He is a native of Tennessee and was born in Hardeman County in 1853, as the son of G. M. and Elizabeth (Gray) Cariker. G. M. Cariker owes his nativity to Middle Tennessee, having been born in that State in 1829. He immigrated to Arkansas in 1859, locating in Woodruff County, where he purchased 440 acres of land, and was married to Miss Grey, of Tennessee, in 1852. To this union a family of six children have been given: Thomas J., Lycurgus, Levina (the wife of E. H. Arnold), Fuller (deceased), Cynthia E. (now Mrs. B. F. Doughty) and R. Cariker (the subject of this sketch). Himself and wife were members of good standing in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and enjoyed a large circle of friends and acquaintances. He died in this State, in 1878, his wife having "gone before" in the year 1857. R. Cariker was married in 1875 to Miss Tululæ Sears, a native of Georgia, and born in 1858, and whose parents were also natives of Georgia. R. Cariker is a farmer by occupation, and is an A. F. & A. M., belonging to Augusta Lodge. He owns 170 acres of excellent land, with about ninety under cultivation, the principal crop being corn and cotton. Mr. Cariker is a prosperous agriculturist, favors all public improvements, such as churches, schools, etc., and is a man held in high esteem by the entire community.

A. C. Carter, a leading and long-established merchant of Cotton Plant, and who is known the county over, having settled himself in business in that town in 1871, is a native of Rowan County, N. C., and was born in 1840, the son of Thomas and Eliza L. (Johnson) Carter, of North and South Carolina origin, respectively. Thomas Carter was of Scotch-Irish descent, a well-to-do farmer, and was married in North Carolina, where he died when A. C. was about twelve years old. His wife is living at the age of seventy-six, a devout member of the Presbyterian Church. She was twice married, her second husband dying during the war. A. C. Carter is the third in a family of four sons and two daughters, and received all the education to be had at that period. He left the parental roof at the age of sixteen, and worked as a farm hand until 1861, when he enlisted in the war and joined Company K, Fourth North Carolina Infantry in Lee's army, participating in nearly all the battles of that army. He was wounded in June, 1862, at Cold Harbor, and was sent home on furlough for some time. In April, 1864, he surrendered with Lee, and shortly after returned to his home, Rowan County, N. C., and engaged in farming till the spring of 1870, when he came to Arkansas and farmed till the fall of 1872; after which he embarked in the mercantile business with one Robert Holt, their capital consisting of only a few hundred dollars. Notwithstanding that the financial start was very modest, he stands to-day among the best-known firms of the town. Mr. Carter has a fine farm of 212 acres in Monroe County, with 170 under cultivation, and on which farm is a good residence. A fine block in the town erected by him is another mark of his ambition and enterprise, all the work of perseverance and economy. He was married in 1872 to Miss Emma Gideon, of Mississippi nativity, who came to Arkansas with her parents when small, and left an orphan when quite young. Two children have been born to this union, one son and one daughter. Mr. Carter, believing that education is the foundation stone to future success, spares no pains or expense to give his children every advantage to be had. In his political views

Mr. Carter is a staunch Democrat, voting for Greeley in 1872. He affiliates with the Knights of Honor and Knights and Ladies of Honor at Cotton Plant, and has held various offices in these lodges, quite recently holding the office of Assistant Dictator in the former lodge, and that of Treasurer in the latter. He was formerly a member of I. O. O. F., and wherever he goes is greeted with a royal welcome and a hearty hand-shake, all going to show that he is far from unpopular. He and wife are both members of the Methodist Church, and in all church and educational matters, he is a ready and liberal contributor.

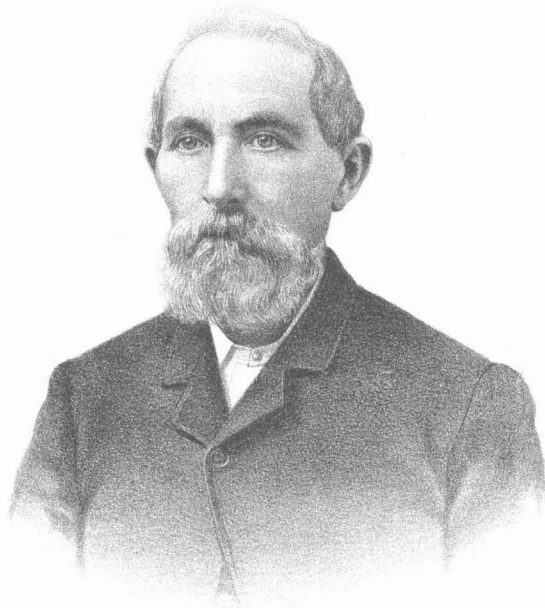
Capt. William A. Chaney, prominently identified with the mercantile interests of Cotton Plant, and one of the leading planters of the county, is a native of Tennessee, his birth occurring in Tipton County, in 1838, as the son of Capt. Joseph E. and Nancy (Shelton) Chaney. They were natives of Virginia, and born in Petersburg, where they were reared and married, but in an early day moved to West Tennessee. They died in Tipton County, Tenn., Mr. Chaney passing away when William was only three or four years old; Mrs. Chaney's death occurred in 1870, at the age of seventy years. Both were members of the Missionary Baptist Church, and he served in the War of 1812, with Jackson at New Orleans, wearing the title of captain. He was of Irish descent, and possessed of great educational attainments. Grandfather Thomas Shelton was a native of Virginia, one of the early settlers of Tennessee, and moved from there to Brandon, Miss., where he died very wealthy. Capt. William A. Chaney, the youngest of eleven children, and the only one now living, remained with his mother until grown to maturity, and received liberal advantages for an education, all of which he was careful to improve. In March, 1858, he was married to Ann J. Versur, a daughter of Dr. William Versur, of Tennessee (who died in Lonoke, Ark., having come to that place in 1858). Subsequently removing to Arkansas he settled in Lonoke, where his wife died in 1859. In 1861 he joined a company of the First Arkansas Cavalry of Fagan's army, and gave his efficient service until the close of the war, being in Arkansas, Missouri,

Texas and Kansas, in various ranks. He was mustered out as captain, and served in nearly all the engagements with great credit. In March, 1865, Capt. Chaney was united in marriage with Miss Emma, daughter of J. K. Crossett, a prominent physician in White County. There he died in 1887, having made it his home from 1858. Mrs. Chaney was born in Mississippi. To their union have been given seven children, three daughters and two sons now living. Soon after the war the Captain returned to Tipton County, Tenn., where he farmed until 1871, and then came to Cotton Plant, since being engaged in farming and merchandising. He owns a large amount of property (improved) in Tennessee and Arkansas, and a very nice residence in town. He is a Democrat and voted for Bell in 1870. The K. of H. Lodge at Cotton Plant counts him as a member, and he was formerly an Odd Fellow. Capt. Chaney is sparing no pains or expense to educate his children, and is giving them every opportunity to become accomplished. His wife is an earnest worker and member of the Methodist Church.

L. D. Cole, a wealthy farmer and ginner of Barnes Township, is a native of Georgia, and was born in Cass County in 1851, the son of Jacob W. and Laura (Banks) Cole. Jacob W. Cole was a Virginian by birth, and when a young man immigrated to Georgia, where he was married and resided until his death in 1880. He served in the Confederate army in the First Georgia Infantry as captain, but was discharged after two years on account of disability. His father, Plum Cole, also a native of Virginia, died in Gilmer County, Ga., at the age of one hundred and twelve. He was a Presbyterian in his religious faith, and his wife, who died when one hundred and thirteen years of age, was also of the same belief. Plum Cole was of Irish descent, and served in the War of 1812 with Jackson. Mrs. Cole, the mother of the subject of this sketch, is now residing in Texas, a devout member of the Baptist Church. Her father, William Banks was born in the Old World, but is at this time a resident of Georgia, at the age of nearly one hundred years. Mr. Banks has always been a farmer and miner, enjoying fair prosperity, and

the respect of all who know him. L. D. Cole, the third child in a family of six sons and three daughters, received his primary education in the schools of his native State, and also spent four years at Stilesborough (Ga.) College. In 1870 he came to Cross County and worked for one year as a farm hand, also putting in a crop one season for himself. He was married in 1873 in Cross County to Tolly, daughter of John and Lucinda Clark. Mr. Clark was married in South Carolina, and in 1849 came to what is now Cross County. At that time it was a perfect wilderness, but by his unceasing labors he soon raised his place from its embryo state to that of high and successful cultivation. Himself and wife were members of the Presbyterian Church, and died in 1858 and 1863, respectively. Mrs. Cole was born in South Carolina, and was one of five children, two sons and three daughters. The year of Mr. Cole's marriage, he came to Woodruff County and settled in the woods in Barnes Township, where he improved a farm and resided until 1885. He then came to his present farm, which was at that time entirely unimproved, but through energy and persevering labor he now has a home of 360 acres in two farms with 200 acres under cultivation. It is all his own property, and the result of his industry, which considering the inconveniences and hardships endured by all pioneers at that time is truly commendable. Mr. Cole trades in cattle and hogs, and for two years has been running one of the best steam gin and corn mills in the county. He was court and deputy sheriff of Barnes Township for four years, and is an active worker in all educational purposes. He is a Democrat, and voted for Greeley in 1872. Mrs. Cole is a member in good standing of the Methodist Church, to which her husband liberally contributes.

D. R. Compton. There is no sketch within the Biographical Department of this work which presents a better example of the rise of young men from a lowly place to a position of honor and respect, than appears in these few lines, for, at the age of nineteen years, Mr. Compton started out in life for himself, and is now the owner of 370 acres of land, of which 150 acres are under cultivation.



Your Respectfully  
B. B. Comner

WOODRUFF COUNTY, ARKANSAS.



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He was born in Pittsylvania County, Va., October 16, 1830, and is the oldest child born to Reuben and Nancy (Farmer) Compton, who were also Virginians. He was reared and educated in his native county, and upon first leaving home, went to West Tennessee, where he was engaged in farming for about nine years. In 1860 he took up his permanent abode in Woodruff County, Ark., and was for a short time located near Augusta. From 1862 until the close of the war, he has served in Company E, Twenty-second Arkansas Infantry, and since the war he has been engaged in conducting his farm, his efforts in this direction being attended with the best results. In 1853 his marriage with Miss Tabitha Lax was celebrated, and of six children born to them, only two are living: David and Edward. His marriage to his present wife, whose maiden name was Berna Neill, took place in 1882, and their union has been blessed in the birth of three children: Reuben H., Virginia B. and Columbus N.

B. B. Conner, a so-to-speak pioneer of Woodruff County, and a man who, by courage and a firm determination to overcome the obstacles encountered in making a home in a new country, was born in Giles County, Tenn., on March 29, 1829, and is a son of Lewis and Nancy (Preston) Conner, the former a Kentuckian and the latter a native of Tennessee. They were married in Tennessee and lived and died in Giles County, where the father made the occupation of tanning and farming a means of livelihood. Four of their eight children born to this marriage, are now living: James H., Bolivar B., John C. and Mrs. Carter. Bolivar B. Conner was a pupil in the common schools of Giles County in his youth, and learned the art of agriculture on his father's farm, which occupation he continued to follow after coming to Woodruff County, in 1851. He purchased a quarter section of land, with twenty-one acres cleared, on which was a little log-cabin in which he settled and set himself energetically to work to clear his land, and that he has been successful will be clearly shown when the fact is stated that he now owns 1,000 acres of as good land as there is in Woodruff County, and has some 600 acres under the

plow. His farm is one of the finest and most valuable in the State and is admirably adapted to the raising of all kinds of cereals. He has a handsome residence, fitted up in modern style, and is so situated financially that he can now enjoy life. He was married, in 1854, to Eliza L. Hall, a native of Virginia, and by her he has had a family of seven children, five of whom now live: Mrs. Stacy, Emerson H., Mrs. Cora McDonald, Minnie L. and John L. Mr. Conner is a Mason.

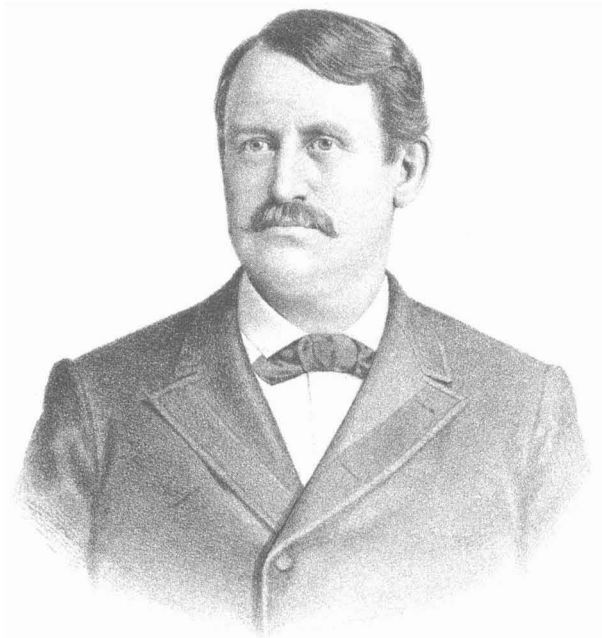
E. J. Crossett, a leading merchant and a very prominent citizen of De View, was born in Carroll County, Tenn., in 1845. J. K. Crossett, his father, was born in South Carolina, in 1815, and was reared and educated to farm life, which occupation he never departed from. In 1836 Mr. Crossett led to the hymeneal altar, Miss Elizabeth Cupp, of Carroll County, Tenn., originally from South Carolina, her parents being from that State. To Mr. Crossett's marriage a family of eight children was born, six of them now living: W. R., J. J., R. B., C. M., Emma (the wife of W. A. Chaney) and E. J. They immigrated from Tennessee to De Soto County, Miss., in 1845, thence to Arkansas in 1853, locating in this county. Mr. Crossett purchased 160 acres of land, which he brought to a successful state of cultivation. Mrs. Crossett died in 1860, a consistent Christian and an earnest worker in the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which she was a member. In 1861 Mr. Crossett was married to Mrs. Elizabeth Corley, of St. Francis County, Ark., and to their union two children were born: Addie and Ida (the wife of J. D. Partow). Mr. Crossett was a constituent of the I. O. O. F., and died in 1887, at his home in this county. E. J. began life for himself in 1865. His war record, though not a brilliant one, will always be remembered by him as one on which there is not a blemish, and he has the satisfaction of knowing that he was earnest in the discharge of his duties. He enlisted under Capt. Wilson, in the Twenty-second Arkansas Cavalry Regiment (B), entering service in 1863, remaining until the surrender in 1865, at Wittsburg, Ark. He then returned home, and for one year farmed, at the end of which time he learned and became skilled in the

carpenter's trade, which occupation he followed until 1871. Subsequently dropping his trade, he again resumed the tilling of the soil, continuing in this up to the year 1878, at which time he embarked in the mercantile business in De View, remaining in this place ever since. Mr. Crossett was united in marriage with Miss Mattie McMurtry in 1870, and to their union four children were born. Mrs. Crossett was born in Tennessee, in 1853, and came with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Moses McMurtry, to this county when about two years old. Mr. McMurtry was a native of Ohio, and his wife was born in Mississippi. Both died in 1878, in full communion with the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics Mr. Crossett votes with the Democratic party. Himself and wife belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a courteous, hospitable gentleman, making numerous friends, few if any enemies, and enjoys with his estimable wife, the respect of all.

Dr. F. D. Dale, physician and surgeon, of Augusta, Ark. Few men have attained more prominence in Woodruff County in a social as well as a professional point of view, than Dr. Dale, who is courteous and pleasant in all his relations to the public. He owes his nativity to Jefferson County, Ky., where his birth occurred on February 14, 1847, and was reared on a farm until eighteen years of age, receiving the rudiments of an education in the common schools, but supplementing the same by a course at St. Mary's College, at Lebanon, Ky. At an early age he began the study of medicine and graduated at the University of Louisiana, in 1869. The same year he commenced practicing in Augusta, Ark., and there he has remained ever since, his time being entirely devoted to the relief of suffering humanity. He has built up an extensive practice and is one of the first-class physicians of the town. He has one of the finest residences in Augusta, and his surroundings show him to be an energetic citizen. He has done much toward building up the country. He is president of the Woodruff County Medical Association and a member of the Railway Medical Association of Surgeons of the United States. He was a member of the town council two years. His marriage occurred in

1872 to Miss Ida Hamblet, of Augusta, and the fruits of this union are three children: Hamblet, Ruth and Pat. The Doctor is a member of the Masonic order, K. T., K. of H. and K. & L. of H. He is the fourth in order of birth of eight children, six sons and two daughters, born to the union of Delancey and Ruth (Caruthers) Dale, natives of Spencer County, Ky. The paternal grandfather was a native of Virginia, and of Irish origin, while the maternal grandfather was of German origin. Delancey Dale followed the occupation of a farmer and lived and died in his native county. The mother is yet living.

Hon. J. B. Dent, widely and officially known throughout Wood County, and a prominent citizen of Augusta, is a native of Monongalia County, W. Va., being born May 10, 1831, and is a son of James and Dorcas (Berkshire) Dent, the former a Virginian and the mother from Cumberland, Md., the marriage of the parents taking place in the former State. The paternal grandfather, John Dent, was the first sheriff of Monongalia County, W. Va., and was a captain in the Revolutionary War, his father-in-law, Col. Evans, by his bravery, also won his title in that struggle. John Dent died in Virginia, having been known throughout his entire life as a man of active and energetic habits, retaining these even in his old age. The maternal grandfather, William Berkshire, was a Baptist minister, and his son Ralph was chief justice of West Virginia for several years. James Dent was captain of a company of militia in his young days, and in 1835 moved with his family to Putnam County, Ill., where he made his home until his death, in 1883, his wife dying in 1878. Six of their eleven children are now living: Mrs. McCoy, Mrs. Parrett, Hon. J. B., Mrs. Douglass (of Iowa), Mrs. Taylor (of Kansas) and S. E. J. B. Dent was put to school at an early day, and after acquiring a fair knowledge of the English branches, he entered Judson College, remaining here for two years. Upon starting out in life for himself he accepted a position as salesman in a wholesale house of Chicago, filling this position for two years; later was in business in Galena, where he remained also two years, and afterward spent



*Felix D. Dale M.D.*

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some time in Cairo. In 1861 he enlisted in Company A, First Illinois Cavalry, and was commissioned second lieutenant, but at the end of one year he joined the Fourteenth Illinois and was made captain of Company C. When mustered out of service was major of his regiment. He was in the battles of Lexington, Buffington's Island, Knoxville, Cumberland Gap, and was in all the battles from Dalton to Altanta, and during his war career was thrice captured, once at Lexington, in 1861, and again in 1864, while with Stoneman on his raid on Macon, and was put under fire of his own batteries at Charleston, S. C., but remained uninjured. When captured the third time he was on a train going from Charleston to Cincinnati, and was taken back and put in Libby prison. After being held in this dungeon for two months was exchanged. In the fall of 1865 he came to Arkansas and located in Woodruff County where he met friends and decided to permanently locate. Although his finances were at a very low ebb he bought a farm, and is now one of the largest real-estate owners in the county, his lands amounting to about 5,000 acres, 2,500 of which are wild land, and the remainder of very fertile soil. He officiated as county assessor in 1874, and for three terms held the position of county and probate judge. In 1888 he was elected on the Democrat ticket to the State legislature, and is now filling the duties of that position in a manner highly satisfactory to his townsmen who honored him with their votes. He was a delegate to the National Convention that nominated Cleveland for the presidency, which met in St. Louis. He was one of the men who defended Gov. Baxter and replaced him in office, acting as lieutenant from Augusta during the Brooks-Baxter trouble. During the Ku-Klux and militia times he fearlessly expressed his opinion, defended himself against both parties and assisted in protecting his neighbors from the depredations of these lawless men. The Major is a whole-souled and honorable man, and is ever ready to defend his country, friend or neighbor. He has taken the degree of Knight Templar in the order of Masons, and takes great pride in his lodge.

Capt. S. E. Dent, merchant, Riverside, Ark. This prominent and highly esteemed business man owes his nativity to Putman County, Ill., where his birth occurred, in September, 1843, and is the son of James and Dorcas (Berkshire) Dent, she a sister of Judge Berkshire, of the Old Dominion. Both parents were natives of Virginia, and were married in Monongalia County, W. Va., where they remained until 1833. Then they immigrated to Illinois, and located in Putman County, where they passed their declining years, both dying since the war. They had a family of ten children, six now living: Mrs. Nancy McCoy (in Illinois), Mrs. Emily Parrett (widow of Judge Parrett), Margaret (deceased), Mrs. Lucinda Douglass (in Johnson County, Iowa), Mrs. Gilla Taylor (in Red Cloud, Neb.), Judge J. B. and S. E. (who is the youngest of the family). The last named was principally reared and educated in Illinois, and his principal occupation in boyhood was in attending the common schools and in assisting on the farm. He remained under the parental roof until the breaking out of the war, and, although quite young at that time, he determined to enlist. Through the influence of his brother, Judge J. B. Dent, he was successful, and enlisted first in the First Illinois Cavalry. He was captured at Lexington, Mo., and about a year later the regiment was mustered out. He went to Nashville in the Sixth United States Infantry, and served until the surrender. He was captain of Company F, Sixth Regiment, at the time of the battle of Nashville. He was an intrepid and fearless young man, and fought his way with vigor. After being mustered out he went home, and in March, 1867, came to Woodruff County, Ark., located on a farm, and has since been engaged in tilling the soil. In September, 1885, he embarked in mercantile pursuits at Riverside, carries a large and select stock of goods, and also buys and sells cotton and cotton seed. He will handle about 1,000 bales of cotton this season. His marriage occurred in 1873 to Miss Ella K. Darling, by whom he has two children living: Emma and Robert both attending school in Illinois. Capt. Dent was married the second time, June 1, 1885, to Miss Blanche Bancroft, a daughter of

Judge Bancroft, and the result of this union was two children: Major and Olga. Mr. Dent is a member of the Masonic order, K. T., K. of H. and K. & L. of H. The Dent family are relatives of the Grant family. Capt. Dent has always been a Democrat in politics, and, although not an aspirant to any political office, he takes a deep interest in the political welfare of the country. He organized the first Democratic club of Woodruff, in the campaign of 1888, and the club is still in existence. He is a prosperous and influential citizen of the county.

J. H. Douglas, the genial and ever-popular superintendent of the F. G. Oxley Stave Company, of McCrory, owes his nativity to Wisconsin, his birth occurring in Jackson County in the year 1851. His father, Thomas Douglas, was born in Donfrece, Scotland, in 1819, and at an early age learned the lumber business, which occupation he has followed all his life. He was married to Miss Caroline S. Tyler in 1849, and they became the parents of five children, only two of whom arrived to the age of manhood and womanhood: Ruby Amanda (the wife of Dr. R. Rodgers) and James Henry (the subject of this sketch). Mr. Douglas emigrated from Scotland to Wisconsin in 1836, and engaged in the lumber business, which he carried on successfully for twenty-five years, subsequently going to St. Louis, where he engaged in the same business, and thence to Walnut Ridge, Ark., still following this pursuit. He then went to San Diego, Cal., where his death occurred in 1888. His wife, who survives him, is a native of Connecticut, and was born in 1851. She is a member of the Congregational Church, as was also her husband. J. H. was married in Walnut Ridge, Ark., in 1876, to Miss Amanda J. Snow, and the result of this marriage is six boys, only three living: Bertrun Bruce, Charles Hirun and Arthur Henry. Miss Snow was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Snow, natives of Chattanooga, Tenn., her birth occurring in 1858. Mr. Douglas received his education in St. Louis, and commenced life for himself at the early age of sixteen years. He has represented the public corporations ever since he has been in the employ of the

F. G. Oxley Stave Company, which is one of the most extensive manufacturing companies in the United States. He was first paymaster and general purchasing agent of the firm. In societies he belongs to the A. F. & A. M., and is a Knight Templar, being a member of Hugh De Payne Commandery, also belongs to Little Rock and Walnut Ridge Chapter No. 86, and affiliates with the K. of P., Douglas Lodge No. 56, and I. O. O. F., Janesville Lodge, Ark. Mr. Douglas is a man of fine business qualifications, and is universally esteemed. He is of pleasing address, hospitable and courteous, enjoying with his wife a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

William T. Echols, one of the leading cotton dealers in Woodruff County, and a member of the firm of Henderson, Echols & Co., dealers in farm implements, wagons and general merchandise, of Cotton Plant, first saw the light of this world in De Soto County, Miss., in 1844, and is a son of J. M. and Mary E. (Henderson) Echols. Mr. J. M. Echols was of French origin and was born in Virginia, coming to St. Francis County in 1848, where he followed the pursuits of farming and real estate. His wife died in 1862. In religion she was a Baptist, having belonged to this church for a number of years. William T. enlisted in the Confederate army, in the Second Arkansas Cavalry, and served with Gen. Price in his raid throughout Missouri and Kansas. After the war he returned to Woodruff County, where he again took up farming, following this until 1869, when he moved to Cross Roads, near Cotton Plant. He was married in 1871 to Isabella Davies (a native of Virginia, and who died in 1877, leaving two children, now deceased). He was married the second time in 1880 to Mrs. Mattie Blakemore (originally of Mississippi). Mr. Echols entered into business with the present firm of Henderson, Echols & Co. in 1875, at Cross Roads, and in 1879 removed to Cotton Plant, where they are now doing a large business, and have a capital stock of \$12,000. Mr. Echols is one among the largest land owners in Woodruff County, having over 1,000 acres, with about 600 under cultivation, all of which he owes to his own industry. Politically he is a strong Democrat, and



*Brother E. Dent*

WOODRUFF COUNTY, ARKANSAS.



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was appointed postmaster of Cotton Plant, holding this office four years. Mr. and Mrs. Echols are members of the Presbyterian Church.

Rolfe Eldridge, a prosperous planter of Point Township, of keen perception, prompt in business and thoroughly alive to the interests of the county, is of Tennessee nativity and was born in Shelby County, in January, 1842. His father, Rolfe Eldridge, Sr., was born in Virginia in 1806, and immigrated from Virginia to Tennessee in 1830, and thence to Arkansas in 1850, locating in what is now Woodruff County. In 1820 he was married to Miss Carolina Hall, a native of Virginia, as were also her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge reared a family of nine children, six girls and three boys: Elizabeth (deceased), Harriett, Carolina (Mrs. Eldridge), Laura, Lucy (wife of Mr. F. E. Pope), John T., Robert and Rolfe. Mr. Eldridge, Sr., was justice of the peace for a number of years in this county and was a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His wife, belonging to the same denomination, died in 1880. Rolfe, Jr., was married in 1869 to Miss Ella Watson, originally of De Soto County, Miss., and this union has been blessed with five children: Sammie, Rolfe, Robert, John, and Ella (deceased). Mrs. Eldridge died in 1880, and Mr. Eldridge was again married in 1887 to Miss Mollie Dawson, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Dawson, of Arkansas. To them one child has been given, Cora, a bright little lady. In response to the call to arms in defense of his country Mr. Eldridge entered the army under the command of Col. Gause. He enlisted in February, 1862, and first was in the cavalry under Capt. Hooker, participating in the battles of Prairie Grove, Helena and Pleasant Hill, and in all the principal engagements during his service. After the war he resumed the cultivation of his farm, which consisted at that time of 200 acres, since which time he has added to it until he now owns 1,500 acres, with 1,000 under cultivation, and finely improved, the most important crops grown being corn and cotton. He is interested in the finest cotton-gin in the State, which now has four plants running with all the improved machinery. Mr. Eldridge is one of the most suc-

cessful and energetic farmers in the State, and his elegant and commodious residence, fine grounds and outbuildings all show that thrift, enterprise and refinement predominate. Himself and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and he belongs to the Masonic lodge and Knights of Honor.

Dr. G. B. Fakes, a prominent citizen, retired physician and surgeon, and considered one of the wealthiest planters in Woodruff County, making his home in Barnes Township, is a native of Wilson County, Tenn., and was born in 1840. His father, William C., first saw the light of day in Kentucky about 1813, and his mother was born in Wilson County, Tenn., in 1816. Mr. Fakes was a well-to-do farmer, and he and wife were connected with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. His wife resides in Wilson County, where the greater part of her life has been spent. Grandfather John Fakes is a Scotchman by birth and emigrated to America when a young man, settling in Kentucky where he married and passed the remainder of his life, working at his trade, that of a hatter. The maternal grandfather was a native of Virginia, where he married and lived for a number of years after, but his death occurred in Tennessee. Dr. Fakes is the third in a family of eleven children, and with them was reared on a farm, receiving all the advantages of the schools of that period. In 1860 he came to Woodruff County, where he took up the study of medicine, but was interrupted by the outbreak of the Rebellion. He cast aside the dry and musty volumes of medical lore, and joined the First Arkansas Mounted Riflemen as a private soldier and was appointed assistant-surgeon, serving as such for two years. After the war he continued his practice with marked success for some years, but retired later on, after gaining an enviable reputation as a son of *Æsculapius*. He was married in 1863 to Miss Eleanor J., daughter of William and Mary Edmonds, natives of Alabama, but after their marriage came to Woodruff County in 1849, settling in woods which soon became an improved farm. Mr. Edmonds was an influential and very wealthy citizen, and his death, which occurred in 1868, was regretted by the entire com-

munity. His wife survived him some twenty-four years, and still lives in the faith of the Methodist Church. The Doctor's marriage has been blessed with two children, only one of them living, a son. He has a farm of 1,000 acres, with about 400 under cultivation. A large portion of this farm was inherited by Mrs. Fakes, and is without doubt one of, if not the finest farm in the county, and by the careful management of Dr. Fakes it has been doubly increased in value. The county recognizes in Dr. Fakes one of the most popular and enterprising citizens, and well worthy the respect and confidence reposed in him. He is now engaged in the manufacture of lumber and shingles, supplying the long-felt want of a mill of that kind in the county, and was also at one time the proprietor of a store opened on the old homestead of Mr. Edmonds, and which was well patronized by the surrounding residents. Dr. Fakes is a Democrat, and is connected with several secret societies, being a member of the Seymour Lodge No. 1,268, A. F. & A. M., Augusta Lodge, also belongs to the Royal Arch Chapter at Augusta. The K. of H., De View Lodge, count him as one of its members, and the K. of L. find him well qualified to discharge the duties of Protector of the lodge. Himself and wife are members in good standing in the Methodist Church.

James Felker, a farmer of prominence, also stock raiser and ginner of Pumpkin Bend Township, is the son of Peter and Nancy (Eaves) Felker, and was born in Tennessee, in 1822. Peter Felker (his father) was born in Tennessee, and his wife in Abbeville District, S. C. They were married in South Carolina, and soon after settled in Tennessee, but when James was a boy they changed their location to Cherokee Purchase, near Chattanooga, and there spent the remainder of their lives. After a happy marriage of nearly eighty years, Mr. Felker passed away in 1877, aged one hundred and three years, his wife surviving him until 1883, dying at the age of ninety-seven. Mr. Felker was a very successful farmer, and amassed a large fortune, but during the war became financially embarrassed. He was one of the early settlers in Southeast Tennessee, and carried the

mails at an early period. He was the son of William Felker, a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and while en route for home with his wife, or after getting home, was assassinated by British soldiers. Grandfather Eaves was of English descent, a farmer, and at the time of his death was living in Abbeville District, S. C. James Felker was the third in a family of four sons, all of them living as follows: William (a merchant of Franklin County, Ark.), Stephen (a farmer of Missouri) and Jesse (farmer and merchant of Georgia). They are all enterprising men, and have accumulated very comfortable fortunes. James received a limited education, as the schools of Tennessee at that date were inferior in quality and few in number. He was married in Hamilton County, Tenn., in 1847, to Caroline, daughter of William and Polly Brewster. Mrs. Felker was born in Tennessee, and died in 1867, having borne a family of seven children, four now living: Misnier (wife of Ensley Ball), Margaret (wife of Hughie Gillyuly), Jesse and Louisa. Mr. Felker was again married in 1872 to Mrs. Charlotte Guest, a native of Georgia, and born in 1833, who died in 1878, and in 1882 Mr. Felker was wedded to his present wife. She was Mrs. Adrain Hawkins, a native of Mississippi, and born in 1848, the daughter of William Worthington. Mr. Felker's first home in Arkansas was in St. Francis County, where he resided until the year 1869, then came to Pumpkin Bend, and settled in an almost complete wilderness. Of this he owned 830 acres, and has 130 cultivated, all the result of his own labor, with little or no assistance. He raises a great many cattle, horses and hogs, and for nearly fifteen years has run a gin and corn mill, and for a short time had a good steam saw-mill attached. For some years Augusta was the nearest postoffice and market, which made it quite a long distance to go, the journey being contemplated and talked of a long time before its execution. Mr. Felker enlisted and served about three years in the Confederate army, in Company C, with Col. McGee of Price's army. He participated in the battle of Helena, Fitz Hugh, Wallace's Ferry, Little Rock and all through the Missouri raid. He served as lieutenant most of

this time, and surrendered at Wittsburg. Mr. Felker is a strong and thorough Democrat, and voted for Polk, in 1844, and every Democratic candidate since, with the exception of the war period. His financial condition is based on a solid foundation, which is all due to hard work, perseverance and close attention to business. He is one of the most prosperous of Pumpkin Bend citizens, and enjoys the respect of the entire community. Although he has lived thirty years in the bottom lands, he has always had very good health, and is still well able to stand and endure the varying changes of weather. He comes of a long-lived race, and bids fair to carry the record of his ancestors. Mrs. Felker is a member of and in high standing in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

W. E. Ferguson is not only known as a popular and worthy citizen, but as county and circuit clerk of Augusta, Ark. Though claiming Coahoma County, Miss., as his place of birth, which occurred on September 10, 1851, Mr. Ferguson was reared in Woodruff County, Ark. His parents, James P. and Maria L. (Alcorn) Ferguson, originally from Kentucky, immigrated to Woodruff County in 1850, when W. E. was but eight years of age, and after moving to this county settled in Augusta Township, where the father purchased a tract of land from Dave Johnson, one of the early pioneers of the county. Some of this land he found improved, and a portion was in its wild and natural state. In 1861, Mr. Ferguson moved to Augusta, making his home there ever since. He was a Union man in principle, and opposed the secession of the States, but the first Confederate company that was raised in his adopted county, through courtesy, made him lieutenant. He resigned, and in way of acknowledging the compliment thus shown him, presented the boys in gray with blankets. He has been a farmer and land speculator, and, although the owner of an extensive tract of land, he is practically living a retired life. Hon. James L. Alcorn, one of Mississippi's distinguished senators, is a brother of Mrs. Ferguson. There are five children now living born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson: William E., Mary M. (widow of Anderson O'Neil), Minnie T., Bettie T. and Alcorn. W.

E. Ferguson's younger days were passed principally in Woodruff County, and being placed in the common schools to be educated, he remained in there until fifteen years of age, when he entered the Emory and Henry College of Emory, Washington County, Va., to complete his studies, but only remained through the sophomore year. After leaving this institution, he returned home, staying but two years, and acting as deputy sheriff, then, 1873, entered the Lebanon Law School, from which he graduated the following year. He was admitted to the bar at Augusta the same year, after which he practiced his profession until October, 1874, when he found that he would be compelled to take up his father's business in the farming interest in order to save the business, the employes of his father having involved him to a considerable amount. W. E. then assumed charge of affairs, and superintended the place, buying and weighing and ginning cotton. He worked diligently for two years, straightened things out, and then went to Dardanelle, where he found employment as a clerk. He remained in this position until September, 1878, when he returned to Augusta, and clerked for L. Rosen, continuing with him until 1880, when he was elected to the office of assessor. In 1882 he was elected sheriff and collector, and re-elected in 1884 without opposition in his own party. In 1886 he was elected to his present office (that of county and circuit clerk), and re-elected in 1888. Mr. Ferguson is one of the prominent political leaders of Woodruff County, and has a host of friends, his affability and thorough education qualifying him for any position of trust the people may confer upon him. He was married in May, 1884, to Miss Mary E. Douglass, a native of Iowa, who bore him two children: Louise and Ruby. Mr. Ferguson is a member of the Masonic fraternity, also a Chapter Mason and Knight of Honor and Knight of Pythias. In 1870 he entered the commercial school of Evansville, Ind., remaining at this institution of learning one term.

R. K. Fitzhugh, Jr. In making mention of the subject of this memoir, it is not an injustice to him when it is said that he is foremost in agricultural pursuits, and as a planter is exceedingly

successful. He is a native of Virginia, his birth occurring in Greene County in 1854. He is a son of Rufus K., Sr., and H. E. (Baytop) Fitzhugh, the former of King George County origin and the latter of Gloucester County, Va. In 1859 Mr. Fitzhugh came to Arkansas, purchased a tract of land, and in 1866 moved his family to this place, and being an extensive slave holder in his native State, brought with him a large number of negroes. He became an extensive land owner, his place being known as "Walnut Woods," and at the time of his death he had about 550 acres under cultivation. He died in 1888, his wife and ten children surviving him. R. K. Fitzhugh is next to the oldest of the family, and although principally reared in Arkansas, he received his education in the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Auburn, Ala., graduating from this institution in 1874. Since his graduation he has turned his attention to farming, and has 800 acres of land in his home place, near Augusta, with 600 acres under cultivation. On this farm is a large cotton-gin, having a capacity of ten bales per day. He has held the office of county surveyor for three terms, being first elected in 1880, and socially is a member of the Masonic fraternity.

Dr. B. A. Fletcher, physician and surgeon, Augusta, Ark. This prominent practitioner was born in Fayette County, Miss., October 14, 1862, and, quite naturally perhaps, early formed a determination to follow the practice of medicine, for his father, Dr. John P. Fletcher, is a physician and a graduate of the New Orleans Medical College. The father, a native of Tennessee, married Miss Mary A. Cooper, a native of Mississippi, and in 1871 they moved to Arkansas and located in Lonoke County, where the father still lives, practicing his profession in Mississippi and Arkansas. The mother died in 1873. Dr. B. A. Fletcher, the youngest in a family of ten children, was but eight years of age when he came with his parents to Arkansas. His early scholastic advantages as he grew up tended to increase the natural desire which he possessed to follow the medical profession, and quite early in life began the study of medicine. He attended the session of 1883-84,

graduating from Bellevue Medical College of New York City. He then began practicing in Lonoke County, and there remained until 1885, when he came to Augusta, and has since been engaged in the practice of his profession at that place. He has met with flattering success for a young physician, and his future prospects are bright. His brother, J. J. Fletcher, who established a drug store in Augusta, died in 1885, and the Doctor came to this place to settle the estate. He concluded to remain, and is now building up a good practice. He was married in December, 1884, to Miss Mary A. Baker, of Virginia, who has borne two children, only one of whom is living: Mary A. The Doctor is director of the County Medical Association and secretary of the Woodruff County Board of Medical Examiners and also of the county society.

W. W. Folsom, who has been editor of the Woodruff County Vidette for the past ten years, was born in Charlotte, N. C., on August 23, 1836. At the age of twelve years he entered the office of the Columbia (Tenn.) Record, where he served a time at the printing business. Leaving Columbia in the year 1860, he became a citizen of Jackson, Tenn., from which point he went into the Southern army, in the Sixth Tennessee Infantry, and served to the close of the war in Gen. Cheatham's division. At the close of the war he came home like many others, penniless, but went to work to build up his own and the fortunes of his bright Southland, as a citizen of Mississippi, engaging in a mercantile and farming life. In 1875 he became a citizen of Arkansas, and since that time he has been laboring to build up every interest of his adopted State. In 1879 he became the editor of the Brinkley Times, the office of which was burned in November of that year when he became the editor and proprietor of the Vidette. In that capacity he has given his every energy to the advancement of the State, and particularly to the pushing forward of Woodruff County, and by his untiring energy and perseverance has succeeded in giving prominence to his paper, among his brethren of the press, both in and out of the State. In 1888 he was made president of his State Press As-

sociation, and is now serving his second term as a member of the executive committee of the National Editorial Association. He is still devoting himself to the advancement and development of Woodruff County, and will take pleasure in giving information to any person wishing to know the advantages of this beautiful and fertile region.

George W. Gordon, a conscientious and upright citizen, known and respected by all for the ability and faithfulness with which he discharges all duties imposed upon him, is a wealthy planter residing near Riverside, Ark., and born in Giles County, Tenn., July 4, 1847, and is a son of J. P. W. D. and Martha (Anderson) Gordon who were also Tennesseans. The Gordon family were early settlers of the State and before the war the father was an extensive trader in negroes and owned a large plantation. He was also the owner of an hotel and livery stable at Pulaski, and died at this place in 1863, his wife having died in 1853. To these parents were born four sons and three daughters, of whom their son, George W., was the youngest boy. His boyhood days were spent in Pulaski, Tenn., and he there received his early schooling, but upon reaching a suitable age he began farming, continuing in this occupation for a number of years. On December 24, 1873, he took up his abode in Woodruff County, Ark., where he has since been engaged in the duties of farm work. He owns 535 acres on Taylor's Bay. In 1880 he was elected to the office of constable, serving two years, also filling the position of deputy sheriff, and in 1882 was chosen county assessor, remaining in this appointment four years. In 1886 was defeated for sheriff by a small majority in the primary Democratic election. He is a worthy constituent of the Masonic fraternity, and he and wife, whom he married in 1873, and whose maiden name was Kate Shell, are the parents of three children: Clarence, Lelia and Fannie. Mrs. Gordon was born in Woodruff County. Himself and wife are worshipers of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He taught two private and three public schools near Riverside, also served as Sunday-school superintendent for three years.

Dr. E. O. Grigsby, the trusted and tried friend

of suffering humanity, the center of a host of friends, is a prominent physician and citizen of this (Woodruff) county, was born in Madison County, Miss., on March 18, 1835, the son of John R. Grigsby, of Scotch descent. His father, John R. Grigsby, was born in Rockbridge County, Va., in 1781, and was reared and educated to farm life. When quite young he immigrated from his native State to Henderson County, Ky., where he married, and after losing this companion he then went to Mississippi, where he was again married to Mrs. Elizabeth Sanders (maiden name Briggs) in 1833. To this marriage three children were born, two boys and a girl: E. O., M. R. and Eliza (deceased). Mr. John R. Grigsby served in the War of 1812, and was called to his final home in 1847. Mrs. Elizabeth Grigsby was born near Natchez, Miss., in 1805, and died in 1841. Dr. Grigsby's career as a man and physician dates from 1857. He attended lectures at St. Louis Medical College at that time, and graduated from this institution. He first practiced medicine in Madison County, Miss., locating in sight of the county school-house he attended when a boy, and in the neighborhood where he was reared an orphan, and there he remained until the late war between the States, and when Mississippi passed the ordinance secession, his Southern pride bade him go, and he enlisted at once in a company then forming and known as the Madison Rifles, afterward Company I, in the Tenth Mississippi Regiment, where he served twelve months as a private, though frequently detailed as medical assistant for special duties. At the expiration of his twelve months of service as a private, he was commissioned as assistant-surgeon, and assigned to duty with the Tenth Mississippi Regiment, the same in which he had served as a private soldier. In 1864 he was promoted to full surgeon, ordered to report to Gen. Forrest, who assigned him to duty with the Seventh Alabama Cavalry, under the command of Col. Colvin, where he remained until the close of the war, when returning to Mississippi and finding himself unable to live the life of former days, he immigrated to Arkansas, and in 1867 located in De View, where he has been engaged in the successful practice of

his profession ever since, with the good-will of a host of friends around him, and always true to his trust and generous to a fault, and not lacking in those qualities which go to make up the courteous and affable gentleman. Dr. Grigsby was married to Mrs. Eliza Brigham in 1868, and by her became the father of two children: Nettie O. and John R. (deceased). Mrs. Grigsby's maiden name was Norrell, and was born in Tennessee in 1836, and came with her parents to Mississippi when quite small, and from Mississippi to Arkansas in 1851. Her father was married in Alabama, and was the parent of seven children, two of whom are now living: Eliza and Amanda (the wife of Mr. James Crawford, of Walnut Springs, Tex.). Mr. Norrell served in the War of 1812, and was a devout and earnest Christian, belonging to the Baptist Church, and died in 1858, his wife surviving him but eight years and was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The only association to which Dr. Grigsby belongs is the Knights of Honor and the society of true honorable men. He is now engaged in the drug and grocery business, in connection with his practice, and has been for the past six years.

J. T. Hamblet, merchant, Augusta, Ark. In the list of industries of the city of Augusta that of merchandising takes a prominent position, and among the houses engaged in this branch of business that of Mr. Hamblet is entitled to due notice and recognition. Mr. Hamblet was originally from Dinwiddie County, Va., where his birth occurred in 1825, and is the eldest child born to the marriage of G. B. and Joannah Hamblet, natives of the Old Dominion. The parents immigrated to Tennessee, and there resided until the death of the father, which occurred in 1841. The mother died in Woodruff County, Ark. J. T. Hamblet was principally reared in Tennessee, and his early scholastic advantages were enjoyed in that State. He began clerking in a store in Memphis in 1843, and there remained until 1848, when he came to Augusta, Ark., and engaged in the mercantile business, which he has since continued. He is the oldest merchant in the county, and does a general furnishing business, carrying a large and

select stock of goods, and is one of the leading merchants in the county. He has always attended strictly to business, and this in some measure accounts for success. He is also the owner of considerable real estate. Mr. Hamblet chose for his companion in life Miss Cordelia P. Penn, and was united in marriage to her in 1850. They have three children living: Mrs. Josie Harry, Ida Dale and Georgie Elsberry. Mr. Hamblet has been a member of the Masonic fraternity for forty years, and is one of the first-class citizens of the county.

Dr. T. A. Hightower has attained to an established reputation as a physician of ability. A resident of McCrory, his birth occurred in Limestone County, Ala., June 5, 1850, he being the son of James Hightower, a prosperous farmer. The latter, who was of Virginia nativity, was born in 1817 and accompanied his parents to Kentucky from the Old Dominion, and then to Alabama when quite a young man. Concluding that it was not good for man to be alone, he selected for his helpmate, Miss Lucy Westmoreland, their marriage occurring in 1846. Their union was blessed with a family of nine children: John C., James L., William E., Lou C. (Mrs. R. R. Riley), Robert L., Bettie (the wife of Mr. Gilbert), India, Martha and T. A. Mr. Hightower was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and a man respected by all. His death occurred in Limestone County, Ala., in 1879. His wife, who was born in Giles County, Tenn., in 1831, is now residing in Alabama. Dr. Hightower was married in 1875 to Miss Emma Simpson, in Lawrence County, Ala. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Simpson, and was born in 1858. Dr. and Mrs. Hightower are the parents of five children: Isaac, Pearl, James, Katie and Thomas. The Doctor was educated in Tennessee, and attended medical lectures at the University of Nashville, Tenn., in 1870-73. He first practiced medicine in Town Creek, Ala., in 1873, but immigrated from Alabama to Tennessee in 1878, and that year came to Arkansas, locating in this county, where he has since resided, enjoying, as he well deserves, a large and lucrative practice. Dr. Hightower is identified with the following orders: K. of P., Douglass Lodge No. 56, K. of H. and A. F.

& A. M., belonging to the Blue Lodge, Chapter, and Commandery No. 1. Mrs. Hightower is a member in high standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and a general favorite in society.

J. P. House, merchant, Augusta, Ark. To be successful in any calling in life a man must be honest, industrious and saving, and with these essential qualities he can not fail to accumulate property, and at the same time hold the respect and esteem of his fellow-men. Mr. House was originally from Hardeman County, Tenn., and is the son of A. B. House, a native of Tennessee, and a planter, who is still residing in White County, Ark. The maiden name of the mother was Eliza Wilkes, who was also a native of Tennessee. J. P. House was in his eighth year when he came to White County with his parents, in 1858. He received a fair education in the common schools, and early in life was taught the duties of farm life. He left the parental roof at the age of eighteen years, and clerked in a store for three years. He then studied law, and was admitted to the bar in White County, where he practiced his profession for four years in that and Woodruff Counties. He established the Vidette in 1877, and ran it until 1879, when he gave it up. After this he began keeping books for Hamblet & Penn, and held this position until 1884, when he engaged in mercantile pursuits with a partner, E. H. Conner, the firm title still continuing House & Conner. They carry a general line of merchandise, and are doing a successful business. Mr. House selected his wife in the person of Miss L. Pursell, and was united in marriage to her in 1880. She died in 1886, leaving one child, John. W. Mr. House is a member of the Masonic fraternity, Knights & Ladies of Honor, and Knights of Pythias, and a Knight Templar and Knight of Honor.

Joseph L. Howell. Mr. and Mrs. David Howell, of North Carolina, the former a prosperous farmer of that State, were the parents of nine children, as follows: James L., Eliza (wife of Nedy Hyatt), Mary (now Mrs. H. C. McCracken), C. J. (Mrs. J. I. Jarred), N. E. (Mrs. Morgan Osborn), Adaline (Mrs. George Butler), Joseph L. (the subject of this sketch) and two sons deceased.

Mr. Howell was claimed by the dread destroyer, Death, in 1864, his wife having preceded him in the year 1848. They were earnest workers and members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Joseph L. began life for himself in 1852, as traveling agent of musical instruments, and also taught music until 1861. During the war he went to Texas, and freighted cotton from Waco to San Antonio for the Government. After the close of hostilities, Mr. Howell came to Arkansas and settled in this county, engaging in farming, which occupation he has since followed, being to-day one of the wealthiest planters of the county. He owns between 5,000 and 6,000 acres of land, about 1,200 in a fine state of cultivation. A good gin is one of the many improvements made by him, which was rebuilt during the year 1889, enabling the ginning of from fifteen to twenty bales per day. Mr. Howell was married to Miss Fannie Butler, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joel J. Butler, of Georgia, and their marriage resulted in a family of five children, three girls and two boys: Martha (the wife of Dr. Mewborn), Effie (Mrs. Richard Izard), Eddie, Joseph and Fannie (deceased). Mrs. Howell was born in 1838, owing her nativity to Georgia, where her parents were life-long residents. Mr. Butler died in 1864, and his wife two years before. Mr. Howell has erected a very fine residence in Howell Station, and is the founder of that place. He is foremost in all enterprises relative to the welfare of town and county, many of which owe their origin and successful completion to his ever ready support and to his spirit of progression. His wealth enables him to contribute largely to all charitable purposes, and in performing many good works he follows the Bible injunction, "Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth."

S. L. Ingalls, real-estate and insurance agent, Augusta, Ark. In a country like Arkansas, with so much land still unoccupied or not built upon, the office of the real-estate agent is an important one, and exercises considerable bearing upon the welfare of the community. He is an instrument for the building up of the country and making the wilderness to blossom as the rose, figuratively



speaking. Among those largely interested in this line of business is Mr. S. L. Ingalls, who is also an insurance agent, one of the most important branches of business in any community. Mr. Ingalls was born in Boston, Mass., in 1846, and is a son of Elias T. and Eliza (Chase) Ingalls, natives also of Massachusetts. This family was early settlers of the New England States, and the Great-grandfather Ingalls was the founder of the city of Lynn. Elias T. Ingalls was a shoe manufacturer, and followed this pursuit up to the breaking out of the war, after which he was the buyer for his son, R. M. Ingalls, of Louisville. He is still living at his home in Massachusetts. S. L. Ingalls, the youngest son of seven children, five sons and two daughters, received his education in his native State, and in 1861 went to Louisville, Ky., where he remained with his brother in the shoe business until 1865. He then returned home and was book-keeper in Boston until 1870, when he came to Arkansas, located at Jacksonport, and was also book-keeper here for E. L. Watson for some time. In 1876 he came to Augusta and was book-keeper for Hamblet & Penn for two years, after which he was made deputy county and circuit clerk, filling this position for eight years. In 1884 he embarked in his present business, represents twelve fire-insurance companies and is a large real-estate dealer, both in town and country. He owns one of the finest residences in Augusta. By his marriage, which occurred in 1871, to Miss Kate H. Weiss, of Louisville, Ky., he became the father of two children, both deceased. Mr. Ingalls is justice of the peace of Augusta Township. He is a brother of Senator Ingalls, of Kansas. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, Chapter, K. of H. and K. & L. of H. He is also a member of the K. of P.

Richard T. Jett, one of the most prominent and influential citizens in the vicinity of Gregory, was born in Kentucky (Barren County) in 1834. His father, R. H. V. Jett, was a native of Virginia, born in 1806. He followed the occupation of milling, and in 1828 was married to Miss Elizabeth Bradley, of Maryland, by which union were born ten children, eight boys and two girls, seven now living, viz.: Mary J. (wife of Gabe Corn), Rich-

ard T., Catherine (wife of William Langstay), Albert N., J. S., James F. and G. W. Mr. Jett was a member of the Christian Church, and died in 1872. Richard T. Jett immigrated from Kentucky to Arkansas in 1870, locating in Woodruff County. He turned his attention to the improvement of land and now cultivates some 300 acres, the principal crops being cotton and corn. He has erected a good residence, and enjoys the acquaintance of many residents about Gregory, in the southern portion of the county. The year 1858 witnessed his nuptials with Margaret A. Haden, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Haden, of Kentucky. To their marriage three children have been given, two girls and one boy: Carrie (wife of Lawrence Richey), Josie (now Mrs. James Snodgrass) and Albert C. Mr. Jett is an expert machinist and followed that business for several years. From 1861 till 1866 he engaged in steamboating, and now has an interest in a large saw-mill, also in partnership with W. J. and E. G. Thompson, Minor Gregory and R. Eldridge in the possession of a gin, the style of the firm being Mill & Gin Co. They run four stands and have the latest improved plans. Mr. Jett possesses any amount of energy, and his having an interest in anything means the successful termination of that enterprise. His refined surroundings and hospitable board ensure for him the respect and esteem of all who know him.

F. B. Jones is a member of the general mercantile firm of S. M. Jones & Co., of Riverside, and was born in Limestone County, Ala., in the year 1851, and is a son of I. H. W. and Mary Jones, who were natives of the State of Alabama. They removed to Woodruff County, Ark., in November, 1861, and located four miles east of Augusta, and here both died on a farm which they had purchased. At the time of the father's death he owned 480 acres of land, about 200 of which was under cultivation. Of the seven children born to them two are now living: F. B. and S. M. F. B. Jones was in his ninth year when brought to this State, and here he grew to manhood, receiving his education in the St. John's Masonic School of Little Rock. He also graduated from the East-

man Business College of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., in 1874, and after clerking for his uncle in Searcy for some time, the present firm was established (in 1885), and has since continued under very favorable auspices. They carry a general line of merchandise, and also handle large quantities of cotton and produce. F. B. Jones has land to the extent of 420 acres, and has 150 acres under cultivation, and in addition to giving much of his attention to his farm, he raises considerable stock. He has served as constable one term, and he and his brother have charge of the postoffice, which was established in 1884, S. M. Jones being appointed postmaster one year later. Mr. Jones was married in 1883 to Miss Claudia H. Jelks, by whom he had one child, now deceased.

S. M. Jones, of the general mercantile firm of S. M. Jones & Co., of Riverside, is an Alabamian, who was brought to Arkansas by his parents when an infant, and until ten years old was a resident and attendant of the schools of Woodruff County. The next fifteen years were spent in White County, and since then he has resided at his present place of abode. In the spring of 1884 he engaged in the mercantile business, but gives the most of his attention to the conducting of his farm, which comprises a tract of 430 acres, with 200 acres under cultivation. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and is an intelligent and enterprising young man. May 3, 1887, he was married to Miss Mary B. Word, a native of Arkansas. Maj. B. M. Jones is a merchant and proprietor of a hotel at Riverside. He was born in Limestone County, Ala., March 24, 1830, and is a son of John J. and Martha (Wilburn) Jones who were born in Virginia. They removed to Northern Alabama at an early day and there resided until their respective deaths, the father being an energetic tiller of the soil. Maj. B. M. Jones was reared and educated in Alabama, and in 1858 came to White County, Ark., and located at Searcy, where he carried on the mercantile business for several years. In 1862 he enlisted in Company E, Thirty-sixth Arkansas Infantry as first lieutenant, was promoted to captain, and at the time of the surrender was mustered out as major, and returned to his

home at Searcy, where he remained until 1884. Since that time he has been a resident of Riverside, engaged in merchandising, and also buys cotton very extensively. To his marriage with Susan Greene in 1860 one child was born, who is now deceased, and by his present wife, who was a Miss Elizabeth A. Dismukes, he has three children: Henry, Lizzie and Fannie.

Maj. D. D. Leach is one of the few men who fully recognize that a thorough education is absolutely necessary if a man wishes to become eminent in the practice of law, and he is also cognizant of the fact that a systematic course of reading gives variety to thought and a clearer perception to the motives of men. The Major is a prominent attorney of Augusta, and was born in Homer, Mich., March 29, 1841, being a son of R. T. and L. M. (Calhoun) Leach, the former a native of New York and the latter of Pennsylvania. After their marriage they removed to Michigan (about 1846), and a few years later settled in Wisconsin, and in 1871 removed to Arkansas, locating in Augusta where the father died in 1875. His widow still survives him. He was deputy sheriff, constable and city marshal for some years, and by trade was a millwright, at which he worked for years. D. D. Leach was reared principally in Waukesha, Wis., receiving his education in Carroll College. After studying law in Waukesha for some time he removed to Colorado, and while in Central City, in 1864, passed a legal examination, and was admitted to the bar. Prior to this, he had enlisted in the Twenty-eighth Wisconsin Infantry (in 1862), and was an able soldier of the Union until the close of the war. For bravery and good conduct he was advanced in the rank of officers to that of major. In 1868 he came to Augusta, Ark., and established himself as a lawyer, continuing in this profession ever since, winning for himself an excellent reputation as a pleader, his speeches being eloquent and to the point. He held the office of prosecuting attorney for ten years, and in 1888, was a candidate for Congress on the Republican ticket, but owing to the large Democratic majority in his district he was defeated. The Major is a member of the Masonic fraternity and the K. of H., being Past Grand Dictator of the

latter lodge and is Deputy Supreme Protector of the K. & L. of H., and has also been Thrice Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of the State of Arkansas. In 1864 he was united in marriage to Miss Dora Smith, a native of Wisconsin, and by her is the father of three children, Calhoun D. surviving.

A. C. Lewis is known as a worthy son of John Lewis, a native of Missouri, who was born in 1800, and educated to farm life, but when quite young he left his father's home and operated a steam-ferry on the Mississippi River at St. Louis. He was married, in 1822, to Miss Nancy M. Curry, and by her became the father of the following family: Harvey, Robert O., Elizabeth (the wife of William S. Holloway) and A. C. (the subject of this sketch). Mr. Lewis was a gallant soldier in the Indian War, and at the time of his death, in 1848, was residing in St. Louis County, Mo. Mrs. Lewis died in the same county in 1863, a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as was also her husband. A. C. Lewis first saw the light of day in St. Francis County, Mo., in 1835, and commenced life on his own responsibility at the age of eighteen years. After managing his mother's farm until the war, he laid down the implements of peace to take up those of a soldier, and enlisted in the artillery service under Capt. Emmett McDonald. In 1861 he was captured and taken to Vicksburg. During his career he participated in the battles of Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge and the skirmishes at Corinth, the battles of Iuka, Baker's Creek and the siege of Vicksburg, serving as second lieutenant in the battery for a short time, just before the closing of hostilities. In 1866 Mr. Lewis was married to Miss Barbara Edmond, daughter of William Edmond and wife, of Alabama. Mrs. Lewis was born in Tennessee, and died in 1869, leaving three children: Fletcher, Eleanor (the wife of Joseph Grant) and one child not named. Mr. Lewis chose for his second wife Miss Lena Jelks, and to them five children have been given: Ada, Letitia, John, Austin and Gracie. Mr. Lewis owns and operates a cotton-gin and grist-mill, which is second to none in the county. His farm consists of 780 acres of land, with 300

acres under cultivation, the principal crop being cotton and corn. He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and he is a public-spirited man, supporting all educational and religious enterprises; a good financier, he is also a practical farmer and excellent business man, well worthy the respect and esteem in which he is held by all who are so fortunate as to know him.

Thomas T. Locke, planter, ginmer and merchant, and one of the representative men of Cotton Plant Township, is originally from Rowan County, N. C., being born in 1825, and one of six children given to J. Richard and Margaret (Gheen) Locke. Richard Locke and wife were of North Carolina nativity, and died in that State in 1836 and 1849, respectively. He was a prosperous farmer, and his father, Alex. Locke, was also of North Carolina, his birth and death occurring in that State. The maternal grandfather, Joseph Gheen, was of Dutch descent, a native of North Carolina, and died in Kentucky. Thomas T. Locke is the only member of his father's family living. He was educated in the common schools of his home, and in 1851 was married to Margaret A., daughter of Daniel and Hethey Harris, who were natives and life-long residents of North Carolina. To Mr. and Mrs. Locke seven children have been born, two of them now living: Thomas A. and Ida L. (wife of Frank P. Hill). Mr. Locke came to Woodruff County in 1858, settling on his present farm, which is five miles north of Cotton Plant. It is, without doubt, one of the finest farms in the county, consisting of 640 acres, with over 450 under a careful state of cultivation. On his daughter's marriage he presented her with 200 acres, which in itself is a very fine farm, and the two farms combined make a very fine plantation. Mr. Locke operates a plantation store and a gin, which has been in successful operation since his residence in Arkansas. It would seem that with so much on his mind something would have to be neglected, but Mr. Locke manages his farm, gin and mercantile business in a way that demonstrates his perfect efficiency to complete anything he undertakes. Mrs. Locke died in 1868, while in Mississippi, where she had gone for her health, and in 1876 Mr. Locke again mar-

ried, this time to Mrs. Mary E. Linthicum, of Arkansas, and a daughter of the Hon. Parley P. Hill, who was among the first settlers in Woodruff County, and one of its most prominent citizens in an early day. He was a member of the legislature from Woodruff County from 1848 to 1849, and a wealthy planter. His death occurred in 1866. Mr. Locke served in the war a short time, under Capt. Canley, in 1864. Previous to the war he was a Whig, voting for Taylor in 1848, but since that time has been a staunch Democrat. He has been connected with the Cotton Plant Presbyterian Church since 1864, and has presided as an elder since 1877. Mrs. Locke has been a member of the Presbyterian Church for a great many years, and is known and respected by every one. Mr. Locke is a good citizen, lending his support to all worthy movements, and is of the character of men who help to build the villages into towns and the towns into cities.

Robert C. Lynch is the youngest of the children of William D. and Eliza J. (Mann) Lynch. The former, of Irish descent, was born in Mississippi in 1819, and in 1846 moved to what is now Woodruff County, becoming engaged in the mercantile business in Cotton Plant, where he built the first store, and was largely the means of making the town what it is at this time. When Mr. Lynch moved here his nearest postoffice was Des Arc. He entered a large amount of Government land in the township, and made it his home until his death, which occurred in 1876. He was a Mason. Robert C. Lynch was born in Cotton Plant in 1855, and received a good education, graduating from the Mound City Commercial College of St. Louis in 1874, after which he embarked in the mercantile business with his father. Upon the demise of the latter he took the old homestead (which he still owns and on which he was born, consisting of 320 acres), and other land in the county, having over 800 acres under cultivation. He carried on farming with good success. Mr. Lynch was married in 1876 to Augusta J. Woods, a daughter of Daniel and Jane Woods, natives of North Carolina. He is now occupied as bookkeeper for Alexander Salinger, of Cotton Plant,

in connection with his agricultural duties. Mr. Lynch is a member of the Knights of Pythias, in which he holds the office of Keeper of Records and Seals; is also a member of the A. F. & A. M., of the K. of H., and of the K. and L. of H., in the last-named lodge filling the office of Past Dictator. Mrs. Lynch is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Her husband is a highly respected citizen, and one of the leading men of Cotton Plant, having the finest residence in the place.

John J. McDonald. Perhaps the most important of Mr. McDonald's history is his war record, which is without a blemish, and though not characterized by any special act of prominence, it is one to which he can refer with pardonable pride, and that may be read by those who are to come after him with a sense of honor. He enlisted in the Confederate army in 1861, and joined the Sixth Georgia Infantry, his service extending over the States of Virginia, North and South Carolina. During this time he participated in the battles of Seven Pines, Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, Second Manassas, battle of the Wilderness, and the seven days' fight around Richmond, besides many minor engagements. He was with Stonewall Jackson when that great general was killed, but was never himself wounded or captured. Early in 1865 he was sent South, and was under Johnston at his surrender. His two older brothers (twins) William and John, were in the same war, both receiving severe injuries in the seven days' fight. After they were all at home he in company with his father and one sister came to White County, but about a year later his father returned to his native State. Mr. McDonald is a native of Jones County, Ga., and was born in 1842, the son of John and Wealthy (Clifton) McDonald, originally from North Carolina and Georgia, respectively. They were married in Georgia and reared a family of eight children, of whom John J. is the fourth in order of birth. Mrs. McDonald died in 1854. Mr. McDonald married again, and with the exception of a few years spent in Arkansas, as before stated, resided in Georgia all his life, his death occurring there in 1874. He served in one of the Indian wars. His father, Henry McDonald, a Scotchman

by birth and a soldier in the Revolutionary War, died in North Carolina. John J. McDonald was married in 1870 to Miss Mary, daughter of William Thompson. She was born in Georgia and died after nine years of wedded life. For his second wife Mr. McDonald chose Victoria Turner, whose parents, Stephen and Susan Turner, were married in North Carolina and from there moved to Jackson County, Ark., where the former died, but Mrs. Turner is still living. Mrs. McDonald was born in Jackson County and died in 1880, a member of the Christian Church. She bore five children: John L., William H., Walter H. Eugene and Rufus. In 1869 Mr. McDonald moved to White County, and since 1880 has resided on his present place, consisting of 600 acres with 125 in a successful state of cultivation. The farm at the time of his purchase was nearly all woods, but it is now second to none in the county, as far as careful cultivation is concerned, all brought to this condition by the individual efforts of Mr. McDonald. He is an enterprising farmer and citizen, lending his support to all worthy movements for the good and growth of the county, and enjoys the esteem and respect of those who know him. He has been school trustee for many years, and many a successful termination of some enterprise owes its existence to a large degree to his quick judgment and keen penetration. He has been a Democrat during life, and voted for Greeley in 1868. The Colony Lodge No. 190, A. F. & A. M., find in him one of its best members.

Ransford P. McGregor, a man looked up to and held in the highest esteem by his fellow-citizens, also a wealthy planter of Cotton Plant, is a native of Tennessee, and was born in Rutherford County, in 1848, being the son of Ransford and Isabella (Henderson) McGregor. The senior McGregor was probably born in Davidson County, Tenn., in 1801, and his wife in Rutherford County. They were married in the latter State, where their entire lives were passed. Mrs. McGregor was called to her final home in 1849, and her husband died in 1882. He was a justice of the peace and a leading farmer at the time of his demise. His father was of Scotch-Irish descent, and among the

early settlers of Davidson County, Tenn., his death occurring in Wilson County. His grandfather, Col. James Henderson, was killed at the battle of New Orleans, January 8, 1815. He was colonel of a Tennessee regiment, and a man of considerable prominence. Ransford P. was the youngest of seven children, five sons and two daughters. He is the only one married, and the only one living out of their native State. His education was greatly interfered with by the war, but notwithstanding he is a well-read, intelligent gentleman. At the age of twenty-seven he left his home and went to Alabama, where he engaged in farming for a few years, and in 1878 came to Cotton Plant, where he was married in the year 1879. His wife was Sallie, daughter of William Cooper, of South Carolina. She was left an orphan when quite small, but was reared and educated by Dr. T. D. Chunn. To Mr. McGregor's marriage seven children were born, four sons and three daughters, all of whom are being educated by a private tutor at home. He resided on a farm one mile east of his present home, till 1880, then came to the town, where he has recently built a very fine residence. His farm is second to none in the county, consisting of 3,000 acres with about 1,000 under a high state of cultivation, also a good school-house and yard in connection with his property in town. Mr. McGregor is one of the principal land holders of the county, rising from the possessor of a few hundreds to one of the wealthy and influential men of the county. He has a good steam gin, which has been in successful operation since his residence here, and is now ginning twenty bales per day, and he will produce about 600 bales of cotton from his land this year. Mr. McGregor is a staunch Democrat, and voted for Greeley in 1872. He is known far and wide for his charities and liberal contributions, doing many of his kind acts and generous deeds, which never reach the ears of the outside world. Mrs. McGregor is a member in good standing of the Presbyterian Church.

Andrew J. Marsh. I. M. and Jane M. (Walker) Marsh, the esteemed parents of our subject, were natives of North Carolina and Tennessee, respectively, their marriage occurring in the latter State,

and in 1858 they moved to Arkansas, settling in Woodruff County, four miles from the present site of Howell Station. Here the senior Marsh improved a large farm, residing on it until 1867, at which time he returned to Tipton County, Tenn., where he lived for several years, but while visiting in Arkansas, in the year 1869, was claimed by Death. His wife died from injuries received from a vicious mule at her home in Tipton County, Tenn., in 1870. They were both members of the Presbyterian Church. To their marriage a family of thirteen children were born, Andrew J. being the ninth in order of birth. His education was from necessity very limited, as the schools in the days of his youth were not many. He was thoroughly drilled in the management and successful operation of the farm, and has proved himself a worthy example of the sons of the soil. Since his twelfth year Mr. Marsh has resided in Arkansas, and is an ardent admirer of the land of his adoption. In 1871 he settled on his present farm (it then being in the woods), three miles northeast of Howell Station, and is now the owner of 400 acres of excellent land, with 125 under cultivation, all the result of hard work and good management. With the exception of two years in Colona, where he engaged in the merchandising business, Mr. Marsh has always followed the occupation of farming. In 1864 he enlisted in Company C, Third Missouri Cavalry, operating in Indian Territory, Missouri and Kansas; also participated in numerous skirmishes in Arkansas. He was with Gen. Price on his famous raid through Missouri, Kansas and Indian Territory, surrendering at Shreveport, La., June 7, 1865. After the war he returned to his home. Mr. Marsh has been married three times, his first marriage being in 1869 to Miss Sarah A. Sanders, who bore him two children. She died in 1872, leaving an infant twenty-four hours old. Mrs. Marsh was born in Mississippi, and came with her mother and step-father (Mr. Collins) to this State, settling in Woodruff County. Her mother is now residing in Texas. In 1873 he was again married, to Mary Tubbs, of Humphreys County, Tenn., she being the mother of two sons. This wife dying in 1882, in 1885 he married Julia

Joyner. He has met with many accidents, narrowly escaping death at times, one accident in particular being the fall of a nail-keg filled with mud. This keg fell thirty-two feet striking him on the head, fracturing it and breaking his arm and shoulder. Politically he is a Democrat, his first vote being for Seymour, in 1868. He was formerly allied with the lodge of K. of H. at Cotton Plant, and, with the exception of his sister, is the only member of his family residing in Woodruff County. Mr. Marsh, his wife and two children belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is steward.

Robert T. Martin. Among the leading planters of Cadee Township the name of Robert T. Martin is well known. This name is synonymous of all that is honorable and upright, and is a guarantee that the confidence reposed in him will not be betrayed. He was born in Spartanburg District, S. C., in 1846, and is the son of Thomas Jefferson and Louisa M. (Dodd) Martin. Thomas J. Martin and wife were natives of South Carolina, and in 1850 came to Cass County, Ga., thence to Mississippi, where his death occurred in 1858. He was a major in the South Carolina militia at an early day. His father, Thomas Martin, was also of South Carolina nativity, though of Scotch-Irish descent, and during his life was a very prominent planter. His wife was of French origin. To Thomas J. and wife a family of five children were born, of which Robert T. is the oldest. After her husband's demise, Mrs. Martin and her family moved to Arkansas, settling in what is now Woodruff County, where she died May 3, 1866. She was the daughter of Thomas Dodd, a native of South Carolina, but who resided in Georgia, also Mississippi, and finally ended his days in Arkansas, in 1865. He was of Scotch-Irish descent, and at the time of his death was a successful planter of St. Francis County. Robert T. Martin has called Arkansas his home since his thirteenth year; though the facilities for schooling were far from satisfactory in his early youth, he has, by constant reading, become conversant with the events of the times. In 1862 Mr. Martin joined Company G, Eighteenth Arkansas Infantry, and was in service

east of the Mississippi till the siege of Port Hudson. He participated in the fights of Farmington, Corinth, Big Creek, Ironton, and all through the raid of Gen. Price in Missouri, Kansas, Indian Territory, etc. He surrendered at Helena, June, 1865, and was held prisoner for about eight days after the capture of Port Hudson. After the close of the great struggle Mr. Martin resumed his occupation of farming, and in July, 1867, he married Mattie E. Robertson, a native of Georgia, and a daughter of Elijah and Sarah (Miliner) Robertson. Mr. and Mrs. Robertson resided in Georgia for a number of years, then moved to Florida, thence to Cape Girardeau, Mo., and during the war they came to Arkansas. After a short residence in Arkansas they moved to Mississippi, and then again to Alabama, where Mrs. Robertson now lives, her husband having died in Alabama a number of years ago. He was at one time a farmer and merchant, and later a contractor and builder. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Martin eleven children have been born, two sons and one daughter now living, and all enjoying excellent educational advantages, no expense nor pains being spared. Mr. Martin lived near Cotton Plant, engaged in farming until 1883, then came to Howell Township, where he is now residing. While in Howell he engaged in the mercantile business, which he successfully carried on for three years in connection with his farming. He is one of the leading land holders of Woodruff County, owning 1,300 acres of land, 600 of which are under cultivation, and on this farm is erected one of the most magnificent residences in this county, all the result of good management and careful attention to every detail of business, however trifling or insignificant. He has met with several severe reverses, in 1867 and 1869 lost all, but after a short absence in Mississippi, he returned, and went to farming on shares till 1873. Subsequently he purchased 164 acres near Howell, this being his first land, since which time he has constantly added to his possessions until obtaining the present amount of land, which he calls his own, and all through his own exertions. He has served in the official position of court deputy, sheriff, etc. In his

political views Mr. Martin has been a life-long Democrat, voting for Greeley in 1872. He is a member of A. F. & A. M. Lodge, at Cotton Plant, of Richmond Lodge, and was once secretary of I. O. O. F., at Cotton Plant, now disbanded; also a member of Augusta Lodge No. 1122, K. of H., and he, with his wife, belongs to the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rufus J. Martin is one of the many successful planters residing near Snapps, Ark., and, like the majority of them, has worked his way up to his present position through his own endeavors. He has given his attention to farming all his life, and to say that he has been merely successful would but mildly express the results which have attended his endeavors. He owns excellent farming land to the amount of 480 acres, and has 230 acres under cultivation, all his land being well improved with good buildings, fences, etc. Mr. Martin was born in Lawrence County, Ark., December 22, 1854, and is a son of Rufus and Ann (Hickerson) Martin, of North Carolina, who immigrated to Arkansas at an early day, settling in Lawrence County. About 1855 they removed to Woodruff County, and in 1873 settled in Little Rock, where they now live. The father followed farming for nearly fifteen years, and was a very extensive land holder in the State. He is president and a large stockholder of the Batesville & Brinkley Railroad, and is now in the broker, banking and real-estate business. The following are their children: Rufus, Anna, Jesse, Gustave, Susie and Raymond. Rufus J. Martin was reared in his Woodruff County, and after attending the common schools he completed his education at a well-known collegiate institute in North Carolina. Since 1880 he has been married to Florence Shish, by whom he has three children: Katie, Winfield and Willie. Mr. Martin is an intelligent and thrifty farmer, and socially is a Mason.

Dr. William J. Mathis, of the firm of Mathis & Baker, physicians and surgeons at Cotton Plant, is a native of Paris, Tenn., and was born September 7, 1851, the son of Josiah and Angelina (Paynter) Mathis, who were Kentuckians by birth. Josiah Mathis dates his existence to the year 1816,

his wife having been born in 1823, but when very young they moved to Henry County, Tenn., were there married, and spent the remainder of their life. Mr. Mathis was a member of the Baptist Church, and his wife of the Methodist. Their death occurred in 1863 and 1880, respectively. Josiah Mathis was the son of Jesse Mathis, and at the time of his death enjoyed the distinction of being a prosperous farmer. Jesse Mathis, who died in Henry County, Tenn., was born on the ocean; he died in 1875, having been in the War of 1812, and with Jackson at New Orleans. His father, William Mathis, came originally from France, and died in Kentucky. Grandfather William Paynter, of Irish descent, first saw the light in the Blue Grass State, and died in Henry County, Tenn. The father of our subject was twice married, his last wife being the mother of William J. He was the oldest of six children born to their union. Educated at Caledonia Academy, in Henry County, Tenn., at the age of nineteen he began the study of medicine, and took a course of lectures in 1872 and 1873 at Nashville University, graduating from that institution in 1879. After practicing in Henry County until 1881, he came to St. Francis County, and in 1887 located in Cotton Plant, where he has since resided, continuing his practice with marked success. In November, 1875, Dr. Mathis was united in marriage with Miss Emma W., daughter of Harry Wyms, of Houston County, Tenn. Six children have blessed this union, only two now living, a son and daughter. Dr. Mathis is conservative in politics, and voted for Tilden in 1876. He is a member of a Masonic Lodge in St. Francis County, and is Medical Examiner in the K. of H. and K. & L. of H.

R. W. Murray is one of the pioneers of the early history of Arkansas, and one who has been largely instrumental in the rapid and steady growth of his adopted county. Mr. Murray is a Tennessean by birth, being born in Hardeman County, July 18, 1831. His parents, James and Eliza (Beazel) Murray, were also Tennesseans, and about 1845 came to the State of Arkansas, settling in Woodruff County, and resided there until their respective deaths in 1863 and 1866.

Their family was a large one, but only seven children are now living. R. W. Murray was about eight years of age when brought to Arkansas, and here he grew to mature years and received such education as the schools of that day afforded. He became familiar with the duties of farm life at a very early date, but when the war broke out he dropped all work to take up arms, and enlisted in Company A, Eighth Arkansas Regiment, serving about three years. After the cessation of hostilities he returned home and again took up the duties of the farm, and has made agriculture his calling ever since. Owing to his early removal to this State he has witnessed the development of Woodruff County into a very prosperous county. He was married in 1861 to Miss Mary M. Walker, by whom he had eight children, only three of whom are now living: Lee, Addie and Stella. His second marriage took place in 1882, his wife being Miss Sallie E. Campbell, and is the mother of two children: Elmo and Edith.

W. J. O'Shields. In the township in which the subject of this sketch lives there is not to be found a more attractive farm than his, and which calls forth the admiration of all who see it. His residence, barns, outbuildings, and, in fact, all necessary conveniences, bespeak of prosperity and show that he is a thrifty farmer, and of the 500 acres of excellent farming land which he possesses there are about 225 under cultivation. This he devotes to the raising of cotton and corn, and he also raises the necessary stock for the successful conducting of his farm. He was born in Jackson County, Ga., July 23, 1833, and is a son of Jethro and Polly (Boyer) O'Shields, the father a native of South Carolina and the mother of Georgia. They were married in the latter State, and at the time of the late conflict resided at Resaca. In 1867 he and his family came to Woodruff County, Ark., and here he departed this life during the following year, his wife's death having occurred in Georgia prior to his coming to Arkansas. W. J. O'Shields is one of the three surviving members of a family of seven children, and was reared and educated in the State of Georgia. In 1862 he enlisted in Capt. Keith's Company and was on active duty during



the entire war, coming out of the army with no wound or mishap of any sort. He came with his father overland to Arkansas and in December, 1869, he purchased the farm where he is now living. He was married January 1, 1876, to Paralie Amelia Thompson.

J. P. Penn, one of the foremost in the ranks of Augusta's prominent and enterprising business men, and a citizen of good repute, was born in Maury County, Tenn., October 8, 1833, and from his earliest youth has been familiar with farm work, and by his own pluck and indomitable will has acquired the property he now owns, being one of the largest real-estate holders in the county. He was sixteen years old when he came to the State of Arkansas, receiving the larger portion of his education in his native State. Upon his arrival in this county his sole possessions consisted of the trunk which contained his clothes. He immediately sought employment and hiring out to a farmer worked on a farm for some years. By strict economy he soon laid by some money, and in 1852 he began clerking for Hamblet & Penn, his brother being a member of this firm. After remaining with them two years he began clerking for Pursell & Bro., and upon this firm selling out he continued in the employ of their successor one year. He and his brother, Thomas H., then became proprietors of the establishment and the business continued under the firm name of T. H. Penn & Bro. until the breaking out of the Rebellion. In 1861 J. P. enlisted in the service and served the cause he espoused faithfully until the final surrender. He clerked one year after his return home and then formed a partnership with John T. Hamblet in the mercantile business, remaining in the firm until 1882, when he sold out and engaged in the real-estate business. He was first married to Lucy Bland, by whom he had three children, all deceased. Again he was married, taking for his second wife, Martha H. Hall. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity. His parents, Philip and Louisa (Brisco) Penn, were born in Prince Edward County, Va., and removed to Tennessee during the early history of that State. Here the father's death occurred, but the mother died in Woodruff

County. To this couple were given ten children, five of whom are now living.

Capt. D. F. Price, a well-to-do planter residing near Snapps, was born in Prince Edward County, Va., November 21, 1841, and is a son of Nathaniel and Mary (Compton) Price, also Virginians of English-Irish descent, respectively, who spent their lives in their native State. The father was a tobacco-planter and farmer, and was a man who possessed sterling traits of character well worthy the emulation of all. His father was born in Ireland, but at an early day came to America, and took part in the War of 1812, rising to the rank of captain. Capt. D. F. Price was one of eight children, only four of whom are now living: Harry, D. F., Josie and Cora. The subject of this memoir was reared and educated in Virginia, and remained with his father until the latter's death. Upon reaching the age of eighteen years he left home and went to Memphis, Tenn., and worked for a cotton firm in that city until 1861, when he dropped his work and enlisted in Company A, Fourth Tennessee Infantry, and served until the surrender, holding the rank of captain of his company after the battle of Smithville, N. C. At the battle of Shiloh he was wounded in the right leg by a gunshot, but fully recovered after a short furlough home. He received two other slight wounds which were of not much importance, and after the war he returned to Tennessee, and commenced farming in Gibson County, continuing until 1869, at which time he went to Fayette County, where he followed the same occupation for two years. In January, 1871, he came to Woodruff County, Ark., and now owns an excellent farm of 120 acres, with seventy-five acres under cultivation, which he devotes to the cultivation of cotton and corn. Miss A. F. Corley (a daughter of C. C. Corley), became his wife in 1872, and by her he has a family of four children: Corley G., Arthur, Cora and Otis. Mrs. Price is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

W. A. Reed, prosperous and exceedingly popular, takes his place in the corps of Woodruff County's most eminent business men as one of the oldest merchants of Lone Grove. He is a native

of Tennessee, being born in Murfreesboro in 1856. His father, John W. Reed, was of Scotch descent, born about 1831. He was of Virginia origin, but at the time of his death, in 1861, was a prosperous mechanic in Tennessee. In 1854 he was married to Miss Annie E. Alexander, and to them two children were born: W. A. and Ada W. (now deceased). Mrs. Reed was again married in 1863 to J. W. Bruster, of Nashville. Mrs. Bruster was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and died in 1883. W. A. Reed, the subject of this memoir, immigrated from Tennessee to this State in 1871, locating in this county. For the first four years he rented land and farmed, meeting with great success. His next business venture was a clerkship for four years with B. F. Hall, at the end of which time he formed a partnership with Mr. Hall, the firm being known as Hall & Reed. After a few years (about four) Mr. Reed purchased Mr. Hall's interest, and since then has conducted the business on his own responsibility. His trade is a very good one, his yearly sales amounting to quite a snug sum. In the year of 1879 Mr. Reed was married to Miss Ellen M. Land, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Abram Land, of this county. To this marriage four children have been born: Florence M., Kenneth A., William Logan and Douglass A. (deceased). In secret societies Mr. Reed affiliates with the K. of H., and although a young man is counted among the foremost and is one of the most successful merchants in the village. He advocates and donates liberally to all public enterprises, such as schools, churches, etc., and is respected and esteemed by all. He has a fine residence, and the sociability of himself and wife make his home a favorite place of entertainment in the community.

John W. Revel, conceded to be a very popular and prosperous planter, and one of, if not the best in the county of his adoption, was born in Northampton County, N. C., February 1, 1832, and is a son of Louis and Martha (Outland) Revel, who were of English-Dutch descent, and natives of North Carolina. They immigrated to the State of Tennessee about the year 1844, and located in Shelby County, living here until their deaths, the

mother dying in 1868 and the father in 1870. John W. is the eldest son of eleven children, and from the time he was twelve years of age was a resident of Tennessee. When at the outbreak of the Rebellion he, with all the ardor and enthusiasm of youth, espoused the Southern cause and enlisted in Company A, Eighteenth Mississippi Cavalry, but was subsequently captured, and taken to Alton, thence to Fort Delaware, being confined in prison some twenty months. After being discharged, he came home, and in December, 1865, determined to seek his fortune, turned his face farther westward and accordingly settled in Woodruff County, Ark., where he rented land for three years, and tilled the soil. In 1869 he purchased a portion of the farm which he now owns, and which then had but few improvements; adding to this from time to time, he now owns 1,200 acres, having about 550 of these cultivated and fairly improved. He has labored hard to make his farm one of the best in the county, and judging from its appearance and the amount realized from it every year, he has admirably succeeded. His land is exceedingly fertile, and about 400 acres is devoted entirely to the cultivation of cotton. He has been married three times. In 1868 he married Abbie Brown, having by her one child, now deceased, and in 1873 he wedded Katie Didlake, she being the mother of one child, also deceased. He married his third wife, Mary L. Miller, in 1882, and by her has a son, John W., Jr. Mrs. Revel is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in his political views Mr. Revel is a Democrat.

Edmond Roddy, sheriff and collector, Augusta, Ark. Mr. Roddy is now filling his third term as sheriff and collector of Woodruff County, and no man ever held the position who was better fitted to discharge the duties connected with it than he. He was born in this county (then Jackson) on November 11, 1850, and is the son of Thomas B. and Elizabeth R. (Erwin) Roddy, the father a native of Spartanburg District, S. C., born in 1821, and the mother a native of North Carolina. The parents were married in Jackson County, Ark. Thomas B. Roddy was left an orphan when very young, both his parents dying the same day of

some malignant disease, and he came with an uncle to Tennessee from his native State. In 1833 he came to Jackson County, Ark., located about four miles east of Augusta, entered a tract of land in the woods and cut and hewed logs to make a cabin. Here he opened a farm and tilled the soil for a number of years. He then purchased a second farm in the woods, three miles north of Augusta, cleared it and resided there until May, 1887, when his death occurred. The mother died in 1858. There are only two children of this marriage: Edmond and Morgan A. The subject of our sketch was reared to agricultural pursuits, and received his education in the log school-house of pioneer times. He remained on the farm until 1874, when he hired to W. P. Campbell, then clerk of the circuit court, now clerk of the supreme court of the State, and remained with him until his election to the office of sheriff in 1878. He served one term and was defeated on a second run. He purchased a farm, moved on it, and there remained for three years. In 1886 he was re-elected to the office of sheriff and again elected in 1888. He owns 500 acres of land, and has 300 acres under cultivation. He also owns a homestead of twenty-five acres in Augusta. He was married on February 12, 1877, to Miss Beatrice Skinner. Mr. Roddy is a prominent political worker, and is a first-class citizen. He is a member of Knights of Honor, and Mrs. Roddy is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Roddy spent one year at the Gulf of Mexico, on account of a slight misunderstanding between himself and Powell Clayton's militia, occurring in 1868 and 1869.

Ed. Scales, a successful merchant of McCrory, is a native of Tennessee, having been born in Tipton County, in 1855. His father, Dr. James Scales, was also of Tennessee origin, a prominent physician in that State. He attended medical lectures in Louisville, Ky., and Philadelphia, Penn., and after graduating, was recognized as one of the shining lights of his profession. In 1860 he immigrated to Arkansas, locating in Woodruff County, where he met with great success, building up a large and esteemed practice. In 1854 Dr. Scales

was married to Miss Jennie Whitner, and by her became the father of six children: Ed., Alice (wife of Dr. James, of Cotton Plant), Pleasant, Walter, Cornelius and Augustus. Dr. Scales purchased 160 acres of land on his arrival in the county, which has been increased to 1,200 acres. He is a member in high standing of the Masonic order, and an influential, enterprising citizen. Mrs. Scales died in 1878. Ed. Scales began life for himself in 1878, at that time engaging in mercantile business, in De View, but is now located at McCrory, in the same branch of trade, the firm name being Crosby & Scales. They have a liberal patronage, and enjoy an average annual patronage of about \$40,000. In 1881 Mr. Scales was united in marriage with Miss Rebie Johnson, the daughter of Stephen Johnson and wife, of North Mississippi. To this union two children were born: Edwin (now deceased) and James. Mr. Scales belongs to the K. of H. and Douglass Lodge No. 56, K. of P. He is deemed one of the progressive merchants and citizens of McCrory, and an affable and courteous gentleman.

John Shearer. Although America can not claim Mr. Shearer as one of her native-born citizens, De View proudly and justly claims him as one of her most prosperous merchants. He is a native of "Bonny Scotland," his birth occurring in Edinburgh in 1840. His father, John Shearer, Sr., first saw the light of day in the highlands of Scotland in the year 1815. His occupation was that of a ship carpenter, which he followed for a livelihood until his death, in 1852, on board a ship that was wrecked. He was married in 1840 to Miss Jane Heslop, and by her became the father of one child, John, Jr., the subject of this sketch. John Shearer, Jr., sailed from Scotland in 1844, landing in New York, and went from there directly to Montreal, Canada, where he remained twelve years, then traveled through several States and came to Arkansas in 1860, located in this county, and in 1870 he was united in marriage with Miss Hettie E. Brown, by whom he had five children, only one of them now living, Ruth. Mrs. Shearer was born in Lauderdale County, Ala., in 1852, and came with her parents to Arkansas, from Tennessee, in

1861. Her father, Mr. Brown, was born in North Carolina, in 1820, and her mother owes her nativity to Franklin County, Tenn., where her birth occurred in 1822. Mr. and Mrs. Brown were married in 1844, and to them a family of eight children were born: Andrew J., William, Abigail, Hettie and Lena, the others having died in infancy. Mr. Brown died in 1879, and his wife in 1865, both dying in Augusta, Ark. They were members in good standing in the Methodist Episcopal Church. When John Shearer, Jr., first came to this State, he worked for \$1 per day on the White River levee, then was employed by a Mr. Allen, a blacksmith of Augusta, this county. Subsequently he worked for Dr. Leach as chore boy and errand boy, and later for James Ferguson as a farm hand on his plantation on Cache River. At the breaking out of the late war Mr. Shearer, Jr., enlisted in the artillery service, under Capt. McGowen, of Jacksonport, Ark., in 1861. He participated in all the principal engagements, serving with great bravery until the final surrender. At the close of the war he found himself penniless and almost destitute of clothing. An old boot leg served him for shoes, a crownless hat sheltered (?) his head from the weather, and the few articles that comprised his clothing were all in rags; he was indeed a picture of despair. But possessing an unbounded amount of pluck and energy he came out all right, and in the year of 1869 he was able to engage in farming on a small scale, in connection with a mercantile business at White Church. In 1873 he came to De View and again embarked in the mercantile business with a stock invoicing about \$8,000, also has a store at McCrory, Ark., of about the same value. His career is an illustration of what can be accomplished by perseverance and determination of purpose. To-day he stands one of the wealthiest men in the county. He owns 880 acres of land with 260 cultivated, and owns real estate valued at \$3,000, in McCrory, and \$1,500 worth of property in De View. This he has accumulated by his own individual efforts, and all since the war. Mr. Shearer is a member of Lodge No. 45, F. & A. M., being initiated into that order in 1867, Chapter 37, Council 22, at Augusta, and

Hugh De Payne Commandery No. 1, at Little Rock. He also belongs to the K. of H. and K. & L. of H., of De View. Politically he is a Democrat, and though a staunch adherent to his party, is not a political enthusiast. He stands high in this community, both socially and financially, and this sketch shows him to be, what he certainly is, a shrewd financier. Mrs. Shearer is a favorite in social circles, entertains largely in her easy, graceful manner, and is an earnest worker in the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which she belongs.

D. P. Shoup, merchant, Augusta, Ark. Among the enterprising business establishments of Augusta, whose operations are worthy of record, is that of Mr. Shoup, who is not only deeply interested in mercantile pursuits, but is also one of the first-class farmers of the county. He was born in Bedford County, Penn., on August 7, 1851, and came to Woodruff County, Ark., with his parents in infancy. He was reared in Yell County of this State and received a fair education. In 1867 he went north and traveled to different points; but, finally, in 1875, located in Woodruff County, Ark., where he was engaged in agricultural pursuits for four years. In 1880 he embarked in the mercantile business and has since continued this in connection with agricultural pursuits. He owns about 1,400 acres of land, has about 700 acres under cultivation and raises a vast amount of cotton. He was married, on January 7, 1875, to Miss Elva Gulic, a native of Mississippi, and the fruits of this union are four living children: Freddie, Ida, Ruby and Charlie. Mr. Shoup is a member of the Masonic fraternity, Royal Arch, K. of H. and K. & L. of H. He has also held the position of city alderman. He is the second of three living children (William A., Daniel P. and Joseph W.) born to the union of Jonathan T. and Virginia (Pound) Shoup, natives of Pennsylvania and Mississippi, respectively. The parents were married in Pike County, Mississippi, whither the father had gone when a young man, and he died at Danville, Yell County, Ark., in 1860. His wife died in 1859. The father was a merchant and carried on this business in different places. He came to Arkansas in about 1851. He had two brothers, Abraham

and Henry, who were born in the Keystone State. They removed to the State of Ohio, and since that time has lost all trace of them. They were owners of considerable property which was left them.

L. D. Snapp is one of the thoroughly reliable and upright business men of Woodruff County, and is said to be one of the largest and most successful real-estate owners in the county, he owning 3,000 acres with 1,000 acres under cultivation. On this property are thirty-five tenement houses, all occupied, and his own private residence, a very handsome structure, also a large cotton-gin which has a capacity of twenty-five bales a day. He has done more than any other one man in developing the county; and it is through his influence that a post-office has been established bearing his name, and at this place he has a general mercantile establishment which nets him a fair annual income. He is a man of exceptionally fine character, and noted for his exceeding liberality, always being ready to assist the poor and distressed. His birth occurred in Taney County, Mo., April 22, 1842, and here he received the greater part of his education and rearing. He abandoned farm work at the outbreak of the Rebellion to take up the weapons of warfare in defense of his country, and in 1861 enlisted in Company E, Third Missouri Cavalry, serving until June 27, 1865. He was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant of the company, meriting it by his bravery and was in all the engagements of the Trans-Mississippi Department. Two brothers fought with him in the army and one was killed at the battle of Glasgow. After the proclamation of peace Mr. Snapp returned to Missouri and in the fall of 1866 came to Woodruff County, Ark., where he has since made his home. He was married on March 4, 1869, to Miss Mary H. Luckenbill, by whom he has had a family of ten children, five now living: James C., Harry, Walter, Myrtle and Pearl. The parents of our subject, Harrison G. and Emily D. (Parry) Snapp, were born in East Tennessee, and in 1838 moved to Missouri, where they died. Of a large family of children born to them four only are now living.

Francis M. Spradlin is a planter of White River Township, whose operations are extensive

and lucrative. Born in Coweta County, Ga., October 22, 1830, he is the son of David and Sarah (Stone) Spradlin, also natives of Georgia. In the year 1845 Mr. and Mrs. Spradlin immigrated to Arkansas, and located in what is now Woodruff County near White Church, making one of the first entries of land in this part of the State. There were no improvements whatever on the land, and they camped out until they could build, their home for many years being a little log-cabin covered with clap-boards. Of the family of eleven children born to them only four are now living: Francis M., Missouri, William I. and Susan Hariston. Mr. Spradlin was a quiet, unassuming man, and liberal in his contributions, but many of his generous deeds were never known to the outside world. His death in 1856 was lamented by all who knew him. Mrs. Spradlin only survived her husband two years. Francis M. Spradlin was fourteen years old when he came to Arkansas, and the education that he received was given him in Georgia, as there were no schools in this county at that time. His youthful days were spent in helping to clear away the forest of his parents' new home, and in 1861 he left the quiet monotony of the old homestead to enlist in Company E, Col. Gause's regiment, serving until the final surrender. He has resided on the farm where he now lives for twenty-eight years, and his recitals of the many inconveniences and privations endured years ago, and the improvements up to the present day, sound almost incredulous. In this place are 160 acres of land highly cultivated, and he also has an interest in a tract of 240 acres partially improved. In 1872 Mr. Spradlin erected a cotton-gin, which was run with horse-power until 1885, after which he has put in an eighteen-horse-power engine, and has successfully conducted it since that time. Mr. Spradlin was first married in 1857 to Miss Amanda Hubbard, and the second time to Josephine Scott, in 1863. His third wife was Miss Martha Thomas, by whom he has one child living, Columbus. Mr. Spradlin was married in 1872 to Miss Sarah Childress, and to their union two children were born: Norella and Wyatt. Mr. Spradlin is a member of the Baptist Church, and has served as magistrate

for fourteen years. He is a prosperous and well-to-do farmer, and is worthy the respect and esteem shown him by the entire community.

Hon. T. E. Stanley, attorney at law, Augusta, Ark. Every life has a history of its own, and, although in appearance it may seem to possess little to distinguish it from others, yet the political career and experience of Mr. Stanley, as well as his popularity in his profession, have contributed to give him a wide and popular acquaintance with nearly every individual of Woodruff County and throughout the State, if not personally, then by name. Mr. Stanley was born in Lawrence County, Ala., on October 15, 1844, and is a son of Joseph H. and Maria L. (Hill) Stanley, the former a native of North Carolina and the latter of Virginia, and both of Scotch origin. The father was a planter and immigrated from North Carolina to Alabama in about 1823. He died in Courtland, that State, in 1852, and his wife died in 1871. The paternal grandfather, Jonathan Stanley, was killed near Corinth, Miss., by a robber. Hon. T. E. Stanley is the only one living of three children born to his parents. He was reared and educated in his native State, and there remained until the breaking out of the war when, in June, 1861, he enlisted in the Sixteenth Alabama Infantry, and served until May, 1865. Previous to the war he attended school at La Grange Military Academy, and was but sixteen years of age when he enlisted. Although he entered the army as a private he left the ranks as a lieutenant. On the retreat from Corinth in May, 1862, he was wounded by a gunshot through the left hand, was wounded the second time at Murfreesboro in the hip, and received a third wound at Chickamauga, where his right foot was almost crushed to pieces. He was a boy of great nerve and will-power, hardly knew what it was to fear, and his career as a soldier is one of honor and renown. He was in all the principal engagements of the Western army, and at the close of the war he returned home, where he followed agricultural pursuits until 1869. In 1870 he entered Cumberland University, at Lebanon, Tenn., and after passing a strict examination, graduated from the Law Department in 1872. The

same year he came to Augusta, opened an office, and in 1876 was elected to the legislature, serving three consecutive terms. He was also a delegate to the Cincinnati convention which nominated Hancock and English, and was brought into the race before the Democratic convention for Governor in 1882. He is a prominent man and a bright ornament to the legal profession. He is the owner of about 1,400 acres of land in Woodruff County, with about 900 acres under cultivation; also owning some real estate in Alabama. Mr. Stanley was married in May, 1873, to Miss Laura McCurdy, a native of Augusta, Ark., and the fruits of this union have been three living children: Louise, Thomas E., Jr., and Joseph H.

Capt. James A. Stoker, pre-eminent among the farmers of Barnes Township, was born in Stanly County, N. C., in 1831, and is the son of David H. and Sarah (Coleman) Stoker. Mr. Stoker and wife were natives of North Carolina, where he spent his life, and was killed in that State in 1864. He was a wealthy farmer, sheriff for fourteen years, and captain of State militia for a number of years. He organized a regiment for the Mexican War, but was not actively engaged in it himself. He was a son of Allen Stoker, who was born in Rowan County, and died in Davie County, same State, a farmer, as well as a soldier in one of the early wars. His father was a native of the "Emerald Isle." Mrs. Allen Stoker was a sister of Wade Hampton (Senator), thus making Capt. James Stoker a cousin of Senator Wade Hampton, United States senator from South Carolina. Grandfather Coleman was a farmer of Irish descent, and died in Stanly County, N. C. Mrs. Stoker, mother of James A. (Captain), died in Sebastian County, Ark., in 1868, a devoted member of the Baptist Church. Capt. James A. was the first in a family of five children, and was educated in the common schools of his native State. At the age of eighteen he went to Texas, but in 1849 took passage on a steamer at New York for California, here spending four years as an employe in the mines of that State. He then returned to North Carolina, and in 1853 was united in marriage with Frances, daughter of Akrela and Lucinda Griffin, of North Carolina. To this union five chil-

dren were born: Robert W., Ira, Albert, Hattie (deceased) and Della. Capt. Stoker moved to Newton County, Mo., in 1856, and there formed the first company of Confederate troops of regulars, organized in that county (Company A). He was in command of the company about eighteen months, and fought in numerous battles, among them being Oak Hill, Richwoods, Lexington, Pea Ridge, etc. At the battle of Oak Hill he entered the fray with 118 men, but after the fighting ceased, found only eleven were left of that gallant 118. After eighteen months of service, and one without a blemish on his record as a soldier, he resigned, and subsequently joined Col. Tom Livingston's Partisan Rangers. He served as a member of this staff until the death of the Colonel, which occurred in Missouri in the latter part of 1864. Capt. Stoker then returned to Arkansas, but soon after Gen. Price made the request that he act as special guide for his advance guard, during his raid through Missouri and Kansas, which he did and surrendered 200 men at Forsyth, Mo., at the close of the war. His family were living in Arkansas during the hostilities, but in 1865 he moved to Jackson County, and in 1867 moved to Central America. A short residence in the latter place proved to the Captain that Arkansas was more to his taste, so he returned to this State, settling in Woodruff County, where he has since resided. He has a fine farm of 400 acres, with 140 under the plow, and keeps himself well posted on all subjects relative to the improvements of the day, and is in every respect a wide-awake, enterprising farmer and citizen. In his political views Capt. Stoker is a Democrat, and voted for Buchanan. Mrs. Stoker is a member of good standing in the Christian Church, and is respected and esteemed by all who know her, as is also her husband. One episode worthy of mention in the Captain's life, and which will be of interest to his numerous friends, is that of the Pool expedition, in 1857. He in company with 135 men, all, except himself, from Newton County, Mo., under command of J. P. Ogden, and Mr. Pool acting as guide, started out to explore the west and northwest of the Wichita Mountains in search of the golden treasures supposed to be hidden in these

mountains. Going in the vicinity of the Blue-stone Park, they went southwest until they reached the Pigist River, then went down into New Mexico. While en route the guide related to the company that, while lost in the vicinity of these mountains, in 1854, he discovered large deposits of gold. He was lost eight months, but was never able to find his way back to where he supposed he had discovered the vein. He had on his person some nuggets of gold. This party was out sixty or seventy days.

E. G. Thompson, of the firm of Thompson & Gregory, general merchants, Augusta, Ark. Prominent among the mercantile resources of the town of Augusta is the dry-goods trade. It is thoroughly representative in its character, being conducted with much ability and success. Foremost among those engaged in it here are Messrs. Thompson & Gregory, who have won the confidence and respect of the public by their honest, upright dealing. Mr. Thompson is a native of Lewis County, Mo., born September 1, 1850, and is the son of A. M. and Helen (Waters) Thompson, natives of the "Old Dominion." The father was a tiller of the soil, and immigrated to Missouri with his parents at quite an early day, and died on the old homestead in Lewis County. The mother is still living on the home place. E. G. Thompson is the youngest of four sons born to his parents. When seventeen years of age he entered La Grange College, Missouri, and graduated from that institution in the class of 1871. In October of the same year he came to Augusta, Ark., studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1872, but never practiced. One year later he engaged in the real-estate and banker's business, which he has since carried on. He is agent for a great deal of land besides being the owner of about 15,000 acres of his own, with a vast amount under cultivation. He entered the mercantile business in 1883, under the present title, and has since continued. They carry an immense stock of goods and do a heavy business at all their stores, it being probably the largest business firm in Woodruff County. Mr. Thompson is a thorough business man, as is also his partner. They do a considerable cotton trade,

and besides their store at Augusta also have establishments at Grays and Lone Grove. Mr. Thompson was married in 1872 to Miss Fannie Gregory, a sister of his partner. They have three living children: Leah C., Helen M. and Lottie L. Two children are deceased. Mr. Thompson is a member of the Masonic fraternity and the K. of H. and is a very prominent man.

Judge William T. Trice is a man well versed in the lore of his chosen profession, and fully competent to discharge the duties to which he has been elected, that of judge of county and probate court of Woodruff County. He is a native of Arkansas, and first saw the light of day in Woodruff County, May 17, 1859, being the son of Judge Tazewell W. and Martha A. (Dunlap) Trice. Judge Trice, Sr., was born in Virginia in 1812, and his wife in Limestone County, Ala., in 1827. They were married in Mississippi in 1854, and came to Woodruff County in 1858, settling in Freeman Township, on unimproved land, where the remainder of Mr. Trice's life was spent. He was a man of an excellent English education, and began practicing as an attorney at twenty-five years of age. He was a probate judge in Alabama four years, and in 1872 was elected county and probate judge; but this election did not amount to anything, he being counted out with the rest of the ticket. He was a man of many accomplishments, and well qualified to fill the positions that he did so successfully. He owned a fine farm of 600 acres, on which he was residing at the time of his death, in December, 1873. The A. F. & A. M., Richmond Lodge, at Cotton Plant, counted him as one of its members for many years. He was the son of William A. Trice, who was born in England, and came to America when a young man, first locating in Virginia, but afterward immigrated to Alabama, where he was living at the time of his death as a successful farmer. Mrs. Trice was a daughter of John Dunlap, a prosperous farmer, who died in Alabama. His parents were born in Ireland. Mrs. Trice is now living, and for a great many years has been a member of the Methodist Church. Judge William T. Trice, the subject of this sketch, is the fourth in a family

of six children, all residing in Woodruff County, and, with the exception of one, all married. Judge William T. was reared to farm life, receiving a good common-school education, and at the age of eighteen began the study of law, and as the result of his untiring efforts in that direction was his admission to the bar, in 1882, by Judge J. N. Cypert, since which time he has practiced with great success, being now a successful attorney of Woodruff County. In January, 1884, Judge Trice was united in marriage with Minnie C., daughter of Capt. John R. and Elizabeth Shelton. Mr. Shelton was born in Tennessee, but came to Arkansas (Woodruff County) in 1854, where he occupied himself with farming. He was a soldier in the Confederate army, and received the title of captain, his death occurring in 1881. Mrs. Shelton is still living, and belongs to the Methodist Church, as did her husband. Mrs. Trice was born in 1864. To Judge and Mrs. Trice two sons have been born, both still living. Judge Trice lived on a farm until 1887, then came to Cotton Plant, where he has a fine residence. His farm in Freeman Township is second to none of its size in the county. Its extent is 180 acres, with 100 under cultivation. This farm was obtained largely by his own efforts, but partially by inheritance. Judge Trice was justice of the peace two years, from 1884 to 1886, and in 1888 was elected county and probate judge, which position he filled with honor and distinction. He is a member of the K. & L. of H., Aurora Lodge, at Cotton Plant, No. 1314, in which he is present Protector, and of the K. of P., at Cotton Plant, Lodge No. 94, is Master of Finance. He is a strong Democrat, and voted for Hancock in 1880. Himself and wife belong to the Methodist Church, in which he is steward.

P. A. Vaughan, of Howell, Woodruff County, Ark., is a native of Virginia, his birth occurring in Petersburg, in 1825. He is one of thirteen children born to Thomas and Martha P. (Rivers) Vaughan, only five of whom survive: P. A., John F., Virginia (the wife of S. Gardner, of Memphis, Tenn.), Minerva and Robert. Mr. Vaughan served in the War of 1812, and died in Fayette County, Tenn., in 1838, his wife surviving him until 1843.



P. A. Vaughan was united in matrimony with Miss Mary Whitmore, of Fayette County, Tenn., in 1849. She died in 1864, having borne seven children only two now living: John T. and Charles E. In 1866 Mr. Vaughan was married to Miss Sallie Clark, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Clark, of Louisiana, and eight children have blessed this happy marriage, four boys and four girls, five of whom are alive: Roberta (now Mrs. Joel York), Augusta C., Minnie, Peter A., Jr. and Martha P. Mr. Vaughan served in the late war under Capt. W. F. Cody, enlisting in 1862, and remaining on the field of action until the final surrender. After the cessation of hostilities he returned home and engaged in farming, which occupation he is still pursuing. The life of this worthy citizen presents an excellent example of what may be accomplished by energetic application and determination, for he started with comparatively nothing, and is now the possessor of 1,500 acres of land, with 500 under cultivation, being to-day one of the "solid" men, financially, of the county. He immigrated from Tennessee to this State in 1850, and purchased a small, insignificant tract of land lying in the heart of a forest, built a log-house, and began clearing what is now one of the finest farms in the county. Mr. Vaughan owns the only brick farmhouse here, the bricks for which were burned by him, so he knows and can appreciate the labor requisite in that work. It is certainly an elegant home, and what is better, a hospitable one, the friend or stranger alike receiving a hearty welcome by Mr. Vaughan and his estimable wife. The latter is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

William S. Waide, an agriculturist and stock raiser of considerable prominence, is the son of William and Mary (Ray) Waide, of Hickman County, Ky., nativity, being born in 1845, and one of four children (one son and three daughters). William Waide, Sr., was born in Virginia and his wife in Kentucky. Their deaths occurred in 1846 and 1863, respectively. After Mr. Waide's death in Kentucky, the family came to Woodruff County, and here Mrs. Waide ended her days, after a widowhood of seventeen years. The subject of this sketch received but a meager education, as the

schools in his early boyhood days were very limited; sometimes a few weeks only would be the extent of his schooling for the year. Mr. Waide and a sister are the only surviving members of the family, and since 1861 Woodruff County has been his home. In 1862 he joined Company G, Eighteenth Arkansas Infantry, which was stationed east of the Mississippi river until the fall of Port Hudson, when he was captured and held a prisoner for eight days. He was then paroled, came home and finished his war career in Arkansas and Missouri, being with Price in his raid through Missouri, Kansas, etc., and finally surrendered at Wittsburg, in May, 1865. After the war he resumed his occupation of farming, and in March, 1871, he was united in marriage to Miss Emma Riddle, who was born in North Carolina, and the daughter of John and Cely Riddle. Mrs. Waide's parents came to what is now Woodruff County when she was only six months old (1850). Mr. Riddle was a justice of the peace some years, and a soldier in the Confederate army, being captured and dying a prisoner in Alton, Ill., during the war. Mrs. Riddle died in 1853, and was a life-long member of the Methodist Church. To Mr. Waide's marriage four children have been born, three sons and one daughter. In 1875 he settled in the woods on 360 acres of land, three miles east of Howell's Station, and since clearing the land has got one of the finest farms in that portion of the county, and all due to his own efforts. Mr. Waide is largely engaged in stock raising, and is a hard-working, ambitious farmer and citizen, lending his hearty support to all worthy movements for the advancement of the country. He is a Democrat in his political views, voting the Seymour ticket in 1868. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. and K. of H. at Augusta. Mrs. Waide is a communicant of the Baptist Church.

Dr. J. W. Westmoreland, in his connection with the professional affairs of White County, as a practicing physician and surgeon, located at Cotton Plant, has attained to well-deserved prominence. He is a native of Tennessee, and was born in Giles County, in 1838, being the son of Laborne and Nancy (Neale) Westmoreland. The birth of

these individuals occurred in Virginia in 1812, and South Carolina in 1807, respectively, and they were married in Giles County, Tenn., where their lives were spent, with the exception of two years in Mississippi. Mr. Westmoreland died in 1860, his wife surviving him four years. He was the son of Reuben Westmoreland, from Virginia, originally, and one of the early settlers of Tennessee, where he was residing at the time of his decease. He was a descendant of the family of Westmorelands who were numbered among the Virginia colonists from England. Grandfather Neale was born in Ireland, but came to America when a young man, and followed the occupation of farming, living at the time of his death in Giles County, Tenn. J. W. Westmoreland, the seventh in a family of twelve children, was reared with them to farm life, receiving such educational advantages as were to be had in that day. He began the study of medicine at the age of nineteen, and in 1859 was graduated from the University of Nashville, Tenn. Subsequent to his graduation he practiced in Giles County, for two years, moving thence to Woodruff County, Ark., from which locality, after a residence of seven years, he went to Alabama. In 1868 the Doctor returned to Arkansas, settling in Cotton Plant, where he has since lived. In 1862 he joined Hooper's Second Company of Arkansas Troops as quartermaster, but soon after was detailed to furnish supplies until the close of the war. In March of 1859, Dr. Westmoreland was united in marriage with Mary A. Deaver, a daughter of James M. and Mary S. Deaver, of Giles County. Her father died in Giles County, Tenn., but his wife is now living in Woodruff County. To the Doctor's union two bright children have been born, which inherit the love of study from their father, and the charming disposition of the mother. Dr. Westmoreland owns 160 acres of land seven miles from Cotton Plant, which is in a fine state of cultivation. For some years he was engaged in the mercantile business in Alabama, and for several years in the drug business at Cotton Plant. In his political views he sides with the Democrats, having voted for Breckenridge in 1860. He is a member of Lodge

No. 3367, K. of H. at Cotton Plant, and also the I. O. O. F. The Doctor has met with several reverses, which resulted in financial losses, but by his untiring determination and perseverance, it is easy to see that he is not one to be discouraged or kept down.

J. C. Widener is a prosperous planter living near Augusta, and is the owner of a fine farm of 200 acres, which have been carefully tilled, and all the buildings put in good repair. This farm has been his home for the past thirty years, and he now has 100 acres of land under cultivation, which is devoted principally to the raising of such commodities as cotton and corn. Our subject was born in Gwinnett County, Ga., March 30, 1840, and is a son of Littleton and Nancy (House) Widener, both of whom were born in the "Palmetto State." In the year 1857 they immigrated to Woodruff County, Ark., and here spent their declining years. The father was a blacksmith and wagon maker by trade. To these parents were given eight children, three of whom are now living, J. C. Widener being the eldest. He was reared in Gordon County, Ga., and came with his parents to Arkansas, enlisting from this State in 1861, in Company B, Eighth Arkansas Infantry, and was but a short time in service. After learning the mechanic's trade he worked in machine shops for five years, assisting in making supplies for the army. Since the termination of the great struggle he has resided in Woodruff County, excepting the six years spent in Texas. He was married in 1866, to Lucinda C. Harris, a native of Georgia, and by her has had two children, both of whom are deceased. During the past fall Death claimed his estimable wife.

Dr. J. E. Woods, physician and surgeon, Augusta, Ark. Dr. Woods owes his nativity to Livingston County, Ky., where his birth occurred March 5, 1843, and is the son of Henry W. and Nellie (Hodge) Woods, both natives of Kentucky. The grandparents were from Virginia, and were early settlers of Kentucky. Mr. and Mrs. Woods passed their last days in their native State. The father was a successful agriculturist, and this vocation followed up to the time of his death. Of

their large family of children, seven are now living, and Dr. J. E. Woods is the third eldest child living. He was reared and received a fair education in Livingston County, remained on the farm until eighteen years of age, and then began the study of medicine at Marion, Ky. He then entered the University of Louisville Medical College, and attended first course of lectures at that institution in 1863. He then graduated at Long Island College, Brooklyn, N. Y., in 1864, after which he began practicing at his home in Kentucky. In September, 1865, he came to Augusta, Ark., began practicing, and is the oldest practitioner in that place. He is a very successful physician; is of pleasing address and most agreeable manners, possessed of a mind clear, penetrating and com-

prehensive, thoroughly posted in his profession, and a practitioner of decided merit. He has been president of the Woodruff County Medical Society and delegate of the National American Medical Convention from Arkansas. He is a member of the board of examining physicians of the county, and a prominent citizen. He was married April 24, 1866, to Miss Clara T. McCurdy, a native of St. Francis County, Ark., where she was reared. Four children were the result of this union: Nellie, Harry M., Kitty and Roscoe. Dr. Woods is an Odd Fellow and a Knight of Honor. Mrs. Woods is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Her father, Samuel M. McCurdy, was a very brilliant and prominent attorney in his day, and occupied positions of influence.



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