

BIOGRAPHICAL

1883 History of Howard and Cooper Counties

BLACKWATER TOWNSHIP

C. G. COOK came originally from Jackson county, Tennessee, where he was born February 24, 1849. His father, William Cook, a native of the same state, born about the year 1810, lived there until his death. He married Miss Louisa Cunningham, of Tennessee, she having been born in 1818, and they had seven children - five boys and two girls - of whom six children are living: William, George W., Michael B., Matilda, Henrietta and C. G. Mrs. Cook was married a second time, about the year 1861 or 1862, to Peter Wood, also born in Tennessee. They had five children: James, Milton and Lawson (twins), Clinton and DeWitt, all living in this county. In 1871, leaving his native state, the subject of this sketch emigrated to Missouri and settled in Cooper county, at the bridge on Blackwater creek. He then moved to Ridge Prairie, and subsequently came to his present place of residence. Mr. Cook learned the blacksmith's trade in Simpson county, Kentucky, and at this time follows that occupation in connection with farming, his present shop having been established about three years. He owns 100 acres of improved and cultivated land in this township. January 10, 1871, he was married to Miss Milly Cook, a daughter of James A. Cook, of Cooper county, who was born in 1830 or 1835. Mrs. Cook's birth occurred December 7, 1852. they have had five children Dotia, born January 17, 1872; Rufus, born August 29, 1874; Daisy, born January 16, 1876; Iolia, born February 22, 1878, and Caroline, born August 5, 1881. Mr. Cook is a member of the M. E. church south, with which he has been connected for eighteen years. He also belongs to Hope lodge, No. 144, I. O. O. F., of Ridge Prairie. At present he is president of the board of school directors of this township, and has held other minor offices.

MARTIN DORFLINGER, farmer and stock raiser, section 18, was born in September, 1823, in Baden, Germany, his father being Frederick Dorflinger, also a native of Germany, born May 24, 1784. He lived there until 1846, when, emigrating to the United States, he settled in Ohio, and in Mahoning and Trumbull counties, where he lived for seven years. Subsequently he came to Missouri and located near Pilot Grove, Cooper county, where he made his home until his death, on May 12, 1869. In 1811 he was married to Miss Verina Hurst, of Baden, Germany, born in 1784. She died on August 9, 1841. They were blessed with seven children, two of whom are living: one, Elizabeth, now in Germany, and the subject of this sketch. The latter remained with his father until his removal to this country, after which he spent seven years in travelling. In October, 1852, he took up his location in this county, which has since been his home. July 12, 1853, he was married to Miss Anna Baker, a daughter of Jacob Baker, of Germany, she having been born November 29, 1831. Of the original number of seven children born to them, six are living : Elizabeth, Fritz, Anna, Martin, William and George. One daughter, Elizabeth, is deceased. Mr. Dorflinger is the owner of 240 acres of land, so situated as to form almost a peninsula. This is well adapted for stock purposes.

W. S. HEIM, a native of Pennsylvania, was born March 21, 1825, being the son of John and Magdalena (Smith) Heim, also of Pennsylvania. The former was born in 1784, and resided in the state of his birth until his death in 1855. To them were born eleven children, of which number seven survive. The subject of this sketch remained at home until twenty one years of age, and in 1847 Miss Caroline Reber, daughter of Samuel Reber, of Pennsylvania, became his wife. By this marriage there have been three children: Francis, Melissa and Milton. Mr. Heim is the owner of 103 acres of land in section 4. This land is well improved and watered, and will compare most favorably with any in this township. He is worthy of much credit for the manner in which he conducts his farming operations. Religiously he is a Lutheran.

C. T. RUCKER, merchant at Blackwater, was born on the 3d of September, 1847, in Blackwater township, Cooper county, Missouri. His paternal grandfather, a Virginian by birth, was born May 22, 1797. His father, W. M. Rucker, originally of Randolph county, Missouri, was born July 22, 1824. The latter was twice married; first, February 6, 1845, to Miss Eliza Bridgewater, a daughter of Nathaniel Bridgewater, who was one of the earliest settlers of this county. To them were born eleven children, all but four of whom died while young. James N., C. T., Carter M. and Lelia are now living. Mr. Rucker was married a second time to Miss Nettie Bridgewater, a niece of his former wife. He lived about three years after this marriage, dying August 12, 1876. On the 5th day of June, 1870, the subject of this sketch was united in marriage to Miss Mary C. Poindexter, a daughter of J. K. Poindexter, of Lamine township, this county, but formerly of Patrick county, Virginia. They have had four children: James H., born February 26, 1871; Eliza, born October 8, 1873; Katie M., born February 11, 1877, now deceased, and W. M., born October 22, 1878. Mr. Rucker is the owner of 275 acres of land on section 2, of Blackwater township, and is quite actively engaged in stock dealing, besides devoting much attention to the

mercantile business. He is enjoying a most successful trade here, and is also connected with the general merchandise firm of Watson & Rucker at Ridge Prairie. He has been a member of the Baptist church for fourteen years. His grandfather figured conspicuously in the earliest history of the Baptist church in Missouri, and he founded and built the Hess creek church of Saline county, and was its pastor for many years in an early day. He was a man universally respected by all, and had many friends.

JAMES THOMAS was born about six miles south of Boonville, in Cooper county, Missouri, in 1830, being, the son of Jacob Thomas, who was born in Pennsylvania about the year 1763 or 1765. Emigrating to Tennessee, he lived there for several years and then came to Missouri before the land sales, being one of Cooper county's earliest settlers. He was by occupation a miller, and for many years operated day and night the first horse mill in the county, known as Thomas' mill. Mr. Thomas was twice married. His second wife was Jane Yarian, and they had seven children, of whom James was the youngest. The latter remained with his father until that person's death, when our subject was twenty-two years of age. He was married first in 1852, to Miss Nancy Woolery, of Palestine township, this county, and to them were born seven children: Amanda, Thomas, Mary F., George, John, Reuben and Jennie Bell. His second marriage occurred in September, 1866, to Nancy O. Howell, of Saline county, Missouri. Mr. Thomas was married the third time to Mrs. Rebecca Howe, widow of Harvey Howe, of this county. He now owns eighty acres of land in this vicinity, well improved. Mr. Thomas is at present engaged in conducting a blacksmith shop, having learned the trade from his, father. His father and two half-brothers, Isaac and Jake, voted at the first election held in the county.

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