

BIOGRAPHICAL

1883 History of Howard and Cooper Counties

BOONVILLE TOWNSHIP Part B

JAMES C. MACURDY, proprietor of MaCurdy's art gallery and photograph parlors. Among the men of Cooper county who have risen to prominence and success in their respective callings, Mr. Macurdy occupies a conspicuous position. Early in life he devoted himself to photography, and for over twenty-five years has pursued this art with an energy and intelligence that could hardly have failed of placing him among the most prominent and successful representatives of his calling throughout the country. He was born in Kinsman, Trumbull county, Ohio, January 27, 1837, and was a son of John W. and Catherine (Mathews) Macurdy, the father a native of Pennsylvania, and the mother born and reared in Ohio. John W. Macurdy was a leading and well-to-do dairy farmer of Trumbull county, and died there, February 14, 1882. His wife still survives him and lives in that county. James C. was brought up to his father's occupation, and in youth received a good ordinary English education in the public schools. At an early age he evinced a taste for the artist's calling, and as he grew up this inclination strengthened into a fixed purpose to devote himself to it. Accordingly, on attaining his majority, he turned his attention to portrait and landscape photography, and rapidly rose to a high position in his profession. Such was his reputation when the war broke out that he was engaged by the government to accompany the army as an official photographer. He continued in this commission until the close of the war, when he located at Oil City, Pennsylvania, where he remained for two years. In 1868 he came to Boonville, Missouri. Here he has achieved the most signal success. One of the best artists in the state when he came to this city, the fact soon became generally known by the character of work he did, and his reputation rapidly and widely extended. His patronage steadily increased, and he soon commanded a business that would compare favorably with that of the better class of galleries in larger cities. Nor has he simply proven himself a thorough and eminently successful photographer. The professional enterprise and artistic taste he has shown a high order of ability and culture. Recently he has erected a handsome art gallery and photograph building, which for size, beauty of appearance and elegance of finish is not surpassed in the state, and will compare favorably with the finest structures of the kind in the whole country. From its spacious and superbly appointed entrance room on the first floor, to the handsome sky-light apartment above, including a suite of elegant and richly furnished parlors, it is a perfect triumph of art, beauty and good taste. Certainly the citizens of Boonville owe to the enterprise of Mr. Macurdy no ordinary debt of gratitude for this handsome ornament to their city. If others would show the same degree of ability and enterprise in their respective callings, Boonville could justly claim to be one of the most beautiful cities in the country. On the 1st of June, 1871, Mr. Macurdy was married to Miss Bettie C., daughter of John Holt, Esq., of Callaway county, Missouri, originally from Halifax county, Virginia. They have a family of two children, Ward and Elgie.

MEIERHOFFER BROTHERS, cooper manufactory. Frank and Charles Meierhoffer, aged respectively twenty-six and twenty-four, own and control one of the largest coopering establishments, if not the very largest, west of St. Louis, which they have built up from nothing as original capital, except their own industry and enterprise. Their present business was established in 1878. having at that time only a small shop. In five years, however, so rapid has been their success, that they now work from eighteen to forty hands, and their former shop building has been succeeded by a large house, seventy by twenty-four feet, and three stories high. They ship barrels, etc., extensively to western markets, and their trade is increasing almost daily. Such men as these are of incalculable value to Boonville, for, besides the large number of families that look to employment under them for support, thousands of dollars are sent here for the products of this factory, which enter into the wealth, and contribute to the prosperity of the place. Both brothers learned the cooper's trade under their father, Jacob Meierhoffer, who followed the occupation in Boonville, together with turning and model making for many years. He was a native of Switzerland, but came to this country in 1852, a short time after which he located in Boonville. The elder brother, Frank, was born in this city, February 7th, 1857, and the younger, Charles, August 4th, 1859. Both had the advantages in youth afforded by the common schools of Boonville, and acquired the rudiments of a good, ordinary education. Charles Meierhoffer was married September 13, 1881, to Miss Hattie D. Nichol, of Palmyra, Missouri. he is a member of the Knights of Pythias. Aside from coopering they also deal largely in sand, lime and plasterers' hair. Frank married Rebecca Lahrmann, of Lawrence, Kansas, in 1882; she was born in Boonville. He is a member of the A. O. U. W.

D. D. MILES, M. D., homeopathic physician and surgeon. In the homeopathic practice, Dr. Miles is second to no physician in the county. His general education is thorough, and his professional education was acquired in the Homeopathic College

of New York and in Bellevue hospital. His experience has been extensive and successful, and his reputation is well established. He was born in Miami county, Ohio, October 8, 1830. His father, Dr. David Miles, was a native of South Carolina, but lived in Ohio from an early period. His mother, whose maiden name was Susanna Dibra, was originally from Germany, but was reared in this county. They raised a family of six children, of whom Dr. D. D. was the eldest. Dr. D. D. was brought up in his native county. After attending private schools in early youth, he entered Earlham college, at Richmond, Indiana, one of the principal Quaker institutions of the country, where he remained as a student three years. While in college his father moved to Wabash county, Indiana, and on leaving college in 1852, went to that place and began the study of medicine under his father, who was a prominent practitioner and had a large medical library. He continued the study for two years, applying himself with great energy, and, having had the advantage of constant instruction from his father, at the expiration of that time he entered into the active practice of his profession. He continued the practice until 1862, when he went to New York and entered Bellevue hospital as a student, remaining there one term. Returning to Wabash county, Indiana, he and Dr. S. D. Jones, his brother-in-law, established the Rural Home Water Cure. Afterwards, in 1863, he went back to New York and entered the Hygo Therapeutic college, from which he was subsequently duly graduated. After his graduation he became the physician in charge of the Knightstown Springs, Indiana, continuing there through the summer. He practiced the following year in Wabash county, and in the fall of 1865 came to Boonville, where he has since lived and practiced his profession. Here he has had charge of the health office for five years, and was medical examiner for the United States pension office an equal length of time, and until he resigned the position. He takes a deep interest in educational affairs, and has been president of the school board of the city for two years. In all matters relation to the general good he is public spirited and active. Dr. Miles was married in 1855 to Miss Mary Jones, originally of Montgomery county, Ohio. They have six children: Stephen E., now a physician, located at Holden, Missouri ; William, now of New York city, and one of the leading telegraph operators of the country ; Oscar, now attending Earlham college, and Misses Ellen and Leonore, both at home. Resolved to keep up with the progress of his profession, Dr. Miles attended the Homeopathic Medical college, of Chicago, in 1881-2, from which he was graduated with distinction.

RETURN L. MOORE, general agent for the Missouri Pacific and the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railways ; also of Moore R Elliott's marble works, etc. Mr. Moore's business career dates back only seven years, and these have been the early experimental years of his business life, for he is still but twenty-eight years of age, yet he has already made an enviable record as a successful, progressive business man. His father, Charles F. Moore, is a substantial, enterprising farmer of this county, and here R. L. was born, June 22nd, 1855. He was raised on his father's farm, dividing his time in youth between farm employments and attending the schools of the neighborhood. A country bringing-up had the effect upon him to implant within him the qualities so essential to success in life - steady, industrious habits, and a wholesome, provident manner of living. As he neared the approaching years of early manhood, he naturally began to cast about for an occupation for life, and, being of an enterprising, aspiring disposition, determined to devote himself to business pursuits. Recognizing the importance, indeed, the necessity, of a good education to a successful business career, he resolved to provide himself with that qualification first, and accordingly began a course in the William Jewell college, which he continued until he had acquired an excellent English education. After leaving college, in 1876, he engaged in the grain business in Boonville, and followed that line of trade for two years, until he was appointed to an official position in the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railway office. In December, 1880, he was appointed chief clerk in the Missouri Pacific railway office, and in a short time was made agent and operator of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas office, in which he also acted as clerk. These positions he filled until he became general agent for both roads in this city, the duties of which he is now discharging. Full of industry and enterprise, he has not contented himself with the labors and responsibilities of a single line of duties, but has also given his attention to other business interests, among which is his partnership interest in the marble works firm of Moore & Elliott, mentioned in Mr. Elliott's sketch. In March, 1880, he was married to Miss Myna Burnett, of this county, and they have two children, Irving C. and Wilbur M. Mr. Moore is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

JOHN P. NEEF, dealer in books, stationary, etc. The general book-store business is conceded to be one of the most difficult to master, and, at the same time, one of the most uncertain of success of all the various lines of trade. To understand it one must have, in addition to the information necessary in ordinary commercial pursuits, at least, some general knowledge of literature, and this cannot be acquired in a day or a year. And it, is peculiarly uncertain of success because popular taste with regard to books is so varying; and of all the dead stocks a merchant can have, a stock of books not in demand is by all odds the deadest, so far as realizing anything on them in an emergency is concerned. But notwithstanding these well-known features of the business, and other drawbacks far greater than these, Mr. Neef has built up a thoroughly successful book-store, and in addition to this has performed a service to the community that would be hard to over-estimate - has established a large circulating library, from which hundreds of volumes are constantly going on their missions of educating, elevating and refining the people. His book-store, including the stationery department, is one of the finest in Boonville, or among those of the surrounding country ; and his circulating library contains over 600 volumes of standard works. Such is the business of the man today who, at the age of twenty-one and as late as 1854, apprenticed

himself in the barber's trade and worked at it until 1866 - a citizen eminently respected by all for his business ability, intelligence, public spirit and unquestioned integrity. J. P. Neef was born in Germany, December 7, 1833, and in youth had the advantages afforded by the ordinary schools of his native country until he became fourteen years of age, when his parents came to this country, bringing him and his brother, now deceased, their only two children. His father, J. G. Neef, was a farmer by occupation, and having settled in Cooper county on coming to America, followed that industry here until his death, which occurred in 1854. Mrs. Neef, whose maiden name was Catherine M. Schaeffer, survived her husband nearly twenty years, the date of her demise being as late as 1872. J. P. followed farming with his father until he was eighteen years of age, after which he clerked in different stores until he was twenty-one, when he began to learn the barber's trade in St. Louis. He acquired that occupation, and afterwards worked at it in Boonville from 1857 to 1866. He then began the grocery business combined with notions, and gradually turned it into his present book and stationery store. He commenced his circulating library in 1868, which has steadily grown to its present importance, and is still increasing. Patience, industry, economy and close attention to business, together with an honorable ambition to advance himself in the world, have brought him to his present enviable position as member of the M. E. church, and was a member of the city council in 1845. Mr. P's father died in 1877, but his mother is still living.

JAMES Q. RAGLAND, of Smith & Ragland, livery. The above named firm, of which Mr. Ragland is a member, succeeded Whitelow & Shimer in business in March, 1882, and now carry on one of the best and most complete livery establishments in Boonville. Their building is large and well constructed, and they have forty head of horses and over twenty different vehicles, both their live stock and rolling stock being of the best quality, and everything is kept in the best of order. James Ragland is a native of Boonville, and was born February 5, 1854. His father, William N. Ragland, was originally of Virginia, but came to this county in 1843, and here he lived until his death, which occurred March 10, 1867. Mrs. Ragland, James' mother, whose name before her marriage was Miss Bettie Quarles, was also from the Old Dominion, and is still living in Columbia at an advanced age. James was brought up in Boonville and was educated in Kemper's well known family school. In 1874, then twenty years of age, he engaged in farming in this county, in which he continued until he became a partner in his present business. Besides his livery business, he is also largely interested in farming, he and his brother now being the owners of 1,000 acres of good land. December 19, 1876, he was married to Miss Helen Corbyn, daughter of the Rev. A. D. Corbyn, and they have two children: John K. and Helen.

GEORGE REPPLEY, the subject of this sketch was born in Baden, Germany, December 22, 1827, being the son of George and Mary Reppley, both of Germany - the former born in 1798 and the latter in 1808. Of their original family of ten children five sons and five daughters - but three sons and one daughter survive - George, Jacob, Mattix and Lena - the three latter being residents of Germany. George emigrated to America in 1848, and the same year settled in Boonville. In 1851 he became employed by R. D. Perry, of that place, taking charge of a vineyard, which he conducted for twelve years. Entering into a co-partnership with Mr. Perry, he subsequently leased this vineyard for a term of ten years, later purchasing the lands. He is now extensively engaged in the culture of grapes, and also has a good orchard. His annual manufacture of fine wines amounts to about 800 to 1,200 gallons, his apples finding a ready sale among home consumers. The different varieties of grape include the Concord, Catawba, Delaware, Virginia seedling and Herbeumont, besides sundry others. On Easter Tuesday of 1846, Mr. Reppley was married to Miss Helena Sahm, and to them were born eight children -Dora, wife of Henry Grym, of Boonville; Herman, now in Connersville, Illinois; Laura, Frank, a resident of Grafton, Illinois ; George and Lena, twins, the former also in Grafton; Willie and Tena. Mrs. Reppley died January 4, 1872. Mr. R. was again married on Easter Tuesday, 1874, to Mrs. Christina Kemp, of Boonville. They have three sons: Albert, Otto and Oscar. Mrs. R. has one son by a former marriage - Emil. George Reppley, Sr., departed this life in 1872, and his widow in 1876 or 1877.

SAMUEL WILSON RAVENEL, editor and proprietor of the Advertiser. That young men of promise have not ceased to be attracted to Central Missouri from the south, whence this section of the state has, from the beginning, drawn the main current of its talent and energy, becomes apparent upon the slightest investigation. In every community are found those whose presence verifies this fact. In Boonville, a prominent instance of its truth may be cited in the person of Mr. Ravenel, the subject of the present sketch. He is from the solar star of the southern constellation of states - South Carolina, and came out to Missouri in 1871. His character and the record he has made, young as he is, are alike worthy of the hero laud that have him birth. He was born in Charleston, that fired the opening shot of the civil war, April 12th, 1860. He was, therefore, but thirteen years of age when his ears were made familiar with the clash of arms in deadly conflict. Up to that time, great pains had been taken with his education, for his father was a man of superior intelligence and culture, and was fully alive to the importance of giving his son a thorough education. Even for sometime after the war began, he persevered in keeping the son at school. Young Ravenel had the advantage of courses of study in the higher branches, in both Pineville and Wellington academies, of his native state. But soon the heavy smoke of war, like a pall of death, settled over the whole state, and the light of knowledge which was wont to radiate from the schools, as from a constellation of midnight suns, was lost in the Cimmerian blackness of deadly strife. Who could teach or who could study, when every breeze that floated across the state came laden with the clang of arms and the groans of dying friends - perhaps brothers,

sons or fathers? When firesides were to be defended there was no time to talk of schools. A call came for sixteen year old boys to volunteer their young lives in the defense of their Southern homes, and one of the first to respond to this call, with an alacrity and intrepidity, worthy of the youths of South Carolina, was Samuel Wilson Ravenel, then just sixteen years of age. He became an accepted and honored young soldier of the South, and followed the flag he had sworn to defend wherever it led, until it went down in a maelstrom of death to rise no more. He was paroled with Gen. Johnson's army, at Greensboro, North Carolina, April 26, 1865, being then on the staff of Major General W. Taliaferro, of the regular Confederate army. After this he returned to South Carolina, and was engaged in cotton planting until he came to Missouri, in 1871. In this state he became connected with the civil engineer corps of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railway company, and was connected with it in the construction of the road as far south as Dennison, Texas. In 1873 he came to Boonville, being identified here with the engineering service, in building the railroad bridge over the Missouri. On the completion of the bridge Mr. Ravenel engaged in business, in this city, and on the 15th of April, 1878, was elected general manager of the Boonville Advertiser, acting, while manager, as its local editor also. In March of the following year he leased the office, and has since been conducting the paper as editor and proprietor. His success thus far as a newspaper man has been very successful, both as business manager and editor, and he is rapidly taking rank among the influential journalists of the state. As a writer he is clear, vigorous and to the point in whatever he discusses - a style that never fails to make a lasting impression upon the reader; in the treatment of matters of public concern he is independent, frank and outspoken, but never vulgar, abusive or discourteous. His paper is democratic, as he himself is. Mr. Ravenel commanded the Waddill national guards, Boonville, from 1879 to 1882, the full term of service. He is a member of the R.. A. C., of the A. F. and A. M. and also of the A. O. U. W. He represents Cooper county on the democratic congressional committee. Mr. Ravenel's parents, Thos. P. and Elizabeth M. (Wilson) Ravenel, are both natives and residents of South Carolina; the father born Jan, 4, 1824, and the mother, Feb. 7, 1827.

HON. THERON M. RICE. Hon. Theron M. Rice, member of the forty-Seventh congress from one of the wealthiest and most populous districts in Missouri owes his commanding usefulness in life and his political elevation to the exercise of those sturdy virtues, which were a part of his character, and to unwearied diligence in the pursuit of worthy aims. The energy and devotion with which in early life he applied himself to the learning of the schools, and which led him to the acquisition of a learned profession, were followed by similar earnestness and vigor, in the serious conflicts of later years, making his record a noble one, and pointing him out as one of the honored citizens of a State that has not been slow to recognize and reward the achievements of her sons. Theron M. Rice was born September 21, 1829, in Mecca, Trumbull county, Ohio, a section of that State noted for its intelligence and for the strong abilities of numbers of her citizens, who have distinguished themselves in state and national politics. Favored by good common school advantages, and working on his father's farm in the intervals of study, the young man grew to mental and physical vigor, with such surroundings as stimulated his ambitions and gave them proper direction. At the age of eighteen he entered Chester academy, in Geauga county, in his native state, and for four years maintained himself in that institution by teaching in winter and prosecuting his studies in summer. Four years of this discipline were followed by a period of teaching exclusively, but in later years he had carefully studied law, and prepared himself with all the resources at his command for work in his chosen profession. At the age of twenty-four he was admitted to practice, and immediately thereafter formed a law partnership with his former preceptor, and opened a law office in Canfield, Ohio, continuing two years with a fair share of success. He had, however, decided on removing to the West. The career of Joshua R. Giddings, in whose district he was born, and of Ben F. Wade, led him to believe that young men increased their chances for promotion in a new country. In 1858 he disposed of his interests, in Ohio, and removed to California, Moniteau county, Missouri, where he entered upon the law practice and continued with success until the breaking out of the civil war. At the beginning of that conflict he organized a company which afterwards became a portion of the 26th Missouri infantry, under the command of Colonel George B. Boone. The history of this regiment of Missouri troops is well known, as it participated in the siege of Corinth and Vicksburg, the battles of luka and Missionary Ridge, the operations around Atlanta and the famous march to the sea, under the lead of Sherman. As a soldier, Mr. Rice performed his duties with the same good judgment which had before distinguish him and with a soldierly daring and intelligence that won him position to the rank of lieutenant-colonel of his regiment. Succeeding the war and the disbandment of his regiment, Mr. Rice returned to his old home in Moniteau county, making his residence at Tipton, where he again applied himself to the practice of law and again met with good success. In the fall of 1868 he was elected judge of the first judicial district of Missouri, and served a full term of six years. His course while on the bench was such as to deepen the respect which was felt for him, and to strengthen the hold he had upon the confidence of his fellows. At the expiration of his judicial term he again applied himself to the practice of his profession with increased good will and continued success. Although he had never been a politician or sought political preferment, he was prevailed upon to make the canvass for congress on the greenback ticket in 1880, and secured his election over John, F. Phillips. His election may be largely attributed, to his personal popularity, and the desire in his district to secure his services in a legislative capacity. While serving his constituents in congress, in 1882, he was nominated by the Greenback convention of the state for the office of supreme judge, a nomination conferred upon him without his solicitation, but which he accepted in obedience to the unanimous desire of the convention. Owing to the fact that two tickets were run in opposition to that of the democratic party in the state, thus dividing the vote that would otherwise have been united upon him, all

prospect of his election was sacrificed, but he received a vote highly complimentary to him as a public man and as a citizen. Mr. Rice has been twice married, and has six children to inherit an honored name. The home of Mr. Rice is now at Boonville, Missouri, where he resides in the confidence and esteem of his friends and constituents.

E. ROESCHEL, pharmacist and druggist. Those in the least familiar with the civil institutions and customs of the leading countries of Europe, are well apprised of the fact that the regulations and conditions there are much stricter for admission to any of the regular professions or occupations, than in this country. Especially is this true of Germany, where the requirements often seem unnecessarily severe; yet, when one becomes qualified to meet them, he is then beyond all question competent and thorough in his chosen calling. Mr. Roeschel, who was reared in Germany, learned the drug business in that this fact alone is a sufficient assurance that he is a skilled druggist and pharmacist, but added to this is the additional fact that he has had nearly forty years' practical experience. It is not more than the truth demands to say that he is one of the finest druggists and pharmacists in central Missouri, and his success in business shows that he is equally capable as a business man. He now has one of the largest retail drug houses in this section of the state. He was born in Germany, March 3d, 1824, and was educated in the schools of the better class in that country. After learning the drug business, he came to this country in 1850 and stopped at Belleville, Illinois, about six months, but then came to Boonville, since which he has followed his regular business and for a number of years has also been interested in grape culture having now a large and flourishing vineyard near this city. During the war he served about six months in the militia, but still kept up his other interests. In June, 1853, he was married to Miss Mary Hass, originally of Chicago, but she died one year afterwards. In 1855 he was again married, Miss Rosina Hass, sister to his first wife, becoming his second companion. He has three children - one, Mary, by his first wife, and two, William and Henry, by his present wife. Mr. Roeschel is a successful business man and a highly respected citizen.

GEORGE ROEDER, manufacturer of carriages, buggies, wagons, etc. Mr. Roeder landed in this country from Germany in 1854, then twenty-one years of age, and was without means or other help to make his way in the new, strange land except his own ability and disposition to work, and an intelligent and capable mind to plan and manage business affairs. He had learned the blacksmithing trade in his native country and in that he began work in America, the hardest, and as some think, the slowest of all the occupations in which to accumulate means and to become prominent in business. But industry, economy and good management will tell in any calling, and accordingly he soon had a shop of his own; then after a while he was able to engage in the carriage and wagon manufacturing business, and for years past he has been one of the leading, successful, and solid citizens and business men of Boonville. He has a large, handsomely constructed two-story brick manufacturing building, and works about a dozen hands in his establishment. He turns out some as fine carriages, buggies, coupes, etc., as can be made in central Missouri, and his wagons have a wide reputation for durability and light running. He keeps a large variety of rolling stock of every description constantly on hand. He was born in Germany September 14th, 1833, and at the age of fifteen began to learn the blacksmith's trade. He followed that occupation in his native country until he came to America in 1854. After landing in this country and before coming to Boonville, he worked in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and Pekin, Illinois - in each about eighteen months. He then came to Boonville and started a blacksmith shop, carrying it on about seven years, and in 1860 began his present business, which has brought him the most gratifying success. February 14th, 1860, he was married to Miss Wilhelmina Schaeffer, originally of Germany. They have four children - Louis, Emma, Laura and Augusta. Mr. Roeder is a member of the A. O. U. W., and of the Lutheran church.

JOHN F. ROGERS, sheriff of Cooper county. Those who hold the office of sheriff in their respective counties are usually men of more than ordinary popularity, for it is a position in which personal popularity counts far more than in any other public trust. In other official stations, special knowledge in the line of the duties to be discharged goes very far towards determining one's selection, although personally he may not be so popular. But with the sheriff, if he is a good business man and possesses the qualities to more than an ordinary degree that make one esteemed by all who know him, his tenure of office is secure, at least to the limit of the law. Such a man is John F. Rogers, the sheriff of Cooper county. Indeed, personal popularity is a characteristic of the family wherever they live. His uncle and father were each for many years sheriff of their county in Virginia, and two of his brothers have time and again held the like office in this state and Virginia, his brother, F. A. Rogers, one of the most popular men this county ever had, having been sheriff for three terms, between 1872 and 1878, and, as all know here, the Cooper county brothers merit to the highest degree the popularity they enjoy. John F. Rogers was born in Belmont county, Ohio, April 6, 1840, his parents having immigrated there from Virginia. However, four years after his birth, they returned to Fauquier county of their native state, where the father, Hugh Rogers, had been reared, and for many years was a leading farmer and largely interested in merchandising. In 1857, Hugh Rogers moved to Missouri with his family, and settled in Cooper county. Here he died three years afterwards, his wife, whose maiden name was Mary Simpson, having been borne to her grave a few months before. They left a family of six children, John F. being the third son then living. John had received a good, ordinary English education before leaving Virginia, and on coming to this county with his parents, taught school here the succeeding winter and the following spring and summer. He then engaged in farming, which he followed until 1870, when he embarked in the mercantile business. In

this he continued four years, and thereupon resumed farming, to which he adhered until his election, in 1880. He was married December 31, 1861, to Miss Annie, daughter of the late Dr. Harriman, of Pilot Grove, but originally of Woodford county, Kentucky. They have two children: Frank and Etta. Mr. R. is a member of the Masonic order, now master of Cooper lodge No. 36, being also a member of the Royal Arch Chapter. He is a genial, whole-souled, good man, as every sheriff ought to be if he cares to retain the favor of the people; is a brave-hearted, efficient officer, and a clear-headed, successful business man.

GEORGE SAHM & SONS, boot and shoe manufacturers and merchants. This firm is probably the largest manufacturing and mercantile establishment in the line of boots and shoes in central Missouri, the value of its manufactured goods alone footing up over thirty thousand dollars per annum. And it is all the outgrowth of the industry and intelligence of a man who thirty-five years ago, then a mere youth, came to America, practically without a dollar, and apprenticed himself to the shoemaker's trade. George Sahn, then a penniless German apprentice-boy in a strange land and without friends, is now one of the leading business men of central Missouri. Such a record his descendants may well read with pride, and cherish as of more manly honor to their name than if they had inherited a title and a decoration from some noble nobody in their country. George Sahn was born in Bavaria, Germany, August 1, 1832, and remained in his native country until he was sixteen years of age. He then determined to seek his fortune in the new land beyond the Atlantic, and he came and found it. He first worked three years at the boot and shoemaking business in Sandusky county, Ohio, during which time he became a thorough master of his chosen occupation. From there he came to Boonville and worked here as a journeyman at his trade three more years, at the expiration of which time he set up a shop for himself. That was in the spring of 1855, and by industry and economy he soon became able to add a trade stock of boots and shoes to his establishment. His business steadily grew, and he stood by it as true as a Trojan to the walls of Troy, so that by 1877 he was able to begin the manufacture of his own stocks and also for the general markets on a large scale. How he has succeeded in this also, is shown by the statement made above. In 1876 his son, George W., became his partner, and in 1880, Henry, another son, was admitted to the firm. They now employ constantly over thirty hands in their establishment. If all the German and American and other boys in this country would do as well as Mr. Sahn has, the United States would be the grandest, richest country, beyond comparison, the world ever saw. He was married July 8, 1854, to Miss Catherine Dick, originally of Germany. Heaven has blessed him with children as he has blessed himself with wealth. He has seven: George W., Mollie, Henry J., Joseph, Julia, Louis and Katie. Mr. Sahn has held various official positions, among which are those of a school director and city councilman, each several terms.

George W. Sahn, his eldest son and first partner, was born in Boonville on July 16, 1855, and was educated in Kemper's well known school of this city. In 1870 he began to learn the shoemaker's trade under his father, which he acquired by two years' hard work at the bench. He then took charge of his father's store and managed it until 1876, when he became a partner in the establishment. January 9, 1878, he was married to Miss Rosa, daughter of Colonel Eppstein, of Boonville. They have one child: Corean. George W. is a member of the A. O. U. W.

ANTHONY SMITH AND NICHOLAS MEISTRELL, of Meistrell & Smith, general merchants. This is one of the principal firms of general merchandise in Boonville, and has a large trade throughout the surrounding country. Their stock of goods includes every variety of articles usually found in a general store, is well selected, and is ample to supply the demands of the trade. They also have a large store at Gooch's mill, southeast of the city, about twelve miles, which they established in 1871. Both are enterprising, successful business men, and both are what may be fairly called self-made, so far as their success in life is concerned, for neither had any means to begin on that he did not earn by his own industry. They now rank among the leading business men of Cooper county, and are respected by all who know them as upright, honorable men, and useful, public spirited citizens. Anthony Smith was born in Chariton county, Missouri, November 22, 1843, and was a son of John Smith and wife, whose maiden name was Catherine Loch, both natives of Germany, who came to this country in 1839 and settled in Chariton county. Anthony's father was a farmer and blacksmith. That occupation the son followed until 1864, when he engaged in teaming for three years. He then, in 1867, returned to Boonville, and here began his present business. On the 30th of April, 1868 he was married to Miss Catherine H. Franken, originally of Germany. They have seven children Henrietta M. B., Urban A., Arthur J., Olive S., Augusta A., Oscar F. and William M. A. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are both members of the Catholic church. Nicholas Meistrell was born in Howard county, Missouri, January 26, 1841, and was a son of Nicholas Meistrell and wife, Barbara, previously a Miss Smith, who came from Prussia to Howard county, Missouri, in 1839. When young Nicholas was a small boy his father, who was a farmer, moved to Chariton county, where the father died a few years afterwards, and in 1853 the mother with her children moved to Cooper county. Until 1860 young Meistrell was engaged principally in farming, but that year he came to Boonville, and the following year enlisted in company G, 1st infantry, Missouri state militia. But prior to that he had performed service in the Missouri state guards, a union organization. He served in the Missouri state militia until the close of the war, being mustered out in 1865 as regimental commissary Sergeant, to which position he had been promoted some time before. After the close of the war he returned to Boonville, where he clerked in a dry goods store until 1867, when he engaged in his present business with Mr. Smith, his brother-in-law. On the 21st of November, 1865, Mr. Meistrell was married to Miss Margaret Franken,

originally of Prussia. They have five children Edward A., Henry, Mary, Joseph and Annie. Both Mr. and Mrs. Meistrell are members of the Catholic church. Mr. Meistrell was for two years a member of the city council.

JOHN W. SMITH, of the livery firm of Smith & Ragland. Mr. Smith, of the above named firm, whose business is outlined in the sketch of Mr. Ragland, is a business man who has, by his own industry and enterprise, taken a prominent position in the business life of this city, and is highly esteemed by all for his many excellent qualities. Energetic and perfectly upright, he possesses in a marked degree the two leading elements essential to honorable success in life. He was born in Cooper county, September 27, 1853, and was educated in the common schools. Having been brought up on a farm he adopted that occupation as his calling in life, which he followed in connection with stock dealing until he became interested in his present business. His experience in dealing in stock was such as to particularly fit him for the livery business, and as he was successful in the former, so he is meeting with excellent success in his present line. Still a young man, with the start he now has, and with his past experience to aid him, his future promises to be a more than ordinarily bright one. His father, David Smith, is one of the most highly respected citizens of the county.

DAVID SMITH, farmer, section 16. Of the old citizens and successful farmers of Cooper county none are more worthy of special mention than the subject of this sketch. David Smith was born in Madison county, Kentucky, February 10, 1794, and is one of the only two now living of a family of nine children born to James and Margary Smith, who settled in Kentucky from Ireland in a very early day. Both parents died many years ago in the state of their adoption. David Smith remained in his native county until 1816, and being then twenty years of age came west to seek his fortune in a new country, and settled in Howard county, this state, where his only brother, James, also settled and still lives. He continued a resident of that county, where he settled on Bonne Femme creek for seven years, and then in 1823 crossed the river and located permanently on his present farm, in this county, where he has lived for the last sixty years. He has prospered as a farmer, and has reared a large and highly respected family. His homestead contains nearly three-quarters of a section of land, and is in a superior state of improvement. His residence, erected in 1853, thirty years ago, is a very handsome structure, and the fact that it has been so long built, and is still apparently as good as when constructed, is an index to the general character of his improvements. He was married April 3, 1835, to Miss Sophia McNichol, of Boone county. They have twelve children: Thomas, Mary, Benjamin, John, Solon, Frederick, David, Jr., Argila, Louvisa, Ida and Forest. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the Presbyterian church. Forest, the youngest son, is still with his father on the farm, and a large share of the responsibility incident to the successful management of the place devolves upon him.

JUDGE C. W. SOMBART, of the C. VP. & J. Sombart Milling and Mercantile Company. Laying aside all the nonsense of life, and looking at it in a plain common sense light, the nearest fulfilment of an intelligent, practical mission, who, by industry, economy and good management, achieves a substantial success, and, when his race is run, leaves a sufficient provision for those who are to succeed him, to enable them to make their way in the world without having to encounter undue hardships, or to struggle against undue difficulties. Every man owes this much to himself and to his family, and unless all creation is without design, unless men are mere accidents, and are governed wholly by the so-called laws of chance, this is the primary, essential object of his existence, at least so far as this world is concerned. Hence, the man who has the practical intelligence to appreciate this fact, and who goes forward in an even, persevering, honest way, in the discharge of his duty in life, is justly entitled to the considerate respect and esteem of all right thinking people. Such a man, we may say, by the assent of all, is Judge Sombart, of Cooper county. Strictly honest and of untiring industry, he has labored in season and out of season for nearly fifty years, from penniless youth to approaching old age, rewarded by an ample competence of this world's goods. Such a career any man would well be proud of, and, unfortunately, many cannot boast. He was born in Prussia, May 2, 1820, and, in 1837, came to this country with his parents, settling in Boonville, this county. He followed farming until 1849, when he was attracted to the Pacific coast by the California gold excitement. He remained in California until the fall of 1851, engaged in mining, and then returned to Cooper county, where he and his brother, J. Sombart, bought a flouring mill, and began their milling career, which has extended over a period of thirty-two years, and has been characterized by the most marked success. They commenced with a small, old-fashioned mill a short distance below their present stand, but a few years afterwards acquired the property they now own, and by additions and improvements from time to time, have increased it in value and importance until now it is one of the finest and largest mills in the state, outside of St. Louis, and is probably the best and most valuable piece of mill property in central Missouri. It has a daily capacity of two hundred barrels of flour, has seventeen pairs of Stevens' rollers, a hundred and twenty horse power Corliss engine, two twelve six inch flue boilers, twenty feet long and four feet in diameter, and is in every way supplied with the latest and best machinery. Within the last two years they have improved it to the value of over \$30,000, and it is now prepared to make by the same process, and the same class of machinery, the quality of flour made by the celebrated mills of Minneapolis, perhaps the finest in this or in any other country. In short, the Sombart Brothers have gradually built up from a small beginning one of the great mills of the west, and they are justly classed among the successful and leading millers of the country. The flour they make sells in the market side by side with the Minneapolis flour, notwithstanding the mills of that city use the hard spring wheat of the north. Most of the flour of this firm is shipped to St. Louis and New York, in both of which markets it is in great demand. Such is the reward of intelligent industry, and of

frugal, economical management. If the citizens of any community generally would do as well as these gentlemen have done, the country, prosperous as it is, would be beyond comparison far more prosperous. Aside from his milling interests, Judge Sombart has been engaged in various lines of business, and although having no ambition for public position or political distinction, has been called to serve the people in various capacities, and among the rest as judge of the county court, a position he filled with strict fidelity and efficient business-like ability. On the 6th of January, 1852, he was married to Mrs. Catherine Thro, originally from Germany, and they have seven children: William A., Kate, Charles A., Fannie M., Frank S., Robert V., and Hannah E.

CAPT. JULIUS SOMBART, of the C. VP. & J. Sombart Milling and Mercantile Company. Mr. Sombart is a brother to Judge Sombart, of the preceding sketch, and all that is said there with regard to the character of the latter, applies with equal truth to the former. Mr. S. possesses in more than a usual degree the distinguishing traits of the German character, steady, patient industry, intelligent, practical economy, and sensible, good management of the affairs in hand. If real enterprise consists in building up a country, making it wealthy and prosperous by its individual citizens becoming so themselves, through industry and frugal management, then Julius Sombart is one of the real enterprising men of Cooper county, and if this is not enterprise, what is? The men who build up a country, not the men who stand around and talk enterprise, are its real enterprising citizens; and by his own exertions Mr. S. has added as much perhaps to the wealth and prosperity of this county as any man in it. He was born in Germany, in June, 1825, and came over with the family in 1837. In youth he learned the blacksmith trade, which he followed several years, but, in 1849, in company with his brother, C. W. Sombart, and others, he went to California, returning three years afterwards, and then entered upon his milling career with his brother, as noted in the latter's sketch. In 1861 he served in the Missouri state militia about three months, and afterwards enlisted in an independent company, of which he was first lieutenant for a time, and during part of the service had command of the company. In this he continued about seven months, and then resumed private business, to which he has since devoted his whole time and attention. He was married in 1856 to Miss Louisa Breneisen, originally from Germany, but she died a number of years afterwards, leaving him five children: William J., John E., George H., Joseph L. and Nora L. Mr. Sombart's father was also a native of Prussia, and for some time, while he lived there, was an engineer in the service of the government. His mother, before her marriage, was Miss Julia Westhoff, likewise originally of that country.

AUSTIN P. SPEED, proprietor of Speed's livery establishment. Mr. Speed, although comparatively a young man, being now just past his thirty-second year, has long since taken rank among the most prominent business men of Boonville, and of this section of the state. His early advantages were more than ordinarily good - he came of one of the best families of Cooper county, and, as he grew up, received an advanced school and university education. At the age of eighteen he started out in life on his own responsibility, securing as his first employment a position in the office of the Missouri Republican as superintendent of carriers, which he held for three years, and until he resigned it to accept the office of assistant manager of the St. Louis branch of Dun's commercial agency, the principal commercial agency of the United States. In that he continued two years, when his resignation was offered and accepted, in order that he might become superintendent of the Boonville, St. Louis and Southern railroad, of which Colonel J. L. Stephens was at that time president. This position he filled for five years and then engaged in private business, buying out a livery establishment in Boonville, which he has since conducted. His building is a handsome new three story brick, built by him expressly for the purpose. In its construction, regard was had as much to its architectural appearance as to its adaptability to the purposes for which it was intended. The result is that, situated as it is, in the heart of the city, it compares favorably, in style and finish, with the best class of business houses. He has over fifty head of stock devoted exclusively to his livery business, and his stable has a capacity for seventy-eight head more. His stock of horses is of a very superior quality, and includes some as fine driving and saddle animals as there are in central Missouri, a section, by the way, celebrated for its fine stock. Space cannot be given to describe them in detail, but suffice it to say that they are conceded to be one of the best collections of livery animals, number considered, in the state. The rolling stock and harness are all that the most fastidious could require. For brilliancy of turnouts, Mr. Speed can put rigs on the road that would ornament any drive way in the west. His stock of vehicles includes every variety of the best qualities and latest styles of buggies, carriages, coupes, etc. He also has an extraordinarily elegant and richly finished hearse, probably the finest in the state outside of St. Louis. Mr. Speed also has a telephone wire from his office communicating with all the hotels, depots, business houses, offices, etc., in the city, and with Old and New Franklin in Howard county. His business is conducted with as much circumspection and dignity as that of any business house in Boonville, and illustrates in a striking manner the truth of the old adage that "the character of the man makes the character of the business." As a citizen he is upright and public-spirited, and as a neighbor he is kind, and true almost to a fault. Still a young man, his life promises many years of usefulness to the community and to his family and friends. Mr. Speed's personal biography may be given in a few words. He was born in this county May 28, 1851, and was the third of a family of seven children, three of whom only are now living. His parents were both natives of Kentucky, but came to this county early in life, where they married and reared their family. His father, William P. Speed, was born in 1816, and came to Cooper county in 1840. He died here June 27, 1863. He was a man of sterling integrity, superior intelligence and a successful, prominent farmer, respected and esteemed by all who knew him.

His wife survived him about eighteen years, dying in this county November 28, 1881. Her maiden name was Sarah Ardell Hutchison, daughter of Colonel Jack Hutchison, an early settler of this county. She was a lady of more than ordinary culture, and was a noble, Christian wife and mother. Coming of such parents, it is but natural that young Speed should have developed the many excellent qualities he has proven himself to possess. After attending the ordinary schools in early youth he had the benefit of a course of study in Butler academy, of Louisville, Kentucky, at the conclusion of which he entered the university of Lexington, in that state, where he acquired a more advanced education. From Kentucky he came to St. Louis, since which his career has been briefly traced above. On the 22d of December, 1870, he was married to Miss Susie P. Deter, a refined and accomplished young lady of St. Louis, and their union is blessed with five children, Lloyd J., Willie P., Estella, Cora and Mimmie. Mr. S. is a member of the A. O. U. W., and in 1883 was elected a member of the city board of aldermen.

JUDGE JOHN D. STARKE, collector of Cooper county, Missouri. A life of industry, uprightness and good management has placed Judge Starke among the first farmers of Cooper county, and his well known business qualifications and personal popularity have secured for him one of the most responsible official positions in the gift of the people. Judge Starke is essentially a self made man, for he started out in life in early manhood with but little to commence on, save his own ability to work, an ordinary, good education, and a brave-hearted resolution to succeed. How well he has kept his purpose and realized it, is shown by his situation in life today. He was born in Kanawha, Virginia, now part of West Virginia, August 3, 1842. His father was Dryden Starke - native of that state - and his mother's name before her marriage was Miss Sarah Pryor, of the distinguished Pryor family of Virginia. When John D. was less than a year old his parents moved to Missouri and settled in Cooper county. Here the son was reared, and was educated in the common schools. He grew up on his father's farm, and naturally became a tiller of the soil himself, which he followed faithfully, intelligently, and with the most satisfactory success; and, although now called to look after the public affairs of the county, he still devotes a part of his time and attention to his agricultural interests. In 1880 he was elected a member of the county court filling the office with such ability and fidelity that at the next election, in 1882, he was elected to a still more responsible position, that of tax collector of the county, an office requiring, above all others in county affairs, good business qualifications and the most unimpeachable, spotless integrity. This trust he is now discharging. On the 5th of October, 1861, he was married to Miss Mary A., daughter of Thomas L. Stratton. Judge and Mrs. Starke have seven children: Sarah P., Dryden L., Josephine B., Mary R., Nora Lee, Pauline and Howlette Rogers.

COLONEL JOSEPH L. STEPHENS, DECEASED. The life of Colonel Stephens was valuable above the lives of most men, not more for the practical good he did, which of itself is beyond estimation, than for the great lesson it taught - that what the world prizes most - wealth and distinction - may be attained without doing a wrong act, indeed, with unceasing efforts to help others and to promote the general welfare. At a time when the belief was rapidly spreading that only those could rise to fortune who were wholly sordid and were unscrupulous enough to employ any means to accomplish their end, he led a singularly pure and generous life, and, although it was an unusually short one, it was extraordinarily successful. Starting out on his own responsibility while still a youth and without means or the advantage of influential friends, before he reached the meridian of manhood he had become one of the first citizens of the state - among the first in proved ability, in wealth and in public affairs, and above all in the respect and confidence of the people. His purposes were upright and his methods just. If a dishonorable act had been the price of his success he would never have succeeded. Possessed of a high order of ability and of unswerving integrity, he was above the temptations that often wreck the moral character of weaker men. Animated by an honorable ambition, and of untiring industry, his career was onward and upward from the beginning, and, doing - good unto all men and evil unto none," he at last closed a life, brief though it was, that has had but few equals in all that goes to form a useful and noble man. As a lawyer he occupied a conspicuous position at the bar while he practiced, and afterwards as a financier he was a brilliant success. In public life he was more sought after than seeking, and if the preference of the people had not been sacrificed to the exigencies of a convention, he would have been the governor of the state. In all movements looking to the material development of the section with which he was identified he was the recognized leader both for his ability as an organizer and for his public spirit. Among the many enterprises that perpetuate his memory is the Osage Valley and Southern Kansas railroad, for which the public is indebted almost alone to his genius and energy. Of him personally another has said: "All in, all, Joe Stephens, as he was familiarly known, was a brave, generous and true gentleman. Springing from a race of commoners he was never above the people, but lent a ready ear to every tale of distress, and his money was freely given for every, deserved charity. His tastes were purely domestic and he lived a remarkably blameless life, for never was a suspicion of wrong doing breathed against his name. Chivalrous and simple-minded in his intercourse with men, his trust was frequently betrayed, but he cherished no malice toward any man and died without a known enemy." Joseph L. Stephens was a native Missourian, born in Cooper county, January 15, 1826. His father, Lawrence C. Stephens, was a native of Virginia, and his mother, Margaret C. Moore, was born in North Carolina. They were married in Cooper county, Missouri, and were among the first settlers and most respected citizens of this portion of the state. His father was a farmer and a man of far more than average ability. He represented his district in the legislature and filled various public offices. He died in 1873, leaving a widow and seven children, of whom Joseph L. was the second. In his youth Joseph assisted his father

upon the farm and attended the common schools. Even while engaged in farm duties he assiduously employed his leisure hours in study. Without entering upon the classics he was yet sensible of the immediate and practical value of a thorough English and literary course, and therefore made every effort to make his acquirements thorough and exact. His education was completed at the high school of Boonville, when he was found to be well versed in grammar, logic, ancient and modern history, philosophy, astronomy, mathematics, and other English branches. In 1844, at the age of eighteen, he commenced the study of law in the office of Hon. John G. Miller, a man of superior attainments, and an able jurist who had represented his district upon the floor of congress for two terms. To the study of his chosen profession the young student applied himself with great assiduity, spending a few months home of each year teaching school as a means of supporting himself while prosecuting his legal studies. While still a student, our country became involved in the Mexican war, and in response to General Gains' call for volunteers he enlisted in a company raised in this county. The youngest in a company of 110 men, his popularity made him the choice of all for its captain. The company was a portion of the force designed for the relief of General Taylor. It was mustered into the United States service by Colonel Robert Campbell, and ordered to quarters at Jefferson barracks. While there dispatches conveyed the intelligence that Taylor had already been relieved, and the company was sent to Boonville subject to order. In 1847 he had completed his legal studies and entered upon the practice of his profession with flattering success. Among the distinguished members of the Boonville bar at that time were Benjamin Tompkins, J. W. Draffin, Emmett R. Hayden, William Douglass, John B. Clark, Sr., John G. Miller, Abiel Leonard, Peyton Hayden, John C. Richardson, W. D. Muir, and Washington Adams, the last six of whom are registered anion - the dead. An earnest and formidable speaker, a close, logical thinker, as well as a good student and careful, painstaking practitioner, Captain Stephens soon commanded a widely extended and lucrative practice. In 1857 he became associated in practice with George G. Vest, present United States senator from this state, which partnership continued until broken up by the war. Captain Stephens afterwards became a member of the bar in the court of claims at Washington, D. C., and of the bar in the supreme court of the United States, continuing in practice there until 1864, when a painful, and it was feared dangerous, affection of the throat forced him, in compliance with medical advice, to abandon the profession of his choice in which he had spent over seventeen years, to which he was devotedly attached, and in which he had long enjoyed a high reputation. Previous to the war he had been a member of the banking house of William H. Trigg & Co., of Boonville, a house doing an extensive business in central Missouri, which divided the capital stock on account of the war. In the management of that institution, however, he took no personal part any further than as its advisor and attorney. In 1864 he opened a private banking house in this city, and the year following organized the Central National bank, one of the most successfully and honorably conducted institutions in the state. Besides the presidency of this bank he held directorship in the following named banking houses: The St. Louis National; National Valley, of St. Louis; Moniteau National, California, Missouri; Bank of Tipton; Pleasant Hill National bank, and the First National Bank of Fort Scott, Kansas.

In 1876, when the Missouri Pacific affairs became complicated, Colonel Stephens was appointed receiver of that road, and he discharged the duties of his position with so much ability as to attract the attention of leading railroad men all over the country. Afterwards he continued to be largely interested in the road, and at the time of his death was intimately connected with its management. Prior to this, however, he had constructed and then owned the Osage Valley and Southern Kansas railroad, from Boonville to Versailles, which afterwards passed into the hands of the Missouri Pacific. In 1866, for the first time in his life, he was induced to become a candidate for an elective office. A stern opponent of the Drake constitution, he consented to enter the canvass more to aid in stripping the ban of disfranchisement from the majority of his fellow citizens, which that instrument had fastened upon them, than for his own promotion in public life. He made the canvass of Cooper, Morgan, and Moniteau counties for the state senate and at the election ran ahead of his ticket. Owing, however, to the disfranchisement law of the time, he was defeated by George W. Boardman, then register of the United States land office. In 1872 he was one of the most prominent candidates for governor of the state before the democratic convention which was finally nominated Silas Woodson. His real strength was conceded to be unequalled by that of any other candidate, but to break a dead-lock in the convention a new man was sought and the choice fell upon Judge Woodson, which resulted in his election. After that Colonel Stephens gradually disappeared from politics, though rising higher and higher in public estimation by his honorable connection with public enterprises. In 1877 he was appointed by Governor Phelps a lieutenant colonel and chief of his Excellency's military staff, practically an honorary position. In 1878 he was appointed commissioner at large for the state of Missouri to the Paris exposition, and he faithfully and ably represented his state in that distinguished position.

In 1853 Colonel Stephens was married to Miss Martha, Gibson, of Boonville, a lady of superior education and refinement. Of this union six children were reared: William Speed, Gibson, Lon V., Alexander, Mittie and Rhoda. In 1875 Mrs. Stephens died, lamented by the people of Cooper county, and mourned by a large circle of relatives. Colonel Stephens was again married, Miss Jones, an accomplished and worthy lady, becoming his wife, in 1877. She is a daughter of the well known author of New York, Richard Jones, more generally known by his book, "Wild Western Scenes." The present Mrs. Stephens has two children by her late husband. Colonel Stephens was taken off suddenly by death at his home in Boonville in the month of August, 1881. He had been suffering considerably from asthma previously, but was able to

attend to business the day before. His serious illness was of only about two hours' duration. The news of his death cast a gloom over the entire community and the whole state. Among the innumerable tributes paid to his memory by friends all over the country, none are nearer just or truer than that of Senator Vest who had known him so long and so well: " I who know this man better than all others know him, except a very few, will bear witness in the dread presence of death that his impulses were good, his life useful and his loss to the world very great."

LON V. STEPHENS, assistant cashier Central National Bank. Sufficient means to enter directly into the business affairs of life for himself and influential family connections are undoubtedly great advantages to a young man in beginning his career, but unless he has the qualities himself that would bring success sooner or later, even without these advantages he cannot long hold the position, much less steadily advance above it, that they enable him to take. Lon V. Stephens, one of the leading young business men of Boonville and of central Missouri, as a son of the late Colonel Joseph L. Stephens, was not without means and influential friends to aid him so far as such advantages go in starting out in life, but better and far more important than these he inherited to a striking degree the qualities that made his father's name synonymous with success, and with all that is honorable and useful as a citizen and as a man. Industrious, almost to a fault, possessed of superior ability and as upright in purposes and practices as his father was, Lon V. Stephens continues in his character to an exceeding measure the elements that would make his career a successful and useful one whatever his early circumstances might be. Without means or influential friends in early life, these qualities raised his father to eminence and great wealth before he had reached the meridian of manhood, and the same qualities in the son could not fail to produce the same results. Though now only in his twenty-seventh year, as the assistant cashier of the Central National bank, one of the principal banking institutions of central Missouri, as well as in other important business stations, he has already given the most convincing proofs of his ability and qualifications as a rising young business man and financier. And the confidence and esteem with which he is regarded in financial circles and among all classes, show that his merits are not unobserved, nor unappreciated. His future is certainly one of great promise. Lon V. Stephens was born in Boonville, December 21, 1856 and was reared in this city. After the usual course in the primary schools, at the age of fourteen he entered Kemper's well known family school, in which he remained as a student two years, or four terms, applying himself to his studies during that time with untiring diligence. At the expiration of his fourth term in the Kemper institution, he was found to be more than ordinarily well qualified to enter upon his college or university course, and accordingly he then went to Virginia and became a matriculate in Washington and Lee university of that state. During the years 1877 and 1878, he pursued the more advanced studies required in that great institution of learning, after which he returned to Boonville. In 1879 he became editor and proprietor of the Advertiser, of this city, which he conducted with singular ability and success until 1880, when he accepted the position of bookkeeper of the Central National bank, retaining, however, to the present time, his interest in the Advertiser. From bookkeeper he subsequently became assistant cashier of the bank, the position he now holds, and he is also a prominent stockholder in and a director of this institution. On the 5th of October, 1880, Mr. Stephens was married to Miss Maggie, daughter of James M. Nelson, the president of the Central National bank. Mr. and Mrs. Stephens are both members of the southern M. E. church.

WILLIAM SPEED STEPHENS, cashier of the Central National bank. Among the young men of central Missouri, whose future seems bright with promise, none are more conspicuous than William Speed Stephens of Boonville. A son of the late Colonel Joseph L. Stephens, and just now entering his thirtieth year, he has already given proof conclusive that he is worthy to an eminent degree of the name he has and of the advantages and opportunities resulting from his descent. He was born in this city June 26, 1854, and received his early education in Kemper's family school. After five years of careful preparatory study he entered Washington and Lee university in Lexington, Virginia, continuing there during the years 1874, 1875 and 1876. Shortly before the time he was to have graduated from the law department of that institution, his father was appointed receiver of the Missouri Pacific railroad, and he was called home to take charge of his father's interests in the Central National bank, of which he became cashier. Here he commenced a business career that has rarely been equalled for the rapidity with which he has risen to prominence in banking and business circles. So widely known had he become throughout the state, prior to the last election, and so popular as a capable and thoroughly responsible financier, that he was strongly urged for the democratic nomination for state treasurer, and in all probability would have been nominated had he not declined to be a candidate on account of being under the age required by law, and from business and personal considerations quite as decisive. Contemporaneous with his connection with the Central National bank, he has also been interested in steamboating on the Missouri river and has acted as secretary and treasurer of the Central Missouri Mining Company. He has likewise held the post of secretary and treasurer of the St. Louis and Southern Railway Company, and has borne his share with his brother, Lawrence V. Stephens, in administering on the extensive estate of their father. He has shown himself the able and discriminating friend of worthy, private and public enterprises, and has developed a genius for organization and care in the administration of extended undertakings, that stamps him as a growing and rising man of superior abilities. On the death of his father, in August, 1880, he and his brother qualified as administrators and gave the required bond of \$1,000,000. As curators they gave an additional bond of \$350,000, and such was their standing in the community and the confidence and kindly friendship their conduct had inspired, that these

enormous bonds were readily given. William Speed Stephens was married June 23, 1880, to Miss Jennie C. Thompson, an accomplished young lady.

DR. FRANKLIN SWAP, dentist. Besides being a thorough and successful dentist, Dr. Swap has long been a leading citizen of Boonville, having been prominent as a Union officer during the war, and having held the office of city register some thirteen years since. He was born in Albany, N. Y., August 19th, 1830. His father, William Swap, and mother, Belinda, whose family name before her marriage was Carl, were both natives of the Empire State, and there they married and reared their family. However, Mrs. Swap died in about 1837, and in 1848 Mr. Swap removed to Crawford county, Pennsylvania, where he lived until his death in 1881. When the family left New York, Franklin, now the doctor, was about eighteen years of age, and in the meantime had learned the cabinet maker's trade, which he followed in all about eight years. In 1854, having married three years before, he removed with his family to Taylor county, Iowa, where he studied dentistry, and after acquiring that profession practiced it until April, 1862. It then having become apparent that the war was going to be a long and desperate struggle for the preservation of the Union, demanding the patriotic services of every man who could shoulder a musket, he enlisted in the army, entering the ranks as a private soldier. By regular promotions, however, he was raised to the rank of captain, which position he held when Lee delivered his sword to the "First Captain of the Age" at Appomattox. He then resumed the practice of his profession in Taylor county, Iowa, but having been stationed in central Missouri during the war, in fact, having been provost marshal of eight counties in central and southern Missouri - Cooper, Morgan, Hamilton, Cole, Miller, Maries, Hickory and Camden - he had had an excellent opportunity to acquaint himself with the advantages this section offers for men of energy and enterprise in almost every calling of life, and accordingly he determined to cast his fortunes in central Missouri. In December, 1865 he came to Boonville and opened an office and here he has since lived and practiced his profession with marked success. As a citizen he has proved of great value to the community. In public enterprises and in all movements looking to the general good, he has always taken an active interest, and as an evidence of his public spirit as a citizen and his recognized business ability, it may be mentioned that he was elected to and filled the responsible office of secretary of the Osage Valley and Southern Kansas railway company during the time its road was being constructed. For thirteen years he was secretary of the school board of Boonville from 1867 to 1880, being one of the members of the first board after the reorganization and vitalization of the free school system in this State. That Dr. Swap is a man of more than ordinary natural ability, is evidenced by his success in whatever he has enlisted himself in his profession, as a soldier, and in civil affairs. He is respected wherever known as an upright man and useful citizen. On the 2d of August, 1851, he was married to Miss Mary E. Mitchell, of New York. They have had six children, of whom four are living: Frank W., Charles, Ida A. and Emma B. Dr. Swap is a member of the I. O. O. F.

JAMES E. TALIAFERRO, clerk of the circuit court for Cooper county. Although Mr. Taliaferro is only thirty-four years of age, when he completes his present term of office he will have served in the position he now holds thirteen years, having been appointed deputy in 1870, and having continued in that capacity until his election to the principal clerkship in 1882. This record speaks a volume for him both as an officer and a man. He was born in Cooper county, Mo., August 19th, 1849, and is a son of James G. Taliaferro, for many years one of the substantial and highly respected citizens of this county, but now a resident of Moniteau county, and originally from Madison county, Va. Mrs. Taliaferro, whose maiden name was Lucy A. Woodward, was a native of Madison county, Ky., and of the well-known Woodward family of that State. James T., the sole, was reared in this county, and at a comparatively early age acquired a good practical education in the common schools of this county. On the 1st of October, 1877, he was married to Miss Anna R., daughter of Dr. Quarles, a prominent citizen and physician, who was killed in the first battle of Boonville. She died November 2, 1879, leaving one child, Eddie Q. Mr. Taliaferro was married again April 28th, 1881, Miss Fannie, daughter of Jackson Monroe, formerly clerk of the county court of Cooper county, then becoming his wife. They have one child, Monroe. Mr. Taliaferro is a member of the I. O. O. F., and of the Encampment of that order, and also of the A. F. and A. M., and of the Royal Arch Chapter.

RICHARD R. THOMPSON, undertaker. Mr. Thompson has been engaged in his present business nearly twenty years, and besides being one of the leading undertakers of Cooper and the surrounding counties, he is a successful, upright business man. His long experience as an undertaker, and his naturally humane disposition fit him to more than an ordinary degree for the appropriate discharge of the delicate duties relating to the last sad rites of the dead. He keeps constantly on hand a variety of caskets, etc., to suit all tastes, and has every convenience for taking charge of and bearing to their last resting place the loved and lost one at a moment's notice. Mr. Thompson came to Cooper county with his parents in 1836, he then being a young man twenty years of age. His father, whose name was also Richard, and his mother, whose maiden name was Sallie Yeatman, were both natives of Virginia, where they were reared and married; and there Richard R. was born, in Warrenton, March 13, 1817. Eight years after coming to this county his father died, but his mother survived her husband twenty-four years. When fifteen years of age, Richard R., having by that time acquired the rudiments of a good ordinary education, commenced to learn the carpenter's trade, which afterwards he had become master of when he came to Cooper county with his parents, in 1836. Here he worked at his trade, soon becoming a

leading contractor and builder, until 1864, when he engaged in his present business. He was married, January 11, 1848, to Miss Mary E., daughter of John and Bitha Kelly, who settled in this county in an early day. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have two children - Cornelia and Fannie. Mr. T. has been a member of the M. E. church for the last fifty years, and has been steward and trustee for forty years. Mrs. Thompson, his mother, lived to the advanced age of nearly eighty-nine years, having been born in Westmoreland county, Virginia, October 7, 1779, and having died in this county June 28, 1868. But his father died at the age of sixty-eight, having been born in Westmoreland county, Virginia, July 17, 1776, and having died in this county January 27, 1844. They were married June 27, 1798.

DR. WILLIAM H. TRIGG, retired physician, and now of W. H. Trigg & Co. The life of Dr. Trigg has been an unusually active one, and, at the same time, more than an ordinarily successful one. In youth he commenced in the world on his own account by working at such employment as he could get; by hard study he was soon qualified to engage in school teaching: then he studied medicine and became a practicing physician; after a while he was able to engage largely in merchandising; banking then was shortly added to his other interests; and now he is one of the leading business men and wealthy, prominent citizens of the county, and has been for years. Such a life-record is well worthy a place in the "History of Cooper County." William H. Trigg was born in Wilson county, Tennessee, January 24, 1808. His father, Daniel Trigg, was a native of Virginia, born in Bedford county, in March, 1776. When a young man, Daniel Trigg went to Tennessee with his father's family, and there subsequently married Miss Nancy, daughter of Rev. William Hodge, of North Carolina. Of this union seven children were reared, of whom William H., the doctor, was the second. Daniel Trigg, the father, died April 28, 1830, and Mrs. Trigg, September 22, 1823. In youth William H. worked in various occupations and attended such schools as were convenient. He also attended school under William McKnight, of Rutherford county, Tennessee, with whom he boarded, and subsequently taught school himself. About this time he commenced the study of medicine under Dr. Hodge, of Summer county, and afterwards continued it under Drs. Hodge & Blackmore, of Gallatin, Tennessee. After several years' study, in 1830 he commenced the practice of his profession in Wilson county, where he was reared, and remained there one year. Thence he went to Kainesville, Tennessee, and the following year located in Gallatin, of that state, where he practiced until 1834. In February of that year he came to Boonville, where he at once entered upon the practice of medicine again, and followed it until his business became so important as to require his whole attention. Here, during the first year of his residence, he began merchandising, and was a member of the firm of Boyers, Blythe & Trigg. This continued two years. He then became a partner in the firm of Wyan & Trigg, which lasted until the death of Mr. Wyan, in 1842. In 1846 Dr. Trigg engaged in the banking business, which he followed without a partner until 1858, when Messrs. Nelson, Stephens and others became his associates, and the house was then known as W. H. Trigg & Co. This firm was dissolved eight years afterwards, in 1866. In the meantime, however, in 1861, he in association with others, organized a mercantile company under the name of W. H. Trigg & Co., which did business in Boonville until 1864, when they went to Courtland, New York, where they carried on business until the fall of 1865. Returning then to Boonville, they resumed business here, and also added banking as a branch of their business. Two years afterwards, however, the banking department was dispensed with, and since then they have confined themselves to their mercantile interests exclusively. This house is one of the largest retail establishments in central Missouri, and has an extensive and profitable trade throughout the surrounding country for many miles. On the 14th of April, 1835, Dr. Trigg was married to Miss Sarah G., daughter of Jacob Wyan, an old settler of Cooper county. She was born December 25, 1818. They have four children: Josephine H., Julia A., Anna M. and William W. As a business man, Dr. Trigg has achieved a degree of success that stamps him as a man of superior ability and enterprise. And as a citizen, he has always been public-spirited and among the foremost to offer help, both material and otherwise, in all movements calculated to promote the general interests of the city and surrounding country. His prosperity has been well earned, and none envy him the enjoyment of it, because all know that it has been honestly and honorably obtained.

HON. JOHN R. WALKER, attorney. The Walker family, of this state, of whom Hon. John R. is a representative, came originally from Virginia, and all trace their lineage back to Samuel Walker, a native and resident of that state during the latter half of the last century, but who emigrated to North Carolina, and afterwards to Overton county, Tennessee, where he died at an advanced age in 1834. He reared a family of five sons and one daughter: Samuel, Winston, Armstead, John, Harrison and Ellen. These afterwards settled in Kentucky, where Samuel died, but his son, Charles, now lives in Pettis county, Missouri. Harrison moved from Kentucky to Indiana, where he died, leaving two sons and a daughter. John and Armstead settled in southwest Missouri, where they raised large families, and Winston, the grandfather of Hon. John R., came to Cooper county, Missouri, where he died, August 30, 1855, aged seventy-five years. He left three sons, Samuel, Henry R., and Anthony S. Anthony, after he grew up, married Miss Mary E., daughter of Judge Anthony F. Read, of this county, but originally of Kentucky. Judge Reads wife, formerly Miss Nelly C. Ewing, was a daughter of Urban Ewing, and niece of Rev. Finis Ewing. Anthony S. Walker and wife reared five children, viz.: James H., of Bunceton, this county; Hon. John R., of Boonville; Addison A., of Pleasant Green, this county; Mrs. Mary E. Hickman, of Columbia, Missouri; and Mrs. Florence Conkwright, of Sedalia. Anthony S. Walker, the father of these, was for many years a leading citizen and large property holder of Cooper county, and was widely known and highly esteemed as a man of the most unquestioned purity of character and of superior intelligence. He was, in every better sense, an upright citizen and a kind,

hospitable neighbor. He died in this county, September 26th, 1863. Mrs. Walker, his wife, came of a family several of whose representatives have occupied distinguished positions in the business and public affairs of their respective states, and of the country. Judge John Read was an able jurist of Tennessee. Hon. James G. was a leading member of congress from Indiana, and others have attained to distinction in other parts of the union. Mrs. Walker herself was a lady of marked intelligence, and of more than ordinary culture. She died in June, 1872. John R., the son, was born in Cooper county, Missouri, March 18th, 1846, and, after taking the usual course in the neighborhood schools in early youth, in 1861 entered Kemper's well known school in Boonville, where he continued two year. After this he was admitted to Yale college, and spent three years of hard study in that great institution of learning. Returning home in 1866, the following year he went to Bates county, and was occupied there several years with business connected with the landed interests of his father's estate. While there, in 1870, he was elected to the legislature, and proved one of the ablest and most popular members of the house. In 1873 he came back to his old home in Cooper county, and began the study of law under Hon. John Cosgrove, being afterwards admitted to the bar in 1874, whereupon he entered vigorously upon the practice of his profession. In 1880 he was elected prosecuting attorney of the county, and filled that position for two years with more than ordinary ability. He is now one of the prominent attorneys of Boonville, and in the coming years will doubtless be called upon to serve the people in various positions of distinction and public trust. He was married October 13th, 1880, to Miss Alice Ewing, a refined and accomplished daughter of Judge E. P. Ewing, the eminent jurist, who for many years ornamented the supreme bench of Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. Walker have two children, Alice E. and John R. Mr. Walker is a member of the Masonic order.

NICHOLAS WALZ, dry goods, boots and shoes, groceries, carpets, notions, etc. Mr. Walz' career is another illustration of the fact that close attention to business, economy and good management will eventually bring success. He has a large establishment in the above named lines, and has an extensive and profitable trade, which is steadily growing; all is the result of his own exertions, for he had nothing to begin on but his own disposition and ability to work. He was born in Germany, July 29th, 1838, but at the age of thirteen came over to this country with his parents, and located with them in Chicago, Illinois. He remained there until 1855, when he went to Mendota, Illinois, but stopped there only two years, coming thence to Boonville in 1857, where he has since lived. Here he engaged in clerking for Mr. Heimsen, and in less than three years had saved up enough to buy him out, which he did in 1855, and has since conducted the business alone, and with marked success. He was married January 22d, 1862, to Miss Julia Brenneisen, originally of Germany. They have eight children, John E., Louisa, Herman, Charles, Julia, Laura, and Henry. Mr. Walz was a member of the city council three terms, and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Boonville Turn.

FREDERICK C: WENIG, dealer in general merchandise. Mr. Wenig, who is a native of, Germany, born February 1, 1834, was reared and educated in his native country, receiving more than an ordinary education, especially in the department of mathematics. When still a youth he was engaged by a mining company, in that country, in the capacity of surveyor, which position, together with clerical work in the office of the company, he continued in until he left for this country, in 1860. Arriving here he first stopped in Ironton, Ohio, and in 1861 came to Boonville, but shortly afterward went to Pella, Iowa, where he clerked about two years and a half, being a part of the time in a flouring mill. From there he went to Belleville, Ill., and followed clerking in business firms until 1865, whereupon he came to Boonville, and in a short time established his present business. He is a well qualified, energetic business man, and enjoys the unshaken confidence of the people, and no inconsiderable share of their patronage in his business. He was married, July 29th, 1861, to Miss Wilhelmina Boller, originally of Germany; but she was taken from him by death, in April, 1882, and he has but one child living, Mary. Mr. Wenig is a member of the A. O. U. W.

WARNER WHITLOW, railroad contractor, For over thirty years Mr. Whitlow has been a citizen of Cooper county. Commencing as a teamster, as Erastus Wells commenced in St. Louis as a bus driver, he soon became a trader or dealer in horses and mules, and then, in connection with this, engaged in the livery business in Boonville, which he carried on for fifteen years, with marked success, selling out in 1882 to Messrs. Ragland & Smith. Since then he has become a prominent railroad contractor, in which business he is engaged at the present time. He was born in Barren county (now Metcalf county), Kentucky, April 25th, 1824, and was a son of Pleasant and Elizabeth (Yates) Whitlow, of that state. He was reared in his native state, where he remained until 1849, when, resolving to seek his fortune further in the west, he came to Missouri and located in Platte county. In 1852 he made a visit home, and, on returning to his adopted state the same year, changed his place of residence from Platte to Cooper county, since which he has been identified with the industrial and business life of this county. On the 25th of October, 1849, he was married to Miss Narcissa Hardin, of Kentucky. They have but one child living, a daughter, Miss Addie Lee.

WILLIAM M. WILLIAMS, of Draffin & Williams, attorneys at law. Among the comparatively young attorneys of this judicial circuit, who have already begun to take prominent and leading positions in their profession, is Mr. Williams of the above named firm. He has been engaged in the practice about ten years and has already made an honorable record as an able, successful attorney. He was born in Boonville February 4th, 1850, and is a son of Marcus Williams and wife, previously

Miss Mary J. Lettlepage, both of this city. Young Williams was reared in Boonville, and was educated in Kemper's well-known school. When seventeen years of age he received the appointment of deputy collector of Cooper county, the duties of which he discharged so successfully and with such satisfaction that he was retained in the position five years, during which he also studied law. He then, of his own inclination, retired from the office of deputy collector and gave his whole attention to the study of law, availing himself of the tutorage of Mr. Draffin his present partner. One y significant fact that a short time after his admittance to the bar he became the partner in business of his former tutor, one of the oldest and ablest lawyers of the circuit. On the 16th of December, 1875, he was married to Miss Jessie, daughter of Dr. E. C. Evans, of Sedalia, Missouri. They have two children, Bessie and Roy D. Mr. Williams is a member of the Presbyterian church and of the Masonic order, also of the Chapter and Commandery of that order.

THOMAS B. WRIGHT, attorney at law. Thomas B. Wright was in his twentieth year, and still at the parental hearthstone in Howard county, when the signal shot that shook the Union was fired on Fort Sumter. But he remained not long afterwards at home. The same spirit of patriotism that animated the young soldiery of the Revolution, and of all the wars of the republic, prompted him to become a volunteer in the defense of his country's flag. He enlisted in Company B, 5th cavalry, Missouri state militia, in 1861, and followed the victorious banner of stripes and stars until it waved in triumph throughout the length and breadth of the land. In 1862 he was made lieutenant of the company, and served in that capacity until about the close of the war. However, early in the spring of 1865, he came to Boonville, and, in conjunction with Captain George Miller, organized a company for home protection. But in June of the same year he was detailed for service as provost marshal of Greenfield, Missouri, which duty he discharged until the succeeding summer, when, peace having been restored, he returned to his home in Howard county. Like most of the young men in central Missouri, of his age, the war prevented him from getting as early a start in civil life as otherwise he would have done. He was born in Howard county, Missouri, September 27, 1841, and but for the war would have been well started on his professional career by 1865, for he had acquired an excellent education in the ordinary schools and in Mount Pleasant college, at Huntsville, Missouri, prior to 1861. Still, the rule that good soldiers make good citizens, has proved true in his case. He came to Boonville in 1866, determined to make up the best he could for time given to his country. Having devoted himself assiduously to the study of the law, for a number of years, he was admitted to the bar in 1868, with marked distinction. Since then he has been actively engaged in the practice of his profession in this circuit, with his office at Boonville. In 1874, he was elected mayor of the city of Boonville, serving two years. During the years 1872-73 and 1881-82, he was the city attorney of Boonville. Mr. Wright was married in June, 1870, to Miss Martha E., daughter of Doctor G. A. Williams, formerly of this county. They have two children living: Lucien and Alice. His father, Joseph Wright, was of Tennessee, born in April, 1799, and died in Howard county, in 1879, whither he had moved in 1819. His mother, whose maiden name was Eliza Wilds, was at the time of her marriage to Joseph Wright a Mrs. Yount, a widow lady of Howard county. By her first husband she had three children, and by her second three also, of whom Thomas B. was the second. She died in 1854.

HENRY ZEIGEL, farmer. Mr. Zeigel is of German parentage, his father, Andrew Zeigel, having been born and reared in Baden-Baden, Germany; and his mother, formerly Miss Elizabeth Bassler, was of the same country. His parents, after coming to this country, settled in Jefferson county, New York, where Henry was born in September, 1843. Afterwards, in 1857, they came to Cooper county, this state, where they subsequently died. Henry, however, was principally reared before his parents left New York, and was brought up to the occupation of a farmer, which he has since followed. His farm contains 160 acres of good land, and he is an industrious, frugal farmer. He served during the war on the Union side, and was under Colonel Eppstein, in company A, 5th cavalry, Missouri state militia. In December, 1871, he was married to Miss Malinda McGuire, of this county. They have three children living : Oscar L., Henry W. and Frederick A.