

# BIOGRAPHICAL

## 1883 History of Howard and Cooper Counties

### CLARK'S FORK TOWNSHIP

**JOSHUA C. BERRY**, farmer. Mr. Joshua C. Berry was a son of Major Joshua H. Berry, an early settler and a highly respected citizen of this county, who died here, where he had spent the principal part of a long and useful life, in 1869. Major Berry was born in North Carolina December 25, 1797, and in youth received a superior education, particularly in the department of mathematics. His attainments in this science were such that, after he grew up, he was employed by the government in its civil engineer corps, and as early as 1816 he came out to this state as a member of a United States surveying commission, with which he was employed in making surveys along the Missouri river, between Lexington and Boonville. After this he returned to North Carolina, and was subsequently married to Miss Patsey A. Talbot, of Georgia. She was born March 9, 1802. Their marriage occurred February 15, 1821. Eight children were born to them, two of whom are deceased: John M., Eveline, Patsy A. (deceased), William A., Mary E. Narcissa A. (deceased) and Joshua C., the subject of this sketch. However, prior to his marriage Major Berry had become an adopted citizen of Missouri. He first located at New Madrid, and then came to Cooper county, where he settled on the tract of land now owned by Alexander Shannon. During the Indian troubles he was made major of a command of pioneer volunteers, and was an able and efficient officer. He soon became one of the largest land owners of the county, and at his death left a large landed estate. His first wife died December 5, 1851. After her death Major Berry was twice married. His second wife, formerly Miss Eliza A. Wells, lived but little more than a year, leaving a child that survived its mother only a short time. His last wife, previously Mrs. Ellen R. Griggs, to whom he was married July 26, 1855, still survives him. Joshua C., the subject of this sketch, was born May 4, 1841. Farming has been his life occupation, and in his chosen calling he has been satisfactorily successful. He owns several hundred acres of fine land. His farm, numbering something over a quarter section of land, is an excellent homestead, and is comfortably and substantially improved. October 21, 1867, he was married to Miss Martha L., daughter of William and Edith Moore, of this county. His wife was born December 16, 1847. Seven children have resulted from this marriage: William M., born August 19, 1869; Alonzo W., born October 10, 1871; Augustus E., born September 22, 1873; Oliver C., born June 1, 1876; Alice S., born April 20, 1880, and an infant daughter, born October 12, 1882, now deceased. Mrs. Berry is a member of the Baptist church at Mount Herman. Mr. Berry is an enterprising farmer, and a highly respected citizen.

**JOHN G. BURGER**, proprietor of Cedar Mound farm, section 13. Cedar Mound farm is situated about ten miles south of Boonville, and is one of the handsomest farm sites as well as best farms in that part of the county. It contains 340 acres of fine land, and is exceptionally well improved. The residence is a more than ordinarily good one; the other buildings are of a superior quality, and the fencing and general improvements are in keeping with the buildings, etc. Mr. Burger, the owner and proprietor, had but little to start on when he commenced in life for himself, but by patient, untiring industry, and good, practical management he was not long in placing himself among the best and most substantial farmers of the county. He is a representative of two old and highly respected families in this county - the Burgers and Titsworths. His grandparents, on his father's side, came here in 1821, when his father, Henry Burger, was but fifteen years old. They were originally from Virginia, but directly from Tennessee. His mother, formerly Miss Mary Titsworth, was a daughter of Gabriel and Nancy Titsworth, who settled in this county from Kentucky among its early pioneers. Gabriel Titsworth's father was one of the first settlers of the Blue Grass state, and Gabriel himself and a sister were captured by the Indians in that state when still quite young. Gabriel was scalped and thrown into a sink hole, as he was supposed to be dead; his sister was held a captive for a considerable time. Mr. Burger's father was born December 15, 1805, and his mother December 26, 1817. They were married here in 1833. The father died March 23, 1883, but Mrs. Burger still survives her husband. They had a family of six children, of whom four sons and a daughter are living, John G. Burger, the subject of this sketch, being the eldest. He was born in Prairie Home township April 21, 1834, and brought up to the occupation of a farmer, which he has since followed. He has been twice married. November 9, 1858, he was married to Miss Nancy Howe. She died January 17, 1873, aged thirty-six, leaving a family of children, of whom five are living: Emma L., born February 5, 1863, wife of Robert Mason, resident of Dade county; John V.P., born March 18, 1866; Ella E., born July 16, 1868; George, born April 24, 1870, and Lulu D., born June 26, 1872. Their first and second children, Mary L. and Joseph H., died early in life. His present wife, formerly Miss Hettie J. McKillip, to whom he was married June 23, 1874, was a daughter of James and Elizabeth McKillip, of Callaway county, Missouri, and was born September 29, 1849. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania, and her mother of Clark county, Kentucky.

**HENRY CRAWFORD**, famer. Among the prominent young farmers of more than ordinary promise in thin county is the young gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He is a son of Mr. John Crawford, whose sketch follows this, and is worthy, in every sense, of the name and lineage. He was born of his father's first marriage, May 19, 1850, and in youth had excellent educational advantages. After the common schools he entered Kemper's well known and highly reputed school at Boonville, in which he completed his education. In 1874 he went upon a farm of his own of about a quarter section of land and began his farming career, which has been characterized by the most gratifying success ever since. Since he settled on his present farm he has added to his landed estate by purchase, until he now has nearly 300 acres of real estate of his own. October 13, 1875, he was married to Miss Elizabeth J., daughter of Henry and Martha A. Knaus. His wife was born December 30, 1852. They have lost two children: Johannie L., born July 15, 1876, died July 3, 1882, and Eva, born August 22, 1878, died August 28, 1879. Mr. and Mrs. Crawford are members of the Baptist church.

**JOHN CRAWFORD**, proprietor of Airy-View farm. Airy-View farm is one of the most sightly, and at the same time, one of the best farms in Cooper county. While it is not so large as some, what it lacks in size it more than makes up in the fertility of the soil, the beauty of its location and topography, and the superior quality of its improvements. It is a neat, model, well kept farm of about 300 acres, and reflects credit upon its owner and upon the county. John Crawford, the proprietor and owner of this farm, was a son of Hon. George Crawford, for many years a leading farmer of the county and a prominent citizen in its public affairs, and was born in Kentucky, March 15, 1816. In 1819 Hon. George Crawford emigrated from the Blue Grass state with his family, and stopping for a short time in St. Geneva, St. Charles county, this state, came on and settled permanently in Clark's Fork township, of this county. His wife was formerly a Miss Elizabeth P. Embree, to whom he was married March 16, 1815. She was born in Mercer county, Kentucky, November 4, 1797, and he was born in Cumberland county, Kentucky, March 8, 1795. They reared a family of five children, John, the subject of this sketch; William H., died at the age of fifty-three; Harriett, died aged eighteen; Henry, died aged twenty-three, and Mary E., now of Boonville. The father died July 29, 1852; the mother nearly a year previously, September 25, 1851. Mr. Crawford held various offices of trust and honor during his lifetime, the most important of which was that of state senator, the honorable station he honored by his ability and worth for a term of four years, from 1824 to 1828. John Crawford grew up on his father's farm, and inheriting the latter's spirit and enterprise as well as his industry and personal worth, he was not long in carving out success in life. For years the son has held a prominent position among the best farmers and most substantial citizens of the county. He was married April 18, 1849, to Miss Eliza J. Greenhalge, of this county, a worthy and excellent lady. She was born September 28, 1830, and died August 10, 1855. She left him two children - Henry, who now has a family of his own, and George W., now deceased. March 20, 1862, Mr. John Crawford was again married. His second wfe was formerly Miss Mariah C. Keener. Four children blessed this union Clare E., George K., John M., deceased, and Mary L., deceased. Besides Airy-View farm, Mr. Crawford owns about 200 acres of land in Palestine township. He and his wife are members of the Baptist church.

**JOHN G. EDWARDS AND BIRDIE EDWARDS**. John G. and Miss Birdie Edwards, brother and sister, were born and reared in this county, and now reside on their father's farm, of which they principally have the management - the one of the outdoor, business affairs, the other of the indoor, domestic concerns. Their father, who is still living at an advanced age, Cornelius Edwards was a son of Arnold and Elizabeth Edwards, of Fauquier county, Virginia, and was born in that county, December 11, 1811. His mother, the grandmother of John G. and Birdie, was a daughter of James I. and Vina Smith, of the Old Dominion, from which James I. Smith volunteered in the Continental army at the beginning of the war for independence, and served under General Washington through that entire struggle. Both Arnold and Elizabeth Edwards lived to old age and died in their native state. Cornelius, their son, who for the last forty-five years has been a worthy and respected citizen of Cooper county, started out in life for himself, at the age of sixteen, going from home in order to apprentice himself to the blacksmith's trade. He worked at that occupation eighteen months, and then learned the wagon-maker's trade, which he followed for many years. In 1838 he came to Cooper county and engaged in the wagon making business, continuing it here with excellent success until, having bought a nucleus of his present farm, he finally gave his whole attention to farming. His farm contains over 500 acres of good land, and for years he has ranked among the substantial, successful farmers of the county. However, being now past seventy-two years of age, he has retired from the active management of the place, and turned that duty over to his children. Over thirty-four years ago, April 17, 1849, he was married to Miss Mary A., daughter of Robert and Mary Scott, of Cooper county. She was born in Kentucky, August 5, 1831: They have had seven children - John G., Mary L., deceased, late wife of Benijah Hurt; Charles, deceased; Martha A., Birdie E. and Edna P. John G. Edwards was born November 1, 1850, and Birdie, the sixth of the family, October 7, 1865. John G. is a young man of untiring industry, great enterprise and more than ordinary intelligence. He bids fair to become one of the leading farmers and prominent citizens of the county. Miss Birdie is a young lady of superior personal worth and rare mental and personal attractions.

**FREDERICK FRICKE**. Henry Fricke, who was born in Germany in 1800, came to this country, brining his family in 1846, and located in St. Louis county, where lie engaged in farming. The following year, however, he died of cholera, leaving his wife, Christiana, formerly a Miss Spaendan, a widow with a family of children. They had had six children: Henry,

Frederick, Charles, John, Christopher and Christina; but two of them are now living - Frederick, the subject of this sketch, and Charles. The mother, who was born the same year of her husband's birth, survived her husband nineteen years and died a widow in 1866. Frederick Fricke was nineteen years of age when his father died, having been born in Brunswick, Germany, December 31, 1828. On the death of his father the management of the farm in St. Louis county devolved upon him, which he conducted with excellent success. However, in 1853 he came to Cooper county and bought a farm in Clark's Fork township containing 120 acres, on which he lived until 1866, when he sold it and bought another farm of 200 acres. In 1880 he sold that also and bought his present place of 267 1/2 acres, an excellent farm, and substantially and comfortably improved. He devotes his attention principally to growing grain. In 1851 Mr. Fricke was married to Miss Sophia Fredmeyer, of St. Louis county, who still lives to comfort and brighten his home. Though not favored, or disfavored, as some regard it, with a family of children, he is not discontented with his fortune, for, with the poet, Otway, he is prone to think that while

"Children blessings seem, but torments are,  
When young our folly, and when old our care."

Mr. Fricke and wife are members of the Lutheran church.

**ALEXANDER H. AND JOHN GREENHALGE**, farmers and stock raisers and dealers. These gentlemen, who conduct a large farming business in this county, and have also important farming and stock interests elsewhere, are the only two surviving members of a family of five brothers and sisters born to James and Nancy A. Greenhalge, for many years worthy and highly respected residents of Cooper county, but now deceased. James Greenhalge was a native of England, born in Lancastershire, August 6, 1797, but when he was four years of age his parents immigrated to this country, landing at Baltimore and proceeding thence to Garrard county, Kentucky, where they settled and where the son was reared. Being of a quick, active mind and ambitious to advance himself in the world, young James Greenhalge applied his attention to books at an early age and studied with great assiduity, thus acquiring what was justly considered a superior education, taking the time and his opportunities into account. On attaining his majority he came to Missouri, and taught school in St. Charles county for some time. From there he went to St. Louis, and was connected with the police department of that city. After this he returned to Kentucky, where he remained until his removal to this county in 1836. In the meantime, however, in 1825, he was married in Kentucky, his wife being a daughter of Alexander and Sarah A. (Dinwiddie) Henderson, of that state. Settled in this county he became a large farmer, which occupation he followed until his death December 9, 1862. His wife followed him in death July 18, 1874. Of their children Eliza J., wife of John Crawford, died in 1855, leaving a son Henry, now a resident of this county; Amanda died in 1852 and Sarah A. died early in life. Alexander H. and John were born respectively July 12, 1826, and March 14, 1828. From early life they have been constant and equal partners in their farming and other interests. Their farm here contains an even section of land, and this is devoted to grain and stock raising, which they carry on a somewhat extensive scale. In the state of Nebraska they own a large tract of land, where they have a cattle ranch. Alexander H. is now in that state and has charge of their cattle interests, while John remains here and supervises their Missouri affairs. Besides this John looks after important landed interests in Bates county. Both are men of great enterprise and business ability, and most excellent and worthy citizens.

**WILLIAM HURT**. The Hurt family have been identified with Cooper county from the pioneer days of the county, and through three generations have borne a name unsullied by an unworthy act. Colonel Clayton Hurt, the father of William, was a native of the Old Dominion, born in Bedford county, January 15, 1790, but early in life came out to Kentucky where he met and won in marriage, in 1814, Miss Mary, daughter of James Dillard, his bride being five years his junior. After the birth of their first child, in 1815, they immigrated to Missouri and settled in Boonville township, of this county. On account of the temper of the Indians at that time they were compelled to live in Fort Cole fort a while, and there William, the subject of this sketch was born March 7, 1816. During the Indian troubles, Colonel Hurt took a conspicuous and gallant part in the defense of the pioneer settlers, and was made colonel of their military organizations, which they were compelled to keep up, a title he honorably won and ever afterwards bore. Subsequently he became a prominent and wealthy farmer, and reared a large family of children, eleven in all, seven of whom are still living and are residents, with one exception, of Cooper county. The father died in 1862, and the mother five years afterwards - both followed to their graves by the sorrow of the old settlers then living and of a wide circle of friends. William Hurt, their second born and oldest son, grew up in the pioneer days of the county, and both by inheritance and the influence that surrounded his early life became imbued with those sterling virtues that make men respected and esteemed wherever integrity, courage and plain, honest industry are valued. He, too, besides leading a worthy career as a citizen and neighbor has been a successful farmer, and now as the shadows of old age approach he is so situated that he can enjoy the evening of life in comfort. He was married September 6, 1837, to Miss Catherine, daughter of Captain Andrew Robertson, an early settler of the county. Six children were granted them by the favor of Heaven, all of whom are residents of the county: Mary C., wife of Alexander McFarland; Emmeline, wife of Frank Davis; Jenkins, Benijah, William A. and James M. All of these reside near their father and have families of their own. To each he has given a farm, and he himself still resides on his old homestead. May 28, 1882, his

wife was taken from him and laid to rest until the night of death shall be broken by the dawn of eternity's day. His children and grandchildren are near to cheer and brighten his way through the gathering mists of advancing years.

**JAMES M. HURT**, farmer. Among the young farmers of Cooper county who, by their industry and enterprise give promise of future prominence and usefulness in the agricultural affairs of the county, is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He was born in Clark's Fork township April 10th, 1853, and is the youngest of a family of six, four sons and two daughters, reared by William and Catherine (Robertson) Hurt, as follows: Catherine, wife of A. W. McFarland; Nancy E., wife of F. M. Davis; Jenkin D., married Miss Lucy Potter, Bellijah married Miss Mary E. Edwards; William, Jr., married Miss Bettie Johnson, and James M., the subject of this sketch, married Miss Adaline, daughter of Benjamin and Harriet Ropers November 26th, 1874. She was born May 28th, 1855. They have two children, Jessie, born August 18th, 1876, and John William, born September 28th, 1879. Mr. Hurt has a neat farm of nearly a quarter section of land and gives his attention mainly to growing gram, but also raises some stock - horses, mules, etc. He is in the morning of life, buoyant with hope, and, thrice armed with industry, intelligence and integrity, the future promises him a prosperous and honorable career.

**SAMUEL L. JEWETT**, miller and farmer. Mr. Jewett, who commenced the active duties of life for himself at the age of seventeen with nothing to depend on save his own self-reliance, has for many years ranked among the more substantial and better-respected class of citizens of this county. His father, Gilmore Jewett, was a native of Ohio, born August 10th, 1793, and early in life came further west and located in Illinois. There he met and married Miss Elizabeth, daughter of, William and Mary Alexander, of Monroe county. Samuel L. is the third of the three children living of the family of seven from this union, the other two living being William S., of Jefferson county, Missouri, and Laura A., wife of J. A. Owen, of Cooper county. Their father was a school teacher and farmer, which occupations he followed in Monroe county, Illinois, until the time of his death January 20th, 1835, his wife following him to the grave two years afterwards. Samuel L. was born in Monroe county, Illinois, November 12th, 1833. When seventeen years of age he began to learn the milling business, at which he worked until 1852, when, his education being incomplete, and having saved up enough to defray his expenses while at school, he entered Shurtleff College, an institution of high repute in Illinois at that time, in which he remained as a student three terms, thus acquiring an excellent practical education. After his college course he returned to his trade, which he has since followed in Illinois, California and this state - in later years, however, in connection with farming. In 1860 he bought his present mill property and farm, to which he has since devoted his entire attention. This farm contains 160 acres, and his mill has a capacity for nearly 1,500 bushels of grain per day, and has a wide and excellent reputation. October 10th, 1860, Mr. Jewett was married to Miss Martha M., daughter of N. L. and Nancy Dorsey of Madison county, Illinois. She was born January 14th, 1834. They have six children: Ben H., born August 3d, 1861, now of Barton county, Missouri; Bessie A., born April 3d, 1863; William J., born January 20th, 1865; Edward M., born June 1st, 1868; Halbert A., born August 27th, 1870, and Theodore B., born November 18th, 1873. Mr. Jewett was for fourteen years postmaster at Clark's Fork up to 1880, and until he resigned the office. He is master of both the Fairview and county granges, P. of H.

**JOHN KING**, farmer. Mr. King landed in this country in 1853, from Germany, a stranger to our language and laws, and without money enough to jingle on a tombstone. He commenced here as a farm laborer. His farm now contains 400 acres of splendid land, has a fine residence, and is otherwise handsomely improved; and for years he has ranked among the wealthy, prominent farmers of Cooper county - the old story of German thrift in a free country and on fertile soil. He was born in Holstein, Germany, February 15, 1828, and was a son of Hans and Auble (Caw) King, of that country, both of whom are now deceased. But three of their family of nine children survive: Catherine, Auble and John. The father was a merchant, born in 1800, and died in 1855. The mother died in 1847. John King, on coming to this country, first touched the continent at New Orleans. From there he went up the river to Davenport, Iowa, and then returned as far as St. Louis, from which place he came to Boonville. Arrived in this county, he went to work as a laborer on a farm, and by 1859 was able to buy a tract of land of 180 acres in Clark's Fork township. He farmed on this until about the close of the war, when he sold it and went to St. Louis. He remained there only a short time, and returned and bought a part of his present farm. He has prospered year after year, and added to his farm, and improved it, until it has reached its present value and importance. He grows over 200 acres of grain, besides hay, etc., and raises 150 hogs, and annually fattens from twenty-five to thirty head of cattle. January 18, 1859, he was married to Miss Sophia, daughter of Bernard and Sophia Fredmeyer, of this county. Of this union, seven children have been born, six of whom are living, viz: Minnie, born May 29, 1859 (wife of William Twillman); Mary, born February 3, 1863; Henry, born April 11, 1865; Lucy, born August 27, 1867; Sophia, born November 29, 1869, and Ella, born September 6, 1872. Sophia, the second child, born February 20, 1861, died November 9, 1864. Mr. and Mrs. King are both members of the German Lutheran church.

**ARCHIMEDES W. McFARLAND**. Mr. McFarland is a cousin of Truman W. McFarland, of Boonville in whose sketch is given an account of their grandparents, Jacob, Sr., and Nancy (Cathy) McFarland, originally of North Carolina. Archimedes W.'s father, Jacob, Jr., was born before his parents left their native state, but attained his majority here, and in

1833 was married to Miss Matilda Fleming, formerly of Kentucky. He died, however, about three years after his marriage, leaving his wife a widow with two children: Archimedes W., the subject of this sketch, born in Boonville township, September 15, 1834, and Armiuda, J., born in 1835, now the wife of Robert Comer, of Henry county, Missouri. Eight years after her husband's death, Mrs. McFarland also died, and thus the two children were left orphans in childhood. However, they were kindly cared for by relatives and friends, and their father having died possessed of some property, they were not entirely dependent upon the generosity of others in their tender years. After Archimedes grew up he sold his interest in his father's estate, and bought a farm in Henry, where he followed farming until 1865. He then sold out his farm in that county and returned to the home of his childhood days, where he bought a tract of land adjacent to the farm that his father-in-law, Mr. William Hurt, had given him in Clark's Fork township. He now has a good farm, and is one of the well respected farmers and good citizens of the township. December 10, 1857, he was married to Miss Mary Hurt, of this county. They have three children, two being dead: Alice G., born December 7, 1858, wife of Robert Johnson; William J., born September 9, 1863, and Agnes L., born December 5, 1877. Laura C. and Lillie M. are deceased. Mr. McFarland's farm contains about a quarter section of good land, and he follows both grain and stock raising.

**GEORGE H. MEYER**, owner and proprietor of Forest Grove farm. This farm, one of the finest in its vicinity, is situated about nine miles east of Boonville, and contains 385 acres of the best quality of land. It was improved mainly by Mr. Meyer himself, who, starting out on his own responsibility at an early age, with but little to go on, save his own ability and disposition for intelligent industry, soon became able to buy a tract of land, now forming a part of his present farm, and, meeting with continued success, kept adding to his original tract until his place now contains nearly 400 acres. It is an exceptionally well improved farm. His residence, recently erected and completed, is one of the handsomest, without and within, in the township, and is furnished in excellent style. In short, his homestead is a credit and an ornament to the vicinity in which he lives. Mr. Meyer, the owner of the property, was born in Moniteau county, Missouri, February 5, 1853, and was one of a family of ten children of Henry and Catherine Meyer, of whom five are living. His parents were both natives of Germany; his father born in 1812, and his mother, formerly Miss Anna Ballman, in 1815. They were married in 1838, and both are still living now on their homestead in Clark's Fork township, hale and hearty in their old age. George. H., the subject of this sketch, after he grew up was married to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Deidrich and Elizabeth Molan, of St. Louis, June 16, 1874. She was born October 29, 1856. They have three children: Henry C., born January 16, 1876; Herman Wm., born September 1, 1878; George H., Jr., born November 17, 1880. Mr. Meyer is a partner in business with Peter Wehmeier, near him, and they have a thriving trade. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer are both members of the Lutheran church at Clark's Fork.

**ALBERT MUNTZEL**, farmer. Albert Muntzel, son of Peter and Sophia (Ohlendorf) Muntzel, was born in Germany, February 20, 1833, and when nine years of age was brought by his parents to this country, who immigrated to America in 1844, and in the following spring settled on a farm in St. Louis county, where Albert grew to manhood. Reared on a farm he adopted agriculture as his calling for life, and has since followed it with the exception of one year spent in merchandising in St. Louis. In 1859 he came to Cooper county, and became a partner with his brother, Daniel Muntzel, in the ownership and conduct of a farm in Clark's Fork township. In this he continued until 1865, when he sold out his interest in the partnership farm to his brother, and bought another place in the same township. However, during this time, in the spring of 1862, he enlisted in the Union army, entering the ranks as a private, but was shortly made first lieutenant, in which capacity he served until the close of the war. September 22, 1866, he was married to Miss Margaret Schmidt, daughter of John A. and Catherine Schmidt, of Bavaria, Germany. She was born in that country, September 21, 1846, and came over to this country with her parents. Eight children resulted from this union, four of whom are living: Lizzie C., born January 5, 1867, died March 17, 1880; Albert P., born October 10, 1868; Martin W., born July 26, 1870; Leonard D., born July 18, 1872, died April 7, 1880; Edward J., born January 15, 1875; Christian E. J., born September 15, 1877, died May 5, 1880; Clara J., born October 5, 1879, and Julia S. M., born October 15, 1881. Mr. Muntzel and his family are members of the German Lutheran church of Clark's Fork. His farm contains nearly 300 acres of good land, and he has it handsomely improved with a fine residence, excellent fences, barns, etc.

**SAMUEL A. PAXTON, JR.** The subject of this sketch was born on the 11th of August, 1865, and is the youngest of two sons born to Samuel Paxton, Sr. and wife, whose maiden name was Margaret K. McClanahan. His brother, Christopher C., was born January 25, 1861. Their father, Samuel Paxton, Sr., is a native of Virginia., having been born in that state August 8, 1833. Early in life, however, he came to this state, and was here married to Miss McClanahan who was born in Macon county April 16, 1845. Both Christopher C. and Samuel A. were reared to the occupation of farming, in which they are now engaged. Both are young men of industry and intelligence, and give every promise of becoming substantial, successful farmers and good citizens. Their parents are both living and are also residents of the county, worthy and well respected by all who know them.

**DR. JEROME D. POTTS.** Dr. Potts has been engaged in the practice of medicine about six years, over four of which have been spent in the practice at his present location, and, although a young man, he has achieved excellent success in the

profession and bids fair to become a leading physician of the county. He was born in Boone county, Missouri, April 7, 1855, and at the age of twenty years entered the state university as a student, where he remained two years, graduating in the class of 1877. He then went to Philadelphia and became a matriculate in the medical hospital of that city. After his course in Philadelphia he returned to Boone county, and began the practice of medicine at Rocheport, continuing it there until 1879, when he came to Clark's Fork. May 5, 1880, he was married to Miss Carrie E., daughter of Henry W. Mills of this county. They have one child, Erla. His parents, James F. and Cornelia E. (McQuilty) Potts, are both living and reside on their homestead near Rocheport. The doctor is the oldest of their family of six children, four daughters and two sons, one of whom, however, a daughter, their second child, is dead.

**WILLIAM RANKIN**, farmer and miller. For over forty-five years Mr. Rankin has been running the oldest and the first flouring mill establishment ever built or operated in Cooper county - the old Boyd mill on the Petite Saline. Originally it was a water mill with a capacity of but two bushels of wheat per hour and was only fifteen feet square. For this, with twenty-six acres of ground, his father paid \$2,750 as far back as 1838, the water power being considered the valuable part of the property. The mill had then been run eight years, and the following year Mr. Rankin commenced the erection of a new mill on the site of the old one, and completed it in 1840, then one of the largest and best mills in central Missouri. For fourteen years he run it by water power, but about 1854 added steam to it, since which it has been run by the latter power almost exclusively. It now has a capacity of over 800 bushels of grain per day, or more correctly twenty bushels of wheat and fifteen bushels of corn per hour. This mill has a wide reputation for the purity and excellence of the breadstuffs it manufactures, and is one of the noted popular mills in the county. Besides this, Mr. Rankin has an excellent farm which he conducts with substantial success. His parents, Matthew and Nancy (Smith) Rankin, were both of Irish birth, the father born near Londonderry in 1777, and his mother near Dublin in 1779. Both came to America early in life and were married in Hagerstown, Pennsylvania, in 1802. Subsequently they removed to Virginia, and there William, the subject of this sketch, was born in Winchester, Frederick county, October 20, 1806. Of four brothers and four sisters, but one brother, James, now of Hickory county, this state, is living. The father and family came to Cooper county in 1830, and here both parents lived until their deaths. In 1844, April 4, William Rankin, the subject of this sketch, was married to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of William and Susanna McFarland, of this county. Two sons were born to them: Silas, born January 9, 1845, and Robert S., born December 13, 1849. Robert S. was married May 14, 1873, to Miss Louisa Duncan, and now has three children; Maud, born February 25, 1874; Mabel, born June 11, 1875; and Myrtle, born April 20, 1877. Both sons are identified with their father in the conduct of both the mill and farm. Mr. Rankin has sought no political office through life, nor held any except that of township collector in 1868. His son, Robert, is a member of the A. F. and A. M. and A. O. U. W.

**JAMES H. RENNISON**. Joseph Rennison came to this country from England, and early in life located in Cooper county. Here he met and married Miss Leat, by whom he had four sons, James H., the subject of this sketch, being the only one of these now living. James H. Rennison was born in Pilot Grove township, May 4, 1845. His mother died when he was three years of age, and afterwards his father married Mrs. Keziah Cartner, a widow lady who died in July, 1861, leaving a daughter by her last marriage, Margaret J., wife of John Wyatt, of Henry county. The father is still alive and resides in this county. James H., after he grew up, was married January 18, 1863, to Miss Sarah C. Cartner, who has borne him eight children, five daughters and three sons, of whom there are seven living: Joseph E., born January 1, 1864; Alice, born April 20, 1865; Louisa, born October 28, 1869; James W., born September 24, 1871; Cordia C., born September 11, 1874; Florence, October 1, 1877; and John H., Jr., born November 19, 1879. Emily, a third child, born March 19, 1867, died October 4, 1875. Farming has constituted Mr. Rennison's life occupation, and his farm contains nearly a quarter section of good land. He is an industrious and intelligent farmer, and is well respected as a citizen and a neighbor. He and his wife are members of the Mt. Hermon Baptist church.

**THOMAS B. ROBERTSON**, farmer. In 1797 Mr. Robertson's father, Captain Andrew Robertson, came with his parents to this state, who immigrated from Louisville, Kentucky, that year, and settled at New Madrid on the Mississippi river. In the fall of 1816, they came on further west and settled in Boonville township this county. Here Andrew Robertson, having been born in Kentucky, January 1st, 1794, grew up to manhood and married Miss Catherine Sherley, who came with her parents from Kentucky in 1826. They reared a family of six children, Charles S., Andrew J., Thomas B., Cyrus J., Alvira M. and Susan F. Captain Robertson became a wealthy farmer and died July 9, 1861, leaving an estate of over 1,500 acres of land besides personal property. His wife preceded him in death about fifteen years, dying December 15, 1847. Thomas B., the subject of this sketch, was born September 18, 1834. Farming has constituted his life occupation and he has an excellent farm of over 300 acres, on which he grows grain and raises stock in considerable quantities. He is a good farmer and a worthy and well respected citizen. May 8, 1856, he was married to Miss Bettie Potter, of this country, who still comforts and brightens his domestic life.

**LEONHARD SCHMIDT**. When Mr. Schmidt was but four years of age, in 1854, his parents, John A. and Margaret (Haril) Schmidt, emigrated from Germany to this country, and settled in Clark's Fork township. His father was a successful

farmer, and at his death left a good farm of over 300 acres, which Leonhard now owns and cultivates. His mother died the same year as her husband, in 1877, but three days intervening between their deaths. The father was born in Germany, in 1810, and died here January 4, 1877. The mother, born in the same country, in 1812, and died here, January 7, 1877. Of their family of children, but four of the twelve born to them are now living besides Leonhard, viz., John, Margaret, Nicholas and Margaret. Leonhard Schmidt was born in Baiern, Germany, April 20, 1849, but was principally reared in Clark's Fork township. Farming has constituted his life occupation. On the old homestead farm he raises about 150 acres of grain annually, principally grain. He also raises and fattens large numbers of hogs for the market each year. November, 18, 1869, he was married to Josephine Klochner, of Moniteau county. They have had six children: Emma C., Nicholas M., Emma M., Mary F., Emma S. and Leonhard A. Mrs. Schmidt died December 14, 1882, aged thirty-nine years, nine months and twenty days. Mr. S. is a member of the Lutheran church at Clark's Fork.

**ALEXANDER SHANNON.** Mr. Shannon is a native of Maryland, and was born in Charles county of that state, February 10, 1823. He was a son of Zachariah and Priscilla (Skinner) Shannon, both also natives of Charles county, where they married, in 1818, and lived until their deaths; the father having been born January 17, 1797, and died in 1865; and the mother, born in 1800, and died in 1859. Six children were born to them, five of whom are living: Catherine A., born in 1821, died in February, 1882; Alexander, the subject of this sketch, born February 10, 1823; Eliza J., born in 1827; Mary E., born in 1830; and Henrietta, born 1832. When Alexander Shannon was twenty-four years of age he came to Missouri, and located in Cooper county, and, November 17, 1849, was married to Miss Julia A., daughter of Clayton and Mary A. Hurt, of this county. Five children are the fruits of this union: George Wm., born March 15, 1851; Eliza B., born October 31, 1853; Fleming H., born December 19, 1860; James B., born July 26, 1867; and Nancy B., born April 19, 1870. In 1852 he bought a place of 110 acres, in sections 4 and 5, of this township, and, in 1863, eighty acres more, on which he lived for many years. That place is now owned by one of his sons. In 1872 he bought his present farm of nearly 300 acres, which lie has comfortably improved. He raises both grain and stock for the markets. He is an industrious farmer and well respected citizen. Mr. S. and wife are both members of the Christian church at Walnut Grove.

**NICHOLAS SMITH,** farmer and justice of the peace. Like so many of the successful farmers of Cooper county, Mr. Smith is a German by nativity, although he has lived in this county since he was sixteen years of age. He commenced for himself when a young man without any means of his own, and by intelligent industry and frugality has succeeded in situating himself comfortably in life. His farm contains 300 acres of good land, and he has it improved with a commodious brick residence, an excellent barn, substantial fences, etc. He raises about 200 acres of grain, principally corn and wheat, and fattens for the market from thirty to thirty-five head of steers, and a large number of hogs. He came over with his parents to this country in 1853, having been born in Bavaria, Germany, November 2, 1837. They landed at New Orleans, and came thence by river to Boonville. His father, John A. Smith, a farmer by occupation, was born September 14, 1808; and his mother, formerly Miss Catherine M. Hill, was born in 1810. Both are now deceased - died in this county. After growing up, Nicholas Smith, the subject of this sketch, was married October 13, 1860, to Miss Margaret Dornhauser, of Moniteau, who has borne him eleven children, five sons and six daughters, of whom six are now living, as follows: Christopher T., born April 13, 1862; Sophia, born December 25, 1863; Elizabeth, born July 5, 1867; John C., born May 20, 187; Josie, born November 6, 1875; and Lizzie, born January 24, 1879. At the last township magisterial election, Mr. Smith was elected a justice of the peace, the duties of which office he is now discharging with entire satisfaction to the people of the community.

**JOHN A. STEELE.** Mr. Steele's father, William Steele, who has been married three times, came from Tennessee to this state, in 1844, three years after the death of his first wife, formerly Miss Mary A. Blackburn, and in 1847 settled in Cooper county, in which he still resides. Of his first marriage there are two sons, John A., the subject of this sketch, and Thomas L., now of Sedalia. John A. Steele was born in Jefferson County, Tennessee, August 20, 1835, and was therefore twelve years of age when his father came to this county. Here he grew up and adopted farming as his life occupation. December 2, 1858, he was married to Miss Eliza J., daughter of Ephraim and Mary M. Batton, of Howard county. She was born October 5, 1842. Nine children resulted from this union: John T., Mary M., Georgia A., wife of Hamilton Christolm, of Kentucky; Francis A., William H., Charles E., Claude W., an infant, deceased; Stanton L., deceased. Mr. Steele has a farm in Clark's Fork township, and he and his wife are members of the Mount Hermon Baptist church.

**PETER WEHMEIER,** merchant and farmer. In October, 1881, Mr. Wehmeier engaged in the general mercantile business at Clark's Fork with Mr. Meyer as his partner, the firm being Meyer & Wehmeier. They carry a large and well selected stock of general merchandise, and have a lucrative and rapidly increasing trade. They have a large new building, built expressly for the purpose, to which they have recently added another room the full length of the store, and, being business men of push and enterprise, they have determined to build up a trade and keep a store equal to the best, in the general line, in the county. Mr. Wehmeier was born in Westphalia, Germany, May 6th, 1824, and was one of six children of Herman Wehmeier and wife, both of whom are now deceased, never having left their native country. Mr. Peter Wehmeier came to this country in 1854, and, after working on a farm in St. Louis county about a year, came to this

county, where he has since lived. He worked as a farm laborer here several years, and then "cropped" himself until 1864, when he bought a tract of land of his own, and afterwards added to it until he built up a handsome farm of the 160 acres, which he still owns and now has leased out. May 15th, 1859, he was married to Miss Martha Feidley, of Baiern, Germany. Of this union there are six children living, of an original family of ten: Catherine, born February 25, 1860, married Henry Mercy; Sophia, born March 21, 1862 ; Maggie, born April 30, 1866 ; Minnie, born August 16, 1870 ; Caroline, born August 11, 1872, and Lena L., born September 25, 1881. Parents and children are all members of the German Lutheran church of Clark's Fork.

**SAMUEL WINDERS.** Mr. Winders' parents, Edward and Nancy (Wooldridge) Winders, settled in this county in 1829, and were from Todd county, Kentucky, of which they were both natives, and in which they were reared and married. The father died here in March, 1855, aged sixty, and the mother ten years afterwards, aged sixty-two. Six of their family of twelve children survive, Samuel, the subject of this sketch, being their sixth born. The father was a well-to-do farmer of this county, and left a good farm at his death of nearly four hundred acres. Samuel Winders was born here September 7th, 1836, and grew up to the occupation of a farmer, which he has since followed. He bought his present farm in 1880-1, and now has a neat place of nearly a hundred acres, which he is busily improving. September 15th, 1868, he was married to Miss Dorinda, daughter of Robert and Mary Scott, of this county. She was born February 27th, 1839. They have two sons, Paul C., born December 4, 1875, and Lilburn S., born February 22d, 1876. Mrs. Winders' father was a soldier in the war of 1812, and was in the battle of New Orleans, under General Jackson, During his service in the city, and while standing guard, he captured a British soldier and delivered his prisoner to the commanding officer in person. He was a man of great bravery and unflinching patriotism.

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