

BIOGRAPHICAL

1883 History of Howard and Cooper Counties

CLEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP

WILLIAM H. C. BURGER, proprietor Burger Hotel and liveryman, Pleasant Green. Mr. Burger's father, Henry Burger, was one of the early settlers of Cooper county, becoming a resident of this county as early as 1814. He was originally from Tennessee, but his wife, the mother of William H. C., formerly Miss May T. Titsworth, was a Kentuckian by birth. They had a family of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fourth. William H. C. Burger was born in Cooper county, July 31, 1841, and on attaining his majority engaged in farming for himself, which he continued to follow up to the time of opening his hotel in Pleasant Green. While on the farm he also dealt in live stock to a considerable extent, and both as a farmer and a stock dealer achieved substantial success. In 1882, however, he became the owner of his present hotel property, and at once opened the Burger hotel, and also engaged in the livery business. He keeps a good hotel, which has acquired a wide reputation as a comfortable, agreeable stopping place and his livery stable is supplied with an ample stock of horses, buggies, etc., to accommodate the traveling public. Mr. Burger was married October 25, 1865, to Miss Sallie Wooldridge, of this county. They have four children, Harvey, William, John and Preston; having lost two.

COLONEL CHARLES A. EVERETT, general merchant, Pleasant Green. Colonel Everett is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana., and was born December 29, 1833. His father was a prominent citizen of that city, and the son was educated in the east at Bridgeport, Connecticut. However, while he was still a youth he lost both his parents, and was therefore compelled to make his own way in the world from a comparatively early age. In about 1848 he engaged as clerk in the leading hardware store of his native city, and held that position with great satisfaction to his employers until the outbreak of the civil war. When the conflict opened, like the other representatives of the warm-blooded young chivalry of the south, he rallied to uphold -

"The three-barred ensign; which, full high advanced,
Shone like a meteor streaming to the wind."

For four long years he fought under the banner of the new-born republic, until it fell to rise no more, amid

"The tramp, the shout, the fearful thunder-roar
Of red-breathed cannon, and the wailing cry
Of myriad victims -"

He was in most of the principal battles of the war, and now carries five scars to attest the heroic part he took in that terrible struggle. He enlisted in the first company raised in New Orleans, the Washington artillery, of which he was lieutenant. Shortly afterwards he was promoted to the captaincy of the company, and then, by regular promotions, became colonel of his regiment. After the war, in 1867, he went to New York City and engaged as traveling salesman for a wholesale house, in which he continued three years. He then came to St. Louis and followed the same business for a house there a number of years, and until he located at Smithton, in Pettis county, in the general mercantile business. From Smithton he came to Pleasant Green in 1879, where he has since continued. Here he has an excellent store in the general mercantile line, and has built up an extensive and profitable trade. He is a gentleman of popular manners, good business qualifications, and is highly esteemed in and around Pleasant Green, and wherever known.

JAMES W. LONG, farmer. Among the substantial and prosperous farmers of Cooper county, James W. Long may be singled out as worthy of special mention. He commenced in life for himself practically without anything, and by his industry and intelligence has placed himself in the front rank of the successful farmers of the county. His homestead contains nearly 300 acres of flue land, and is exceedingly well improved. It has good buildings, good fencing, etc., and is well grassed, well watered, and in every respect is an excellent grain and stock farm. He was born in Loudoun county, Virginia, October 24, 1846, and was a son of Conrad and Nancy (Crooks) Long, of that county. He remained in his native state until 1856, engaged in farming, and then removed to Missouri, settling in this county, where he has since lived. For a number of years Mr. Long has given considerable attention to raising and dealing in stock, in which he has had satisfactory success. He married Miss Sarah Corvine, of Virginia. They have eleven children living: Anna E., Sarah V., Lucinda, Mary, William, Samuel E., John E., Edward L., Robert, Daisy and Frederick. Besides these Mr. Lang reared eight

orphan children. Certainly he has kept the first commandment of God, given in the garden of Eden, and, like the Master, as sung by David, has "relieved the orphan" Mr. Long is a member of the Masonic order.

JOHN D. McCUTCHEEN, farmer. John D. is a son of Judge McCutchen, whose sketch appears in the Pilot Grove division of these biographies. The son was brought up on his father's farm, and Judge McCutchen, being a man of ample means, and of advanced and liberal ideas in regard to education, gave his children excellent school advantages. After mastering the curriculum of studies taught in the ordinary schools, John D. became a matriculate in McGee college, where he remained until he acquired a superior education. Returning home at the conclusion of his college course, he engaged in school teaching in the vicinity, and followed that until 1873, when, being of an enterprising mind, and believing from what he had heard and read of the Pacific coast that that country offered superior advantages to young men who have the energy and ambition to accomplish something in life, he went to California, but his expectations of the "land of gold and the vine" were not entirely fulfilled, and accordingly he remained on the gem-decked shores of the American Hesperides but one year. On his trip, however, with all eye open to all opportunities, he saw that there was more gold to be made in the stock business in Colorado, than in searching for it among the rocks of the Pacific coast. In 1874, therefore, he entered largely into this business in the centennial state, and followed it with excellent success for six years. He then returned to his old home in Cooper county, and in January of the following year (1882) became a member of the mercantile firm of J. T. Ellis & Co., at Pilot Grove, but one year afterwards sold out his interest in the business and settled down to the honorable and independent life of a farmer, on his present farm. Mr. McCutchen is now thirty-four years of age, having been born in this county September 20, 1849, and, possessed of the energy and business qualifications he is, he has every promise of becoming one of the prominent citizens and successful men of Cooper county. He is a worthy and active member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In farming Mr. McCutchen is associated with Mr. H. L. Tutt. Together they own about 300 acres of splendid land, all under fence and well improved, and, besides growing, large quantities of grain of the various kinds, they make a specialty of raising fine, high-grade cattle.

WILLIAM RISLER, farmer. Although Mr. Risler settled in this county from Virginia only ten years ago, he has long since become thoroughly and somewhat prominently identified with the agricultural interests of the county. A man of untiring industry and energy, he was a successful farmer in the Old Dominion before he made Missouri the state of his adoption, and, buying a farm of nearly 400 acres of good land on coming to Cooper county, he went to work improving it and stocking it with good breeds of stock in a manner that soon placed him among our most progressive and enterprising farmers. He was born in Jefferson county, Virginia, June 22, 1820. His father, George Risler, was a native of Pennsylvania, but his mother, formerly Miss Mary Roland, was a Virginian. William was the second of their family of six children. In 1849 he was one of the vast army of enterprising and adventurous spirits who braved the dangers and hardships of a journey across the continent to the gold fields of California. He remained on the Pacific coast six years, and then returned to his old Virginia home not altogether disappointed in the hopes with which he set out with the "old forty-niners" He resumed farming in his native state and continued it there until his emigration to Missouri in 1873. November 22, 1870, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Tavenner, of Virginia. One child has blessed their married life, an interesting little daughter, Bessie.

J. G. ROBERTS, farmer and stock dealer. The life of Mr. Roberts has been more than an ordinary one, and his energy and enterprise have not been without substantial results. Mining, military service and agricultural pursuits have principally occupied his time. Since the close of the war he has been engaged in farming and the stock business in this county. He has a splendid farm of over half a section of land, and has it well improved and well stocked. His herd of short-horn cattle contains some of the best representatives of that breed of high grades in the county. The mules and sheep, which he also makes a specialty of raising, are of the best class of stock in those lines. As a farmer and stock raiser he justly ranks among the most enterprising and successful in the county. Mr. Roberts is a native of Tennessee, and was born in Roans county December 6, 1826. His parents, L. B. and Susan (Davis) Roberts, were both South Carolinians by birth, but emigrated to Tennessee in early life, where they reared their family. On arriving at the age of twenty-one, J. G. Roberts, the subject of this sketch, came to Missouri and engaged in mercantile business at Linn creek, then an important wholesale centre in southwest Missouri. Three years later he was attracted to the far west by the mining excitement of Colorado, and crossed the plains to the now Centennial state by a prairie schooner transport drawn by an ox team. He followed mining there in the rocky ribs of the Cordilleras until 1852, when he braved the perils of a voyage across the Pacific and into the treacherous and then little known waters of the Antarctic ocean to Australia. Arrived on the far off continent, where the "east and the west meet," he bravely went to work at mining in that distant and little known country, and followed it for two long years amid the greatest hardships and dangers. But in 1854 he directed his course homeward again, recrossing the ocean, and after an absence of over seven years of adventures of the most trying and perilous kind, arrived at Linn creek, which he had left in 1847. There he resumed his former business in the mercantile line, in which he continued without material interruption until 1861, when he removed to Vernon county, this state, and turned his attention to farming. But the civil war soon broke out in all its fury, and it had not long been in progress before he enlisted in company I, Burbrige's regiment of General J. S. Marmaduke's division, and while in this command was taken prisoner and

kept at Fort Leavenworth and other points. He afterwards, however, succeeded in rejoining the Confederate army, with which he continued until the general surrender in 1865. He then came back to Cooper county and settled on his present farm. In March, 1856, Mr. Roberts was married to Miss Alsia S. Walker, of this county. They have one child, S. W., and have lost three: Robert W., an infant and Rebecca J. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church south, and of the Masonic fraternity.

ISAAC T. TAVENNER, farmer. Mr. Tavenner, the subject of this sketch, was the fourth of a family of five children of Jesse and Celia (Morris) Tavenner, originally of Virginia, but later of this county, and was born in Jefferson county, of the Old Dominion, June 23, 1840. The grandfather of Isaac T., on the mother's side, was a gallant soldier of the country in the war of the revolution, and followed the flag of the new born republic until it floated in triumph at Yorktown. In 1855 Jesse Tavenner emigrated from Virginia with his family and settled in this county, where Isaac T., then fifteen years of age, grew to manhood. Reared on a farm the son, on attaining his majority, adopted farming as his life occupation, and this he has since followed without interruption, except about one year during the late war. He now has a neat farm, containing three forty acre tracts and upwards, of good land, all under fence and in good state of improvement. In 1864 he enlisted in the Confederate service under General Shelby, and continued in his command until the close of the war. November 11, 1869, he was married to Miss Susan Ferrell, originally of Virginia. They have four children: Isaac N., Engenia, Richard and Anna. One is dead Willie.

H. L. TUTT, farmer. Mr. Tuft was born in Cooper county December, 26, 1847, and was a son of Dr. Samuel Tutt, for many years a prominent physician and leading citizen of the county, but a Virginian by birth. Mrs. Tutt, the mother of H. L., formerly of Miss Elizabeth Hutchison, was from Kentucky. H. L., the son, was reared in Boonville, and in youth had the advantages afforded by the preparatory schools of this city. In due time he was sent to William Jewell college, of Liberty, Missouri, where he pursued a more advanced course of studies and acquired an excellent education. After his college course he engaged in farming near Bell Air in this county, and followed that occupation until 1874, when he went to Colorado and became interested with his cousin, John D. McCutchen, in the stock business. As stated in the latter's sketch, they remained in the Silver Mountain state some seven years, or until 1881. On his return home, Mr. Tutt resumed farming, and now, jointly with his cousin, runs a handsome farm of 292 acres of land - an excellent grain and stock farm. Industrious, enterprising and experienced in both general farming and stock raising, these gentlemen can hardly fail of taking rank at an early day among the foremost agriculturists and stock men of the country.

P. G. WALKER, farmer and stock raiser. In the very front rank of the farmers and stock raisers of Cooper county stands P. G. Walker, the subject of this sketch. With a landed estate of over 2,500 acres, including a splendid farm, well improved, and well supplied with pastures and water, he has one of the best stock farms, and, at the same time, one of the best grain farms in the county. Besides giving his attention to raising short-horn cattle, of which he has a fine herd, he also makes a specialty of raising fine mules for the general markets. He is a native of the county, and was born March 22, 1833. His father, Samuel Walker, was originally from Kentucky, but settled in this county as early its 1823, and became a leading and successful farmer. His mother, formerly Miss Nancy Cockrell, was born in Virginia. P. G. Walker was reared on his father's farm, and has made agriculture his occupation for life, in which he has achieved the most satisfactory success. Annually he feeds large numbers of cattle for shipment, and his stock in this line being of an extra quality, always bring the first market prices. On the 12th of June, 1860, Mr. Walker was married to Miss Fannie Boulware, of this state. They have six children living Mattie, Lou A., Presley, Samuel, George and Alma. Three are dead: Agnes, Middleton and Alice. Mr. W. is a member of the M. E. church south.

A. WALKER, farmer. Mr. Walker is one of the representative farmers and stock raisers of Cooper county. Brought up to the occupation of farming, he has all the practical knowledge of the business a life time devoted to it necessarily implies, and, in addition to this, has the advantage of a thorough education, which in these days of scientific, progressive farming, is almost as necessary to complete success in this calling as in any other. His landed estate contains a thousand acres of the best condition. His herd of short-horns is one of the best in the county, and he feeds, annually large numbers of cattle for the wholesale markets, having at the present time 250 head of fine steers. He is a native of this county, where his whole life thus far has been spent, and comes of one of the best families in the county. Judge Anthony S. Walker, his father; was originally from Bourbon county, Kentucky, where he was born November 19, 1805, but when twenty-one years of age, in 1826, came to Missouri, and located on the farm where A. A., his son, now lives. April 31, 1831, he was married to Miss Mary E. Read, formerly of Kentucky, and of their family of six children, A. A. was the fourth. He was born April 15, 1839. The father died September 26, 1863, and the mother about nine years afterwards, June 20, 1872. Judge Walker was for many years, and up to the time of his death, one of the most prominent citizens of the county. Besides being a leading and wealthy farmer, he was for a number of years judge of the county court, and was a member of the legislature as early as 1844, and again at the time of the outbreak of the war in 1861. He was the first postmaster ever appointed in his homestead township, and kept the office at his residence for a number of years. He was universally esteemed and respected by his neighbors and acquaintances, and his death was deeply regretted by all who knew him. A man of liberal

ideas and of good education himself, he was careful that his children should enjoy the best of school advantages. Accordingly, the subject of this sketch, A. A. Walker, after taking a thorough course in the preparatory schools, entered the state university at Columbia, in which he continued as a student until 1859, when he graduated with marked honor. Returning home after his university course, he gave his undivided attention to farming, and has continued in this ever since. In December, 1868, he was married to Maggie, an accomplished daughter of Doctor Samuel Tutt, one of the foremost physicians and most highly respected citizens of the county. Mrs. Walker is an active and exemplary member of the Baptist church, and is a lady of rare grace of mind and person. Mr. and Mrs. Walker have one daughter, Margaret.

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