

BIOGRAPHICAL

1883 History of Howard and Cooper Counties

KELLY TOWNSHIP

ANDREAS BESTGEN, farmer and stock raiser; also notary public and clerk of the school board. Among the successful farms and substantial citizens of Cooper county, of foreign birth, whose biographies deserve insertion in this work, is the subject of the present sketch. Mr. Bestgen was born in Prussia, July 8, 1818, and was the youngest of three brothers of a family of six children, reared by Andreas Bestgen, Sr., and wife, whose maiden name was Miss Catherine Kelspach, both natives of the same country. Andreas, Jr., received a good education in youth in his native language, and, in accordance with the regulations there, learned a trade. He acquired that of a millwright, and also learned, the general milling business, in both of which he was more or less engaged until his immigration to this country. The father died in Prussia in 1840, and seven years afterwards, Andreas, Peter, a married sister, and his mother, came to America, and settled in Moniteau county, this state. Here, the following year, February 26, 1848, he was married to Miss Catherine, daughter of Cornelius Atter, originally of Germany. After his marriage he continued to live in Moniteau county until 1854, when he removed to Cooper, and bought land near Pisgah. He lived there until 1868, and then located on the farm where he now lives. He has over 300 acres of food land, 200 acres of which are in his home farm. This is well improved, with good buildings, fences, an orchard, etc. Besides ordinary farming he gives some attention to stock raising. Mr. and Mrs. Bestgen have a family of nine children : Catherine, wife of Peter Kammerich ; Mary, wife of Henry Miller; John, Barbara, wife of William Schmidt; Roda, wife of John Knipp; Andrew, Maggie, Ellen and Pio. Mr. Bestgen, was appointed notary public, in 1862, by the governor, and has held the office by successive appointments ever since - over twenty years. He is now also clerk of the local school board. He and his wife are both members of the Catholic church, as are also his children.

GEORGE J. BULL. One of the time-honored, substantial and worthy citizens of Palestine township is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. He is a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and was born August 13, 1824. Mr. Bull is a twin brother of Thomas H. Bull, of Clark's Fork township, this county, and the two with their families always celebrate their anniversaries together at the residence of one or the other. They were sons of John and Jane (Phillips) Bull who settled in this county in 1836, when George J. and Thomas H. were lads but twelve years of age. The first two years of his residence in Cooper county the father was engaged in merchandising, but he then improved a farm in Palestine and Clark's Fork township, where he lived until his death. Their mother is still living (1883) at the advanced age of eighty-seven. Both parents were natives of the Old Dominion. George J., after he grew up, was married September 9, 1852, to Miss Albertine, daughter of John F. Venlemans, of Cooper county. She is a native of Belgium, where she was reared, but came to this country with her parents in early maidenhood. She is a versatile linguist, being able to speak fluently three languages. Mr. and Mrs. Bull have three children: John M., Mary, wife of John Whittaker, and James Jefferson. Immediately after his marriage Mr. Bull settled on the farm where he now lives, where he followed farming and stock raising with excellent success until his retirement from the active duties of the farm a short time ago. He takes an active interest in public affairs and particularly in politics. He has been twice a delegate to the county convention, and enjoys the entire confidence of his party (the democratic) and of the whole community. He and his family are members of the Catholic church.

C. K. CULLERS, farmer and stock raiser. The lives of few men in Cooper county have been characterized by greater activity or more enterprise than has that of Mr. Cullers. He is a native of Virginia, and was born in Page county January 23, 1825. His father, John, and another, Mary (Keyser) Cullers, were also born and reared in the Old Dominion. C. K. had excellent school advantages in youth. Besides the instruction of the common schools he also had the benefit of a course at high school. In the latter he became proficient in the more advanced branches, particularly in mathematics, including surveying. After the completion of his education he went to New Orleans, and spent two years there in the grocery business. In 1847 he came out from the Crescent City to Kentucky, and merchandised, in partnership with his uncle, at Greenupsburgh until 1850. By that time the California gold excitement was at its highest, and he joined the innumerable throng bound for the golden coast. He went, however, by New Orleans and the South. He remained in the far off Occident over two years, engaged principally in mining and during this time made several trips to Oregon. Returning in the spring of 1853, he spent the summer in Virginia and in the following winter organized a squad of eight young men and went back to the Pacific coast. He then worked in the gold mines nearly three years, but returned to his native state in 1856, and on the 19th of June of that year was married to Miss Margaret, daughter of Nathaniel Tapp, of Page county. The current summer he spent in Ohio, and the following fall came to Missouri and settled in Cooper county. Here he bought the well-known

Jolly farm, one of the oldest and finest in the county. It is well improved with a two-story brick dwelling, good barn, an excellent orchard, etc. It contains nearly 200 acres, all under fence. Mr. and Mrs. Cutlers have three children: M. L., in the grocery business at Tipton ; Maggie, an instrumental music teacher of superior attainments in her profession, and Commil K. Mr. C. and family are members of the Missouri Baptist church and of the I. O. G. T. He is also a member of the Masonic order.

JESSE M. DANIEL, farmer and stock dealer. Among the thrifty farmers and well respected citizens of Kelly township, Mr. Daniel may not improperly be singled out for special mention. He was born in Montgomery county, Kentucky, April 3d, 1842, and was a son of Captain Charles W. and Matilda (Daniel) Daniel, who came from that state in 1867 and settled in Cooper county. Captain Daniel died here in the fall of the same year. Jesse M. came out to this county with his parents and bought the farm where he now lives. He has an excellent place of 320 acres, all in cultivation except a small piece of timbered land. His residence is a substantial, well constructed, two-story building, and his farm is enclosed with good hedge and rail fencing. It is otherwise well improved. He raises grain and deals to some extent in live stock. June 3d, 1862 he was married to Miss Virginia, a daughter of James H. Speed. His wife is a native of the county, and was here reared and educated. They were married, however, in St. Louie county. Mr. and Mrs. Daniel have a family of six children Charles B., Matilda A., James S., Virginia A., Mary F. and Jessie M. They have lost two: Lucy, died August 6th, 1867, and Rosa, June 19th, 1871, both in infancy. Both parents are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church.

PORTER E. DAVIS, farmer, stock raiser and dealer. The biography of the Davis family reveals, with more than ordinary clearness, the qualities of courage, adventure, resolution, untiring industry and solid worth, possessed by the men who came west from the older states, and have made this section - one of the fairest and most prosperous parts of the Union. On his father's side he is of Virginia parentage, on his mother's of Georgia extraction. His grandfather, John Davis, and his father, Captain Phillip Davis, were both natives of the Old Dominion. Captain Davis, his father, was a dauntless soldier under Jackson, in the war of 1812. He went to Tennessee in an early day, and there met and married Miss Cynthia Jennings, a fair daughter of the Empire State of the south, Georgia. They lived in Franklin county, Tennessee, near Winchester, where Porter E. was born in February, 1816 until 1829, when they removed to Missouri and settled on a farm in Kelly township, this county. Afterward Captain Davis crossed the plains several times, and was often with Kit Carson in the west, the two being intimate friends. He served as captain of the militia for a number of years during the old muster days, and was one of the leaders among the old pioneers and early settlers of the county. Porter E. grew up mainly in this county, and started out for himself early in life. He was married here in about 1836, to Miss Joan, daughter of Peter Stevens, one of the first settlers of the county. Four years after his marriage he returned to Morgan county where he lived some thirty-five years, and became one of the most prosperous farmers of the county. He still owns a fourth interest in 2,200 acres of land there. In 1873 he bought a farm in Kelly township, Cooper county and removed to it, and in the spring of 1883 bought the place where he now lives. He also owns land in Bates county. Mr. Davis attributes his success in life to the habits of steady industry, to which he was brought up, and which have never forsaken him. All he has he owes alone to his own exertions. Economy and good management have enabled him to save what he has made. He is one of the successful farmers and stock men of the county. While Mr Davis has prospered in the material interests of life, he and his good wife have been peculiarly unfortunate in their family. They have had nine children, all but three of whom have been borne to their graves. Those living are Alpha, wife of Dr. O. A. Williams, of Morgan county, prominent in public life and in his profession in that county ; Nannie, wife of John V.P. Nelson, and Mollie, widow of Gibson Ector, who died in April, 1883. John A., died in 1883, aged thirty-three; William T., died in military service during the war; Cynthia, the wife of Charles B. Sales, present collector of Morgan county, died in 1881. The others died earlier in life. Mrs. Davis is a member of the Baptist church.

A. J. EUBANK, farmer and stock feeder and dealer. Achille Eubanks, the father of A. J., was a native of Virginia, and was a soldier in the war of 1812. He was twice married; first in Virginia and afterward in Kentucky, to which state he had removed, his first wife having died some years previous. He came to Missouri with his family in 1830, and bought land in Kelly township, where A. J. now lives, which he partly improved, and there he died in 1844. A. J. was born of his father's second marriage, February 28, 1851, in this county. His mother whose maiden name was Nancy Ware is still living, and for a number of years has drawn a pension from the government on account of her husband's service in the army: He was a member of Captain Wadkins company in Colonel Bowman's regiment. A. J. Eubank. was brought up on his father's farm in this county, and obtained a good ordinary education in the common schools. On the 5th of March, 1863, he was married in Boonville to Miss Mary E., daughter of Abner Bailey, of this county. This union has been blessed with eight children: Lula, Nancy, Roberta, Robert Lee, Joseph, Thomas, Sallie Lee, Lotta Reavis, John Davis and an infant daughter. Mr. Eubank has 223 acres of land under fence and in a good state of improvement. He makes a specialty of buying and feeding stock. He feeds from seventy-five to one hundred and fifty head of cattle and about one hundred head of hogs. In this business he is very successful. His wife is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church.

J. HERNDON GOODWIN, farmer and stock raiser. Mr. Goodwin was in his infancy when his parents J. C. G. and Amanda (Herndon) Goodwin emigrated from Kentucky, in 1844, and settled in Cooper county. His father was a native of Louisa county, Virginia, and was born October 10th, 1810. As he grew up he received a thorough English and classic education, taking a complete course in the famous Hampden and Sidney college, of Virginia, from which he was duly graduated. When a young man he came out to Kentucky, where he was married to his first wife. She was a daughter of John Herndon, of Scott county, Kentucky, and- a sister to Linsford Herndon, a leading banker of Georgetown, in that county. After their immigration to that state Mr. Goodwin, the father of J. H., became one of the largest land holders and wealthiest farmers and business men of Cooper county. He owned 2,000 acres of land, 1,600 acres of which were in one tract, and a large portion of this was well improved with a fine brick dwelling, good outbuildings, substantial fences, etc. He held numerous local offices, and was postmaster at Vermont station, where he lived for nearly forty years. He was a large stock dealer, and also carried on a general store in addition to his other interests. He was noted for his close attention to business and his unswerving integrity. His first wife died in March, 1863. He afterward married Miss Lizzie A. Gilbert. By his first marriage three sons and two daughters were reared, and these are old residents of the county, except one daughter. By his second union there is one son. The father died January 3d, 1883, leaving his estate divided by will equally among his children. J. Herndon Goodwin, the subject of this sketch, is the eldest son living by his father's first marriage, and was born August 7th, 1843. He was reared in this county, and was educated in a private academy. under the instruction of Professor Cully, an able educator, now the superintendent of the Sedalia schools. After completing his scholastic course, Mr. Goodwin was married to Miss Fannie, daughter of M. B. Gentry, originally of Madison county, Kentucky. She was educated at the Bunceton high school. They have two sons, Gentry and Wallace. Mr. Goodwin has a good farm of 320 acres, enclosed with an excellent hedge fence, and subdivided into convenient lots by cross fences. Most of his farm is set with blue grass, timothy and clover, and he makes a specialty of stock raising. He has a herd of about 60 head of thoroughbred and high grade cattle, and he also deals in mules. His farm improvements are all of a good class. Mrs. Goodwin is a member of the Baptist church.

WILLIAM T. GROVES, farmer. Mr. Groves' father, William Groves, was an old time, hospitable, well-to-do farmer of the Old Dominion. He had a large farm near Warrenton, in Fauquier county, and, having a fine orchard, he made large quantities of brandy. His cellar was never without a pure article of that good, old Virginia beverage, old enough to go on the retired list of the army, and his cellar door was as open to his friends as his great, generous heart was hospitable and kind. He led a quiet, unobtrusive life, and died in the esteem and friendship of his neighbors and of all who knew him. His wife, who was spared to bless his home and brighten his life for many years, was an amiable, excellent woman, worthy to have been the wife of such a man. She was formerly a Miss Sallie Pritchett of the well known Pritchett family of Virginia. William T. was born, August 2, 1828, and grew up on his father's farm. At the age of twenty-four, in 1852, he came to Missouri and located near Boonville, devoting himself to farming. In September of the following year he was married to Miss Margaret, daughter of Samuel Cole, one of the pioneer settlers of Cooper county. Three children followed this happy union: James U., Samuel H., and William T., Jr. But death came knocking at his door and took from him his devoted wife. She died January 19, 1868. Nearly four years afterward Mr. Groves was again married; December 28, 1871. His present wife was formerly Miss Anna F. Morton, a daughter of John Morton. She was born in Gloucester, Camden county, New Jersey, October 11, 1858. She is a worthy and excellent lady and bears her part well and cheerfully in making their way through the world. They also have three children: John Robert, Clara Belle and Cora A. From near Boonville Mr. Groves removed to Palestine township. In 1879 he sold his place in Palestine and came to Kelly township where he has since lived. He is an industrious, well-respected farmer and a good neighbor and citizen. He and his wife are members of the Baptist church. .

GEORGE HARNED, farmer and stock raiser, section 16. If, as is self evident, this work would be incomplete without sketches of the more public spirited of the successful farmers and substantial, well-to-do citizens of Cooper county, then the biography of the subject of this sketch justly finds a place in this volume. George Harned was born in Nelson county, Kentucky, April 11, 1829, and was reared in his native county. Of an enterprising turn of mind, at the age of twenty-two he came west and located in Missouri, and two years afterwards, in 1855, returned to Kentucky to be married to his present wife, then Miss Marcia Pash, daughter of Wesley Pash, of Nelson county. They were married on the 9th of August of that year. Upon their marriage they came out to their new home, and Mr. Harped bought land in Scott county and followed farming there for ten years. In 1865 he sold his farm in Scott county and removed to Cooper county, buying the place where he now lives. He has followed farming here with great energy and success, and now owns more than 1,200 acres of land in four different farms. His homestead place contains 390 acres, all but thirty acres of which is under fence and is well improved, including a good residence, good barns, a good orchard, excellent fencing, etc. He gives some attention to raising fine cattle, and has a number of thoroughbred short-horns of the best breeds. Mr. and Mrs. H. have four children: William P., Benjamin, Edwin P. and Hulda. Mr. H. is a member of the Christian church, and his wife and daughter are connected with the Baptist denomination. Mr. Harned's parents, Benjamin and Ellen (Lee) Harped, were both natives of Kentucky, and were highly respected residents of Nelson county.

WILLIAM McCURDY, DECEASED. In 1709 the founder of the McCurdy family in this country emigrated from Ireland, and settled on a farm in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, which remained in the possession of and was occupied by himself and his lineal descendants for 109 years. On this place William McCurdy, the subject of the present memoir, was born in August, 1806. In 1818 his parents, Watson and Agnes (Warner) McCurdy, removed from the old hereditary homestead in the Keystone state and settled in Jefferson county, Virginia. There William grew to manhood and remained until 1840, when he came west and located in Cooper county. He was a man of great energy, untiring industry and a good manager. Before he came to the county he had accumulated some means and here he bought and entered land, and afterwards added to his landed possessions until, at the time of his death, he owned 700 acres in this county and 500 acres in Bates county. It goes without saying that he was a successful farmer, stock raiser and business man. But more important and better than this, he was an upright, good man; a man in whose death all that knew him felt a loss. He was a member of no church, but what others talked of he did.

"Formed on the good old plan,
A true and brave and downright honest man!
He blew no trumpet In the market-place,
Nor in the church with hypocritic face
Supplied with cant the lack of Christian grace;
Loathing pretence he did with cheerful will
What others talked of, while their hands were still."

He left a wife and four children to mourn his loss and cherish his memory. His widow, formerly Miss Jane Cooper, to whom he was married, March 4, 1856, is a daughter of John Cooper, of Howard county. Her parents removed to Howard county from Christian county, Kentucky, where she was born in 1836. Her children are Susan, James W., Jodie E., wife of W. H. Gowens, and Maud. Mrs. McCurdy and her unmarried children live on the homestead in Kelly township, which contains 620 acres of land well improved.

A. M. NELSON, farmer and stock raiser, section 19. The Nelson family has long been prominently identified with the material prosperity and social life of this county. That branch of it to which the subject of this sketch belongs, comes of Captain James O. Nelson, a worthy son of the Old Dominion, who emigrated to Cooper county, this state, in 1836. His wife was formerly Miss Mary Hirst, of another leading family of the county, and both were natives of Fauquier county, Virginia. Captain Nelson became a leading farmer of Cooper county and an influential citizen. He died on his homestead in Kelly township, in December, 1861. Besides possessing in a marked degree the qualities that make successful, prominent men, he was a remarkably kind hearted man, generous, hospitable, true in every relation of life, and as upright and conscientious in all he did as the most punctilious could exact. He led a more than ordinarily pure and blameless life, and died sadly regretted by friends and acquaintances and deeply mourned by his family. The youth of A. M. Nelson was occupied with farm duties and in attendance at school. After growing up and receiving a good, practical education, he started out in the world for himself. He made a trip overland to California with stock in 1853, and returned by Nicaragua and New York. The following year he made another similar trip. In both of these he was entirely successful. After his second return he gave his whole attention to agricultural interests in this county. In June, 1868 he was married to Miss M. L. Tucker, a daughter of W. G. Tucker, of Cooper county. She, however, was born in Kentucky before her parents came to this county. Mr. Nelson was born November 19, 1829. He was seven years old when his parents removed from Fauquier county, Virginia, to this county, in 1836. He has been living on his present farm since 1872. It contains 540 acres of good land all under fence, and otherwise well improved. He is one of the enterprising, thorough going farmers of the county, and as a neighbor and citizen he is esteemed and respected by all. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have a family of six children: James M., Estella T., Ada B., Lillian A., Mary E., and Lydia A. Mrs. Nelson is a member of the Baptist church. Mr. N. is a member of the A. F. and A. M. of Tipton.

E. D. NELSON, farmer and stock raiser, sections 29 and 30. Mr. E. D. Nelson is the second son of the late Captain Nelson, whose life is outlined in the sketch of his eldest son, A. M. Nelson. In this family there were five sons and three daughters, six of whom are now living, four sons and a daughter, in this county, and one daughter in Sedalia, Missouri. E. D., the subject of this sketch, was born before his parents left Virginia, in Fauquier county, December 12th, 1831. He was, therefore, in his fifth year when they removed to this state, in 1836. Reared in an early day in this county, his education was necessarily limited to the ordinary English branches. Still he acquired a sufficient knowledge of books for all practical purposes. Brought up on a farm, he very naturally adopted agricultural pursuits as his occupation for life. At the age of twenty-one he was married to Miss H. J., daughter of Joseph and Catherine Stephens, of this county, and sister to Joseph Stephens, Sr. Her family were among the first settlers of the county. After his marriage Mr. Nelson continued farming in this county until 1858, when he removed to Pettis county. He lived there for three years, and in 1861 moved, with his family, to Texas, in company with Benton Stephens and family; Jackson Stephens, Thomas Wolf, his brother-in-law, and family; Mitchell Houstberger and family, and Mrs. Nelson's mother. They were a month on the road by wagon teams, and

on their arrival in the Lone Star state settled in Denton county. Mr. Nelson enlisted in Jackson's company of Colonel Stone's cavalry regiment, in 1862, and served until the close of the war. After the war he resumed farming and the stock business in Texas, and remained there for three years, but in 1868 returned to Cooper county. He located on his present farm in 1870, a neat place of nearly a quarter section of land, all under fence and in an excellent state of cultivation. Besides this, he has a tract of land in section 29. He has always made a specialty of raising stock, and feeding and shipping to the general markets. More particularly, he buys cattle, hogs, sheep, etc., and ships to the wholesale markets. In these lines he has been highly successful, being a thoroughly qualified and experienced stock man. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have two children, Mary Catherine, wife of Charles Francis, of Pettis county, and Joseph O. They have lost one daughter, Harriet Etta, who died in infancy. Both parents are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church.

JAMES O. NELSON, farmer, section 30, is a brother of A. M. Nelson, whose sketch precedes this, and is a younger son of Captain Nelson, there referred to. He was born long after his parents removed to this county, on the 12th of June, 1851. Good schools had been established all over the county before he grew up, so that in youth he had excellent advantages to acquire an education. After mastering the curriculum of the common schools, he took a course in high school and traversed the higher branches. Reared on a farm, his tastes were there formed for an agricultural life, and at the conclusion of his scholastic course, he entered vigorously upon geopanic pursuits. In 1874, still un-united in that mystic union which God is said to join together, the accepted sum and consummation of all human economy, he located on his present farm, where he lived in bachelorhood for six years. But,

" To chase the clouds of life's tempestous hours,
To strew its short but weary way with flowers,
New hopes to raise, new feelings to impart,
And pour celestial balsam on the heart,
For this to man was lovely woman given,
The last, best work, the noblest gift of Heaven."

He was married June 17th, 1880, to Miss Minnie Ramsey, a young lady of rare grace of person and excellence of mind. She is a daughter of Jesse A. Ramsey, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson have one child, Lester R. Both parents are members of the Baptist church. Mr. Nelson's farm covers nearly a quarter section of land, all under fence and in a good state of improvement. He is a neat, successful farmer, and is highly respected as a neighbor and citizen.

JESSE A. RAMSEY. Mr. Ramsey lived in this township for eleven years, from 1872 to 1883, and so worthily was he identified with the material and other interests of the township, and so closely connected is he with some of the best families of the county, that a sketch of himself and family very properly finds a place in this work. He was born in Clark county, Kentucky, January 20th, 1837. His father, Major Franklin H. Ramsey, and his mother, whose name was Miss May Garden prior to her marriage, were both also natives of the Blue Grass state. Jesse grew up in his native county, and received a collegiate education. After completing his college course he engaged in school teaching, which he has followed more or less, in connection with farming, ever since. In 1861 he was married to Miss Lucy A., daughter of E. T. Woodward, of Clark county, Kentucky. Eight years afterwards, in 1872, he moved with his family to Cooper county, this state, and improved an excellent farm on land he had bought. Here he continued farming and school teaching, and soon proved himself a marked success in both occupations. As a farmer he was energetic, enterprising, and a good business manager. As a teacher he became widely known as one of the most thorough and efficient in this part of the county. Mr. Ramsey's family was highly respected and esteemed here by the neighbors and acquaintances among whom they lived. He has five children: Minnie M., whom married Mr. James O. Nelson, of this county, and now resides in Kelly township; Edwin W., Jesse G., Mary K., and Franklin. Mr. R. is a member of the Presbyterian church, and of the Masonic order. His wife, a most amiable and excellent lady, is a member of the Baptist church. In 1883 Mr. Ramsey sold his farm in this county and returned to Kentucky, much to the regret of his neighbors and acquaintances here. He was a valuable citizen of the community, and one whose presence is greatly missed.

COLEMAN RAWLINGS. Farming has thus far constituted Mr. Rawlings' life occupation, and considering what the phrenologists would call the inhabitiveness of the calling, he has led an unusually active life. He was born in Fleming county, Kentucky, February 26, 1815, and was a son of Aaron and Sophia (Fouch) Rawlings, the father originally of Virginia, but the mother a native of Kentucky. When he was twenty years of age he removed with his parents to Indiana, where he lived until 1861. Having married in the meantime, he then went to Illinois and lived in Champaign county for four years. From Illinois he returned to Indiana and farmed in Tippecanoe county until 1871. He then went to Kansas and located in Cherokee county. He remained in that county three years, after which he removed to Illinois, where he lived four years. In 1878 he came to Cooper county, Missouri, where he has since resided. Mr. Rawlings' first wife, whose maiden name was Eliza Decker, died, leaving him five children, who grew to maturity and are now all married. He was

afterwards married to Miss Jane Fills, who was also taken from him by the hand of death. Four children were reared by this union, and one married. His present wife, whose name was formerly Miss Mary Harrison, has borne him one child, now also married. Mr. Rawlings is a member of the Masonic order.

HENRY M. WITHERS, DECEASED. Kentucky has given to Cooper county, and particularly to the northern part of the county, many of its best citizens, but she may contributed none more highly respected, or, for conscientious discharge of duty in every relation of life, more worthy of respect and esteem, than was the subject of this sketch. Henry M. Withers was born in Lincoln county, Kentucky, September 28th, 1808. His father, James Withers, was a native of Fauquier county, Virginia. His mother, whose name before her marriage was Miss Elizabeth Carr, was also originally from the Old Dominion. They came out to Kentucky, however, comparatively early in life, where they reared their family and lived until their death. Of an inquiring, active mind, Henry M., as he grew up, acquired more than a fair education, both by instruction at school and by study at home, He started out early in life on his own account. Possessing to a marked degree the qualities that make successful men, while still a young man he had achieved such success that he was regarded as one of the substantial citizens of his native county. He was strongly domestic in his disposition, and more than ordinarily warm-hearted and ardent in his attachments. Such a man would hardly be expected to go for a life without the happiness which only wife and home can give. Accordingly, in his twenty-fourth year, on the 26th of June, 1832, he was married to Miss China Shackelford, a young lady of rare graces of mind and person, the daughter of Hon. Samuel Shackelford, of Lincoln county, Kentucky. She was three years her husband's junior, having been born on the 10th of April, 1811. Mr. Withers followed farming and also the flour milling and distilling business in his native county until 1857, when he sold out his various interests there and removed to Missouri. In this state he settled near Anderson's Point, in Kelly township, Cooper county, where he followed farming and merchandising until the outbreak of the war. After this he was engaged in farming alone until the time of his death, August 12th, 1879. He was as successful in his new home as he had been in his old. He left a landed estate of over 500 acres, a splendid farm, besides other property. He was a man of more than ordinary natural ability, and was well up in general information and in the current affairs of life. He had long been a worthy member of the Christian church, and was one of the leading lay members of that denomination in his vicinity. None around him were more liberal in contributions for any worthy purpose, charitable or otherwise, than he. His home was the abiding place of generous hearted hospitality, and as a neighbor he was especially kind and accommodating. He died in the respect and esteem of all who knew him, and deeply mourned by his family. He left a wife and six children. Mrs. Withers, a motherly, noble, good woman, still resides on the family homestead. Her children are as follows: George C., in business at Sedalia; Horace, constable of Kelly township ; David B., in the cattle business at Fort Worth, Texas; John K. and Laura, at home.