

BIOGRAPHICAL

1883 History of Howard and Cooper Counties

LEBANON TOWNSHIP

JAMES CORDRY owes his nativity to Todd county, Kentucky, where he was born on the 27th of May 1827. His parents James and Margaret (Murphy) Cordry. The former, a Kentuckian by birth, born in 1795, lived there until the fall of 1830, then settling on the place now occupied by his son in this township. He was a farmer by occupation, but held the position of magistrate for twenty-five years. His marriage occurred in 1824, his wife having been born in the same county as himself. They had seven children: William, Thomas, Mary A., Catharine, James, Adaline and John. Four are now living, all but one in this county. James received but a limited education in the common schools in youth, and was brought up to the occupation of farming. In 1850 he was married to Miss Ann Eliza Robinson, a daughter of Edward Robinson, of Cooper county. She was born in 1829. They were the parents of eight children: DeWitt, born in 1851 ; B. Cora, born in 1852 ; Rice Daniel, born in 1854 ; George Hart, born in 1856 ; Mollie Bersheba, born in 1858 ; Leveret L., born in 1862 ; Eva E., born in 1865, and an infant, now deceased. Only three of their children survive. Mr. Cordry is recognized as a leading and one of the most influential farmers and stock raisers in this township, his landed estate embracing 400 acres on section 5. He takes a great interest in educational matters, and has given his children excellent opportunities for acquiring knowledge, feeling the need of superior places of learning and realizing the importance of good schools. Religiously, he is a Baptist, and has been for thirty years, belonging to the church at Nebo.

RICHARD T. ELLIS, originally from Orange county, Virginia, was born in 1836, his parents being R. P. and Margaret Ellis, nee Ferguson. The firmer, a native of Orange county, Virginia, born in 1809, lived there until 1836. He was married November 25, 1830, his wife having been born in Bath county, Kentucky. To them were born nine children: William V., James T., Richard T., H. M., Mary E., Mildred F., Anna M., M. L. and Walter J. In 1836 Mr. R. P. Ellis came to Missouri, and, settling in Howard county, lived there for three years, at the expiration of which time he entered Cooper county. Here he continuously resided until his death in August, 1862. Richard, the third child in the family, has lived on the old homestead since his father's death. This homestead contains about 800 acres in Cooper and forty acres in Morgan counties, and upon this the mother also lives. About 400 acres are prairie, the remainder being under cultivation. Mr. Ellis owns besides two shares of the estate, land to the extent of eighty acres. He is unmarried. The homestead is one of the best improved in the township, being surmounted by a fine brick residence. Our subject, as a farmer and general stockman, ranks equal to any in the county, and, as a cultivated gentleman, has not his superior. '

J. H. EWING, a representative citizen of this community, was born near Boonville, Cooper county, Missouri, October 26, 1819, and is therefore one of the oldest of the pioneers now living in this county. His father was Reuben A. Ewing, originally from Logan county, Kentucky, born in 1793, who lived in that locality until his marriage in 1813 to Miss Mary Hammond, a daughter of Job Hammond, formerly of Virginia, where she was born in 1796, having lived there until six years old, and then removing with her father to Kentucky. Mr. and Mrs. Ewing had nine children: William C., Mary J., J. H., R. M., Finis Y., Job, who died in infancy, twin daughters, Sallie A. and Margaret R., and Amanda F. Five of this family are now living. In 1818 the senior Ewing, removing to Missouri, settled near Boonville, Cooper county, going thence, in about two years, to the centre of the county. He entered the land upon which he so long lived, making it his home until 1856, when he resided at different times with his children until his death in May, 1871. His widow died in 1875. J. H. Ewing attended the common schools of Cooper county, and has always lived in the vicinity of his present location, with the exception of four years, when engaged in the mercantile business at New Lebanon. On September 10, 1856, he was married to Miss Martha A. Marge, a daughter of F. A. Marge, who came to this county from Virginia in 1851. Mrs. Ewing was born in July, 1836. They are the parents of nine children, of whom eight are living, and all in Cooper county: Margaret S., Mary D., Nannie Lee, Reuben A., Ida F., Everett L., Nadine and Stella. One daughter, Fannie Bell, became the wife of Emanuel Stephens, and died seven months after her marriage. Mr. Ewing is the owner of 285 acres of land in this township and 160 acres in Bates county. He is a man of intelligence and culture, and takes great interest in promoting the growth of his adopted county. Himself, wife and four daughters are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church at New Lebanon, the oldest church in the county, established by Finis Ewing, its first pastor. Politically, he is a democrat, but formerly he was a whip, his father having been the first whip senator of this county - elected in 1840, and serving one term. He was also sheriff of Todd county, Kentucky, for a long time, and for a while magistrate in Cooper county, Missouri. William C. Ewing, a brother of the subject of this sketch, has twice been elected to represent this county in the state legislature. Mr. Ewing resides on section 3.

JAMES W . FLOYD, a Virginian by birth, was born in Wayne county March 16, 1837, and was the son of Nicholas Floyd, also a native of Virginia, born in 1811, who married Miss Eliza Painter. They had eight children: John, James, William, Sarah, Patterson, Darius, Marian F. and Charlie. In 1856 the senior Floyd, with his family, came to Missouri and located near Bunceton, in Cooper county, where he lived until his death in 1875. When twenty-six years of age James W., the second child in the family, went to Idaho territory, where he remained for five years, following freighting. He returned to this county in 1868, and has since made it his home. In 1881 he moved upon his present place, having purchased 150 acres of land in section 25. This is in good cultivation, and will compare favorably with any in the township. Mr. Floyd is making upon it extensive improvements. In 1869 Miss Maggie Parish, daughter of Thomas Parish, of Cooper county, became his wife. They have had a family of five children: Herbert, born in 1870, died in September, 1880 ; Ernest, born in 1872 ; Thomas, born in 1874, died in 1877 ; James, born in 1875, died in 1875, and Oscar, born in October, 1878: In his political preferences Mr. Floyd is democratic.

SAMUEL T. JONES owes his nativity to Christian county, Kentucky, where he was born November 3, 1826. His father, Henry Jones, a Kentuckian by birth, was born about the year 1798, and in 1816 was married to Nancy Flint, of Virginia, she having been born in 1788. Mr. Jones was shot by robbers in 1865, and subsequently died from the effects of it. His wife died in 1848. They had five children, of whom Samuel T. was the fifth. He remained at home until twenty-one years old, at which time he was married, in 1847, to Miss Susan Coffman, of Page county, Virginia, and a daughter of Jacob Coffman, of that state. They have had five children: three infants, who are now deceased, Nancy and P. A., and one of the latter children has also passed away. Mr. Jones came to Missouri in 1835, in company with his father, and located in this county, where he has since resided. His farm embraces 170 acres in section 31 and forty acres in section 36. He has a comfortable residence, above the average, and outbuildings, etc., in proportion. He is a member of the M. E. church south, and also belongs to the Grange. Politically, he is a democrat. Mr. Jones' grandfather, Samuel Jones, was a soldier in the revolutionary war, having entered from Dinwiddie county, Virginia. He was an associate of both Washington and Lafayette, and figured quite conspicuously in the battle of Brandy wine.

THOMAS MURPHY, who was born on the 1st of March, 1810, in Todd county, Kentucky, was a son of William Murphy, a native of South Carolina, born near Charleston in 1772. His wife was formerly: Miss Mary A. Kates, and to them were born ten children, of whom Thomas was the seventh child. He lived with his other for twenty years, and then, leaving home, worked in different localities in Kentucky for some time. In 1848 he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ann Cooper, a daughter of a Mrs. Cooper, a widow, and of Kentucky birth. By this marriage there were five sons and four daughters: John W., Isaac N., William Taylor, Mary A., Thomas, Sarah C., Cleopatra A. F., Joseph and Cornelia A. Mr. Murphy owns 171 acres of land in this township.

JAMES A. MURPHY was born in Todd county, Kentucky, on January 22, 1840. His father, John Murphy, native of Ireland, born in 1803, emigrated to the United States when a boy with his father, and in October, 1825, he married in Trigg county, Kentucky, Miss Letitia Landers, of Kentucky. By this marriage there were seven children: John VV., Mary A., James A., Martillis, Thomas N., who died in 1840, Sallie E. and Lucia E. In 1842 the senior Murphy removed to Missouri and settled in Cooper county, two miles from Syracuse, where he lived until his death in 1859. The subject of this sketch, the third in the family, remained at home until his father's death, when he went to Texas. After remaining some time he returned to Cooper county, and has since lived here. In 1879 he purchased his present farm of 214 acres, which is improved and well watered, and nicely adapted for the raising of stock, to which he devotes considerable attention. This is located in sections 19 and 20, his fine residence being in section 20. Mr. Murphy was married in 1866 to Miss Mary E. Cordry, daughter of John B. Cordry, of this county. They have six children : Robert E., John A., James E., Billy, George T. and Letta Belle. Mr. Murphy is a staunch democrat. He belongs to the Baptist church at Antioch.

PHILANDER SHANKLIN, a native of Robinson county, Tennessee, was born in 1823, and was the son of William H. Shanklin, a Virginian by birth, who married Miss Sarah H. Herring, of the same state. To them were born five children: Bathuel, Adaline, Andrew, Philander and William. The senior Shanklin came to Missouri in the fall of 1830 and settled in Cooper county, on the place now owned by Philander and William Shanklin. He followed farming as his occupation during life, his death occurring in 1865. These brothers now own in Cooper and Morgan counties 640 acres of good land. Their home farm, consisting of 160 acres, in Cooper county, is an excellent one, and is under good fence, and has an abundance of water. William H. Shanklin was one of the earliest settlers of this county, coming here when the deer roamed the prairie unmolested, and when the large gray wolves were numerous. He was, during a portion of his life, a member of the grange.

A. T. SPENCER, a native of New Jersey, was born in 1841. His father, John B. Spencer, a native of England, born about the year 1808, emigrated to the United States in 1840, and settled in New Jersey. After remaining there a short time, he came to Missouri, in 1845, and located in Boonville, Cooper county, moved thence, a short time after, to Pilot Grove

township. He died, February 17, 1882. His wife was formerly Sarah Anti Harrison, and they were the parents of four children : John H., Alexander, A. T. and Elizabeth. Mrs. S. died about the year 1850 or 1853. The subject of this sketch, the third in the family, left home when fourteen years old, going into Saline county, where he stopped for four years. Returning, he stayed at home until he was twenty-one years of age. In 1861 he was married to Miss Sarah C. Bagwell, a daughter of William Bagwell, of Cooper county. By this marriage there were born seven children: James, Thomas, Mary, Lulu, Arthur, Stanley and Leslie. Two died in infancy. Mr. Spencer is a plasterer by trade, and has worked at this occupation quite extensively in Saline, and also north of this county, having acquired quite a reputation in this avocation. Politically, he is a republican. His farm, on section 33, contains 150 acres of land, under good cultivation.

WILLIAM SPILLERS, farmer and stock raiser, section 20, was born in Ohio, December 17, 1827, and was the son of Peter Spillers, a native of South Carolina, born in 1800, who, when about seven years old, accompanied his parents to Kentucky, where his father lived a short time, then returning to Ohio. He was first married in Miami county, of that state, in 1820; to Miss Susanna Coats, of Ohio, and to them were born ten children: Preston, Sarah, George, William, Rebecca, Matilda, Peter, Susan A., Samuel and Rachel. Matilda and Sarah are now deceased. Mr. S. was married a second time to Mrs. Spicy A. Slaughter. The subject of this sketch remained at home until twenty-two years of age, at which time he was married, in 1849, in Randolph county, Indiana, to Miss Mary Harris, a daughter of Obadiah Harris, of Indiana. They have had twelve children: Henry T., Sarah A., Martha, Phoebe E. (now deceased), Peter, George, Mary R., Elizabeth (now deceased), William, Charles, Etta and Ida May. In 1838, Mr. S., leaving Ohio, went to Indiana, and in 1856 removed to Iowa, remaining for two years. In the spring of 1858 he came to Missouri, locating in Cooper county, where he and his father have since lived, save during the war, which time they spent in Indiana. Politically, Mr. S. is a republican. His fine farm contains 138 acres of improved and well watered land.

JOHN F. THOMAS, a native of Cooper county, Missouri, was born on the 24th of October, 1844. He was the son of Jonas Thomas, a native of Tennessee, and Izella Thomas, nee Woolery, mention of whom is made elsewhere in this work. John F., the seventh child in a family of thirteen children, leaving home when twenty-seven years of age, was married, June 27, 1869, to Miss Lizzie Roatcap, a daughter of John Roatcap, of this county. She was born March 22, 1852. To them were born eight children: two infants (twins), Leonard R. and Levord O. (twins), born July 26, 1871 ; George H., born September 11, 1875 ; Edith bore October 4, 1877 ; Cora F., born May 10, 1881, and Millard F., born February 23, 1883. Five of these are now living. Mr. Thomas is the owner of 258 acres of land in this township, 200 acres being prairie and the balance timber land. Upon his home farm is a good residence and other buildings. He is located in section 33, and is one of the most influential citizens of this township. In his political preferences he is republican.

C. M. THOMAS is a native of Cooper county, Missouri, having been born here in 1851. His parents were Jonas and Izella (Woolery) Thomas, the former born in Tennessee in 1816, and the latter, a daughter of George Woolery, of this county. Mr. Thomas was one of the very earliest pioneers of Cooper county, having come here when he was a small boy about five or six years old, and making the settlement in 1821. To Mr. and Mrs. Thomas were born thirteen children, of whom ten are now living. C. M., the youngest of the family, lived with his father until twenty-six years of age. In November, 1877, he was married to Miss Jennie Steele, daughter of the, Hon. D. K. Steele, of Cooper county, one of Cooper's earliest and most honored citizens. By this union there are three children : May, born May 15, 1879 ; Carrie, born October 9, 1881, and Mildred Earle, born September 10, 1882. Mr. Thomas owns eighty acres of land in this township, but occupies and cultivates the farm of his father-in-law. Politically he has ever been a republican. He is a member of the Baptist church at Antioch, and is its clerk.

JEREMIAH TOMLINSON was born February 17, 1819, in Madison county, Kentucky, where his father, Ambrose D. Tomlinson, was also born in 1787, he dying there in 1833. His wife was formerly Miss Frances White, and to them were born nine children: Mourning, Eliza, Lucy, Jeremiah, Nancy, Pauline, Margaret, George and Sallie. Of this large family the subject of this sketch is the only one now living. He remained at home until the death of his father, then residing in one place and another until his first marriage on the 17th of May, 1846, to Miss Fannie J. Ross, of Morgan county, and a daughter of Lewis Ross. They were the parents of five children : John L., Prince F., Eliza F., Hannah D. and Theodosia E. Three of these children survive. Mrs. Tomlinson died on January 20, 1864. Mr. Tomlinson was again married October 9, 1866, to a Mrs. Suttles, a widow, who bore him three children: George W., Jeremiah and Eugene. This wife died February 2, 1872. For his third wife he married Miss Louisa Bales, a daughter of Minor Bales, of Cooper county. They have one child William M. In December, 1838, Mr. Tomlinson came to Missouri, locating in Morgan county, and after living there until 1866 removed to this county, which has since been his home. His residence is on section 17, and his estate embraces 188 acres, well improved and watered.

JOSEPH VARNER was born on February 8, 1807, in Shenandoah (now Pane) county, Virginia. John Varner, his father, was a Virginian by birth, and married Miss Barbara Burner. To them were born ten children Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Philip, Daniel, Martin, Jonas, Manuel, Reuben, Mary A. and an infant. But six of this family survive. The subject of this sketch

remained with his father until twenty-five years of age, and in 1832 he was married to Miss Mary Huffman, a daughter of Christopher Huffman. They had fourteen children: William, now in Tipton, Moniteau county, and married to Miss Eliza Cook, daughter of William Cook, of Cooper county; Barbara, widow of Richard Eubanks ; Ann, deceased; Elizabeth, deceased; Martha, wife of Elijah Smith; John, deceased; Mary S., Belle, now Mrs. David Gochenhour ; Isaac, deceased; Martin, deceased; Booton, who married Lotta Wild; Virginia, Frank R. and Pernie, the latter three at home. Mr. Varner, leaving Virginia in the fall of 1855, came to Missouri, settling on section 22, Lebanon township, Cooper county, his present location. He is very successful as an agriculturist, and owns 312 acres of land, 120 acres being in this township. All but one of his children live in this county. After the death of his first wife Mr. Varner was married a second time in 1872 to Miss Mary Ann Baldwin, a daughter of John Baldwin, of Ohio. She was born in March, 1824. He is a member of the Baptist church.

TIMOTHY P. WAKEFIELD owes his nativity to Lawrence county, Ohio, where he was born in 1839. His grandfather, Peter Wakefield, a native of England, born August 7, 1764, was one of seven brothers: William, Thomas, Joseph, Timothy, Ebenezer, John and Peter. They settled in New Hampshire and Vermont, and in 1806 Peter emigrated to Ohio, and laid the bottom log of the dam for the first mill in Lawrence county in 1809, and until fifteen years ago that log still remained where it was originally placed. By his marriage he had three sons: Winchester, born August 1, 1796, now living on the Ohio river, in Lawrence county, Ohio; Benjamin, born August 13, 1809, also in Lawrence county, and George W., born March 15, 180-, now in Louisiana, on the Gulf of Mexico. Benjamin Wakefield, the father of the subject of this sketch, a native of Ohio, was brought up a farmer, and married May 1, 1834, Miss Carthenia Judd, a daughter of Charles Judd. She was born in Lawrence county, Ohio, April 18, 1813. They were blessed with five children : Mary A., born April 12, 1835 ; Timothy P., born March 15, 1839 ; Mighill, born December 11, 1841 ; Catharine L., born September 17, 1844, and Mahala B., born November 9, 1848. Mr. Wakefield was married a second time to Miss P. James, and by this marriage there were five children: Franklin, Talbott, Cora, George and John. Timothy P. Wakefield remained at home until seventeen years of age, when he entered college at Athens, Ohio, remaining there some time. Afterwards he gave his attention to teaching in Ohio for eighteen months, and then in Illinois for one year. When the civil war broke out he enlisted August 13, 1862, and served over three years in company A, 87th Illinois mounted infantry, under Colonel Whiting's command, as sergeant. Upon returning from the army he located in Hamilton county, Illinois, and in the spring of 1866 was married to Miss Maggie A. Shoemaker, of McLeansborough, that county. She was born October 2, 1842, and was a daughter of Joshua Shoemaker, county and circuit clerk of Hamilton county. Mr. and Mrs. Wakefield have had six children: Barry, born November 7, 1870 ; Cory S., born October 5, 1873 ; Flora R., born April 28, 1876 ; Anna, born August 14, 1878 ; Zina V., born August 22, 1880 and an infant, born in March, 1883. Dr. Wakefield came to Missouri in 1866, and settled in St. Charles county, living there three years, when for five years he made his home in Pettis county. In 1875 he came to this county. Here he owns a farm of 160 acres, on section 25. Politically he has ever been a republican.

T. R. ZIMMERMAN, was born on the 15th day of November, 1852, in Perry county, Pennsylvania, in which county his father, D. F. Zimmerman, was also born March 27, 1827. He was the son of J. H. Zimmerman, a native of Pennsylvania and of German nationality. D. F. Zimmerman lived in the state of his birth until 1866. He was married about the year 1840 to a Miss Ickes, of the same state as himself, who survived but a few years, leaving at her death one child, Dianna. In 1849 Mr. Zimmerman married Miss Anna E. Loy, originally from Pennsylvania, born in March, 1832, she being a daughter of Michael Loy. They were blessed with three children: T. R., Emma V., born in 1856, and David L., born February 16, 1862, died in 1864. In 1866, emigrating to Missouri, the senior Zimmerman settled in Cooper county, and followed farming and stock raising until his death. He was a steadfast, honest man and was held in the highest esteem by the citizens of this county. For some time he gave his attention to mercantile interests, but previous to his death devoted his time to agricultural pursuits. He was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church. T. R. Zimmerman acquired his education principally in the common schools, spending two years in a high school, and, lastly, attending Allison's family school. He has taught some in the public schools, but, on account of the confinement, was obliged to give up the occupation of teaching and devote himself to farming and stock raising. He owns 200 acres of fine land in sections 28 and 27, well watered and drained. As an elocutionist Mr. Zimmerman has no superior in this township - if in the county. He is a great scholar, and a person of no mean literary talents and gives much attention to reading.