

History of Cooper County Missouri by W. F. Johnson

Pages 751 - 800

Chris J. Brandes

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Chris J. Brandes, one of the well-known and successful farmers and stockmen of Cooper County, was born in Clarks Fork Township, July 6, 1866. He is a son of Charles and Margaret (Smith) Brandes, further mention of whom is made in this volume in connection with the sketch of Theodore L. Brandes.

Chris J. Brandes received his education in the Washington and the Lee School districts. He also attended the German school at Clarks Fork for a lime. He remained at home with his parents until he was 21 years of age, when he engaged in farming for himself on rented land for about five years. In 1894 he purchased 160 acres of his present place. He has added to it until he now owns 380 acres of well-improved farm land with three sets of farm buildings. The home residence was built by Mr. Brandes shortly after he bought his first land. The family lived in a temporary building on the place while the residence was being erected. Mr. Brandes practically built his house alone, from excavating the cellar to doing the carpenter and mason work. His first barn on the place was a double log building, which he also built himself, and which cost him beside his own labor only \$7.75. This old building is still standing. Mr. Brandes carries on general fanning and stock raising, making a specialty of Gallaway cattle, Poland China hogs, and Shropshire sheep. The place adapted for both general farming and stock raising. The water supply is pumped by a gas engine from a well 207 feet deep. The Brandes place is one of the well improved farms of Cooper County.

Sept. 23, 1888, Chris Brandes was united in marriage with Miss Lee Long, a native of Cooper County, born in Kelly Township, Aug. 22, 1868.

Bottom of Page 751

She is a daughter of William H. and Mary (Dale) Long. W. H. Long was born in Bourbon County, Ky., in 1833, and died in Cooper County in 1909, and his remains are buried at Pisgah. He served as a captain in the Confederate army during the Civil War, under Gen. Sterling Price. When the war broke out he enlisted in Cedar County, Mo., and served throughout the war, and was wounded. His wife was a native of Indiana, born in 1835. They were married in Cedar County, and the following children were born to them: Mrs. Lizzie Salmons, Rockville; Josie died in infancy; Florence married William E. Draffen and died at the age of 36 years, in 1903; Lee married Chris J. Brandes, the subject of this sketch; Thomas lives in North Moniteau Township; Charles M., North Moniteau Township; W. R., San Antonio, Texas; Sterling Price died in infancy, and Wade Hampton, Jefferson City.

To Mr. and Mrs. Chris J. Brandes have been born the following children: Clara N., married William T. Martin; Edna M., died in infancy; William Carl resides at home with his parents; Edgar resides at home. Six children died in infancy. William Carl is a veteran of the World War. He entered the United States service, Sept. 5, 1918, and was trained at Camp McArthur, Texas, until Nov. 4, 1918, when he transferred to Camp Merrit, N. J., and was aboard the English transport Cedric, which was preparing to start for France when the armistice was signed Nov. 11, 1918. He was then returned to Camp Merrit, and later to Camp Grant, Ill., where he was mustered out of service, Dec. 31, 1918. Mr. and Mrs. Brandes have three grandchildren: Mary Lee, Irma Gray, and Grace Lucille Martin, who live with their grandparents. Mr. Brandes is a member of the Masonic Lodge at Bunceton, and he and his wife are members of the Baptist Church at Pisgah.

William H. Turley

(Transcribed by Donna Haroldsen)

William H. Turley, who died at his home in LaMine Township in the fall of 1909 was one of the most substantial and progressive farmers of the county. He was born on the farm on which he died and had spent all his life there. His father also was born on that farm, a son of one of the real pioneers of this region, the Turleys having been represented in this community practically since the days of its beginning. Milton Turley, the father, married Louisa Ricks and to that union were born four children, three sons and a daughter, all of whom are now deceased. Of these William H. Turley, born on March 8, 1856, was the eldest, the others being Harvey C., Stephen G. and Adelia. William H. Turley began operations there on his own account on reaching manhood and established his home there. He and his brother, Harvey C. Turley owned in partner-

Bottom of Page 752

ship a tract of 340 acres of excellent land and did well in their operations. Their farm was well improved and they made a specialty of good live stock. William H. Turley was a democrat, a member of the Christian Church and was affiliated with the M. W. of A. He died Oct. 12, 1909, and his widow is still making her home on the home place, which is now owned and operated under the general direction of her elder son, John H. Turley.

Dec. 13, 1881, William H. Turley was united in marriage with Anna B. Herndon, who also was born in LaMine Township, July 6, 1861, second in order of birth of the seven children born to George and Elizabeth (Pope) Herndon, the others being as follows: Benjamin T. Herndon, Saline County; William, deceased; John M., deceased; Ella D., deceased, and Lester H. and James G. Herndon, of Saline County. George Herndon, also was born in LaMine Township, about 1824, son of one of the earliest settlers in that section, a Virginian, who came to this county in 1811. George Herndon died at his home in this county in 1884. His wife died at the age of 35 years in 1872. She was born in Garrett County, Ky., a daughter of Thomas Pope and wife, the latter of whom was a Bland, who came to Cooper County about 1836, settled on a farm here and reared a family of three children.

To William H. and Anna B. (Herndon) Turley were born nine children, namely: Susan E., born on Oct. 17, 1882, died Oct. 30, 1883; John H., further mention of whom is made below; Mary D., born on May 11, 1885, married Wade Keuckelhan, Dundee, Texas; Harvey H., born Nov. 17, 1886, died on Dec. 2, 1909; Ethlyn M., June 16, 1888, died Sept. 5, 1908; William G., June 30, 1890, at LaMine, engaged in the building trade; Harry and Hazel (twins), March 23, 1894, the latter died July 10, 1894, and the former is living in LaMine Township, and Margaret, Nov. 12, 1898, died March 20, 1899.

John H. Turley was born Nov. 4, 1883, and has always lived on the farm which he now owns, except a few years during when he was engaged in railroad service. He supplemented the schooling received in the local schools by a course in Hill's Business College at Sedalia and from 1907 to 1911 was employed as a clerk for the Missouri Pacific Railroad, at Boonville and later at Marshall. He then returned to the home farm and operated the same for his widowed mother until in 1918, when he bought the place. Since taking possession of the farm Mr. Turley has made numerous improvements on the place and now has an excellent farm. That portion of the old Turley place which he bought consists of 100

Bottom of Page 753

Acres and in addition to his general farming he gives considerable attention to the breeding of Poland-China hogs. Mr. Turley is a democrat and in the campaign of 1916 he was the nominee of his party for the legislature, but went down in the face of the republican majority of that year. Aug 24, 1918, he married Ethel Clickner, who was born at Edina, Mo., was graduated from Fayette High School and attended Howard Payne College, also the Warrensburg Normal School, and is now the teacher at the Locust Grove school in LaMine Township. Mr. Turley is a member

of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and of the Independent Order of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and he and his wife are members of the Christian Church.

Robert Thomas Draffen
(Transcribed by Kathleen Ellis)

Robert Thomas Draffen, a Civil War Veteran, and a member of one of the pioneer families of Cooper Country, was born in Kelly Township, July 16, 1844. He is the son of William and Atlanta (McCulloch) Draffen, both natives of Virginia. William Draffen was born in 1920 and died in Moniteau Township in 1906, on his home place, where he had lived since settling in Cooper Country in the thirties. His wife died in 1907, and their remains are buried at Pisgah. William Draffen was a son of Robert Thomas Draffen, who settled at Boonville at a very early date. He was a cigar manufacturer and also bought and sold tobacco.

Robert T. Draffen was educated at Lee's School, and has always lived in Kelly and Moniteau Townships, and has been engaged in farming and stock raising. He bought his present place, which consists of 84 acres, in 1885. This is one of the historic old places of Cooper County. A still was operated here during the Civil War and for some years afterwards.

When the Civil War broke out, Mr. Draffen enlisted in the Confederate army under General Marmaduke. He participated in a number of engagements, and was at the battle of Mine Creek, where General Marmaduke was captured. Later, in 1862, Mr. Draffen was taken prisoner and held in the Boonville jail for a time, when he was paroled. He afterward joined the army and was at Shreveport, La., when the Confederate army under General Price surrendered there. He then returned to Cooper Country, where he has since been engaged in farming and stock raising.

Mr. Draffen was first married in 1870 to Miss Rebecca McLean, a daughter of James and Jennie (Bull) McLean, pioneers of Cooper County. Two children were born of this union, Sterling Price, who resides near McBain, Mo., and Laura, married Elmer Hedspeth, who resides in Alabama. The mother died in 1878, and on Dec. 15, 1881, Mr. Draffen was married to Miss Bettie Carpenter, a daughter of Robert L. and Priscille

Bottom of Page 754

(Robinson) Carpenter, the former a native of Cooper County, who died March 25, 1892, aged 61 years, and the latter a native of Kentucky, died Feb. 16, 1913, aged 83 years. Their remains are buried in the cemetery at Bunceton. They were the parents of the following children: James, Jefferson City; Mrs. Helen Richey, Bunceton; Mrs. J. B. Scott, Bunceton; William, Bunceton; Robert, Bunceton; Emmett, married Maggie Rowles and is now deceased; Josie, died at the age of 50 years, and Bettie, wife of Robert T. Draffen, the subject of this sketch.

To Robert T. and Bettie (Carpenter) Draffen have been born the following children: William Robert, residing at home; Gussie, married Andrew Snorgrass, Vermont, Mo.; Lynne Lee, a student at the State Normal School at Warrensburg, has been a teacher at Blackwater, Mo. for three years; Wallace, married Edith Embry, Moniteau Township; Weight, a teacher; and Benjamin McCulloch, at home.

The land which constitutes Mr. Draffen's farm was entered from the government by his father, Robert Thomas McCulloch, who entered several hundred acres of land in this vicinity. William Chambers, great-grandfather of Mrs. Draffen, was one of the pioneers of Boonville, and his career was intimately associated with the early history of that town. Thus, both Mr. and Mrs. Draffen are descendants of the earliest pioneers of this section, and rank among the leading people of Cooper County.

Bernard Vieth

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Berend Vieth, a Cooper County pioneer, who has been successfully engaged in farming and stock raising, is a native of Holstein, Germany. He was born Aug. 16, 1839, a son of Heinrich and Catherine (Behrens) Vieth. Berend Vieth was reared and educated in his native land, and came to America in 1865, locating in Cooper County. Here he worked as a farm laborer and in other lines of industry for a time, and later operated rented land. He made the initial purchase of his present farm in 1880, which consisted of 160 acres and also of 80 acres of timber land. He bought more land later until he was the owner of 540 acres, which constitute the present Vieth farm. In the early days, Mr. Vieth was an extensive feeder of cattle and hogs, which he shipped to the St. Louis markets. He has been successful in his undertaking, and is one of the "do-or-die" men of the community. Due to an injury Mr. Vieth received 20 years ago, he has been practically an invalid for the past five years, and his son, H. C. Vieth, has carried on the farming operations.

Berend Vieth was united in marriage March 12, 1812, to Miss Elizabeth Selck, a daughter of Carl and Christine Selck, pioneers of Cooper

Bottom of Page 755

County. Mrs. Vieth was born in Germany, Sept. 10, 1848, and was brought to America by her parents when she was 4 years old. The family first settled in Rochester, N. Y., and 15 years later came to Cooper County, settling on a farm near Crawfords Bridge. To Berend Vieth and wife have been born the following children: Ida, married Henry Schnuck, Overton, Mo.; Emma resides at home; Tillie, married Charles Barta, Kansas City, Mo.; H. C., who is farming the home place, and Carries resides at home. The grand children are as follows: Lorine, Arthur and Lloyd Schnuck, and Raymond and Ralph Barta.

The Vieth farm is one of the valuable places of Cooper County. It is well improved with a good nine-room farm residence, and other high class improvements. H. C. Vieth, who conducts the home farm, is one of the progressive young men of Cooper County. He was born in Kelly Township, July 30, 1881, and received his education in the public schools and the parochial school at Clarks Fork, and later attended Hill's Business College at Sedalia. In addition to general farming, Mr. Vieth raises Shorthorn cattle and hogs extensively.

The Vieth family are prominent in the community and members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Lone Elm.

Thomas A. Harris

(Transcribed by Laura Paxton)

Thomas A Harris, proprietor of "Sunnyside" farm in LaMine Township and progressive stockmen in Cooper County, former president of the American Berkshire Association was born July 23 1862 son of William J and Sarah (McMahan) Harris, both members of pioneer families.

William J Harris was born on June 15 1815, near Richmond VA., and was but 8 years old when in 1823 he came with his mother, Nancy (Ferris) Harris and the Turley and Herndon families to this part of Missouri. With him and his mother was his sister, who when 16 years of age married I. Majors, of Cass County MO and who lived to celebrate the 70 anniversary of her marriage. She was the mother of 16 children. In this region William J Harris grew to manhood and was an influential factor in its development. He helped Mr. Turley, Mr. Herndon and Thomas Mellor hew the logs for the first school house in the district and also helped to pay the wages of the first teacher. In 1849 he joined the great rush of gold seekers to California, driving an ox-team through, but did not find his expectations realized there and presently came back returning by

way of Cape Horn and the East. In 1853 he bought the farm on which his son, Thomas A Harris ins now living erected a log house and reared his family, where he died Nov. 12 1881. William J. Harris was twice married. By his first wife, Sarah McMahan, who

Bottom of Page 756

died in 1862, at the age of 27 years, he was the father of five children, namely: Mantie, wife of Judge John B Harris, Fulton MO; William P., deceased; Sterling P., of Pettis County; Leona died in infancy and Thomas A., who was but eight days old when his mother died. In 1869 William J Harris married Lizzie Lake who was born in Howard County and to that union were born two children, Stella and Ada, both now deceased

Thomas A Harris was reared on the farm on which he was born and which he has owned since 1899, when he bought the interests of the other heirs in the place, which he has named "Sunnyside" farm. For years he has been extensively engaged in the breeding of Berkshire hogs and the raising of Shorthorn cattle, of the latter feeding two loads a year. Mr Harris has a fine farm of 417 acres, his last purchase being 127 acres in Feb., 1919 and his place is well improved, including a modern house lighted with gas, and two silos and is otherwise well equipped. He began the breeding of Berkshire hogs in 1889, his first pair having been bought from N H Gentry, of Pettis County and he ever since has made a specialty of Berkshires, holding semi-annual sales at "Sunnyside", a veteran exhibitor at state fairs and has long been recognized as the most extensive breeder of Berkshires in Cooper County. He has received as high as \$350 for a single hog and has bred hogs that have brought as much as \$1,500. For years Mr. Harris has been one of the most active members of the American Berkshire Association and served as president of that association for one year. His three sons are partners in the operations at "Sunnyside." Mr. Harris and his sons are democrats and the family are members of the Christian Church.

Oct. 9 1895, Thomas A Harris was united in marriage with Margaret P Wing and to this union seven children have been born, Namely: Mildred, deceased; Wilbur M., who was graduated from the Boonville High School and Robert P., Ella L., Sarah Lillian, Thomas A and Margaret Leona. Robert P is a graduate of Dunkle's Business School. Mrs. Harris also is a member of one of Missouri's pioneer families. She was born in Columbia, this state, Sept 30 1870, daughter of David W and Ella (Parker) Wing.

Thomas J. Lovell

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Thomas J. Lovell, a Civil War veteran and a member of one of the cry early pioneer families of Cooper County, was born in Prairie Home Township, about a mile from where he now resides, Aug. 4, 1842. He is a son of Thomas J., Sr., and Ollie (Burrus) Lovely the former a native of

Bottom of Page 757

North Carolina, and the latter of Tennessee. They were among the pioneer settlers of Prairie Home Township. The following children were born to them: Lucy Ann, married Fayette Carlos, and they are both now deceased; Armstead Franklin, deceased; John, deceased; Elisabeth, married William Burrus, and both are now deceased; Amanda, married John M. Burrus, and resides on the old home place; Sarah, deceased; Thomas J., the subject of this sketch; and Olive Francis, married Squire Moore, and they are both deceased. The mother of these children died in 1847, and Thomas J. Lovell afterwards married Catherine Fry, and three children were born to this union: Martha Bell, deceased; Nevada, married Henry Summers, and both died in Denver, Col.; and Andrew Jackson, who resides in benison, Texas. Thomas J. Lovell's second wife died about 1852, and he married Mrs. Telitha Timms, and to this union was born one daughter, Nannie, now the wife of Robert Kirkpatrick, Clinton, Mo. Thomas J. Lovell, Sr., died in 1855.

Thomas J. Lovell whose name introduces this sketch, was reared in Cooper County, and attended the early day schools. The first school which he attended was a log building in the Pisgah district, and the school was taught by a Mr. Teeters. When the Civil War broke out, Mr. Lovell enlisted at Versailles, Mo., in the Confederate army, in Captain Butler's company. He served from 1861 until the close of the war. He was wounded three times, the first time at the battle of Dry Wood, Sept. 1, 1861, near Fort Scott, Kan. He was sent home from there, but returned to the army in 1862, and was again wounded at Jenkins Ferry, Ark. His company surrendered at the close of the war at Shreveport, La. He then returned to Cooper County, where he has since resided. He has been engaged in farming and stock raising, and has met with success. He owns 120 acres of well improved land in Prairie Home Township, and is one of Cooper County's substantial and highly respected citizens.

Mr. Lovell was married in 1870 to Miss Hattie B. Kirkpatrick. One child was born to this union, Edward Franklin, who resides at Salem, Ill. The wife and mother died in 1893, and her remains are buried in Pisgah Cemetery. May 12, 1897, Mr. Lovell was united in marriage with Martha Gilbreath, a native of Macon, born in 1851. She is a daughter of Hugh F. and Catherine (Carpenter) Gilbreath, the former a native of Tennessee, born in 1826, and died Jan. 26, 1888, and the latter a native of Cooper County, born in 1828, and died in May, 1915. They were the parents of the following children: Mary Francis, deceased; Mrs. Laura Clawson, Vinita, Okla.; Martha, the wife of Thomas J. Lovell, the subject

Bottom of Page 758

of this sketch; J. N., Tulsa, Okla.; Mrs. Flora Johnson, deceased; Gilmer, deceased; Mrs. Victoria Floyd, deceased; Anna, deceased; Walter, Speed, Mo.; and two sons died in infancy. Mrs. Lovell is a member of New Salem Church in Prairie Home Township. Mr. Lovell is a democrat, and is a member of Camp Harper, Confederate Veterans, Bunceton, Mo.

William J. Lacy

(Transcribed by Laura Paxton)

William J Lacy of Prairie Home Township belongs to a family of pioneers of this State of Revolutionary ancestors. William J Lacy was born in Moniteau County Nov 29 1847 a son of Dr. Archibald J and Mary Letitia (Winston) Lacy both natives of Stokes County N C. Dr. Archibald Lacy was born July 25 1823 and died in Cooper County Jan 6 1892. He was the son of Dr. William A Lacy and Agnes (Johnson) Lacy, the former of whom was born in Virginia in 1802 and died in Cooper County May 26 1887. His wife was a native of North Carolina and died in Cooper County Sept. 23 1888. Dr William A Lacy came to Missouri in 1836 and settled in Moniteau County which was then a part of Cole County and he later moved to Salem County and then returned to Cooper County.

Mary Letitia (Winston) Lacy mother of William J Lacy was born in Stokes County N C March 10 1827 and died Oct 24 1848. She was a daughter of Gen. Joseph W Winston who was a major general in the war of 1812 and his father was a colonel in the Revolutionary War under Washington.

William J Lacy was the only child born to his parents. After the death of William J Lacy's mother, his father married Julia Gale, a daughter of Dr. RW Gale of Cooper County and three children were born to this union: Robert A deceased, George G, now living in OKLA and Agnes G deceased.

William J Lacy was reared by his grandparents, who moved from Moniteau to Saline county in 1851. They later went to Vernon County but in 1874 William J returned to Cooper County where he has since resided. He settled on his present place of 120 acres in 1912.

Mr. Lacy was married Sept 5 1872 to Nancy Elem Johnston a daughter of Washington A and Martha (Hunt) Johnston, the former a native of Prairie Home Township born Jan 1 1825 and died

Feb 15 1908. His wife was born in 1829 and died Jan 14 1919. Robert B Johnston, grandfather of Mrs. Lacy and his wife were among the very early pioneers of Cooper county. Mrs. Lacy has a sister living, Jennie L., who is now the wife of E B Shannon, Clarks Fork Township.

William Hunt, Mrs. Lacy's maternal grandfather was born in Buncombe

Bottom of Page 759

County NC March 8 1789 and his wife Nancy Hunt was born June 21 1795 and died August 20 1876. They moved to Howard County Mo in 1816 and in 1825 settled on Salt Creek near Pisgah Cooper County. They reared 10 children. William Hunt was a son of Jonathan and Ailcy (Berry) Hunt, natives of Buncombe County N C.

To William J Lacy and wife have been born two sons, Archibald Johnston Lacy born Jan 4 1876 and died Nov 15 1912, and Robert Winston Lacy born June 21 1880 and married Elizabeth Jones, a daughter of David L Jones, Jan 16 1907 and they have two children, Archibald Jones, born Nov 8 1909 and Robert Winston born March 13 1916. They live in Prairie Home Township.

The Lacy family are well known and highly respected and rank among the first pioneer families of Cooper County.

George Washington Mellor

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

George Washington Mellor, one of the substantial farmers and stockmen of LaMine Township, was born on the farm on which he is now living, Jan. 10, 1856. He is the elder of the two sons born to Thomas and Mary Jane (Talbot) Mellor, the former of whom was of English birth and the latter a Virginian, whose last days were spent in Cooper County.

Thomas Mellor was born at Ashland, in Derbyshire, England, March 18, 1818, and was about 12 years of age when he came to this country with his parents, John and Martha (Barren) Mellor, in 1830, the family locating in Oswego County, N. Y. John Mellor there engaged in farming, but soon moved to Franklin, Delaware County, N. Y., where he bought a small dairy farm and where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. In 1838, he then being 20 years of age, Thomas Mellor decided to come West. He came by way of New Orleans, where he remained until 1844 when he came by boat to this section of Missouri and settled on land which he bought near Rankin's Mill, in Boonville Township, where he remained until the California gold excitement in 1849 caused him to join the band of prospectors headed for the new Eldorado and he drove an ox-team through to the gold fields. He did not remain long, however, returning by way of the isthmus and New York. While East he visited with old home folks in New York state for a while and then returned to Cooper County, where about 1853 he bought a tract of land in LaMine Township and created a home in which he spent the rest of his life, becoming the owner of a fine farm of 640 acres. He also was the proprietor of a freight warehouse on the river front at the mouth of the LaMine River. He died on May 28, 1904. Thomas Mellor was twice married. His first wife, Sarah Gadsby, died at the time of the birth of her first

Bottom of Page 760

child, the child also dying, and he later married Mary Jane Talbot, who was born in Virginia and who died in 1894 at the age of 66 years. To that union two sons were born, the subject of this sketch having a younger brother, John Paul Mellor, also a resident of LaMine Township.

George W. Mellor was reared on the home farm in LaMine Township and completed his schooling in the high school at Boonville. He early turned his attention to Cable Railway system and for two years he worked at Los Angeles and for two years at San Diego in that business. He was married in the former city in 1891 and the year following his marriage returned to the old

home in this county, the operations of the farm requiring his attention, and has since made his home there, owner of a fine farm of 210 acres which he inherited at the death of his father. In 11198 he erected on that place a fine, modern eight-room house and his farm is equipped in keeping with the same. Mr. Mellor is a stockholder in the National Bank of Boonville. He is a democrat and is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America at Blackwater. He and his family are members of the Christian Church.

Aug. 19, 1891, at San Diego, Cal., George W. Mellor was united in marriage to Charlotte Stiles, who was born in Leavenworth, Kan., Dec. 6, 1870, a daughter of Hiram and Mary Ann (Hooy) Stiles, natives, respectively, of New York and Ohio, who moved with the their family to San Diego in 1886, spending the rest of their lives there. Mr. and Mrs. Mellor have four children, namely: Bessie O., wife of G. H. Neiderjohn, of Nelson, Mo.; Thomas E., now at home, having but recently returned from service in the United States army, receiving his discharge at Camp Funstun, Kan.; Mabel S., wife of P. M. Floyd, of Boonville, and Bernice, wife of William G. Weekley, of LaMine Station.

Judge George W. Morris
(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Judge George W. Morris, a prominent farmer and stockman of Moniteau Township, former member of the Board of County Judges of Cooper County, is a native of this county, and belongs to one of the pioneer families. Judge Morris was born in Kelly Township, Oct. 22, 1863. He is a son of Hugh B. and Juda A. (Davis) Morris, early settlers of Cooper County.

Judge Morris was reared in this county, and educated in the public schools at Pisgah. He received a very good common school education, having been fortunate in having some very good instructors, among whom was James Groves. Judge Morris was reared on a farm, and has made farming and stock raising his life's occupation. He has lived on his present place in North Moniteau Township since 1885. The place consists

Bottom of Page 761

of 700 acres, a part of which was formerly the old McCulloch place. It is located in North Moniteau and Clarks Fork Townships, and is one of the valuable farms of Cooper County. There are three sets of improvements on the place. The farm is nicely located, and an extensive view can be had from the home residence. From here one can easily see the water tower and court house at California, Mo., when atmospheric conditions are favorable.

George W. Morris was united in marriage Dec. 30, 1885, to Miss Matilda McCulloch, a native of Cooper County, born in Kelly Township, Oct. 13, 1860. She is a daughter of Col. Robert A. and Mary (Mahan) McCulloch. Col. Robert A. McCulloch was born in Albemarle County, Va., in 1825, and came to Missouri with his parents, Thomas and Mary McCulloch, who first settled in Howard County. They remained there but a short time, when they came to Cooper County. Robert A. McCulloch served in the Confederate army during the Civil War and became a lieutenant colonel. He served in General Forest's brigade. He was known as "White Headed Bob" McCulloch, and a cousin of his, Col. Robert McCulloch, who was also a Confederate veteran, was known as "Black Headed Bob" McCulloch. They crossed the plains together and went to California with ox teams during the gold excitement of 1849. Col. Robert A. McCulloch died in 1911, aged 86 years. His wife, Mary (Mahan) McCulloch, was a native of Cole County. She died several years prior to her husband's death, aged 45 years. They were the parents of three children as follows: Mary, married George A. Carpenter, and is now deceased; Matilda, wife of George W. Morris, the subject of this sketch; and Albert J., who resides at Winfield, Kan.

Judge and Mrs. Morris reared an orphan child, Ola McDonald, who is now the wife of Warren Carpenter, of Prairie Home Township. Judge Morris is one of Cooper County's most substantial citizens. He has an extensive acquaintance, not only in Cooper County, but in this section of the

State, and he and Mrs. Morris have many friends and are universally respected. Judge Morris served as a member of the County Court from 1915 to Jan. 1, 1919, having been elected on the democratic ticket in November 1914.

William Edgar Wolfe
(Transcribed by Laura Paxton)

William Edgar Wolfe, of Prairie Home Township is a native of Cooper County whose ancestors were very early settlers in this section of the State. Mr. Wolfe was born near Overton, November 14 1868, and is a son of Wesley and Sallie (Street) Wolfe. Wesley Wolfe was also a native of Cooper county,

Bottom of Page 762

born near Wooldridge, where he was reared to manhood. During the Civil War he entered the Confederate army and served for two years, until that great conflict closed. He returned to Cooper County, where he was engaged in farming until his death, Feb. 10 1875. His wife was a native of Virginia; she died Jan. 21 1878. Their remains are buried in the Clayton Cemetery. Wesley Wolfe's father was a Pennsylvanian, and settled in Missouri about 100 years ago. Shortly after coming here he entered the land just east of Wooldridge and lived there for many years. To Wesley and Sallie (Street) Wolfe were born the following children: Lucy, deceased; James, deceased; Charles C. resides at Overton; Mrs. Eliza Anderson, deceased; Columbus, lives in Illinois; Mrs. Lavina Isom, Carrollton, MO.; Mrs. Julia Ward lives in Carroll County; William Edgar, the subject of this sketch and Pressley, Overton MO.

William Edgar Wolfe was reared and educated near Overton, and in early life worked as a farm laborer for about 10 years, receiving from \$15.00 to \$16.00 a month. He worked for C C Eldridge, who is now living retired in Boonville, for six years. Mr. Wolfe bought his first land in 1901, which he later sold and bought his present place in Prairie Home Township in 1911, which he purchased from H F Fricke. The place consists of 109 1/2 acres, and is nicely located on the Jefferson Highway. Since he bought the place, Mr. Wolfe has built a good substantial eight room residence and other farm buildings.

June 26 1892, William Edgar Wolfe was united in marriage to Miss Annie Dishion, a daughter of James and Nancy Jane (Adair) Dishion, the home place in Prairie Home Township. James F and Nancy Jane (Adair) Dishion were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Laura Deuel; Anna, wife of William Edgar Wolfe; Mrs. W C Kirschman; Ada Alvin; resides in Prairie Home; Silas, Prairie Home; Minnie May, Prairie Home; Mrs. Myrtle Richie, died at the age of 27 years in Colorado; Edna Ritchey, Prairie Home; and Speed, Prairie Home.

To Mr. & Mrs. Wolfe have been born the following children: Blanch, married Fred L. Grostedt, Clarks Fork Township; Oral Wilson Wolfe, served in the World War in France and Germany, a member of Company L, 356th, 89th Division. He entered the army April 24 1918, was trained at Camp Funston, Kansas, and sent to France June 3 1918, and arrived there June 24. He took part in the important engagements in which the 89th Division participated, including the battles of the Meuse, Argonne and St. Mihiel, as well as other continuous fighting.

Bottom of Page 763

He was wounded at St. Mihiel, and was discharged from the service June 24 1919. Louis Edgar Wolfe entered the army October 21 1918, and was sent to Camp Bowie, near Ft. Worth, Texas, and was on detached service there when the armistice was signed. The other children born to Mr. & Mrs. Wolfe are: Elva at home; Serelda, deceased; John J., died in infancy; Nancy J.; Leith Alexander; Willie Franklin; Ewing C.; Champ Clark; Charles K., died in infancy and Allen B.

Mr. Wolfe is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and one of Cooper County's substantial citizens.

John Paul Mellor
(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

John Paul Mellor, proprietor of "Cape Verde" stock farm along the Missouri River in LaMine Township, was born on that farm and has lived there all his life, having developed an excellent piece of property. He inherited the old home place which was established by his father many years ago and has done much toward the improvement of the same since it came into his possession. Born July 23, 1857, Mr. Mellor retains distinct recollections of the Civil War period and has some interesting souvenirs of that struggle picked up on his farm, including a grape-shot that was fired from Boonville. He also has some quite interesting relics of the days of Indian occupancy, the collection which he maintains at his home attracting much attention on the part of those interested in such matters. Mr. Mellor's father was a cripple during a part of his life and was thus incapacitated for service during the Civil War. He had a freight warehouse on the river front at the mouth of the LaMine River and this warehouse was once attacked by Federal gunboats which fired as many as 300 shots at the place. The Mellor place also was raided by Federal soldiers, who took the horses out of the stable, emptied the smokehouse of its stored meats and took the bedclothes and such other articles from the house. The elder Mellor, Thomas Mellor, was of English birth and was 12 years of age when he came to this country with his parents, the family locating in New York state. When 20 years of age he went to New Orleans and a few years later came to Missouri and settled near Rankin's Mill in Boonville Township, this county. In 1849 he went to California and on his return made a visit back to his boyhood home in New York, after which he returned to Missouri and in this county spent the rest of his life. On the home place, "Cape Verde" farm, now owned by the subject of this sketch, the elder Mellor created a good piece of property and the same has been much improved since coming into the possession of the present owner.

John P Mellor grew up familiar with the practical details of farm

Bottom of Page 764

life and has always made his home on the place on which he was born, being now the owner of 371 acres of excellent and well cultivated land. He is a stockholder in the Central National Bank of Boonville and in the citizens Trust Company of that city. He is a democrat and he and his family are members of the Christian Church.

Nov. 28, 1888, John P. Mellor was united in marriage to Nancy Clara Schuster, who was born at Chouteau Springs, Mo., Dec. 19, 1865, daughter of Moritz and Rachel (Hidlebridge) Schuster, the latter born in Maryland. Moritz Schuster was a native of Germany, but had been a resident of this country since the days of his boyhood. Mr. and Mrs. Mellor have six children, namely: George T.; Agnes, wife of Henry Fritz, of Blackwater Township; Speed S., who is farming in LaMine Township; Grace G., wife of William G. Turley, of LaMine Station, and Ada Marie and Ernest, at home.

George T. Mellor, the eldest son, who was born on Dec. 11, 1889, enlisted for service in the national army in June, 1917, not long after this country's declarations of war against Germany, and as a member of G Company, 140th Infantry, underwent training at Camp Nichols, Leavenworth, Flat River and Ft. Sill, and was a first class private when he sailed for France with his detachment in the spring of 1918. On Sept. 28, 1918, he was severely wounded during the battle then raging in the Argonne Forest; was discharged and now living at home. George T. Mellor married Mollie Cramer, also of LaMine Township, and has one child, Roy T.

William F. Carpenter

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

William F. Carpenter, a progressive citizen of Prairie Home Township, who is one of Cooper County's substantial citizens, is a native of Missouri. He was born in Macon County, Dec. 6, 1874, and is a son of Hugh F. and Rebecca (Buck) Carpenter. Hugh F. Carpenter was also born in Macon County, and now resides at La Plato, Mo. His wife died in November 1912. Hugh F. Carpenter is a son of Henry Carpenter, who was born in Clarks Fork Township. He died at St. Louis. Hugh F. and Rebecca Carpenter were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Ellen Dale, deceased; William F., the subject of this sketch; Emma, married William Self, Macon County; James, lives in Montana; Minnie, married Arthur McKinzey, Macon County; Ada Marne and Frances reside in Adair County.

William F. Carpenter was reared and educated in Macon County, and since early manhood has been engaged in farming and stock raising. He came to Cooper County from Macon about 1898. In 1919 he bought his Present place, which is located one and one-half miles southeast of Prairie

Bottom of Page 765

Home, and consists of 155 acres of fertile and well improved land. He has a nice eight-room farm residence, and the other buildings and improvements on the place are substantial and in good condition.

Mr. Carpenter was married April 6, 1905, to Miss Dora F. Short, a daughter of Robert and Victoria (Rich) Short. Robert Short was a native of Missouri and died Nov. 26, 1899, aged 50 years, and his wife died in 1885. They were residents of Clarks Fork Township, and their remains are buried in Carpenter Cemetery, near Pisgah. They were the parents of the following children: Dora F., the wife of William F. Carpenter, the subject of this sketch; Maude L., married L. B. Amick, Howard County; Jessie died in infancy. To Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter have been born children as follows; Myriam Ruth; Helen Louise; Clyde; Genevieve, and Marvin Earl.

Mr. Carpenter follows general farming and stock raising, and has met with uniform success. Mrs. Carpenter is quite extensively engaged in the poultry business, specializing in Brown Leghorn chickens, an industry which has proven both interesting and profitable.

Mr. Carpenter is public-spirited and enterprising, and takes a keen interest in public affairs. He is one of the directors of the Consolidated School District No. 3 at Prairie Home, and is now serving his second term. He is also a director of the Prairie Home Fair Board. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

Frederick Schilb

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Frederick Schilb, a well known Cooper County pioneer and Union veteran of the Civil War, was born in Bavaria, March 3, 1845, a son of Jacob and Margaret Ann (Mueller) Schilb, both natives of Bavaria. The father was born March 3, 1799, and died June 30, 1856, and the mother died Dec. 31, 1876, aged 75 years. The Schilb family emigrated to America and settled in Cooper County in 1847, when Frederick Schilb was two years old. The father bought a farm near Liberty School. The place consisted of 80 acres, for which he paid \$275.00, which not only included the farm, but the growing crops, a cow and a calf and the dog. To Jacob and Margaret Ann (Mueller) Schilb were born the following children: Jacob, deceased; Adam, deceased; David, deceased; Margaret, married Henry Meyer and both are deceased; Frederick, the subject of this sketch.

Frederick Schilb was reared on the farm and educated in the old Liberty School district. A part of the time during his school days, school was held in private residences. He spent his boyhood days not unlike the average boy of his time until the Civil War broke out. In January,

Bottom of Page 766

1862, he enlisted at Boonville in Company A, 1st Missouri regiment, and re-enlisted in 1863, becoming a member of Company F., 13th Missouri cavalry. He experienced an active military career during the war and remained in the service for some time afterward. He was at the battle of Vine Creek, Big Blue and a number of other engagements. When the war closed he was sent with his regiment across the Plains to Colorado against hostile Indians. He was discharged and mustered out of service at Ft. Leavenworth Kan., in 1866. During his service in the army, Mr. Schilb had many interesting experiences. On the campaign across the Plains, he had an opportunity to see the west as it was before civilization had made much progress in that section. In the summer of 1865, Mr. Schilb remembers of having seen 700 covered wagons, or "prairie schooners," leave Ft. Kearney, Neb., in one train, on their way across the Plains. The Government required at that time that emigrants travel in trains of not less than 50 wagons, in order that they might be able to protect themselves against the attacks of hostile Indians.

After his discharge from the army, Mr. Schilb returned to Cooper County, and the following year he bought his first farm of 95 acres near Guyers Ford, upon which he lived until 1877, when he sold out, and in 1878 he bought 110 acres of land in Prairie Home Township, where he made his home until 1911, when he moved to his present place, and has since been living practically retired in the village of Prairie Home. Mr. Schilb was married March 15, 1868, to Miss Mary J. Meyer, a daughter of John and Edna D. (Robinson) Meyer, the former a native of Germany, and the latter of Lynchburg, Va. John Meyer died in 1853, when Mrs. Schilb was about two years old, leaving three children besides Mrs. Schilb. The others were Louis G., Slater, Mo.; John H., Neosho, Mo.; and Sarah Ann, who married Frederick Hertzburg, and is now deceased. After her husband's death the mother married again, and to this marriage was born one child, Louisa Ruth, who married Earnest Klatt, and they are both now deceased.

To Mr. and Mrs. Schilb have been born the following children: Margaret, married Henry Kuhn, Prairie Home Township; Frederick L., the present postmaster of Prairie Home; Mary Edna, married William Dietzel, of Moniteau County; Laura Olive, married Ernest Kirschman, Prairie home Township; Clara M., married Oliver T. Haley, resides on the home farm; Stella F., married George Morris, Prairie Home; Nettie, married Frank Renfrew, Wooldridge, Mo.; Lula A., married Oscar Blank, Prairie

Bottom of Page 767

Home Township; Ida L. died at the age of two years; and Ernest T., died at the age of 10 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Schilb celebrated their golden wedding anniversary March 15, 1918, an event long to be remembered by the members of this numerous and highly respected family of Cooper County. The Schilb family are members of the Methodist Church and stand high in the community. Mr. Schilb is a member of John A. Hayne Past, Grand Army of the Republic, Boonville.

Martin Luther Weekley (Transcribed by Laura Paxton)

Martin Luther Weekley, a well-known and substantial landowner and retired farmer living in LaMine Township, this county and a veteran of the Civil War, is a native of the old Buckeye state, but has been a resident of Missouri and of Cooper County since coming her in the latter '60's and has thus been a witness to and a participant in the development of this region for more that a half century. He was born in Belmont County Ohio March 23 1842, a son of Henry and Mary (Beckett) Weekley, who last days were spent in that state.

Henry Weekley was born in eastern Virginia on Sept 3 1800 and was but a boy when his parents William and Susan Ann (Bigby) Weekley, who were the parents of 11 children, of whom he was

the seventh in order of birth, moved from their native Virginia over into Ohio and established their home in the then wilderness. He grew to manhood in the new state and after his marriage established his home on a farm and continued farming the rest of his life. HE and his wife were the parents of 10 children, of whom four survive, the subject of this sketch having three sisters living: Mrs. Susan Ann Willis of Amrstromg's Mill, Ohio; Catherine Penrose of Dorsey Ohio and Sarah widow of M. Woodburn of Canton Ohio.

Martin L Weekley grew up on the home farm in Belmont County Ohio and was living there when the Civil War broke out. On December 24 1861 he then being but 19 years of age, he enlisted his services in behalf of the Union cause and went to the front as a member of D Company, 43d Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry and served as a private with that command until the close of the war, being mustered out with his regiment at Louisville KY in 1July 1865. During this time of service Mr. Weekly participated in a number of important battles and engagements and was with Sherman's army on the march to the sea. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Weekley returned to his home in Ohio but two years later, in 1867, came to Missouri and became engaged in wood chopping and the making of railroad ties in Cooper County where he ever

Bottom of Page 768

since has made his home. Two years after coming here Mr. Weekley married one of Cooper County's daughters and in the spring of 1870, shortly after his marriage, began farming on a small tract of 28 acres of land he had bought in section 28 of LaMine Township. There he made his home and as his farming operations prospered he gradually added to his holdings until he became the owner of 506 acres, all but 150 acres of which he has now sold, dividing the proceeds among his children and is now in a position to "take things easy" in the comfortable evening time of his life. Mr. Weekley is a republican and is a member of John Hain post of the Grand Army of the republic at Boonville, in the affairs of which organization he has for many years taken an active interest. He and his family are members of the Church of Christ and he has long been an elder in the same.

On Dec. 26 1869, Martin L Weekley was united in marriage to Martha E Lewis who was born at Boonville this county Dec 8 1845, and who died on Dec 7 1905. Mrs. Weekley was a daughter of Jesse and Amelia (McMahan) Lewis the former of whom was born in the neighborhood of Zanesville Ohio and the latter in Saline County MO., a member of one of the pioneer families in this part of the state. To Martin L and Martha E (Lewis) Weekley six children were born as follows: Charles H., deceased; Alvaretta, deceased; Luther F., of LaMine Township; Laura E., wife of Palmer Taggart, living on the Weekley home place in LaMine Township; Thomas Alexander, also of LaMine Township and William G., of that same Township. Luther, the oldest child has a daughter, Martha Rose and a second child Thomas A, two sons DeWitt J and Martin R.

Andrew A. Ritchie

(Transcribed by jim Thoma)

Andrew A. Ritchie, a well known and progressive farmer of Prairie Home Township, residing at Prairie Home since Jan. 20, 1919, was born in Cooper County, Sept. 29, 1866, and is a descendent of pioneers of this County. He is a son of Abraham and Lizzie (Wood) Ritchie. The mother died in 1869, and her remains are buried in Andrew County, Mo. She was horn in Cooper County, in 1846. Abraham Ritchie was born in Prairie Home Township, in 1841, and now resides with his son here. To Abraham and Lizzie (Wood) Ritchie were born the following children: J. L.. Cole County; A. A., the subject of this sketch; Mary Ellen, married Charles Hawkins and resides at Gorham, Wash.

A. A. Ritchie was educated in the Salem School and recalls as his

Bottom of Page 769

first teacher, Jennie Adams. Mr. Ritchie has spent his life in Cooper County, except two years, when he was in Arkansas. He has always been engaged in farming and stock raising, and in 1915, purchased the old homestead of 90.5 acres from his father.

Mr. Ritchie was married Jan. 18, 1888, to Miss Dora Sinclair, a daughter of George A. and Rhode (Stephens) Sinclair. George A. Sinclair had two half brothers, Joe and Peter Cole. The Cole family was one of the first to settle in Cooper County, and the Stephens family were also one of the very first to families to settle in this county. George A. Sinclair died in 1890 at the age of 55 years. His wife died in 1918, aged 71 years. His remains are buried at Siloam Springs, Ark., and his wife is buried at Walnut Grove Christian Church Cemetery. They were the parents of the following children: Dora, the wife of A. A. Ritchie, the subject of this sketch, was born in Henry County, in 1870; William B., Tipton, Mo.; Mollie, married Ed. McNair, Siloam Springs, Ark.; John, Boonville; Lizzie, married Hardin Hill, Speed; Anna, Parsons, Kan.; Joe, Boonville; and Emmerett, Parsons, Kan. To Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie have been born three children as follows: Abraham Lee, born in 1889, married Edna Dishion in 1912, and resides on the home farm; George Emil, born 1890, married Myrtle Dishion in 1912, and his wife is now deceased, and he resides on the home farm; Ray P., resides at home. Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie are members of the Christian Church at Walnut Grove. The Ritchie family is well known in Cooper County and are highly regarded.

Thomas Henry Smith
(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Thomas Henry Smith, a former well known merchant at Prairie Home, now deceased, was born on a ranch in Guadalupe County, Texas, March 4, 1857, a son of George P. and Mary Louisa (Miller) Smith, natives of Kentucky, and parents of four other children, namely: George P. Smith, of Kingville, Texas; Mrs. R. S. Burges, of Sequin, Texas; Mrs. R. S. Thomas, of Blue Springs, Mo.; and W. E. Smith, of San Antonio, Texas. By a prior marriage George P. Smith had a daughter, Mrs. J. P. Jefferson, of Sequin, Texas.

Reared on a farm in Texas, Thomas Henry Smith early engaged in the raising of cattle, and so continued carrying on his operations on a ranch in western Texas until 1890, when he removed to Kansas City, and from there to Prairie Home, and engaged in the mercantile business, continuing this for about 10 years; he bought a farm and engaged in cattle feeding until his retirement in March, 1919, and returned to Prairie Home, where he died on April 9, 1919. The Smith home is prettily situated on

Bottom of Page 770

North Broadway, Prairie Home, and may be regarded as of historic interest from the fact that a part of the material entering into its construction had many years before been used in the erection of the old Prairie home College. And in that pleasant home, Mr. Smith's widow and her son and daughter are now living, and Mrs. Smith's mother, Mrs. Martha Gray Thomas, is making her home with them.

Oct. 14, 1885, at Greenwood, Mo., Thomas Henry Smith was married to Anna Gray Thomas, who was born near Pisgah, Cooper County. She is a daughter of the late Dr. James Bennett Thomas and Martha Gray (Ellis) Thomas. Mrs. Thomas was born on Sept. 9, 1834, daughter of William and Mary (Dickinson) Ellis. Mrs. Thomas and her sister, Ann M. Ellis, were the original promoters of the movement to create a fund for the erection of the Prairie Home Baptist Church about 1894, and were among the most active solicitors. The late Dr. James Bennett Thomas was born in Kentucky and was a son of the Rev. Robert Stewart Thomas, A. M., first president of William Jewell College, and one of the first professors of Missouri State University. The Rev. Robert Stewart Thomas was born in Scott County, Ky., June 25, 1805, and was married on July 16, 1824, to Elvira Johnston, of Bourbon County, Ky. His father, John P. Thomas, came to Missouri in 1827 and settled in Boone County, where he spent the remainder of his life, one of the honored

pioneers of that section of the State. The Thomases are of Virginia Colonial stock, and are related to the Madisons, the Pendletons and the Barbour. The Rev. Robert Stewart Thomas was taken into the Baptist Church at Paris, Ky., when 16 years of age, and his life thereafter was devoted to the church. At 18 years of age he was licensed to preach, and it was not long until he became recognized as one of the most forceful pulpit orators of his day. He accompanied his father into Missouri in 1827, and his talents soon won for him a foremost position among the educators and ministers of his generation in this State. He received his Master of Arts degree from Yale, and his devotion to the cause of education was second only to his devotion to the cause of the church. He died at Fulton on June 12, 1859, and the Baptists of Missouri have preserved something of the record of his life's work in a memorial volume.

To Thomas Henry and Anna Gray (Thomas) Smith were born three children, Lula Gray Smith, who completed her schooling at Lexington College and is at home with her mother; Ellis Thomas Smith, deceased; and William Robert Smith, at home. Mr. and Mrs. Smith also reared

Bottom of Page 771

Lalla Rookh Fowler, taking her into their home when she was an infant. On Dec. 25, 1915, Miss Fowler married W. R. Wilson, and is now living at St. Louis, where Mr. Wilson is engaged as advertising manager for an extensive dry goods establishment.

August R. Schuster (Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

August R. Schuster, a well-known and substantial farmer and stockman of LaMine Township, was born on that farm and has been a resident of LaMine Township all his life. He was born on Sept. 23, 1883, a son of Moritz and Rachel (Hildebrant) Schuster, both of whom spent their last days on the farm here mentioned.

Moritz Schuster was born in Germany in 1844 and was but five years of age when his parents came with their family to this country in 1849 and came to Missouri, Boonville being their objective point. Not long after coming to this county the father of Moritz Schuster bought the farm in LaMine Township now owned and occupied by his grandson, August, and in time had a very well developed place. Moritz Schuster grew to manhood there and was living there when the Civil War broke out. He enlisted and went to the front as a member of some company and regiment, that Charles Bell was with. He served until mustered out at the close of the war. He returned to the home farm and after his marriage established his home there and he and his wife spent the remainder of their days on that place. He died in March 1915, less than one month after the death of his wife which occurred on Feb. 28. She was born in Virginia, March 18, 1845, and was a daughter of one of the pioneers of Cooper County. Moritz Schuster and wife were the parents of nine children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the eighth in order of birth and of whom seven are still living.

August R. Schuster received his schooling in the district schools and has devoted himself to agricultural pursuits. He bought his first farm in 1904, and after setting out trees and otherwise improving it, in 1910, sold it to his brother, Benjamin Schuster. He then bought the old home place and since taking possession of the same has made many improvements, crowning the same by the erection in the summer of 1919 of a handsome 10-room dwelling house of the modern bungalow type. Mr. Schuster has 318 acres of excellent land and in addition to his general farming giving considerable attention to the raising of live stock. He is a stockholder in the Boonville National Bank and Trust Company of Boonville. He is a republican and he and his family are members of the Christian Church.

Dec. 23, 1903, August R. Schuster was married to Minne O'Neil, who

Bottom of Page 772

also was born in LaMine Township, a daughter of Ballard and Lillie (Rhoden) O'Neil, natives of Missouri, both of whom are now deceased, and to this union five children have been born, namely: Mabel, deceased; Agnes R, Virginia, Elnora and a son who died in infancy.

Clarence Levi Eager
(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Clarence Levi Eager, one of Cooper County's progressive young farmers and proprietor of a fine farm of 175 acres near Gooch's Mill in Saline Township, is a member of one of the county's pioneer families, a great-grandson of the founder of Gooch's Mill. He was born at Gooch's Mill, Aug. 4, 1890, son of Charles L. and Rebecca (Shepherd) Eager, residents of "Elmwood" farm in Saline Township. Charles L. Eager is a son of Lewis and Cynthia A. (Gooch) Eager, the latter of whom was a daughter of William D. Gooch a Virginia who founded Gooch's Mill and was succeeded by his son-in-law, Lewis Eager, also a Virginian. Rebecca Shepherd Eager is a daughter of Levi and Joanna (Campbell) Shepherd, former residents of Saline Townships.

Clarence L. Eager received his schooling in the old Liberty School in Saline Township, in the Boonville High School and Kemper School, and upon completing his schooling began farming on his own account. In 1914, not long after his marriage, he established his home on his present farm, the old Judge Hall place, in Saline Township, and has since resided there. When Mr. Eager took possession of that place it was but slightly improved, and he has worked wonders in bringing it "out of the kinks;" included in the improvements he has made being the erection of a handsome modern bungalow of seven rooms, a stock barn, 48x56, with metal roof and sides, and other essential outbuildings, and has secured an unfailling water supply from a well 230 feet deep.

Clarence L. Eager was united in marriage in 1913 to Emma Louise Catherine Effinger, of this county, and to this union one child has been lure, Hazel Louise. Mrs. Eager is a daughter of Henry and Louise Catherine (Brockman) Effinger, of Boonville Township, and is a graduate of Cottey College at Nevada. Mr. and Mrs. Eager have a very pleasant home. Mr. Eager is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at Prairie Home.

O. M. and C. E. Hale
(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

O. M. & C. E. Hale, proprietors of the Prairie Home Garage, are two of the live young business men of this thriving town. O. M. Hale conducted this business alone until Feb. 7, 1919, when he sold a half interest to his brother, C. E. This garage was established in 1911, having been built by Brooks & Fischer. It is a well equipped garage, 40x60 feet. The Hale Brothers do all kind of automobile repair work, and their repair

Bottom of Page 773

department is equipped with special machinery for automobile work. They have the agency for the Mitchell cars and a sub-agency for the Maxwell, and are doing a very satisfactory business in their sales department.

The Hale family is one of the pioneer families of this section of Missouri. O. M. Hale, the senior member of the firm, was bone Aug. 28, 1890, a son of T. F. and Sallie B. (Caret') Hale. T. F. Hale was born in Cooper County in 1851, a son of Meade Hale, a Missouri pioneer, who settled near Big Lick, Saline Township, at a very early date. Sallie B. (Caret') Hale is a daughter of George Caret', a pioneer of Prairie Home Township, who is now 80 years old. T. F. Hale and wife now reside at California, Mo. Their children areas follows George, deceased; John, a farmer in Moniteau County; O. M., senior member of the Hale Brothers; Frank, resides on the home place in

Prairie Home Township; Charles E., junior member of the firm of Hale Brothers; Isaac C., California, Mo.; Allie, married R. L. Simmons, California, Mo.; Berths, married Arthur Bottoms, Prairie Home; Edna, married Alvin Carpenter, Prairie Home Township.

O. M. Hale was married to Miss Lillie Klockner, of California, Mo. She is a daughter of Louis and Rosa (Moss) Klockner. The Klockner family were very early settlers in Cooper County. Louis Klockner's father was reared in Boonville, Mo. Mrs. Hale was one of four children born to her parents, the others being as follows Dora, married Joseph Gruff, Prairie Home; Clara, resides in Kansas City, Mo., and Louis O. is a druggist in St. Louis, Mo. To Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Hale have been born two children: Courtney and Kinneth.

The Hale family is well known in Cooper and Moniteau Counties, and O. M. and C. E. Hale are two of the substantial business men of Prairie Home.

Gilman W. Jewett

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Gilman W. Jewett, proprietor of "Sugar Tree Farm," in Saline Township, one of the substantial farmers of that neighborhood, was born at Jewett's Mill, in Clarks Fork Township, Jan. 20, 1865, son of Samuel L. and Martha M. (Dorsey) Jewett, both of whom spent their last days in this county and are buried in Walnut Grove Cemetery.

Samuel L. Jewett, who for many years was engaged in the milling business in this county, and whose old mill in the Clarks Fork neighborhood instill standing, was born near Waterloo, Ill., in 1834. His father and mother both died when he was about five years of age, and he was cared for by William Cropper, with whom he came to Missouri in 1840, the family settling near the present town of Overton. There, Samuel L. Jewett grew up and received his early schooling. At the age of the

Bottom of Page 774

began working in Conner's mill, and was thus engaged for two years, when he entered college at Alton, Ill., and after a course there left for California, going by way of the isthmus. That was about 1854 and he was absent for five or six years, mining and milling in California. He returned by way of Cape Horn and New York to Cooper County and bought Davis & Barker's mill in the vicinity of Clarks Fork and resumed the milling business. For five years he operated this mill and then sold it and in 1865 returned to Illinois and became engaged in farming in Madison County, that State, but shortly afterwards returned here, buying back his old mill, which by that time had come into the ownership of James Armstrong, and here spent the remainder of his life. He died in February 1917, he then being 80 years of age. His wife died in May 1893. To Samuel L. Jewett and wife were born six children, as follows: Judge Benjamin D. Jewett, living on the home place at Clarks Fork, an ex-judge of the eastern district of Cooper County; Mrs. Walter B. Windsor, living near Clarks Fork; Gilman W.; Edward M., died at Boonville, Dec., 1918; Halbert A., Clarks Fork; and Theodore B., on the home place with Judge Jewett.

Reared in Clarks Fork, Gilman Jewett received his early schooling in the local schools and the Pilot Grove School. In 1898, he bought a farm southeast of Bunceton with his brothers and a few months later established his home there. A few years later, however, he sold that place, anti in March, 1903, bought from John Malone the faun on which he is now living, the old Hammond place in Saline Township, and has since made that his home, developing there a fine piece of property, "Sugar 'free Farm:' Since taking possession of "Sugar Tree Farm," Mr. Jewett has made numerous improvements, including the remodeling the fine old brick farm house which was erected there by Samuel Hammond in 1850 with brick burned on the place, the building of two fine barns and a tile silo, two tenant houses and other buildings. Of the 443 acres in "Sugar 'flee Farm" about half is bottom land, the remainder being what is known as "second bottom," and all

is productive. The place is well watered, and 200 acres of meadow land afford admirable facilities for extensive livestock operations. There also is an excellent orchard on the place.

March 22, 1899, G. W. Jewett was married to Myrtle A. Mills, of Clarks Fork Township, and to this union two children have been born, Samuel L., a student at Missouri State University, and who, during the World War was a member of the S. A. T. G. there, receiving his discharge in December, 1918, and Martha W., who was graduated from the Boonville

Bottom of Page 775

High School with the class of 1919. Mrs. Jewett was born in Denver, Colo., Nov. 11, 1872, only child of J. T. and Leona (Maxwell) Mills, the latter of whom died at the age of 23 years, when her daughter was an infant. J. T. Mills was a native of this county, born in Clarks Fork Township in 1845, and nearly all his life was spent on a farm there. He retired and moved to Kansas City, where he died at the age of 67. After the death of his first wife, J. T. Mills married Bettie L. Tucker, and to that union were born seven children: J. Turril Mills, Boonville; Anna, wife of C. E. Conner, Boonville; William H. Mills, Kansas City; Pauline, wife of Lawrence Meyer, Boonville; Thomas W. Mills, who served in the United States Army in the World War as a member of the Hospital Corps at Camp Eustice, Va.; Miss Gladys Mills, Kansas City; and Mrs. Helen Hale, Kansas City. Mr. Jewett is a member of the local lodge of the Woodmen of the World at Gooch's Mill.

Benjamin E. Schuster

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Benjamin E. Schuster, one of LaMine Township's best known and most progressive young farmers and hog breeders and the proprietor of a well-improved farm in that Township, was born in LaMine Township and has lived there all his life. He was born Sept. 23, 1888, a son of Moritz and Rachel (Hildebrant) Schuster, further mention of whom is made in this volume.

Benjamin E. Schuster received his schooling in the public schools of that neighborhood and high school at Marshall, Mo., where he was graduated in the class of 1908. As a young man began to turn his attention to farming on his own account and soon became a landowner. In 1907 he purchased the place that was owned by his father and after his marriage in the fall of 1908 established his home on the place known as "Silvercrest" farm and has since been residing there. Since taking possession of that farm Mr. Schuster has made extensive improvements on the place and now has one of the best farms in the neighborhood. He is the owner of 100 acres of excellent land and is doing well in general farming and hog raising. Mr. Schuster makes a specialty of breeding pure bred Poland China hags and during the year disposes of 200 head or more for breeding purposes at prices considerably above the market price. He ranks among the successful breeders of pure blood Poland China hogs in the country and the product of his pens are shipped all over the United States. He holds two sales annually. His pens are well arranged and the place shows every evidence of modern methods.

Nov. 18, 1908, Benjamin E. Schuster was united in marriage to Ethel Davis. who also was born in LaMine Township, daughter of Jasper A.

Bottom of Page 776

Davis and wife. Mr. Schuster is a member of the Christian Church and his wife is a Baptist. Mr. Schuster is a republican and is a stockholder in the Boonville National Bank and in the Citizens Trust Company of Boonville, as well as in the Bank of Blackwater at Blackwater.

William Karen

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

William Karen, station agent at Overton, for more than 23 years an employee of the Missouri Pacific, is a native of Indiana. He was born in Lawrenceburg, Ind., July 28, 1865, son of James C. and Teresa (Rudolph) Harm, who came to Cooper County more than 40 years ago, and whose last days were spent near Chateau Springs.

James C. Karen and his wife were natives of Germany, and after their marriage came to America, locating at Lawrenceburg, Ind., where Mr. Karen followed his profession as a school teacher. In 1877 they moved to Missouri and settled in the vicinity of Chateau Springs, where he opened a private school and became one of the influential factors in the educational and social development of that section. He and his wife died in 1882, the former in January of that year and the latter in July, and are buried in the Martinsville Cemetery. James C. Karen and wife were the parents of seven children: Mrs. Katie Ehlen, St. Louis; Mrs. Mary Martin, La Mine; Mrs. Teresa Ludwig, Helena, Mont.; Mrs. Annie Rogers, Helena; Josephine, Helena; William; and James C., who died at the age of 50 years at Redlands, Calif.

In 1882, William Karen went to Helena, Mont., and was employed there until 1887. Upon his return he followed farming near Chateau Springs. March 1, 1896, he was appointed agent for the Missouri Pacific Railway Company at the station at La Mine and continued thus engaged there for nine years, when he was transferred to Overton, where he since has been located. During the more than 23 years he has been employed by the company he has lost but one week of time, which is a record of which any railroad man might be proud. Mr. Karen owns a comfortable home at Overton. He is a member of the Woodmen of the World at Gooch's Mill and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

July 28, 1892, William Karen was united in marriage at the Martinsville Church near Chateau Springs, to Mary Ann Ryan, who was born in Missouri, and to this union four children have been born: Margaret, wife of Carl Fisher, Prairie Home; John R., with the bridge department of the Missouri Pacific Railway Company; and William, Jr., and Henry R., at home. Mrs. Karen was born at Billingsville, Mo., daughter of Thomas and Mary Ryan, and was but two days old when her mother died. Her father, who was a soldier of the Union during the Civil War, was killed

Bottom of Page 777

in service in 1865, and she was reared in the household of John McVay and wife at Chateau Springs.

Arthur F. White

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Arthur F. White, of the well known blacksmithing firm of White & Sells, is one of the progressive citizens of Prairie Home, Mo. He is a native son of Cooper County and was born in Clarks Fork Township, July 16, 1888. He is a son of Millard F. and Sarah (Darberry) White, who now reside in Prairie Home. The former is a native of Missouri and the latter of Arkansas.

Arthur F. White is one of five children born to his parents, the others being as follows: Pearl, married Andy Shirley, Boonville; Maggie, married Elmer Shirley; Ethel, married Dean Deuel, Sedalia; and Walter, who served with the 89th Division during the World War. He was a member of Company L, 356th Infantry. He enlisted Sept. 5, 1917, and was trained at Camp Funston, and on June 16, 1918, was sent to France. He participated in much of the severe fighting. He was at the front and through the battle of Argonne and other engagements, and with his division as a part of the army of occupation in Germany. Arthur White was reared and educated in Cooper County, and learned the blacksmith trade with Frank Rodell. He has been engaged in blacksmithing at his present location in Prairie Home for five years. On Feb. 11, 1919, he formed a partnership with Joseph Sells, and they are doing an extensive business. They have a well equipped shop for doing a general line of blacksmithing and woodwork. The place is furnished

with power from a gas engine, by which their saws, disc sharpeners, emery wheels and other mechanical devices are operated.

Mr. White was married Feb. 14, 1912, to Miss Esther Byler, a daughter of Robert and Nora Byler. To Mr. and Mrs. White have been born one son, Arthur Lewis, born Dec. 26, 1918.

During the World War, Mr. White was in the U. S. Army about 60 days. He went to Camp Funston, Sept. 19, 1918, and was discharged Nov. 20, 1918. He is a member of the Woodmen of the World and the Royal Neighbors. He is an enterprising young man, and a Cooper County citizen worth while.

Robert Kaempfer (Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Robert Kaempfer, now living retired at Prairie Home, is one of the best known men in the eastern part of the county. He was born on the old Kaempfer place, part of which he still owns, two miles east of Prairie Home, June 2, 1846, son of John Godfrey and Mary (Schiele) Kaempfer.

John Godfrey Kaempfer was born in Germany about the year 1813, and came to Cooper County about 1835. He was a blacksmith in the old

Bottom of Page 778

country. Upon coming here, he settled in what then was known as Midway, bought a "40" from William Snodgrass established his home and set up on his place a blacksmith shop, the first in this part of the country. At that time, long before Prairie Home had found a place on the map, Midway was regarded as the half-way place between Jefferson City and Boonville, and was a stage stop and postoffice site, the postoffice being kept by Albert Tompkins at his home on the present site of the W. F. Carpenter residence a short distance southeast of Prairie Home. Albert Tompkins "entered" that place from the Government in 1833, and he and his wife and sister are buried there. John G. Kaempfer's home and blacksmith shop were about two miles from the Midway station, and this necessitated quite a walk for him when called on to shoe the stage horses at Midway, which he often was called on to do. He was the first smith in this part of the country to make a steel mold-board plow, and his services were in wide demand. Later, however, he gave more attention to farming, becoming a considerable land owner. His wife died in 1852, and he died October 7, 1887, and both are buried on the home farm. Of the children born to them two survive, Mr. Kaempfer having a sister, Mrs. Mary Schnuck, who makes her home with him at Prairie Home. Mrs. Schnuck is the widow of Henry Schnuck, Sr., one of the pioneers of Saline Township, who came here with his parents when about 12 years of age, and died June 2, 1909.

Robert Kaempfer received his schooling in the Hornbeck School, and among his teachers he recalls particularly Robert Carlos, who was a half brother of Frank and Carter Carlos.

Mr. Kaempfer has always followed farming, becoming a part owner of the home place, and there resided until his recent retirement and removal to Prairie Home, where he and his wife now reside. March 1, 1919, Mr. Kaempfer moved to town, buying there the William Byler property. Mr. Kaempfer still owns 156 acres of the old home place. Not long ago he sold to B. L. Morris a tract of something more than 52 acres. He is in a position to "take things easy" in the pleasant "evening time" of his life. Mr. Kaempfer is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Gooch's Mill.

Sept. 10, 1873, Robert Kaempfer was united in marriage to Catherine Alice Graff, who was born in Indiana, a daughter of Joseph and Margaret Graff, old settlers of Saline Township. Mr. and Mrs. Kaempfer have nine children, one son and eight daughters, and these daughters at the Prairie Home Fair in 1918 brought to their mother quite a unique distinction,

Bottom of Page 779

Mrs. Kaempfer having been awarded the premium for the largest fancy of girls reared in Cooper County. The only son, John Kaempfer, the fourth child in order of birth, married Anna Hertsick, and lives in Cedar County. He and his wife have two children, Homer and Mary Bernice. The daughters are as follows: Margaret, wife of William H. Kuhn, Prairie Home; Mary, wife of Millard Pipkin, Russellville; Emma, wife of William Oerly, Wooldridge; Elizabeth, wife of Jesse Byler, Moniteau County; Anna, wife of Walter Byler, same county; Nora, wife of B. L. Morris, who owns a part of the old Kaempfer farm in Prairie Home Township; Louisa, wife of Otto Wallenmeier, Moniteau County, and Meta, wife of Clarence Hornbeck, Prairie Home Township. Besides the two grandchildren, Homer and Mary Bernice Kaempfer, mentioned above, Mr. and Mrs. Kaempfer have 22 other grandchildren, namely; Lawrence, Herbert, Floyd, Elmer, Blanche and Alice Kuhn; Newell Pipkin; Lester, Curtis, Raymond, Oliver and Alvin Oerly ; Garland, Roger, Joseph, Charles, Arthur and Ruth Byler; Kenneth Hornbeck, and Gerine, Ruby and Fern Morris

Henry Louis Muntzel (Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Henry Louis Muntzel, one of LaMine Township's best known and most progressive farmers and the owner of a well improved farm of 275 acres in that Township is a native of Cooper County. He was born on a farm south of Boonville on Dec. 17, 1866, son of Christian and Lavinia (Meyer) Muntzel, the latter of whom, also a native of Cooper County, is living with the subject of this review.

Both the Muntzels and the Meyers are of Hanoverian stock and among the pioneers of Missouri, settling first in St. Louis County and then coming to Cooper County. Peter Muntzel, the founder of the family in this state, was born in Hanover in 1799 and came to America in 1843, locating on a farm in St. Louis County, where he remained until 1856, when he came to Cooper County. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in the remainder of his life. He and his wife were the parents of four sons, Henry, Albert, Daniel and Christian.

Christian Muntzel was born in 1840 and was but a child when his parents came to this country. He was 16 years of age when the family came to Cooper County. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in the Union army and went to the front as a member of Company A 29th Missouri Volunteer Infantry, with which command he marched with Sherman to the sea and was mustered out at the close of the war as one of the nine survivors of his company. He then returned to his home in Cooper County and Sept. 10, 1865, was united in marriage to Lavinia Meyer, who was born in this county on April 1, 1846.

Bottom of Page 780

Mrs. Lavinia Muntzel is a daughter of Henry and Anna (Baldwin) Meyer, Hanoverians, who came to this country shortly after their marriage and settled in Cooper County about 1840, where Henry Meyer bought 20 acres of Congress land, he and his wife spending the remainder of their lives here. He and his wife were the parents of 10 children: Mary, Elizabeth, Katherine, Lavinia, Sophia, Louise, Annie, George, Henry and William. Following his marriage to Lavinia Meyer, Christian Muntzel settled on a farm south of Boonville and there spent the rest of his life. He died in 1886. His widow still owns the home place of 340 acres.

To Christian and Lavinia (Meyer) Muntzel were born four children: Henry L., Matilda, Ids and George, all of whom are still living. Matilda Muntzel was born in 1869 and completed her schooling in the Pilot Grove High School. In 1893, she was married to C. H. Phillips, and now resides in Kansas City, where Mr. Phillips is cashier in the city water department. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips have two children, Charles, who is now (spring of 1919) still in France, a member of Base Hospital Unit No. 28, which was called on for much active service during the progress of

America's participation in the World War, and Frances, a senior in the Central High School. Ida Muntzel was born in 1873 and completed her schooling in Missouri Valley School at Marshall In 1899, she married Dr. W. H. Gentry, physician of Carthage, Mo., who in 1918 was called to the colors in the World War, was commissioned captain and stationed at Camp Taylor, Louisville, Ky., and now lives at Carthage, Mo. George Muntzel was born in 1876) and completed his schooling at the Haynes School in Boonville and the Gem City Business College, Quincy, Ill. In 1901, he married Fannie McNulty, and made his home on a farm south of Boonville. They have three children, Frances, Wilbur and Charles, who are now attending high school at Boonville.

Henry L. Muntzel was reared on the home farm south of Boonville. Upon completing the course in the Pilot Grove High School, he took a supplemental course in the International Business College at St. Louis, from which he was graduated in 1886. He then farmed on his own account on the home place until in 1895, when he bought his present farm east of Blackwater, and has since resided here. Mr. Muntzel carries on general farming and gives considerable attention to raising hogs. His farm of 275 acres is well improved.

Dec. 23, 1893, Henry L. Muntzel was married to Margaret Rudolph, who was born in this county, Dec. 20, 1868, and who died on Aug. 27, 1904. Mrs. Margaret Muntzel was a daughter of George and Anna (Bowman) Rudolph, Virginians, who settled in Cooper County before the Civil

Bottom of Page 781

War, and the former of whom is residing seven miles south of Boonville. To Mr. and Mrs. Muntzel were born three children: George, born in 1894, attended Central College at Fayette, and who died in 1916; Robert, born in 1896, also attended Central College, and died in 1915, and James, who was born in 1900, is now attending Boonville High School. Mr. Muntzel is a member of the Baptist Church, and is a republican, and for a number of years served as committeeman from his precinct.

Henry W. Oerly

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Henry W. Oerly, postmaster and general merchant at Overton, and one of the influential citizens of that section of Cooper County, postmaster at Overton for nearly 15 years, was born in this county, April 7, 1882, son of Samuel and Mary A. (Schunck) Oerly. He received his schooling in the Highland Schools in Saline Township, and continued making his home on the home farm until his appointment to the office of postmaster at Overton in August, 1905, and has since held that office. When he took charge of the post office Mr. Oerly started in connection with the same a local jewelry shop and watch making establishment and maintained that business until in June, 1916, when he opened a grocery store and moved the post office into the building he erected at that time, and has since been engaged in the grocery business in addition to looking after the affairs of the post office. Starting his grocery with a \$450 stock, Mr. Oerly has increased his business until he now has a well stocked and well equipped store, carrying a full line of goods required in the general trade of the community. In October, 1915, he bought the T. L. Tucker residence at Overton and he and his family have since resided there. Besides this property and his store building Mr. Oerly is the owner of six half-acre lots at Overton and one smaller lot.

June 16, 1908, the twenty-seventh anniversary of the marriage of his parents, H. W. Oerly was married to Sara Martha Grannemann, who was born at Morrison, Mo., and to this union one child has been born, Laura Marie. Mrs. Oerly was born on July 9, 1887, a daughter of Louis and Minnie (Noltensmeyer) Grannemann, both natives of Missouri, now deceased. They are buried at Wainwright. Mr. and Mrs. Oerly are members of the Evangelical Church at Boonville. Mr. Oerly is one of the leading factors in the business life of his home town.

William H. H. Rowles

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

William H. H. Rowles, a prominent farmer of Kelly Township, is a descendant of early pioneers of Cooper County, both on his father's and mother's sides. He was born May 29, 1841, and is a son of Reuben and Margaret (Stephens) Rowles. Reuben Rowles was born near Baltimore, Md., in

Bottom of Page 782

1814, and came to Cooper County, Mo., in 1835. Margaret Stephens was born in Cooper County and was a daughter of Joseph Stephens, one of the very first settlers of Cooper County. Reuben and Margaret (Stephens) Rowles were married in Cooper County in 1840, and spent their lives in this county. He died at Bunceton in 1900 and his wife departed this life at Bunceton in 1905. They were the parents of the following children: W. H. H., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Catherine Stephens, Tipton, Mo.; Alpha Marge, deceased; Mrs. Sallie Barber, deceased; Joseph died in Oklahoma; Reuben on the home place, Kelly Township; John on the home place, Kelly Township; Charles Ochiltree, Texas, and Mrs. Maggie Carpenter.

William H. H. Rowles was reared in Cooper County and attended such schools as were in the neighborhood when he was a boy. His first school was held in a log building in the Davis school district and was taught by his uncle, John D. Stephens. Later he attended school at the Dublin district, north of Bunceton, and recalls among early teachers, Mary Chilton, Thomas Bridges, Mr. Hague, Benjamin Hickman and Mrs. Smoot. He also attended school at the Hopewell Church school, which was taught by Jack Stephens and B. R. Gully. Mr. Rowles has always lived in Cooper County, except three years spent in California and 18 months in Texas. He bought his present home in 1873. This farm was entered from the Government in 1819 by Joseph Stephens, grandfather of Mr. Rowles. The home place consists of 147 1/2 acres and Mr. Rowles owns two other farms, one of 80 acres and one 240. The home place is well improved, with a neat six room residence and good substantial barns and other buildings. Mr. Rowles carries on general farming and stock raising.

Dec. 26, 1871, W. H. H. Rowles was united in marriage with Miss Perlina J. Arnold, a daughter of James S. and Malvina (Lahue) Arnold, both natives of Indiana. They went from their native state to Iowa in early life, and in 1864 came to Missouri. The father was born in 1823 and died in Benton County, Texas, in 1887. His wife was born in 1824 and died in Oklahoma in 1896. They went to Texas in 1872. They were the parents of the following children: Perlina J., the wife of W. H. H. Rowles; Mrs. Mary Miller, Denton, Texas; Willard, Dallas, Texas; George resides in Colorado; Mrs. Dorcas Stephens, deceased; Mrs. Lola Morgan, deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Rowles have been born two children: A. D. Married Alta Yarnell and lives three miles west of Vermont Station, and James R. lives near Hopewell Church. He married Pauline Walje. There

Bottom of Page 783

are 12 grandchildren in the Rowles family, each of the sons having six children.

Mr. and Mrs. Rowles are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Rowles family are prominent in the community.

Samuel Y. Thornton
(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Samuel Y. Thornton, president of the Farmers Stock Bank of Blackwater, and one of the best known stockmen in Cooper County, proprietor of the great "Rose Hill" Stock Farm in LaMine Township, and recognized throughout the country as the most extensive breeder of Duroc Jersey hogs west of the Mississippi, is a native of Ohio, but has been a resident of this State since the days of his boyhood, and therefore regards himself as a Missourian "to the core." He was born in

Clermont County, Ohio, Dec. 23, 1851, son of Dr. Samuel and Frances (Clarke) Thornton, the latter of whom also was born in that county and both of whom spent their last days in Missouri.

Dr. Samuel Y. Thornton was born in Maryland in 1807, and early turned his attention to the study of medicine. He began the practice of his profession at Batavia, Clermont County, Ohio, about 1832, and later practiced at Bethel, Ohio, where he remained until 1857, in which year he came to Missouri with his family and located near Jefferson City, where he began farming on 1,000 acres 12 miles south of that city on the Osage River, where he died in 1877. On this big farm there was a tract of 300 acres of "bottom" timber land, which he cleared and brought under cultivation. Doctor Thornton's wife died in 1868. She was born in 1809. They were the parents of eight children, of whom but two survive, the subject of this sketch—the last in order of birth—having a sister, Mrs. Lida McMillan, residing at Jefferson City. One of the sons of Amos B. Thornton, who died in 1880, is well remembered in Cooper County as a newspaper editor at Boonville, and further reference to him is made in the chapter relating to the press of Cooper County elsewhere in this work.

The younger Samuel Y. Thornton was but five years of age when he came to Missouri with his parents, and he grew to manhood on his father's big farm on the Osage, where he became thoroughly familiar with the details of farming operations, and early began to pay particular attention to stock raising. He supplemented the schooling received in the local schools by a course in Westminster College at Fulton and at Missouri State University at Columbia, and after leaving college returned to the farm and became engaged as a partner of his father in the operations of the home place. In 1887, about five years after his marriage, Mr. Thornton bought "Rose Hill," his present fine stock farm of 540 acres in LaMine Township, and has since made his home there. For years on that

Bottom of Page 784

place he gave much attention to apple growing, having a fine orchard of 80 acres, maintained his own cooperage, and in 1906 raised 10,000 barrels of apples. Of late years, however, Mr. Thornton has devoted his place particularly to the breeding of Duroc Jersey swine and the raising of cattle and grade sheep. It was in the latter '80s that he began to give his particular attention to the breeding of Durocs, and it was not long until his success in that line gave his name a high standing among swine breeders throughout the country, the demand for stock swine of the "Rose Hill" herd coming from widely separated districts in the United States. He has for years taken an active part in the deliberations of the Swine Breeders Association, and has been an extensive writer for stock journals, his advice on matters relating to proper breeding of swine being widely sought. The operations on "Rose Hill" farm are carried on in accordance with modern principles of agriculture, and there has been created one of the best farm plants in this section of the State, including three tenant houses, two silos and three feed barns. Of late Mr. Thornton has been relieved of much of the detail of farm management by his younger son, John P. Thornton, whom he made his partner some time ago, and who now is in practical management of the place, thus giving his father more time for the details of other forms of business in which he is engaged. In 1897, Mr. Thornton became a stockholder in the Farmer Stock Bank of Blackwater, and in 1909 was elected president of the bank, a position which he since has maintained. In 1910, Mr. Thornton was appointed by Governor Hadley to serve as a member of the Sixth Missouri District Board of Horticulture, and he retained that position as long as the board continued, his activities in that connection giving him a wide acquaintance throughout the State. Mr. Thornton is a democrat and has long given his earnest attention to local civic affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office. He is a member of the Church of Christ.

May 4, 1882, Samuel Y. Thornton was united in marriage with Fannie Collins, who died Oct. 24, 1916. Mrs. Thornton was born in Montgomery County, Ky., March 1, 1855, daughter of Samuel R. and Sarah (Tipton) Collins, both natives of Kentucky, who came to Missouri in 1860, and in 1861 settled on the farm in LaMine Township, now owned by Mr. Thornton, where they spent the rest of their lives. It was thus that Mrs. Thornton (Fannie Collins) grew to womanhood on beautiful "Rose

Hill" farm. She completed her schooling in Farringer Seminary at Boonville, where she was awarded the prize offered her class for excellence in penmanship. To Mr. and Mrs. Thornton six children were born, namely:

Bottom of Page 785

Mattie C., who is at home, hostess at "Rose Hill"; Sadie B., deceased; Samuel C., a substantial young farmer of LaMine Township; William B., who died at the age of three years and six months; Lida Frances, who is at home, and John P., who, is also at home and is now his father's partner in the operations of the stock farm.

Charles Henry Bodamer

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Charles Henry Bodamer, a leading citizen of Prairie Home Township, was born in Moniteau County, Feb. 2, 1870. He was reared by Charles and William Bodamer from the time he was five years of age. He is a son of Bernard and Catherine (Hens) Keucherer, who both died when Charles H. was an infant.

Charles Bodamer was born in Germany and brought to this country by his parents, who settled in Philadelphia, Pa., when Charles was three years of age. His brother, William B., and sister, Mary, were born in that city. The family lived in Philadelphia for a time when they removed to Indiana. After remaining there seven years they came to Missouri and settled in Moniteau County in 1857. Here the two brothers and a sister lived together during the remainder of their days. Charles died in 1912, William in 1919, and Mary in 1905.

Charles Henry Bodamer was educated in the public schools at Jamestown, Mo., and has made farming and stock raising his life occupation. He first bought 120 acres of land, which is his present home place, in 1893. Since that time he has acquired 250 acres more, which was given him by Charles and William Bodamer. Mr. Bodamer's place is known as "High View Farm," and is located two miles south of Prairie Home. The place is well improved, with a modern farm residence of 10 rooms, built in 1910. The house is equipped with acetylene lights, furnace heat and a hot water system. The barns and other farm buildings are in keeping with the residence. For a number of years Mr. Bodamer specialized in raising Aberdeen Angus cattle, but a few years ago sold his herd to his son, Arthur.

Mr. Bodamer was married April 3, 1895, to Miss Elizabeth Kuhn, a daughter of Henry and Ameba (Scholle) Kuhn, early settlers at Jamestown, Mo. The father was a native of Ohio, born in 1835. He served in the Union Army during the Civil War. During his active career he was engaged in the milling business, and operated a mill at Jamestown for 25 years. He is now 83 years of age. His wife was born in Germany in 1845, and came to America with her parents when she was eight years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Kuhn were the parents of the following children: Alvina, married H. R. Burroughs, and resides at Kingman, Kan.; Henry, cashier of Farmers and Traders Bank, California, Mo.; Emma, married John Reuszer, and resides in Moniteau County; Elizabeth, the wife of Charles

Bottom of Page 786

H. Bodamer, the subject of this sketch; Sophia, married Fred Knorp; and William died at the age of 23 years. To Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Bodamer have been born five children, as follows: Arthur, born April 6, 1896, a farmer and stockman of Prairie Home Township; Carl, born June 26, 1897, resides at home; William, born May 12, 1899, a graduate of the California High School, resides at home; Marie E., born April 28, 1914, and Elsie Gertrude, born Feb. 18, 1911. William was at the Washington University Training School at St. Louis, Mo., when the war closed.

Charles H. Bodamer is a progressive and public spirited citizen. He and Mrs. Bodamer are members of the Methodist Church at Jamestown.

Frank Irving Hale

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Frank Irving Hale, a progressive and enterprising young farmer and stockman, of Prairie Home Township, was born near Gooch Mill in Saline Township, March 10, 1896. He is the son of Thomas F. and Sallie Bell (Carey) Hale, both also natives of Saline Township. They now reside at California, Mo. Thomas F. Hale was born in 1857, his father being a pioneer of Cooper County. His wife was a daughter of George Carey, who now resides about a mile north of Prairie Home at the advanced age of 80 years. To Thomas F. and Sallie Bell (Carey) Hale were born the following children: Allie, married Richard Summers, California, Mo.; Bertha, married Arthur Bottom; John, resides in California, Mo.; Oliver M., Prairie Home; Edna, married Alvin Carpenter; Frank L, the subject of this sketch; Charles Prairie Home; William, California, Mo.; and George, died at the age of six years.

Frank Irving Hale was reared in Cooper County and educated in the public schools. He was reared on a farm and has made farming and clock raising his life occupation. He purchased his present place, which heirs the very appropriate name of "Pretty Prairie Farm," from his father in 1919. The farm consists of 160 acres with a good farm residence and other improvements to correspond. Mr. Hale carries on general farming and stock raising, and is meeting with well merited success. Mrs. Hale has developed a department of her own. She is successfully engaged in raising Rhode Island Red chickens.

Sept. 29, 1917, Frank Irving Hale was married to Miss Estella Brandes, a daughter of Theodore and Marie (Knorp) Brandes, of Clarks Fork Township where Mrs. Hale was born, reared and educated. Mrs. Hale was one of the following children born to her parents: George, resides in Boonville; Herman, Boonville; Amelia, married John Banon, of North Moniteau Township; Nora, married John Bornhauser, who is now deceased, and she resides at home with her parents; Estella, the wife of Frank I. Hale, of this sketch.

Bottom of Page 787

July 26, 1918, Frank Irving Hale enlisted in the U. S. Army and was sent to Camp Funston, Kan., for training, where he became a member of the 69th Infantry, 10th Division. He was mustered out of service Feb. 26, 1919, when he returned to his home in Cooper County and engaged in farming again.

Amos Gorrell

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Amos Gorrell, a retired farmer of LaMine Township, for many years justice of the peace, and a veteran of the Civil War, has made his home in this county for more than 50 years. He is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Beaver County, Feb. 12, 1837, son of Amos and Leah (Wollam) Gorrell, who were the parents of six children, four of whom are living. When he was but six years of age, in 1843, his parents moved with their family to Ohio and settled in Ross County, where they spent the remainder of their lives.

Amos Gorrell was reared on a farm in Ross County, Ohio, and his schooling was received in the district schools. When the Civil War broke out, he enlisted at Frankfort, Ohio, in July, 1861, in the Union Army and went to the front as a private in Company A, Eighteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. With that command, Mr. Gorrell participated in some of the most important engagements of the war, including Athens, Perryville, Stone River, Davis Cross Roads and Chickamauga. During this latter battle, Sept. 19, 1863, he was shot in the right arm and for some time was on the invalid

list, but early in 1861 was able to return to his regiment and continued in active service until mustered out in the fall of that year. Mr. Gorrell then returned to his home in Ohio, where early in 1866 he married. After his marriage he continued to make his home in Ohio for a few months, when he and his wife came to Missouri in the summer of 1866 and located in Morgan County. A year later they came to Cooper County, and here Mr. Gorrell has ever since resided. His first employment here was in the timber, chopping cord wood, and he continued working as a timberman until 1869, when he bought 40 acres of timber land and proceeded to clear a small farm for himself. He cleared the land and farmed it for several years, when he sold the place to advantage and bought another farm. In 1881, he bought the farm of 80 acres he now owns in LaMine Township, and there continued to make his home until his retirement in 1912, when he removed to Blackwater, where he since has made his home. Mr. Gorrell is a democrat, and for 16 years during the time of his residence on the farm served as justice of the peace for his home Township. He is a member of the Methodist Church.

Feb. 6, 1866, in Ross County, Ohio, Amos Gorrell was united in marriage to Catherine E. Sayer, who was born in that county, Feb. 18, 1835,

Bottom of Page 788

and who died at her home in Blackwater on Sept. 22, 1918. To that union were born six children, namely: Leula, wife of William E. McMahan; Sarah L., wife of P. Netherton, living on the Gorrell home place in LaMine Township; Joseph N., of Carthage; Ada, wife of John Whitlow, of LaMine Township; one who died in infancy, and Arthur, also deceased.

M. K. Gentry

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

M. K. Gentry, a prominent citizen of Cooper County, who has served as county treasurer for two terms, is a native of Kentucky. He was born in Clark County, Ky., Sept. 27, 1855, and is a son of Nelson B. and Francis (Elkin) Gentry. Nelson B. Gentry was born in Madison County, Ky., Dec. 23, 1823, and died in Kelly Township, Cooper County, in 1912. He came to Cooper County in the fall of 1865 with his family, and the following spring bought 380 acres of land in Kelly Township for which he paid \$7,500.00, 95 acres of which is now owned by M. K. Gentry, purchased of the other Gentry heirs in 1919. Francis (Elkin) Gentry was born in Jessamine County, Ky., Sept. 12, 1833, and died in Cooper County, in 1897. She and her husband are buried in the Masonic cemetery at Bunceton. They were the parents of the following children, all of whom were born in Kentucky: M. K., the subject of this sketch; Pauline B., deceased; Lucy Francis, married J. H. Goodwin, Kansas City, Mo.; W. D., deceased, and Orpha P., Kansas City.

M. K. Gentry was educated in the public schools of Kentucky, and D. S. Cully's private academy, which was three miles northwest of the present town of Bunceton. After Bunceton was laid out this school was moved there and occupied the site of the present Bunceton High School. Mr. Gentry was reared to manhood on the home farm in Kelly Township, and in 1880 removed to Boonville, and for a time was engaged in the grain business. In 1884 he was elected county treasurer on the Republican ticket by a majority of 48 votes. He was the first republican ever elected to a county office in Cooper County. He was again elected county treasurer in 1894. He resided in Boonville from 1880 to 1898, and during that time he served as bookkeeper in the Central National Bank for six years, and for eight years he was engaged in the clothing business. During the balance of the time, while in Boonville, he served as county treasurer. Mr. Gentry is now engaged in farming and stock raising, and has a well improved and valuable farm in Kelly Township.

Mr. Gentry was married in 1886 to Miss Emily F. Haynes, a daughter of Anthony and Mary (Montgomery) Haynes, both of whom are now deceased. The father was a prominent educator, and for many years was a professor in the Young Ladies Seminary at Boonville. Mr. and Mrs. Gentry have an adopted daughter, Catherine Sneed Gentry, who is

Bottom of Page 789

now the wife of Charles A. Clark, of Chicago, Ill. She has one son, Charles T.

Mr. Gentry is a member of the Masonic Lodge and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He and Mrs. Gentry are members of the Presbyterian Church, and rank among Cooper County's leading citizens.

Frederick Charles Betteridge (Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Frederick Charles Betteridge, the capable cashier of the Cooper County Bank, Bunceton, Mo., is a native of Canada. He was born at Guelph, Ont., Oct. 10, 1870, a son of George and Ann Maria (Jones) Betteridge. The parents were both natives of England, where they were married, and about 1860 went to Canada, settling at Guelph. In 1874 the family removed to Connecticut and settled near Woodstock. In 1877 they went to Illinois and lived at Greenville about 10 years, and in 1888 came to Missouri and settled in Cooper County near Bunceton. The father now resides at Bunceton at the age of 85 years, the mother having died in 1899. They were the parents of the following children: William A., a well known breeder of Shorthorn cattle at Pleasant Green, Mo.; G. A., a farmer and stockman in Kelly Township; Mrs. A. L. Palmer, Lebanon Township, and Frederick Charles.

Frederick C. Betteridge was educated in the public schools and Kentucky University at Lexington, Ky., where he was graduated from the business department of that institution. He taught school for 11 years in Cooper County, and was very successful as an educator. In 1903, Mr. Betteridge accepted the position of assistant cashier of the Cooper County Bank, and after 11 years of service with that institution he became cashier, a position which he has since held. Mr. Betteridge has been identified with the Cooper County Bank for over 16 years, and during that time this institution has developed rapidly and kept pace with the commercial and financial requirements of the progressive town and surrounding country. The deposits of this bank in 1903 were about \$80,000.00, and today they are about \$300,000.00. The original surplus was \$2,000.00, and it is now \$42,000.00. The capital stock is \$20,000.00.

Frederick Charles Betteridge was united in marriage Aug. 14, 1900, to Miss Lillian May Baughman, a daughter of Samuel P. and Laura Baughman, natives of Kentucky. The father died in 1919, aged 81, and the mother now resides with Mrs. Betteridge in Bunceton.

Mr. Betteridge owns a fine farm of 145 acres in Kelly Township, which he bought in 1899. He directs the operation of this farm personally, and has made a success of farming and stock raising, as well as banking. He is a careful student of the complicated problem of banking

Bottom of Page 790

and financing, which, together with years of experience in this field, well qualify him for the responsible position which he holds. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and has an extensive acquaintance over Cooper ('aunty and an intimate knowledge of it's business affairs.

Benjamin Harned (Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Benjamin Harned, a prosperous farmer and stockman of Kelly Township, is a descendant of a pioneer family. He was born at Price's Landing, Scott County, Mo., March 25, 1859, and is a son of George and Marcia (Posh) Harned, both natives of Nelson County, Ky. They settled in Scott, County about 1855, and 10 years later came to Cooper County and settled on the farm which is

now owned by W. P. Harned, and here spent the remainder of their lives. George Harned was one of the earliest Shorthorn breeders of Cooper County and prior to his death he sold a part of his herd to his son. W. P. Horned, who still continues the business. Lee Horned, a brother of George Harned, was a Confederate soldier in the Civil War, and was killed at the battle of Shiloh. Another brother, Atkin Lee Harned, lost an arm in the battle of Baton Rouge, La., while in the Confederate service. George and Marcia (Posh) Harned, were the parents of the following children: W. P. lives near Vermont Station; Benjamin, the subject of this sketch; Edwin Price, Bunceton; Hullo, married Walter Williams, and died at Columbia, Mo., and Atkins, died in infancy.

Benjamin Harned was educated in the public schools at Franklin and in Professor Cully's school at Bunceton. He has followed farming and stock raising all his life, and has met with very satisfactory success. He moved to his present farm in April 1902. His home farm consists of 247 acres and is known as "Walnut Rows Farm". This very appropriate name is given the place on account of two rows of walnut trees which stood along the road side at the place. Mr. Harned owns in all 563 acres and is one of the prosperous farmers and stock raisers of Cooper County. His other farm of 320 acres is called "Tanglewild".

Jan. 10, 1888, Benjamin Harried was married to Miss Bettie Bradley, a daughter of R. L. and Marian (Clark) Bradley. The former a native of Page County, Va., and the latter of Frankfort, Ky. R. L. Bradley came to Cooper County in 1847 and settled on a farm 4 miles west of Bunceton. He spent the remainder of his life in this county and died in 1892, age 67 years. His wife died in 1908, age 78 years. They were the parents of the following children: Frank Slaughter, born Nov. 17, 1856, and died Sept. 13, 1881; John Williams died in infancy; Margaret Lee, died in infancy; Tompkins, born Jan. 13, 1859, lives in Camden County,

Bottom of Page 791

Mo.; Mary McPherson, born Feb. 24, 1865, and died June 30, 1895; Sue Clark, born Feb. 24, 1869, and resides at Boonville, Mo.; Bettie, the wife of Benjamin Horned, the subject of this sketch, born June 23, 1867. All of the above named children were born in Kelly Township, Cooper County. Mrs. Horned was educated in the public schools of Kelly Township and the Baptist Female College at Columbia, Mo.

To Benjamin Horned and wife have been born the following children: George, at home with his parents; Bettie married R. L. Harriman, Bunceton; Clara Virginia, married Clyde T. Nelson; Benjamin, Jr., married Eunice Jones; Josephine, Hulda, Atkin Lee, Porter Allen, Myrtle Jewett, and Marian and Marcia, twins, all residing at home with their parents. There is one grandchild in the family, Bettie Lee Harned, daughter of Benjamin Horned, Jr.

The Horned family is well known and highly respected in Cooper County and Benjamin Harped is a public spirited and enterprising citizen.

Adam Schuster

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Adam Schuster, one of LaMine Township's most substantial farmers and land-owners, and a member of the board of directors of the Farmers Stock Bank of Blackwater, was barn in this county in 1851. He is next to the youngest of the six children born to Frank and Terrica (Cleatta) Schuster, pioneers of Cooper County.

Frank Schuster was a weaver by trade in his native Germany, and early became imbued with a desire, like thousands of his fellow countrymen, to come to America to find a home amid the free conditions of the unsettled West. Weaving by night and farming by day, he saved enough money to bring himself and wife and their small children here. Upon his arrival in this country, he settled in St. Louis, and after a couple of years there joined the German colony in Cooper County and bought a farm of timbered land in LaMine Township, and there built a home. Among the children

born to him and his wife after their arrival in this country was Adam, the subject of this sketch. The other children of this pioneer couple were as follows: Moritz, deceased, further mention of whom is made in this volume; Mrs. Sophia Sandrock, deceased; Joseph, a shoemaker at Boonville; William, deceased; and Anna, who married Joseph Esser, and is now deceased. The mother of these children died at her home in LaMine Township about 1861, and five or six years later Frank Schuster returned to Germany and there married a second time, returning to his home in Cooper County with his second wife. Some years later he made a second trip back to Germany on a visit to kinsfolk. Not long after his return home, about 1870, a wagon in which he was riding

Bottom of Page 792

was caught at a railway crossing by a train and he received injuries from which he died not long afterward, he then being about 65 years of age.

Adam Schuster was about 15 years of age when his father died, and he thus early was thrown pretty largely upon his own resources. He began working as a farm hand at \$14 dollars a month, but continued his schooling, however, during the winter months. When 17 years of age he began working for Adam Eckert at the butcher trade, and was thus employed for three years, when he went to St. Louis to work, and while there witnessed the completion of the first bridge constructed across the Mississippi River. He worked as a butcher in St. Louis for two years, and then went to Virginia City, Nev., where he worked at butchering for two years, when he returned to his old home in this county and resumed his work as a farm hand. In 1880, he rented the farm on which he now lives, and in 1882 bought the same. Mr. Schuster has 464 acres in his home farm, and owns beside a farm of 86 acres near Pilot Grove. He is a member of the board of directors of the Farmers Stock Bank at Blackwater, which he helped to organize, and of which he has been a director since its organization; he also is a stockholder in the Arrow Rock Bank. When he bought his present farm it was raw prairie, and all the improvements on the place have thus been made by himself. He recalls well that in his father's day the farming was done by oxen, and the wheat was reaped with scythes. Many a day, he recalls, has he plowed corn with oxen. One year his father had 17 acres in wheat which made 1,700 bushels. This wheat was hauled in barrels to the mouth of the LaMine River, whence it was taken by steamboats to St. Louis, where it sold on the market at \$2.25 a bushel. In those days, wild hogs, turkeys and other wild game were plentiful in the LaMine regions, and the settlers had no trouble in keeping their tables supplied with meal. Hogs roamed the timber at will and without apparent ownership, and the man who found one could lawfully call it his own.

Sept. 9, 1883, Adam Schuster was married to Lowell Cramar, who was born on a farm a mile east of where she now lives, April 17, 1865, slaughter of Gabriel Allen and Nancy (Herndon) Cramar, the former of whom was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families, and the latter in Madison County, Ky. No children have been born to this union, but Mr. and Mrs. Schuster have reared several nieces and nephews. Mr. Schuster is a republican, though, as he says, "not much on politics," and he and his wife are members of the Christian Church.

Bottom of Page 793

Joseph Sells

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Joseph Sells, one of the enterprising business men of Prairie Home, and a member of the blacksmithing firm of White & Sells, is a native of Missouri. He was born in Moniteau County, Dec. 20, 1887, a son of William H. Sells. William H. Sells was a Union veteran of the Civil War, and a native of Iowa. He enlisted in his native State and served 18 months. After the war he went to Kansas, and from there to Moniteau County, Mo., and later removed to Texas County, Mo., where he died in 1913. His widow now resides in that county. They were the parents of the following children: Alice, married Joseph Chandler and lives in Oklahoma; Dasie, married William Wood, California, Mo.; Ed., resides at Lupus, Mo.; Guinn, deceased; Sarah, married Philip

Wittenberger, Jamestown, Mo.; George, Texas County; Pink, Texas County; Joseph, the subject of this sketch; Willie, married Ed. Mayberry, Texas County; and Vernon resides in Texas County.

Joseph Sells was united in marriage in 1913 to Ida Martin, a daughter of Menro and Eliza (Marl) Martin. The father died in 1908 and his remains are buried in Bethel Cemetery in Moniteau County, and the mother now resides at Lupus. They were the parents of the following children: Clara, married Ambrose Coots, Jamestown; Douglas, resides at Lupus; Mary; Nathan, Lupus; Job, now serving in U. S. Army in France, having enlisted in California; Ida, the wife of Joseph Sells; Cora, married Harry Childers, Lupus. To Mr. and Mrs. Sells have been born two children: Mildred and Francis. Mr. Sells became a member of the firm of White & Sells in 1919. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America at Jamestown, and he also belongs to the Yeomen at that place. He is a young man of industry and integrity and is making good in his chosen line of industry.

David R. Gully

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

David R. Gully, who during his active professional career, was one of the prominent educators of this state, is a native of Ohio. He was born in Wayne County, Ohio, Jan. 17, 1836, a son of Joseph and Margaret Gully. Joseph Gully was born in Baltimore, Md., about 1798 and settled in Ohio when a young man. He lived to the advanced age of 99 years and 10 months. His wife was born in Washington County, Md., about 1802, and died at the age of 85 years. They were the parents of eight children, two of whom are living, David R., the subject of this sketch, and James, who lives at Cleveland, Ohio, and holds the position of president of the welfare board in that city. The deceased children are William, died at Massilon, Ohio; Mrs. Elizabeth McMillan, died at St. Paul, Minn.; Joseph died at the age of 21 years in Wayne County, Ohio; Mrs. Margaret

Bottom of Page 794

McDowell died at Dalton, Ohio; Mrs. Marrah McCall, died at Crawfordsville, Iowa, and Thomas died in Florida in Feb., 1918.

David R. Gully was educated in Vermillion Institute, Hayesville, Ohio, and was the youngest student in that institution. He then entered Jefferson College, now Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, Pa. and was graduated in the class of 1858. Mr. Gully then came to Boonville, Mo., at the invitation of John W. Sutherland, who was at the head of the Missouri Female College at that place. At that time there was a Baptist College at Hopewell Church, Kelly Township, and Mr. Gully taught there for ten months. The following year Hopewell Academy was built and Mr. Gully taught at that institution for six years which included the Civil War period. He then taught two years at the Missouri Female College at Boonville. About this time a building was erected at Concord Church, 3 miles northeast of Bunceton, and was offered to Mr. Gully, provided he would conduct a school there for five years. He accepted the proposition and shortly after this the town of Bunceton was laid out and a railroad built, and this school was moved to Bunceton, where Mr. Gully conducted it for six years. In 1877 he was elected superintendent of the schools of Mexico, Mo., and held that position one year. He was reelected, but on the same day was elected superintendent of the Sedalia schools. He accepted the Sedalia position and served as superintendent of the schools of that city for 10 years. In 1898 he returned to Kelly Township and took charge of "Seclusion Stock Farm", where he has since resided.

"Seclusion Stock Farm" is one of the valuable farms of Cooper County. It contains 320 acres and is one of the historic old places of the county. The farm residence, which is over 100 years old, was the second house built in Kelly Township.

David R. Gully was united in marriage in 1864 to Miss Susan Chilton, a daughter of Charles and Mary E. (Chilton) Chilton native of Fauquier ('aunty, Va. The Chilton family came from Virginia to Missouri about 1840, and first settled at Old Franklin, Howard County, and soon afterwards

removed to Boonville. Charles Chilton died at Boonville in 1849 at the age of 29 years. His widow died in 1912 at the age of 86 years. A sister of Mrs. Gully, Eloise Chilton, makes her home with the Gully family and is a half owner of the farm.

The Chilton family are of old American stock and trace their ancestry in this country back to Colonial times, and were early settlers in Cooper County. Mrs. Gully's grandfather, Mark Anthony Chilton, at one time owned 1,100 acres of land in Kelly Township. He was a native of Virginia

Bottom of Page 795

Gen. John Blackwell, of Revolutionary fame, was Mrs. Cully's great grandfather. He received a grant of land from the government in the Sciota Valley in Ohio, and Mark Anthony Chilton inherited an interest in that land, which he traded for the Kelly Township land. Samuel Chilton, an uncle of Mrs. Cully, was a prominent attorney at Warrenton, Va., and was one of the attorneys who defended John Brown, of Harper's Ferry fame. He was not in sympathy with John Brown's cause, however, he made an able defense for him. This was about the last case that he ever tried. He died in Washington, D. C. shortly afterwards.

Amos O'Neal

(Transcribed by Laura Paxton)

Amos O'Neal, a veteran of the Civil War and a retired farmer and land-owner of LaMine Township, is a native of Virginia. He was born in Raleigh County VA., February 16 1841, son of Jesse and Mary (Shumate) O'Neal, the latter of whom also was born in Virginia, who came to Missouri in the '50's with their family and here spent their last days.

Jesse O'Neal was born in North Carolina in 1808, and was a farmer all his life. He married in Virginia, and there resided until the '50's when with his family he came to this State. He first tried Moniteau County but not being wholly satisfied with conditions there, came to Cooper county in 1856, and the next year bought a tract of land in LaMine Township, paying \$12.50 an acre for the same, and there spent the remainder of his life. He died in 1869. His widow died in 1885. She was born in 1812, a daughter of Daniel Shumate. Jesse O'Neal and his wife were the parents of 12 children, of whom Amos was the sixth in order of birth and three of whom are still living.

Amos O'Neal was 15 years of age when he came to this county with his parents in 1856, and here he grew to manhood, attending the district school in LaMine Township. He was 20 years of age when the Civil War broke out, and in 1861 he enlisted in the Confederate Army as a member of the Second Missouri Cavalry, with which he served most of the time under Gen. N B Forrest, though a part of the time the command was in the brigade of Gen. Sterling Price, west of the Mississippi. Mr. O'Neal was taken prisoner at Bahalia, Miss., and was a prisoner of war for nine months, when he was paroled on account of illness. During his long military service he one time came very near death, when his horse was shot from under him by a cannon ball. Another time a minnie ball struck a stirrup and knocked it off. Upon receiving his discharge at the close of the war, Mr. O'Neal returned home, arriving by boat at Arrow Rock July 4 1865. The next year he returned South, where he remained for three years, when he returned to Cooper County, married in the fall of 1869, "settled down" on the farm and has ever since been quite content

Bottom of Page 796

here to reside. Mr. O'Neal has a well improved farm of 205 acres. For some years past he has been living practically retired, the operations of the farm being carried on by his eldest son, S A O'Neal, who is married and lives on the place. Mr. O'Neal is one of the veteran farmers of the county, whose memory extends back to the days when oxen were used in farming and he has many interesting stories to tell of the days now long gone. He is a stanch democrat and is a Baptist.

October 2 1869, Amos O'Neal was married to Lucinda Cramer, who was born in LaMine Township, October 19 1851, daughter of Gabriel and Mary (Jeffress) Cramer, and who died on October 22 1914. To this union nine children were born, namely: Sanford Alonzo, who is farming the home place; Edward Lee, a merchant, farmer and stockman living at Blackwater; Silas, also of Blackwater; Gabriel, deceased; Riley, deceased; Aubrey of Kansas City MO.; Nora deceased; Grace, wife of D L Edson of West Boonville and Freeman who is now (spring of 1919) with the American Army in Europe. Freeman O'Neal enlisted in the Medical Corps of the National Army for service in the World War in 1917, and sailed for overseas in July 1918. Sanford A. Freeman, who is looking after the affairs of the home farm, married Agnes Reynolds, who also was born in this county and has two children, Alma, wife of H C Minard, and Amos who during America's participation in the World War served as a member of the S A T C at Missouri State University, Columbia.

Howard B. Collins

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Howard B. Collins, proprietor of the Bank Hotel, Bunceton, Mo., is a mining man of vast experience. Mr. Collins was born in Denver, Colo., Sept. 27, 1875. He is a son of Samuel G. and Emilie (Browning) Collins, the former a native of Mississippi, born in 1849, and the latter of New York, born in 1852. They went to Colorado in 1868, where the father was employed in the banking house of Koontz Bros., at Denver, until 1879. He then went to Leadville, Colo., where he has since been interested in mining and milling properties. They now reside at Denver, Colo. To Samuel G. and Emilie (Browning) Collins were born the following children: Howard B., the subject of this sketch; Edna W., who is now secretary of the Rocky Mountain Division of the Civilian Red Cross, with headquarters at Denver, and Walter G. manager for J. D. Lacy & Co., Portland, Ore. He was drafted by the war department as a timber expert, during the World War, and served in that capacity until the war closed. He is a Yale graduate.

Howard B. Collins was educated in the public schools at Denver, the Shattuck Military School at Faribault, Minn., and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at Boston, Mass., where he was graduated in the

Bottom of Page 797

class of 1898, he then went to Cripple Creek, Colo., and later to Leadville where he was engaged as mine operator and manager of mining and milling properties until Jan., 1918, when he came to central Missouri to take charge of a zinc and baryte mining property, where he remained until June, 1918. He then came to Bunceton in partnership with George H. Hubbard of Versailles, in the operation of the Hubbard Cannel Coal Mine. Mr. Collins sold his interest in this mine to his partner, and on May 4, 1919 purchased the Bank Hotel at Bunceton. Mr. Collins is giving Bunceton a good hotel, which is much appreciated by the public.

Howard B. Collins was married Sept. 2, 1902 to Miss Georgia Curfman, a daughter of Dr. George W. Curfman, of Denver, Colo. Mrs. Collins' parents are both deceased, the father died in 1918, and the mother in 1915, and their remains are buried at Crown Hill Cemetery, Denver, Colo. Mrs. Collins has one brother, Floyd G., a mechanical engineer of New York City. He is a graduate of the State Agricultural College of Ft. Collins, Colo. Mrs. Collins was educated in the North Denver High School and the Iowa Wesleyan University at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. She has specialized in music and for a number of years taught music in Denver. To Mr. and Mrs. Collins have been born one daughter, Miriam Browning, who was born at Denver, Colo., and is now a student in the Bunceton high school. Mr. Collins is a member of the Masonic lodge and the Sigma Alpha Epsilon College fraternity.

Charles E. Steele

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Charles E. Steele, cashier of the Farmers Stock Bank at Blackwater and many years one of Cooper County's best known educators; is a native son of Cooper County. He was born on a farm six miles south of Boonville Jan. 27, 1872, son of John A. and Eliza J. (Batten) Steele, the latter of whom, born in Howard County, is still living, now a resident of Boonville.

John A. Steele, who died at his home on the old Steele farm south of Boonville Jan. 26, 1917, just 50 years to the day from the time he had settled on that place, was a Tennessean, born on Aug. 10, 1835, and was nine years of age when he came to Missouri with his parents in 1844, the family settling on a farm in the vicinity of Clarksburg. William H. Steele, the father, was a native of Ireland and his wife, who was a Blackburn, was born in Kentucky or Tennessee. They spent the remainder of their lives on the farm near Clarksburg. John A. Steele grew to manhood on that pioneer farm and in time became a substantial farmer on his own account. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and was a democrat.

Bottom of Page 798

He and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this biographical review was the sixth in order of birth, the others being the following: John T., Webb City; Maggie, widow of M. C. Toler, living near Boonville; Georgia, wife of J. E. Rennison, Boonville; Frances, wife of U. T. Toler, Columbia; William H., near Otterville; Lavine, wife of John C. Muntzel, Boonville, and Cloud W., deceased.

Charles E. Steele was reared on the farm. He completed his schooling in the Pilot Grove Academy and in Sept., 1890, entered upon a career of school teaching which was to continue for 16 years, during which period he also for four years occupied the position of school commissioner, serving two terms, beginning in 1897. In 1904 Mr. Steele was appointed principal of the public schools At Blackwater, a position he occupied for six years. Not long after going to Blackwater Mr. Steele became employed as a bookkeeper in the Farmers Stock Bank, keeping books after school hours, and in 1907 was made cashier of the bank, the position he has since occupied. Mr. Steele is a democrat, a Baptist and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

May 3, 1905, Charles E. Steele was united in marriage to Mattie Shouse, who also was born in Cooper County, and who died April 30, 1907, at the age of 24 years. A child born to that union died in infancy. Mrs. Mattie Steele was a daughter of the Rev. Charles O. and Marian (Ford) Shouse, the latter of whom is still living, residing on a farm in Blackwater Township. The late Rev. Charles O. Shouse, a pioneer minister of the Christian Church in Cooper County, was a native of Kentucky, m is his widow, and was for many years a strong factor for good in this community.

Walter H. Shouse

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Walter H. Shouse, cashier of the Bank of Blackwater was born on a farm three miles west of Blackwater, Aug. 5, 1884, son of Ernest and Mary (Harvey) Shouse, who were members of pioneer families and both Of whom are now deceased. Ernest Shouse was a son of the Rev. Charles Q. Shouse, a minister of the Christian Church, who came to Missouri from Kentucky in pioneer days and who was for many years one of the strong factors in bringing about orderly conditions in this community. Ernest Shouse, who became a farmer, died in 1887, at the age of about 32 years, and his widow died in 1895, aged 40 years. They had two sons, Walter H. and Albert E. Shouse, born on Jan. 25, 1887, who is now (1919) u Belgium, a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces, serving in the Signal Corps. Albert E. Shouse early became a telegraph operator

Bottom of Page 798

and in Nov. 1917, while thus engaged at Kansas City, Mo., enlisted for service in the Canadian army, was attached to the Signal Corps of that army and on Jan. 25, 1918, sailed for overseas duty.

Bereft of his father when he was but a small child, Walter H. Shouse was reared in the home of his maternal grandparents, James A. and Sarah (Bagby) Harvey, whose home was in Saline County. He received his schooling in the public schools at Nelson and early began to "look out for himself." Until he was 18 years of age Mr. Shouse continued working on a farm and then he began his commercial career as a clerk in a village general store. For eight years he continued thus engaged and in 1909, became a bookkeeper in the Farmers Stock Bank at Blackwater, a position he occupied until in Aug., 1918, when he was made cashier of the Bank of Blackwater, a position of responsible trust he since has occupied. Mr. Shouse is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and is a democrat.

Walter H. Shouse was married Feb. 22, 1919, at Holton, Kan., to Peachie Griffith, a native of Saline County, daughter of Henry C. and Anna (McCutcheon) Griffith, natives of Fairfield County, Ohio and Saline County, Mo., respectively. They live seven miles west of Blackwater on a farm. They are the parents of two children, Mrs. W. H. Shouse and Mrs. Reba Williams, living in Saline County.

www.mogenweb.org/cooper