

## History of Cooper County Missouri by W. F. Johnson

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#### Abraham Potter

(Transcribed by Laura Paxton)

Abraham Potter, a well to do land owner of Cooper County, now living retired, is one of the oldest native born sons of Cooper County now living, he now being in his 94th year. He was born on a pioneer farm near Boonville, Nov 12 1825, a son of John and Martha (Edgar) Potter, who were among the pioneers of that vicinity. John Potter was a native of Virginia, born in Rockingham County, in 1774, and came to Missouri in territorial days and located at the landing at Boonville. In the early days he was widely known as a hunter, and he and his old flint lock gun were inseparable companions. This was frontier country when he came here, and there were no limits to the boundaries of the territory over which he could range in quest of game. As the country settled he became a substantial farmer, a well to do land owner in this county, and here spent his last days his death occurring about 1860. His wife also spent her last days here. She was born in Kentucky and also was of the real pioneer stock. John Potter and his wife were the parents of 12 children, six sons and six daughters, all of whom are now dead, save the venerable subject of this sketch.

Reared on the old Potter farm in this county, Abraham Potter received his schooling in the somewhat primitive schools of the time and place, and as a young man devoted himself to farming, a vocation at which he was working, when in 1849 the discovery of gold in California started the stampede of hardy and adventurous souls in that direction. He then was 23 years of age, and to the temperament eager to seize upon the prospect of so promising an adventure and in 1849 he joined a band of "Argonauts" and started across the plains for the gold fields arriving there without serious mishap in 1850. For four years he remained in the gold country and then came back to Cooper County returning by way of Panama and the East, and in the spring of 1855 became engaged again in farming in this county. Upon his return here he bought 222 acres and in the years since has added to his holdings until now he has 720 acres of fine land, a part of which has been under cultivation more that 90 years. During the time of the Civil War, Mr. Potter served as a member of the Home Guards, but was not called into active service. In the fall of 1865 he married and established his home in a log cabin on his farm, but it was not long until he had a better home and as the years passed he brought his farm up to a high standard which is being

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maintained by his son, John J Potter, who since his father's retirement, has been directing the affairs of the home farm. Abraham Potter is a stanch democrat and has ever stoutly maintained the principles of that party. He is a stockholder in the Bank of Clifton City and has other good investments besides his broad acres. He attends the Presbyterian Church but is not a professed member of the same.

In Oct 1865 Abraham Potter was married to Sarah Erwin, who was born in Pettis County in 1845, member of one of the pioneer families of that county and who died in 1914, she then being 69 years of age. To that union was born 10 children: Lura wife of J W Neal of Sedalia; Ella who is living with her father; Granville of Sedalia; John J., who is farming the old home place; Clayton, deceased; Flora wife of A M Harlan of Sedalia; Eva wife of F B Richards, now living in Florida; Hettie at home; Ethel wife of F Griffin, of Pettis County and Brookie wife of T A Huffine of Napton. Mr. Potter has 14 grandchildren and in his old age takes much pride and interest in watching their growth and development. John J Potter who has charge of the old home farm, is carrying on operations there in progressive fashion and in accordance with up to date methods, which offer an amazing contrast to the methods which his father perforce had to employ in the days when he

entered upon the development of that fine farm, and is doing well. He married Jennie Phillips, of Pleasant Green and has a very pleasant home. Mrs. Potter also is a member of one of Cooper County's pioneer families.

**Henry Lee Myers**  
(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Hon. Henry Lee Myers, United States senator from the state of Montana, is a native son of Cooper County, in whose preferment her citizens take a just measure of pride, and it is but proper that, though he long has been an honored citizen of another State, there should here be set out in this record of his old home county some brief record of his life and achievements. Cooper County has been singularly favored in the character of her citizenship and in the number of her sons who have achieved distinction in the various fields of lofty human endeavor.

Senator Myers is a representative of one of Cooper County's real "old families," his mother's family having settled here in territorial days, and in his parental inheritance he partakes of the pioneer qualities of sturdy and self-reliant Virginia and Kentucky stock. The senator's father, Henry M. Myers, was a Virginian, born of Colonial stock in 1814. He grew to manhood in Virginia, receiving his schooling there and becoming a substantial citizen, remaining there until the year 1840, when he

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disposed of his interests there and came to Missouri, settling on a farm on the Jefferson City road, one mile east of Boonville, where he spent the rest of his active life, becoming a useful and influential citizen of the community. In his old age, and upon his retirement he joined his son, Henry L., at Hamilton, Mont., where he spent his last days. He died there in 1899, being 85 years of age, and his body lies in the cemetery at that place. Henry M. Myers was twice married, his first wife, who was a Hickox, and whom he married in Missouri, having died after about 14 years of married life. To that union were born four children, namely; Helen, widow of F. P. Bronaugh, of St. Louis; Martha, who married the Rev. G. W. Horn, and is now deceased; Kate, who died in the days of her girlhood, and Laura, wife of C. A. Patton, of Fulton, Ma. The second wife, mother of Senator Myers, was Maria Moss Adams, who was born on a pioneer farm, four miles east of Boonville, in 1831, a daughter of David and Margaret Adams, pioneers who had come here from Kentucky in the territorial days. To Henry M. and Maria (Adams) Myers were born two sons, Senator Myers having a younger brother, Dr. Ernest Adams Myers, a dental surgeon, now practicing at Portland, Ore. The mother of these sons died at Hamilton, Mont., in 1897, and is buried there beside the body of her husband.

It was on the Myers farm, a mile east of Boonville, that Henry Lee Myers was born, Oct. 9, 1862, and his boyhood was spent there. His schooling was received in private schools at Boonville under the preceptorship of Anthony Haynes and M. M. Singleton, who directed his studies, and under whose instructions he cultivated an inclination to adopt the law as his profession. Thus equipped by preparatory study he entered the law office of Draffen & Williams at Boonville, and under the preceptorship of this firm, teaching school at intervals, he made such advancement that in 1884 he passed the examination and was admitted to the bar. After admission, he continued to teach for a time, and also engaged in newspaper work. Later, he went to West Plains, Howell County, and opened an office for the practice of law, but conditions there not proving satisfactory, he yielded to an inclination to do a bit of pioneering, to go West and "grow up with the country," and in 1893 he went to Hamilton, in Ravalli County, on the very western border of Montana, and in the new county seat engaged in the practice of law. He arrived at singularly opportune moment, and it was not long until he was becoming widely recognized as one of the coming factors of Western Montana. Reared a

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democrat of the true Jeffersonian type, and with a lawyer's aptitude for such activities, it was but natural that he should early take his place in the rapidly expanding political arena of the community, and it was not long until he found himself elected to office, his first public service being rendered as county attorney of Ravalli county. He served two terms in this office, and in 1898 was elected to represent his senatorial district in the State Senate, the term being for four years. It was while thus serving that Senator Myers acquired the initial legislative experience that later was to prove so valuable an acquisition in the greatest deliberative body in the world, the United States Senate. During his service in the Montana General Assembly the Senator extended his acquaintance pretty widely throughout the State, and became recognized by leaders generally as a State figure in politics. In the meantime he was not neglecting his practice, the modest law office which he had opened at Hamilton upon his arrival having early acquired a profitable clientele, and he also became recognized as one of the leading lawyers of his judicial district, a fit candidate for judicial honors. A vacancy occurring, he was appointed district judge by the governor. At the next election his party presented him as its nominee for district judge of the Fourth Judicial District. He was elected, and was on the bench when elected by the General Assembly of his State to serve as a United States senator from Montana for the six-year term, beginning March 4, 1911. So satisfactory was Senator Myers' service in the United States Senate prove during his first term that in 1916 he was, without opposition, made the nominee of his party in Montana for re-election (the law relating to the selection of United States senators meanwhile having been revised), and in the following election was chosen by the vote of the people to succeed himself, and is now thus serving his second term in the United States Senate.

Senator Myers is married. In July, 1896, at Hamilton, Mont., he was united in marriage with Nora S. Dora, of that place, whose parents, T. M. Doran and wife, still live there, and to this union one child has been born, Mary Annetta. The senator and his wife are Presbyterians, and he is affiliated with the Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

### **William A. Smith**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

William A. Smith, a well-to-do retired farmer of Prairie Home Township, is a native son of Cooper County. He was born on a farm in Prairie Home Township, April 24, 1860, son of Jeremiah and Letitia (George) Smith. Thomas Smith, father of Jeremiah Smith, entered from the Government

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a tract of land in Prairie Home Township upon coming here, and the west half of the plat of the town of Prairie Home covers a part of that land.

William A. Smith received his schooling in the local public schools, his attendance at school, as he recalls it, being pretty largely confined to rainy days. He stuck to the home farm when he grew up, and after his marriage at the age of 23, his father gave him 80 acres on which he established his home. As his affairs prospered he bought adjoining land until he became the owner of a fine farm of 210 acres a mile west of town, where he continued his operations until his retirement from the farm and removal to Prairie Home in 1914, since which time his farm has been under the management of his son, Elmer Smith. Prior to moving to Prairie Home in September, 1914, Mr. Smith had bought a four-acre tract within the corporate limits, erected a five-room house, and he and his wife have since resided there, their chief domestic concern being the care of their poultry yard, where they have a fine flock of White Wyandot chickens. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the Baptist Church at Prairie Home, and Mr. Smith is clerk of the congregation. He also gives close attention to local civic affairs, and is a member of the Town Council, serving as clerk of the same, and is secretary-treasurer of the local light plant. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

Nov. 29, 1883, William A. Smith was married to Bettie Muir, who was born in this county, and to this union two children have been born, namely: Mamie Levers, born on Oct. 7, 1884, married Harold Mills, Dec. 27, 1905, of Clarks Fork Township, and has two children, Jerome and Virginia; and Elmer K. Smith, born June 15, 1888, who, on Feb. 11, 1914, married Melvina Milner, who was born at Medill, Okla., and has two children, Harry Milner and Mildred Elizabeth. Elmer K. Smith is now farming the home place, where he and his family live. Mrs. Bettie Smith was born at Bunceton, daughter of Thomas J. and Rhoda (Levers) Muir, both members of old families in this part of Missouri. Dr. B. W. Levers, maternal grandfather of Mrs. Smith, was one of the pioneer physicians of Cooper County, he having practiced in what is now the Bunceton neighborhood long before the town of Bunceton was laid out. He married Rhoda Stevens in 1818. Henry Levers, an uncle of Mrs. Smith, wrote in collaboration with his partner, N. M. Drake, an attorney of Boonville, a history of Cooper County in 1876. William Basil Muir, paternal grandfather of Mrs. Smith, was a pioneer of Howard County, locating there upon coming from Tennessee in the early days. His son, Thomas J. Muir,

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father of Mrs. Smith, was born in Howard County, Sept. 21, 1828, and died at his home in Cass County on Feb. 18, 1875. His remains rest in the family cemetery in Howard County. His widow, who was born on April 29, 1834, died Jan. 18, 1889, and she was buried at Bunceton. Thomas J. and Rhoda (Levers) Muir were the parents of seven children, namely: Thomas H., born Nov. 1, 1854, Gridley, Kan.; William B., Jan. 20, 1857, Hammond Ind.; Bettie, wife of William A. Smith, Feb. 4, 1861; Margaret L., June 17, 1863, married Charles Stemmons, and died July 6, 1902, and is buried at Bunceton; Cora, March 15, 1870, wife of J. A. Cleary, deceased, of Kansas City; Minnie, July 6, 1872, married George A. Barker, and was killed in a street railway accident at St. Louis, Sept. 22, 1900, and was buried in the family plot at Bunceton, and George Washington, the first born, died an infant in 1854.

#### **Herman F. Kuhn**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Herman F. Kuhn, member of the firm of Kuhn Bros. & Co., general merchandise, at Prairie Home, was born on the farm now owned by Nicholas Meyer in Prairie Home Township, July 19, 1893, son of H. G. and Margaret A. (Schilb) Kuhn, who are now living on their farm near Prairie Home.

H. G. Kuhn was born in Moniteau County, May 15, 1869, son of Christian Kuhn, who came to the United States from Germany when a boy, grew up in Missouri and in time became a substantial land-owner in Moniteau County, where he is still living, being now 86 years of age. Christian Kuhn's wife, Laura, died in 1917, and is buried in the Evangelical Churchyard in her home county. Margaret wife of H. G. Kuhn, was born in Clarks Fork Township, this county, Aug. 31, 1869, a daughter of Frederick Schilb, who also is now a resident of Prairie Home Township. To H. G. Kuhn and wife have been born seven children, as follows: Viola May, deceased; Herman F.; William McKinley, born on Nov. 3, 1896, married Blanche Griesbach, of Moniteau County, and is farming near Jacksonville; Leslie Christian, is now serving in the United States navy; Emil Wilbur, is at home assisting his father; Henry Howard, Jacksonville, and Theodore R., at home. Leslie Christian Kuhn, the sailor son, enlisted in the U. S. Navy in August, 1918, and was sent to the Great Lakes Naval Training Station at Chicago for preliminary training, and from there to the Naval Station at Norfolk, and was assigned to service on a United States submarine chaser, and is still (spring of 1919) in service.

Herman F. Kuhn was reared on the farm and received his early schooling in the schools of Prairie Home. He early decided upon a business

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career, and upon completing the course in the home schools entered Central Business College at Kansas City, from which institution he was graduated in 1913. For three years thereafter he was engaged as bookkeeper and stenographer in the office of the Hadley Milling Company, at Olathe, Kan., and then returned to Prairie Home, and bought the interest held by E. M. Kirschman in the mercantile firm of Kuhn Bros. & Co., at that place, of which firm he since has been a member, devoting his earnest attention to the growing business of that firm, the other members of which are H. G. Kahn and W. H. Kahn. The building in which Kuhn Bros. & Co. are doing business is a slightly brick building erected in 1912, and the mercantile firm occupies the first and second floors and basement of the same, carrying a complete line of general merchandise. This firm also has a similar stack of goods at Lupus, and is known as an enterprising and energetic firm of merchants, enjoying a constantly growing trade. In connection with its mercantile enterprise the firm publishes a neat little monthly paper, the title of which is "Over the Top," and which carries prominently displayed the firm's motto: "Good service means good will; good will means good business." The paper properly enough is devoted to the company's trade announcements, but carries in addition a lot of entertaining reading matter, which makes it a welcome visitor in the homes of the community.

Nov. 17, 1915, Herman F. Kahn was married to Olive G. Meek, daughter of M. B. and Frances Meek, of Ochiltree, Kan., and to this union two children have been born, Edgar Milton, born on Nov. 29, 1916, and Loyal Margaret, Nov. 10, 1918. Mr. and Mrs. Kahn are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church (South) and take a proper interest in church work.

**Joseph Hurt Groom**  
(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Joseph Hurt Groom, proprietor of "Sunny Crest Stock Farm," near Overton, in Saline Township, is one of the leading young stock breeders in Cooper County. He was born on a farm in Saline Township, Aug. 18, 1884, son of Colby C. and Emma Davis (Kickashear) Groom, the latter of whom is living at her fine home on the outskirts of Overton.

Joseph H. Groom received his schooling in the Highland School, and from his boyhood has devoted his attention to farming and stock raising. He remained on the home farm until his marriage, when he moved to LaMine Township, and was there engaged in farming near Blackwater until 1913, when he bought 70 acres of his present farm southeast of Overton, and has since made his home there. Not long afterward he bought 87 acres adjoining, and now has a well improved place of 157

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acres, which he has developed with special reference to his stock breeding, "Sunny Crest Stack Farm" being widely known for its high grade of stock. The original patent for "Sunny Crest" was made out to one James M. Farris, who filed on this land over 100 years ago, he having come here from the section of Missouri that was devastated by an earthquake. During the past century there have been numerous transfers made of this tract, and by a somewhat singular coincidence of names it was owned by James W. Farris at the time Mr. Groom bought it, this latter Farris being of no known kinship to the original owner. But speaking of "original" owners, there are evidences on the farm of a much prior ownership, these mute testimonials of prehistoric proprietorship being five mounds, typical of the work of the Mound Builders. "Sunny Crest" is bunch bottom and upland, and about half of it is now in pasture, it being Mr. Groom's intention eventually to devote the whole place to pasture in extension of his stock-breeding operations. He is a breeder of Percheron horses, Shorthorn cattle, jacks and jennets, Duroc-Jersey hogs and Shropshire sheep, all eligible to registry, and is doing a constantly increasing business in that line. "Black Coco," the Percheron stallion he has owned for the past three or four years, has won 16 blue ribbon) in this State. He also has two registered Kentucky bred jacks, "Governor Glenn 7250" and "Tom Mace," the former of which won a second premium at the Missouri State Fair

and sweepstakes at the Moniteau and Cooper ('aunty fair. In his stable are also 16 good brood mares, and his flock of Shropshires now numbers about 40.

Joseph H. Groom has been twice married. In 1909 he was united in marriage to Edith May Hill, of LaMine Township, who died on May 4, 1916, and on June 3, 1918, he married Mrs. Arminda (Bell) Hyatt, widow of Paul Z. Hyatt, and the mother of two sons, Paul Z. and Manlies Chapman Hyatt. Paul Z. Hyatt, first husband of Mrs. Groom, died Oct. 29, 1915. To Mr. and Mrs. Groom has been born a son, Joseph Hurt Groom, born June 24, 1919. Mr. and Mrs. Groom are members of the Highland Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and Mr. Groom has been ordained both a deacon and an elder in the church, in which the Groom family for many years have been among the most active workers.

### **Samuel T. Fulton**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Samuel T. Fulton, a well known citizen of Kelly Township and owner and proprietor of the "Green Ridge" farm, is a native of Kentucky. He was born at Carlisle, Oct. 5, 1848, the son of James and Sallie (Alexander) Fulton, both natives of Kentucky. They were the parents of two children: Samuel T., the subject of this sketch, and Mary Jane Berry, who

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died at Pilot Grove. The father died in 1850 in Kentucky and the mother afterwards married Singleton Paxton and to this union two daughters were born: Hattie, who resides at Bunceton and Mrs. James Hall, Butler, Mo. In 1864, shortly after her second marriage, the mother and her second husband and other members of the family came to Cooper County, Mo., and settled at Pilot Grove, where she died March 6, 1898.

Samuel T. Fulton was educated in the schools of Kentucky and Illinois, and after coming to Cooper County attended Simpson's private school, which was located near Nebo. He lived for a few years in Illinois and for a time in Cass County, Mo., and has resided on his present place since 1892. He owns 160 acres, which he bought from T. J. Wallace for \$30.00 per acre. At that time it was unimproved land. Mr. Fulton has added valuable improvements and has a very good farm. He raises Scotch Top cattle, eligible to registration and he also raises Poland China hogs, and formerly was an extensive cattle feeder.

Mr. Fulton is unmarried and spends a part of his time on his farm, but practically makes his home with his sister in Bunceton. Mr. Fulton is a member of the Masonic Lodge at Bunceton and one of Cooper County's substantial and highly respected citizens.

### **Hiram D. Case**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Hiram D. Case, president of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Otterville, was born on a farm in Lafayette County, Wis., Jan. 18, 1867, son of Samuel S. and Elizabeth (Miller) Case, natives of Ohio, whose last days were spent in Missouri.

Samuel S. Case was born in Ohio, Aug. 4, 1815, and some time after his marriage in that State became a resident of Lafayette County, Wis., remaining there until 1868, when he moved with his family to Missouri, driving through in a covered wagon, and became engaged in farming near Boonville, later establishing his home on a farm in Blackwater Township. During the '70s he moved to Bates County, but after four years of residence there returned to Cooper County. Upon his retirement from the farm he went to Marshall, and there spent his last days. He died Dec. 15, 1895. His wife died Nov. 8, 1883. She was born in Ohio in 1820. During the Civil War, Samuel S. Case served for nine months as a soldier of the Union, and his eldest son, Jacob M. Case,

served throughout the war as a soldier of the Union. Samuel S. Case and wife were the parents of eight children, of whom six are still living. Of these, three are residents of Cooper County, the subject of this sketch having two brothers here, E. A. Case, of Blackwater Township, and J. T. Case, of Clarks Fork Township.

Hiram D. Case was but a babe in arms, not yet a year old, when his

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parents came to Cooper County in 1868, and he was reared in this county, receiving his schooling in this county and in Bates County. When 17 years of age, in association with his brother, J. T. Case, Mr. Case began farming on his own account, and in 1892 he rented a farm in Clarks Fork Township. Two years later he married and then continued to make his home on that farm until in 1900, when he bought a place of 90 acres in Lebanon Township, where he remained until 1905, when he sold that place and bought his present excellent farm of 271 acres near Otterville, where he and his family have since resided. Mr. Case has made numerous substantial improvements on the place, and is contemplating more. He gives considerable attention to the raising of cattle and hogs, and his operations have been profitable. In 1914, he was elected president of the Farms and Merchants Bank of Otterville, a position which he still occupies. Mr. Case also has ever taken a close interest in educational affairs, and for the past 14 years has been serving very effectively as president of the Otterville School Board.

Oct. 24, 1894, Hiram D. Case was married to Ids Rennison, who was born in this county, and to this union seven children have been born, namely: H. Earl, who died in 1918 while serving as principal of the high school at Smithton, Missouri; Florence Beatrice, who was graduated from the Otterville High School, and is at home; James Eugene now a student in the high school; Alma Annabel and Amy Frances (twins), and Roy E. and Mabel B. H. Earl Case the eldest child of Mr. and Mrs. Case aforementioned, was born Nov. 1, 1897, in Clarks Fork Township, Cooper County. He was reared on the farm and attended the public schools, and was graduated from the Otterville High School in the class of 1910. He then taught in LaMine School, near Clifton City, one term. He then attended the State Normal School at Warrensburg. In 1917, he accepted a position as teacher in the public schools at Smithton, Mo. That same fall he took charge of the Smithton Schools, being elected principal, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of the former principal. He was serving in this capacity when he died, April 17, 1918. He was a capable young man, whose untimely death was a severe loss.

Mrs. Case was born on a farm in Clarks Fork Township, daughter of J. H. and Sarah (Cartner) Rennison, both of whom also were born in this county, members of pioneer families, and the former of whom is still living now making his home with his daughter, Mrs. Lewis, of Lebanon Township. Mr. and Mrs. Case and their elder children are members of the Presbyterian Church at Otterville, and take a proper part in church

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work, as well as in the general social activities of their home community. Mr. Case is a republican, and is one of the leaders of that party in the Otterville neighborhood. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America.

#### **Fred L. Schilb**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Fred L. Schilb, who for nearly 20 years past has served as postmaster at Prairie Home, is a native son of Cooper County, born in Clarks Fork Township, Aug. 3, 1874, son of Fred and Mary (Meyer) Schilb. Reared on the home farm in Clarks Fork Township, Fred L. Schilb received his early schooling in the public schools and completed the same by a course in the old Prairie Home

Institute. He remained on the home farm until he was 21 years of age, or until his appointment on Sept. 1, 1897, to the position of deputy postmaster at Prairie Home. May 11, 1900, having then served for more than two years as deputy postmaster, Mr. Schilb received his commission as postmaster at Prairie Home and has ever since occupied that position. Upon taking charge of the postoffice at Prairie Home, Mr. Schilb bought from Robert Hornbeck the latter's stock of confectioneries and has since conducted a confectionery store. Since taking over the store he has added a stock of groceries and is doing a nice business, one of the leading merchants of the town. During the Government's War Savings Stamp "drive" in the summer of 1918, Mr. Schilb sold about \$12,000 worth of savings stamps, and was also otherwise active in promoting the various war-work activities of the community. He owns his home and business property, and is one of the active factors in the business and social life of the community. He is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Modern Woodmen of America. He and his family are connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church at Prairie Home, and for the past 20 years Mr. Schilb has served as superintendent of the Sunday School, during the past five years not having missed attendance a single Sunday. This Sunday School is a standard Sunday School, meeting all the requirements of the Sunday School Association, and during Mr. Schilb's incumbency as superintendent he has had the gratification of seeing it grow from an average attendance of about 25 to its present average attendance of 125, a record in which all connected with the school take pride.

Oct. 5, 1898, Fred L. Schilb was united in marriage to Leta Kickashear, who was born in Saline Township, a daughter of Joseph Patesta (Chicazolla) and Margaret (Rymer) Kickashear, the latter of whom is living. Mr. and Mrs. Schilb have seven children, Patesta J., now in the

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service of the United States navy and Lewis F., Lorena E., Opal, Mary Margaret, Huston B. and Myra V., at home. Patesta J. Schilb, the sailor son, was born at Prairie Home Aug. 29, 1899, and was named in honor of his maternal grandfather. Feb., 1918, he enlisted in the United States navy in connection with this country's participation in the World War and was sent to the Great Lakes Naval Training Station at Chicago for preliminary training. In August he was assigned for service and was sent to England, the vessel to which he was assigned being attached to the base station at Eastleigh, and he was serving on that station when the armistice was signed. In December he was returned to New York and was assigned to the U. S. S. "Nasmond", with which vessel he still (spring of 1919) is connected and on which he has taken several trips across the Atlantic.

#### **W. A. Farris**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

W. A. Farris, representative of the Gates Halfsole Tires at Boonville, Mo., is a native son of Cooper County and a descendant of one of the pioneer families of this section of Missouri. He is a son of William P. and Almeda (Grubbs) Farris. William P. Farris was born near Elliott, Cooper County, in 1842. He was a successful farmer and stockman and became well-to-do. During the course of his career he accumulated about ;100 acres of land. He was one of the early members of the Baptist church at Big Lick. He died in 1914. His wife departed this life in 1901, and their remains are buried in the Clayton cemetery. They were the parents of the following children: Emmett, deceased; Lydia, deceased; James Eri, deceased; A. L., resides in Saline Township; W. A. the subject of this sketch; Nellie married A. W. Finley; Edna E., married L. T. Mills, Clarks Fork Township; Anna M. married George Brueckner, Jr., Boonville, and two died in infancy.

W. A. Farris was educated in the public schools of Cooper County, and the high school at Jefferson City, Mo. He followed farming for a number of years and for the past eight years was engaged in the insurance business. In Jan., 1919, he became the representative of the Gates Rubber Co., of Denver, Col., and opened a branch for this company at Boonville. They manufacture what is known as the Gates Halfsole for automobile tire casings, which is recognized



as the only successful tire saver on the market. Mr. Farris has taken a special course of training in applying these halfsoles to automobile tires, and since engaging in this business at Boonville, he has met with marked success.

Mr. Farris was married Oct. 18, 1915 to Miss Matilda S. Renken, a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Schnuck) Renken, more extensive mention

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of whom are made elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Farris is also a native of Cooper County, born in Clarks Fork Township March 3, 1883.

Mr. and Mrs. Farris are well known in Cooper County and have many friends.

#### **Henry S. Stephens** (Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Henry S. Stephens, a successful farmer and stockman of North Moniteau Township, was born in Cooper County, March 7, 1876. He is a son of J. D. and Melinda (Arnold) Stephens. J. D. Stephens was also a native of Cooper County, born in South Moniteau Township in 1843, and when he was an infant his parents moved to St. Clair County, Mo., where he was reared. When the Civil War broke out he entered the Confederate service and served under Gen. Sterling Price in the 16th Missouri Infantry, General Parson's Brigade and was with the army which surrendered at Shreveport, La. At the close of the war he returned to Missouri, coming up the river to St. Louis by steamboat, and from there to Tiptop by rail. After living at Tiptop for a few years he moved to North Moniteau Township, where he was engaged in farming. He died suddenly at Bunceton, Mo., from heart failure while attending a show there, and his remains are buried at Pisgah, Mo. Melinda (Arnold) Stephens, mother of Henry S. Stephens, was born in Kelly Township, this county in 1844, and died June 20, 1906, and her remains are buried in Pisgah, Mo. She was a daughter of Lee Arnold, a native of Kentucky, born in 1813. He came to Missouri when a small boy making the trip on horseback. He was reared by Hartley White, who brought him from Kentucky to Cooper County and who settled about four miles north of Tiptop. Lee Arnold married Nancy Morris, a daughter of Shadrach Morris of Kelly Township, and they were the parents of the following children: Martha; John; Hugh; Ann; Hammond; Jael; Melinda, who married J. D. Stephens; Peter and Ira, all of whom are now deceased except Jael who now resides in South Moniteau Township. Lee Arnold died in South Moniteau Township about 1885 and is buried in the Shadrach, Morris private cemetery. His wife preceded him in death about three years.

To J. D. and Melinda (Arnold) Stephens were born the following children: Dora, who died when about four years of age; Henry S., the subject of this sketch, and Effie Lee, who married C. E. Scott and now resides in South Moniteau Township. To C. E. and Effie Lee (Stephens) Scott have been born the following children: Lola Lee; Louis Leslie; Edgar D.; Willie; John Henry and Edith Myrtle.

Henry S. Stephens was reared in North Moniteau Township and received his education in the public schools, attending school in the Lee district.

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He has spent his life since he reached the age of 11 in North Moniteau Township where he has been engaged in farming. Mr. Stephens is unmarried.

#### **William Lynn Spahr** (Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

William Lynn Spahr, a well known and successful farmer and stockman of Kelly Township, was born in Boonville, Nov. 3, 1890. He is a son of William Lynn and Sarah Paulina (Stark) Spahr, the former also a native of Cooper County, where he spent his life and where he died April 17, 1896. The mother was born near Otterville, Mo., and died Aug. 22, 1914. William Lynn Spahr, the father, was engaged in the undertaking business at Boonville, the greater part of his life. To William Lynn and Sarah Paulina (Stark) Spahr were born the following children: Lawrence, a farmer in Kelly Township; William L., the subject of this sketch, and David, Tulsa, Okla.

William L. Spahr was educated in the district schools of Cooper County and the Bunceton High School. He has been engaged in farming and stock raising since boyhood. He purchased his present place in Kelly Township from Frank Smith in 1912. His farm consists of 80 acres of well improved land, located three miles southwest of Bunceton. He has a pretty home and the other improvements on the place are of a correspondingly high type. He feeds cattle quite extensively and has met with success in this line of endeavor.

Mr. Spahr was married in 1910 to Miss Anna Lee Palmer, a daughter of James and Ella (Collins) Palmer, both now residing in Lebanon Township. To James and Ella (Collins) Palmer have been born the following children: Clarence, Sedalia, Mo.; Henry, Bunceton; Russell, Bunceton; Mrs. Kate Schlotzhauer, Bunceton; Mrs. Mattie Cole, Otterville, Mo. and Frank Lillian; Louise; Pauline; Stanley and Jack, residing at home with their parents.

Mr. Spahr is one of Cooper County's substantial representative citizens and the Spahr family stand high in the community.

### **M. J. Fassler**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

M. J. Fassler, proprietor of "Fassler Prairie View Farm", is one of the successful farmers and progressive citizens of Kelly Township. He was born in Switzerland, July 21, 1876, a son of Louis and Catherine (Holdenner) Fassler, both natives of Switzerland. Louis Fassler immigrated to America in 1880, leaving his family in Switzerland until he became established sufficiently in this country to send for them, which he did two years later. They first located in Elk County, Pa., and in 1885 the family came to Missouri and settled in Lamine Township, Cooper County. About 1890 they removed to Kelly Township, where the father

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bought 160 acres of land. Later he sold 40 acres, and in 1917 the father sold the remainder of the home farm, which consisted of 120 acres, to M. J. Fassler the subject of this sketch, when he and his wife removed to Tiptop, Mo., where they now reside. They were the parents of the following children: Dora, resides at home with her parents in Tiptop; Joseph J. lives in Henry County; Mary, married W. H. Woolfolk, Altamont, Kan.; M. J., the subject of this sketch; and Lizzie who died at the age of 30 years.

M. J. Fassler was educated in the public schools at Speed, Mo., and when a young man learned the blacksmith trade. He followed this vocation for seven years at Billingsville, Mo., and one year at Speed. He then engaged in farming, buying a farm in Kelly Township, which he operated from 1904 until 1917, when he sold it and bought the old homestead from his father, as above stated. This place is located on the Southern State Highway, northwest of Tiptop and about seven miles south of Bunceton. It is a pretty place and kept in fine condition. The water for the place is supplied from a well 305 feet deep, which is pumped by a gas engine.

M. J. Fassler was married in 1904 to Miss Fannie Erhardt, a daughter of H. L. and Sophia (Hobrecht) Erhardt, both of whom are now living. Mrs. Fassler is one of the following children born to her parents: Mrs. J. J. Fassler, Henry County, Mo.; Mrs. Oscar Lauer, Boonville, Mo.; Mrs. Wm. Simmons, Boonville, Mo.; Mrs. Emmet Reynolds, Boonville, Mo.; Henry of Meadville, Mo.;

Frank, Memphis, Tenn.; and Mrs. M. J. Fassler, Tiptop, of this review. To M. J. Fassler and wife have been born the following children: Catherine, Frances, Margaret, John, Charles, Mary and William, all residing at home with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Fassler are members of the Catholic Church at Tiptop and are of Cooper County's most progressive and substantial citizens.

**John G. Wolfram**  
(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

John G. Wolfram, proprietor of "Prairie Lawn Farm", is one of the progressive and public spirited farmers and breeders of Kelly Township. He was born at Jamestown, Mo., Sept. 20, 1858, a son of John and Louisa Wolfram the former a native of Germany and the latter of Cole County, Mo., born Oct. 23, 1837, and died Nov. 10, 1897. John Wolfram came to America with his parents, who settled in Cole County, when he was eight years old. He was born Oct. 22, 1834 and died Jan. 24, 1913. The Wolfram family came to Moniteau County, Mo., after residing in Cole County for a few years. During the Civil War John Wolfram served in the Missouri State militia.

John G. Wolfram was one of seven children born to his parents, the

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others being as follows: Nicholas, Knob Noster, Mo.; Earhardt, died in infancy; Margaret, married Henry Schubert, Cole County; Henry J., Rosoling, Canada; Christ G., died at the age of 27 years; William L., Concordia, Mo.

John G. Wolfram was educated in the public schools of Moniteau County, and from early life has been interested in stock breeding as well as general farming and stockraising. He breeds registered Chester White hogs, and has some of the finest animals, both male and female, in the country, and is recognized as a successful breeder. He also is an extensive breeder of registered Shorthorn cattle, of which he has made a recognized success. Mrs. Wolfram gives special attention to the poultry business, specializing in the Orpington and Rhode Island Reds. "Prairie Lawn Farm" consists of 96 acres and is well located about one mile east of Bunceton. The place is well improved with a good residence and other farm buildings and improvements.

John G. Wolfram was married May 12, 1881 to Miss Elizabeth Herruleben, a daughter of Frederick and Caroline (Moser) Herruleben, both natives of Germany. The father came here when he was 17 years of age and the mother when she was nine. They were married at Sandy Hook, Mo. The mother died March 24, 1873, and the father died in 1901. They were the parents of the following children: Mrs. William Kile, who resides in Moniteau County; Charles E., California, Mo.; Mrs. Dan Wallenmeier, Prairie Home; Elizabeth, the wife of John G. Wolfram, the subject of this sketch; Mary died at the age of 28; Mrs. William Sperber, Jamestown, Mo.; Benjamin Franklin, Jamestown, Mo.; Henry, died at the age of 40 years; Laura died at the age of 23 years; Mrs. J. J. Sherer, Bocen, Mo. To Mr. and Mrs. Wolfram have been born four children as follows: William F., married Eliza Miller, of Moniteau County, and resides in Kelly Township; Nicholas D., reside in Clarks Fork Township; Emma E., married William Gerhardt and lives in Kelly Township; Ella L. is a graduate of the Bunceton High School, and resides at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Wolfram are members of the Evangelical Church and the Wolfram family are among Cooper County's representative people.

**Dr. Irvin J. Kehr**  
(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Dr. Irvin J. Kehr, a leading and progressive dental surgeon of Bunceton, Mo., is a native of Missouri. Dr. Kehr was born in Kansas City, April 24, 1889, a son of Charles G. and Louisa (Kamper) Kehr, the former a native of Gasconade County, Mo., and the latter of Macoupin County, Ill. They now reside at Bunker Hill, Ill. Dr. Kehr is one of four children born to his parents, the others being as follows: Arthur, a practicing

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dentist at Dubuque, Iowa; Chester, a farmer in Macoupin County, Ill. and Ruby resides at home with her parents.

Dr. Kehr received his education in the public schools of St. Louis, Mo., and the high school at Bunker Hill, Ill., graduating from that institution. He then entered the Washington University at St. Louis, where he was graduated with a degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. When the United States entered the World War, he enlisted in 1917 in the dental corps U. S. army, and for a time was stationed at Camp Greenleaf, Ga. From there he was transferred to Camp Shelby, Miss., where he was discharged Jan. 9, 1919. Feb. 10, 1919, Dr. Kehr opened an office in the Berger Building at Bunceton, where he is rapidly building up a very satisfactory practice. He has had valuable experience in dental work in his army practice, which, together with his thorough preparation, and complete training, well qualify him for the exacting duties of modern dentistry. Dr. Kehr is public spirited and enterprising and has made extensive acquaintances and many friends in Bunceton and vicinity.

**Edgar C. Nelson**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Edgar C. Nelson, editor and publisher of the Bunceton Eagle, Mo., is a native son of Cooper County. He was born Aug. 17, 1883, on a farm a few miles east of Bunceton, in Cooper County, a son of T. A. and Sarah A. Nelson, a sketch of whom appears in this volume. Mr. Nelson was educated in William Jewell College. After leaving college he spent one year in Texas, and upon his return to Missouri he held a position in the University of Missouri for one year. He then purchased a farm near Bunceton and was engaged in agricultural pursuits for two years.

In 1907, he became associated with his brother, L. O. Nelson, in the management of the Bunceton Eagle. In 1915, Mr. Nelson leased the Eagle plant and business from his brother, and has achieved one of the splendid successes in the newspaper field which has placed the Eagle in the front rank of Missouri weekly newspapers. The Eagle has the largest circulation of any newspaper in Cooper County, and is the most prosperous and popular of the newspapers in this section of Missouri. The circulation exceeds 2,500—and it is the home paper of Cooper County.

Jan. 16, 1912, Mr. Nelson was married to Mrs. Celeste (Allison) Chamberlain, a widow, and to this union one child, Nell Edwina, aged five years, has been born. By a former marriage, Mrs. Nelson has a son, Robert Chamberlain.

Mr. Nelson is a democrat, and is a member of the Baptist Church. He is a past master of Lodge No. 456, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Woodmen of the World, and the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity of William Jewell College.

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**David Lawrence Edson**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

David Lawrence Edson, one of Boonville Township's progressive young citizens, is a native of Cooper County. Mr. Edson was born June 8, 1889, in Boonville Township. He is a son of Lewis

and Anna (Brookshire) Edwards Edson, the former, a native of Cooper County, and the latter of St. Clair County.

Lewis Edson was born in 1857 in Boonville Township, a son of Sydney and Margaret (Nixon) Edson. Sydney Edson was a native of Ohio. He came to Cooper County in 1856 and settled on a farm, the place purchased by David Lawrence Edson in 1918, and now owned by him. Margaret Edson, at the age of 11 years, came from Ireland to America. Sydney Edson died in 1897, and his remains rest in Walnut Grove Cemetery.

When a young man, Lewis Edson went west to Idaho, Oregon and California, was successful there, and returned to Missouri with money. He purchased a farm then known as the "Ed Jewett farm," which he later sold and purchased the farm where his son, David L., now resides. The senior Edson followed general farming, and specialized in hog-raising, in which vocations he was unusually successful. He is now a resident of Boonville. Lewis and Anna Edson are the parents of two children: Grace, the wife of J. L. Dow, of Boonville; and David L., the subject of this review. By a former marriage of Anna Edson to David Edwards, she is the mother of two children: H. L. Edwards, who is engaged in farming in Prairie Home Township; and A. D. Edwards, a merchant of Moberly, Mo.

David L. Edson obtained his elementary education in the public schools of the county. He is a graduate of Boonville High School. Mr. Edson daily made the trip from his home to the high school, a distance of three and a half miles, and was never absent, and was late but twice, which is a record difficult to surpass. He is a graduate of the Missouri State University, a member of the class of 1914, receiving the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science, and also a teacher's life certificate. After completing the university course, Mr. Edson taught school one year. He was connected with the State Board of Charities and Corrections for 18 months, and was the first agent of the Department of Child Welfare. He returned to the farm in 1917, and has since been very successfully engaged in the pursuits of agriculture. Mr. Edson raises three varieties of corn: Yellow Dent, Iowa Silver Mine and Pride of the North, the last a 91 corn. In 1918, the corn produced on the Edson farm was of excellent quality.

The Edson farm is located three and a half miles southeast of Boonville on the state highway. David L. Edson has charge of his father's

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place, which comprises 350 acres of the best farm land, and in addition manages his own farm, which comprises 160 acres, formerly the Alex Bear farm. Mr. Edson has had a grade herd of cattle, but, at the time of this writing, he is starting a registered Polled Angus herd, having at the present time 25 head of cattle. He raises hogs extensively and 1 year, 1918, fed three car-loads of hogs, additional to one car-load of sheep and one of cattle. The Edson farm is very productive and is well watered.

In 1909, David Lawrence Edson and Mary Grace O'Neal were united in marriage. Mrs. Edson is a daughter of Amos and Lucy O'Neal, farmer, now a resident of LaMine Township. Mrs. O'Neal died in 1913. The O'Neal children are: Alonzo O., of LaMine Township; Lee, of Blackwater; Silas, of Blackwater; Aubrey, a well-known cattle salesman of Kansas City; Freeman, who is at the present time serving under the colors in France; and Mrs. Edson, the wife of the subject of this review; Two children are deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Edson has been born one child, a daughter, Mary Ethel.

In the fall of 1918, Mr. Edson was a candidate for election as representative on the democratic ticket. Although keenly interested in agricultural pursuits, Mr. Edson takes a good citizen's part in all matters of vital import. He is especially interested in all child-welfare movements. The Edson family stands high in the community and in the county there are none more highly valued and respected.

## The Boonville Nurseries

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

"The Boonville Nurseries", located opposite the Missouri, Kansas & Topeka depot, was established in 1904 by A. E. Barnes and T. R. Peyton, both of whom came to Cooper County from Audrain County, 1120., and located at Boonville because of the pure loess soil at this place. The firm began business on a very small scale, but increased the business yearly. In 1913, A. E. Barnes purchased the interest of T. R. Peyton and to the plant of the "Boonville Nurseries", as it was at that time, added the nursery of H. W. Jenkins and now the "Boonville Nurseries" is one of the largest and best equipped nurseries in the state and in the west central states. Trees are grown here by the hundreds of thousands. The "Boonville Nurseries" also has the largest cherry orchard in Missouri, an orchard of nearly 2,500 trees, which will begin bearing next year, 1920. The orchard is located in the western part of Boonville on the cross state highway. The company employs a large number of agents, who sell stock in Missouri and adjoining states, selling a complete line of nursery stock, including all kinds of berries, shrubs and roses.

A. E. Barnes was with the Kansas Home Nursery and at the Experimental

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Grounds at Lawrence, Kan. for three years prior to coming to Boonville. Prior to that time, Mr. Barnes was employed at the Ortez Fruit Farm & Nursery in Audrain County, Mo. He obtained his general education in the public schools of Mexico, Mo. and at Sprout's Academy, at the latter studying the business course. He spent a year in the state of Colorado, where he was studying irrigation, and thence came to Lawrence, Kan. and to Boonville.

Mr. Barnes was born in Audrain County, Mo., near Mexico, Dec. 29, 1880, a son of Noble and Mary (Bybee) Barnes, natives of Kentucky. Noble Barnes has just completed two terms of service in the office of county treasurer, eight years, and now resides at Mexico. Mrs. Barnes died in 1917 and her remains are interred in Sunrise Church cemetery in Audrain County. The children of Noble and Mary Barnes are: M. C. and Theodore, farmers, Mexico, Mo.; Mrs. T. R. Peyton, of Boonville; A. E., the subject of this sketch; Claud L., who is on a fruit farm in Idaho; and Ray and Ray, who are farming in Nebraska.

In 1909, A. E. Barnes and Grace E. Stammerjohn, a daughter of Claus and Emma Stammerjohn, of Boonville, were united in marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Stammerjohn are the parents of nine children, all of whom are living and residents of Boonville; Meta, the wife of Ed Holtman; Henry; Rebecca, the wife of J. J. Heiberger; Julia, the wife of Charles Durr; John, Dora, Edward, and Benjamin; and Grace, the wife of A. E. Barnes. To Mr. and Mrs. Barnes have been born three children, who are now living, one child now deceased: Noel, Meta and Leah. Noble, Jr., the second son and child, died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes are members of the Boonville Christian Church, on which Mr. Barnes is a deacon. He is a past-grand officer of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Boonville.

Recently, Mr. Barnes has completed an eleven-room bungalow, modern throughout, equipped with a private water system, in the city of Boonville. He has on his farm an underground silo, which is attracting much attention in the county. The silo is cemented and built on the plan of a cistern and the silage as cut is dropped into the silo. It was filled to 1918 and has proven a success. Mr. Barnes converts an old wine cellar on the farm into a cold storage room, when the season opens. He handles in the nursery business, three kinds of cherries, the Early Richmond, the Montmorency, the Morillo, and he has about 100 each of apples, pears and plums, and these are growing on his farm, the entire tract of 44 acres being set out in fruit.

A. E. Barnes is widely known throughout Missouri and Cooper

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County knows no more useful or better citizen. He and Mrs. Barnes are numbered among Boonville's best families.

### **Capt Edgar L. Barnert**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Capt. Edgar L. Barnert, captain of Company H, of the Boonville Training School, is one of the county's most valued and respected citizens. He was born Sept. 22, 1891 in Boonville, a son of Dominic and Mary A. (Back) Barnert, the former, a native of Germany and the latter, of Boonville. Dominic Barnert is a retired carpenter and contractor and one of Boonville's well-known citizens. Mr. and Mrs. Barnert are the parents of the following children: Minnie, who is married and now resides in Chicago, Ill.; Carl, a traveling salesman of St. Louis, Mo.; Edgar L., the subject of this sketch; Merle, a lieutenant of the 35th Division, 140th Infantry, Company I, who enlisted at Boonville in the National Guards, was transferred to the army and served in Mexico and then re-enlisted for overseas service; Anna E., at home; and Jerome D., a student in the Boonville high school.

Captain Barnert attended the Boonville high school. He worked with his father for a few years in carpentering and contracting and then accepted the position of clerk in the Boonville post office, under R. W. Corum. He enlisted Sept. 5, 1918 in Company K, 12th Battalion, Infantry Replacement at Camp McArthur, Waco, Texas, and he was honorably discharged Dec. 19, 1919. Captain Barnert has been connected with the Training School in Boonville for the past five years, at different intervals, and he has held his present position since Dec. 23, 1918. He has 95 boys in his company and he teaches the primary grade. He drills his company one hour each morning and evening and he is responsible also for the moral welfare of the boys. Captain Barnert is giving much satisfaction as instructor and he takes a most commendable interest in his work and in the lads under his charge.

Feb. 27, 1913, Edgar L. Barnert and Marian C. Bradley, a daughter of Thompkins and Mary Bradley, of Boonville, Mo., were united in marriage. The Bradleys are honored pioneers of Boonville and Mr. and Mrs. Bradley are numbered among the county's best families. To Edgar L. and Marian C. Barnert has been born one child, a daughter, Mary Catherine. Mr. and Mrs. Barnert are highly regarded in their community and they have a host of friends in Cooper County.

### **Edward and Joseph Gantner**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Edward Gantner and Joseph Gantner, proprietors of "The De Luxe Studio", at 419 1/2 East Spring street in Boonville, one of the best studios in Missouri, entered the business of photography in this city in April, 1911 and their gallery was formerly on Main street. Joseph Gantner

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served an apprenticeship under Pete Stockholm and completed his study of the art of photography under Holborn at Columbia, a photographer who is widely known as one of the artists in his line of work. Since the Gantner brothers began business, Joseph Gantner has established a splendid reputation throughout the country as a most capable retoucher and etcher and he has had exceptional success with children's photos. The studio, a large, modern one of four rooms, equipped with north skylights, artificial lights, the best lenses, every up-to-date convenience, is one of the busiest places in Boonville. The printing and enlarging is done by electricity. "The De Luxe Studio" is a monument to the industry and enterprise of the Gantner brothers and they are most highly appreciated by the people of Boonville and adjoining territory. Both young men were born, reared, and educated in Boonville. Joseph Gantner was for five

months with the First Infirmary Section, United States Medico( Corps, at Camp McArthur, Waco, Texas.

Frank Gantner, father of Edward and Joseph Gantner, a well-known and capable bricklayer of Boonville, was born Nov. 27, 1859, at Boonville, a son of Andrew and Rosa (Diringer) Gantner, honored pioneers of Boonville. Both the father and mother have long been deceased and their remains rest in the Catholic cemetery. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Gantner are as follows: Frank and Louis, of Boonville; Joseph, of Fayette, Mo.; Andrew, deceased; John and Mrs. Louise Potter, of Boonville; Mrs. Julia Kohlbick, of Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Annie Graner, of Boonville; and Dora, deceased.

In the Catholic school at Boonville, Frank Gantner obtained his primary education. He later attended the public schools of Boonville. His elementary education was supplemented with a course pursued at the Business College in Boonville. Since attaining maturity, Mr. Gantner has followed his vocation of bricklaying and he is recognized in the county as a most efficient workman.

In June, 1881, Frank Gantner and Mary Kathrain Augusta Smith, a daughter of Nicholas and Ameba (McDaniel) Smith were married. Mr. Smith served three years in the Union army during the Civil War and died while in service. His remains are buried in the cemetery at Glasgow, Mo. Mrs. Smith later died in Texas and is buried there. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Smith are, as follow: Mrs. Frank Gantner, the wife of the subject of this sketch; Peter F., of Kansas City, Mo.; John J., of Oregon; and Nicholas M., of Kansas City, Mo. To Frank and Mary K. Gantner have been born the following children: Flora, the wife of Carl

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Neff, of Boonville; Francis Edward, one of the two brothers, the subjects of this sketch; Reverend B. N., chaplain at Camp Mills, Long Island; Joseph K., one of the two brothers, the subjects of this sketch; and Mittie Rosa Amelia, the eldest child, who died at the age of 13 years. Mr. and Mrs. Gantner reside on South Eighth street in Boonville. They are highly regarded in the community and they are worthy and consistent members of the Catholic Church.

#### **Capt. J. W. Bozarth**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Capt. J. W. Bozarth, chief engineer of the Boonville Training School, is a native of Worth County, Mo. Mr. Bozarth was born in Allendale, March 18, 1878, a son of John Rogers and Mary E. (Blodgett) Bozarth, the former, a native of Worth County, Mo. and the latter of California.

The Bozarth's are of French lineage and the Blodgetts are of English lineage. John Rogers Bozarth was a son of John Rogers Bozarth, Sr., who came from New York to Missouri about 1870. The senior Bozarth died in Iowa. John Rogers Bozarth, Jr. and Mary E. Blodgett were united in marriage at Burlington, Iowa, and to them were born the following children: Rosa, the wife of John L. Crandall, of Wichita, Kan.; Capt. J. W., the subject of this sketch; Andrew J., of Liberal, Kan.; Francis F., of Liberal, Kan.; Grace, the wife of Everett Stalker, of St. John, Kan.; and Jess M., who is, at the time of this writing, a member of the 44th Infantry, Company G., now at Camp Lewis, Wash. Jess M. Bozarth enlisted in the service of the United States in May, 1918. The father died at the age of 42 years in 1890 and his remains were interred in the cemetery at Ruskin, Neb. The widowed mother now makes her home at St. John, Kan. Mrs. Bozarth is a member of an old and prominent pioneer family, who, upon coming to America, located first in Tennessee, afterwards in Missouri, and then settled in California, during the period of the excitement over the discovery of gold there. Mrs. Bozarth was born in 1851.

Capt. J. W. Bozarth received his elementary education in the public schools. He attended Armour's Technical Engineering School in Chicago, Ill. and studied civil engineering in the



Kansas City Technical School at Kansas City, Mo. Captain Bozarth also took the machinists' course at Kansas City with the Eagle Manufacturing Company. He was appointed engineer of the Boonville Training School, now the Missouri Reformatory at Boonville, in Dec. 1904, a position he has since held. He has an assistant engineer and about 20 boys help with the work. The different shops of the school are run by electric motor power, furnished by the engineering plant, which plant also supplies the light, heat and hot water used by the school. A tunnel, 5,000 feet in length, has been constructed under the hill upon which the buildings of the school are and through

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this tunnel are the pipes which carry the water and heat to the various buildings.

Dec. 25, 1906, Capt. J. W. Bozarth and Georgia M. Cheshire were united in marriage. Mrs. Bozarth is a daughter of Thomas B. and Angelina (Strickland) Cheshire, now residents of Versailles, Mo. Mr. Cheshire was born in Howard County, Mo. in 1841 and Mrs. Cheshire was born in Nashville, Tenn., in 1844. The Cheshire family is of English descent. David Cheshire, a pioneer blacksmith of Old Franklin, Mo., came from Virginia in the early days to Missouri and located in Howard County. The children of Thomas B. and Angelina Cheshire, are: Nettle S., the wife of J. W. Wilkerson, born March 31, 1863 and is now deceased; Nannie, the wife of J. W. Odell, born Feb. 3, 1865; Ethel, the wife of P. F. Casey, born June 17, 1879, now residing in Oklahoma City, Okla.; Mrs. J. W. Bozarth, born June 6, 1881, in Morgan County, Mo.; Jimmie, born Jan. 20, 1868 and Julia, born Sept. 18, 1870, died in infancy. Mrs. Bozarth was prior to her marriage a school teacher in Morgan and Moniteau Counties. She was a student at the Warrensburg State Normal School.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bozarth are numbered among the most respected citizens of the county and the best families of Boonville.

#### **Capt. C. C. Meyer**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Capt. C. C. Meyer, the efficient night watchman of the Missouri Reformatory, is one of Cooper County's best-known citizens. Captain Meyer is a member of a prominent pioneer family of Missouri. He was born Feb. 8, 1869 at California, Mo., in Moniteau County, a son of W. F. and Mrs. Meyer.

W. F. Meyer was a native of Germany. He immigrated to America in his early manhood and located in Cole County, Mo., on a farm near Warsaw Later, he moved to Moniteau County. He was a veteran of the Civil War and he held the position of city treasurer of California, Mo. for 20 years. He died in 1908 at the age of 77 years and his remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at California, Mo. Ten years later, he was joined in death by his wife, in 1918, and she, too, was laid to rest in the cemetery at California. The children of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Meyer are as follows: Henry, a tailor, of California, Mo.; W. L., who is engaged in the lumber business at Sandy Hook, Mo.; Adolph, manager of a hotel at Mountain Grove, Mo.; Ed, a tailor, of California, Mo.; Frank, who is engaged extensively in the lumber business near Palm Beach, Fla.; Capt. C. C., the subject of this sketch; A. B., cashier of the Bank of Jamestown, Mo.; and Rose, of California, Mo.

Capt. C. C. Meyer is a graduate of the California High School. He was for 18 years employed as station agent by the Missouri Pacific and the

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Missouri, Kansas & Topeka Railway companies. For eight years, he capably filled the position of marshal at California, Mo., which position he resigned to accept the appointment as night watchman at the Missouri Reformatory. Captain Meyer has charge of the quarry at the

Reformatory. He is an exceptionally intelligent workman and is conscientious in his efforts to give the boys a fair chance to become good citizens.

In 1894, Capt. C. C. Meyer and Lou Harris, a daughter of C. C. and Ellen Harris, of California, Mo., were united in marriage. Mrs. Meyer has one brother, Frank, a harness maker, of California, Mo. To Captain and Mrs. Meyer have been born two children: Harris, who assists his father with the work at the reformatory; and Winona, a teacher. Miss Winona offered her services as Red Cross nurse, but as she was too young to be accepted, she continued her work as a teacher.

Captain Meyer is a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen. He and Mrs. Meyer are worthy members of the Christian Church and in politics Captain Meyer is a democrat.

**William L. Nelson**  
(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

William L. Nelson, congressman from the Eighth Congressional District, is a native of Cooper County, and was born on his father's farm, Aug. 4, 1875. After completing the course in the district school he was awarded a scholarship in Hooper Institute at Clarksburg, Moniteau County, and studied there for some time. He later entered William Jewell College and taught school while studying at this college to pay his expenses. Mr. Nelson would attend William Jewell for a year and then teach school in order to earn the needed funds to pay his way. He has also taken special work in the Missouri College of Agriculture.

In 1893 he and his brother Louis O. Nelson purchased the Bunceton Eagle, and the success which they achieved in this new field of endeavor attracted attention throughout the State.

In 1900, when 25 years of age, Mr. Nelson was nominated for the State Legislature. His election followed. In 1906, he was again chosen to serve in the Missouri General Assembly. As a legislator, he took special interest in farm matters, and was the author of various agricultural measures. Serving through two regular terms and one special session, he was never absent from his desk when the House was in session.

Mr. Nelson has also been a frequent contributor to agricultural papers, and has several times refused offers of editorial positions on such publications. He has always taken an interest in community work of every kind. While on the farm he assisted in organizing the Cooper County Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and for seven years

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served as secretary. He was also the first secretary of the Cooper County Fair at Bunceton, which, for more than 20 years, has lived up to the motto which he gave it "For Farmers, Not Fakirs."

In the spring of 1908, Mr. Nelson was asked by H. J. Waters, then at the head of the Missouri College of Agriculture, and George B. Elks, at that time secretary of the State Board of Agriculture to become assistant secretary of the board. The offer was entirely unsolicited and not until August did Mr. Nelson accept it.

As assistant secretary of the Missouri State Board of Agriculture, Mr. Nelson served during the latter part of Governor Folk's administration, throughout the terms of Governor Hadley and Governor Major, and in January 1916, was elected to serve during the four years of Governor Gardner's administration. Each time his election was by the unanimous vote of the board. In August 1917, Mr. Nelson was asked by Doubleday, Page & Co., New York City publishers, to assist in editing a farmers' cyclopedia. The Board of Agriculture, on learning of the offer, generously granted Mr. Nelson a three months' leave of absence—the first vacation that he had ever taken. On his return to Missouri, the offices of the Board of Agriculture having in the

meantime been moved to Jefferson City, Mr. Nelson resigned his position and continued to make his home in Columbia. Later, he did special organization work under the direction of the College of Agriculture and the U S. Department of Agriculture.

In the fall of 1918, W. L. Nelson was elected to represent the Eighth District in the Congress of the United States, and on March 4, 1919, he took his seat in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Nelson was married June 9, 1909, to Miss Stella Boschert, a daughter of W. J. Boschert, of Bunceton. To this marriage has been born one son, Will L., Jr. Mr. Nelson is a member of the Baptist Church, and is a thorough democrat.

### **Capt. George Todd Irvine**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Capt. George Todd Irvine, instructor of mathematics and physical sciences at Kemper Military School, is one of the county's most successful and prominent citizens. Captain Irvine is a native of Ohio. He was born Oct. 25, 1876, at Wakeman, Ohio, a son of Rev. Edward and Ellen Georgiana (Todd) Irvine.

Rev. Edward D. Irvine was a native of England. He immigrated to America, when he was but a lad, with his father, Samuel T. Irvine, and settled at Springfield, Ohio. Reverend Irvine was educated at Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, and was in the ministry practically all his life. Ellen Georgiana (Todd) Irvine is a native of Wakeman, Ohio. She was

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born March 3, 1848, a daughter of George and Betsey (Pierpont) Todd, who came from Connecticut to Ohio in the early days. To Rev. Edward D. and Ellen G. Irvine were born the following children: Capt. George Todd, the subject of this review; Pierpont Edward, an engineer employed by the American Coal and By-Products Coke Company of Chicago, Ill., and Silva Grace, who died at the age of five years. The father died Dec. 15, 1906, at Wellsburg, W. Va. and the widowed mother now makes her home in Wakeman, Ohio.

Captain Irvine is a graduate of Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, as was his father before him. He was a member of the class of 1898. Since completing his college course, he has been engaged in the teaching profession, for one year in the state of New York and since then at Kemper Military School, taking his present position as instructor of mathematics and physical sciences in Jan. 1900.

Captain Irvine is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons and the Order of the Eastern Star, and he has filled the office of Master. He is a worthy and consistent member of the Episcopal Church, of which church his father was for so many years a highly respected and beloved minister. Captain Irvine is one of the county's most popular young citizens and he is held in the highest regard in Boonville.

### **Charles Henry Dunnivant**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Charles Henry Dunnivant, of the Sand and Gravel Company of Boonville, is one of the highly regarded citizens of Cooper County. Mr. Dunnivant was born at Boonville, Jan. 16, 1868, so of George and Mary Jane (Sullens) Dunnivant, the former a native of Kentucky and the later of Howard County.

George Dunnivant was a steamboat pilot on the Missouri River and for 26 years he operated the ferry at Boonville. During the Civil War, Mr. Dunnivant piloted the boat which brought the

soldiers of the Federal army up the Missouri. George and Mary Jane Dunnivant were the parents of the following children: James, of Jefferson City, Mo.; Joseph, sketch; Mrs. Georgiana Ross of Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Mollie Robinson, of Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Luttie Hogg, of Kansas City, Mo.; and Feedy, Johnny, Willie, Eddie, and Mrs. Maggie Grundy, all of whom are now deceased. The father died about 1889 and the widowed mother now resides in Boonville.

Charles Henry Dunnivant attended the city schools of Boonville. He has been engaged in river work and engineering practically all his life.

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At the time of this writing, in 1909, Mr. Dunnivant is the engineer of the Sand & Gravel Company at Boonville. He is a capable workman and he has been very successful in his vocation.

In 1890, Charles Henry Dunnivant was united in marriage with Daisy Brown and to them were born two children: Earl, at home; and Grace, the wife of James Kramer, who resides in Arkansas. Mrs. Dunnivant died May 8, 1903 and she was laid to rest in the cemetery at Boonville. Mr. Dunnivant was married to Alpha Spry, a daughter of George and Nancy Spry. George Spry died Sept. 22, 1906 and his remains were interred in Nelson cemetery. George and Nancy Spry were the parents of four children as follows: Mrs. Charles Henry Dunnivant, the wife of the subject of this sketch; Corp. Walker Allen, who was with the 35<sup>th</sup> Division, 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, 140<sup>th</sup> Infantry in the World War and was wounded in the battle of Argonne; Pearl C. and Mabel F., of Boonville. Mrs. Dunnivant has a halfsister, the child born to Mrs. Spry by her first marriage, Mrs. Spry has remarried and she is now the wife of Ben Dobson, of Boonville. To Charles Henry and Alpha Dunnivant has been born one child, a daughter, Rosalie. Mr. and Mrs. Dunnivant reside at 112 Water Street in Boonville.

Mr. Dunnivant is a member of the Woodmen of the World. He is a democrat and he has served as councilman from the first ward for two terms. He is one of the leading citizens of the city of Boonville and he and Mrs. Dunnivant are highly regarded and valued in Cooper County.

#### **Patrick Darby**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Patrick Darby, a late prominent citizen of Cooper County, was a native of Ireland. Mr. Darby was born April 4, 1838, a son of James and Catherine (Ferrell) Darby. He immigrated to New York, when he was a young man, 18 years of age. In 1862, Mr. Darby enlisted in the Civil War with the First New York Veteran Cavalry of Volunteers and served until the end of the conflict. For ten months he was confined in Andersonville Prison and no words could possibly depict the sufferings of every unfortunate soldier there, victims of barbarous cruelty. In 1868, Patrick Darby came to Missouri and purchased the farm located near Billingsville and engaged in farming and stockraising and became very successful.

In New York, Patrick Darby and Ellen Coleman were united in marriage. Ellen (Coleman) Darby was a native of Geneseo, N. Y. To Patrick and Ellen Darby were born the following children: John F., of Saline County; James, of Shreveport, La.; Mrs. Matt Cleary, of Boonville; Mrs. Ed Garthoffner, of Boonville; Edward B. and Eugene M., of Boonville.

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Mrs. Darby died in 1898 and her remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at Boonville.

May 4, 1904, Patrick Darby and Miss Albertine Hartman, of Tipton, 1470., were married. Albertine (Hartman) Darby is a daughter of Henry and Josephine (Veulemans) Hartman. She was born March 14, 1852 in Cooper County. The Hartmans were among the first families of Moniteau County, where they located prior to the coming of the railroads in this section of the state. Mrs.

Darby is the eldest of 14 children, six of whom are now living: Mrs. Patrick Darby, Adam, John, Herman J., Frances J., and Thomas F. With the exception of Mrs. Darby, the Hartman children all reside at Tipton, Mo. Mr. Darby was a member of the John A. Hayne Post Grand Army of the Republic.

In this entire state, there could be found no more patriotic citizen than Patrick Darby, no man of higher ideals or stronger character. He was beloved by all with whom he came in contact and he had countless friends in the county, who still lament their loss. Mr. Darby died Jan. 30, 1917. A writer at the time of the death of Mr. Darby, thus described a beautiful floral tribute laid at his feet:

"Because of his intense patriotism and his great love for the flag of his adopted country, The United States, the family of Patrick Darby had Mr. E. C. Stammerjohn, the Boonville florist design and arrange a beautiful flag emblem of flowers for the funeral. The flag was perfectly made of white and red carnations for the stripes and white heliotropes representing the stars on a ground of blue, made also of flowers. The whole was surrounded with foliage of various colors, making a beautiful and appropriate emblem."

### **Wallace L. Morton**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Wallace L. Morton, proprietor of "Shamrock Dairy Farm", Shamrock Heights, near Boonville, was born Oct. 23, 1879, on the place, where he now resides. Mr. Morton is a son of Robert and Permelia Frances (Orr) Morton, the former, a native of Pilot Grove Township, and the latter, of Kentucky. The father died in 1891 and his remains are interred in Walnut Grove cemetery. The widowed mother now makes her home with her son, Wallace L., the subject of this sketch. The "Shamrock Dairy Farm" has been the home of the Mortons for more than 40 years. The children of Robert and Permelia Frances Morton are, as follow: Mrs. Minnie G. Short, of Boonville; Mrs. John H. Boer, of Wichita, Kan.; H. R., who is with the Witte Engine Company, of Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Joseph Sale, of Fort Worth, Texas; Wallace L., the subject of t-his review; Mrs. Russell Blakey, of Wichita, Kan., and Robert M., a registered pharmacist,

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who is now with the United States army, serving in the Medical Corps, stationed at St. Louis, Mo. Robert M. Morton enlisted in the service in the fall of 1918.

"Shamrock Dairy Farm" comprises 53 acres of land within the city limits of Boonville. The residence is a modern structure, built upon the highest point of the farm, and overlooking the city. Robert Morton, father of Wallace L. Morton, was a market gardener and horticulturist and his garden and orchard were famed throughout the county. Wallace L. Morton has been engaged in the dairy business for the past several years and, at the time of this writing in 1919, he has a herd of 25 head of Jersey cattle, which he has himself raised on "Shamrock Dairy Farm". A silo, 1200 feet, has been erected on the place and Mr. Morton usually keeps from 20 to 25 acres of the farm in pasture land. He has an up to date milk house, where the milk is cared for in a sanitary manner and he delivers bottled milk to his customers twice daily in the summers and once daily in the winters.

April 22, 1917, Wallace L. Morton was united in marriage with Dora Sloan, of Boonville, a daughter of Robert and Mary (Muddy Sloan, the father, a native of Kentucky and the mother, of Illinois, both now residents of Boonville Township. Mr. Sloan has resided in Boonville Township for the past 64 years. The children born to Robert and Mary Sloan are as follows: Mrs. Wallace L. Morton, the wife of the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Margaret Barlow, of Boonville Township; Marshal, Elizabeth and Pauline, at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Morton are valued members of the Baptist Church. Mr. Morton is affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America. In politics, he is a democrat.

At the time of this writing, in 1919, Mr. Morton had cut down a tree, an old, historic oak, connected with stories of the Civil War in Cooper County. Two confederates, on the then newly opened road near Boonville, saw a body of Federals approaching and to escape capture the two climbed the oak tree, growing on the Morton farm. The Federals camped near the tree, in which the Confederates were obliged to remain one day and one night, before they could make their escape. The tree has now passed into history as all that remains to remind one of the tales of other days is the spot where it grew and the six cords of wood into which it has been cut.

### **P. R. Jaeger**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

P. R. Jaeger, proprietor of the "Jaeger Fruit Farm", in Boonville, is Cooper County's leading horticulturist and one of the most thoroughly hosted fruit growers in the state. Mr. Jaeger was born in Germany, July

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6, 1869, a son of Ernest and Clara (Schubert) Jaeger, of Saxony, Germany, who immigrated to America in 1884 and settled on a farm of 40 acres located in Lone Elm Township. Mr. Jaeger improved his land and spent his life on his farm. He died in 1913 and his remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at Clarks Fork Church. The widowed mother resides in Boonville. She is now 79 years of age. The children born to Ernest and Clara (Schubert) Jaeger are, as follows: Otto, who resides in the state of Washington; Bruno, of Boonville; P. R., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. M. Lohse, of Boonville; and Hugo, of Sedalia.

In the schools of Germany and the public schools of Cooper County, P. R. Jaeger received his education. He attended Warrenton College at Warren, Mo. For several years, Mr. Jaeger has been engaged in farming and fruit growing. He served 10 years in the lumber business, employed by J. E. Thro. Abandoning the lumber business, Mr. Jaeger entered the business of carpentering and contracting. In 1908, he purchased his present country place, a small farm of two and one-half acres of land within the city limits of Boonville, with a small orchard to which tract he added an adjoining farm of 15 acres, 10 acres an apple orchard. In addition to growing apples, Mr. Jaeger has cherries, strawberries and raspberries growing on his farm. The orchard has a northeast slope and it has proven an exceedingly profitable investment. The gross income from the orchard in 1918 was about \$5,000. Mr. Jaeger has always taken a keen interest in horticulture and his exceptionally thorough training has been a splendid asset to him in his chosen vocation. He raises several varieties of apples, namely: Ben Davis, Gano, Grimes Golden, Jonathan, Winesap, Huntsman, Favorite, Delicious, Ingrain and a few early summer varieties. He has at the time of this writing in 1919, just closed a deal for an adjoining tract of land, of 10 acres, upon which he will place another orchard. Mr. Jaeger is a member of the Missouri State Horticultural Society. He has made many exhibits of his fruit at the Sedalia State Fair and he has won many premiums.

In 1901, P. R. Jaeger and Mary Schack, of Boonville, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Shack, were married. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Jaeger as follow: Mildred, who is a student in the Boonville High School; and Florence, who is a pupil of the city schools, is the seventh grade of school. Mr. and Mrs. Jaeger are highly regarded in Boonville and they are numbered among the best families of the county.

### **William G. Lauer**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

William G. Lauer, the well-known and respected street commissioner of Boonville, is one of Boonville's own boys of yesterday, a native son of

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Cooper County. Mr. Lacer was born Sept. 10, 1870, a son of Erhart and Francis (Tempfel) Lauer, natives of Germany.

Erhart Lauer immigrated to America about 1861. He enlisted in the Civil War and served with the Union army in the United States cavalry, enlisting at Boonville. Mr. Lauer was in the service three years, serving until the war had ended, in Missouri and Kansas. Frances (Tempfel) Lauer came to America with her parents, when she was a girl 10 years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Tempfel settled in Boonville Township on the farm where both died. Their remains rest in West Boonville cemetery. Mr. Lauer has long been deceased and he was laid to rest in Walnut Grove cemetery. His widow still survives him and she resides on South Main Street in Boonville. Erhart and Frances Lauer were the parents of eight children, as follow: Mrs. Julia Mock, deceased; Ella, at home with her mother; Charles F., a farmer, of Boonville Township; Henry, a farmer, of Boonville Township; Arthur, a farmer, of Boonville Township; Fred, a traveling salesman, of Marshall, Mo.; Oscar, at home with his mother; and William G., the subject of this review.

William G. Lauer attended the public schools of Boonville. He had been engaged in farming in Boonville Township, until he came to Boonville nine years ago and purchased the old Rice homestead at 1003 South Seventh street, his present residence. In 1915, he was appointed street commissioner and he is now serving his fourth year in office.

June 18, 1889, William G. Lauer and Cora Simmons, a daughter of James and Belinda Simmons, were united in marriage. James Simmons died in 1901 and he was buried in Walnut Grove cemetery. Mrs. Simmons makes her home with her son, William Simmons, a farmer in Boonville Township. Mrs. Lauer is one of six children born to her parents, as follows: Mrs. Eils Lymer, of Boonville; Mrs. William C. Lauer, the wife of the subject of this sketch; Mrs. George Simmons, of Boonville Township; Mrs. Hattie Lauer, of Boonville; Mrs. Levina Lymer, of Boonville; and Mrs. Stella Oswald, who resides in Arkansas. Mr. and Mrs. Lauer are the parents of five children: William, who is employed by the Boonville National Bank; Roy enlisted in the U. S. army from Seattle, Wash., June 14, 1918; arrived at Spokane, June 15, took a two months' training course in an automobile school and from there was sent to Camp Taylor, Louisville, Ky., where he served six months, was discharged, came home Dec. 15 1918 and left for Seattle, Jan. 8, 1919, where he is employed by the Electric Light & Power Co.; Earl who served 10 months a member of Battery E, 316th Field Artillery in France; returned to the United

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States June 9, 1919 anti was discharged at Newport News, Va., arriving home June 19, 1919; and Frances and Herbert, at home. Mr. Lauer is a member of the German Lutheran Church and Mrs. Lauer is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The former is affiliated with the Woodmen of the World.

The Lauer family is held in the highest regard in Boonville and they are respected and valued by all who know them.

Robert S. Rae, a member of one of the real pioneer families of this section of Missouri, and one of the best known and most substantial farmers in Cooper County, is the owner of an excellent farm in Palestine Township. He was born in this county on a pioneer farm in Pilot Grove Township, Jan. 18, 1858, son of Robert and Frances (Harrelson) Roe, the latter of whom also was born in this county, and both of whom were representatives of families which had settled here in the early days.

### **Robert Roe**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Robert Roe was born in Caroline County, Md., Feb. 27, 1815, and was but 10 years of age when his parents, Samuel and Elizabeth (Leith) Roe, came to Missouri from Virginia in 1825 and located in Cooper County. Two years later, in 1827, Samuel Roe entered a tract of land from the Government on the site now occupied by the town of Pilot Grove, and there established his home, spending there the rest of his life, one of the substantial and influential pioneers. Samuel Roe was born in Scotland, Jan. 17, 1788, and died at his home in this county, May 26, 1878, at the age of 91 years. He was twice married. His first wife, Elizabeth Leith, was born in England, March 30, 1794, and died in this county, Dec. 17, 1826, about a year after the family located here. To that union were born five children, of whom Robert was the eldest. Following the death of the mother of these children, Samuel Roe married Sarah Shaw, who was born Jan. 18, 1795, and died in 1868. To that union four children were born. In 1817, Samuel Roe moved from Maryland to Virginia, his son, Robert, then being but two years of age, and it was thus that the latter had lived in two States before coming to Missouri with his parents in 1825. He grew to manhood on the home farm in the Pilot Grove settlement, and after his marriage established his home in Henry County, Mo. near Calhoun. In 1849, he joined the numerous bands then flocking across the plains to the promising gold fields of California, but in 1852 returned to Cooper County, and east of Pilot Grove resumed his farming operations there until 1869, when he sold out and bought a farm in Palestine Township. He retired in 1893, moved to Pilot Grove, where his death occurred, April 15, 1894, he then being 79 years of age. His widow died

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July 19, 1899. She was born near Boonville, Feb. 25, 1824, daughter of Bennett and Amy (Brashear) Harrelson, natives of England, the former born on Sept. 12, 1773, and the latter, Dec. 16, 1785, who were among the real pioneers of Cooper County. Bennett Harrelson's last days were spent in Henry County, Mo. To Robert and Frances (Harrelson) Roe were born 10 children, of whom four are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being: Elizabeth, deceased; Alice, wife of Edward Wallin, a retired farmer, Greenridge, Mo.; and O. L. Roe, Sedalia, engaged as a painter and coach finisher in the Missouri Pacific Railroad shops.

Reared on the home farm in Pilot Grove Township, Robert S. Roe has always been a farmer, a vocation which he has followed with considerable success, as the well-improved farm on which he is now living will attest. He received his schooling in the district schools, and when 21 years of age, in 1879, began farming on his own account, renting in Pettis County, and remained there until 1882, when he returned to this county and bought a farm two and one-half miles west of Speed. Three years later, in 1885, he sold that farm to advantage and went to Camden County, where he remained until 1890, when he returned to this county and engaged in farming until 1893, when he went back to Camden County. There he remained until 1898, returning then to Cooper County and renting the farm on which he is now living in Palestine Township, the old Cole place, and there established his home. In 1918, Mr. Roe sold 253 acres of the home place, including that portion occupied by the old farm house, but still owns 188 acres, on which he has erected a new and modern house, the same being equipped with electric lights, hot and cold water and all the conveniences of an up-to-date farm house, and has built up a general farm plant in keeping with the same, his place being one of the best improved farms in that locality. Mr. Roe is a democrat and has ever taken an interested part in local civic affairs, but the only public office he has held was that of local highway engineer, a position which he occupied for four years. He and his family are members of the Methodist Church.

Robert S. Roe has been twice married. By his first wife, Myrtle Wilkerson, two children were born, Mrs. Lena Doyle, of Palestine Township, and J. Lovell Roe, a telegraph operator, now at Lakeside, Neb. Following the death of the mother of these children, Mr. Roe married on March 6, 1892, Mrs. Gilla C. (Cole) Soloman, who was born in this county, and to this union six children have been born, namely: Samuel C., of Palestine Township; Truman T., of Boonville; Porter E., deceased; Grace, wife

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of George Putnam, of Palestine Township; Adda, wife of Aubrey Gander, of Kelly Township, and Joseph L., who is at home. Mrs. Roe was born on the farm on which she is now living, or rather on that portion of the place recently sold by Mr. Roe, Jan. 25, 1859, and there grew to womanhood and was married to Tilman H. Soloman, who was born in Moniteau County, and who died leaving her with three children, Edward, who is now living at New Franklin; Nadine, wife of V. Oswald, of Lebanon Township, and Cordelia, wife of James Leslie Painter, Jr., of Palestine Township. Mrs. Roe is a daughter of Samuel and Catherine (Peters) Cole, and is one of the two daughters born to them, she having a sister, Mrs. Jennie Cash, living at Warrensburg. Samuel Cole was born in Kentucky in 1800, and was 12 years of age when he came to this State with his parents in 1812, the family being a part of the colony which accompanied Daniel Boone here in that year. Samuel Cole was twice married, and his first wife, Sallie Briscoe, also a member of one of the pioneer families of this region, bore him 15 children.

**John H. Schnuck**  
(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

John H. Schnuck, a prominent farmer of Boonville Township, was born at Gooch's Mill, April 11, 1874. Mr. Schnuck is a son of John G. and Catherine (Meyer) Schnuck.

John G. Schnuck was born in Germany in 1830. Catherine (Meyer) Schnuck, was born in Cooper County in 1842, on the farm later known as the Ulrich Oerly farm. John G. Schnuck owned and improved a farm of 225 acres east of Gooch's Mill. He died in 1880 and was buried in Pleasant Grove cemetery. Mrs. Schnuck now makes her home with her son, John H., the subject of this sketch. John G. Schnuck was, and his wife is, a member of the Lutheran Church. The children of John G. and Catherine (Meyer) Schnuck are: Mrs. Samuel Oerly, of Overton, Mo.; Mrs. Elizabeth Renken, of Boonville; Mrs. Catherine Smith, deceased; Henry E., a sketch of whom appears in this volume; Mrs. Annie Twillman, of St. Louis, and John H., the subject of this sketch.

John H. Schnuck was educated in the public schools of Cooper County, attending school at Gooch's Mill in Liberty district. For about three years, he was in a drug business at Gooch's Mill. He abandoned this and engaged in farming on the home place for a few years, then moved to his present farm, which comprises 188 acres, of valuable land. In addition to the home place, Mr. Schnuck owns a farm of 90 acres located one mile east of the home place. The Schnuck homestead is located one mile southeast of the city limits of Boonville. Since coming to this farm, Mr. Schnuck has added two barns, fences and numerous other improvements.

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He is engaged in general farming and stockraising. Mrs. Schnuck is interested in the poultry industry and raises Buff Orpingtons, pure breds, and has one of the best flocks in the county.

In 1899, John H. Schnuck was united in marriage with Margaret Oswald, a daughter of Herman and Christina Oswald. To Mr. and Mrs. Schnuck were born five children: Katherine, Beatrice, Oswald, Norbert and Vergil, all at home. Mrs. Schnuck died in 1909 and her remains are interred in the Catholic cemetery at Boonville. Sept. 28, 1911, Mr. Schnuck was married to Josephine Rossen, a daughter of S. C. and Elizabeth (Robertson) Rossen, the former a native of Denmark, and the latter of Arkansas. S. C. Rossen was born in 1849, and his wife was born in 1861. They are both residents of Boonville, and he is the present superintendent of the County Home of Cooper County. The children of S. C. and Elizabeth Rossen are; Mrs. Schnuck, the wife of the subject of this sketch; James, of St. Louis, Mo.; Albertine, deceased; Frederick, of St. Louis; and Edward, who, at the time of this writing, is in France, a corporal with Company F, 110th Supply Train. Corporal Edward Rossen enlisted in the service of the United States in June, 1917, and he has been in France since May, 1918. Mr. and Mrs. Schnuck had a son, Joseph Rossen, who died at the age of six years in Sept. 1918.

Mr. Schnuck is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mrs. Schnuck is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Schnuck family is well known and highly respected in Cooper County days.

### **J. R. Gilman**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

J. R. Gilman, an honest, industrious farmer of Boonville Township, was born July 3, 1858, near Overton, Mo., a son of John and Kate (Smith) Gilman, the former a native of Wayne County, Ohio. John Gilman came to Missouri in 1856, and located near Overton, moving thence to Jewett's Mill. In later years he moved to Cole County, where he died and is buried. Mrs. Gilman died Aug. 10, 1858, and she is buried in Clayton cemetery at Overton.

J. R. Gilman, the only child born to John and Kate Gilman, attended the public school of Cole County. He had few educational advantages, but in spite of the handicap, he has "made good". In the first part of his career, he rented land. Twenty-six years ago he moved to his present farm and a year later purchased it. This farm comprises 100 acres, located three miles southeast of Boonville, in Boonville Township, on the Jefferson City road. He had improved the farm, adding a barn, and has dug a well and at the time of this writing, is preparing to install a water system, which will supply water for the residence; from a supply tank

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outside. The farm is well watered, and although somewhat rough, the soil is excellent. Mr. Gilman is engaged in general farming and he has been very successful.

Dec. 25, 1879, J. R. Gilman and Kate Robertson, a daughter of John and Mary Robertson, of Boonville Township, were married. John Robertson was born in Cooper County. He was a veteran of the Mexican War and a Confederate veteran of the Civil War. Both parents of Mrs. Gilman are now deceased, and the remains are interred in the cemetery at Boonville. Mr. and Mrs. Gilman are the parents of five children, all of whom have been reared to maturity and are now married: Stella, now Mrs. Henry G. Adams, of Brinkley, Ark.; Myrtle, the wife of Harry Kaiser, of Washington Township; John, who married Stella Robinson, near Boonville; Paul, who married Margaret Dick, Sedalia, where he is a drug salesman; and Ed, who married Ruby Gray, of Longfellow, Texas. Mr. and Mrs. Gilman are the proud grandparents of ten grandchildren, namely: Charlie, Mary K., Margaret and Joe Adams; Derrick, Joseph, Harry, Jr., Kaiser, Deckey May, Betty Ann and Darrell Gilman.

Mr. Gilman is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Maccabees. He and Mrs. Gilman are members of the Presbyterian Church. Politically, he is a democrat. The Gilman family stands high in the respect of the best citizens of Cooper County.

### **J. H. and F. A. Meyer**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

J. H. Meyer and F. A. Meyer, the well-known Meyer Brothers, proprietors of the Boonville Battling Works, began business in Boonville in 1915, purchasing the business of Meyer & Tackett, located at 525 Morgan Street in Boonville. The present building occupied by the firm is 20x90 feet, with abasement. The Meyer Brothers have established an excellent trade since they entered the mercantile business four years ago. The elder brother, J. H., the senior member of the firm, is now deceased. He died Sept. 1, 1918.

The Meyer brothers were born, reared and educated in Boonville. J. H. Meyer was born in 1871 and F. A. Meyer was born in 1883. They are sons of Joseph and Margaret (Schoen) Meyer, natives of Germany. Joseph Meyer immigrated to America in 1854 and Mrs. Meyer came two years later. They were united in marriage in Cooper County in 1866. Mr. Meyer was, by trade, a stonemason and a very competent workman. He was a veteran of the Civil War, enlisting in 1861 and serving until the close of the conflict, when he returned to his home in Boonville. He died in 1914 at the advanced age of 86 years and his remains are interred in Walnut Grove cemetery. Mrs. Meyer still survives her husband and

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resides in Boonville at 1109 Sixth street. She is 75 years of age. The children of Joseph and Margaret Meyer are, as follows: August, of Boonville; Anna, the wife of W. M. Parsons, of Kansas City, Mo.; J. H., the senior partner of the firm, Meyer Brothers, who died at the age of 48 years in 1918, and he was unmarried; Theresa, of Boonville; Mamie, the wife of C. W. Richards, of St. Louis; Susie, the wife of W. R. Dodge, of Manhattan, Kan.; F. A., the youngest brother of the two partners, the subject of this review; Charlie, who is, in 1919, with Company I, 85th Division of the American Expeditionary Force, in France, who enlisted in April, 1918, reached France in June, 1918, was formerly with the 89th Division, was wounded in the battle of Argonne Forest, was confined in a hospital for four months, and is now back with his division in active service.

F. A. Meyer attended the Boonville High School. After leaving school, he was for some time engaged in the nursery business with the H. V. Jenkins Nursery. He, with his brother, J. H., became interested in the bottling business and he is well equipped to handle his work and the brothers have been very successful. Mr. Meyer is one of Boonville's food citizens, a progressive, industrious, capable business man.

#### **George C. Honerbrink**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

George C. Honerbrink, a progressive farmer and stockman of Saline Township, is a native of Cooper County. Mr. Honerbrink was born June 23, 1875 in Prairie Home Township, a son of E. F. and Barbara (Iceley) Honerbrink, natives of Germany. E. F. Honerbrink immigrated to America, when he was a young man, and he was married to Barbara Iceley in Ohio. The Honerbrinks settled in Missouri in the early seventies, on a farm of 80 acres of land located in Prairie Home Township, to which tract Mr. Honerbrink added 80 acres of land in 1881 and 160 acres of land 10 years ago. He now owns a half section of land in Prairie Home Township, Mrs. Honerbrink died at the Honerbrink homestead in 1912 and her remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at Boonville (Walnut Grove). The children of E. F. and Barbara Honerbrink are: Henry, of Prairie Home Township; Fred, of Saline Township; Lucy, of Saline Township; Annie, the wife of Christian Ohlandorf, of Clark's Fork Township; Mary, the wife of John Crane, of Clark's Fork Township; Sophia, the wife of Hogan Freeman, of Saline Township; and Ernest, at home.

Mr. Honerbrink, the subject of this sketch was reared and educated in Prairie Home Township. He has been interested in farming and stockraising all his life and he has raised large herds of cattle and hogs in recent years. His farm, comprising 118 acres of valuable land, is located

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nine miles southeast of Boonville and four miles southwest of Overton in Saline Township. Mr. Honerbrink purchased this country place in 1905 and since acquiring the ownership of the farm he has partly fenced it and has added a barn, 42x54 feet, and other buildings, and he has improved the residence. The Honerbrink farm is well watered by a stream, which crosses the place, and several good springs.

March 19, 1905, George C. Honerbrink and Christina Brueckner, of Saline Township, were married. Mrs. Honerbrink is a daughter of George and Caroline (Metz) Brueckner. She was born Aug. 12, 1882. George Brueckner was a native of Germany and he immigrated to America with his parents in 1850. He was killed by a stroke of lightning on the Brueckner homeplace, June 3, 1895. Mrs. Brueckner was born Aug. 5, 1861, on the farm which is now her home. The deed to her farm was signed by Andrew Jackson. Mrs. Honerbrink has one sister and one brother now living: Mrs. J. C. Farris, of Arkansas; and George, Jr., of Boonville. To George C. and Christina Honerbrink have been born three children: George Carl, Eulah Viola; and Willie Beatrice. Mr. and Mrs. Honerbrink are consistent and valued members of the Evangelical Church.

The Honerbrink farm has located upon it an old cemetery, established by Joseph Westbrook, who owned the farm 90 years or more ago. He was the first to be interred in the burial ground and later the different members of his family were laid to rest there. Other pioneers of Cooper County have this spot for their last resting place, among them the Elliot and William Leek families. It is related that Grandmother Cynthia Westbrook, who lived on the Honerbrink farm more than a century ago, was accustomed to ride horseback from her home to the principal marketing place in Howard County and that on horseback she would cross the Missouri River, when the water was low. The Honerbrink farm is one of the most interesting country places, historically, in Cooper County.

### **J. H. Stretz**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

J. H. Stretz, of the Boonville Brick Company, is one of Boonville's own boys. Mr. Stretz was born June 23, 1862 in Boonville, a son of Frank and Magdalena (Rider) Stretz, both of whom were natives of Germany.

Frank Stretz immigrated from Germany to America in 1845 and settled at Boonville, where he was first employed as potter by Mr. Vollrath, the pioneer patter of this city. In his latter years, Mr. Stretz was engaged in gardening. He died in 1878, from the effects of sunstroke. Mrs. Stretz died at the age of 82 years. Both father and mother are interred in the Catholic cemetery at Boonville. The children of Frank and Magdalena Stretz are, as follow: Mrs. Mary Strickfaden, deceased; Frank, of

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Boonville; Charles, who died about two years ago in New Orleans; Mrs. Kate Strickfaden, of California, Mo.; Joseph, who resides in the state of California; Mrs. Sophia Schuster, of Boonville; Theresa, a daughter who died at the age of 24 years; J. H., the subject of this sketch; and Albert, of Chicago, Ill.

J. H. Stretz received his education in the Catholic school of Boonville. Since attaining maturity, he has been employed in brick manufacturing and he has followed this vocation and bricklaying in Boonville the past 38 years. J. H. Stretz and Louis Gantner have farmed a partnership in the business of brick making and they have succeeded Claus Stammerjohn. The firm was established in 1905 and the office is located at the factory, which is on the Missouri, Kansas & Topeka railroad, near the station. The plant has a capacity of 20,000 bricks daily. The firm does a general contracting business and has built in Boonville the St. Joseph Hospital, which is 48x102 feet in dimensions; the pipe factory, the largest factory in the city; the county infirmary; and perhaps 100 other buildings. The Boonville Brick Company has done much toward pushing Boonville into the front ranks among the leading manufacturing cities of the state and Mr. Stretz and his partner deserve much credit and commendation.

J. H. Stretz was united in marriage with Mittie Edwards and to this union were born the following children: Mrs. Julia Walje, of Sedalia, whose husband is a well-known railroad employee there; Henry, of Boonville Mrs. Rose Taylor, of Kansas City, Mo.; Lawrence, a competent brick mason

of Fulton, Mo.; Norbert, who has recently returned from England after serving one year in the United States army, with the Aircraft Construction Company; Ernest, who enlisted in the service of the United States in Jan., 1918, a gunner with the Anti-Aircraft Machine Gun Battalion, homeward bound from France at the time of this writing, in 1919; Mrs. Mary Sonen, of Osawatomie, Kan.; and Ferdinand, who died at the age of 16 years. The mother died in 1888.

In 1899, J. H. Stretz and Mrs. Mary (Edwards) Gantner, of Boonville were married. Mrs. Stretz is a daughter of J. A. and Eva (Potts) Edwards, the former, a late stockdealer of this city, and the latter, now a resident of Rockyford, Col. Mr. Edwards is deceased. Mrs. Stretz, by her first marriage, is the mother of four children: Mrs. Ollie Sinclair, of Boonville; Mrs. Nettie Smith, of Boonville; Urban and Earl, both of whom served in the United States army overseas for one year with the aircraft Construction Company in England, returning to America in Jan., 1919, now engaged in brick-masonry in Boonville. To J. H. and Mary

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Stretz have been born four children: Virgil, Agnes, Helen and Leonard. Mr. and Mrs. Stretz are faithful members of the Catholic Church and Mr. Stretz and all his sons, excepting the youngest, are members of the Knights of Columbus. Mr. Stretz is also affiliated with the Modern Woodmen of America.

There is no man in Cooper County more worthy of respect and consideration than J. H. Stretz. He is one of Boonville's leading citizens and is admired by all who know him. He has served three terms as a member of the city council and, at the time of this writing, in 1919, he is serving his fourth term in office. He has proven himself an able and conscientious official.

#### **Col. Robert L. Harriman**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Col. Robert L. Harriman, for years recognized as one of the leading live-stock auctioneers in the West, for 20 years a member of the board of directors of the Bank of Bunceton, a member of the firm of Harriman Bros., breeders of Shorthorn cattle, a resident of Bunceton for nearly 35 years, and in many ways actively identified with the growing interests of that section of Cooper County, is a native son of this county. He was born at Pilot Grove, March 19, 1856, son of Dr. William and Caroline (Mayo) Harriman, formerly and for years influential residents of that neighborhood, and whose last days were spent there, their final resting place being in Mt. Vernon Cemetery, which was established on a corner of the old Harriman home place.

Dr. William Harriman was born in New Jersey, the son of a clergyman, and was reared by two aunts, who brought him up in a bookish atmosphere. He was schooled in both law and medicine, but gave his preference to the latter profession, and as a young man went to Kentucky, where he engaged in the practice of medicine, and where he married Caroline Mayo, a daughter of William and Caroline (Pleasants) Mayo, the latter of whom was a second cousin of Thomas Jefferson, and a lineal descendant of Pocohontas. William Mayo and his wife were natives of Virginia, who moved from Norfolk, Va., to Kentucky, where they reared their family. It was in the latter '40s, and after two children had been born to him and his wife that Dr. William Harriman left Kentucky and came to Missouri with his family, coming up the river with a bunch of negroes, a fine string of thoroughbred horses and jacks and a good small herd of Shorthorn cattle. He landed with his possessions at Boonville, and moved thence to the Pilot Grove neighborhood, where he established his home, and where he became the owner of 2,400 acres of land. Upon

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locating there, Doctor Harriman re-established himself in the practice of his profession, and soon became widely known as one of the leading physicians of his time in this section of Missouri. He had not been trained to the life of the farm, but his wife was a skilled executive along those lines, and acted as overseer of the place, she and her sons directing the operations of the same, while

the Doctor devoted his attention to his practice and his books. On that place, Doctor Harriman and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, useful in all good works thereabout in their day and generation, and their memory is still cherished throughout that neighborhood. They were the parents of eight children, as follows: Dr. William P., a physician, now deceased; Georgianna, also deceased, who was the wife of John F. Rogers, former sheriff of Cooper County; Isabella, deceased; John H., deceased; Jennie, wife of J. A. Thompson, of Pilot Grove; Col. Robert L.; Regis A., of Pilot Grove, and Caroline, wife of J. D. McCutcheon, of Pilot Grove.

Reared on the farm on which he was born in the immediate vicinity of Pilot Grove, Robert L. Harriman received his schooling in the Pilot Grove School and in the private school then being conducted at Bunceton by D. R. Gully, and from the days of his boyhood devoted himself to the affairs of the farm, with particular attention to the live-stock breeding operations long carried on there. He married in the fall of 1882, and for some time thereafter made his home on what is now known as the Luray stock farm in Palestine Township, and which he owned for five or six years. In 1885, however, he moved to Bunceton for the better attention he could there give to his growing live-stock interests, and has resided since. About 1889 Colonel Harriman began the crying of sales in the vicinity of his home, and it was not long until his success in that line had created a wide demand for his services, this demand presently necessitating the limitation of his services to live-stock sales only, and for many years the Colonel has thus been one of the best known live-stock auctioneers in the West. He has long specialized in the crying of sales of Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs, and is an acknowledged authority in these classes. The Colonel has cried stock sales in no fewer than 12 of the States of the Union, and his operations have carried him as far as Portland, Ore., in which city in one week he sold at auction more than \$100,000 worth of stock. Though he is not an advertiser, the Colonel is so widely known in his particular field that during the seasons he finds

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himself book 40 or 50 sales ahead, and as a measure of the value in which his services are held it is not improper to state that his fee for crying the sales of pure-bred stock is \$100 the day.

Colonel Harriman has been twice married. In November, 1882, he was united in marriage to Rosa Stephens, who was born in Kelly Township, in 1860, and who died March 9, 1916. She was the daughter of John H. and Margaret (Ewing) Stephens, the former of whom was an extensive landowner and stockman in Kelly Township. To that union were born four children, two of whom died in infancy, the others being Louise and Helen. Louise Harriman married W. B. Wallace, a son of T. J. Wallace, a member of one of the old families of Cooper County, and is now living at Boonville. She and her husband have one child, a son, Thomas H. Wallace. Helen Harriman married George W. Robertson, a hardware merchant at Mexico, Mo., and has one child, a son, George William Robertson III. On Dec. 26, 1917, Colonel Harriman married Bettie J. Horned, who also was born in this State, daughter of Benjamin and Bettie J. (Bradley) Horned, who are now living on a farm in this county. Benjamin Horned and wife are the parents of 11 children of whom Mrs. Harriman is the second in order of birth. Colonel and Mrs. Harriman are members of the Presbyterian Church. The Colonel is a democrat. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons at Bunceton. The Colonel has for years given his active attention to the general business affairs of his home community, and for 20 years or more has been a member of the board of directors of the Bank of Bunceton. He is a member of the Central Shorthorn Association of Kansas City, and in association with his nephew, Bert Harriman, is connected with the firm of Harriman Bros., of Bunceton, a firm widely known as breeders of pure-bred Shorthorn cattle.

**James B. Shepherd**  
(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

James B. Shepherd, a leading agriculturist and stockman of Saline Township, is one of the county's prominent citizens. Mr. Shepherd is a native of Andrew County, Mo. He was born Jan. 9, 1856, a son of Levi and Joanna (Campbell) Shepherd.

Levi Shepherd was born in Jackson County, Mo., on the farm which is now the present site of Independence, a son of Elijah Shepherd and Rebecca (Pates) Shepherd. Elijah Shepherd came to Missouri from Kentucky about 1810 and settled on a tract of land in Jackson County, where he filed. His widow moved from Missouri to California in 1870 and she died near San Jose, several years later. Levi Shepherd was born in 1832 and he died May 14, 1914, on his farm in Saline Township. His remains

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are interred in the cemetery at Gooch's Mill. Joanna (Campbell) Shepherd was born in 1834 near Wooldridge in Saline Township, a daughter of Bradley and Meka Campbell, the former a native of Tennessee and the latter, of North Carolina, honored pioneers of Saline Township. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell have long been deceased and their remains are buried in the family cemetery near Wooldridge. Mrs. Shepherd died in 1916 and she was laid to rest beside her husband in the cemetery at Gooch's Mill. Mr. Shepherd was a confederate veteran of the Civil War. The children of Levi and Joanna Shepherd are, as follow: James B., the subject of this sketch; Mrs. Rebecca J. Eager, of Saline Township; C. M., cashier of the Pilot Grove Bank, Pilot Grove, Mo.; Mrs. Alice C. Clayton, of Wooldridge, Mo.; and William L., a late teacher in the Robinson district schools, near Prairie Home, who died at the age of 22 years at the Shepherd homestead.

James B. Shepherd attended the public schools of Missouri and Hooper Institute, at Clarksburg, Mo. Since leaving school, he has been engaged in farming and stockraising in Saline Township. He purchased his present country place, a farm comprising 205 acres of land, in 1881. There are two sets of improvements on the farm. The land is exceptionally well watered by three never-failing springs. Mr. Shepherd is following general farming and he raises large herds of cattle, hogs and horses. The Shepherd farm is located 14 miles southeast of Boonville. 141r, Shepherd relates that the covered bridge over the Petite Saline River at Gooch's Mill was built more than 75 years. This bridge is a landmark in the county, having covered sides and a roof, constructed of wood, and is still in a good state of preservation, in 1919.

In 1880, James B. Shepherd and Amanda E. Stone, of Saline Township, were united in marriage. Mrs. Shepherd died April 23, 1903, and she was laid to rest in Oak Grove cemetery. Aug. 27, 1916, Mr. Shepherd was married to Mrs. Maggie L. Shepherd, of Clay County. To Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd have been born two children: Addie Lee, 11 years of age; and Helen Louise, three years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd are members of the Baptist Church.

Mr. Shepherd is affiliated with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. He is a charter member of the lodge which was organized at Overton in 1881.

#### **Capt. George T. Boyce**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Capt. George T. Boyce, of the Kemper Military School in Boonville, one of the leading citizens of Cooper County, is a native of Shelby County, Mo. Mr. Boyce was born Sept. 20, 1876, a son of George W, and Mary J,

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(Brewington) Boyce, the former, a native of Delaware and the latter, of Maryland. Captain Boyce is the only child born to his parents.

George W. Boyce was born in Delaware in 1825. He was, by trade, a contractor and builder. During the Civil War, he served with the confederates under Colonel Porter, who secured volunteers for the command of General Sterling Price. Mr. Boyce was taken prisoner by the Union men, after he had been in service but a few weeks, at Newark, Mo., in 1864. Later, he was paroled and he returned to Delaware, where he remained until 1866, when he returned to Shelby County, Mo. Mr. Boyce first came to Shelby County in 1857 and three different times he returned to his native state, the last time in 1869. When he came back to Shelby County, after his last visit to Delaware, he remained. George W. Boyce was a son of Joseph J. Boyce, a veteran of the War of 1812, who enlisted in 1812 and served throughout the war and until 1819, in the regular army. He was with General Andrew Jackson in the war against the Seminoles in Florida. The predecessor of the Boyces in America came to this country about 1630. Mary J. Boyce, mother of Captain Boyce, died in 1891 and George W. Boyce died in 1895. The remains of both parents are interred in Bacon Chapel cemetery in Shelby County.

Captain Boyce received his elementary education in the public schools of Shelby County. Later, he was a student at Northwest Missouri College at Albany, Mo., and at Rose Polytechnic Institute, and at the State University of Missouri. He came to the Kemper Military School in October, 1900, and for the first three years he taught commercial subjects. In 1903 and 1904, Captain Boyce attended the State University, after which he accepted a position as principal of the Township high school at Marshall, Ill. He taught in the high school of Albany, Ga., a place he held during 1907 and 1908. In the latter year, he was recalled to the Kemper Military School to open the manual training department of the school. Captain Boyce is the originator of the manual training work here and today this department in the Kemper Military School is the best manual training department in any preparatory military school in the United States. The training is not compulsory, but optional with the students, and more than one-third the student body is taking the course. Captain Boyce made a map of Cooper County in 1918, the original of which hangs in the Commercial Club room in Boonville. The map is a pen drawing and accurate in every detail.

In 1907, Capt. George T. Boyce was united in marriage with Mary E.

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Gilbert, a daughter of John W. and Melissa (Taylor) Gilbert. The mother of Mrs. Boyce died in 1916 and she is buried in the cemetery at Marshall, Mo. Mr. Gilbert resides at Kansas, Ill. The grandfather of Mrs. Boyce, father of Melissa (Taylor) Gilbert, was a cousin of former President Zachariah Taylor. To Captain and Mrs. Boyce have been born three children: George T., Jr., John M., and Mary M. The Boyces are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Boonville.

Captain Boyce is widely known throughout the county and he is universally respected as a gentleman and scholar. He and Mrs. Boyce are numbered among Boonville's best and most prominent citizens and they have innumerable friends wherever they are known.

#### **Captain Harris Cecil Johnston**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Captain Harris Cecil Johnston, Of the Kemper Military School, a prominent and highly respected young citizens of Boonville, was born Feb. 12, 1883, in Boonville, a son of Col. T. A. Johnston, superintendent of the Kemper Military School, and Carolina (Rea) Johnston. Captain Johnston is one of four children born to his parents, as follows: Rea Alexander, the present major of the Missouri State Reformatory at Boonville; Bertha, the wife of Major A. M. Hitch, of Boonville; Capt. Harris Cecil, the subject of this sketch; and Alice, the wife of Major R. J. Foster, of Washington, D. C.

Captain Johnston is a graduate of the Kemper Military School, a member of the class of 1901, and he was a student of the Western Reserve University at Cleveland, Ohio. He accepted the position of quartermaster at Kemper Military School in 1904, succeeding Major Joseph H. Rea,



and this position he has most capably filled for the past 15 years. The quartermaster's department has complete charge of all the supplies of the school, and Captain Johnston is a most efficient officer. In addition to his regular duties, he attends to the finances and to the coaching of the athletic teams and to the "booking" of games with outside schools.

June 27, 1905, Capt. Harris Cecil Johnston was united in marriage with Georgia Walker Wooldridge of Boonville. Mrs. Johnston is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elizabeth (Osborne) Wooldridge. Dr. Wooldridge was a prominent banker and grain merchant of Boonville, and he is now deceased. Mrs. Wooldridge resides in Kansas City, Mo., with her son, J. H., a well-known grain merchant of that city. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Wooldridge are as follows: Lula B., of Boonville; Jay H., of Kansas City, Mo.; O. J., a grain merchant of St. Louis, Mo.; Mrs. Harris Cecil Johnston, the wife of the subject of this review; Jessie, the wife

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of Frank Brosius, of Boonville; and one child, the eldest, died in infancy. To Captain and Mrs. Johnston have been born two children: Marjorie Walker and Ann Caroline.

Captain Johnston is a deacon of the Presbyterian Church. He is a thorough, able, young man, and he is held in the highest respect by all his colleagues and acquaintances.

**Charles F. Lauer**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Charles F. Lauer, a successful and prosperous farmer and stockman of Boonville Township, is a native of Cooper County. Mr. Lauer was born in Boonville Township, Oct. 10, 1868, a son of Erhardt and Frances (Tempfel) Lauer, natives of Germany.

Erhardt Lauer immigrated to America in 1861. He enlisted in the Civil War and served throughout the conflict with the Union Army, with Company E, 5th Missouri Infantry. He was, by trade, a potter, and he was employed for several years by Mr. Jeglin, of Boonville. Later, he purchased a farm west of Boonville, near the Missouri Valley coal mines. He died in 1905 and his remains were laid to rest in Walnut Grove Cemetery. Frances (Tempfel) Lauer came to America with her parents in 1845. She is a daughter of Frederick and Fredericka (Oswald) Tempfel. Mr. Tempfel was, by trade, a stonemason. Mrs. Lauer now resides in Boonville. She is, at the time of this writing, 73 years of age. The children of Erhardt and Frances Lauer are as follows: Mrs. Julia Mocks, deceased; Emma, who died in infancy; Charles F., the subject of this review; William G., of Boonville; Fred W., of Marshall, Mo.; Henry E., Ella M., Oscar G. and Arthur C., twins, all of Boonville.

Charles F. Lauer attended Westwood School in Boonville Township. He has, since leaving school, been engaged in farming and stock raising. Mr. Lauer was on the home place for 24 years. He purchased his present farm in September 1892, a place comprising 114 acres of land located six miles southeast of Boonville. Mr. Lauer has himself improved this farm, adding all the buildings, except the residence, since acquiring the ownership of the place. The land is well watered by five springs, and is well adapted for general farming and stock raising. Mr. Lauer raises cattle, hogs, horses and mules.

March 6, 1901, Charles F. Lauer was married to Delia Woolery, a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Wilkes) Woolery. Thomas Woolery was born near Pleasant Green and now resides at Bunceton. He is 75 years of age, at the time of this writing in 1919. Mrs. Woolery was born near Springfield, Mo. She died about 20 years ago, and her remains rest in Mount Nebo Cemetery.. Mr. and Mrs. Woolery were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Charles F. Lauer, the wife of the subject of

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thin review; Mrs. Mary Johnson, of Pleasant Green, Mo.; Allen, of Kansas City, Mo.; Samuel, of Bunceton; Mrs. Bessie Reed, of Pleasant Green; Minnie, who died at the age of 11 years; and Downing, a telegraph operator, now residing in Illinois. Mr. Woolery is a Confederate veteran of the Civil War. He served throughout the conflict with Gen. Sterling Price. To Mr. and Mrs. Lauer has been born one child, a daughter, Lorine Prances. Mr. Lauer is a member of the Evangelical Church, and Mrs. Lauer is a member of the Christian Church.

Mr. Lauer is affiliated with the Woodmen of the World and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a modest, unassuming citizen, a man highly regarded by all who know him.

**Edward Hasenbach**  
(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Edward Hasenbach, a prosperous and progressive farmer and stockman of Saline Township, residing on the F. H. Hobrecht farm of 160 acres, located nine miles southeast of Boonville, was born Feb. 8, 1882, in California, Mo., a son of Frederick and Emma (Schmidt) Hasenbach, the former a native of Germany. Mr. Hasenbach died at Boonville in October 1881, a few years after coming to this country. His widow resides in Boonville. Frederick Hasenbach was, by trade, a tanner, and he operated a tan yard in Boonville. Edward Hasenbach, the subject of this sketch, is the only child born to his parents.

Mr. Hasenbach attended Woodland District School in Saline Township. Practically all his life he has been interested in farming and stockraising, and for the past six years he has resided on the farm where he now lives. He is the owner of a farm of 56 acres of valuable land in Saline Township. He is an industrious, honest citizen, respected by all with whom he comes in contact.

In 1907, Edward Hasenbach was united in marriage with Alma, Hobrecht, a daughter of H. A. and Nancy Hobrecht, of Saline Township. The great-grandparents of Mrs. Hasenbach, on the paternal side of the family, died and were buried in Schmidt Cemetery in Saline Township in 1844. The Schmidt Cemetery is one of the first burial grounds established in Cooper County, and is located on the farm of Otto Schmidt.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hasenbach have been born two sons: Harold and Carl. The Hasenbachs are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and Mr. Hasenbach is affiliated with the Odd Fellows:

Mr. and Mrs. Hasenbach are well known in Cooper County, and they are numbered among the county's good, substantial citizens.

**Acrey B. Hurt**  
(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Acrey B. Hurt, of Clarks Fork Township, is a native of Cooper County, and a member of a pioneer family of this section of the State. He was born in Clarks Fork Township, Sept. 27, 1864, a son of Acrey and Matilda (Rackard) Hurt, both natives of Virginia. They were married in Virginia

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and came to Cooper County in 1855, settling on the farm where Acrey B., the subject of this sketch, now lives. The father served in the Hone Guards during the Civil War, and followed farming and stock raising throughout his life. He met with success, and at the time of his death was the owner of 160 acres of land. He died in 1882, and was survived by his widow a number of years. She died in 1898. They were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Jeanette Arnold, Boonville; Andrew W., Clarks Fork Township; Benjamin F., Clinton; Arbell, Moniteau County; Mrs.

Annie E. Copas, Jefferson City; Newton J., deceased; Acrey B., the subject of this sketch; Silos, Boonville; and William T., Pilot Grove.

Acrey B. Hurt was reared on the home farm in Clarks Fork Township, and was educated in the district school. The first school house in his district was a log structure, which stood on the Hurt farm. The seats were made of split logs, and it was a typical school building of pioneer days. It was abandoned for school purposes; however, before Mr. Hurt was old enough to attend school. Acrey Hurt has always followed farming and stock raising. However, during the last year, on account of poor health, he has rented his place, but still retains his residence there.

A number of Mr. Hurt's uncles were among the early settlers of Cooper County. Theodore Hurt came here in 1855, and another uncle, Joseph Hurt, came prior to that date. Another uncle, Osmus Hurt, settled in Pettis County at an early date.

Mr. Hurt is a constant reader, and keeps himself well posted on the world's current events. He is one of the intelligent and substantial citizens of Cooper County.

### **Commodore P. Fairfax**

(Transcribed by Jim Thoma)

Commodore P. Fairfax, proprietor of a fine farm of 333 acres in Lebanon Township, and one of the best known and most successful breeders of horses and mules in this section of Missouri, is a native of Virginia. He was born in Wirt County, Va. (now W. Va.), May 1, 1852, son of William and Elizabeth Fairfax, who were the parents of 10 children, five sons and five daughters, of whom four are still living. Of these but two are living in Cooper County, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mrs. Melissa Arnold, who lives in the vicinity of Vermont. In 1865, William Fairfax came to Missouri with his family, and settled on a farm in this county, where he died a month later. He was born in Virginia in 1803, and was thus 73 years of age at his death. His widow died in 1866.

Commodore P. Fairfax was about 13 year's old when he came to

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Cooper County with his parents in 1865. He grew to manhood on the farm which his father had bought upon coming to this county, completed his schooling in the local schools and engaged in farming, which he has followed all his life, and with gratifying success. He married when 21 years of age, and then bought a farm near Lebanon. Sometime later he sold that farm and bought one of 300 acres south of Lebanon, where he made his home for many years, in 1917 he trading that place for the farm of 333 acres on which he now lives. This place, in 1865, when Mr. Fairfax came to Cooper County, was owned by Jack Newman, whose son at that time was sheriff of Cooper County, and it has long been regarded as one of the best farms in that vicinity. Mr. Fairfax has made numerous improvements, and is contemplating more. He for years has been engaged in the breeding of horses and mules, his stable including both saddle and draught horses and jacks of notable strain. One of the latest additions to his stable is a French coach stallion. Mr. Fairfax is a democrat, and has ever given attention to local civic affairs. He and his family are members of the Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Fairfax has been twice married. In 1873, he was married to Emma Kemp, who was born in this county, and who in 1891 met her death by being thrown from a horse she was riding, her foot being caught in the stirrup. To that union were born seven children, one of whom died in infancy, the others being as follows: Lester, now a well to do banker at Kansas City; Willard, who is farming in Morgan County; June, Wife of T. G. Lewis, Kansas City; Thomas L., head of the schools at Clifton City; Forester, living in western Kansas; and Elmer, deceased. .lone 24, 1893, Mr. Fairfax married Margaret Reed, who was born in this aunty-, a member of one of the old families of this section of the State, and to this union seven children have been born, namely:

Homer, who is at home assisting his father; Lon S., who died while serving in his county's army in Europe during the late World War; and Edith, Jack, Hugh, Nola. and Leta May, at home.

Lon Stephens Fairfax, the soldier son, whose death while serving as a member of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe has put an old star in the service flag of the Fairfax family, was born in this county

Feb. 2, 1896, and here grew to promising young manhood. Early in the course of this country's war against Germany in 1911, he was inducted into the National Army, and was assigned to Camp Dodge, Iowa, for preliminary training. There he was attached to Company H, 351st Infantry (pioneer Regiment), 56th Division, and with that command in

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August, 1918, sailed for France, his division arriving just at the time of preparations for the terrific push which was destined to bring the war to an end. With his command he took part in the desperate and decisive battle in the Argonne Forest in September, went "over the top" without receiving a scratch, marched then with the victorious army to Coblenz, and was on the front when the armistice was signed in November. His division then was assigned to the Army of Occupation in the Rhine country, and he was there serving, when on Jan. 11, 1919, he was stricken with pneumonia. His condition was regarded as critical from the start, and eight days later, Jan. 11, 1919, he died, a true American soldier and a loyal and valiant defender of his country's cause. The body was buried in Coblenz, Germany, where many other American soldiers sleep amid the poppies, and his sorrowing comrades erected a stone over his grave, and there devoted a wreath to his memory-to the memory of a gallant lad who relinquished all thought of self when his country called.