

INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND INSTITUTIONS

Pages 259 – 584

(Transcribed by Dorothy Harlan)

COLONEL AND MRS. JOHNSTON, FIRST CITIZENS

(Transcribed by Dorothy Harlan)

Character-building Reared a Great School--The Headmaster, When 80, Solved the Hardest Problem of His Life--His Self-sacrifice Reassures in a World of Much Confusion, and Perpetuates His Greatness.

Among Cooper County's early families were the Johnstons, from North Carolina. Boonville had been founded 38 years, but back from the river the prairies still were being settled when on November 13, 1848, a son was born at the well-established farmstead of John Benoni Johnston and Margaret Harris Johnston, 11 miles southeast of the historic river town.

Pioneer farming, frugality, thrift, a few months a year at New Salem district school, an occasional visit to the stage stop near the homestead, and rare trips to Boonville, with its steamboats and prairie schooners, unfolded life to the small boy, THOMAS ALEXANDER JOHNSTON.

Missouri's "growing pains" were overshadowed by state rights and slavery. When Thomas was 12, the first land battle of the Civil War was fought on the bluffs east of Boonville. School languished while armies fought back and forth across Cooper, a strategic county in a border state.

The issues aroused the youth's thirst for education. Resting at his plow, he read lines from a classic, then pondered their meaning as he tilled. The crops he helped to raise often were appropriated for military use. Behind the armies rolled a rising tide of banditry, pillage and murder. The Johnston home was *cleaned of victuals* by "bushwhackers", then Union authorities arrested the head of the house for surrendering the food.

Southern men who early voted against secession, thus keeping Missouri and the West in the Union, were driven early from middle ground. In October, 1864, when "Price drew nigh with redemption", Thomas Johnston not yet 16, joined the thousands of Missourians who flocked to his standards. When Price retreated, most of the volunteers returned to their homes. Young Johnston served until spring brought peace and a united nation.

Home, he determined to get an education. He attended a private academy at Prairie Home for two years, then, on September 13, 1867, enrolled at Kemper Family School in Boonville. Frederick T. Kemper had kept alive the flame of learning through four drafty years of conflict, a gentleman unmolested by either side.

Under the influence of Professor Kemper, Thomas Alexander Johnston developed rapidly. He absorbed easily the tranquility of mind and soul of his master. They saw eye-to-eye.

In 1871, T. A. Johnston took examinations and was admitted to the senior class at the University of Missouri. After receiving his A. B. degree in 1872, he returned to Kemper as assistant to his former teacher.

On June 27, 1877, T. A. Johnston married Miss Caroline Rea, daughter of the Reverend Peter G. Rea, Cumberland Presbyterian minister who, before the Civil War, conducted in Boonville the Missouri Female Seminary, a large boarding school that attracted students from several states. A page-size picture of the school building appears on page 179 in this volume.

Professor Kemper died March 9, 1881. Thomas A. Johnston succeeded him. Public education had come to Boonville 13 years before that. Dozens of academies and seminaries had died. The new proprietor faced crucial years, but his and his bride's backgrounds had

disciplined them for self-denial, industry and serenity. Prior to her marriage, she had taught rural schools for several years, experiencing the hardships of poor housing, bad roads, and isolation. She also knew something of private school management from the success of her father.

Professor Johnston was successful in his predecessor's system of personalized education. The new owner also proved exceedingly judicious in business. Year by year, enrollment climbed.

Mrs. Johnston's influence extended beyond her household of growing children; she hired cooks and waiters, nursed sick students and mothered the little fellows. She made Kemper truly a family school. Every morning she drove downtown and selected vegetables, fruits, meats and staples. She knew values but was pleasant and gracious, grocers and butchers recall.

For years she also carried the whole burden of Boonville charity. Living simply and frugally, she gave wisely to those less capable, or less fortunate.

For a quarter-century she achieved richly, but was self-effacing—a gentle woman proud of her husband's success. Then Kemper out-grew the family system, was organized as a military school, and she retired to the Johnston home within the school, ever close to the courtly Colonel Johnston.

Kemper attracted students from all parts of the nation, but Colonel Johnston's wide reputation did not diminish his interest in his native county. With increasing prosperity, he assumed added responsibilities, although well past man's allotted three score years and ten. He took the lead in a half-million dollar campaign for a highway bridge across the Missouri. The sum subscribed, he ironed out numerous legal difficulties to making it toll-free. The task took him twice to Washington to confer with the War Department. The bridge was dedicated in his honor, July 4, 1924.

He met many other demands on his resources, cheerfully assuming more than his share in talent and treasure.

End of Page 293

In 1928, when 80, he faced the most severe test. He was chairman of the board of the Old Trails Bank. Carrying many community burdens, he was unable to give the bank his undivided attention. It failed. It was the only failure he ever had experienced personally. Although not legally responsible, he assumed the frozen assets and jeopardized his personal fortune, paying every depositor in full and providing a new bank that has more than justified his idealism.

His sacrifice turned out all right for all concerned. Kemper Military School prospered through the depression years that followed, and recent terms have brought enrollments exceeded only by the years made abnormal by the World War. Kemper is one of three schools in its class continuously on the War Department honor-roll ever since the designation was begun in 1914.

Rich in years and good works, in the esteem of men and in favor with God, Mrs. Johnston and the Colonel passed to their rewards within less than five months of each other. She departed this life on August 18, 1933, and he on February 5, 1934. Four children survive. They are:

Mrs. Bertha Hitch, wife of Colonel A. M. Hitch, superintendent of Kemper Military School. Colonel Rea Alexander Johnston, commanding a regiment of the Missouri National Guard and president and manager of the Davis Construction Company, an account of which appears in this volume. Major Harris Cecil Johnston, director of athletics, quartermaster, and member of the board of directors at Kemper. Mrs. Alice Ewing Foster, wife of Colonel R. J. Foster, Washington, D. C.

In the four children, conspicuously successful, and in their descendants, the lives of Colonel and Mrs. Johnston are reflected. Many physical aspects of Boonville are reminders of the builders of Kemper--the expanded school plant, itself, the Kemper State Bank, the Presbyterian Church, the bridge, and the national highway it brought. Colonel Johnston preached and practiced investing at home.

But the school and community-builder will be still more remembered as a builder of men. His life, is sown broadcast in careers of thousands who came under his benign influence. Will Rogers, the most beloved character of modern times gave much credit to him as teacher and friend.

Back of the master schoolmaster, business genius and mold of men, the devoted and devout wife sustained and encouraged while she worked purposefully with him that their ideals might be translated into reality. Two lives were blended into harmony--with each other, with nature and mankind, and with their Maker.

End of Page 294

him to France in 1917, as the nucleus of the American Expeditionary Forces General Staff. Although illness prevented his going with this advance contingent, he later served on the staff of the commanding general of our forces abroad.

For "exceptionally meritorious service" as operations officer of two major combat units, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by our own government, and was twice decorated by France. One of the two combat units mentioned was commanded by General Cronkhite, commanding an army corps on the Western Front. Cronkhite was captain of the company in which young Barnes was serving when he was promoted from the ranks to second lieutenant.

BEFORE the World War. Colonel Barnes served on the staff of General Leonard Wood as an instructor at the famous Plattsburg Camps. He also was on the staffs of two general officers, General Summerall and General Hines, both of whom later commanded the Army.

Colonel Barnes was selected in the fall of 1917 as adjutant of a mobilization camp of 60,000 men, and was promoted during the war over many who had been senior to him. A member of the first Army War College class after the war, he was one of 40 officers selected from the roster of 14,000 for the initial general staff list.

As a lieutenant, he served as assistant chief of police in the Canal Zone in the early construction days. However, most of his service was with troops, including field duty, both during peace times and in three major wars.

FEW citizens have had more varied experiences than Colonel Barnes; few have served so long, so conscientiously; few with so remarkable a record. No citizen of Cooper County has had the variety and number of contacts with prominent men or has participated in so many events of historical importance as has Colonel Barnes. Yet he is modest, unassuming, kind. He is a favorite citizen of Boonville, well liked by all with whom he comes in contact.

Upon assuming his duties at Kemper Military School, Colonel Barnes immediately evinced interest in civic affairs. His counsel is being sought, and he has served in various capacities, to the honor of the town of his adoption. His wife, Mrs. Carolyn Barnes, is a social favorite, and his son is a personable young chap with a future.

Colonel Barnes has served as president of the Boonville Rotary Club and for years has been active in the Chamber of Commerce. He has been county chairman of the American Red Cross, and is responsible for inauguration of the present county-wide nursing service. He has actively sponsored the public library. He has a state-wide reputation for his accomplishments in organizing the Cooper County Crippled Children's Society, of which he is president. He is intensely interested in all community activities, is an ideal citizen and is beloved by all.

COLONEL BARNES always has regretted that he did not have the advantage of early West Point training. Yet, he maintains that the lack of that military experience is not the serious handicap generally supposed by those unfamiliar with the facts. As a tribute to the fairness of the Service in recognizing professional and social equality of officers, he cites his own experience--in every respect he was accorded equal opportunities and given the same rewards as Academy men for duty well performed.

Hobbies: Historical research, travel, amateur writing, bridge, and community service.

PIONEER PREACHER BUILT AND RAN STEAMBOAT

JUSTINIAN WILLIAMS, born in Bath County, Virginia, married in Kentucky and then settled in Howard County, became a resident of Boonville in 1818, and that year established the first Methodist church in this locality. It is now Nelson Memorial Church.

He worked at his trade, cabinet-making, and preached and organized churches during his spare time. He was the Boonville Methodist pastor for several years. In 1834, he built the first steamboat constructed in this community,

about two miles above the mouth of the Bonne Femme creek in Howard County. He became its captain and operated it on inland waterways. The same year he built the "Far West", he died in Tennessee.

End of Page 305

RAVENSWOOD, FOR 111 YEARS IN ONE FAMILY
(Transcribed by Dorothy Harlan)

For 98 Years It Has Been a Shorthorn Shrine, Developing and Preserving Much That Is Best in Man's Progress With Evolving Livestock of Better Blood--Its Masters and Their Ladies Have Played Important Roles--The Leonard Family and Their Connections Have Been Conspicuous in the County's Growth and in the Annals of Missouri--The Fifth Generation Give Further Promise of a Great Future for the Barony of Some 1800 Acres in One Tract, a Future Limited Only by the Extent of America's Development.

Motorist speeding along State Highway Number 5 through Cooper County pass Bell Air community and historic and palatial *Ravenswood*, the ancestral country place of five generations of the Leonard family, Cooper County pioneers whose relationships include many early families of Boonville and a first family of Missouri.

RAVENSWOOD was established in 1825, by Nathaniel Leonard of Vermont. The state of Missouri was but four years old and had less than 100,000 population then. The founder's program of improvement included establishment of the Shorthorn herd in 1839, about two decades after the first authentic importation of the breed from England. It was only 17 years after publication of the first volume of the *English (Coates') Herd Book*.

The Shorthorn breed was young but was being developed by several of the cleverest authorities on animal husbandry. By concentrating on the finest individuals and by close breeding, they developed strong blood lines. Shorthorn history today goes back about 200 years, but this chunky, rugged beef type has every indication of a history of 1000 years or more of continued improvement.

The work accomplished in England by such pioneers as Robert Colling, Thomas, John and Richard Booth, and Thomas Bates, and the start made in America with importations by Colonel Powel, George and Felix Renick, and by Francis Rotch, Enoch Silsbey and Walter Dun have been carried forward since 1839, with great success at Ravenswood.

The Ravenswood herd was established from Shorthorn stock purchased in England in 1834, by Felix Renick, buying agent for an Ohio importing company formed the previous November. He was empowered to buy cattle of any breeds, but he confined his purchases to Shorthorns--12 females and seven bulls. Landed in Philadelphia in 1834, they were driven for 600 miles over the mountains to Chillicothe, Ohio.

End of page 311

Renick's trip was timely. Prices were extremely low in England and he made wonderful buys of choice foundation stock, including animals whose descendants became famous. Among the females were *Young Mary*, by *Jupiter*, bred by J. Clark, and the afterwards celebrated roan *Rose of Sharon*, bred by Thomas Bates and sired by *Belevedere* (1706) out of *Red Rose 8th* by *2d Hubback* (1423). This was the "family" with which Abram Renick of Kentucky practiced his in-and-in system of breeding, and which made his fame more than that of any other strain of breeding.

In Ohio, Thomas Bates bought two heifers and two bulls.

Through his brother, Benjamin G. Leonard, of Ohio, Nathaniel Leonard purchased a Shorthorn bull and heifer and purebred hogs at Chillicothe, Ohio. They were shipped by steamboat to Cooper County, in charge of an English herdsman, Thomas Boyen. The shipment was started from Portsmouth, on a canal boat, May 22, 1839, for St. Louis and thence to Boonville.

The bull *Comet Star* cost \$600, and the heifer *Queen*, \$500, being purchased of George Renick.

Benjamin G. Leonard, writing to his brother Nathaniel on May 23, 1839, said in part: "The heifer can scarcely be excelled in the state, and she would be very low at \$500 cash."

"On the first page you have the pedigrees of two most beautiful animals I have purchased on my own account, for which I gave \$300. The bull is far superior (I think) to Comet Star, and perhaps none in the state more beautiful has been calved. He is full blood according to the Kentucky rule, though not thoroughbred, and is, as well as the heifer, in part of Kentucky stock. The heifer *Minna* is a most beautiful animal likewise. But they have not the full blood and therefore do not fetch the high price. The bull *Accommodation* was imported quite recently by Walter Dun. I can scarcely tell why I purchased these, but Dr. Watts and Mr. G. Renick talked of sending stock to your state, and Watts was willing to abandon the idea and let me go in with Mr. Renick, and I thought it best for you to get and take the lead in this matter. If you wish to make money in this business you must have the lead."

About four months after the cattle arrived at Ravenswood, the bull *Prince* and the bull *Accommodation* were among winners at the state fair in Boonville.

Nathaniel Leonard formed a partnership with James S. Hutchinson, who owned a farm adjoining Ravenswood. The Hutchinsons came from Kentucky at an early date. Nathaniel Leonard married Margaret, the widowed sister of James S. Hutchinson.

About three months before Nathaniel Leonard purchased the imported Shorthorns on March 27, 1839, his fourth child, Charles Edward Leonard, was born. He followed

End of page 312

in the footsteps of his founding father, and succeeded him in management of the estate, one of the greatest livestock farms from the breeder's standpoint in the world.

Charles Edward Leonard was educated at Kemper Military School in Boonville and was valedictorian of his class at the University of Missouri. He was the first of three generations of Leonards to attend Kemper. Returning from the State University, his work at Ravenswood made him internationally known. He was a leader in financing the *American Herd Book*, rights to which later were purchased by the American Shorthorn Breeders Association in 1883. Captain Leonard was an active member of the association and served as a director in it from 1882 to 1906, when he requested his retirement. He was president from 1898 until 1902. He was conspicuous and influential in the American Royal and International Livestock shows in Kansas City and Chicago respectively.

In 1871, Captain Leonard, then in his early 30s, visited New York Mills, New York, and invested \$3,500 in three Shorthorns to introduce new blood into the herd. Two years later New York Mills was the scene of the most famous Shorthorn sale ever held on this side of the Atlantic. Again Ravenswood was leading the way.

On one of his trips to Europe, Captain Leonard visited the famous jack stock producing area about Cordova, Spain, and purchased fine foundation animals for Ravenswood.

Captain Leonard lived to see a descendant of one of his Shorthorns sell for the highest price ever paid anywhere for a Shorthorn. *Americus*, a bull auctioned in the National Show of the Argentine Republic at Palermo, in 1913, brought 80,000 pesos, equivalent to \$38,983.

There have been scores of other sensational triumphs for Ravenswood. In July, 1918, *Lavender's Lord*, donated for an American Red Cross sale, was purchased by President Woodrow Wilson and resold to four Alabama breeders for \$10,000. It was the prize bull of the sale. After the purchase, it stood for 24 hours in the lobby of the Tutwiler Hotel in Birmingham.

Captain Leonard was president of the Central National Bank in Boonville. He was a Methodist and a liberal contributor to every worth enterprise.

CAPTAIN CHARLES E. LEONARD married Miss Nadine Nelson, October 27, 1872. She was the daughter of James M. Nelson and Margaret Wyan, members of two of Cooper County's early families. James M. Nelson was an eminent Boonville banker, and his wife, Margaret Wyan, was a daughter of Jacob Fortney Wyan, a prominent early settler for whom several additions to the City of Boonville are named.

Of the marriage of Charles E. Leonard and Nadine Nelson was born one child, a son, Nathaniel Nelson Leonard, on December 6, 1876, in Boonville.

End of page 313

During the same month, Nathaniel Leonard, founder of the great farm, died at Ravenswood, December 30, 1876.

N. NELSON LEONARD was graduated from Kemper Military School in 1896, and in 1898, from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, where he completed the law course. He traveled extensively in Europe, then returned to Ravenswood to be associated with his father until the death of Captain Leonard on March 8, 1916.

N. Nelson Leonard married Miss Roselia Willard of Chicago on January 20, 1909, in Chicago. She was a daughter of Henry G. Willard and his wife, Anne Rafferty. Henry G. Willard, born at Newtown, Pennsylvania, December 17, 1846, was a manufacturer of gas and electric fixtures in Chicago. His wife, Anne Rafferty, was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, of Irish ancestors. After her death, Mr. Willard retired and spent his last years at Ravenswood.

Of the marriage of Nathaniel Nelson Leonard and Roselia Willard were born three children: Nathaniel Nelson, Jr., born February 5, 1910; Charles Willard, born January 18, 1912, and Anne Nadine, born July 25, 1913.

Nathaniel Nelson Leonard, Jr., was graduated from Culver Military Academy, Culver, Indiana, and from Purdue University where he took the course in mechanical engineering. He married Miss Jane Bagnell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bagnell of Nelson, Saline County. The Bagnell mansion faces U. S. Highway 40, several miles east of Marshall Junction. Mr. and Mrs. N. Nelson Leonard, Jr., reside in Santa Monica, California, where he is employed at the Douglas Airport. It is connected with Douglas Motors, a large manufacturer of aircraft.

Charles Willard Leonard was graduated from Kemper Military School and from Central College, Fayette. He is associated with his father at Ravenswood and has succeeded him in the active management of that vast institution. He is keenly interested, alert and aggressive. Much progress is being made under his direction. During a recent visit by this writer to Ravenswood, Charles was directing terracing to conserve soil.

The building of good land with livestock and its conservation always have been policies of the Leonard family. There is one pasture of 160 acres on the estate that never has felt a plow. Luscious grass from virgin soil and expert handling by herdsman who love the animals have played important parts in conditioning.

One of the noted managers at Ravenswood was Colonel Ed. Patterson, now deceased. Born at Clarksburg, Indiana, of Kentucky parents, he was reared on a Lone Elm Prairie farm in Cooper County. For more than 40 years he was manager at Ravenswood. His industry, judgment, sobriety, kindly disposition and consummate tact endeared him to employers and subordinates and won him wide following in breeders' circles and at shows.

On May 3, 1935, Charles Willard Leonard married Miss Mary Ellen Schlotzhauer, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Schlotzhauer, prominent residents of Bell Air. Of this union was born on July 3, 1936, a son, named Charles Edward for his great grandfather, Captain Charles E. Leonard.

This representative of the fifth generation of Leonards at Ravenswood and of the fourth generation born there, is a husky, blue-eyed, smiling youngster who weighed more than 10 pounds at birth. He more than doubled his weight in four months.

Miss Nadine Leonard is the wife of Mr. Romie "Jack" Darby. Mr. and Mrs. Darby reside in Boonville and are the parents of a daughter, Roselia Marie, named for the baby's maternal grandmother, and born April 20, 1936. She is a bright, lively, attractive infant.

Roselia Willard Leonard, the wife of N. Nelson Leonard, Sr., died on November 11, 1918.

On April 26, 1928, N. Nelson Leonard married Miss Kate Nelson Hill, of Fort Worth, Texas, and she has since presided with him at Ravenswood where lavish hospitality is dispensed with the easy freedom that is traditional at that modern barony.

The Ravenswood mansion stands tall and stately on the summit of a long, gentle slope. Its stately, gleaming white columns catch the eye of the motorist far distant. The mansion, in architecture of the Old South, is set far back in a great grove.

Ravenswood is resplendent in glory that comes with long, rich background. It is one of the finest rural mansions in the nation, with a rich collection of paintings, plate, tapestries, rugs and furnishings, arranged with rare good taste. There are oil portraits of its masters

End of page 314

and their ladies and other distinguished kin, and much rare furniture, including a great canopy bed in a guest room.

A love-seat in the adjacent hall is from the White House and was purchased by Mrs. Charles E. Leonard in Washington, D. C., possibly in the '80s. The sale followed renovation of the White House, necessitating removal of some of the older pieces.

Rooms at Ravenswood are decorated in special designs to fit wall spaces measured by an interior decorator from Chicago.

The Ravenswood clock, made in Paris, Kentucky, in 1790, is a cherished possession.

A huge silver trophy, given by Armour Packing Company and presented by the Shorthorn Breeders Association at the American Royal Live Stock Show in Kansas City for the best bull, any age, won with *Lavender Viscount* of the Ravenswood herd, is but one of many impressive cups, while a large glass wall case is resplendent with ribbons won at the American Royal and at the International. A museum room is filled with many curios.

Included among the oil portraits is that of the Reverend Abiel Leonard, Episcopal clergyman, born in Massachusetts in 1742. He died in Connecticut in 1777. He was chaplain for General George Washington early in the Revolution. He was the father of the Nathaniel Leonard, who was born in Vermont in 1768, and who died in Fayette, Missouri, in 1844. His portrait, too, hangs in the Leonard mansion as does that of his son, also named Nathaniel and the founder of Ravenswood. This Nathaniel was born in Windsor, Vermont, June 12, 1799, and died at Ravenswood, December 30, 1876.

There are two portraits of Captain Charles E. Leonard and one of his son, Nathaniel Nelson Leonard, the present proprietor.

Jacob F. Wyan, a maternal great-grandfather of N. Nelson Leonard and father of Margaret Wyan Nelson, is represented in the gallery. He was born in Hagerstown, Maryland, October 14, 1772. He married Nancy Shanks of Crab Orchard, Kentucky, January 16, 1817. Jacob Wyan died at Boonville, April 20, 1842. He built the dwelling at 513 east High street in Boonville, one door east of Hotel Frederick. The brick in its construction was imported from England.

Two other oil paintings are of James M. Nelson, the banker, and his wife, Margaret Wyan Nelson, maternal grandparents of N. Nelson Leonard.

Another oil portrait is of Margaret Hutchinson, wife of the founder of Ravenswood, Nathaniel Leonard.

Others are of Nadine Nelson, wife of Captain C. E. Leonard, and of her sister, Margaret Nelson, wife of Lon V. Stephens, who was governor of Missouri, 1897-1901.

Canvases by George Caleb Bingham are included in the portrait gallery.

Valuable original letters and pedigrees written and signed by George Renick and other pioneers in Shorthorn history are prized. These documents formed the basis for an impressive and comprehensive 158-page volume that Nathaniel Nelson Leonard, Sr., has preserved for posterity. "Historic Ravenswood", a limited edition artistically printed and sturdily bound, goes back to the beginning of the breed.

N. Nelson Leonard commissioned John Ashton to write it, and sent him to England for research. Other sources for data in the United States were combed. Original copies are in the New York Public Library and select agricultural colleges and private collections. The text was reprinted by permission of the author and publisher and was made available to the general public by the Missouri State Board of Agriculture.

Thus, Ravenswood, the Shorthorn shrine, preserves its history and also the earlier annals of the breed. It has added lustre to agriculture, man's oldest and most honorable occupation, and has demonstrated that animal husbandry is agriculture's most profitable branch.

Among contributions by the Leonard family to Cooper County, aside from its prosperity and example, are a splendid church and school building at Bell Air and \$10,000 to help build Nelson Memorial Methodist Church in Boonville.

Ravenswood was founded 111 years ago. The achievements of four generations of her proprietors have enriched tens of thousands of farms, building better herds throughout Missouri and the nation, and contributing to livestock improvement in many foreign countries.

The United States still is young. It should develop and prosper. Ravenswood's future is limited only by extent of America's future glories.

End of page 315

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH HAS BUILT ENDURINGLY

Father Richard Felix, Its Present Pastor, Is Author of Six Books and of Series of Radio Addresses on Religious Subjects.

ONE of the outstanding Catholic parishes in rural Missouri is St. Joseph's, in Pilot Grove. Its present pastor is FATHER RICHARD FELIX, O. S. B. He was born in St. Joseph, Missouri, March 31, 1890; attended the public schools there, received his high school and college work at Conception College, Conception, Missouri; his seminary training at St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe Pennsylvania; and took post-graduate work for two years at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and at the Catholic University, Washington, D. C.

Father Felix is an energetic and enthusiastic worker for the Master, and possesses a warm, magnetic personality. He holds A. B. A. M., and B. D. degrees, and is the author of six widely read books: "Psychology and the Sacramental System of the Church", "The Apostle's Creed", "Church or Churches", "What is the Catholic Church?", "What About the Bible?", and "After Death - What? ".

He has delivered series of broadcasts on religious subjects over Station KFRU, Columbia, Missouri; WHB, Kansas City; and WLWL, New York City, and by means of electrical transcription is now heard every week over more than a score of stations in the United States and Canada.

Father Felix joined the Benedictine Order in 1913. He was ordained a priest in 1918. He was rector of Conception College, 1920-27; pastor at Maryville, Missouri, 1928-31, and has been pastor at Pilot Grove since 1931.

THE CATHOLIC REGISTER, of November 12, 1925, gave a brief history of St. Joseph parish at Pilot Grove as follows:

"The early history of St. Joseph parish at Pilot Grove is relative to that of St. John parish at Clear Creek, as daughter to mother; wherefore it cannot lay claim to any particular history prior to 1893, than to refer to its lineage, St. John's parish at Clear Creek.

"In 1892, seven men: J. Spaedy, J. Gantner, A. Saenger, W. Dwyer, P. Donnahue, J. Brauer and F. Dieterich, requested Father John, O. S. B., rector of the Clear Creek parish, to erect a church at Pilot Grove, pointing out that the community could be served better by a more centrally located parish and that Pilot Grove, with railroad facilities, was a promising place for a parish. They pledged support, and, when Father John had obtained the necessary permit from, the respective authorities, they constituted the first building committee. They began soliciting funds, and P. Donnahue and sons began quarrying rock for the foundation.

"A CHURCH SITE was donated by Samuel Roe. In pioneer times he had entered a tract from the government on the site now occupied by Pilot Grove, then known as the Pilot Grove Settlement. This same Samuel Roe, although a leading 'Methodist, in 1893, donated ground to Father John, O. S. B., for a church site on Fourth and Harris streets. Later the rest of the block was purchased by Father Pius, O. S. B., from B. Harris for school purposes.

"In the spring of 1893, preparations to erect the church were pushed. The rock quarried by P. Donnahue and sons was hauled

by those who had joined the group of seven. All labor and material and part of the mason work were donated.

"By September, 1893, the foundation was finished. It was decided to defer the brick work until the following spring. Liberal contributions were made. Almost every Protestant family contributed money or labor to the erection of the first Catholic Church at Pilot Grove, some up to \$100.

"The brick construction was begun in the spring of 1894, and completed by September. At the dedication ceremony, September 15, 1894, the brother of Father John, O. S. B., Abbot Frowin Conrad, O. S. B., officiated. The sacrament of Baptism was administered for the first time in the church on that day to the eight-year-old adopted daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Saenger, whose name was Ida Long.

"Until January, 1895, Father John, pastor of Clear Creek, held services every other Sunday in the new church. On January 5, 1895, Father Pius Conrad, O. S. B., officially took charge of the new parish as its first pastor. The records show that approximately 30 families had affiliated themselves. Quoting minutes from the parish records:

"Saint Joseph's Congregation was regularly organized February 10, 1895, by the Reverend Pius Conrad, O. S. B., pastor. The members of the congregation were this day called to a meeting for the election of church directors. The following officers were elected Messrs. John Spaedy, president ; Lorenz Esser, secretary; and Joseph Gantner, treasurer.'

"For want of a parish residence, Father Pius, O. S. B., continued to reside at Clear Creek, but gave regular services on Sundays and Holidays, as also catechetical instruction to the children. In 1898 a parochial residence costing \$2,500 - as completed. Father Fintan, O. S. B., took charge at Clear Creek, and Father Pius took up his residence at Pilot Grove, in 1899, with Martinsville as a mission.

"The next problem was education of the children. With the approval of Bishop John J. Hogan, Father Pius arranged with the Benedictine Sisters to establish a convent. In 1900, funds were solicited for this purpose in three parishes: Clear Creek, Pilot Grove, and Martinsville. The largest contribution was from Martinsville about \$1,700. The building, costing \$4,000, was completed in 1901, and was blessed by Bishop J. J. Glennon, coadjutor to Bishop Hogan. Transfer of title was made to the Benedictine Sisters with the provision that they assume the \$1,200 debt and use the building for educational purposes. Thus the first parish school in Pilot Grove opened that year with 60 pupils.

"After 10 years, St. Joseph Church became too small. It was remodeled in 1905, at a cost of \$5,650.

"On January 1, 1909, Father Pius Conrad, O. S. B., was appointed rector of Saint Martin's Church at Martinsville, and Father Philip Ruggle, O. S. B., was appointed pastor of St. Joseph parish. Father Pius continued to reside at Pilot Grove until 1911, although attending to all the pastor's duties at Martinsville.

"Father Philip, O. S. B., continued his pastorate at Pilot Grove until September 1, 1915, when he was transferred to Cottonwood, Idaho, where he became prior of that foundation. In May 1922, he was elected abbot of Conception Abbey. Father Berthold Jaeggle, O. S. B., was appointed to succeed Father Philip, O. S. B., but was recalled on December 4 of the same year to be succeeded by Father Hildebrand Roessler, O. S. B.

"When Father Hildebrand received his appointment the school rooms were inadequate. Despite war time costs, he erected in 1917 a large four-room school building. With the willing help of the parishioners, this \$12,000 task was accomplished. The entire indebtedness was canceled in four years. The school is taught by the Benedictine Sisters of Fort Smith, Arkansas. It now has an enrollment of 100.

"Father Athanasius Dengler, O. S. B., was successor to Father Hildebrand, who in turn was succeeded by Father Joachim Menne, O. S. B., July 6, 1924. Father Joachim built the present church basement at a cost of \$16,000. It was dedicated in 1928.

"Father Joachim was much interested in music, being an accomplished violinist. He organized a parish band of 30 pieces. He died March 25, 1931, and was succeeded by Father Richard Felix, O. S. B., the present pastor.

"DURING its comparatively short history, St. Joseph's parish has made rapid progress. This is due largely to the splendid leadership of its pastors and the enthusiastic cooperation of a devout and faithful people. Through the church and the splendid work done by the Benedictine Sisters who teach the parish school, much lasting good has been accomplished for communicants and the community in general."

End of Page 360

ST. MARTIN'S IS A MONUMENT TO THE FAITH

In 1860 the Locality Had Only Two Catholic Families - 10 Years Later 13 Built a Log Church-Third Is Beautiful Gothic Edifice With \$25,000 School and Priest's Residence Nearby.

The History of St. Martin's Parish began when John Martin in the year 1860 came to Cooper County and settled on a farm about one-half mile west of the present Chouteau Springs. This farm is now owned and tilled by Mr. Martin's grandson William Day. Daniel Martin, a brother of John, moved into the same neighborhood very shortly after, and these two families were then the only Catholic families within a radius of several miles.

For a period of 10 years these two families, augmented by others, who moved into the same locality, attended services at both Boonville and Clear Creek, although Clear Creek had no resident pastor. The secular priests from Boonville held services at Clear Creek. The families attending there made the journey to either of the churches, a distance of about 10 miles to either, sometimes on horseback, but most of the time on foot, to attend the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

In 1870 the number of families had increased to about 13. These were mostly all of German origin. They decided to erect their own place of worship and Daniel Martin donated a piece of ground consisting of one and one-half acres of land, which had to be cleared first. A log structure 18 by 24 feet was erected. The first logs were raised May 16, 1870. Before the hopes of the few people could be realized, and until their little log church was completed, services were held in the home of Daniel Martin for four successive months, once a month. This home is now owned and occupied by Mr. John Weimholt and is still in a fairly good state of preservation.

When the first church building was completed it was named St. Martin's, mainly because the Martins were the first Catholic settlers and also because they donated the site for the first church. Adjoining the church, land was set aside for a cemetery, which is still the burial grounds for St. Martin's present church and is well kept up.

When the log church was completed and named, it became a mission to Boonville. It seems Father Hilner for a short period was the first to attend the mission. He came but once a month and this not always on a Sunday. Whenever the sacrifice of the Mass was to be offered during the week, the faithful would notify each other. If there were no services on Sunday the faithful would go to either Boonville or Clear Creek to attend Mass. Those who could not go would assemble in their own church to recite the rosary and other prayers.

Father Meurs attended to the spiritual needs of the mission from 1870 to 1874. He was followed by Father Hoffman from 1874 to 1877. In the year 1877 St. Martin's became a mission to Clear Creek. By this time the little log church could no longer accommodate the increased numbers and the still small congregation undertook to build a second church on the same property. Under direction of Father Boden who attended St. Martin's from Clear Creek a frame structure of much larger dimensions was erected.

The people now felt the urgent need of a

End of Page 361

school, and the old log church, supplanted by the second church, a frame building, was converted into a school. Catholic laymen for several years taught about three months every spring, which routine was changed later on to six months of school every year. Mr. John. Immele was one of the first teachers.

In 1880 Father Reding took charge but remained only a short time. These above mentioned priests all belonged to St. Louis Archdiocese under Archbishop Kenrick. In 1881 the Archdiocese of St. Louis was divided and in this division Boonville, Clear Creek, together with Martinsville became part of the Kansas City Diocese, under the Rt. Rev. Bishop Hogan, its first Bishop.

Under the new bishop the Benedictine Fathers from Conception took charge of Clear Creek and the first Benedictine pastor was Father John Conrad O. S. B. He remained until 1895 when his brother Father Pius Conrad O. S. B. took charge, but remained resident priest only for three years, when he took up his permanent residence at Pilot Grove, Missouri, where in the meantime a mission had also been established. Father Pius held services on each and every Sunday and Holyday of the years 1907 and 1908 at both Pilot Grove and Martinsville since Martinsville had become a mission of Father Pius in 1907.

No priest's residence had ever been erected on the grounds where the two churches had been built, and for that purpose, and because of the difficult access to the church, the roads often being impassable, the congregation decided to build a third church, but at a more convenient place. This at first met with stern opposition from some parishioners. This was partly due to high waters which ruined almost the entire crop of that year, and the people thought they could ill afford to make the change and buy new property. Afterwards there came a compromise and later all were pleased, because of the change. The new site is about one mile east of the old one. In 1908 the first sod was turned for the new edifice and a beautiful Gothic church 102 by 40 feet was begun. Father Leo O. S. B. of Conception laid the cornerstone and in 1911 Father Ignatius Conrad O. S. B. Abbot of Subiaco, Arkansas, brother to Father Pius, the pastor, dedicated the new church. The new church cost about \$12,000.00.

The church was now complete, but the priest's residence was still lacking, and as a result the present residence, a rather small and humble home, was built mainly from the material of the second church. It cost about \$1500.00. On August 31, 1911, Father Pius moved into the newly erected residence, and became the first residential pastor of Martinsville.

On January 13, 1915, Father Pius was succeeded by Father August Koehler, the first secular priest at Martinsville. A great deal was accomplished during his stay of eight years. The greatest of his achievements was the building of St. Martin's School, a beautiful brick building 46 by 46 feet and modern in every detail. This school would be a credit to any parish. It cost about \$25,000.

FATHER P. J. WEBER, a Canadian by birth, followed Father Koehler in July, 1923.

Father Weber made his arts course in St. Jerome's College at Kitchener, Ontario, and his theological course at St. Boneventure's at Alleghany, New York, under the Franciscan Fathers, and was ordained June 11, 1914 by Bishop Charles Colton of Buffalo, New York.

Father Weber who wrote this short history of St. Martin's had some difficulties in acquiring records, data, etc. For a period of 10 years the records were missing at Boonville. Others at Clear Creek were found intact.

Confirmation was conferred the first time in 1878 by Archbishop Ryan. In May 1881, Bishop Hogan confirmed eighteen. He also confirmed in 1884. In the years 1911, 1914, 1917, 1920, 1924, 1926, 1930 and 1932 Bishop Thomas F. Lillis confirmed at St. Martin's.

MARTINSVILLE PARISH is well organized. The few families who have built their third church, house, and school have made many and liberal sacrifices. The country in this part of Cooper County is a good, fertile farming section and should be an inducement for others less fortunate to settle down in good old Cooper County.

End of Page 362

ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISH MOVES FORWARD

The History of the Founding of the Church and School at Clear Creek and Their Subsequent Development Is a Chronicle of Progress and Achievement-Many Stalwart Men of God Have Served as Priests and the Sisters Do a Fine Work in Teaching Youth in Academic Subjects and Religion-Church and School Develop Christian Character-The Reverend Father Herzog, the Present Pastor, Has Labored Faithfully and Effectively, and With the United Support of an Enthusiastic, Devout People.

About 1840, a small band of Catholic families, some from Germany, others from various parts of Missouri, took up government land in the western part of Cooper County along the fertile valleys of Clear Creek and of the Lamine river. The settlement was named Clear Creek.

According to Church Records, the following men with their families had built homes before 1850: Stephen Young, Lawrence Sommers, Adam Aulbach, Jacob Beck, Theodore Berster, John Diel, Jacob Diel, Bertram Felten, Frank

Grotzinger, Gregory Klenklen, Henry Jansen, Michael Schoen, F. M. Larm, Frank Stolzenberger, Bernard Twenter, Anthony Youngamp, John Walz, Anton blessing and George Zoeller.

The hardships of these first settlers were many and their labors arduous, but their greatest concern was to obtain the consolations of religion. Father Helias, the apostle of Central Missouri, visited them once or twice a year. In 1850, Father Tuerk of Boonville was induced to visit them occasionally on a week-day to minister to their spiritual wants, offering the Sacrifice of Mass in private homes -thus bringing joy and contentment to the faithful.

Father Tuerk was succeeded by Father John Meister, also of Boonville, who took care of the little flock for two years. He in turn was succeeded by Father Hildner.

The number of families steadily increased. Father Hildner and the people decided to build a little log church, for which Lawrence Sommers donated ground. Henceforth Father Hildner came from Boonville every fourth Sunday to minister to the people.

He was succeeded by Father John Meurs, who encouraged the people to build a one room log house with an attic, which served as living quarters and office during his weekend visits. This building was later used as a school in which many of the present residents absorbed knowledge, and which still stands as a landmark of those pioneer days.

Father Hoffman of Boonville succeeded Father Meurs, and came to Clear Creek once a month.

In December 1877, Archbishop Kendrick of St. Louis appointed Father Boden to be the first resident pastor to the people of Clear Creek. He built a four-room pastoral residence and served the people until January 1880, when Father Reding took charge. Ill health forced him to resign 18 months later.

When on September 10, 1880, the Kansas City Diocese was established, Clear Creek was placed under the jurisdiction of Bishop Homan, who asked the Benedictine Fathers of Conception, Missouri, to take charge of the parish, Father John Conrad was the first one appointed.

By 1884, the parish had grown to such an extent that the old log church could no longer accommodate the congregation. A new church was built. Rock for the foundation was quarried

End of Page 363

on the Twenter farm adjoining the church property, and brick was made on the W. C. Young farm about one mile away.

The cornerstone was laid in the summer of 1884, and the church was dedicated the following spring. Father John Conrad had charge until 1895, and was succeeded by his brother, Father Pius Conrad.

He was pastor but a short time when he established a new parish in Pilot Grove, which he served from Clear Creek, and, three years later, moved to Pilot Grove as its first pastor.

Father Ambrose Bucher took his place at Clear Creek, and a few months later was succeeded by Father Fintan Geser, during whose pastorate of about two years, an addition was built to the rectory, which building has been used since 1910 by the Benedictine Sisters of Fort Smith, Arkansas, who conduct the school of the parish.

The next pastor was Father Boniface Zimmen, from June 1900, to January 1905, and was succeeded by Father Ildephons Kuhn. He proposed that a larger and more beautiful church be built, and the people, full of enthusiasm, set out with zeal and zest to erect a house of worship more worthy of the Lord. They gave freely of their means and labor, so that on August 20, 1906, the cornerstone of the new brick church was laid.

On this occasion Father F. F. Kueper, pastor at Tipton, Missouri, more than 50 years and now retired at St. Joseph Hospital, Boonville, preached the English sermon, and Abbot Conrad of Conception, Missouri, preached in German.

The Gantner and Stretz Brick Company of Boonville made the brick near the church grounds and did the brick work.

On September 8, 1908, Bishop Lillis of Kansas City dedicated the church. Its cost, including all furniture, was \$20,000. Father Ildephons, having studied art in European schools, was not satisfied with having the church frescoed, but proceeded to use his talent as an artist to adorn the House of God with paintings portraying the life of Christ. This work has been pronounced by many art critics as a masterpiece.

In addition to the beautiful paintings, other ornaments and objects of devotion were put into the church. Among these are the 14 Stations of the Cross, donated by Bernard Horst; a two-manuel pipe organ, donated by Mrs. Henry Twenter in memory of her deceased husband; and three bells weighing 1800, 900 and 600 pounds, donated by Mrs. Joseph Twenter in memory of her deceased husband and son, Leonard. These bells have a harmonious peal when in unison they announce the hours of worship. They were installed by W. J. Cochran & Son of Boonville, Missouri in August 1922. Mrs. Theodore Twenter donated a beautiful gold tabernacle and Mrs. Henry Wessing made a donation for a pulpit, as memorials to their deceased husbands. Bernard T. Twenter, fulfilling the wish of his deceased father, Henry Twenter, donated an iron fence and entrance for the cemetery.

In 1910, the parishioners were called upon again to show their good will, when Father Ildephons asked them to build a new rectory. This was built of brick to conform with the church. It is a commodious two-story building for which material from the old church was used, and the parishioners donated many days of labor, so that the cost was held down to \$5,000.

In June, 1916, the Benedictine Fathers of Conception, Missouri, gave up the parish and Bishop Lillis appointed Father F. J. Kalvelage to take charge, July 1, 1916.

The people of St. John's parish always realized that a school was necessary to develop good Christian citizens, and, consequently, had a school even before they had a resident pastor. Bertram Felten was the first teacher, and had the children come to his home several days each week, and there instructed them in religion as well as in reading, writing and arithmetic.

After the log cabin was built, which served as Father Muer's rectory over the weekend, school was held in this building during the week. Jacob Karm also taught the school for a short time.

When Father Boden took charge of the parish, he induced two Franciscan Sisters from Nevada, Missouri, to conduct the school for one year. Since they had no residence on the church grounds, Bernard Twenter boarded and lodged them in his home, one fourth of a mile from school. During Father John Conrad's pastorate, a frame school was built at a cost of \$500 and John Pachlhofer was the teacher for a number of years.

In 1900 the Benedictine Sisters of Clyde, Missouri, were engaged to teach the school. Their work went on until 1906, when the school was discontinued while the church was

End of Page 364

being built. In 1908, it was reopened with Sisters from Boonville in charge. These Sisters lived in the above-mentioned log cabin until Father Ildephons moved into the new rectory in 1910, when the old rectory became the Sisters' residence.

On April 4, 1917, the school, together with all contents, burned to the ground. Church, rectory and Sisters' residence were in great danger of destruction, but the people from near and far rushed to the scene, and, having formed a bucket brigade, saved the buildings. In the spring, 1918, Father Kalvelage undertook to build a new school, and by September it was completed and furnished at a cost of \$10,000, and was paid for in donated Liberty Bonds.

As every good Catholic parish has its religious societies that work for the spiritual welfare of the individual as well as the general good of the Church, so St. John's parish has its societies for all members.

The Sacrament of Confirmation was administered for the first time on September 18, 1878, by Archbishop J. J. Ryan of St. Louis and thereafter every few years by the Bishop of Kansas City. The first baptism by a resident pastor in this parish was that of Anna Mary Young, daughter of Henry Young and Catherine Twenter Young, January 8, 1878.

The first marriage was contracted between Theodore Twenter and Mary Diel, April 3, 1878.

The first person to be buried in St. John's Cemetery was Henry Jansen, who died April 7, 1851.

About twelve young ladies of the parish have entered the Sisterhood, and one young man, Charles A. Bauer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bauer, entered the Priesthood.

There are at present about 60 families or about 290 souls in St. John's parish, with an average of 60 pupils attending the parochial school, which is taught by two Benedictine Sisters from Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Father L. J. Herzog is the present pastor of St. John's parish. He was born in New York City, October 20, 1891. He spent his early years in Plantersville, Texas, and at the age of 12 moved with his parents, four brothers and four sisters, to Buffalo Park, Kansas. He attended the parochial and public schools and in 1907, left his home to begin his training for the Priesthood at Conception College, Conception, Missouri.

Having been graduated in the spring of 1916, the following September he entered St. Meinrad's Theological Seminary in Indiana where he completed his studies and was ordained, June 9, 1919, in Kansas City by Bishop Thomas F. Lillis.

His first appointment was Saints Peter and Paul Church at Boonville where he assisted Father Jennings from July 1, 1919, to June 30, 1921. He was then transferred to Tipton to assist Father F. F. Kueper until February 8, 1926, when his bishop assigned to him the pastorate at Clear Creek, to succeed Father F. J. Kalvelage, who was transferred to Billings, Missouri.

Father Herzog found St. John's parish well organized, its members dutiful, loyal to Church and State, all buildings in excellent condition, received the hearty cooperation of his people, and has spent more than 10 pleasant years, laboring faithfully and zealously for their spiritual welfare and for the honor and glory of God.

NEGRO SLEW WHITE WHO SOLD RUM TO INDIANS

John Gabriel, Kentuckian who settled in 1819, two and one-half miles east of Florence, now in Morgan County, was the first man murdered by an individual not an Indian in what was then Cooper County.

Gabriel operated a still, and sold whisky to Indians. He was rough and miserly but honest. He made money and acquired a large plantation.

A slave belonging to Reuben B. Harris killed Gabriel. At his execution in Boonville, the slave declared he had been hired as an assassin by Gabriel's son-in-law, Abner Weaver. As the law excluded such a confession as inadmissible evidence, Weaver was never held. Later he stole four horses in Texas, and, in attempting to escape arrest, was shot dead from one of the horses.

End of Page 365

SOMBARTS EMINENT FOR FOUR GENERATIONS

The Family Has Furnished Many Industrial, Financial and Civic Leaders That Helped Mightily to Build Boonville.

THE fourth generation of Sombarts in Cooper County is represented in a branch of this prominent family of Boonville Pioneers. The descendants live at the corner of Fourth and Chestnut streets.

The three children of Mr. and Mrs. G. William Sombart also are great grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. George Sahn, deceased. Mr. Sahn, who was born in Bavaria, Germany, August 1, 1832, and came to America when 16 years old, built up a large shoe manufacturing and wholesale and retail business in footwear in Boonville.

Mr. Sahn's business had its beginnings with a small shop established in 1855. In 1883 the enterprise had grown to such an extent that more than 30 persons were constantly employed in the manufacture of shoes. Mr. Sahn had taken into the firm two of his sons, George W. Sahn and Henry Sahn.

The value of the manufactured stock ran into many tens of thousands of dollars annually. The erstwhile penniless German immigrant who had learned the boot and shoe-making business in Sandusky County, Ohio, was one of Boonville's most influential industrialists and served his community as a school director and member of the city council several terms.

Mr. Sahn was married July 8, 1854 to Miss Katherine Dick, originally of Germany.

They had six children: George W., Mollie, Henry J., Joseph, Julia, and Katie, the latter being Mrs. Jeff Davis.

WHEN Miss Julia Sahn became the bride of Henry E. Sombart on November 24, 1887, two of Boonville's most influential families who had their origin in Germany were united.

Henry E. Sombart was born June 3, 1863, and died June 7, 1916. He was a son of Judge Charles William Sombart, the latter being a native of Germany who immigrated to America and settled in Cooper County in 1837. Henry E. Sombart's mother before her marriage was Mrs. Catherine Thro.

Henry E. Sombart was educated in the Boonville public schools and Christian Brothers College in St. Louis. He became an associate of his brother, Charles A. Sombart, in the Sombart Milling Company, now the Boonville Mills Company. In 1908 he sold his interest in the mill to his brother and retired from active business.

However, he had many financial interests. He helped organize the Farmers Bank and the Citizens Trust Company in Boonville. He owned several business buildings and helped to promote many public enterprises. For many years he was chairman of the Boonville waterworks board and his policies laid the foundation for the present extensive municipal system. In his day as now it was one of the *best water systems* in the middle West.

He was a member of St. Peter's and St. Paul's Catholic Church and gave liberally to its support and to many charitable and religious enterprises.

HENRY E. SOMBART was a constructive progressive citizen. One of the monuments to his civic pride is a commodious dwelling on Fourth street in Boonville which he built in 1892. 43 years after its construction it still

End of page 369

stands as one of the finest houses of Boonville.

Mrs. Julia Ann Sahn Sombart, widow of Henry E. Sombart, resides in the home and on the same spacious lawn occupying a quarter of a block is the new residence of her son and daughter-in-law, William Sombart and Bernice McCann Sombart. She originally was of Versailles, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. McCann. Mr. and Mrs. Sombart have two daughters and one son: Martha Ann, George William, Jr. and Katherine Julienne.

Mr. Sombart is a partner in the Boonville Ice and Laundry Company and has other business interests.

The second son born to Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Sombart was the late Harry Edward Sombart who was born February 15, 1896 and died March 5, 1931.

He received four years of training and study in Kemper Military School where he was graduated June 1, 1916. He enlisted in the U. S. Army January 5, 1918, and was in training at Camp Funston in the Quartermaster's corps. He was honorably discharged from the service March 22, 1919, and was in the shoe business in Boonville for some years thereafter, first as a partner in the Jeff Davis Shoe Company and later as sole owner of the Shoecraft Shop, having bought Mr. Davis' interest.

HARRY EDWARD SOMBART proved a capable business man and made many friends. He had a pleasant personality and possessed a ready wit and companionable disposition. He was generous, kind and courageous.

He resided with his mother and was deeply devoted to her. His untimely death was widely mourned, for he was popular with all classes and was especially beloved by his comrades in organizations of World War veterans. As a young business man he did much to promote the best interests of Boonville at a period when much progress was being made.

The Sombart families have made *important contributions to the civic, industrial and mercantile progress of Boonville*. The Boonville Mills Company in which the Sombarts are still financially interested, is one of the outstanding grain processing plants in the middle West and was established in 1853 by Judge William Sombart and Julius Sombart, natives of Germany, as they returned from the 1849 gold rush to California. The Sombarts have numerous interests in Boonville today, including G. W. Sombart's interest in the laundry, ice and coal business, which is one of the leading industries of Boonville.

W. Alex Sombart and sons, another branch of the family, owned and operated the electric light and gas company for many years, a steam ferry, and were interested in many other activities for advancement of Boonville.

Of sturdy, German stock these pioneer families made a substantial and distinguished contribution to Boonville's economic life, and succeeding generations of the pioneers have added additional achievements to the long list of accomplishments of their illustrious ancestors.

End of page 370

J. Henry Goodman and Arn's Automobile (Transcribed by Laura Paxton)

The first automobile owned in Boonville was driven from the railroad tracks where it was unloaded to the owner's place of business by J Henry Goodman, Of the furniture and undertaking firm of Goodman & Boller.

The car was a Murray and was purchased by Ferd Arn, owner of the sporting goods store located on the east side of Main street in the 400 block.

Once before a minstrel company came to Boonville with a "Horseless carriage" but Arn's was the first locally owned motor car. It had wheels like a bicycle's, its one-cylinder engine was behind its single seat and it had a chain drive. Its dash was confined to the one similar to the front of a buggy but without a whip socket. There was not much dash or verve to it. However, it was the marvel of the age and multitudes followed its triumphal trip to Arn's store.

Henry Goodman worked six years for Mr. Arn for \$1.50 a week. If it was possible to measure the experience he gained there he would refuse \$15,000 rather than lose it. It was worth a great deal, he believes. He became an expert gunsmith locksmith and mechanic.

Frequently Mr. Arn's store had as many as 24 bicycles at one time to be repaired. Henry did most of that work.

Everyone owned firearms and Ferd Arn bought shotgun shells by the carload. Once the contents of a car of cases of shells were stacked higher than a man's head along the curb for the half block from Dengolesky's saloon south to Buckingham's confectionery at Chestnut street.

One wall the length of Ferd Arn's store was filled with guns standing thick. There was an abundance of quail, wild ducks, squirrels and other game. Practically everyone owned bird dogs and bought shells by the case. On land now owned by the state and a part of the Missouri Reformatory farms just east of the institution's main group of buildings Henry Goodman frequently killed more than two dozen quail during an afternoon.

J. Henry Goodman, who was born February 28, 1884, in Boonville was the son of T. W. Goodman and Amelia Thoma Goodman. He was one of four children, having one brother and two sisters.

His great grandfather, Johnson Goodman was born August 7 1797, in Kentucky and settled on Clarks Fork, 12 miles south of Boonville in 1817. He was of English descent. His wife, Lucy Goodman was born July 6 1795.

Thus, J H Goodman's two small daughters are the fifth generation of Goodmans in Cooper county. J H Goodman's grandfather, Benjamin Goodman was born in Cooper County in 1836 and was married to Eliza Dunavant on October 8 1856. Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Goodman died January 7 1917 and February 3 1883 respectively. Benjamin Goodman served in the Union Army during the Civil War, after which he was a prominent farmer in Cooper County.

Thomas W. Goodman was born in Cooper County

End of Page 395

July 24 1857 and was married July 24 1878 to Amelia Thoma daughter of Lawrence and Margaret Walther Thoma.

J. Henry Goodman's father operated a pottery and later was sexton of Walnut Grove Cemetery for 21 years. In his later life he worked as a cabinet maker in his son's furniture store.

Mrs. J Henry Goodman before her marriage was Miss Helen Kruse, daughter of the late J D Kruse and Mrs. Clara Fall Kruse. Mrs. Goodman is charming and beautiful. Mr. & Mrs. Goodman have two daughters: Henrietta June, born July 20 1933 and Joan born August 8 1935.

Mr. Goodman was educated in the Boonville public schools and, after working six years for Ferd Arn, went to St. Louis and for three months was employed by the Mississippi Valley Automobile Company.

He returned to Boonville and worked for Luchinger and McCaskel, who operated a furniture, hardware and undertaking establishment on north Main Street. A. K. "Gus" Mills, Jr., was in charge of the undertaking and furniture departments and Henry Goodman assisted him. Four years later Mr. Mills and Mr. Goodman went to the Boonville Mercantile Company, then housed where Shryack-Givens now is located on Morgan street.

Later Mr. Mills bought the furniture and undertaking department from the Mercantile Company and moved to the Main street location where the Sunnyday store now is. J. Henry Goodman quit a job at \$50 a month with the Mercantile Company to work for Mr. Mills at \$25 a month to learn the undertaking business. He obtained a license from the State Board of embalming on May 16, 1906.

In November, 1909, Mr. Mills sold his business to Frank George. A year later Mr. Goodman bought a half interest from Mr. George and the firm adopted the name of George and Goodman.

For 11 years the firm remained at the location in the 300 block. Then the Boonville Mercantile Company built its very large double building on Main street and rented the huge south room to George & Goodman.

In 1918 fire damaged the rear of the store and when it was rebuilt Mr. George, an elderly man, sold his half interest to W. E. Crutchfield, and the firm became Goodman & Crutchfield for five years.

When Mr. Crutchfield sold his half interest it was acquired by G. Boller, brother-in-law of Mr. Goodman. It has continued since 1925 as Goodman & Boller and the firm has made many important improvements in the building and business under the present ownership, which early in its history acquired title to the quarters the establishment occupies.

In September, 1934, the entire property was remodeled with the undertaking department all on the first floor. Modern equipment, convenient arrangement, rich and tasteful decorations and furnishings are especially emphasized in the chapel which will seat 250 persons and includes a private alcove for the family of the deceased.

More and more funeral service has been demanded by the public with passing years and Goodman & Boller not only have kept abreast the times but have led the way in Central Missouri. A recent added service is a complete stenographic report of the funeral oration, copies of which are provided for relatives of the deceased.

J. Henry Goodman and his partner, G. F. Boller, try hard to assuage grief. Both men are genuinely fond of people. Mr. Goodman has held all the offices in the Knights of Pythias lodge, including two terms as chancellor-commander, and many chairs in the Odd Fellows and Masonic orders. He is affiliated with all the Masonic organizations up to and including Knights Templar. He is a Rotarian and a member of the Chamber of Commerce and is a trustee in the Methodist church.

Mr. Goodman recalls the bicycle era as a golden age. Motoring, however, had handicaps. Placating frightened horses was even worse than the problem of rough dirt roads. Teams and singly drawn vehicles were met at every turn. The courteous motorist stopped his car at a distance, advanced and gave the countersign, a grasp of the bridle, to lead a shying animal past the mechanical menace.

Mr. Goodman recalls halting when a woman stopped her horse, threw aside her reins with a gesture of despair, leaped from the seat with her two babies and ran for the sidewalk, deserting the rig apparently before the horse was frightened. Henry Goodman stopped the chugging one-cylinder motor, went forwards and led an aged, docile and totally blind nag past Ferd Arn's thin-tired, spindly bodied ancestor to the modern motor car.

End of Page 396

ALBERT FRANK BLANCK HAS A MODERN STORE
(Transcribed by Dorothy Harlan)

A New Front and Other Improvements Made During 1936 Have Made His Grocery and Market More Attractive-- He and Mrs Blanck and Their Six Children Constitute a Typical American Family.

Getting his first business experience as a helper in his father's pottery manufacturing plant, ALBERT FRANK BLANK, Boonville grocer, as a boy saw the last years of a now vanished industry in Cooper County.

At one time Boonville had four potteries; J. M. Jegglin's, Henry Vollrath's and Dan Klein's, F. X. Blanck's, and Weyrich's, the latter devoted to flower pots. All have since vanished. Elaborate, expensive power equipment and the advent of prohibition were contributing factors.

A hillside on Locust street where the dwelling of Clarence Hurt and two houses immediately west now stand was the site of F. X. Blanck's plant. Clay was obtained from the Torbeck farm, five miles southwest of Boonville, and smaller amounts from the Hickox farm, one mile east of Boonville. Mr. Blanck employed up to 25 men and shipped in carloads to several states.

Mr. F. X. Blanck learned the potter's trade in Boonville from Mr. Jegglin. In 1892 he went in business for himself, continuing until 1912.

ALBERT BLANCK was 17 years old when his father retired from the pottery trade, after 20 years of success. Albert remembers the carload shipments and then the gradual decline to smaller and smaller--less than carload--shipments.

One of the most important items was jugs. Advance of local option and prohibition brought a rapid decline in the demand.

Albert Blanck recognized the trend and did not learn to operate the potter's wheel or to fashion containers from clay.

After attending the Catholic school in Boonville to the eighth grade, Albert finished the eighth grade in the Boonville public schools, attended Boonville High School two years and Dunkle's Business School two year, from which he was graduated in both the business and stenographic courses.

He worked two years as bookkeeper for Roeder & Weyland in Boonville and two years in Kansas City for the Baker Manufacturing Company as a stenographer. He entered the army on June 25, 1918. He was discharged on June 5, 1919, and went to work for the Ford Roofing Products Company of Kansas City, attaining the position of assistant sales manager.

Two years later he bought a grocery store in Kansas City. He sold it in 1922, and bought the grocery of J. L. Brummel in Boonville.

Mr. Blank has operated it as a meat market and grocery store ever since and has attained wide patronage among the most substantial families of the community. While the store is individually owned and managed, *Mr. Blanck is affiliated with the High Grade Food stores* organization, giving advantage in volume buying.

High quality products at reasonable price and delivery service are featured. A modern front and other improvements, made during the summer of 1936, have added to the attractiveness of Mr. Blanck's store.

End of Page 399

ALBERT FRANK BLANCK was born July 23, 1895, the only son of *Frank Xavier Blanck* and *Eliza Wilhelmina Schleifer Blanck*. Albert has one sister, *Mrs. Clarence Hurt*, of Boonville.

Frank X. Blanck is a native of Alsace-Lorraine and was born February 16, 1865. He came to the United States with his parents when he was three years old. The family located on a farm east of Boonville in 1869.

Eliza Wilhelmina Schleifer was born in California, Missouri, June 21, 1869. She became the bride of F. X. Blanck at California on May 28, 1891.

Albert F. Blanck married *Miss Mildred Ethel Whitehorse* April 16, 1921. Of this union six children have been born. They are: *Albert Frank, Jr.*, born August 16, 1922; *Mary Frances*, born February 19, 1925; *William Clarence*, born April 27, 1926; *Lulu Ann*, born November 2, 1928; *Mildred Jean*, born March 15, 1933; and *Richard Joseph*, born June 11, 1935.

Albert Blanck is a member of Saints Peter and Paul's Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus and the Boonville Chamber of Commerce. He was a director in the Chamber from 1923 to 1926, filling an unexpired term by election by the board and then being elected by the membership for a full term.

Mr. and Mrs. Blanck have a wide circle of friends and are leaders in their respective spheres. They stand for all that is best in American life, and their family gives promise of useful, constructive careers. Theirs is a typical American family, with the children assuming responsibilities that develop character. Albert, Jr., helps at the store frequently on Saturdays and sometimes after school and during vacation.

End of Page 400

PETE D. CHRISTUS HAS THE AMERICAN SPIRIT (Transcribed by Dorothy Harlan)

He offered Life to the Country of His Adoption, Although not a Citizen and Without Legal Obligations to It.

Rain descended dismally on the sodden, war-torn Western Front on Sunday, November 10, 1918, as the 33rd Division went into the front-line trenches near Metz.

In one of those American companies there was a Greek lad who had not yet attained American citizenship, and who *was in nowise obligated to fight* with United States forces.

But, PETE D. CHRISTUS, who had come to the United States in 1911, when he was 16 years old, had found it a goodly land. He had prospered. He considered himself part of the nation, and he was not only willing to accept the responsibilities of citizenship but was eager to be at the front for service.

He had volunteered and had gotten as far as a cantonment in New York state when he was side-tracked to kitchen police. There for a time it seemed he was stuck for the duration of the war.

Because of his foreign birth people who did not know Pete Christus as well as the patrons at Charley Ploger's barber shop where he shined shoes were somewhat skeptical of his motives for joining up.

However, Pete had made friends among his comrades and one officer told him that they would either have to let him go on across or give him a discharge. He went before the colonel and spoke his piece, and eventually found himself in the front line.

Once there he admits he was scared nearly to death. He felt that he was a marked man. Few would live through all the hells that modern warfare had invented. When the armistice was signed Pete was in *No Man's Land*. Had hostilities lasted half an hour longer he probably would not have lived. Of 250 boys who went over the top just ahead of Pete's company, only 35 returned to the trench. All were shaken to the soul and many were crying like babies after they had stood close to *Death* in many of his most horrid forms.

After the Armistice Pete wanted to visit his relatives in Greece but the furlough could not be arranged. He returned to the United States without regrets.

He had no kinsman in the States now. A brother after living at Moberly for five years returned to his native land in 1912 where he still is engaged in business along with other brothers. Mr. Christus' mother and one sister live in a village that is a part of the historic city of Corinth.

Pete Christus returned to Boonville and to Ploger's Barber Shop. When he first went to work he was earning about four dollars a week and he felt rich.

In 1920 he bought the Kandy Kitchen from John G. Toennes, who for some years since

End of page 425

has been commercial manager for the Missouri Power and Light Company in Boonville.

Mr. Christus *operated the business 14 years in the same location* on the west side of Main street in the 300 block. Later he acquired a similar business across the street, and eventually moved his entire equipment there. It has been greatly improved during the past few years. A large hardwood dance floor and neon interior lighting recently were added.

Soon after acquiring the business from Mr. Toennes, Mr. Christus inaugurated a popular priced dinner which instantly won favor. He featured chicken and turkey repasts frequently. The place was thronged. The idea was a novel one then, for the high prices of the post-war period still prevailed over the nation. Through all the years the luncheons have been an important factor at Pete's Candy Shop.

Candy has become of comparatively minor importance. The years have brought other changes. A spacious dance floor provides wholesome recreation for many couples. Pete's has remained perennially popular in Boonville.

PETE D. CHRISTUS was born August 15, 1895, at Corinth, Greece. He has six brothers and one sister. His mother is still well and active. His father died after Pete came to America.

On June 30, 1926, Mr. Christus married Miss Helen Mueller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Mueller, of Boonville. Mr. and Mrs Christus have two children; Helen Mueller Christus, 8; and Pete Emil Christus, 4.

Both children have many talents Helen plays the violin and studies dancing and expression. In September, 1935, when Pete Emil Christus was three years old he began taking expression lessons. However, he previously had memorized his sister's readings from hearing her practice at home. *Before he was three he could deliver her repertoire* with just the right inflections.

Shortly after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Christus built a beautiful and modern dwelling on Seventh street on a lot adjacent to the palatial home of her parents. The lot was a wedding gift from Mr. and Mrs. Mueller to their daughter. Mr. and Mrs Christus have one of the most delightful homes in the city.

Mr. Christus is a member of the American Legion and of the Chamber of Commerce. He always has been active in movements for improvement of Boonville and he has been extremely generous to organizations engaged in unselfish enterprises.

He returned in 1932 to Greece for a short visit and found himself torn between two loves--the weakening ties of the home land and the strong bonds of affection for those in the land of his adoption. He was gone two months but spent only three weeks in Greece. The remaining five were in travel.

Mr. Christus has fitted admirably into the fast tempo of American life, for he is energetic and is on the go at high speed from morning until nearly midnight seven days a week. His life and habits are very different from those of his boyhood, where his family lived a pastoral and agricultural existence in a village midway between the quiet hills of the Grecian Corinth, once a city of perhaps more than a million but now with a population about equal to Boonville's.

With their landmarks obliterated, most of the old city lies under from 10 to 20 feet of earth. There are underground passageways past parts of the old buildings, and tourists travel these ways that once were the streets of a thriving metropolis, a city that gave the world one of the most famous styles of architecture, the *Corinthian* design.

It was *a worldly city in its hey day*, too. It is said its segregated underworld extended 75 blocks down one street.

On the other hand, its culture and fame in the arts were known afar. Its great outdoor theater was a marvel in construction and a triumph in acoustics.

The people of Corinth today live quiet, uneventful lives compared to the glory that was Greece. Plain foods, moderate hours and tranquil days mark their span of years. Olives, grapes, tomatoes, lettuce, and various vegetables provide most of their food and drink. Meat is eaten about once a week and on holidays.

Americans do not realize how fortunate and wealthy they are, and Pete Christus is proud that he is an American citizen. *No native son is more loyal or has more of the American spirit than has Pete Christus*. He has always cooperated for the welfare of his community with the same enthusiasm he displayed when he enlisted to fight for his country. He has the fervor of his ancestors who maintained the freedom of their city republics nearly 3000 years ago behind their javelins and walls of flesh on the plains of Marathon and Olympus.

End of page 426

during its long service. He goes on a theory that high quality will be remembered long after the price is forgotten.

His policies, based on his ideals of quality, beauty and utility, coupled with an alert, energetic and progressive sales program, has resulted in steady growth and increased popularity of this store. The institution has helped to attract shoppers to Boonville from greater distances. Carl Glover is worth much to his community because his merchandising program has promoted his own progress.

Mr. Glover is a strong believer in the future of Boonville and its trade territory. With the present program of good roads, a progressive community has more opportunity for development now than ever before. The day is near, he believes, when increased prosperity will be reflected in finer and better kept homes and farms, increased fertility of the soil and more and better herds and flocks. This means better conditions for people town and country.

A nation of fearless pioneers, America ways have triumphed over difficulties, growing stronger in achievement. No higher type citizens can be found anywhere in the Union than in Boonville and vicinity. With prosperity and enhanced wealth they will demand high quality merchandise. Boonville will live up to the opportunity to serve them well and will prosper and grow in that service.

PIONEER PREACHERS WERE INTENSELY EARNEST

Zeal of Elder Luke Williams of Cooper County, Baptist pastor of Concord, first church organized south of the Missouri and west of St. Louis, was so great that he was troubled in his soul when he did unorthodox good on the Sabbath, as did Jesus of Nazareth.

The Reverend Williams, born in Virginia August 5, 1776, settled with his family, in 1817, five miles west of the present Boonville, farming in pioneer fashion and preaching nightly and Sundays, without monetary reward. He carried the Gospel afar.

One Sunday morning before starting for Concord Church, about site miles south of the present Boonville, Elder Williams was distressed because his children were crying for food and there was nothing to eat. A fat buck leaped into his garden. Reverend Williams shot and dressed it. His wife cooked venison and appetites were appeased.

With heavy heart the pastor went to the meeting-house. Weeping, he recounted the situation and his act and asked if he had done wrong. The members voted unanimously that he was right, under the circumstances.

Luke Williams and James Savage held services at Hannah Cole's Fort, within the present. Boonville in 1815, 1816 and 1817. Both were Indian fighters. On May 10, 1817, Elders Edward Turner, William Thorp, David McClain,

Luke Williams, William Savage, C. W. McWilliams and others formed Concord Baptist Church. A month later Luke Williams was elected pastor.

MOUNT NEBO BAPTIST CHURCH, just north of the present Bunceton, was the second congregation established in Cooper County. Among her early ministers were William Jennings, Jacob Chism, John B. Longan and Kemp Scott. Early members included Jordan O'Bryan, William C. Lowry and S. Simons

Another pioneer church, Big Lick, also Baptist, near Overton, was organized August 24, 1822, under an arbor near Judge Ogden spring, a mile north of where the church later was built. John B. Longan was the first pastor. Then followed Tyre C. Harris, B. G. Tutt, J. B. Box, J. B. Murphy and J. S. Farmer.

John B. Longan's Themes were "Salvation by the Sovereign Grace of God", "Christ and Him Crucified", "Repentance", "Faith and Experimental Religion".

Doctrinal discussions were emphasized. The Reverend Longan one night was lodged in a room with the Reverend Kemp Scott and a young minister who believed in the doctrine of holy perfection in this life, of which Longan doubted attainment. The Reverend Longan carefully folded his clothing and put them under the head of his bed.

The Reverend Scott asked why. Longan replied, "I am afraid this perfect man will steal my clothing before day".

"Father Longan, do you think I would steal?" the youthful minister asked.

"I hope not, my son, but for the restraining grace of God you would"; he replied.

End of Page 466

WILLIAM A. HURT, PIONEERED IN HERFORDS (Transcribed by Dorothy Harlan)

A Son of the First White Child Born in Cooper County, He Sold Purebreds That Supplanted Longhorns and Brought Added Prosperity to the Great Grazing Empire of Texas.

WILLIAM ANDREW HURT, a son of the first white child born in Cooper County, accumulated a comfortable fortune by pioneering in breeding Herford cattle and in general farming.

Mr. Hurt, born May 16, 1850, attended Crab Orchard district school and farmed with his father, William Hurt, until 1876, when he bought the Tom Windsor farm west of the present Clarks Fork Store, near the now vanished village of Sardine. He farmed this land with his brother, Jenkin Hurt, and in 1878 married Miss Nancy Elizabeth Johnston, daughter of Benoni Johnston and Margaret Harris, and a sister of the late lamented Colonel T. A. Johnston, builder of Kemper Military School in Boonville.

Mr. Hurt was first in the Herford cattle business in Cooper County, with the possible exception of Alexander McArthur, father of Dan McArthur, of Speed.

Being one of six children, William A. Hurt has earned most of what he possesses. By 1884 he had progressed sufficiently in farming and live stock breeding to acquire his present well improved farm comprising exactly a section of land just east of Boonville. Later he purchased the 70-acre Redmon farm from the Fields heirs. It joined his original section and extended his holdings to the Boonville city limits on the east.

Mr. Hurt also bought the 200 acres in the Edson & Gibson farm, 100 acres each from Sydney Edson and Frank Gibson.

These two additional tracts brought his total acreage to 910. He has since disposed of the two tracts last acquired, and now owns his original 640 acres.

William A. Hurt, soon after establishing his Herford herd, began advertising in THE BREEDER'S GAZETTE and other farm publications. This brought, among early prospects, Luke Bright of Marfa, Texas, who confided that it required 30 acres of range to maintain one longhorn cow. Many ranchers had 30 or 40 sections. An acre of Cooper County pasture is ample in years of normal rainfall to maintain one beef animal.

After Mr. Bright had made purchases, many other ranchers became interested. Mr. Hurt developed a flourishing patronage. Albert "Birdie" Mitchell of Marfa, Texas, now head of the *American Herford Association*, was an early customer. His brothers, Tom and Arthur Mitchell, and Will Jones were heavy buyers.

Alert to opportunity, Mr. Hurt went to Texas and rode the range with cowboys on many ranches in numerous round-ups and shipped back to Missouri train-loads of longhorns. He dehorned them and sold them for stockers and feeders.

End of Page 474

These longhorns were taken in on trade, applying on the purchase price of Mr. Hurt's Herfords.

Mr. Hurt for several years was one of the best patrons of the railroads between Boonville and Old Mexico. He "*kept the road warm*", riding in cabooses behind his cattle cars. He shipped a train-load to Durango, Old Mexico. Usually his trainload shipments went to Marfa, Texas. The Mitchells, Jones and other rich ranchers placed large orders. The animals remaining were offered at the railroad stockyards to others anxious to improve their herds. The dwindled surplus was taken on to El Paso and Old Mexico for sale.

Those were strenuous years, with more than their share of hardship and adventure. They were also extremely interesting, and fruitful of warm friendships and inspiring contacts. Riding "rattlers" in cabooses or, worse, in the stock cars to see that no steers got down and trampled. William A. Hurt kept weary vigils through long, chilly nights or when summer heat increased the pungent odors from hot, fretful animals. He walked atop cattle cars, opened trapdoors and threw down feed that he had carried aloft. He personally watered the stock.

During his extensive operations, a new law required that cattle be unloaded for exercise, feed and water every 24 hours. This added to his work but got the Herfords through in better condition.

There were pleasant moments on wide verandas of ranch homes, but most of his time in Texas was astride Indian ponies, and sleeping in blankets by campfires under the starry sky, while distant howls of coyotes echoed the strum of a cowboy's mandolin.

Often Mr. Hurt forded the Rio Grande, a shallow river that can quickly become a raging torrent--and always treacherous. Once while crossing near El Paso his mount mired in quicksand. Mr. Hurt jumped into the water. It seemed both would be lost. They escaped with great difficulty.

Texas needed better horses. Mr. Hurt shipped stallions and jacks which they crossed with their Indian ponies, and promptly their riding and work stock was improved. He started the movement for purebred horses in Texas. Mr. Hurt traded one stallion for a 160-acre farm at Alamogordo, New Mexico. He still owns 40 acres of it.

William Andrew Hurt was a pioneer in introducing Herfords to Texas. They proved hardy as the longhorns, fattened more quickly on less pasture, and their quality beef commanded better prices. Soon Mr. Hurt's Cooper County Herfords had honeycombed the ranges.

As foundation stock increased, the Texas market diminished, and Mr. Hurt made fewer of the long hard trips, but continued to do a nice volume of business. This he and his family has continued to receive.

The Hurt family in Cooper County was established by Colonel Clayton Hurt, born in Bedford County, Virginia, January 15, 1790. In early manhood he went west to Kentucky and, in 1814, married Miss Maryann Dillard, a daughter of James Dillard, Kentucky pioneer and a relative of Hannah Cole. He and two sons, Joseph and William, came to Cooper County between 1815 and 1820, and settled in Cole's Fort.

Maryann Dillard was born January 29, 1796. Birth dates of other of her brothers and sisters were: Marjorie Ellen, June 2, 1797; Abraham, May 4, 1801; Nancy, December 20, 1802; Stephen, March 4, 1806; Phoebe, May 11, 1808; and Sally, September 19, 1810.

After the birth of a son in Kentucky, Clayton Hurt and Maryann Dillard Hurt emigrated to Cooper County in 1816. The family lived in Hannah Coles's Fort. As a member of the garrison, Clayton Hurt won distinction in campaigns against the Indians and attained the rank of colonel.

On March 7, 1816, at a house within Fort Cole, a second son, William Hurt, was born. He became the father of the subject of this article.

Colonel and Mrs. Clayton Hurt were the parents of eight children: Beniga, born in 1815; William, born March 7, 1816; Nancy Ann, June 21, 1823; Rebecca, December 17 1826; Flemington M., September 28, 1828; Julia Ann, October 12, 1830; James T., February 14, 1833; and Clayton, Jr., March 28, 1837.

William Hurt, the second son, married Miss Catherine Robertson, September 6, 1837. She was a daughter of Captain Andrew Robertson, also an officer at Fort Cole. William Hurt and Catherine Robertson were the parents of six children: Mary Catherine, who became the wife of Archimedes Washington McFarland, a prominent farmer; Nancy Emmeline, who became the wife of Frank Davis, also a farmer; Jenkin David, who

End of Page 475

married Miss Lucy Potter; Beniga, who married Miss Mary Edwards; William Andrew, the subject of this sketch; and James Marion, who married Miss Adeline Rogers.

Colonel Clayton Hurt died on June 13, 1862, and his wife died January 26, 1870, after long, fruitful lives that won hosts of friends.

William A. Hurt was named William Andrew Jackson Hurt by his mother. He dropped the Jackson, and has always signed as William A. Hurt.

Mrs. Hurt is a member of one of the earliest pioneer families in Cooper County. Her great-grandfather, Alexander Johnston, a native of North Carolina, fought in the battle of Cowpens and other engagements of the Revolution. After the colonies had won their independence, he, with his wife and four sons: Gavin, Robert, James, and Alexander, Jr., settled in Warren County, Tennessee, where he died.

The youngest son, Alexander Johnston, Jr., born in South Carolina, June 16, 1789, with his mother and two brothers, James and Robert, came west in 1817 to Cooper County when it was the western frontier.

They settled on land including the present farm of Sam Mills in Clarks Fork township. The mother, whose maiden name was Margaret Barnett, died there on August 18, 1836.

Alexander Johnston, Jr., died, February 22, 1839, survived by his widow, Mary Hammond and seven children.

The oldest child, John Benoni Thaxton Johnston, born August 30, 1812, was twice married. His first wife, Elizabeth Ann Robertson, died December 18, 1844. She was the mother of five children.

John Benoni Thaxton Johnston married Margaret Harris, June 1, 1846. Of this union were born six children, including Thomas Alexander Johnston, builder of Kemper Military School in Boonville, and Nancy Elizabeth Johnston, who is now Mrs. William A. Hurt. She was born in 1854.

Of the union of William A. Hurt and Nancy Elizabeth Johnston were born four children:

Sidney Johnston Hurt, who married Miss Betty May Rogers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Rogers of Waco, Texas. Sidney J. Hurt is an executive for the Texas State Highway Department.

William Benoni Hurt, the second son, is deceased.

Mary Elizabeth Hurt, who is the wife of James Wooldridge Farris, of Boonville, who conducts a farm management, loan and insurance business. She is the mother of James William Farris, employed in the bookkeeping department of the Kemper State Bank. Biographies of James Wooldridge Farris and his son, James William, appear in this volume.

Miss Margaret Catherine Hurt, of the home, is business manager of the farm, well versed in all of its phases.

The Hurt home, a comfortable brick dwelling of ample proportions, set in a broad, shady lawn, is one of Cooper County's most pleasing landmarks. Plans for building it were made before the Civil War and slaves dug clay on the farm and burned it in a kiln there. The war interrupted the plans and the brick was sold.

After the war, more clay was dug and the kiln was fired again. Stone quarried on the farm now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pigott was used for the foundation. The structure has large rooms, lofty ceilings, and spacious doors and windows.

Well past 86 years old. William A. Hurt still takes a decided interest in all branches of farming. He rents most of his land to the state. It is cultivated under direction of the Missouri Training School.

The Hurt herd of Herfords is headed by a son of Prince Domino 7th, which Will Smith sold for \$15,000 to Mr. Gorley of Colorado.

Mr. and Mrs. William Hurt and their daughter, Miss Margaret Catherine, are members of the Boonville Presbyterian Church. Mr. Hurt is genial, generous and hospitable. Mrs. Hurt possesses a delightful personality and a memory so retentive that she can quote innumerable dates and complete details of stories of pioneer life handed down by her ancestors.

Miss Margaret Catherine Hurt, a practical farm manager, is interested in literature, music, and art, being an accomplished painter in oils and water colors.

The Hurt family has made valuable contributions to the progress of Cooper County and to the Southwest. It is typical of the culture, enterprise and sound business policies that have put Cooper in the forefront of great agricultural counties of the nation.

End of Page 476

A. L. Pulley

(Transcribed by Laura Paxton)

Cooper County's business and financial affairs have been handled conservatively and efficiently by the present county court, composed of A. L. Pulley, presiding judge, and Frank Horst and John Logan, associate judges from the western and eastern districts respectively. All are Democrats.

Judge Horst is serving his fourth term, Judge Logan his second and Judge Pulley his first. All are farmers.

No class has enforced more rigid economy since the World War than has the farm population. The gentlemen of the court have managed county business with the care exercised in their personal business, and all are successful men.

Three trucks and two new caterpillar tractors and graders did considerable county road work. It is appreciated by Cooper County residents. The court also is considerate in impartial division of funds left to its discretion. A sane balance between progress and conservatism has been maintained.

Aetna L. Pulley, presiding judge of the Cooper County Court, was born February 12 1878, in Cooper County being one of six children born to Carlos and Susan Pulley. He had one brother and four sisters.

Judge Pulley's paternal ancestors were natives of Virginia who moved west in pioneer times in ox wagons. His mother's people moved from Kentucky to Missouri with oxen and on horseback in the early days.

A. L. Pulley attended Keener District School in Cooper County and Hooper Institute at Clarksburg Missouri. He married Miss Lela Powell, December 25 1895. Her parents were born in Cooper County and were of prominent families. They had seven children, including two sons, and Judge Pulley boasts that he got first choice of the five daughters.

Judge and Mrs. Pulley have three children, Lawrence Opie, Beulah May and Gladys Louise.

The son married Miss Gladys Finley. Miss Beulah is the wife of Richard Hudson and Gladys is Mrs. L. W. Billingsley.

Judge and Mrs. Pulley have three grandchildren. Mr. & Mrs. Opie Pulley have two children: Forrest Ellen, 15 and Donald Finley Pulley, 12. Richard Hudson and

End of Page 518

Beulah Pulley Hudson have one son, Lawrence Richard, 5.

Judge and Mrs. Pulley are members of the Baptist Church and he is a member of the Venerable Council of Modern Woodmen of America, Camp 8489, being clerk of that camp.

Judge Pulley has been prominent since early manhood as a general farmer who stresses good livestock, raising much from the increase of his herds and flocks, and also buying many feeders. He feeds many hogs and cattle.

His principal hobby, is breed thoroughbred horses which he shows at many fairs in this section. In a letter this writer received from Wilbur C. Windsor, prominent East Texas oil operator who owns more than a section of highly improved Cooper County Land and specialized in livestock and horses, Mr. Windsor recalled that Judge Pulley for many years has been well-known for his high class horses.

Judge Pulley, as presiding judge of the Cooper County Court, has shown the same good business judgment, that has characterized a personal career. He is conservative, yet even-minded and progressive, and has proven a safe, fair and satisfactory official.

In the old Concord Cemetery, three miles north of Bunceton, rest several ancestors of Judge Pulley, including William Pulley 1801-1886; Demarius Elizabeth Pulley, 1805-1872; and Nathaniel O. Pulley 1837-1916, the latter a native of Madison County Kentucky.

Of pioneer stock, Judge A. L. Pulley is worthy offspring of the courageous, persevering and practical pioneers who settled and developed Cooper County.

End of Page 519

John Martin Jenry

(Transcribed by Laura Paxton)

Mr. Jenry served in Germany until August 9 1919, when the regiment left for Brest and on August 25, arrived at Hoboken, New Jersey. At Camp Zachary Taylor, near Louisville he was honorable discharged. Sept 4 1919 with the notation on his discharge: "Excellent character."

Mr. Jenry was born Sept 13 1890 in a farm home that sat in a woodland near Clarks Fork. He is the son of Charles Jenry and Margaret Hoerl Jenry. He attended Oak Grove rural school. He farmed before the war and for five years after his discharge.

Mr. Jenry moved to Boonville Nov. 12 1924, and three days later entered the taxi business with one car. He built the business to five cars in 1929.

Mr. & Mrs. Jenry have one daughter, Miss Marjorie Louise Jenry, born Sept 1 1920.

Mr. Jenry's thrilling adventures did not end with the World War. About 5:00 PM on March 14 1935, he answered a fake telephone call and was kidnapped by four desperate Reformatory inmates who forced him to drive to near Gainesville MO, with guns constantly at his back and side. They tied him in the woods and drove off in his car, crossing into Arkansas. Mr. Jenry soon freed himself and started walking back north along the highway. He was picked up by Capt. J E Will banks and R S Odom of the Reformatory, who were in the chase. Three of the inmates later were captured at Claremore Okla., and were given heavy prison sentences. The ringleader, the most dangerous of the quartet, is still at large. He was believed to be slightly unbalanced mentally. Only Mr. Jenry's

good judgment in promptly complying with his captors' demands and his diplomacy and gameness in facing danger saved his life.

End of Page 579

JOHN L. ESSER'S RECORDS IN TRACK AND LIFE
(Transcribed by Dorothy Harlan)

Rugged Health, Inherited and Developed by Outdoor Activities, Helped Him to Set a Standard in Public Service-- He Also Serves His Community in Many Ways as a Private Citizen.

PARTICIPATING in a track meet at Warrensburg Normal School in 1910, JOHN L. ESSER of Cooper County ran the 100 yards officially in 10 seconds flat, and also won four other firsts: the 220-yard dash, 220-yard hurdles, the 440-yard dash, and the running broad jump.

During his four years, from 1907 to 1910, at the college, he ran the 100 yards several times under 10 seconds, unofficially. In inter-society meets he also threw the hammer and the shot. He played football on the college team the seasons he was at Warrensburg. He received 15 medals for athletic victories.

In those days, athletic relations with other schools were few, but John Esser carried the Warrensburg colors, creditably in the Kansas City Athletic Club indoor track meet.

Backed by a naturally rugged constitution and 33 years of farm activity, and with the valuable training afforded by college athletics, Mr. Esser also made a record of service as postmaster for Boonville for perhaps the longest period of any incumbent within the memory of residents of the community.

JOHN LAWRENCE ESSER, Republican, had completed about twelve and one-half years--more than three full terms--as postmaster when he was succeeded in the spring of 1936 by a Democrat. The Government allows 30

End of page 541

days a year sick leave, but, during all of this twelve and one-half years, he was out of the office only about one week because of sickness. He also had not used 28 days of vacation allowance.

Mr. Esser gave the postoffice his vigorous best. His practical economy measured up fully to the rigid demands of the Postoffice Department during depression years. Few offices fully attained that objective.

JOHN LAWRENCE ESSER was born on a farm northwest of Pilot Grove on November 12, 1885. He was one of seven children born to Lorenz Esser and Margaret Martin Esser. He has two brothers living and one dead, and two sisters living and one dead. His brothers: Daniel U. Esser, a banker, who died at Chickasha, Oklahoma, May 19, 1914; George B. Esser, Boonville motor car dealer; and Bertram J. Esser, farmer, of Pilot Grove. His sisters: Mrs. Agnes Aggler, of Boonville; Mrs. Martha Krause, of Pilot Grove; and Minnie, who died in infancy.

John L. Esser's paternal grandfather, Bertram Esser, was born in Bavaria, Germany. He came to America about 1848, and settled west of Boonville, where he farmed successfully. He was born about 1820, and died in 1879. He is buried in St. John's Catholic cemetery at Clear Creek, near Pilot Grove.

Mr. Esser's paternal grandmother, Agnes Felton Esser, came to America in 1848. She died in 1897, and is buried at Clear Creek.

Mr. Esser's mother was a daughter of Daniel Martin, leader in the founding of St. Martin's Church at Martinsville, three miles northeast of Pilot Grove. The church and community get the names from her family, the original founders of the church. Margaret Martin was born near Martinsville Church, December 8, 1858, and died May 31, 1914.

Mr. Esser's father was born in 1850, near Boonville. He died May 19, 1925, and is buried in the Catholic Cemetery at Pilot Grove. He was a farmer and stockman.

JOHN L. ESSER married *Miss Elizabeth Fischer* of Boonville, September 30, 1920, at Saints Peter and Paul's Catholic Church in Boonville. The Reverend Father M. F. X. Jennings performed the ceremony, assisted by the Reverend Father Kussmann.

Mrs. Esser is the second daughter of Judge and Mrs. John A. Fischer, natives of Germany, and among the most prominent citizens of Cooper County. An account of their lives appears elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Esser has one sister, Mrs. Mary Meistrell, widow of the late J. Leo Meistrell.

Mr. and Mrs. Esser have five sons: *John L. Jr.*, born August 26, 1921; *Harold Joseph*, born February 11, 1923; *Francis Martin*, born March 29, 1925; *Robert Gregory*, born November 17, 1926; and *Walter William*, born June 16, 1928.

John L. Esser attended Becker and Simmons rural schools, Clear Creek Parochial School, the Pilot Groge Academy, and Warrensburg State Normal School, now the Central Missouri State Teachers College.

Mr. Esser worked on a farm until he was 33 years old. During the last ten years of that period he owned and operated his own farm and also taught school during that entire decade.

In 1918 he sold his farm for the highest price per acre ever paid in Cooper County up to that time, \$210 an acre. Later the purchaser was offered \$350 an acre. It was in a high state of cultivation and otherwise well improved.

AFTER selling his farm, which originally was the property of his father, Mr. Esser entered business with his brother, George B. Esser, in Boonville, selling automobiles, accessories, trucks, tractors and farm implements.

In October 1923, he was appointed postmaster for Boonville, and sold his interests in the automobile agency and garage to Richad G. Hadelich of Boonville.

FROM YOUTH, John Lawrence Esser showed qualities of leadership and progress. He was valedictorian of his class in 1906 at Pilot Grove Academy and president of his class and of a literary and forensic society at the Warrensburg Normal School.

He is a director in the *Boonville Development Company* and in the *Morgan Street Realty Company*. He is committee chairman of Troop 69, the *Boy Scouts of America*, and is chairman of the *Boy Scout Court of Honor*. He has been a member of the *Boonville Chamber of Commerce* for 18 years, serving on various committees.

Mr. Esser is a leading member in *Saints Peter and Paul's Catholic Church*, is president of the *Holy Name Society*, and is active in the *Knights of Columbus Lodge*. His life exemplifies the highest idealism of Christianity. By precept and example, his influence is for the things that build the community and make a nation endure.

End of page 542

MRS ESSER, an attractive and talented lady, is active in the Catholic Church and organizations for its women, and is a splendid wife and mother.

Mr. and Mrs. Esser have a commodious dwelling on East Morgan street, near entrance to the grounds of St. Joseph Hospital.

There the five sons of the Esser household have much playground space on their own lawn and also find the river hills easily accessible for scout hikes and other activities.

The five boys inherit the rugged health and alert activity from both their paternal and maternal ancestors.

All five have won nine-point health pins and John, Jr., and Harold were first in succeeding years in health contests for boys for the entire State at the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia. Presentations were made by Lieutenant Governor Edward H. Winter and Governor Guy Park.

End of Page 543

**William Mathias Cleary
(Transcribed by Dorothy Harlan)**

WILLIAM MATHIAS CLEARY, proprietor of the Standard Service Station at 423 east High street, just west of the south approach of Boonville's highway bridge, has a record in athletics that has continued from school days to the present.

In Boonville High School he won letters in basketball, baseball and track, was captain of the basketball team in 1924, and ran the 100 yards in 10.6 seconds.

After graduation from high school in 1924, he played professional baseball with Boonville and Marshall, pitching for the latter and receiving for each game more than his weekly wage in the commercial world.

Mr. Cleary during Christmas week, 1935, won the Central Missouri Bowling Championship and its award of \$50, and then won the Boonville Bowling Classic for the benefit of St. Joseph Hospital. He is doing much bowling again this season and is in top form.

William Mathias Cleary was born January 21, 1907, on a farm near Boonville. He was the sixth child and first son born to Ed Cleary and Laura Boehm, of whose marriage five daughters and two sons were born.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Cleary: Pauline, wife of Edward Meyer of Portland, Michigan; Sue, who died December 31, 1928; Catherine, who is employed in a law office in Jefferson City; Margaret, of Boonville, who is temporarily residing with her sister, Mrs. Meyer, in Michigan; Anne, teacher in the Boonville Public Schools; William, the subject of this sketch; and Edward Joseph, who married Miss Mary Lannon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Lannon of Boonville. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cleary have an infant son, Edward Joseph Cleary, Jr.

End of Page 566

William Mathias Cleary attended Concord district school and Saints Peter and Paul's Parochial School in Boonville through the eighth grade, then Boonville High School and Dunkle's Business School.

He worked as a salesman in the store of F. & A. Victor until May 8, 1928, when he took employment as a service station attendant for the Standard Oil Company.

On May 26, 1936, he leased the business at his present location where he had been an attendant for several years. The business has steadily increased under his management. He finds the satisfaction and rewards of individual ownership far outweigh its responsibilities.

William Mathias Cleary on June 12, 1930, married Miss Virginia Rose Feldmann, daughter of Ed. Feldmann and Rose Kessler, natives of Franklin County, Missouri. Mr. Feldmann is a telegraph operator for the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Lines, and is now located at Junction City, Kansas.

Virginia Rose Feldmann was born in Boonville, reared in St. Charles, and, as a young lady, accompanied her parents to New Franklin, when her father was transferred there.

Mr. and Mrs. William M. Cleary are the parents of three children: Dorothy Sue, born August 2, 1932; William Edward, known as "Billy", born October 2, 1934; and Mary Patricia, born February 16, 1936. Mr. and Mrs. Cleary are members of the Boonville Catholic Church and are active in various of its organizations and in the social life of Boonville.

Mr. Cleary, of Irish ancestry, has an abundance of energy that he uses to good effect both in athletics and business. His service station is part of the Standard Oil organization and he is making a big success of it. He is blessed with a pleasing personality, Irish wit and enthusiasm for selling and service. All Standard Oil products and services are offered at his station, and the Standard Grease Palace on his lot is declared the best equipped in Boonville.

Although still a young man, Bill Cleary has made a splendid start toward a successful career.

End of Page 567