

## J. ALEXANDER J. STEELE.

Born in Tennessee 1835; Died Near Boonville January 18, 1917. Wife and Seven Children Survive.

### Long Resident Cooper County.

Resided Half Century at Home Where he Died. Never in Litigation.

John Alexander J. Steele was born near Dandridge, Jefferson county, Tennessee, August 20, 1835. His mother died when he was but seven years of age, and his father, with the two children, John and Thomas, came to Missouri in 1842. The little family first resided in Moniteau county for a few years then came to Cooper county. The father died near Pisgah in 1897 in the 97th year of his age. Mr. Steele was married to Eliza J. Bothen in December, 1858, who, with seven children, survives. An only brother, Thomas, also survives and lives at Sedalia. The surviving children are as follows: John T. Steele, Webb City, Mo., Mrs. Maggie Toler, Mrs. U. T. Toler, Mrs. J. E. Rennison, Boonville; W. H. Steele, Otterville; C. E. Steele, Blackwater, and Mrs. J. C. Muntzel, Boonville. He leaves also sixteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Steele died at his home near Mt. Herman church on Thursday, January 18, 1917, in the eighty-second year of his age. Had he lived until the coming month, February, he would have completed fifty years of continuous residence on the farm at which he died. Physicians pronounced his death from old age. Funeral services were held at the family home on Saturday, January 20, at 10:30 o'clock in the morning, conducted by Rev. E. J. Sanderson of Callaway county and former pastor of Mt. Herman church and a very close church and social friend of Mr. Steele. Burial was at Walnut Grove cemetery under auspices of Cooper Lodge No. 36, A. F. & A. M., of which he was a member for a number of years. The active pallbearers were H. G. Hurt, A. M. Hall, Terrell Mills, Robert Rankin, N. W. Johnson and R. D. Pealer. The honorary pallbearers were George Rudolph, Richard Humphreyville, James Sapp, John Rudolph, Mathew Cleary and George Bowmer, friends for many years.

Mr. Steele joined the Baptist church in the early seventies and was baptized by Rev. Jehu Robinson. He lived the life of a consecrated christian, and died strong in the faith of his Master. Every one who knew him was his friend, and the surviving children have been left a heritage rich in those things that establish christian character and bear honest, clean citizenship. Old friends of deceased say that he never engaged even once in litigation, that he never instituted a suit in court nor had one instituted against him though he lived in the one community for fifty years. "John Alexander J. Steele was one of the best men I ever knew", said one of these friends of nearly a lifetime.