

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Of Citizens of Buchanan County, Missouri.

ALBE M. SAXTON.

The first person, after Joseph Robidoux, to take up a permanent residence at the Black Snake hills, was the late St. Joseph was then called, was A. M. Saxton, now president of the State Savings bank, and a gentleman long and favorably connected with the business interests of St. Joseph.

Mr. Saxton was born in the vicinity of Cleveland, Ohio, on the 12th of February, 1821. The schools, in the neighborhood of where he was born, and a private academy of Cleveland, gave him opportunities of securing a substantial education. At the time of leaving school he dramatized a school composition relating to local incidents in Cleveland, and ridiculing the pretensions of some aristocratic young men—recent arrivals in the city, and published it under the title of the "Last Night of the Star Chamber." By its sale he netted \$100, which amount, in the fall of 1840, he invested in an orchard, gathered the apples himself, and shipped them to Milwaukee, realizing a handsome profit. With the proceeds he bought eighty acres of land near Milwaukee, on which he settled his father and mother, and with the balance, in 1841, he went to St. Louis. Failing to find in St. Louis the employment he anticipated, and being an entire stranger in the city, on a capital of fifty-six dollars, all the means he possessed, he began a trade in country produce—a venture which proved successful—and was the first of a long series of commercial operations which have been the means of building up an ample fortune. A cargo taken to New Orleans, and disposed of in that market, also produced advantageous results. During the summer of 1842 he was clerk on a steambot running up the Illinois river. He lost no opportunity of improving every advantage for fitting himself for business. He attended the night sessions of a commercial college in St. Louis, of which Jonathan Jones was head, and graduated from the institution.

Meeting a gentleman in St. Louis, Charles A. Perry, who was desirous of starting a mercantile business at the Black Snake hills, he formed a partnership with him; and with Perry's younger brother, Elias H. Perry, Mr. Saxton came to Buchanan county, and on the first of May, 1843, opened a store at the Black Snake hills—the first store ever established in St. Joseph for the purpose of trading with the white inhabitants. The end of Robidoux's long log block house was chosen as the most eligible store-house. No hotel or boarding-house was in existence, and Mr. Saxton and his partner boarded themselves in the back room of the store, and at night found a couch on the counter. In 1843 he pre-empted a quarter section of land near the present lunatic asylum. The business proved successful, and the partners prospered as population increased. In 1848, the foundations of the future city of St. Joseph by that time having been securely laid, he formed a partnership with Robert W. Donnell, now a banker of Wall street in New York city, and with him continued the mercantile business. This partnership lasted till 1853, at which time the transactions of the firm had grown from a limited retail trade to a large wholesale business—the most extensive at that time conducted in St. Joseph.

Upon closing up the mercantile business in 1858 the branch of the bank of the State of Missouri, at St. Joseph, was organized of which Mr. Saxton was made cashier and Mr. Donnell president. This institution was merged into a national bank in 1864, under the title of the State National bank and National repository, with the same officers. In 1870, the affairs of the State National bank were closed up, and the State Savings bank was organized with Mr. Saxton as president, Mr. Donnell at that date going to New York city.

Beside his connection with the mercantile and banking business Mr. Saxton has been interested in other operations. In partnership with P. D. Hastings, he built a considerable portion of the St. Joseph branch of the St. Louis, Kansas City and Northern railway, and the St. Joseph and Denver City railroad. The two, as principal contractors and equal partners, constructed in all 344 miles of road, out of which each netted over \$500,000, in all more than a million dollars—taking the larger part in bonds and stock of the roads. In company with Milton Tootle, and other partners, in 1853, he built and put on the Missouri river two steamboats—the Silver Heels and the Omaha, the capital invested in which also brought profitable returns.

He has never applied to public posts or position, holding private station to be the post of honor, and has never filled an elective office higher than overseer of the road. Without any knowledge or request on his part, however, G. V. Woodson, in 1874, appointed him treasurer of State Lunatic asylum, No. 2, which position he still holds. His residence is near Saxton's station, five miles southeast of St. Joseph, where he early acquired a large body of land, which, having his own slave labor, he improved with care and without regard to expense, and the tract is now one of the finest farms in northwest Missouri. One thousand acres are in grass, and under cultivation, and the farm he still carries on personally, notwithstanding the great change produced in the labor system of the state by the late war. In his absence Mrs. Saxton superintends the farm and manages its details—a duty which she is as capable of performing as almost any farmer in Buchanan county. Mr. Saxton visits St. Joseph daily, and is always at his post in the president's room of the State Savings bank— hale and vigorous at the age of fifty-five, and as well fitted for business as at any period of his life. He was married in the year 1856, to Mrs. Sarah Emeline Flint, a native of Dorchester county, Maryland.

In his business career, there has not a citizen of the county has been more successful. Mr. Saxton has confined himself strictly to regular transactions. Risky speculations have never tempted him. He has always been safe and cautious, deeming it the greatest credit which any business man can claim—to go through life without failure. Though now in affluence he has grown up with habits of economy, and has no more personal wants than when he humbly and modestly began life as a merchant at the Black Snake hills a third of a century ago.

J. H. R. CUNDIFF.

COL. CUNDIFF, the present circuit clerk of Buchanan county, is a native of Hampshire county, Virginia, and was born November 11th, 1832. His ancestors were residents of Virginia from a period previous to the Revolutionary war—a contest in which both his maternal and paternal grandfather took part.

1840, his father, Layton S. Cundiff, emigrated from Virginia to Missouri, coming directly to Buchanan county, and settling two miles east of St. Joseph. In 1846 he returned to Virginia on a visit which he intended to be only a sojourn, and died there. The subject of this sketch was about eight years

of age when he came to Missouri. At sixteen he began to learn the printing business without any previous education except what he had incidentally acquired without attending school. He entered the old *Advocate* newspaper office in St. Joseph, in the year 1848. Working four years on that paper, and having thoroughly mastered the printing business, he left St. Joseph in 1852, and worked in printing offices in various parts of the country—St. Louis, New Orleans, Memphis, and Cincinnati.

Returning to St. Joseph in 1853, in connection with P. S. Pious he that year bought the *Gazette*. Conducting the paper as a weekly till 1857, the proprietors then started the *Daily Gazette*, the first daily newspaper ever published in St. Joseph. The paper remained in the control of Messrs. Pious & Cundiff till June, 1861, at which time it had become firmly established and was in a prosperous condition. Toward the close of the year 1861, its publication ceased on account of the opposition it met with on the part of the Federal authorities by reason of its political sentiments. From 1861 to 1865, Col. Cundiff was in the Southern army, serving in all ranks from that of lieutenant to colonel. For two years and a half subsequent to the close of the war he was in Mexico, connected with the Vera Cruz and Mexico railroad, of which he for a time had charge.

He returned to St. Joseph in the fall of 1867, and in June, 1868, re-established the *Gazette*, continuing the numbers from where they were dropped at the time of the suspension of the paper. He managed it successfully, and disposed of the paper in October, 1873, for twenty-five thousand dollars. He is Democratic in politics. November, 1874, he was elected circuit clerk of Buchanan county. He was married in 1855 to Cecilia Keedy, the daughter of Dr. Daniel G. Keedy, a leading physician of St. Joseph.

JOHN WILLIAMS.

JOHN WILLIAMS, cashier of the Buchanan bank, has been connected with the banking institutions of St. Joseph for the past eighteen years. He is a native of Kentucky, and was born in Richmond, Madison county, May 28th, 1820. Members of the family from which he is descended were formerly residents of Virginia. Farther back his ancestry is traced back to England. Three brothers by the name of Williams emigrated from England to America, one settling in Rhode Island, one in Virginia, and one in North Carolina. The one who settled in New England is known conspicuously in history as Roger Williams, and from the Virginia branch of the family is descended the subject of this sketch.

His grandfather emigrated at an early period from Virginia to Kentucky, and was one of the pioneers of the latter state. His father was Howard Williams, and his mother's maiden name Sarah S. Goodloe. Her father was a native of Raleigh, North Carolina. Mr. Williams was raised in the neighborhood of Richmond, Kentucky. His father was a merchant, and when about fifteen he entered his father's store where he was employed for three years, and then entered Centre College at Danville, Kentucky, in which institution he was a student for two years. Returning from college he again entered the store, became a partner with his father, and carried on the mercantile business at Richmond, Kentucky, till the year 1846, at which time the business was wound up, and he left Kentucky to become a resident of Missouri.

On coming to this state, he established, in company with his father, a store at Lexington, Missouri, and carried on business at that point from 1846 till 1853. At the latter date the business was closed up on account of his father's advancing age, and Mr. Williams entered the bank at Lexington with which he was connected till the year 1859—the date of his coming to St. Joseph. The first position which he occupied in St. Joseph was that of teller in the Western Bank, at that time one of the leading banking institutions in the city. After five years' service in the Western Bank, he was tendered the position of cashier in the Buchanan Bank—a place which he has since creditably occupied. The Buchanan Bank is the oldest incorporated bank now in existence in St. Joseph, and has a popularity and reputation for solidity which the cashier has been of service in building up. Mr. Williams is favorably known to the business men of St. Joseph and Buchanan county, and has filled a responsible post with fidelity, and to the satisfaction of those with whom he has come in business contact.

He was married in the year 1842 at Frankfort, Kentucky, to Miss T. G. George, a resident of Frankfort. He was formerly a Whig in his political faith, and acted with that party as long as it had an active existence. Since the dissolution of the Whig organization he has acted with the Democratic party. He is not a politician, and his time has been chiefly taken up with attention to business matters. In 1872 he was elected treasurer of Buchanan county, and was re-elected in 1874 to the same office, the duties of which he discharged in the same careful and satisfactory manner as has marked his private business career.

CHARLES B. FRANCE.

The cashier of the State Savings Bank, C. B. France, has resided in St. Joseph since 1855. He was born in Roanoke county, Virginia, October 5th, 1835. His ancestors were formerly from Pennsylvania, and his grandfather moved from that state to Virginia about the year 1800. His father, John France, died when the subject of this sketch was in his infancy. When eleven years of age, Mr. France removed to southern Kentucky with his mother and brothers. At the age of sixteen he went to Louisville; and in 1852 became cashier in a large retail dry goods establishment in that city; and the succeeding year entered the old banking house of J. P. Curtis & Co. On the dissolution of that firm he became connected with Wm. E. Calver & Co., one of the largest private banking institutions of Louisville.

In December, 1854, he left Kentucky and came directly to St. Joseph, Missouri, where at that time he had neither friends nor relatives. He secured a position as book-keeper in the large mercantile house of Donnell & Saxton; and in 1858 when the business of that firm was closed, he was selected to superintend the winding up of its affairs—a duty which required nearly five years, during which period he was also engaged in managing the hemp warehouse of Donnell & Saxton. In 1863 he went to Denver, and for one year managed the middle division and Denver office of the Overland Stage Route, and in 1864 was connected with the banking house of Koussie Bros. He returned to St. Joseph in 1865, and became teller in the branch of the bank of the State of Missouri at St. Joseph, and in 1867 merged into the State National Bank and

National Repository, and in 1870 in the State Savings Bank. At the last change in 1870, Mr. Donnell, the former president, went to New York city, Mr. Saxton became president, and Mr. France cashier, a position which he has since filled to the general acceptance of the business community. He is a large stock holder of the bank. He was married in 1864 to the daughter of Dr. Sias McDonald of St. Joseph. He is a Democrat in politics, though liberal and conservative in his sentiments, and his time has been entirely taken up with attention to business matters. He fills with ability a responsible position, for which he is well fitted by many years of commercial and financial training.

HENRY M. RAMEY.

The prosecuting attorney of Buchanan county, Mr. Ramey, who is now serving his second term in that office, is a native of the state of Mississippi. He was born in Oktibbeha county, near Columbus, on the 14th of February, 1844. The family from which he is descended came originally from Virginia, his grandfather moving from Virginia to Georgia, and from Georgia to Mississippi. His father was Daniel F. Ramey, and his mother's maiden name was Amanda M. Young, daughter of Henry Young of Tennessee.

Mr. Ramey was raised in Mississippi, and lived there till the time of the breaking out of the war. He left home at the commencement of the rebellion, went to Louisiana and there enlisted in the Confederate service for three years, or the war, in a company called the Ouachita Blues, attached to the Fourth Louisiana battalion. The captain of the company was John McInery, afterward promoted to the command of the battalion, subsequently elected Governor of Louisiana, and who has since figured prominently in the politics of that state. Mr. Ramey's service covered the greater part of the Southern Confederacy east of the Mississippi—Virginia, the coast of the Carolinas and Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee, where he was wounded at the battle of Franklin. In the summer of 1863, just before the fall of Vicksburg he procured a transfer from the Fourth Louisiana battalion to the Fourteenth Mississippi regiment, in which he was in the companionship of previous associates from his own county. He was surrendered by General Johnston, at Greensboro, North Carolina, in the spring of 1865, and that last act in the drama ended his humble part in the attempt to establish the Southern Confederacy.

After the close of the war he returned to Mississippi, and the remainder of the year 1865 was spent at school in his native county. During 1866 and 1867 he was occupied in farming, but this pursuit proving unprofitable on account of the demoralized condition of the labor system in the South at this time, he left Mississippi in April, 1868, to try his fortune in the Far West. During the summer of 1868 he was engaged in trading on the line of the Union Pacific railroad, then being constructed. In September, 1868, he reached St. Joseph, without friends, relatives, and with but slight means. He found employment as clerk in a hat store on Felix street. He formed an acquaintance with the Hon. Henry M. Vories and Allen H. Vories, prominent lawyers of St. Joseph, who kindly tendered him the use of their books and office, and he began the study of law. He still retained his position in the store, studied at nights, and in the latter part of 1869 was admitted to practice at the bar. He soon afterward began practice, and has gained success in his profession.

In the spring of 1870 the Democrats of St. Joseph nominated him for city attorney, but he was defeated in common with all the candidates on the Democratic ticket with one exception. In November, 1874, as the almost unanimous choice of the Democratic county convention, he was a candidate for prosecuting attorney of Buchanan county, and was elected. His two years' term of service was sufficient to prove his capability for the position, and in November, 1876, he was re-elected to the same office. Mr. Ramey is a gentleman who has fought his way up to his present position by his own efforts. Like most self-made men he is earnest and vigorous, and full of energy. He was married October 3rd, 1876, to Miss Adelle Vegely, daughter of Augustus Vegely of St. Joseph. He is an earnest Democrat in politics.

B. R. VINEYARD.

This gentleman (who) has practiced law at St. Joseph for the past (eighteen) years, is a native of the Platte Purchase. His father, Jesse Vineyard, was from Kentucky, and emigrated to Missouri in 1830, settling in Platte county; and was therefore one of the earliest residents of the Platte Purchase. He returned to Kentucky and married Mary Owens, of Green county, in that state, after which he came back again to Platte county, Missouri, where B. R. Vineyard was born July 31st, 1842.

Mr. Vineyard was raised in Platte county. He received his education at Pleasant Ridge College, near Weston, and at William Jewell College, at Liberty, in Clay county, in which latter institution he was a student till the sessions of the college were suspended by reason of the progress of the late war. His college course thus being interfered with, in 1863 he returned to Platte county. In October, 1864, he came to St. Joseph and began the study of law with Judge Henry Vories. He was admitted to the bar in March, 1866. He has since made most of himself in the practice of his profession at St. Joseph; and in May, 1868, formed a partnership with Silas Woodson and S. A. Young, which continued till Woodson was elected Governor of Missouri in 1872. He remained in partnership with Mr. Young till November, 1873, when the latter removed to St. Louis.

Since that date, Mr. Vineyard has been engaged alone in practice; and has gained an enviable position among the best lawyers of St. Joseph. His political opinions have united him with the Democratic party. The only public office which he has held is that of City Councillor of St. Joseph—a position which he fills at present. He was married on the 19th of May, 1868, to Emma Hoagland, daughter of George T. Hoagland, president of the Buchanan Bank.

ELIJAH GATES.

COL. GATES, the present State treasurer of Missouri, was sheriff of Buchanan county from 1872 to 1876. He was born in Garrett county, Kentucky, December 17th, 1827. His grandfather had been a soldier in the revolutionary war, and his ancestors emigrated from Virginia to Kentucky at a period early in the history of the latter State.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF CITIZENS OF BUCHANAN COUNTY, MISSOURI.

and stock of tin. He was full of industry and energy from the start, and... up his mind to fight his way upward in the world if anything could be accomplished by hard work and perseverance.

Mr. and Mrs. McCauley, have eight children now living. Their names in the order of their births are as follows: The oldest son, Jacob McCauley, married Penica J. Yates. Alexander McCauley was united in marriage to Margaret Gibson.

The political views of Mr. McCauley have always attached him to the Democratic party. The first time he ever voted was just after coming to Missouri in 1840, at the presidential campaign, when Harrison was the Whig and Van Buren the Democratic nominee.

THOMAS YOUNG.

THOMAS YOUNG has been a resident of Centre township since 1843, and has resided in the place where he now lives four miles south of St. Joseph.

He went at once to Wheeling, West Virginia, and found employment there for a year in the iron and glass manufacturing business. He was married in a building on the 27th of July, 1837, to Miss Jane Greer, who had come from the same neighborhood as himself in Ireland.

HENSON DEVORSS.

HENSON DEVORSS, one of the old settlers of Wayne township, is a native of Ohio. He is of French descent. His grandfather, Daniel Devorss, was from Pennsylvanias, as was also his father, John Devorss, who emigrated to Ohio, and married Mary Davis.

ALFRED FENTON.

AMONG the leading business men of Rushville and the southwest part of Buchanan county, Mr. Fenton is known as one of the most prominent. He was born in Mason county, Kentucky, on the 25th of May, 1829.

In 1850 he emigrated to Missouri, and in 1853 located permanently in Buchanan county and commenced selling goods at Rushville. In company with his brother he kept the store at Rushville till 1869, and besides selling goods, bought stock, hemp, &c., and carried on a general trading business.

In 1857 Mr. Fenton went to Colorado, and was in the wholesale grocery and stock business there till 1867, when he returned to Buchanan county, and has since been living at Rushville. In 1865 he was married to Alice Long, of Buchanan county, by whom he has had five children.

Democrat in politics. He and his brother are proprietors of two mills—one at Ruville, and the other at Weston, in Platte county—the latter considered to be the best mill in all Western Missouri.

WILLIAM S. WELLS.

THE Hon W. S. Wells, representative from Buchanan county in the 28th and 29th General Assemblies, was born in the good old state of Virginia, Lee county, on the 13th of September, 1812.

The subject of this sketch was raised in Virginia and received a thorough English education in the common-schools. After growing up he taught school in Lee county, Virginia, and was married in 1832 to Miss Levina Jones of that county.

In November, 1863, he became a resident of Atchison, Kansas; and in January, 1861, came to Rush township, in Buchanan county. The fall of 1861 he entered Price's army under Jackson's first call for troops, and served till May, 1862, when he returned to Buchanan county.

DR. JAMES A. G. SAMPLE.

DR. SAMPLE, a well-known physician of Rushville, was born in Adams county, Ohio, in December, 1833. His grandfather was a Pennsylvanian, emigrated to Ohio some time before 1800, and served in the war of 1812.

JACOB KOCH.

AMONG the German citizens of Rush township Jacob Koch occupies an influential position. He was born in Herbolzheim, Baden, May 1st, 1826. He was raised on a farm. He went to school, according to the German custom, from the ages of six to fourteen, and after leaving school began learning the trade of a cooper.

E. M. FENTON.

THIS gentleman, one of the prominent farmers, stock dealers and business men of Bloomington township, has been a resident of the county since 1853. His birth occurred in Mason county, Kentucky, April 10th, 1827.

In the spring of 1850 he started for California, and formed one of that numerous band of hardy adventurers that poured that year into the California gold diggings. He was absent about two years and a half on the Pacific coast, and during that time was engaged, mostly in trading and selling provisions, with his headquarters at Sacramento.

In the month of October, 1857, Mr. Fenton was married to Elizabeth Elliott of Buchanan county, a native of Madison county, Kentucky, by whom he has five children. In 1865 he moved out on a large farm in section four of Bloomington township where he has since been living.

DR. J. H. C. ROBINSON.

FROM the public position they occupy in the community anything relating to the physicians of a county is always of general interest to the people, among

whom they are commonly well-known, and have many friends. In the biographical sketches published in this work several of the leading members of the medical profession in the county are represented, and among them Dr. Robinson, of Halleck, who came to the county in 1849, and for seventeen years has practiced medicine at Halleck, where he is favorably known as an able physician and a good business man.

His ancestors were originally from Virginia, and at an early day emigrated to Kentucky. His father, James Robinson, was born the oldest of a family of eight children, and was born in Boyle county, Kentucky, in the month of January, 1832.

Dr. Robinson began life for himself when a little past eighteen years of age at which time he set out for California, having become infected with the gold fever which sent so many enterprising adventurers to the Pacific coast. He started for California in the spring of 1850, but after about a year's absence returned to Buchanan county in 1851.

After his graduation he returned to Buchanan county, and in 1856 established himself in practice at De Kalb. His stay at De Kalb was short. The fall of the same year he removed to Andrew county, and was in practice there till 1857, when he returned to Buchanan, and stationed himself at Agency.

In addition to attending to the demands of a large practice he has been actively concerned in other business operations. He has had on his hands the care of a farm, and for the last half dozen years has been engaged more or less in the mercantile business. He sold goods at Halleck as a member of the firm of Noland, Willis and Robinson, and at Wallace was a partner of John T. Chesnut in the business conducted by Robinson & Chesnut.

Politically he was at first a member of the old Whig party, but on the disruption of that organization he became a Democrat, and his sentiments have coincided with the principles and policy of that party, though he has taken no active part in politics, preferring to devote his talents to the demands of his practice, and other business affairs. He is liberal and independent in his views, and is a man popular with all classes of the community—as highly esteemed for his good qualities as a citizen as for his skill and attainments as a physician.

LEVI J. JUDAH

was born in Indiana, January 15th, 1825. In 1836 his father, Eli Judah, moved with the family to Sangamon county, Illinois, and in 1839 from there to Buchanan county, Missouri. For \$175 his father bought a claim in the east part of Bloomington township—the farm now occupied by Samuel Judah. His father died in November, 1842. Mr. Judah was seventeen at the time of his father's death, and the oldest child, and was obliged to take upon himself the charge of the family. His mother died in 1854. In 1860 he moved to Atchison county, Kansas, and in November, 1863, was married there to Mrs. Elizabeth M. Kirby.

H. T. RILEY.

MR. H. T. RILEY, one of the leading business men of Crawford township, and now a merchant at Wallace, was born in the state of Missouri. The family with which he is connected by descent was originally from North Carolina, and his grandparents were residents of that state.

That year he first entered on the mercantile business, which has since been his principal occupation. He formed a partnership with Hiram Rogers, and opened a store at Halleck. His partnership was terminated after a year, but he immediately engaged in another partnership which continued for a like period of time. For a few months he carried on business on his own account, and in March, 1868, resumed his old occupation of farming. He followed this pursuit for something over a year, and in May, 1869, embraced an opportunity of trading his farm for a stock of goods at Halleck, and again commenced the business of selling goods. During part of the years 1869 and 1870 he was managing a store at Camden Point, in Platte county; then returned to Buchanan county, and in the spring of 1871 opened another store at Halleck, but in a few months moved his store over on the Platte river in Jackson township, and remained there till March, 1872.

At this latter date he went to Valley Falls, Kansas, and for a period of six months sold goods at that place. In August, 1872, he came to Wallace, a place just then being built up on the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific railroad, and opened the first general store ever established in the town. Mr. Riley has since been carrying on business at Wallace, and is a popular business man in his manner, and honorable in his upright in life. Since September, 1875, he has been the owner of an interest in the Faucett mill at Halleck—one of the best mills in that part of the state, and turning out as fine a brand of flour as can be found in the market. Mr. Riley was married in April, 1868, to Mary Robinson of Jackson township. Her death occurred in August, 1875. In his political doctrine he is a Democrat, and stands on the same platform of principles in which he was raised. Though still comparatively young he has achieved a good reputation as a capable and reliable man of business; is full of enterprise and energy; and his various operations he has carried on with success.

JOHN T. CHESTNUT.

JOHN T. CHESTNUT of Wallace, favorably known to the people of the southern part of the county as an enterprising merchant, has been a resident of the county since 1852. He is a Kentuckian by birth, and his ancestors on

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF CITIZENS OF BUCHANAN COUNTY, MISSOURI.

his father's side were from South Carolina. His father, Andrew C. Chesnut, was born and raised in Laurel county, Kentucky, and in the year 1838 married Eveline Jones, whose parents were from the state of Virginia. John T. Chesnut was the oldest of ten children by his father's first marriage, and was born in Laurel county, Kentucky, on the 12th of August, 1839.

In the year 1842 his father emigrated from Kentucky to Davies county, Missouri, and there lived till 1852, and then removed to Buchanan county, Missouri, and settled within half a mile of Arnoldville, where he is still living. At that time the subject of this sketch had not gone to school a day in his life. He attended school about a year and acquired an ordinary English education, for the greater part of which he is indebted to his own efforts. Leaving home at the age of nineteen he went out on the Plains, and was there two years, from 1858 to 1860. He was wagon-master, and had charge of trains crossing the Plains to Denver. The war breaking out in 1861, in September of that year he enlisted in the Confederate army as private. In 1863 he was promoted to captain, and was connected with Price's army. He served in Missouri, Arkansas and Texas, and was in the army till the war closed and the cause of the South was compelled to submit to the overpowering force of arms.

In August, 1865, Mr. Chesnut returned to Buchanan county, and the same year removed to Clay county, where for two years he was engaged in farming. Coming back to Buchanan county in 1867 he formed a partnership with R. Bevan, and opened a store at Halleck. He carried on this store for three years, and in 1870 removed to Arnoldville and engaged in the mercantile business with Anthony Garbar. In 1871 he returned to Halleck, and resumed business with his old partner, Bevan. Remaining in business there only a few months, the store was sold to other parties, and in 1872 Mr. Chesnut came to Wallace, and he and Bevan carried on the merchandising business at that place till November, 1872. For nine months during part of the years 1872 and 1873 he acted as Deputy Sheriff under Col. Gates.

In the spring of 1874 he again commenced his old business of selling goods, and in partnership with H. C. Robinson of Halleck, under the firm name of Robinson and Chesnut, opened a store at Wallace. This partnership was continued up till the spring of 1876. He is now carrying on the mercantile business at Wallace on his own account, and is known as one of the active business men of the community.

His marriage occurred in February, 1864, to Miss Edna A. Nida a resident at the time of Buchanan county, but a native of Virginia. He has always been a Democrat in politics. Since he has been merchandizing in Buchanan county he has won many friends among those with whom he has transacted business, and in the management of a store is calculated to succeed as well as any man.

DR. JOHN M. WATSON.

The parents of Dr. Watson, now a leading physician of Wallace, were both born in the Highlands of Scotland, were married there, and in the year 1825 emigrated to America. They landed at Baltimore, Maryland, and shortly afterward removed to Ohio. In Wayne county of that state John McPherson Watson was born on the 25th of May, 1833, the fourth of a family of nine children. When a few years of age his parents moved to Fleming county, Kentucky, and there the subject of this sketch grew up to manhood. His father and mother both died in Fleming county, Kentucky, in the year 1868.

Dr. Watson completed his literary education at Mt. Union College, in Stark county, Ohio, leaving that institution in the year 1854, when about twenty-one years of age. He had previously been engaged in teaching school, choosing that profession as a method of securing means for obtaining his education. After leaving college he also had charge of a school for some time in Fleming county, Kentucky. He began the study of medicine in the year 1855 with Dr. H. G. Allen of Ohio, Fleming county, Kentucky, and afterward attended lectures at the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati, from which institution he graduated in the spring of 1859. Being without means to establish himself at once in practice he sold goods up to the fall of 1860, at which time he married Elizabeth P. Taylor of Fleming county, Kentucky. Immediately afterward he began the practice of medicine at Sherburne in the same county.

Remaining at Sherburne till the fall of 1862, at that date, on account of troubles incident to the war which was then in progress, he removed to Bourbon county, Kentucky, and for nine years practiced medicine in that county, the last three of which he was established at Paris, the county-seat, where in addition to attending to his practice he at the same time sold drugs.

He removed from Kentucky to Missouri towards the close of the year 1871, and on the 1st of December located at Halleck, where he has since been engaged in the practice of his profession, in which he has met with success. The doctor is well known in the vicinity of Halleck, and has gained an excellent reputation as a physician and stands well as a good citizen and a worthy member of the community. He was brought up in the Scotch Presbyterian faith, and for ten years was a member of the Presbyterian church. In 1859 he became identified with the Christian church, of which he is now a member. In his political opinions he is a Democrat, and having been raised and lived in Kentucky he is naturally southern in his sympathies, though he is a man liberal and conservative in his views on all subjects. He has had six children, four of whom are living, three sons and one daughter. He has been interested in the organization of Odd Fellows, and is Past Grand of Truth Lodge, No. 216.

A. J. FERRELL.

ONE of the oldest settlers now living in Crawford township is M. C. Ferrell. He was born in Jackson county, Tennessee, and lived in that state till he came to Missouri. His father, Andrew Ferrell, was a soldier in the war of 1812. M. C. Ferrell was born on the 4th of November, 1804, was raised in Jackson county, and was married to Matilda Jarrett. In 1840 he emigrated to Missouri, and after looking over a considerable portion of the state concluded to settle in Buchanan county, located in Crawford township, and is now, with perhaps one exception, the oldest settler living in the township. He has had eight children, five of whom are now living in Buchanan county: James Ferrell; Eliza, the wife of T. H. Harper; Elizabeth, who married S. J. Harper; Martha, now Mrs. Simon Hawkins; and Andrew J. Ferrell, now farming on section four in Crawford township. Melinda married and removed to Texas; Rhoda married Tipton Russell, and resides in Jackson county, Missouri, and Mary also married a man by the name of Russell, and lives in Jackson county.

A. J. FERRELL, through whose liberality this sketch is furnished, was born in Crawford township on the 24th of September, 1845. His birth-place was on the farm which he now occupies. September 4th, 1870, he was united in marriage to Elvira J. Davidson. He is now farming on the old homestead, and is known as one of the substantial farmers of his township. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge at Halleck, and like his father has been a good Democrat in politics. His father, M. C. Ferrell, cast his first vote for President for Gen. Jackson, the hero of New Orleans, and has voted the Democratic ticket ever since.

B. F. BAKER.

MR. BAKER, superintendent of the mill at Halleck, is a native of Buchanan county, and was born in Crawford township, August 12th, 1837. His father, Zebadiah Baker, was from North Carolina. On his emigration from that state to Missouri he settled in Callaway county, and in 1838 moved from Callaway to Buchanan county, settled in Crawford township, and was one of the early settlers of that part of the county. B. F. Baker was raised in the county on a farm. When he was seven years of age his father died, and from his early boyhood Mr. Baker was obliged to get along the world as best he could. He lived on a farm till he was at twenty-two years old, and afterward engaged in the merchandising business.

In the year 1871 he formed a partnership with John T. Chesnut, and a started at Halleck, the disposing of the store at that place. Mr. Chesnut, with Mr. Chesnut to Wallace. R. Bevan was also a partner in the firm. The store at Wallace passed into other hands, and a

few months afterward, in November, 1872, he bought an interest in the mill at Halleck, and has since been mainly interested in the milling business. For about two years, during the greater part of 1875 and 1876, he was a resident of St. Joseph, and kept a warehouse there for the sale of flour from the Halleck mill—a grade of flour which justly has a high reputation for its superior excellence. While living in St. Joseph he was also interested for about a year in the firm of Faucett & Co., running the Eagle Mills of St. Joseph. He moved back to Halleck, and is now engaged in superintending the Mill at that place, and is a member of the firm of Faucett, Riley & Co., owners of the mill. This mill has been established for a considerable number of years, and was formerly known as the Faucett mill, now the Eagle mill. Its brands of flour rank as high as the products of any mill in the country, and have a constantly increasing demand in the market. During the coming year an addition will be made by which its capacity will be largely increased. Mr. Baker is favorably known as a business man, and for a young man has had a successful career. He was married on the 5th of April, 1874, to Maggie Robinson, the daughter of Dr. J. H. C. Robinson, of Halleck.

WILLIAM RANDALL.

CAPTAIN RANDALL, one of the old residents of the southern part of the county, and representative in the Twenty-sixth General Assembly, is a native of Jefferson county, New York. When only a few years of age, his father, Lyman Randall, emigrated to Ohio, and afterward from Ohio to the state of Missouri, where the family settled in Clay county, and came from there to Buchanan in 1847. Captain Randall was about seventeen years of age when he came to this country. He worked on a farm in Buchanan county till about the year 1848, at which time he crossed the Plains, and went to the mountains where he remained for four or five years. He was in that region before any settlements had been made, and the country was about as wild as it is possible for any country to be. He carried the mail for the government between Fort Laramie and Fort Kearney. He was in the Far West at the time when emigration first started across the Plains; and he saw the first trains cross over on their way to California after the famous discoveries of gold in that country.

He returned to Buchanan county in 1852 or 1853, and went to farming in Crawford township. He was living there at the time of the breaking out of the war of the rebellion. Previous to the war he had been a Douglas Democrat in his politics, but when the Southern states seceded, he took sides with the Union, and for about a year towards the close of the war, he commanded a company of militia raised in Buchanan county, and by his course of conduct in that position won the commendation of the citizens of the county of both parties. The Southern sympathizers as well as the pronounced Union men. In 1864 he made another expedition to the mountains, and for several months was engaged in trading and selling groceries in Idaho. He came back to the county and resumed farming in 1865, and has since resided in Crawford township. In 1872 he received the Liberal Republican nomination for representative from Buchanan county in the Twenty-sixth General Assembly, and receiving the support of the Democrats, was elected by a large majority. He took his seat in the Legislature, and his course in that body was creditable to himself, and satisfactory to the people of the district which he represented; he exerted his efforts toward securing the best interests of the state and Buchanan county.

He is conservative in his political principles, and at the Presidential election of 1876 cast his vote for Tilden and Hendricks. He has been engaged in farming and the stock business, and is known as one of the leading citizens of his part of the county. He was married on the 17th of November, 1851, to Elizabeth Yates, daughter of Pleasant Yates, one of the earliest settlers of Buchanan county. Mr. Yates came from Clay county in the spring of 1837, and settled on section seven in the northwest corner of Jackson township. When he made this settlement there were no white families living within several miles. Captain Randall is one of the intelligent and representative citizens of the community, is a member of the Masonic lodge at Halleck, and also of the Royal Arch chapter at Agency. He is well and favorably known in his part of the county.

JAMES E. WELLER.

JAMES E. WELLER, one of the representatives from Buchanan county in the Twenty-Seventh General Assembly, was born in Nelson county, Kentucky, February 17, 1821. His ancestors were of German descent, and had formerly lived in Maryland. Mr. Weller was raised principally in Larue county, Kentucky, and lived in that state till twenty-three years of age. When twenty-one he began work at the carpenter's trade. He emigrated from Kentucky to Missouri in 1844, and in March of that year arrived in St. Joseph. He began working at his trade of a carpenter in Crawford township, and was so occupied till 1852. December 25th, 1851, he married Mary Ann Mark, of Buchanan county, a native of Indiana. From 1854 to 1859 he sold goods at Taos and De Kalb. The latter year, 1860, he resumed farming, at which he had been previously engaged, in Crawford township, and in 1863 moved to Jackson township. About the year 1868, while at Taos, he was elected justice of the peace of Crawford township without a dissenting vote, and served till his resignation. In 1872 the Democratic party nominated him for representative, and he was elected by over 1200 majority. He was an industrious and active member of the Assembly, was always promptly in his seat, and voted on almost every bill before the house, always basing his action on well-considered deliberations. His first wife died on the 12th of November, 1864. His second marriage occurred August 31st, 1865, to Mrs. Emily E. Hill, formerly Emily E. White, a native of North Carolina, and also came to Buchanan county in the fall of 1848. Mr. Weller is now a justice of the peace of Jackson township. He is a Democrat. A gentlemanly and able legislator, and a term of service in that body. "An honest, discreet and faithful legislator, he made as few mistakes as any member of the Twenty-Seventh General Assembly." He was active and persistent in his opposition to Court-House Bond Bill, and was mainly instrumental in securing its defeat.

JAMES J. GILMORE.

THE oldest settler in Buchanan county, with perhaps one exception, is James J. Gilmore of Agency. He has lived in the immediate vicinity of where he now resides since the spring of 1837, and while the Platte Purchase was yet in the possession of the Indians he made several trips to the present Buchanan county to visit his uncle, James Gilmore, who was the blacksmith to the Sac and Iowa Indians at the Indian Agency near Agency Ford.

Mr. Gilmore was born in Tennessee on the 9th of October, 1818. His grandfather was from Ireland. His father's name was Robert Gilmore, and his mother's maiden name Rebecca Potette. James Jefferson Gilmore, the subject of this sketch, was the next to the oldest of a family of six boys and five girls. When he was about six weeks old his father moved from Tennessee to Clay county, Missouri. This was towards the close of the year 1818. Robert Gilmore settled on Bush creek near Liberty in Clay county, and was one of the earliest pioneers of that part of Missouri. The Indians were plentiful, and the Gilmore family was compelled to live in a fort for protection against the savages. While Robert Gilmore continued to live in Clay county his brother, James Gilmore, was the blacksmith for the Sac and Iowa Indians near the Indian Agency (now in Agency township) at the time when only Indians inhabited what afterward became known as the "Platte Purchase," and Mr. Gilmore traveled repeatedly through what is now Buchanan county, going and returning to Clay county, long before the purchase of the Platte country was made by the government and settled by the whites. The ford by which the Platte river was crossed on the way to the Indian Agency was known from this circumstance as the "Agency Ford."

In the spring of 1837, the next spring after the government purchased the "Platte country" from the Indians, Robert Gilmore moved up with his family from Clay county and located at what is now the town of Agency. The Indians were yet in the country and did not leave till the following May or June. Mr. Gilmore was a young man still under nineteen when he became a permanent resident of the county. For two years he was living with his father, helping to improve the farm and to build the Dickinson mill, the first

mill constructed on Platte river in Buchanan county. In the spring of 1839 he married Sophia Ann Miller, who was born in Virginia and who came to the county in 1838. After his marriage he settled down on a farm in remount township, two miles and a half east of Dickinson's mill, and went to farming. He lived there till 1857 when he removed to Des Moines county, Kansas, where he lived till the spring of 1860, and then returned to Buchanan county and settled on the farm where he now lives, in the immediate vicinity of Agency. He has been occupied in farming. All the eight children of Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore are living. Mary Jane, the oldest daughter, married James Petty, and the others in the order of their ages are Robert M., James A., Hiram S., Margaret, who married George Brinton, Jennie, the wife of D. A. Yates, Eliza E. and Jefferson. All are married with the exception of the two youngest. Mr. Gilmore has always been a Democrat in his political opinions. He cast his first vote for President for Van Buren in 1840, and has voted the Democratic ticket ever since. For a long period of years both he and his wife have been members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church.

Mr. Gilmore's history reaches back to the days of the early settlement of Buchanan county, and during forty years he has been identified with its interests. He has always enjoyed the respect and confidence of the community in which he has lived. In connection with his father, Robert Gilmore, it may be stated that he was the only ferry across Platte river in Buchanan county. During the heavy and continuous floods of 1844, Mr. Gilmore worked on this ferry when the water stretched across the bottom for a mile and a half. Robert Gilmore crossed the plains twice to California; and died in the year 1852. This ferry at Agency Ford was in operation at certain seasons of the year when the river was so high that when the Gilmore family first came to Buchanan county, they were accustomed to go to Liberty, forty-five miles distant, for sugar and other necessities. They also went to Clay county to mill, were obliged to bolt their own flour, turning the bolter by hand. The people, however, in those early times were sociable and friendly, and would turn out to a man to help raise a neighbor's log cabin. After the war was over, the usual programme was to dance all night in regular hoe-down fashion, and have a good time generally.

JOSEPH MATHERS.

JOSEPH MATHERS, one of the old residents of Centre township, was born in Belmont county, Ohio, December 12th, 1822. At eighteen years of age, he came to Missouri with a Dr. Townsend, who settled in Crawford township. He sold goods for the Doctor about a year, and after Dr. Townsend removed to California Mr. Mathers went back to Ohio, and after remaining there about certain seasons of the year with his father, who was settled in Crawford township. After the commencement of the Mexican war, Mr. Mathers was employed in the quartermaster's department of the United States Army, and was engaged in freight government stores to a line of forts then being established across the mountains to Oregon. April 22nd, 1849, he married Sarah Underwood, a native of Warrensburg, Kentucky, and two of his brothers were killed in Indian attacks. Isaac Farris, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Lincoln county, Kentucky, February 28, 1798; removed to Indiana and married Nancy Farris. M. W. Farris was born in Davis county, Indiana, October 19th, 1831. In the fall of 1857 his father emigrated to Buchanan county, Missouri, and settled in section 6, T. 55, R. 34. It was only a year previously that the country was purchased from the Indians. August 8, 1854, Mr. Farris married Mary Ann Riley, of Buchanan county, who died May 6th, 1850. April 10th, 1860, he married, as his second wife, Mrs. Martha E. Brinton, formerly Martha E. Riley. He was a Union man through the war, and for nine months commanded a company raised in Buchanan county of the celebrated paw paw militia. He has generally voted the Democratic ticket, but is conservative in his views and opinions on political subjects, and in 1876 supported Peter Cooper for the presidency. Though still a comparatively young man Mr. Farris is one of the oldest settlers of the county.

M. W. FARRIS.

His grandfather, Johnson Farris, in company with eleven brothers, emigrated at an early date from Virginia to Kentucky, and in that country lived in block-houses for protection against the Indians. Johnson Farris built the first cabin in Warrensburg, Kentucky, and two of his brothers were killed in Indian attacks. Isaac Farris, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Lincoln county, Kentucky, February 28, 1798; removed to Indiana and married Nancy Farris. M. W. Farris was born in Davis county, Indiana, October 19th, 1831. In the fall of 1857 his father emigrated to Buchanan county, Missouri, and settled in section 6, T. 55, R. 34. It was only a year previously that the country was purchased from the Indians. August 8, 1854, Mr. Farris married Mary Ann Riley, of Buchanan county, who died May 6th, 1850. April 10th, 1860, he married, as his second wife, Mrs. Martha E. Brinton, formerly Martha E. Riley. He was a Union man through the war, and for nine months commanded a company raised in Buchanan county of the celebrated paw paw militia. He has generally voted the Democratic ticket, but is conservative in his views and opinions on political subjects, and in 1876 supported Peter Cooper for the presidency. Though still a comparatively young man Mr. Farris is one of the oldest settlers of the county.

JOHN H. CAREY.

THIS gentleman, one of the substantial farmers of Jackson township, has been living in Buchanan county since 1856. He was born in Ireland June 12th, 1825. When he was twelve years old, his father, Patrick Carey, emigrated with the family to America, landing at New Orleans, and coming up the Mississippi to St. Louis. Mr. Carey worked at various occupations. St. Louis till about sixteen or seventeen, when he began learning the ship carpentering business, at which he worked till he left that city. About the year 1856 his father moved with the family to Buchanan county, and settled in Centre township, close to Matney station. Mr. Carey was married, December 8th, 1864, to Nancy W. Gilmore, daughter of Joseph and Martha Gilmore, early settlers of the county, who came from Clay county in 1837. After his marriage he lived on various rented farms in Centre township, and in 1869 bought the place which he now owns in the northern part of Jackson township, on which he moved in February, 1870. His farm is composed of 183 acres of land. He has three children. He is known as a careful and prosperous farmer, a plain and unassuming man, and a good citizen. In his political opinions he has been attached to the Democratic party.

WESTON J. EVERETT.

JUDGE EVERETT, one of the old settlers and prominent citizens of Platte township, was born in Halifax county, Virginia, August 24th, 1801. His father, Zachariah Everett, in 1807, moved with the family to Kentucky, and in April, 1818, from that state to Missouri. Remaining in Howard county from June till November, 1818, they then moved to the Petit Saw bottom along the Missouri river, now included in Saline county. In the spring of 1821 Judge Everett moved to Clay county, and settled three miles below Liberty. As soon as the town of Liberty sprung into existence a school was established which he attended. March 8th, 1829, he married Hannah Crockett, who was born in Tennessee, September 30th, 1808. She was the daughter of David Crockett, a first cousin to the celebrated Mr. Crockett whose name occupies such an important place in the annals of Western pioneer life. In the fall of 1836 Judge Everett explored the Platte country whose purchase was then being contemplated by the United States government. As soon as the "Platte Purchase" was open for settlement he moved up into Buchanan county in company with his brother-in-law, Absalom Munkres. He was anxious to get into the country as early as possible, so as to secure the location he had selected the previous fall, and arrived in February, 1837, in the midst of winter severely cold, and six inches of snow.

He bought a cabin (standing in section 14, township 55, range 34) which had been occupied by a settler who had located in the county while it was yet in the possession of the Indians but had been run off by the United States soldiers. While that part of the purchase which now includes Buchanan county was attached to Clinton county Judge Everett was elected one of the members of the Clinton county court. This was in 1838, and he served about a year till the organization of Buchanan county. In 1855 he was elected representative from Buchanan county in the state legislature, receiving from Platte township every vote but five—a township which then cast a vote in the neighborhood of 225. The winter of 1855 was revision session and consequently the sitting of the legislature was prolonged till the succeeding winter,

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF CITIZENS OF BUCHANAN COUNTY, MISSOURI.

that of 1856-7. Judge Everett discharged his duties in a conscientious and faithful manner, and was afterwards solicited to become a candidate, but his legislative experience was enough to convince him that the quiet of private life was preferable to the vexatious cares of a public career. The judge is living in Platte township in the neighborhood where he first settled, and is universally esteemed for his many good qualities as a neighbor and a citizen. He is now the oldest resident of Platte township. He is an old time Democrat and voted for Jackson in 1828.

NELSON WITT, DECEASED.

ONE of the earliest settlers of Platte township was Judge Nelson Witt, who came to Buchanan county in the spring of 1838. For several terms he was a member of the Buchanan county court, and was a man who stood high in the estimation of his fellow-citizens. He was born in Estill county, Kentucky, in the year 1802. He came to Missouri from Kentucky in 1812. He lived in Howard county of that state, and there married in 1822 Catherine McCorkle, who was born in Lincoln county, Kentucky. He moved from Howard to Clay county at an early date, and helped build the first court-house ever erected in Liberty. He acted as justice of the peace in Clay county. In the spring of 1838 he came to Buchanan county and settled where A. J. Witt now lives, in section 7, of township 55, range 33. He was a man who enjoyed to a high degree the confidence of the community, was a person of intelligence, ability and good business capacity, and was selected by his neighbors to fill several responsible public positions. For three terms he was elected a member of the county court of Buchanan county, and filled that position. He was a devoted member of the Calvinistic Baptist church; and the first church ever erected in Platte township, was one of the Calvinistic Baptist denomination built on Judge Witt's farm. He was clerk of this church for a long term of years, and was also generally chosen the clerk of the Baptist Association at its periodical meetings. He died in August, 1863, and was buried in the grave-yard on his farm—the first grave-yard ever established in Platte township. He had twelve children, Lydia, Sarah, Margaret, Melinda, Catharine, Mary Elizabeth, William Price, Malvina A., Milton M., Nelson B., Zorelda, Agnes, John E., James M., and A. J. Witt. Milton M., James M., and A. J. are living in Platte township in the neighborhood of their father's former place of residence.

JOHN ROHAN.

JUDGE ROHAN, member of the county court and a resident of Platte township was born in Ireland on the 4th of July, 1833. At the age of eighteen he emigrated to America, and landed at Boston, Massachusetts, in 1851. After remaining a few months in Boston he came west to Illinois, where he had a brother living in the town of Ottawa. He followed railroading for several years, and was engaged in superintending and contracting. In 1855 he left Illinois and came to Missouri, and was occupied as a superintendent on the Missouri Pacific road, which was then being constructed through the state. He commenced merchandising in 1861 in Platte county, and opened a store at New Market. He carried on this store about three years, and while living at New Market was married to Miss Carrie Hill of that place, a native of Ray county, Missouri. This event occurred in the month of April, 1863. While living in Platte county he also carried on business at Camden Point. He removed to Buchanan county in 1869, and took charge of a store that year at Matney's Mill. In 1867 he purchased his present farm and residence on section eighteen, township 55, range 33. He erected a store, and has been engaged in farming and also carrying on the store. He has acted with the Democratic party from the time he took an interest in politics. In 1874 he was solicited to become a candidate for county judge, received the Democratic nomination, and was elected to the office, which he has filled in a manner entirely capable and satisfactory.

JAMES E. GARRAHAN.

THE birth of Captain Garrahan occurred on the Atlantic Ocean, October 17th, 1828. His father, Peter Garrahan, had emigrated to America about the year 1823, but concluded to return to Ireland, and it was on this voyage from America back to the old country that James E. Garrahan was born. About the year 1831 Peter Garrahan sailed from Ireland back again to the United States, and after a short time in New York moved to Maryland, where the subject of this sketch was reared. He was married September 24th, 1852, to Mary Ann Kelly.

After the late war of the rebellion had been going on about a year, he enlisted for service in the Union army, in the 3d Maryland regiment. The date of his enlistment was May 7th, 1862. He served three months as private; in August, 1862, was promoted to second sergeant; in July, 1863, to orderly sergeant; on the 13th of June, 1864, the Governor of Maryland commissioned him as second lieutenant; February 20th, 1865, he was promoted to captain of Company D, 3d Maryland regiment, the company in which he had originally enlisted. During his whole term of service he was with the army of the Potomac, participating in all the main battles and principal movements which marked the progress of the war along the Potomac river. He was mustered out on the 29th of May, 1865.

A few weeks after the war the army he emigrated to Missouri, and coming to Buchanan county, bought a farm in Platte township. His first wife died on the 7th of January, 1858. His second marriage occurred on the 26th of January, 1866, to Ann Elizabeth Riley, of Alleghany county, Maryland. He has been farming in Platte township, and is one of the prosperous and thrifty farmers of that part of the county. Coming to the country with comparatively limited means, he has improved a fine farm, and erected on it substantial and comfortable buildings, and has proved that farming if rightly conducted may be made a paying occupation. He has always been a Democrat in politics. Personally, he is an enterprising citizen, an industrious farmer, and a good business man.

JAMES R. WEAKLY.

THIS gentleman, who for the last seven years has been a resident of Buchanan county, was born in Shelby county, Kentucky, December 5th, 1839. His ancestors were among the earliest settlers of Kentucky to Kentucky, at a date early in the history of the latter state. His father was born in Kentucky. Mr. Weakly was raised in his native county, and was engaged in farming there till the time he came to Missouri. October 28th, 1859, he was married to Susan McWilliams, of Shelby county, Kentucky.

In 1860 he came to Missouri and located at St. Joseph, where he became concerned in the milling business, and was connected with the City Mills, conducted by the firm of B. T. Davis & Co. He was interested in the milling business as long as he remained in St. Joseph; but in January, 1874, he moved to a farm on the Rock House prairie, in Tremont township, where he has since been occupied in farming and trading. Mr. Weakly is a man who is favorably known by those with whom he has had business relations; and has the reputation of being an obliging and courteous gentleman, as well as a man of intelligence and business capacity. Coming from Kentucky, it is natural that he should be a Democrat, though he is not an extremist on any subject, and is liberal and conservative in his views. He has made many friends since his residence in the county, and though not one of the oldest settlers, his name appropriately finds a place in this work among the active business men of the county.

EDWARD M. TROTTER

Was born in Guilford county, North Carolina, September 8th, 1812. His father was a soldier in the war of 1812. He was raised within seven miles of Greensboro, North Carolina, and when about nineteen began to learn the trade of a carriage maker at Jamestown in Guilford county. He was married January 5th, 1835, to Nancy Johnson, a native of Randolph county, North Carolina. He emigrated to Missouri in 1838, first settled in Caldwell county,

afterwards in Clinton county, and in 1841 came to Buchanan county. He entered eighty acres of land under the state right on the Platte river in Tremont township. He then possessed but little means. He worked hard at farming, and at odd hours repaired wagons for his neighbors. He also farmed two years on the Cast Steel creek; and in 1855 bought the farm where he now lives. He owns 200 acres of land. He voted for Harrison in 1840, was an old Whig in the days of that party, and is now a Republican. When Mr. Trotter and his wife came to Missouri his circumstances were exceedingly limited. He only had fifteen dollars in money, and that sum was soon expended in procuring the necessities of life. He was energetic and industrious, and omitted no chance of getting along.

MARMADUKE D. FINCH.

MR. FINCH, one of the old residents of Tremont township, and formerly county assessor and collector, is a native of North Carolina; and was born in Franklin county, of that state, on the 28th of April, 1813. His ancestors originally came from Virginia, living there before moving to North Carolina, and one of his grandfathers, Howard Pope, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war.

The subject of this sketch was raised in North Carolina, and followed farming in that state. In the year 1834, on the 4th of May, he married Elizabeth Jordan, of Franklin county, North Carolina. In 1842 he emigrated to Missouri, and on the 20th of May landed on the Rockhouse prairie, in Buchanan county, where he has since resided. He first pre-empted a place on the county line near Gower. He moved on his present farm in section twenty-two, of township fifty-six, range thirty-three, and is known as one of the leading citizens of Tremont township.

In politics he was originally a member of the old Whig party, and the first time he voted for President was in 1840 when he cast his vote for Harrison—the triumphant candidate in that exciting campaign. He was a Whig until the late Judge John Bretz. He has three children by his first marriage, the Democracy. Mr. Finch has held several public positions in the township and in Buchanan county. About the year 1854 he was elected one of the justices of the peace in Tremont township, and filled that office for a period of eight years. In 1858 he was made collector of the county, and served two years in that capacity under Sheriff M. J. Morgan. During 1874 he acted as County Assessor under John Tutt. All these duties Mr. Finch discharged in a satisfactory manner, and proved himself to be a man of good business capacity. The death of his first wife occurred in October, 1870. He was married again on the 22nd of June, 1874, to Mrs. Julia Bretz, the widow of the late Judge John Bretz. He has three children by his first marriage, Martha, the oldest daughter, who married Marion Gist, is deceased. Eveline, the wife of Luther Heffner, resides in Atchison county, Missouri. Thomas T. Finch, the only son, resides near his father, and is now acting as deputy sheriff.

DR. I. S. TALBOT.

DR. TALBOT of Easton, one of the oldest residents and physicians of the eastern part of Buchanan county, came to Missouri in 1843, and for the past twenty years has practiced medicine at Easton.

He was born in Carroll county, Kentucky, July 15th, 1838. The family is of Virginia descent. His grandfather, James S. Talbot, was a resident of Virginia and a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and after serving through the war was present at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, the event which closed that struggle. After the Revolution he moved to Kentucky, and was among the early settlers of that state, making his home there in the time of "when the country was full of Indians and the settlers were obliged to go forth and build houses in order to secure themselves against the sudden attacks of the savages." The doctor's father, Jas. W. Talbot, was a native of the same state, whose parents were also from Virginia. I. S. Talbot was the youngest and sixth child of a family of eight children. In 1848 his father moved to Missouri and settled in Marion township, Buchanan county.

He attended the common schools of the county, and for two years was a student at Chapel Hill college in Lafayette county, Missouri, where he completed his English education, and, after serving through the war, he resolved to become a physician, in 1853, when about twenty years of age, he began the study of medicine with Dr. B. F. Donaldson of Buchanan county. He began practice with Dr. Donaldson, and was for a time in partnership with him. April, 1856, he established himself in practice at Easton, when that town first began to be built up, and was the first physician to locate in the place. He has lived in Easton from that time to the present, and has been one of the leading residents of his part of the county. His marriage took place on the 27th of July, 1854, to Miss Eveline Donaldson, the daughter of Dr. Donaldson, his old preceptor, with whom he began the study of medicine.

He has given close attention to the practice of medicine, and has acquired an excellent reputation as a physician, and stands among the best members of his profession in Buchanan county. He is an active and public-spirited citizen, and has been interested in various organizations, among them the societies of Odd Fellows and Masons in Easton, and several times has served as master of Easton Lodge, No. 101, A. F. and A. M. In his politics he was brought up a Democrat, and has always supported the principles of that party. He located at Easton when that town was a place of very humble pretensions, and only a year or two after it had been laid out, and during his professional connection with the people of the eastern portion of the county he has won confidence as well for his good qualities as a citizen and an enterprising and progressive member of the community as for his services and attainments as a physician.

LEWIS F. CARPENTER.

BUCHANAN county possesses many intelligent and thrifty farmers, but there are few who understand the art of agriculture better than Lewis F. Carpenter, of Tremont township. He settled on the site of his present farm, then an unimproved tract of land, in the northeast corner of the county, in the year 1835, and now has a large and well cultivated farm, with handsome and substantial buildings, and every appearance of thrifty enterprise and solid comfort.

Mr. Carpenter was formerly a citizen of Virginia where he was born and raised. His birth occurred in Loudoun county, Virginia, on the 21st of January, 1818. His ancestors were among the early settlers of the Old Dominion—his great-grandfather emigrating from England at an early period and settling near Richmond. His father's name was Matthew Carpenter, and he was a soldier in the war of 1812, and married Harriet Benson, who was descended from French parentage. She was the daughter of Captain Benson, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and commanded in that contest a company of cavalry raised in the neighborhood of Fredericksburg, which did good service in the American army. Matthew Carpenter was a farmer and stock trader of Loudoun county, Virginia.

The subject of this biography was the oldest of a family of eight children, and was raised in his native county. His schooling was acquired in the ordinary subscription schools of the period. The boys of fifty years ago had few advantages in comparison with the facilities for getting a modern education which the boys of to-day possess, and what they learned was by hard study and close application. When about seventeen years of age, Mr. Carpenter left home and went to Front Royal, in Warren county, Virginia, and there began to learn the trade of a wagon-maker, he naturally having a taste for mechanical pursuits. He commenced work at Front Royal in December, 1835, and was at the place seven years, during which he mastered his trade and followed it. He went from Warren to Page county, Virginia, in the fall of 1842, September 25th, 1843, he married Elizabeth Varner. Her ancestors were early residents of Virginia, and her grandparents were in the main part of German descent. Mrs. Carpenter was born in Page county, Virginia, November 1st, 1822, and was raised in her native county.

After following the business of wagon making six years in Page county, in 1848 Mr. Carpenter went to farming, and purchased a farm on which he lived

until he removed to Missouri. This latter step was taken in the year 1854. Believing the West offered better advantages for agriculture, he left his native state, and emigrating to Missouri he came at once to Buchanan county within whose limits he arrived on the 9th of November, 1854. He remained in St. Joseph during the succeeding winter, and in April, 1855, purchased 254 acres of land in the northeast corner of the county, of which about one hundred acres were under fence. He went to work at improving this tract in an energetic and systematic manner, and since has developed the place into one of the finest and most attractive farms to be found anywhere in this part of the state. In place of the old log house which occupied the spot when he first obtained possession, there now stands a neat and substantial dwelling, embowered in trees, while adjacent are spacious barns and outbuildings—the whole presenting a picture of enterprise and thrift such as is surpassed nowhere else in the county. Nearly five miles of hedge fencing may be found on the farm, and the broad acres show signs of careful and intelligent cultivation.

Mr. Carpenter is one of the men who have contributed materially to the growth and development of the county. Besides his farm he has given due attention to matters of public interest, and has endeavored to discharge every duty as a good citizen of the county. He is a Democrat in politics, and has voted that ticket ever since in 1840 he cast his first vote for President for Van Buren. He has raised a family of children, nearly all sons, who are known as young men of excellent business capacity. His children are ten in number, nine sons and one daughter. Their names are given in the order of their ages. William H., the oldest son, is a resident of St. Joseph, as is also Stephen T., who is a practicing physician at that place. Daniel E., is a farmer of Andrew county, Missouri. Thomas J. and Robert S. are living in St. Joseph. The remaining children, John A., Francis P., Eddie, Burr H., and Mary E. are living at home. The five first named are married.

Mr. Carpenter has obtained a reputation as an excellent farmer, and though he himself denies that he is deserving of any special credit in this direction, good judges unite in placing him among the model farmers of Buchanan county. Order and good management are visible about his premises. He believes in having a place for everything and everything in its place; in providing good shelter for his stock; in doing everything in its proper time; in short his doctrine is to introduce into farm management the same principles of regularity and economy, without which no business can long be safely and profitably conducted. When he came to the county he only had the means with which to purchase his land; and what he has done toward putting a large and fine farm under cultivation, and surrounding himself with the evidences of prosperity, is only what can be accomplished by any one else by the expenditure of the same industry, economy, and intelligence.

E. McCRAVY.

AMONG the prominent business men of the eastern part of Buchanan county is Elijah McCrary, now carrying on business at Easton. He is of Irish descent, and his ancestors lived in North Carolina, and were residents of that state from an early date. His father emigrated from North Carolina to Missouri in the year 1817, and settled in Howard county, where the subject of this sketch was born on the 5th of February, 1829. When he was seven years of age his father moved from Howard to Clay county, and there Mr. McCrary was principally raised.

In the year 1837 he settled in the Platte Purchase, and was among the first settlers to come into Andrew county after it was given up by the Indians. He first settled at what is now Rochester, in Andrew county, and engaged there in farming. He lived in Andrew county till 1845, and then moved to Marion township, in Buchanan county, and purchased four hundred acres of land on part of which now stands the town of Easton. He first commenced merchandising in 1854, when he opened a store on his farm, and the same season laid out Easton. From that time he has been extensively engaged in the merchandising business. The store at Easton has developed in importance with the growth of the town, and at different times has carried on stores at Nebraska City, Stewardsville Agency, Rock House, Union and other places. He is now proprietor of a large store at Easton, and is also interested in one at Agroy. He is also the owner of the largest and best farm in the neighborhood of Easton, which he has managed and conducted himself, and has carried on farming and stock-raising in addition to merchandising.

He was married in the year 1842 to Nancy J. Martin, a native of Kentucky, and residing in Buchanan county at the time of their marriage. They are six children living by this marriage, three boys and three girls. The eldest is L. M. McCrary, the oldest son, who is engaged in farming at Easton, carrying on in Marion township; Benjamin, now the editor of the Gainesville Gazette in Cook county, Ky.; Frank E. McCrary, now engaged in business with his father; Nancy, the wife of James M. Browning, living near Easton; and Emma and Allie, who are living at home. In his political principles he has been a member of the Democratic party, and has voted for the candidates of that organization from the time he first took an interest in politics. He is a man who has been devoted to his own business affairs, and is known as an energetic and active business man. Like many of the best citizens of the county he stands in the list of self-made men, and for his success in life he is indebted to his industry, energy and good business management. He began life with nothing, and all that he possesses is the result of habits of enterprise, economy and good business capacity. He has been successful as a merchant, and has always conducted business on safe principles. He is the original proprietor of the town of Easton, with whose interests he has been identified from the commencement of the growth of the place.

E. V. KELLY.

CAPTAIN KELLY'S father, William Kelly, was one of the early residents of the Rockhouse prairie, settling there in 1844. E. V. Kelly was born in Jessamine county, Kentucky, in 1838. His father moved to Jackson county, Missouri, in 1840, and in 1844 came to Buchanan county. In 1852 when Mr. Kelly was fourteen or fifteen he became clerk in the store of Powell, Levy & Co., and 1856 bought their stock of iron and started in business on his own account. In 1857 he married Miss Sallie McEwing. When the war broke out he entered the Confederate army as captain of a battalion of artillery, 5th division of the Missouri State Troops, commanded by Gen. Stein. E. in Lexington, Kentucky, from the close of the war till about 1863. For years previous to 1874 he was employed in Hunt's bank in St. Joe. His residence is on a farm in Marion township, where his father former.

SAMUEL D. COWAN.

JUDGE COWAN, one of the members of the county court, was born near Somerset, Pulaski county, Kentucky, January 25th, 1825. His ancestors were from Virginia, and became early residents of Kentucky. His father, whose name was John W. Cowan, married Fannie Dyssart. He was brought up on a farm, but when about twenty years of age he entered the military service of Pulaski county, in which he was employed about a year. He joined the 4th Kentucky regiment, in which he was second lieutenant of company H. He left Kentucky for Mexico with his regiment in October, 1846, and served till the war was over, and was in the City of Mexico when the new Mexican army that peace was declared. In 1848 he returned to Buchanan county, and in 1850 he was in California and was four years mining, and in 1854 he returned to Kentucky in 1854, and the same year he moved to Buchanan county and settled in Buchanan county. He located on a farm in W.ington township. He acted as deputy sheriff under sheriffs M. J. Morgan and S. J. Gower. He was married December 24th, 1850, to Bettie F. Leavelle. In 1855 he went out on the Platte Purchase, and in 1860 he emigrated to Buchanan county, where he was engaged in farming in Washington township. He has always been a Democrat in politics. In November, 1877, he was elected member of the county court of Buchanan county, and served two years, and was re-elected to the same office in 1876. He has made a good job of it.