

# **SOURCE: History of Southern Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed's Publishing Co., 1889.**

Little River County, numbering not quite 10,000 inhabitants, had , in 1870, a population of 1358 white and 1878 colored, total 3236. In 1880 these figures gave place to 3064 white, 3335 colored, total 6399. The figures giving the population for 1890 are not yet available, but when published, it will be profitable to make comparisons.

At the September election, in 1888, James P. Eagle, Democratic candidate for governor, received 744 votes in Little River County, and his opponent, C.M. Norwood, received 669 votes. At the same time a county ticket, in opposition to the regular Democratic ticket, and supported by Independent Democrats, Republicans and Labor Union men, was wholly elected.

The vote given in the county at the November election, 1888, for presidential candidates, was as follows: Cleveland, 605; Harrison, 630; Streeter, 27; Fisk, 1.

Richmond, the county seat, is situated on Section 16, Township 13 south, Range 30 West. It has six stores in all, several workshops, a hotel, a saw mill, a Methodist, Presbyterian and two colored churches, a school house, a printing press and weekly newspaper-the Pilot, and a population of about 200. The town was founded in 1853, and in addition to the foregoing, it contains Red River Lodge No. 171, A.F. & A.M.; Richmond Chapter No. 87, R.A.M.; Richmond Lodge, K. of H., and a Woman's Missionary Society. The town was incorporated May 7, 1880, but the corporation has not been maintained. The first newspaper in the county was the Little River Herald, established in 1879, at Rocky Comfort, by Mr. Yateman, who moved it to Richmond the next year. The paper changed hands several times, being published awhile by W.F. Joyner and W.P. Feazel, under the name of the Pilot. The Little River News was established in 1887, and was edited by W.F. Joyner and published by Ed. G. Shaw. Its publication was suspended in 1889. The Little River Weekly Pilot, the only paper now published in the county, was established in March, 1890, by S.S.P. Mills. J.C. Head is the editor and Jack Evans, local manager. It is a seven column folio, and an independent Democratic paper.

Between Richmond and Texarkana there is a daily back and mail line. The mail leaves Richmond at 8 a.m., and arrives at 4 p.m. The Peytonville, Millwood & Colesboro semi weekly mail leaves Richmond Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7 a.m., and arrives at 7:30 p.m., of the same days. The Richmond & Rocky Comfort tri weekly mail leaves the former place at 6 a.m., and arrives at 7 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week. There being no railroads in Little River County, the nearest point of shipment for Richmond and the other villages of the county is Texarkana, except occasionally in the

winter season, when the water is very high, goods are shipped up Red River to Cook's Landing, opposite Richmond, and about 5 miles there from. Sometimes goods are shipped up Little River to Millwood, which is 12 miles or more from Richmond. The line of the Fort Smith & Texarkana Railroad crosses Little River County five miles east of Richmond. Fifteen miles of it are graded within the county, the bridges are being built, and it is expected to be completed across the county, thus opening up communication by rail.

Rocky Comfort, situated twelve miles west and four miles north of Richmond, is the oldest town in the county, and has three or four stores, a post office, a millinery shop, several good mechanics, a Methodist, a Catholic and a Christian Church, and a population of about 175.

Peytonville, is the east end of the county, is surrounded by a fine farming country, has a church free to all denominations, one or two stores, post office, etc.

Laynesport on Red River, in the southwest, and Cerro Gordo in the northwest part of the county, are small post villages.

From an early day up to the Civil War a very good academy was maintained at Rocky Comfort. At the commencement of the war, when the school was suspended, and for some time prior thereto, Prof. Brown and his sister were the teachers. Before the inauguration of the free school system, subscription schools were taught in the settled portions of the county. The following statistics, pertaining to the free schools of Little River County, are taken from the last published report of the State superintendent of public instruction, it being for the year ending June 30, 1888. Scholastic population, white-males 1,017, females-902, total 1919; colored-males 1046, females 1052, total 2098. Number of pupils enrolled: White-males 566, females 518, total 1086; colored-males 605, females 629, total 1234. Number of districts, 14; number of teachers employed-males 32, females 7, total 39. Average monthly salaries of teachers, First grade-males \$70, females \$40; second grade males \$45; females \$20; third grade-males \$45, females---

These figures show that the colored scholastic population of the county exceeded that of the white by 179, and that only a little over one half of the children of the county of school age were taught, or were in attendance in the schools. Every neighborhood has schools for at least three months in the year, and Richmond and Rocky Comfort maintain good sessions for ten months in each year. The attendance should be increased, and full and correct reports should be made. The amount of revenue on hand and raised in the county for the school year mentioned, for the support of the public schools was \$9,909.28 and the amount expended, \$7,605.31, leaving a balance on hand of \$2,303.97.

The Methodists were the pioneer Christian workers in this new country. They were soon followed by the Baptists, and then came the Presbyterians and other sects. The Methodists organized and erected a church at Rocky Comfort as early as 1837 or prior thereto. Camp meetings were held at Rocky Comfort and also near Richmond, and on

these occasions the people of all denominations met together for worship. Preaching was also held at the houses of individuals in the several settlements of the county before a sufficient number of church offices were erected. During recent years, the camp meetings have not been kept up. Churches are now maintained in every settlement. Those in the villages have been mentioned where located. Sunday schools are taught in nearly all the churches. The several denominations in the county are Methodist Episcopal, South, Baptist, Presbyterian, Christian or Disciple, and Roman Catholic. The colored people also have a good number of churches and Sunday schools, and a Christian spirit generally prevails.

The people may also be said to be very temperate, as no saloons or whiskey shops have been licensed in the county since 1882; a stray bottle or jug, however, occasionally finds its way into the county, but in this way not so much damage is done as by open saloons. The people are rural in their habits and customs, and are a good class among which to live.

The permanent settlement of the county now embraced in Little River County began about the time the State of Arkansas was admitted into the Union- in 1836. Perhaps a very few actual settlers preceded that date. There were a number of hunters encamping here and there in the woods when the permanent settlement began. These hunters made a living by hunting and shipping their peltry on keel boats down the rivers to New Orleans. They also shipped bear meat, venison, and other game. There were at this time a considerable number of buffaloes, and bears, deer, wolves, and other wild animals were very numerous. Wild turkeys, ducks and other wild fowls were also very abundant, and for many years the early settlers supplied their families with meat from the wild animals, and wild fowl. The buffaloes have all disappeared, and so have the bears except now and then a stray one, Deer and other wild game are plentiful yet.

Among the pioneer settlers were the following: Benjamin F. Hawkins, now deceased, settled a plantation on Walnut Prairie, in 1836, and the following year returned to Tennessee, and brought his wife and brother, Henry A. Hawkins, back with him. Both of the latter are living at this writing. Henry A. Hawkins subsequently settled a plantation a few miles farther down Red River from his brother's plantation. The Hawkinses were formerly of North Carolina. Ben F. Hawkins purchased his plantation from Dr. Boyd, a prior settler. Andrew Hemphill was a pioneer settler near Richmond. Thomas French, Ben Hartsfield, George Taffe, Mr. Hamilton and Ben Lane were early settlers in the vicinity of Rocky Comfort. Jesse McLendon and John Owen, who settled at Oak Shoals, were among the first settlers in the eastern part of the county on Red River. During the early settlement, the Indians frequently came over from the nation and hunted game and picked cotton for the settlers. They were peaceable and friendly. In early times the country was very sickly, especially for the whites; the colored people did not suffer so much.

At the approach of the Civil War the citizens of what is now Little River County were almost or entirely a unit in sympathy with the cause of the South. The early settlers were all from the older Southern States, and were, by education and practice, fully in love with

Southern institutions, and consequently they freely volunteered to enlarge the Confederate armies. During the war period the county was not visited by either of the contending armies. The raising of cotton was suspended, and other products necessary for the support of the people were raised in great abundance. Even salt was extensively manufactured at a point a few miles north of Rocky Comfort, where an abundance of material for its manufacture exists. The country was, however, overrun by guerrilla bands, who committed many depredations. Otherwise the people were not disturbed until after the war closed and the State militia were sent in, when they suffered much, as it is claimed, at the hands of the latter. This portion of country was really beyond the field of war and consequently did not suffer like sections within it.

Little River County was organized in accordance with an act of the Legislature approved March 5, 1867, out of territory taken from the counties of Hempstead and Sevier, and took its name from the Little River, which forms most of its northern boundary. The temporary seat of justice, where the county was organized, was fixed by the act at the house of William Freeman, about ten miles northwest of Richmond. The Constitutional Convention of 1868 located the permanent seat of justice at Rocky Comfort, where it remained until 1880, when it was removed to Richmond by a vote of the people at an election held in August of that year. The order of the county court for the removal of the county seat was made in October, 1890, and the first term of the county court at Richmond was held in January, 1881. Soon after the county seat was located at Rocky Comfort a frame court house, with office rooms on the first floor and a court room on the second, was erected there. The contract price for building it was about \$12,000, but by reason of selling the county's script at a great discount, it cost the county nearly double the contract price.

Upon the removal of the seat of justice from Rocky Comfort, the court house at Richmond was erected by the citizens of the town without any expense to the county. It was erected before the election for the removal was held. It was a two story frame structure 40x44 feet in size, with office rooms below and the court room above. In 1882 this building was destroyed by fire, but nearly all or probably all of the county records were saved. It was supposed to have been set on fire and burned in order to destroy records, and there by shield certain parties guilty of crime. Since the destruction of the court house the county has rented rooms for county offices. The clerk's office is rented of Hon. J.C. Head, and the courts are held in a vacant store room. No jail has ever been erected at Richmond, and there being no poor asylum, the county has no public buildings. The poor are cared for by appropriations made from the county treasury. The county owns land suitable for a poor farm, but it has never been improved for the purpose. No steps have been taken for the erection of a court house, for the reason that it is doubtful whether Richmond will remain the permanent seat of justice.

Owing to the loss of the first county court record, it is impossible to give particulars of the first session of this court. It is evident, however, that it was held in accordance with the act creating the county at the house of William Freeman. The first term of the probate court was held at this house beginning on the 26th day, or the fourth Monday of November, 1867. The first term of the circuit court was held at Rocky Comfort,

beginning on Tuesday, August 4, 1868. The term should have begun on Monday, but the regular judge did not appear. Tuesday came and still no judge appeared, whereupon the clerk and attorneys present organized a meeting with B.C. Parker, as chairman, and proceeded to elect a special judge as provided by statute. For judge, L.J. Joyner received six votes, A.D. Hawkins, four, and B.C. Parker, two. There being no election, Messrs Hawkins and Parker withdrew their names, and on motion of A.T. Stone, L.J. Joyner, was unanimously elected special judge to hold the term of court, which he did. E.J. Searle, the regular judge, and Joseph R. Pratt, prosecuting attorney, both failed to attend.

The first important case tried at this term was the State of Arkansas vs. Tobe Owens, a colored man, for the murder of a colored boy. In this trial the State was represented by J.C. Head, and the defendant by Stone and Taffe. The defendant was tried and found guilty of murder in the first degree, and in accordance with the sentence of the court, he was hanged until dead, on September 4, following. Two other legal executions of colored men, one for the murder of his wife, and the other for committing rape on a white woman, have since taken place in the county. In addition, three other men, two white and one colored, have been tried for the offense of murder, and stoned for the same by services of the penitentiary.

## **Biographies**

### **Samuel L. Anderson**

A respectable citizen of Little River County and a man recognized and respected as such wherever known is Mr. Anderson. He is the third of eleven children born to William B. Anderson and wife, nee Rosetta Benthall, natives of Tennessee and Mississippi respectively, and his birth occurred in Fayette Co., Tex., January 26, 1843, whither his parents had moved in 1839, soon after their marriage which was consummated in Mississippi. The father was a farmer by occupation, and soon after his arrival in Texas he was granted a headright claim under the laws of the Republic, and being among the early pioneers of this State, he acquired a fine lot of land. He was a very prominent man in his community and acted in several official capacities, serving as justice of the peace in his county for a number of years.. Although never in any of the wars of that Republic, he was frequently called upon by the community in which he lived, with others, to protect themselves against the Indians, who were quite numerous and hostile at that time. He was born in 1812 and his wife in 1818, and both are now living at their home in Texas. Of the 11 children born to their marriage, all grew to maturity, their names being Julius C.(died in 1862, leaving a widow and one child, William) Susanna B. (now the wife of Robert L. McCauley), Samuel L., Littleton B., James C., William E., Mary E.(widow of Miles Rhoads), Virginia E.(wife of Joseph Dunsmore), G.W. and John B.(twins), and Robert L. Samuel L. received such an education as the common schools of Fayette County, Tex. afforded. In 1861 he left school and joined the Texas Rangers (afterward known as the Eighth Texas Cavalry), being a member of Company F, under Col. Terry, who was killed at Green River, Ky and John A. Whorton was elected Colonel; he afterward became major general. He was assigned to the east side of the Mississippi River for twelve

months, being attached to the command of Albert S. Johnson, and took part in the battle of Shiloh. In July, 1862, on account of sickness, he returned to his home in the West, where he remained but a short time, and then joined a command raised by Jack Baylor to scout on the western frontier and Arizona, but was sent to the Indian country, and in 1863, before his twenty-first birthday, he was elected to the office of lieutenant of Company F of Col. Peter Hardeman's regiment. During this service his company became almost extinct, and the captain having left, the remaining portion of the company was assigned to the artillery service, and young Anderson was assigned to duty as acting assistant adjutant general on the staff of acting Brig. Gen. J.M. Bankhead, but was soon after released and assigned as ordinance officer for the brigade. He served in that capacity until the end of 1863, when Bankhead was relieved by Brig. Gen. R.M. Gano of Kentucky, and then he acted as aide-de-camp on his staff while he was the commander of the brigade. Gen. Gano was wounded at Prairie de Ann, and the brigade was then under the command of Charles De Morse, young Anderson still acting in the same capacity. After the Battle at Poison Spring, near Camden, Ark., in which he participated, he returned to the Indian country. During the summer of 1864 he was released from duty and ordered to report to Gen. S.B. Maxey at Doaksville, Choctaw Nation, and was assigned to his staff, and appointed drill master of Gen. Gano's brigade, which went into winter quarters in the winter of 1864-65 on the Red River, and the place is known to day as the Gano Camp Farm. In the early part of 1865 he was ordered to report to Col. Hardeman for assignment for duty in his regiment, and was appointed by him to take command of Company E, which had been abandoned by its officers, and he served in that capacity until the close of the war. His company disbanded near Houston, Texas. Prior to this, in the fall of 1864, Mr. Anderson had joined his fortunes with those of Mrs. Margaret E. Ward, nee Lane. She was the daughter of B.H. and Margaret(Moren)Lane, early pioneers of this county and natives of Virginia, and previous to her marriage with Mr. Anderson had been twice widowed. She had one child by her first marriage, Villulia E. Brooks, who married J.C. Anderson, a brother of our subject, and she also had one child, a son- John C. Ward- by her second marriage. For some time after the close of the war Mr. Anderson was occupied in teaching school, but in the fall of 1866 he, together with this wife, made a visit to his parents in Western Texas. In 1867 he was engaged as a clerk in a mercantile house at Rocky Comfort, and was thus occupied until the spring of 1869 when he entered upon the duties of assessor, to which office he had been appointed in 1868, and during the spring and summer of that year he visited every man's house in the county. After finishing his term as assessor, he turned his attention to farming, and was thus occupied when he received his second appointment as assessor. He served in this capacity in 1870 and 1871 and then he opened his real estate business at Rocky Comfort, this county. He also served as deputy clerk and postmaster for several years. In 1873 he moved to the country on his farm, and there tilled the soil until 1874, when he was again elected assessor of the county and served for two years. During the latter part of 1876-77 he was occupied in teaching the public school, but in 1878 again returned to his farm and remained there, extensively engaged in farming until 1882, when he was elected county surveyor and he has succeeded himself in every election since then. He is still engaged in agricultural pursuits, having a farm of 250 acres, with thirty-five or forty under a fine state of cultivation, and ever since 1871 he has been carrying on a real estate business. He is conceded to be one of the best posted men in the southwestern part of the State in

regard to the lands and land laws of the State and Government. He also hold license to practice law in the State and Federal courts, having been admitted to the practice of law in the State courts in 1873, and in the Federal court in 1878. In politics he affiliates with the Democratic party, and both he and wife are much esteemed members of the Missionary Baptist Church.

## **Cyrus Bailey**

This substantial and much esteemed agriculturalist of Franklin Township owes his nativity to Hempstead County, where he was born in 1832. His father Robert M Bailey, a Pennsylvanian by birth, who served in the Revolutionary War. The latter moved from Pennsylvania to Kentucky, where his son, Robert, was born, later to Missouri, and then, in 1818m to Hempstead County, Ark., where he passed the balance of his life. Robert Bailey was reared to maturity in Hempstead County, and here he spent his entire life, dying in this county in 1875. He had been married four times. His first wife was Miss Mary Pugh, of Hempstead County, who died after bearing one child (now Mrs. Sarah C. Johnson). He took Miss Mary Burton for his second wife, and by her became the father of three children our subject being the only survivor of this family. Mrs. Eliza Kay, a widow, became his third wife, and departed this life in Hempstead County. His fourth wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Warker, bore him one child, a son- Robert, now a merchant of Saratoga, Ark., and is still living. Cyrus Bailey grew to maturity in Hempstead County, and received such an education as the common schools of that time afforded. In 1860 Miss Mary A Peyton, born in Tennessee in 1832, and a daughter of William Peyton (deceased in Missouri), became his wife, and of the six children born to their marriage only two are now living: Mary E. (wife of John S. Renfroe), and Milly E. (wife of JM Matthews). In 1866 he came to Little River County, where he has ever since resided, and here he owns a fine farm, located about sixteen miles east of Richmond, and about twelve miles west of the Iron Mountain Railroad, comprising 240 acres of valuable land, 120 acres of which is under cultivation. The timber on his land is mostly pine, and is very valuable. In August, 1861, Mr. Bailey enlisted as a private in Company D Monroe's regiment of Mounted Infantry. Gen Cobble's brigade, in which he served until the surrender, and during this time participated in the battles of Prairie de Ann, Jenkin's Ferry, Bayou Meto and Fayetteville, and was at the surrender of Fort Pillow, At the close of the war he returned home, and shortly after moved to his present place of residence. He belongs to the Alliance, and in politics is a decided Democrat. He cast his first vote for Buchanan. He is actively interested in promoting the public welfare, and has the confidence and the esteem of all who know him. He and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

## **Jesse G Billingsley**

Jesse G. Billingsley is one of the substantial, well to do agriculturalists of Caney Township, Little River County, and as such, a brief outline of his life will not be out of place in this volume, and will be read with interest. He was ushered into the world in Tennessee, in 1834, being a son of John C. and Catherine (Brooks) Billingsley, who were

born, reared and married in Tennessee. The paternal grandfather, Thomas Billingsley , was a native of Ireland. The mother died in Illinois in 1840, and in 1846 the father immigrated to this county, where he was one of the early settlers, and here he made his home. He received his final summons in this county in 1873. Of the five children -four sons and one daughter born to their marriage, only three - two sons and one daughter- are now living. Jesse G. Billingsley came to this county with his father in his tenth year, and here he attained his growth, and obtained his education in the common schools. He selected Miss Julian Alford as his life companion, and they were united in matrimonial bonds in 1860. She passed from life in 1882, leaving the following children: John A., James (deceased), Robert E., (deceased), Edgar, Oscar, Virginia L., (wife of George Brazzil), Lulu (wife of James Brazzil), and Jessie (at home). In 1883 Mr. Billingsley took Miss Eliza Kington, a native of Columbia County, Ark., as his second wife, and the fruits of their union have been two children: Charles C. and Grover. He owns a valuable farm of 400 acres, seventy acres of which are under cultivation, lying about twenty five miles northwest of Richmond. At the outbreak of the late war he enlisted in Company D. Monroe's regiment, and served until its close, and during this time took part in the battles of Jenkin's Ferry, Prairie Spring and Mark's Mills, and was with Gen. Price on his famous raid through Missouri. After the surrender he returned to this county, and resumed his farming operations, which he has conducted with marked success ever since. He joined the Masonic Order in 1870, and now affiliates with Oak Grove Lodge No. 391. He is a member of the Missionary Baptist Church, as was his first wife, and in politics he is a staunch Democrat, having cast his first presidential vote for Buchanon. He takes an active interest in the welfare of the community, and aids so far as he is able all laudable public enterprises.

## **AM Bishop**

AM Bishop, farmer and merchant, of Bishop, Ark., was born in Alabama in 1827. His parents were Elija and Arianna (Rose) Bishop. For many years the father tilled the soil in Alabama, being a farmer by occupation, but in 1850 he moved to Mississippi and passed from life in that State in 1852. The mother received her final summons in Frankfort, Ala., in 1850. Of the nine children born to their marriage, only three survive : Burgh (a resident of Scott County, Ark.), AM and Ann (now the wife of JB Boring, of Mississippi). Our subject obtained his education in Lawrence County Ala., and at the age of twenty-seven, in 1856, he came to this State, locating in what was then Sevier County, now Little River, and entering the place where he now lives, consisting of 160 acres of unimproved land, which he has since converted into a fine farm, with about seventy acres under cultivation. His marriage occurred in 1847, Miss Mary A. Parker, of Lawrence County, Ala., being the interested party, and they are the parents of two children, Edwin C. (wife of FP Freeman, of this county), and Ann E. (who was the wife of Joseph Henry, but is now deceased). In 1862, Mr. Bishop joined Company A Nineteenth Regiment of Infantry, Col. Dawson commander, and served on the west side of the Mississippi River, participating in the battles of Pleasant Hill, La., and Jenkin's Ferry, besides a number of skirmishes. He surrendered at Marshall, Tex., and immediately afterward came home and engaged in farming and saw-milling. At present he is farming and conducting a merchandise business at Bishop, and is also the efficient postmaster at this place, being appointed to

the office in 1888. He handles about 100 bales of cotton yearly, and does an annual business of some \$5,000. Politically, Mr. Bishop is a strong Democrat, and socially is a member of Richmond Lodge No. 174, A.F. & A. M. and both he and wife are honored members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. He takes a deep interest in schools, churches, etc., and is a progressive man and a good citizen.

## **Dr. J.T. Butler**

Dr. JT Butler, the present efficient post master of Richmond, was born in Overton County, Tenn., in 1841, but educated in Cassville, Barry County, Mo., whither his parents had moved while he was quite small. He was a son of James M. and Elizabeth (French) Butler, both of whom were natives of Tennessee. The father was a blacksmith and bell-maker by occupation, and worked at his trade in Tennessee for a number of years, but he subsequently moved to Cassville, Mo, and there died in 1854. After his death, the widow married QB Odell, with whom she came to Arkansas, and took up a residence in Carroll County, Ark., and here he passed from life in 1863. She afterward became the wife of Aaron Fitzgerald, with whom she passed her life, dying in this State in 1884. Of the four children born to her first marriage, but two survive: JT (our subject), and Brunette, wife of DA Cobb, of this county). JT Butler first came to Arkansas in 1849, being brought here by his parents, who only remained one year, then moved to Cassville. In 1856 he accompanied his mother and step-father to this State, and made his home with them in Carroll County, until the commencement of the war in 1861. On June 13, of that year he joined the State Service, in which he remained for three months, and during this time was engaged at the battle of Wilson's Creek. At this place he was taken sick, and for six months was unfit for military duty. Meantime his family had removed to Scott County, this State, and when able to again bear arms, he joined Capt. Acuff's company of cavalry, which was a part of Maj. Gibson's battalion, but was afterward dismounted and commanded by Col. AT Hawthorne, and served until the close of the war. During this time he was at the battles of Cane Hill, Helena, and Jenkin's Ferry, on April 30, 1864. At this latter battle he lost his left arm, and being unfit for field duty was placed on the retired list, and afterward served as drill master. He enlisted as private, but was afterward elected lieutenant, and at the time of his last engagement had command of his company. On May 20, 1864, he came to this place and took up residence, studying medicine under Dr. FM Mottu. In the fall of 1865 he moved to Bowie County, Tex., but practiced his profession there for only one year, and then returned to this county, and here he studied and practiced medicine with the intention of entering a medical college, until 1870. It was at this time he met with an accident which completely upset all his calculations, his injuries being of such a nature as to disqualify him for his chosen profession. Disheartened, he engaged as a clerk in the large house of Mims & McCrary, and was thus occupied for three years, and for two years acted as manager of their large farm on Red River. From that time until 1889, he has been engaged in the steam mill business, in connection with farming, but at the above-mentioned date he was appointed postmaster of Richmond, and has ever since been discharging the duties of that office. During his residence here he has been justice of the peace, deputy clerk, and has filled various other positions of trust. In 1872 he moved to the farm on which he now resides close to the village, consisting of ninety-five acres, with thirty five acres finely improved: he also

owns 160 acres in Red River Valley, and on the hills he owns 110 acres, with forty acres improved. He has been damaged considerable by fire at different times, at one time losing two mills and cotton gins, and again having his residence on which there was no insurance, totally destroyed: but notwithstanding these losses he has been very successful, having accumulated all his property since the war. His marriage to Miss Maggie A Head (daughter of James A Head, mention of whom is made elsewhere) was consummated on May 19, 1866, and their marriage resulted in the birth of one child (deceased). The Doctor is an elder in the Old School Presbyterian Church, of which both he and wife are worthy members. He belongs to the A.F. & A. M. , and in politics is a very prominent Democrat.

## **R.S. Chaytor**

RS Chaytor, a prominent resident and ex-county and circuit clerk of Little River County, was born in St. Louis in 1855. His father, Joseph Chaytor, left his native State (Maryland) in early manhood and went to St. Louis, where he met, and afterward married Miss Theresa Snodgrass, a native of that city, and the subject of this sketch is one of two surviving members of their family, all boys. His brother D.O. (mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume), resides at Fulton. The maternal grandfather, Jacob Snodgrass, was one of the earliest settlers of St. Louis, and was prominently identified with the early history of that city. Among the possessions of the Snodgrass family in St. Louis is a lot in the city cemetery, in which all their family, and that of the Chaytors have been buried for two generations, and it is there that both Joseph Chaytor and wife are at rest. The latter passed from life in 1872, and her death was followed two years later by that of her husband, who received his final summons while on a visit to St. Louis. Joseph Chaytor enlisted in the Confederate cause during the late war, serving under Gen Price. He was a member of Gen. Marmaduke's staff, with the rank of captain. At the close of the war he moved to Texas, and in 1867 came to this county, where he was occupied in farming until his death. RS Chaytor was educated in the Webster School in St. Louis, until his eleventh year, when his father came South, and his education was completed at Ladonia, Fannin County, Tex. At the early age of sixteen he engaged as a clerk in the dry goods store of JM Perry, of this place, in whose employ he remained for two years. Next he served as deputy clerk of this county for one year, and one year also as deputy sheriff. In 1875, he engaged in the mercantile business for himself, which he was conducting very successfully until in March 1878, his establishment was visited by fire and entirely destroyed. The same year he was elected to the office of county and circuit clerk of this county, and he discharges the duties of this office very ably until 1888. For the last seven years he has been general manager of William Snodgrass' general store at this place. In 1877 his marriage to Miss MF Hawkins, daughter of BF and Mary J Hawkins, was celebrated, and she died in 1879 after a brief wedded life, leaving a little daughter, Emma. In 1860 Mr. Chaytor was again united in marriage, this time to Miss MF Sandefur, daughter of PJ and Mary Sandefur, early pioneers of this county. Her father was born in Alabama in 1829 and came to this State with his parents when he was eight years of age, and here he has resided ever since. The first wife was a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, but the present Mrs. Chaytor believes in the doctrines of the Old School Presbyterian Church. In secret societies, Mr. Chaytor

affiliates with Red River Lodge No. 174, A.F. & A.M, and Richmond Lodge No 3420, K. of H..

## **Louis Walker Dollarhide**

Louis Walker Dollarhide, a substantial farmer, of Jackson Township, is a native born resident of Little River County, his birth having occurred on January 19, 1851. His father, James I Dollarhide, was born in Kentucky, in 1815, and was a son of James D. and Barbara (Samples) Dollarhide, natives of North Carolina and Kentucky, respectively, the former of Irish, and the latter of Scotch extraction. When he was three years of age, his mother died, passing away in Louisiana, and when he was eight years old, he accompanied his father to Arkansas (then a territory), and located in what is now Bowie County, Tex. but was then considered a part of Arkansas, and here, while moving to Pecan Point, on Red River, the father passed from life, on January 8, 1823, leaving three children, of whom he was the youngest. His educational advantages were extremely limited, his education having been acquired by hard study since reaching mature years. He came to this State on January 10, 1824, and his recollections of the country as it then was will prove interesting. At that early date there were no mills, the milling done by soaking the corn and pounding in a trough with a pestle. Hominy was made from corn by the use of lye, and was among the favorite dishes of the early settler. The first mill was built in 1829, about twenty miles from where the Judge resided, and was owned by a man by the name of Asa Hartfields. Previous to this the nearest mill was in Hempstead County, at a distance of forty miles, and was owned by a man by the name of Johnson. Its capacity was fifty bushels of corn per day, and Judge Dollarhide made many a trip to this mill. He would place his grist on a horse, and do the forty miles taking four or five days to make the trip. When the Sevier County mill was erected, people thought it was very convenient. The first highway in the county was cut by the governor through this county to Fort Towson, in 1832, previous to this there were some trails made wide enough for wagons to pass from one neighborhood to another, by the settlers of what now comprises the western portion of Sevier County; the county of Little River being made since the war, this sketch embraces that portion of Sevier County from which Little River was made. Up to 1824 the inhabitants of this county were: Dollarhide (the uncle of our subject), George Holbrooks (who settled on Roland Fork), Samuel Bunham (an uncle of our subject), Shearard Bradshaw, William and Roger McCowen, Mrs. Nancy Thomas, Morris Rulong, and William Story (the famous bear hunter of this part of the State, who bears the reputation of being the greatest bear hunter in Arkansas. He was the David Crockett of Arkansas, and lived directly east of Mr. Dollarhide's residence). At that time Indians were very numerous, and frequent bands of Caddos, Osages, and several other tribes passed though the county, but very little depredation was done by them. There was then a small Chann village on the Hemphill place. Previous to 1864, Mr. Dollarhide lived on Roland Fork, Sevier County, and while a resident of that place served as lieutenant of Company G, First Arkansas Regiment of Volunteer Infantry, for six months, in the war with Mexico, but his health failed him and he was obliged to resign his commission and return home. In 1850 he was elected sheriff of Sevier County, and the next term succeeded himself, making four years service as sheriff. He was appointed county and probate judge in 1855 to fill the unexpired term of Judge David Foran, and at the next

general election was chosen to fill that office: he discharged the duties of that office very ably, and after two years was again elected to fill that position. Although opposed to secession himself, he voted for secession at the convention held in Little Rock in 1861, to which he was a delegate. The last public office held by him was in 1883, when he was a member of the State Legislature from this county. Since then he has retired from active public life, and very comfortably resides at his home in Rocky Comfort, In 1883 he also gave up his law practice in which he had been engaged since 1866, at which time he was admitted to the bar. He is a large land owner, possessing a farm on the Red River of some 2,000 acres of land, about 180 of which is under cultivation. He has been twice married. His first wife, to whom he was married in 1839, was formerly Miss Mary King, daughter of John King, of Sevier County, who came to this state in 1807, locating near Little Rock, where he was married, and soon after this event took place, moved to Washington County. Their union was blessed by the birth of nine children, five of whom are now living: Elizabeth (now Mrs. William Reeves, of Fisher County, Tex.), Angeline (wife of Freedom Pierce, of this county), Martha J. (wife of JS Johnson, of Hempstead County), William K (a resident of Lockesburg, Ark.), and Louis W. Mrs. Dollarhide died in 1852, and the following year he wedded Martha A. King, a half-sister of his first wife, and by her became the father of thirteen children, of whom the following survive: Laura J. (wife of LB Hawley, of Arkansas City,) Daniel S. (of Rocky Comfort), EW., RL., and JC (of Lockesburg), Hattie (now Mrs. Clark), Virginia and Thomas J. The Judge affiliates with Rocky Comfort Lodge A.F & A.M. Mrs. Dollarhide is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Louis W. Dollarhide, the immediate subject of this sketch, grew to maturity, and was educated in the common schools of this county. He commenced life on his own responsibility as a clerk in a general store at Hood's Landing, on Little River, for Col. John S. Walker, in whose employ he remained for three years when he came to this place, and for the following twelve months acted as deputy county clerk under Hugh M McCowan. He next, in 1873, opened a general store at Rocky Comfort, and soon established a large and paying business, which he conducted until 1882, when he sold his stock of goods, and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits on Red River, where he now resides. He owns 240 acres of good land, about 60 of which are under cultivation, and on which he raises from three quarters to one bale of cotton, and 40 bushels of corn per acre. His farm is very admirably situated about ten miles south of Rocky Comfort, and about fifteen miles southwest of Richmond. November 27, 1877, witnesses his marriage with Miss Fannie Paulina Williams, a native of Newberry, S.C. born about 1858, she being a daughter of James Harrison Williams, a resident of this county, and the fruits of their union were four children, but two of whom are now living: Florence S. and Louis E. Mr. Dollarhide is a Master Mason, having joined the Rocky Comfort Lodge in 1874, and has served as secretary of his lodge for a number of years. He has served in a number of local offices of trust, among them being that is notary public, which he held from 1881 to 18885, and justice of the peace, in which capacity he Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and are greatly esteemed by all who know them. He is a very public-spirited man, and takes a deep interest in all that pertains to the welfare of the community.

**W.S.C. Gardner**

WSC Gardner, one of the well to do farmers of Red River Township, was born in North Carolina in 1827, being the youngest of five children born to Edwin and Priscilla AB (Cobb) Gardner, both of whom were natives of North Carolina. The mother passed from life in May 1828, and two years after her death the father moved to Greene County, Ala., after farming there for three years moved to Wetumpka, Ala., and engaged in carpentry until 1845, when he engaged in the cooperage business, which he conducted quite successfully at that place until 1848. He then moved to Shreveport, La., and resumed his former occupation (cooperage), which he was conducting very successfully, when death removed him, in 1864, in his sixty-seventh year. He was married three times. After the death of his first wife, he married Miss Matilda Dardon, a native of North Carolina, who died in 1836, leaving three children: Priscilla S. (deceased, was the wife of Joseph N Gardner), Caroline E., (deceased, was the wife of Thomas Stephens, and passed from life in Louisiana), and Sarah A. (died at the age of thirteen years.). After his second wife's death, he wedded Miss Clarinda Edmonds, of North Carolina, by whom he became the father of six children: Matilda (deceased), Josephine (wife of John J Gillam, of Shreveport, La.) Narcissus (wife of JL Hargrove, of Shreveport), Martha (wife of RS Elliott, also of Shreveport), Emma (deceased), and BH (who also resides at Shreveport). Mrs. Gardner died in 1858. His first marriage resulted in the birth of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch is the only one now living: Thomas N., Mary A.B and Elizabeth all died of a fever within three weeks of each other in 1835. WSC Gardner obtained his education at the New Georgia Academy, Wetumpka, and at the age of twenty one commenced life for himself by farming on some land which he owned in Louisiana. In 1853 he moved to Red River Bossier Parish, La., and engaged as an overseer until the war. In March, 1862, he joined the Caddo Guards of Shreveport La., and served on the east side of the river, participating in the battles of first battle if Corinth, Richmond and Perryville, Ky. With Daniel Adam's brigade, commanded by Gen. Bragg, he was next engaged at Murfreesboro and then Missionary Ridge. At Mill Creek Gap, close to Dalton, Ga., he was wounded, his right leg being broken just below the knee, and this ended his duties as a soldier. He was in the hospital at the time of the surrender. He returned to Louisiana in 1865, and on the last day of August, that same year was united in matrimony to Miss Thetis F. Willard, daughter of Dustin B. and Nancy R. (Curry) Willard, natives of Vermont and Mississippi, respectively, and their union has been blessed in the birth of two children, one of whom died young. Their one surviving child, William W., is now attending school. In 1867 he moved to Red River County, La., and farmed for different parties until 1874, at which time he came to Arkansas and took up his residence in this township. Immediately upon his arrival he purchased 225 acres of land only thirty acres of which were improved and he now has 125 acres under a high state of cultivation, with good improvements. On this he raises annually sixty bales of cotton, and 1,000 bushels of corn, and is numbered among the prosperous agriculturalists of this county. Both he and wife belong to the Missionary Baptist Church. Mr. Gardner is a member of Richmond Lodge No. 192, A.F & A. M., and in his political views is Democratically inclined.

**N.A. George**

Among the well known and highly esteemed citizens of Rocky Comfort, Mr. George stands pre-eminent. He owes his nativity to Columbus, Ga., being born there on June 8, 1852. His father, William J. George, a physician by avocation, was born in Georgia, and continued to make that State his home until 1859, when he moved to Texas, and is now a resident of Denison, that State. He is a son of Jesse George, also a native of Georgia, of Scotch-Irish and English extraction. William J. George was united in marriage to Miss Nancy S. Gerard, who was born in Georgia, of French parentage, and the subject of this sketch is the youngest of their six children. He accompanied his parents to Texas at the age of seven years, and there attained his growth and obtained his education, subsequently entering a clothing house in Jefferson, Tex., as a salesman, and was thus occupied until 1873. He took up his residence in this county in 1876. He immediately opened a mercantile business at Rocky Comfort, which he successfully conducted until 1884, but since that time he has been occupied in the real estate business. September 30, 1875, witnessed his marriage in this county to Miss Virginia C. Reid, who was born in this county, being a daughter of Franklin L. Reid and wife. Her parents were born in Virginia and Ireland, respectively, but their marriage was consummated in this county, whither he had come from Louisiana at an early day. Mr. George and wife are the parents of two children: Jesse L. and Clara. The wife is a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Mr. George holds membership in Rocky Comfort Lodge A.F. & A.M. since 1889. He is a very public spirited man, taking an active interest in all measures pertaining to the welfare of the community with which he has identified himself, and is classed among its substantial and well to do citizens.

## **James H. Gray**

James H. Gray, well known throughout the county as a practicing physician and surgeon of Rocky Comfort, was ushered into this world in Limestone County, Ala., on February 3, 1834. His father, Daniel M Gray, was born in Tennessee, and there spent his early life; subsequently he moved to Alabama, where he married Miss Isabelle Monroe, a native of Scotland, who died in Alabama when our subject, the eldest of their three children, was but five years of age. When he was six years of age his father moved to Mississippi, and there made his home until 1857, when he went to Missouri and engaged in farming, until 1866, when he went to Texas, and there he received his final summons in 1867. After the death of his wife he married again and became the father of ten children-four boys and six girls- all of whom are now living, except one boy and two girls. James H. Gray passed his life from the age of six years to his twenty-fourth year in Mississippi, and obtained such an education as the common schools of that State afforded. In 1858 he moved to Louisiana and settled on a farm in that State, remaining there until 1867, with the exception of the four years spent in the Southern army, when he came to this place. He always had a predilection for the study of medicine, and in 1868 he entered the office of Dr. Alexander, and after remaining under his tutelage for some time, he entered the University of Louisville, Ky., after taking one course of lectures at that place, he returned to Rocky Comfort and began the practice of his profession, at the same time studying with Dr. Alexander for several years and here he has lived a life of usefulness for twenty two years, and built up an extended and lucrative practice. About five years of this time he carried on merchandising in connection with his profession, February 27, 1877,

witnessed his marriage, to Miss Martha S. Hopson, a native of this county, and four children have been given to them. Those living are Walter E., Vestina W., and Lucetta W. Dr. Gray has served in all the important offices in the K. of H., of which he is an honored member, and is also a Master Mason, having been a member of that order for nineteen years. He affiliates with Rocky Comfort Lodge No. 468, A.F. & A. M., and the Medical Board of this county numbers him among its most prominent members. He is enterprising and public spirited, and contributes liberally to all worthy enterprises. Both he and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

## **Paul Hamilton**

He whose name heads this sketch is one of Little River County's enterprising and substantial agriculturalists, thoroughly alive to all current topics, and public spirited and progressive in all matters tending to benefit the community. He was born in Charleston, S.C, in 1830, his parents being Edward W. and Elizabeth I. (Lynah) Hamilton, reference to whom is made in the sketch of Dr. E.L. Hamilton, which is also given in this volume. The father was a physician, and practiced his profession in connection with farming all his life. He was born in South Carolina, in 1804, and died in Ouachita County, Ark., in 1851, whither he had moved in 1849. The paternal grandfather Paul Hamilton, was born in South Carolina, of which State he afterward became governor, and he also served as Secretary of the Navy, under Madison's administration. He fought in the Revolutionary War. The subject of this sketch is the eldest of five children, and grew to manhood, and obtained his education in the common schools of Alabama and Arkansas. His marriage occurred in Ouachita County, Ark., in 1851, Miss Mary Ann Hildreth, a native of Marengo County, Ala., being the contracting party, and the fruits of this union have been three children: Mary A., Elizabeth (now the wife of Augustus B Phillips) and Sarah. Mr. Hamilton first came to this locality in 1875, and he now owns 1,500 acres of fine land, 300 acres of which are now under cultivation, located about sixteen miles east of Richmond. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and both he and wife belong to the Presbyterian Church. He has ever taken an active part in politics and public affairs, and has done much to build up every enterprise for the common good.

## **Dr. Edward L. Hamilton**

Dr. Edward L. Hamilton, practicing physician, Richmond, Ark., was born in Dallas County, Ala., on May 13, 1836, and was the third child born to the marriage of Edward W. and Elizabeth I. (Lynah) Hamilton, natives of South Carolina. They came to Alabama in 1836, and here the father, who was a physician and surgeon, a graduate of the Medical University of Pennsylvania, having graduated at the age of twenty-one years, entered actively upon the practice of his profession, at that place until 1849. He moved near Camden, Ouachita County, Ark., on that date, and presumed his practice there until 1855. He and wife were the parents of five children, four of whom are still living: Paul (who resides in Little River County), Elizabeth Rose (wife of Maj. R.B. Smith, who was the first male child born at Camden, Ark.), Edward L. Archibald, and Mary (wife of George A. Proctor, of Austin, Tex.). The parents were both church members, but belonged to

different denominations, he believing in the doctrines of the Episcopal, and she in those of the Catholic Church. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity. The mother passed from life in 1882. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Paul Hamilton, was descended from a line of Paul Hamiltons, his great-grandfather, grandfather, and an uncle having borne that name. He was born at Wiltown, St. Paul's Parish, S.C., on October 16, 1762, of Scotch-English parentage. His educational advantages were limited, but were the best that his State afforded in that primitive day. When he was sixteen years of age he shouldered his musket and joined the Wiltown Hunters, the first military company raised in his neighborhood, and during his service with this company took part in several engagements and was frequently commended by his commander for his bravery. He served as a volunteer under Baron DeKalb, and was at the battle of Camden, where Gates was repulsed by Lord Cornwallis. Upon the reorganization of the army, he returned to his own State and served in the campaigns of 1781 and 1782 with distinction, most of the time with Gen. Marion, on whose staff he served several months. He participated in the crowning victory at Eutaw Springs in September, 1781, and at the close of the war laid aside the garb of the soldier and assumed that of the private citizen. His public career began in 1785, being then appointed general tax collector for Saint Paul's Parish in which capacity he served for two terms. In 1787 he served in the convention that adopted the Federal Constitution, and in 1790 in the convention that framed the constitution of his own State. Subsequently he moved from St. Paul's Parish to St. Bartholomew's Parish, from which he was almost unanimously elected to the Senate in 1794, and re-elected in 1798. His next public position was that of comptroller of the treasury, to which office he was twice re-elected without opposition. On December 10, 1804, he was elected governor of his State, and discharged his duties with great credit to himself and benefit to his people. He was called to the United States cabinet by James Madison, in 1809, and made Secretary of the Navy, which office he filled until December 12, 1812, when he retired from public life, and on June 30, 1816, he passed from life on his plantation in South Carolina, while still comparatively young. One of his sons, Archibald, first lieutenant in the navy, was killed on board the "President" in an engagement between that vessel and the British fleet off the shores of Long Island, on January 15, 1815, after the treaty of peace had been signed by the commissioners of the respective countries. It is a singular coincidence that three of his grandsons, Capt. Paul Hamilton, Paul Hamilton Seabrook, and Paul Hamilton Waring, all bearing his name, should have fallen in the late Civil War. On the southern side were soldiers from South Carolina. The maternal grandfather, Dr. Edward Lynah, was born on the ocean prior to the Revolutionary War, while within one half day's sail of Charleston, S.C. His father, Dr. James Lynah, was an Irish patriot, and was banished from that country to America, and participated in the Revolutionary War, serving in the surgical department, and was at the siege of Savannah, Ga. The immediate subject of this sketch received his literary education in Camden, this State. He always had a predilection for medicine, and at the age of twenty years he entered the University of Louisiana and was graduated from that institution in 1858. The same year he returned to Arkansas, a full-fledged physician, and entered upon the practice of medicine at this place, where he has ever since continued, with the exception of four years during the late war, when he served as surgeon in Gen. Churchill's division of the Trans-Mississippi Department. While acting as such he was captured at Arkansas Post and taken to Memphis and there retained one month, when he was paroled and returned to his

regiment. He surrendered at Shreveport, La., and immediately after returned to his home and resumed the practice of his profession. He found himself in a deplorable condition at the close of the war, his negroes all gone, and he a financial wreck. All that was left of his possessions was his residence in this village. The principal crop raised on this land is cotton and corn, and of the former commodity about three-fourths of a bale is raised to the acre, and about forty bushels of corn. He has been twice married, the first time on January 10, 1861, to Miss Nannie J., daughter of Bolon C. and Mary (Williams) Phillips, of this county, who died on January 8, 1869, after bearing two children- Linah and Nannie (deceased). On November 17, 1870, Dr. Hamilton married Miss Dollie H. Wasdin, daughter of David and Dollie (Sherrard) Wasdin, natives of North Carolina, who came to this State in 1850. She is a member of the Old School Presbyterian Church, while her husband belongs to the Episcopal Church. The Doctor is a Knight Templar, and belongs to the Cour de Leon Commandery A.F. & A.M. of Texarkana, Ark.

## **W.D.C. Hankins**

WDC Hankins, another prominent tiller of the soil in Little River County, Ark., is a native of Tennessee. His father, Harrison Hankins, was also born in that State, and early in life took up the study of medicine, and was graduated under Prof. Dudley, at the Medical College of Lexington, Ky., after which he entered upon the active practice of his profession in his native State. In 1843 he came to Drew County, and there practiced very successfully for a number of years, but in 1858 chose a location in Sevier County, to which he removed the same year, and there made his home until his death in 1866. He practiced medicine for forty years and during this time accumulated considerable property. He was married three times. His first wife was a Miss Simpson, and she bore him three children, one of whom, John S., who died some years ago, was at one time sheriff of Sevier County; the other two went to California, and there died. He was next married to Rebecca Burford, and by her became the father of six children, only three of whom are living; W.D.C. (born in 1838), Laura (wife of JW Hamon, of Sevier County) , and Leona (wife of David M Reding, resides in the Choctaw Nation). Mrs. Hankins died in 1850, and in 1855 Mr. Hankins wedded Miss Harriet S. Kelsey, the fruits of this union being one child, a daughter, now Mrs. Mary L. Hutchinson, of Howard County, with whom Mrs. Hankins makes her home. WDC Hankins was educated at Monticello College Monticello Ark., and commenced his life on his own responsibility at the age of twenty one years. On July 2, 1861, he joined Capt. John C. McCain's company, Dockery's regiment, and while with this company was in the battle of Oak Hills. He was then taken sick and returned to his home, but on his recovery he rejoined Capt. McCain's company, which was attached to Dawson's regiment, and took part in the battle of Elk Horn. He was then transferred to the Indian Department, commanded by Col. Pike, and attached to the quarter-master's department, but was in no further engagements. He surrendered at Fort Ouachita, Chickasaw Nation, after which he came home and followed agricultural pursuits on his father's land in Sevier County. He farmed here for one year, from June, 1865 to 1866, and on January 1, 1867, he entered a dry goods store as a clerk, and continued as such until the latter part of 1868, In the spring of 1869 he was admitted to the bar, and immediately after entered upon the practice of law, which continued to occupy his attention until 1880. Since that time he has devoted himself to the cultivation

of his farm, comprising 300 acres of finely improved land. He owns about 800 acres all told. In 1865m he was elected clerk of this county, but the party in power refused to commission him, so he never served. His marriage occurred in November, 1877, to Miss Emma Hawkins, daughter of B.S. and Mary J. Hawkins, of Rocky Comfort, being the contracting party, and their married life has been blessed in the birth of their four children: Fannie, Henry, Benjamin and Lina. Mrs. Hankins is an earnest member of the Episcopal Church. In politics, Mr. Hankins is a very decided Democrat.

## **John Harrison**

John Harrison has been identified with the agricultural interests of Little River County, since 1865, and during this time he has proved himself to be a very desirable citizen. Like so many of the prominent citizens of this county, he owes his nativity to Alabama, where his birth occurred in 1826. His father, Middleton Harrison, a farmer by occupation, was born in Tennessee but in early life emigrated from his native State to Alabama, and from there to Mississippi, and he was residing in this latter State when death removed him in 1885. By his marriage to Miss Nancy Alsup, a native of Tennessee also, he became the father of eight children, but three of whom are now living. The subject of this sketch is the third in order of birth of this family, and was reared and educated in his native State. Being brought up to farm duties, it was but natural, perhaps, that in selecting a calling in life, he should choose that of farming, and his choice has since proved very fortunate. He was married in Mississippi in 1846 to Miss Rebecca Adeline Hartsell, a native of North Carolina, who died in the country in 1879, after bearing six children, three of whom only survive: Elizabeth Ann (wife of Robert Allis), Daniel J. and Artelia M. In 1865 Mr. Harrison moved from his native State, and selected a location in this county, and here he has ever since made his home. He owns 240 acres of fine land, about 230 of which is under cultivation, lying about one mile west of Rocky Comfort. During the late war, he served twelve months in the Confederate cause, as a member of Company C, Twenty-eighth Mississippi Regiment. He takes a great interest in all public improvements, which he aids with his hearty support, and is considered among the leading citizens of the county.

## **J.C. Head**

JC Head, a prominent attorney and farmer of Richmond, was born in Hall County Ga., on October 28, 1828. His educational advantages were limited, his schooling being confined to thirteen months in country schools in his native State. He commenced the study of law early in life, and at the age of twenty two he was admitted to the bar of LaFayette, Walker County, GA. He subsequently moved to Ringgold, GA, and there practiced his profession until 1856, when he chose a location in the southeastern part of Kansas, from which he moved in July 1858. On August 1, 1858, he came to this State, and settled in Sebastian County for two years, and then moved to Waldron, Scott County. When the late war broke out he enlisted in the Confederate service, Company B, Gibson's and Chew's battalions, and served as quartermaster in Hawthorne's brigade for some time, but later returned home. He was afterward appointed first lieutenant of a detached company

commanded by his brother, and took part in the battles of Prairie Spring, Indian Territory, and Poison Spring, beside several minor engagements. He received his discharge at Richmond, on the Brazos of Texas, and immediately returned to his family, then in Upshur County, Tex., to find them in very destitute circumstances. He was ill up to December, 1867. After spending some time in Wood, Upshur and Kaufman Counties Tex., he finally chose a location at this place, and in 1868 entered upon the practice of law, in which he has successfully continued ever since. In connection with a very fair practice, Mr. Head is also interested in farming. He owns a large farm of 320 acres of good land with 100 acres under cultivation at his home, and he and his son own 440 acres, with 130 acres under cultivation, and together they raise some thirty five bales of cotton annually besides plenty of corn, etc. He has been twice married. He was first married on July 4, 1851, to Miss Sarah S. Hinton, by whom he became the father of the following children: Augusta (wife of Joel Eaton, of this place), Hindman C (an attorney of this place), Adda (wife of Oscar R. High, of this place), Dora (wife of EJ Cheever, now of Little Rock, Ark.), Julie H. (deceased wife of Charles D Johnson) and Milledge, Beaugard and Eudora (deceased). His wife died on October 13, 1870, and Mr. Head remained a widower until 1874. On July 27 of that year he was united in matrimony to Mrs. Mary A Britt, of this place, and they became the parents of two children: James D., and one who died in infancy. Mrs. Head passed from life on February 2, 1890, in full communion with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The first Mrs. Head was a worthy member of the Baptist Church. In his political views Mr Head affiliates with the Democratic party.

## **James M Head**

James M Head, a prominent merchant of Richmond, was born in Georgia in 1841, being a son of James A. and Sarah (Cain) Head, reference to whom is made in other pages of this volume. He spent his boyhood in his native State, where he also received his schooling, his educational advantages being extremely limited. In 1858 he moved to Sebastian County Ark., and after remaining there for two years moved to Scott County, at which place he was residing at the time of the outbreak of the late war, and it was from this place he enlisted in the Confederate service for four months. At the reorganization he was a member of Company A, Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles, and serves in McIntosh's regiment. During the last three years he was in the infantry service, and served in the Trans-Mississippi Department under Gens Bragg and Johnson, and took part in the battles of Richmond, Murfreesboro and Chickamauga, and with Johnson from Dalton to Atlanta. He participated in nearly all the battles fought by Johnston's army from the fall of 1862 until the close of the war, and surrendered at Greensboro, N.C Previous to crossing the river he was in the battle of Elk Horn, besides a number of skirmishes. At the close of the war he came to this place, and on arriving here was a financial wreck. He immediately rented land and engaged in farming, and was thus occupied until 1875, although in 1869 he, in partnership with his brother, had purchased eighty acres of land. However he continued to rent until the above mentioned date. In 1874, on account of poor health, he moved from Red River to the hills of this county, and here for one year he worked his little farm. In 1875, he engaged in mercantile pursuits at this place, which he was very successfully conducted ever since. Although not a cotton speculator he handles

about 650 bales of this commodity each year, and does an annual business of about \$30,000 to \$35,000. He has been twice married. He first marriage was celebrated in 1877 to Miss Mary A. Hamilton, daughter of Paul and Mary A (Pace) Hamilton, and their union was blessed in the birth of four children, two of whom have since died. Those now living are Mary and Hugh L. His second marriage occurred in 1889 to Miss Mollie M Smythe, daughter of OHP Smythe, a well-known pioneer of Mississippi, and a minister of the Presbyterian belief. Mr. and Mrs. Head are both members of the Old School Presbyterian Church. Mr Head has been very successful though life, and has accumulated considerable property. Besides his business and residence property, he owns 150 acres of cultivated land, and about 700 acres of wild land, and is generally conceded to be one of the well to do and substantial citizens of Little River County.

## **Hon. Hindman C. Head**

The people of Little River County are thoroughly familiar with the name that heads this sketch, for it stands as the representative of a man who, although young in years, is one of its most respected and influential citizens. Mr Head owes his nativity to Sebastian County, this State where he was born in 1860, the fifth born to the union of J.C. and Sarah (Hinton) Head, mention of whom is made else where in this volume. He received his education in the common or free schools of this county, supplemented by one term at the Arkadelphia Baptist School, when he was in his seventeenth year, and in 1878 and 1879 attended the Fayette University, after which he came home and clerked in a dry goods store. Later he was occupied in teaching school, and then took up the study of law in his father's office, and in 1882 was admitted to the bar at this place, and is now practicing in this and adjoining counties. He made the race for the office of representative in the Lower House of the State Legislature in 1886, and was elected, filling this office so capably as to be re-elected in 1888. He is a very promising young man, and will, no doubt, be one of the prominent men of the State in time. His marriage to Miss Dadie Sandefur, daughter of PJ and Mary Sandefur was consummated in 1887, and their union has been blessed with two little children. Mary S. and unnamed. Mrs. Head was born in this county in 1869, she is a most estimable lady, and a member of the Old School Presbyterian Church. In politics Mr. Head is a Democrat.

## **James T. Henderson**

In reviewing the lives of prominent residents of Little River County, mention must be made of Mr. Henderson, an extensive farmer, and proprietor of a cotton-gin and saw-mill, of Franklin Township. He first came to this county with his parents in 1841, at the age of nineteen years, being among the first settlers, and he has made his home uninterruptedly ever since. He owns a fine farm of 320 acres, with about seventy-five acres under cultivation, and he devotes his attention to tilling this farm, in connection with conducting a ginning and saw mill business. He erected his first cotton-gin about 1870, but this was burned in 1880, and soon after he built his present gin with saw mill attached, at a cost of \$2500. The mill has a capacity of 10,000 feet per day, and turns out excellent work. Mr. Henderson is one of two survivors of a family of five children, the

other being Wilson Henderson, a resident of Texas. He was born in Tennessee on March 5, 1822, being a son of James T. and Mary Elizabeth (Usrey) Henderson, both of whom were natives of Tennessee. The paternal grandfather, Wilson Henderson was born in South Carolina, of Irish and Welsh descent, and emigrated from his native State to Tennessee at an early day. The father departed this life in Middle Tennessee in 1824, and in 1841 his widow emigrated with her family to Little River County Ark., where she spent the remainder of her days, passing from this life in 1865. James T. Henderson was united in marriage in 1851 to Miss Caroline Davidson, a native of Tennessee, who died in 1856, leaving one child (since deceased). After her death he remained a widower until 1865, and then Miss Mary Jane Bass, a native of Georgia, became his wife, and their union was blessed in the birth of two children: Alma H. (wife of Luke Hagerly), and Ida J. (at home). He belongs to the Masonic fraternity. In politics he is a staunch Democrat, casting his first vote for James K. Polk and has served as justice of the peace for Franklin Township for twenty-five years. He is a very enterprising and public-spirited, and both he and wife are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

## **Samuel Henry**

Nowhere within the limits of Little River County, Ark., can there be found a man who takes greater interest in its agricultural affairs than Mr. Henry, or who strives more continually to promote and advance this interest. He is the only survivor of ten children born to James Henry and wife, nee Nancy Keeney, both natives of Tennessee. The father was a farmer and miller by occupation, and followed these pursuits in his native State all his life. The mother passed to her final home in Texas, in 1884. Samuel Henry was born in Tennessee in 1823, and remained at home until he had attained his twenty-first year, obtaining his education in the common schools of his native State. In 1844 he moved to Georgia, and there made his home for four years, but in 1859 he came to this state, settling in what was then Sevier, but is now Little River County, where he has ever since made his home. At that time this State was rather sparsely settled, and most of the inhabitants were of the class it takes to open up and improve a country-of a hardy race-pioneers of Tennessee and Alabama, who as those States settled up had moved to this by then new State. The majority of them depended largely on hunting for a living, and at that time there was but very little farming done. On coming here, Mr. Henry too up eighty acres of land to which he has since added the balance of 900 acres, with about 150 acres under cultivation. This land is located on the Red and Little Rivers. In the latter part of 1862, he enlisted in the Confederate cause, joining Hunter's battalion, and was assigned to the Western Department under Gen Cable, but never took part in any battle. He surrendered at Marshal, Tex., and immediately after returned to his home. At that time he owned eighty acres of land, and he set about cultivating without anything to farm with. Since then he has added the remaining portion of his fine large farm. His marriage to Miss Martha Simerly was celebrated in June 1844, and their union has been blessed in the birth of six children, two of whom died while quite small. They are: Mary C. (deceased wife of Robert E. Coleman, of this county), Nancy K, and Hester M (at home) and J.W. (a farmer of this county). Mr. Henry is one of the leading agriculturalists of this locality, taking an active interest in politics, and cast his vote with the Democratic party. He aids with his support and encouragement, the upbuilding of schools and churches, as he does,

in fact, all things tending toward the welfare of the community. He has served as justice of the peace of his township for eight years.

## **Oscar R. High**

In enumerating the enterprising and progressive agriculturalist of Little River County, Mr. High must not be overlooked, for he is acknowledged to be one of the leading men of the community. His birth occurred in Hempstead County, Ark., in 1847. His parents, Alsa A. and Betsy (Lewis) High, both of whom were Virginians by birth, had a family of twelve children, of whom he was the sixth in order of birth. The father came to this State in 1835, and chose a home in Hempstead County, and here he purchased unimproved land, which he cleared and made into one of the finest farms in that section. He was one of the first residents of Washington Ark., and erected one of the first hotels in the place, which he conducted in connection with his farming operations. He was one of the prominent men of his section, and served in various official capacities, acting as internal improvement commissioner of Hempstead County for a number of years. He died in 1883, in his seventy-third year, a worthy member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, as was also his wife, who passed away from life during the war. Oscar R. High was reared into maturity in his native county, and obtained his education in the common schools at Washington. In 1863 he joined L.C. Carington's company of Texas Calvary, commanded by Col. Ford, and served most of the time on the Gulf and Rio Grande, participating in quite a number of minor engagements. He was at the recapture of Brownsville, Tex., in 1864, which place the forces held until the close of the war. Mr. High was in the last engagement of the late war in which his side was victorious, the Confederate forces being commanded by Gen. Slaughter, and the Federals by one Gen Brown. At the close of the war he returned home, to find his father at Austin, Tex. He stayed there for a short time, and in the fall of 1865 came back to this State, and located in this county and engaged in farming. Our subject was occupied in the dry goods and grocery business under various merchants of this place (Richmond) until 1885, since which time he has engaged in farming on Red River, in Little River County, and is numbered among the prosperous and well-to-do citizens of this county. His marriage to Miss Addie, daughter of J.C. Head, of this place, was consummated in 1880, and has resulted in the birth of four children, three of who are still living: Rainey D., Ethel E., Clarence B. and Heller. In 1884 he was elected to the office of county treasurer, and filled that office very creditably for one term. He belongs to the K. of H. and in politics is a staunch Democrat.

## **William T. Holman**

The occupation which this gentleman now follows has received his attention the greater part of his life, and it is but truth to say that in it he is thoroughly posted and well informed, and his labors in this direction have contributed very materially to the reputation Little River County enjoys as a rich farming region. He was born in Madison County, Mo., August 9, 1815, the second of ten children reared to maturity by James and Rebecca Tong Holman. The former was born in Kentucky in 1781, and departed this life

in Texas in his ninety-eighth year. In early life he emigrated to Madison County, Mo., where he resided until 1824, when he moved to Hempstead County, Ark., and there made his home for two years, subsequently coming to Sevier County. He was among the earliest settlers of this county, and took a prominent part in its affairs, representing it one term in the State Legislature. His first marriage was consummated in Kentucky, Miss Elizabeth McNeil becoming his wife, and they became the parents of two children. After his death he married Miss Rebecca Tong, a native of Maryland, who passed to her final home in Paris, Tex., about 1858. Of the ten children born to this last marriage, six are still living: Emily (widow of Henry K. Brown), William T. Nancy (wife of Thomas Guinn, a resident of California), Daniel (a resident of Sevier County, Ark), and Susan (now the widow of Lewis M. Schrack, who makes her home in California). William T. Holman was nine years of age when his parents immigrated from Missouri, and he grew to manhood in what is now Sevier County, Ark., obtaining his education in the common schools. His marriage to Miss Mary Stewart, a native of Hempstead County, was consummated in 1841, and in 1848 she passed to her final home, and Henry B. Holman, now the sheriff of Hempstead County, is the only survivor of two children born to this marriage. In 1849 Mr. Holman crossed the plains to California, and was there engaged in mining and farming until 1856, when he came to this county, and here he has resided ever since. The same year of his arrival in this county, Miss Eliza Fuquay, a native of Hempstead County, Ark., and the daughter of Thomas W. and Delia (Brown) Fuquay, became his wife. Her father, a minister of the Presbyterian persuasion, was of French extraction, and claimed Kentucky as his birthplace. Early in life he moved to the Indian Territory, coming thence, in 1828 to Hempstead County, Ark., and later settling in Sevier County, same State, where he passed from life in 1859. His wife was a Virginian by birth, and died in September, 1886, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Holman, with whom she had spent her last days. To the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Holman have been born nine children-four sons and five daughters: Adelaide (wife of N.T. Richmond), James T., Mary J. (deceased), Edgar W., William L., Lucy, Frances, Lloyd C., and Elise. Mr. Holman has not spent his life in idleness, as his fine farm lying three miles northwest of Rocky Comfort, and about one and one-half miles from Indian Territory will show and he devotes his attention to cultivating 250 acres of the 720 acres which this tract contains. During the late war he raised a company (in 1863) of which he was captain, and served as such until the surrender. In 1868 he was chosen Representative of Sevier County, and served as such very creditably for two years, during which time Little River County was formed from a portion of Sevier and Hempstead Counties. His first presidential vote was cast for William H. Harrison, and his last presidential vote was cast for Grover Cleveland. Mrs. Holman is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

## **Judge Littleton J. Joyner**

Within the limits of Little River County there is not a man of greater personal ability than Judge Joyner, a man of recognized worth and substantial and progressive spirit. His birth occurred in Lebanon, Wilson County, Tenn., in 1822, whither his parents, Littleton and Parthenia (Cartright) Joyner, natives of North Carolina, had moved a number of years before. The Joyners are of English descent, and trace their ancestry back to two brothers, Absalom and Joshua

Joyner, who emigrated to America at quite an early day, prior to the Revolutionary War. Littleton Joyner, Sr. served as lieutenant in the War of 1812, and fought with Jackson in the battle of New Orleans. He was a merchant for a number of years, but failed. After his failure he was elected clerk of Haywood County, Tenn., whither he had moved in 1827, and for twenty-two years he discharged the duties of this responsible position with entire satisfaction to all concerned. His death occurred in 1852, and was greatly mourned by all in the community with which he had been so long and prominently identified. Of the eight children bore to himself and wife- five boys and three girls-only three are now living: Jesse D., Alfred B. and Littleton J. Jesse D. resides in Pleasant Plains, Independence County, Ark. He is now eighty-five years of age, and is quite an active man. Alfred B is an active elderly gentleman of eighty years, and resides on the old homestead in Tennessee. Little J. is the subject of this sketch. His literary education was obtained in the common schools of West Tennessee, followed by a collegiate course at Brownsville Institute. Dr. Elija Slack, president, from which institution he was graduated in 1842, and immediately after he commenced the study of law under J.W. Strother. He was admitted to the bar in 1845, by Judges Campbell and Reed, the former being chancery judge and the latter circuit judge. This licensed Mr. Joyner to practice anywhere in the State of Tennessee. In 1850, he located in Princeton, Dallas County, Ark., and was occupied in teaching school at that place for four years, and at Washington, Hempstead County, for a period of six years. He located in this village in 1861, and for a period of three years between this date and 1867 he was employed in teaching school. He opened up a law office in 1867 and practiced without interruption until 1874, when he was elected judge of the Eighth Judicial District, and served for a term of four years. In 1879 he moved to Texarkana and resumed the practice of law, in partnership with ex-Judge L.A. Byrne of that place, and together they conducted a good law business for four years. Mr. Joyner then returned to this place in 1883, and engaged in the practice of his profession, not alone for the purpose of practicing law, but that he might gratify his taste for agricultural life on his farm on the Red River. This farm comprises 2,000 acres of tillable land, separated into three small farms in the hilly portion of this county, with eighty-five acres of improved land. The land is rented and worked on one farm to supply the demands of that place. He is one of the substantial farmers in the county, and is liberal in religion and politics. He has been twice married. His first wife, to whom he was married in 1846, was Miss Mary G. Chiles, daughter of Garland Chiles of South Carolina, and was born in South Carolina. Her mother, formerly Eliza Haygood, was a member of one of the leading families of South Carolina, some of that family being among the most prominent men of that grand old State. The fruits of this union were seven children, but three of whom are now living. They are L. Garland (a resident of this place), Jesse R., and Estelle L. (widow of C.D. Johnson) In 1881 Mrs. Joyner passed to her final home, and in 1884 he was joined in matrimonial bonds with Miss Anna L. Derrick, daughter of W.S. and Anna P. (Lyons) Derrick. Her parents were Pennsylvanians, and for a number of administrations her father acted as chief clerk, under the Secretary of State. Mr. Joyner is a member of the

Methodist Episcopal Church, South, as was his first wife, but the present Mrs. Joyner belongs to the Episcopal Church. The Judge is a demitted member of the A.F. & A. M., and once belonged to the I.O.O.F. He is a good man, and has the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

## **Fountain M. McIver**

Fountain A. McIver, a successful merchant and agriculturalist of Rocky Comfort, was born in Dallas County, Ala., near Selma, on January 30, 1850, being the eldest of five children born to Alexander M. and Elizabeth C (Coleman) McIver, natives of South Carolina, born on July 21, 1821, and 1826, respectively. The paternal grandfather, Gen. Thomas E McIver, was born in South Carolina, and departed this life in Alabama, whither he had immigrated about 1845. The McIvers are of Scotch extraction. Alexander M McIver was a merchant and farmer by occupation, and followed these pursuits in South Carolina and Alabama (having moved to this latter State about 1845) very successfully all his life. During the late war he served in the Confederate army with the rank of captain. He died in Alabama in 1869, leaving a widow who still survives, making her home in Evergreen, Ala., but who is now enjoying a visit with her son, our subject. The children born to their marriage are: Fountain A., John E. (book keeper and cashier for the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine Company, at Atlanta, Ga.), Ed J. (Now practicing dentistry in Alabama), James M. (Principal of the Fort Deposit(Ala) High School), and Sallie F. (assistant principal of Fort Deposit High School). Fountain A. McIver attained his growth in Alabama, and being the eldest child, at his father's death, it devolved upon him to manage the home affairs, hence his education was more limited than that attained by his brothers and sister. His marriage to Miss Leila D. Holcombe was consummated in 1875. She was born in Mobile, Ala., in 1857, being a daughter of Henry B. Holcombe and wife, nee Brigitte Tanner, but her life, up to the age of ten years was spent in Louisiana. To their marriage six children have been given, two of whom died in infancy, three daughters and one son survive: Henry M., Antoinette D., Ethel R., and Florence S. In 1879, on account of failing health, Mr. McIver decided to leave his native State for the mountains of Arkansas, and while passing through this county he was urged to accept the management of one of its schools. Being pleased with the locality, he was finally induced to remain, and for the six years following taught school continuously. Subsequently, he entered the employ, as book keeper, of John Read, a leading merchant of this town, a position which he still holds. During this time he invested in two fine farms, one lying about one and three fourths miles south of Rocky Comfort, and the other located in Red River Township, and he is now occupied in cultivating this land. He is an enterprising citizen, and takes a deep interest in all enterprises pertaining to the welfare of the community. In secret societies he affiliates with the Rocky Comfort Lodge of A.F. & A. M. of which he is secretary, and is a member of the K. of H., being a reporter of his lodge. He and wife are numbered among the prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of Rocky Comfort, and are among the most active workers in that body. He is now acting as steward of this church, and is the present superintendent of the Sunday-School.

## **S.W. McKneely**

Among the many honored citizens of Little River County none are more deserving of prominent mention than he whose name heads this sketch. Originally from Louisiana, he first saw the light on September 16, 1853, being the son of Alec T. and Martha P. (Skipwith) McKneely, of Scotch-Irish extraction. The maternal grandfather was one of the leading physicians of the State of Louisiana. The father, Alec T. McKneely, was born in Louisiana about 1824, whither his parents had moved from South Carolina. His brother, Samuel W. McKneely, was a soldier in the Mexican War, and since then, while living in this State, took an active part in politics. He also served in the State Legislature of Louisiana, and at one time was quite prominent, politically, in the State of Texas, being one of the leading politicians of Bowie County. He died in Texarkana, February 17, 1889, in his seventy second year, and at the time of his death was one of the most prominent men in this portion of the State. Alec T. McKneely served during the latter part of the late war. He is a farmer and cotton planter, and resides in his home in Pointe Coupee Parish, La., where he is numbered among the leading men of that section: his wife, who was born June 14, 1838, is still living. They were the parents of five children, viz: S.W., Appalona (wife of W.C. Germany, of Louisiana), Eustia J. (wife of Rich Scarborough, of Louisiana), Mattie P. and Alec T., Jr. (both of Louisiana). S.W. McKneely grew to mature years and was educated in Louisiana, and at the age of twenty one engaged in farming in this county, whither he had previously moved. He first carried on his farming operations on rented land, but after three years he purchased 650 acres of good land on the Red River, about 500 of which are under cultivation, on which he raises from 150-200 bales of cotton annually, besides plenty of corn. He is also extensively occupied in breeding horse and mules, and is conceded to be one of the leading farmers of this locality. He is one of the foremost Democrats in this county, and takes an active interest in local politics. In 1881 Miss Sallie Sandefur, daughter of P.J. and Mary Sandefur, old and respected citizens of this county, became his wife, and the fruits of their married life were two children: Samuel S. and Mariah L. Mrs. McKneely, whose death occurred May 11, 1890, was a member of the Old School Presbyterian Church.

## **John B. McKnight**

John B. McKnight, farmer of Johnson Township, Little River County. He whose name heads this sketch is well known in the agricultural circles of this section, and to the many readers of this volume, a brief outline of his life will prove interesting. Originally from South Carolina, he was born in 1843, the fourth of seven children born to Thomas McKnight and wife, nee Mary Morrow. They were among the leading families of South Carolina, where, previous to the war, the father owned a large plantation and a number of slaves, which however, were all swept away in the struggle, leaving him comparatively poor. He died in his native State, in 1868, his wife having passed away in 1862. John B. McKnight was reared to manhood and educated in York County (his birthplace), and at the age of twenty years, enlisted in Company B, Twelfth South Carolina Regiment, and was assigned to the Army of Northern Virginia. He was in a number of engagements, among them being the seven days' fight around Richmond, Manassas, and at the battles

of the Wilderness, Sharpsburg, and Gettysburg. At the latter battle he served as a non-commissioned officer; was wounded in the right knee at the battle of Manassas, and at the battle of Fort Delaware, where he was retained until the close of the war. After the surrender he returned home, finding himself a financial wreck, he set to work to repair his fallen fortunes, and to that end rented land and engaged in agricultural pursuits. He tilled the soil with good success until 1867, when he left his native State, and chose a location in Jefferson County, Ark. Here he rented land and farmed for two years. In 1870 he moved to Washington, where he took charge of Dr. Williamson's plantation for two years. In 1873 he took charge of and managed A.O. Stewart's plantation for five years, and in 1878 he and L. R. Muldron purchased a plantation, known as the Moore plantation, and for the next five years he was occupied in cultivating this. He then worked Edward Jett's plantation for six years, and then purchased a plantation in the county, consisting of 200 acres, with 100 acres under a fine state of cultivation, which he farmed very successfully until 1889, raising annually about forty bales of cotton. at the above mentioned date he leased a farm in the Red River bottoms, in this county, of about 600 acres, on which he raises an average of two thirds of a bale per acre, his crop for 1889 being 185 bales of cotton. He still retains his farm in Hempstead County. Mr. McKnight has never been married. He is a very public spirited gentleman, and at all times takes a deep interest in the welfare of the county, contributing liberally to all laudable public enterprises.

## **S.S.P. Mills**

SSP Mills, the popular sheriff of Little River County, was ushered into the world in Yalobusha County, Miss., in 1844, being the son of Joel Mills and wife, nee Caturia B. Byrd. When he was a lad of eight years his parents moved to this State and chose o home in Sevier, now Little River County. Here they purchased a farm, slightly improved, on which they passed their life, he dying in 1871. His death was followed in 1875 by that of his widow. They were the parents of six children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the third in order of birth, and the only one now living. He was reared on his father's farm and obtained his education in the common schools of this county. In 1862, at the age of seventeen years and three months, he enlisted in Company K of Whitfield's Texas Legion, and was assigned to the east side of the Mississippi River. He took part in the battles of Corinth and Iuka, He was at Holly Springs, and participated in the capture of that place. Next he was engaged at the battle of Franklin, and from there, after the death of Gen Vandorne, he returned to Mississippi, and in June, 1863, came home on parole. In the fall of 1863 he made a trip to Mexico with his father returning the following spring, and after Gen Price made his famous raid through Missouri he joined Company C of Col. Newton's regiment of Arkansas Calvary. At the close of the war he returned home broken in health and purse, and with his father engaged in farming on rented land. He was united in marriage, in 1867, to Miss Catherine R. McCord, daughter of John and Mary G. McCord. At teh time of his marriage his worldly possessions consisted of two Choctaw ponies, he now owns some 1700 acres of land, with about 300 acres under cultivation, which produces about 100 bales of cotton, besides corn and oats, and other farm products. In 1878 he was elected justice of the peace of his township, and discharged the duties of that office very satisfactorily for two years, after which he moved to this place

(Richmond), and during 1881 and 1882 again served as justice of the peace. HE made a successful race for the office of county sheriff in 1884, and has succeeded himself ever since, much to the satisfaction of all concerned. The following are the children born to himself and wife: Amelia A (wife of WM Sikes, of this place), Ada, Joel, Henry (deceased), and Kate C. Mr. and Mrs. Mills are worthy members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The former affiliates with Richmond Lodge No. 3420, K. of H., and in politics is a staunch Democrat.

## Jacob Moon

Jacob Moon, farmer of Franklin Township, Little River County, Ark. In reviewing the lives of prominent citizens of Little River County, the name of Jacob Moon is justly given an enviable position, for it is difficult to find one of the present day more entitled to honorable mention, or who possesses to such an extent the esteem of his acquaintances. He owes his nativity to Georgia, where he was born in 1826, being a son of Jesse and Mary (Phelps) Moon, natives of Georgia. The former and the noted Alexander Stephens were bound boys in the same county. They were both taken in charge of by Jesse Mercer and sent to school at Penfield Ga., and both graduated there at the same time, and afterward became distinguished in the Missionary Baptist Church. Jesse Moon moved to Alabama in his forty-fourth year, and there made his home until his death, in 1848. His life had been passed in his ministerial labors, and at the time of his death he had charge of the church at Salem, Ala. He and wife were the parents of thirteen children, five of whom are now living: Jephtha M. (farmer of Miller County), Jacob, Jesse M., ( a farmer of Georgia), H.H. ( of this county), and Joel C. (of Georgia). The mother died in this State in 1868. Jacob Moon obtained his education in Antioch, Ga., and at the age of twenty years commence tilling the soil on a farm in Alabama, given him by his father. He farmed in that State until 1858, when he moved to Claiborne Parish, La., and followed agricultural pursuits there for three years. In the early part of 1861 he came to this county and settled where he now lives, fourteen miles east of Richmond. He first purchased eighty acres of land, to which he has since added the balance of 400 acres. This was then all unimproved, but he now has 200 acres under a fine state of cultivation, with good substantial buildings, outhouses, etc. His principal crop is cotton, of which he raises about forty bales annually, and gives considerable attention to raising horses, mules and cattle, and has the reputation of raising the finest hogs in the county. He is also justly proud of a diploma received at the New Orleans Exposition for being the producer of the finest cotton grown in America, or the world. He commenced growing cotton fifteen years ago, and since that time, has been improving the quality of his product, and since 1875 has been receiving from 3 to 5 cents per pound more for his cotton (known as Moon's improved cotton) than any other man in the United States. He raised forty bales during the year 1889, which sold for from 12 & 1/2 to 15 cents per pound. He does his own ginning, and never allows any other cotton ginned on his gin. The seed of his cotton sells for \$1.50 per bushel, and he does not raise enough by one half to supply the demand for it. From 1862 until the close of the war, Mr. Moon served in the Confederate army, the first two years as assistant agent of the Commissary Department, but the year of 1864-65 was spent in the regular army, in Col. Robert Newton's regiment in the trans-Mississippi Department. During this time he participated in a few skirmishes, but no regular battles. His command

was disbanded at Doolie's Ferry, on Big Red River, and immediately after he returned to his home, and resumed his farming operations. The close of the war left him in a deplorable state, all his negroes gone and his family residing on a new place, without anything done in the way of making a home comfortable. He was married in 1849, to Miss Mary H. Spinks, of Alabama, and the fruits of their married life were eight children, five of whom grew to maturity: Henry N. ( a farmer of this county), J.T. (also a farmer of this county), George S. (in a dry goods store in Texarkana, Tex.) and Caado L and Mary A. (at home). Mr. Moon belongs to the A.F. & A. M. , and in politics is a staunch Democrat.

## **Alex R. Moores**

Alex R. Moores, a prominent resident of Richmond, was born in Texas, on January 24, 1844, being the second of thirteen children born to the union of Anderson R. Moores and wife, nee Paulina T. Jarrett, natives of South Carolina and Tennessee, respectively. The former came to Texas (then the Republic of Texas) at the age of fifteen, in 1839, with his father, or rather in charge of his father's slaves, and located west of Texarkana, in what is now Bowie County, and in 1842 joined the Regular Army of the Republic, and at the age of eighteen years was commissioned major by Sam Houston, at that time president of the Republic, and served as such for some time, although he was not in the war with Mexico in 1848. When he settled in Texas with his father, there were but very few people living west of the Red River, and neighbors were scattering, the distance being frequently as much as ten to fifteen miles from one settlement to another. Indians were still plentiful in this section of the State, but never gave any trouble, and murders and robberies were almost unknown at that time. Wild cattle abounded all over this portion of Texas, and one hundred miles west of their settlement bear, deer and wild turkeys were very plentiful. Both the maternal and paternal grandparents of our subject were among the early pioneers of this State, and the maternal grandfather, David Jarrett, as surveyor of this section, surveyed nearly all the land in this eastern part of Texas. Prior to his location here he had also assisted in surveying and locating the city of Memphis, Tenn. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, and was at the battle of New Orleans. Settling here as they did at a very early day, the two families were quite intimately acquainted with Sam Houston and his eccentricities. In 1856 there was a severe drought in Eastern Texas and crops were short. Salt and other groceries had to be hauled from Gaines Landing, Chicot County, Ark., to as far west as 200 miles into Texas. It took about four weeks to make such a trip, and salt at that place sold for \$15 per sack and was hard to get at that price. The father of our subject died in Texas, in 1873, in his forty-ninth year, his wife having previously died in Texas, in 1862, at the age of thirty seven years. Of the thirteen children born to their marriage, only four are now living: Mary J. (now Mrs. Dunn, of this city), Mattie M. (now the wife of Arthur Miller), Adella W. (wife of Robert M Dunn, of the firm of Dunn & Ross, merchants of Leemon, Mo.), and Alex R. The latter obtained a fair education in the common schools of Boston, Texas, and at the age of sixteen years entered a dry goods house as clerk. At the age of eighteen years he joined Crupp's battalion, which was the first battalion of Texas Calvary, and was reorganized and constituted a part of the Thirty Second Texas Dismounted Calvary, at Corinth. He was in the battles of Richmond and Murfreesboro, from Dalton, Ga., to Atlanta, thence to

Nashville, Tenn, and from there to Alabama and Mississippi. He surrendered at Jefferson, Tex. At the close of the war he engaged in mercantile pursuits at Sulpher Springs, Tex., in which he continued until 1867, when he came to this place and engaged in merchandising. After conducting a merchandise business for one year, under the firm name of Moores, Connor & Co., he sold out and turned his attention to farming. In 1874 he opened a general merchandise establishment in Texarkana, and conducted it very successfully for nine years, and in 1883 came to this place and purchased the interest of Dr. J. M. Dun, who was associated A.J. Mims in a general merchandise business, the latter being the general manager and the concern was continued for six years under the name of Mims & Moores, doing a business of from \$60,000 to \$100,000 annually. He has recently retired to his farm close to the village, and devotes his attention to raising horses, mules, etc., and cultivates about 100 acres of land. By his marriage to Miss Rebecca Williamson, of this place, which occurred in 1871, Mr. Moores became the father of three children: Carrie L., May D., and Lizzie R. Mrs. Moores was a devoted member of the Old School Presbyterian Church, and her death occurred in 1885, in the thirty-first year. Her husband remained a widower for two years, and then, in 1887, was united in marriage to Miss Nellie V. Cook, of Gonzales, Tex., and they are the parents of one child. Both Mr. and Mrs. Moores are church members, but belong to different denominations, he believing in the doctrines of the Old School Presbyterian Church, and she in those of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. He is a member of the K. of H., and also belongs to Texarkana Lodge No. 1903, K & L of H.

## **Ralph E. Phelps**

During a professional career of thirty-four years Mr. Phelps has become a successful attorney, and justly deserves the eulogisms bestowed upon him by his legal brethren. He was born December 26, 1833, in Virginia, being a son of Hugh L. and Mary (Edgerton) Phelps, both natives of Virginia, and the latter being the daughter of McConnel and Mary (Maxwell) Edgerton, who were born in Scotland. The Phelps family have been residents of Virginia since 1680, and the grandfather and great grandfather of our subject were soldiers in the Revolutionary War. The father, a planter by occupation, passed his life in his native State, and there he received his final summons, in 1862, his death being followed four years later by that of his wife. They were the parents of two children: Florence and Ralph E. The latter attained his growth in his native State, and there received his education. At the age of eighteen years he commenced reading law, and soon after his twenty-first birthday he was admitted to the bar. In 1855 he went to California, and was occupied there in mining and practicing law, and in 1857 was made a member of the Legislature, and was also prosecuting attorney for the Sixteenth Judicial District during 1858-59, when he returned to Virginia, and in April 1861 he enlisted in the Confederate States Army, joining Company A Fourth Virginia Cavalry, in which he served as captain until the surrender, in April 1865, participating in all the engagements in the campaign of Virginia. He was married in 1864 to Miss Mary Strather, a native of Virginia, and they became the parents of one child, Mary (now the wife of James Cantrell). They are both prominent members of the Episcopal Church, and are deeply interested in all religious matters, and socially, Mr. Phelps belongs to the I.O.O.F. He is

the owner of a fine farm of 400 acres, and is numbered among the substantial and enterprising residents of this county.

## **John Read**

John Reas, a leading merchant of Rocky Comfort, Ark., owes his nativity to Huntsville, Ala., where he opened his eyes to this world on October 12, 1821, being the son of Edmond Read and wife, nee, Edna Harvey, natives of North Carolina. The former moved from his native State to Alabama in early life, and there made his home for a number of years, but in 1824, when John was about three years of age, he moved to Rutherford County Tenn., and departed this life in Bedford County, that State, in 1866. During his life he was occupied in farming, a calling in which he was eminently successful. The paternal grandfather, David Read, was born in North Carolina. The subject of this sketch is one of a family of nine children-two sons and seven daughters- born to their marriage, their names being: William R., Martha I., Sarah A.L., Betsy A., John, Dorothea A., Susan A.L., Melinda J. and Matilda A., the two latter being twins. John Read was educated in the common schools of Rutherford County, Tenn., where he attained his growth. December 26, 1839 witnessed his marriage to Miss Mary E. Spain, a native of Tennessee, who passed to her final home on August 10, 1864, and on November 30, following, he formed a matrimonial alliance with Miss Mary Elizabeth Campbell, his present wife. She was born in Lauderdale County, Ala., October 22, 1846, and was the youngest of eight children born to James E. and Alsa (Reader) Campbell, natives of Tennessee and South Carolina respectively, both of whom died in this county. Having no children of their own, Mr. and Mrs. Read have taken three orphaned nieces to their home and are rearing them to honest womanhood. Their names are Leona Davis (Mrs. Read's sister's child), and Mally and Mattie Campbell (her brother's children). When Mr. Read first came to Arkansas, in December 1861, he chose a location in Monroe County, but after making his home there for two years, he came to Little River County, and in September 1863, he took up his residence in this county, and has ever since been prominently identified with its material interests. In 1868 he was appointed county treasurer, and stepped out of that office at the end of four years to accept that of sheriff, to which he had been elected in November 1872. He discharged the duties of this latter office in a highly satisfactory manner, and at the end of his term was re-elected by a large majority. He has also acted in several official capacities, and for one term served as justice of the peace, of Red River Township. He was formerly a Whig in politics, and cast his first presidential vote for Henry Clay, but since the reorganization of that party, he has been a staunch Republican. In June 1869, Mr. Read embarked in the saw mill business, and this occupied his attention until 1872, when he disposed of his milling interests. He opened up his mercantile establishment in Rocky Comfort, in 1878, and he has successfully conducted this ever since, and he now enjoys a liberal trade with Rocky Comfort and the surrounding country. He carries a stock and securities valued at \$40,000, and in addition to merchandising, is a large cotton buyer. Besides these interests, he owns several town lots, and is acting as agent for a Mr. Charles, managing about 900 acres of land. He and wife are both members of the Christian Church.

## **Dr. Louis A. Sager**

Dr. Luis A. Sager, practicing physician and surgeon of Rocky Comfort, Ark. In recording the names of faithful practitioners of medicine in this locality, that of Louis A. Sager will always be given a prominent and enviable position. There are two ways to gain a reputation—one by the influence of friends, and the other by individual application and true worth. The latter applies to Dr. Sager, who has certainly reached the top round of the ladder in that most notable of all professions. He is a native-born resident of Arkansas, having been ushered into this world in Benton County on November 19, 1850, the youngest in a family of eleven children. His parents, Simon and Wilhelmina (Meyer) Sager, were both born in Germany, and were married in their native country. About 1830 they emigrated to the United States, and settled in Kansas City, Mo., but later moved to Benton County, Ark, where they made their home, and there the father engaged in the stock business on a large scale. He died in 1863, leaving a widow, who survived until 1870, when she passed to her final home. Louis A. Sager obtained his literary education in the schools of Benton County Ark., and Kansas City, Mo. where he spent his youthful days, subsequently entering the Eclectic Medical College of Cincinnati, from which institution he was graduated in 1874. After taking a thorough course at the Louisville (Ky.) Medical College, he graduated in 1876, and later, in 1879, graduated from the Bellevue Hospital Medical College of New York, and has been actively engaged in the practice of medicine since that time. Prior to this, however, in 1874, he had entered upon his career, the scenes of his labors being in the Choctaw Nation. In 1882 he came to Rocky Comfort, and here he has already established a large practice, which, however, is mostly confined to his office, his patients coming from far and near to consult him, as he has the reputation of being one of the most skilled surgeons and specialists in the State. He is a hard student, and keeps thoroughly apace with the strides which are constantly being made in his profession, and takes a number of leading medical journals. He has been twice married—first, in July 1876, to Miss Emma Copeland, born at Wheelock, Ind. Ter., who passed to her final home in 1877. He married his present wife on November 19, 1880, and one child, Eula ( now seven years of age), is the result of this marriage. Mrs. Sager was formerly Mrs. Florence Holman, and she is numbered among the worthy members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Dr. Sager belongs to the Masonic order, and is classed among the leading and well-to-do citizens of Little River County.

## **P.J. Sandefur**

Of the many prominent and worthy citizens of Little River County, none are more deserving of mention than Mr. Sandefur, who has for so long a time been so closely connected with its material interests. His birth occurred in Alabama, in 1830, being one of nine children, four of whom are still living, born to the marriage of Patrick H. and Sarah (Dickinson) Sandefur, both of whom owed their nativity to Alabama. The father was of Scotch-English descent. In 1835 they immigrated to what is now Little River County, Ark, being among the first settlers, and here the father purchased unimproved land, which he set about converting into a good farm. He made his home in 1859 in Washington, Hempstead County, whither he had gone for his daughters, who were

attending school, and were threatened with the small pox. P.J. Sandefur has been a resident of this ever since his fifth year, and was educated in the common schools. Being reared on a farm, he was early initiated in farm duties, and it was but natural perhaps that in choosing an occupation in life, he should select farming, which calling has ever since occupied his attention. His marriage to Miss M.J. Mallow was consummated in 1852. She was born in Hempstead County, Ark., in 1829, and was a daughter of Michael and Lotta (Gertner) Mallow, both of whom were born in Virginia. They were among the first settlers of Hempstead County, Ark., and their death occurred in Collin County, Tex., whither they had moved in 1855. Mr. and Mrs. Sandefur were the parents of ten children—seven sons and three daughters, nine of whom survive: Benjamin P., Patrick, Henry, Sallie (wife of S.W. McKneely), Leon, Maria (wife of R.S. Chaytor), Willie, Dadie (wife of H.C. Head), and Lillie. Mrs. Sandefur had been previously married to a Mr. McClary, by whom she had two children, only one of whom, Jesse McClary, is now living. Mr. Sandefur is one of the representative farmers of Franklin Township, and his honorable and upright bearing have won for him a host of friends. His farm, on which he lives, is located about twelve miles east of Richmond, and comprises 360 acres of good land, with about 120 acres under cultivation. He has this finely improved, and always raises a good crop, and on this farm is an orchard, which is conceded to be one of the finest in the county. The Cumberland Presbyterian Church numbers Mr. and Mrs. Sandefur among its most respected members.

## **Henry M. Sandefur**

Henry M. Sandefur, merchant of Peytonville, is a native born resident of Franklin Township, Little River County, being a son of P.J. Sandefur, a worthy pioneer of this county, a sketch of whose life appears elsewhere in this work. He opened his eyes to the light of this world on September 28, 1856, and was the third of a family of then children. He was reared on his father's farm, and obtained such an education as the common schools of Little River County afforded. In the fall of 1885, he embarked in mercantile pursuits, the scene of his operations being Peytonville, and in this he has continued very successfully ever since. He does a large and paying business, carrying a stock of general merchandise valued at \$2,000. In 1887 he was appointed postmaster of Peytonville, and is now very satisfactorily discharging the duties of that office, in connection with his store. His marriage to Miss Belle Goodfellow, a native of Missouri was consummated in 1886, and their union has been blessed with the birth of one child. In connection with his interests in Peytonville, Mr. Sandefur is the owner of 370 acres of choice land, about 215 of which are under cultivation, and very valuable. In his political views he affiliates with the Democratic party, and cast his first vote for Hancock. He is a jovial, good hearted fellow, and has the confidence and esteem of his associates, and all with whom he does business. Mr. Sandefur is a member of the Presbyterian Church.

## **C.A. Schuman**

C.A. Schuman, a substantial planter of Rocky Comfort, was born in Dresden, Germany, on August 19, 1848, being a son of Augustus and Christina (Hempel) Schuman, both

natives of Dresden, the former being born on January 16, 1821. He was a son of John Schuman, a native of Dresden, born about 1782, who departed this life in 1858. Augustus

Schuman was an architect by occupation, and both he and wife received their final summons in their native city, he in 1858, and she in 1884. They were the parents of three children—two sons and one daughter—viz: C.A. Adolph and Clara. The latter is now living in Dresden Germany. C.A. Schuman was educated in the technical school of his native city, and engaged in technics in his native country until 1869, when he emigrated to the United States. Upon landing at New York he came directly through to Little Rock, Ark.,

but remained there only six months and then, after visiting New Orleans, La., and St. Louis, Mo., with a view to locating, he finally selected Jacksonport, Ark., as the scene of his labors, and here he established his residence. He purchased a gun shop, and sent for

his brother, Adolph, who was a gunsmith by trade, and they conducted business very successfully until in November, 1873, when their place was visited by fire and entirely destroyed. They then started for Paris, Tex., but on their way, stopped at Rocky Comfort, and being pleased with the location, they opened a gun shop, and took up their residence at this place. They soon added a line of general merchandise, and were conducting these

interests, when on May 24, 1876, their store was entered by burglars, and in defending his property, the brother, Adolph, was killed. The following December, Mr. Schuman

commenced business on his own responsibility, dealing in general merchandise, and carried on this business very successfully until 1883, when he gave it up to engage in farming. He owns about 840 acres of land in this county, about 100 acres being under cultivation, and eighty acres lying within four miles of Little Rock. Since coming to this place Mr. Schuman has taken a prominent part in the affairs of this county, having served

as tax collector, and he is now acting as school director of his district, having been elected for a term of nine years. He belongs to the K. of H., and both he and wife are church members, he belonging to the German Lutheran, and she to the Episcopal Church.

His wife was formerly Miss Eliza Simpson, a native of this county, and they were married on December 19, 1877. One child, Clara, has been born to this marriage.

## **Robert M. Scott**

On a fine, well-improved farm, lying about five miles southeast of Richmond, surrounded by every comfort, the subject of this sketch leads a happy and contented life. He is conceded to be one of the representative and influential agriculturalists of the county, and is classed among its best citizens. His farm comprises 199 acres of choice land, and he devoted his time and attention to tilling the 110 acres which are under cultivation.

Originally from Wilcox County, Ala., he was ushered into the world on September 2, 1824, being a son of Robert H. and Sarah (Nicholson) Scott, natives of South and North Carolina, respectively. They were married in the former State, and soon after moved to Alabama (about 1818), thence, in 1834 to Little River County, Ark., where they made their home until 1867, when they moved to Pope County, and there they both passed from life. When they first came to Arkansas, they settled on what is now known as Pine Prairie, in Little River County, being among the very early settlers, and here the father, who was a great hunter, indulged very freely in that sport. He was a prominent and influential citizen, and for a number of years held the office of county judge. His father was born in Virginia, of Scotch-Irish parentage. Of the eight children born to this

marriage, only two are now living: Robert M. and Thomas N. The former came to this county with his parents in his eighth year, and was here reared and made his home until 1867, at which time he accompanied his parents to Pope County, Ark. After an absence of twelve years, he returned to this county, where he has ever since resided, and proved himself to be a good citizen. He is an enterprising and public spirited gentleman, and aids with his support and encouragement, all measures for the good of the community. During the late war, he enlisted, in July 1861, in Company K Twelfth Arkansas Infantry, and for the first year served as private. He was then promoted to first lieutenant, and participated in the battles of Columbus, Ky., New Madrid, Mo., and Island No. 10. At this latter battle he was captured and taken to Camp Douglas, where he was retained from April, to September 1862, when he was sent to Vicksburg and exchanged. His regiment was then reorganized, and went to Port Hudson. Here he was again taken prisoner, and after being retained at New Orleans from July, until December 24, he made his escape and went to Meridian, and was then sent west of the Mississippi River to rejoin his command. He surrendered at Marshall, Tex., in June 1865.

## **James K. Taafe**

No name is more closely associated with the agricultural interests of this county than the one who heads this sketch, for it is borne by a man who is progressive in his ideas, and has always been numbered among its most substantial and prominent citizens. He first opened his eyes to the light of this world in Sevier County, Ark., in 1830, being the eldest of nine children, six of whom are still living, born to Joseph English and wife. The former was born in Ireland, and there spent his life until he had attained his eighteenth year, when he came to the United States and chose a location in Sevier County, Ark. He was one of the first settlers of this county, and was one of its most prominent and influential citizens, having served as Representative, and also as Senator for a number of years. He was a farmer by occupation, and in his political views affiliated with the Democratic party. His wife, formerly Miss Sarah J. English, was born in Indiana, and was a daughter of Joseph English, and both she and her husband departed this life where our subject now lives. The father took great pains to educate his children, and James K. received a very fair education in the common schools of this county. His marriage to Jane (Lemons) Smith was consummated in 1858, and by her he became the father of the following children: George (deceased), James (deceased), Joseph, John and Fanny. She died in 1878, and the following year Miss Mary B. Bell, daughter of John Z. and Martha J. (Scott) Bell, the former of whom died in Virginia, while serving in the Confederate cause, under Gen Lee, and the latter in Indian Territory, about 1876, became his wife. This latter marriage resulted in the birth of six children, only four of whom are now living: Jesse E., Mary B., Sarah and Eva. Mr. Taafe has always been a resident of this county, and during his life has amassed considerable property. He owns 480 acres of valuable pine land, forty acres lying in the town site of Rocky Comfort, besides 160 acres of choice land lying in the Red River bottom, about seventy five acres of which are under cultivation. In politics he is a strong Democrat, and his first presidential vote was cast for Franklin Pierce. During the war he served as constable of this township for a number of years. HE also belongs to the Masonic fraternity. The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of Rocky Comfort, numbers his wife among its most esteemed members, and

although he is a firm believer also in the doctrines expounded by that denomination, he does not belong to any religious body.

## **John S. Walker Jr.**

John S. Walker Jr., county and circuit clerk of Little River County, was chosen to occupy his present position by the Democracy in 1888, and is now filling the duties of that office in a manner highly creditable to himself, and to the satisfaction of the community at large. He was born in Sevier County, and moved to Little River County in 1877, his birth having occurred July 28, 1861, and his boyhood days and early youth were spent in attending the common country schools until the age of nineteen years, when he entered the State University for one term, after which he came home, and engaged in agricultural pursuits on rented land, and conducted these interests so well that he was soon able to farm on his own land. He now owns 860 acres of land, with about 325 acres under cultivation, on which is raised seventy-five to one hundred bales of cotton annually. This land, with the exception of about 240 acres, which came in his possession by marriage, has all been acquired by his own exertions and good business ability, In 1885 he turned his attention to merchandising, the scene of his operations being at Brownstown, Sevier County, where he did a large business, under the firm name of P.S. Kinsworthy & Co., but continued in this business but one year, and then returned to his farm, which he tilled until 1888, when he was elected to his present office, Mr. Walker has been twice married. His first wife, to whom he was married in 1887, was Miss Annie Goolsby, daughter of Peter and Elizabeth Goolsby, natives of this county, and one child, Floyd (born November 28, 1887) was the result of this marriage. The wife died December 1, 1887, and July 18, 1889, Mr. Walker was wedded to her sister, Myrtie. The present Mrs. Walker is a much esteemed member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The subject of this sketch is the only child born to John S. and Mattie E. (Kinsworthy) Walker, natives of Georgia and Arkansas, respectively. The former came to this State in 1859. He has principally been engaged in the mercantile business since the war, excepting two years that he was engaged in agricultural pursuits, in Little River County, upon a farm now owned jointly by himself and only son, the subject of this sketch. During the late war he was a colonel in the Confederate army. He was captured at Fort Sumter, and sent to Johnson Island, where he was retained until 1865, at which time he came home, and engaged in the commission business at Brownstown, Sevier County, Ark., which occupied his attention for some time. He has been in the employ of the Southern Oil Company for the past three years, which position he has filled with the credit to himself and the full satisfaction of the company. He and wife are both worthy members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and are greatly respected and esteemed by all who know them. Politically he is a Democrat.

## **Jacob Willard**

He whose name heads this sketch is one of the substantial farmers of Red River Township, Little River County, and owes his nativity to Mississippi, where he was born in 1832, being a son of D.B. Willard and wife, nee Nancy Rachel (Weaver)Curry. The

former was born in Ohio in 1809, of French descent. Early in life he emigrated to Mississippi, and later to Louisiana, where he passed from life in 1885, in his eighty-fifth year, leaving a widow who still survives and makes her home in Louisiana. Six of their seven children, three sons and four daughters, lived to maturity, and five of them are still living. Jacob Willard passed his life up to the age of ten years in Mississippi, but in 1842 he accompanied his parents to Louisiana, and there he grew to manhood, and obtained a limited education. In 1874 he immigrated to Little Rock County, Ark, and here he has ever resided, on his farm of 400 acres (100 of which are under cultivation) lying on Red River, about seven miles south of Richmond. He farms the land himself and tills it well, getting from thirty-five to fifty bushels of corn and about a bale of cotton to the acre. When he first came to Arkansas, this land was mostly unimproved, and he has since, by his untiring energy and industry, brought it to its present high state of development. In 1884 he had the misfortune to lose his wife, to whom he had been married in 1859. Her maiden name was Miss Laura Ann Yarbaugh, and she was a native of Louisiana. Of the four children born to this marriage, but two are now living: D.B. and Angie. In 1887 he took a second wife in the person of Miss Ida Franks, who was born in Tennessee, but reared to womanhood in Illinois. She is an earnest member of the Baptist Church. Mr. Willard enlisted in the Confederate cause in 1863, joining Company C, Sixth Louisiana Calvary, in which he served as private until the surrender. He is a Master Mason, affiliating with Red River Lodge No. 74, A.F. & A.M., at Richmond.