

Goodspeed's History of Southeast Missouri Biographies of Mississippi County, 1888

A B C D E F G H J K L M O P R S T V W Y



David Baker

David Baker, one of Mississippi County's prominent men and successful citizens, was born in Charlotte, N.C., but was mostly reared in Lincoln County, of that State. He was born on May 24, 1829 and is a son of Jacob and Elmira (Pelt) Baker, both of whom were also natives of North Carolina. The great-grandfather Baker came from England, and settled in North Carolina. Both great-grandparents, on the mother's side, came from Ireland, and they also settled in that State. The grandparents on both sides lived and died in the "Old North State". Jacob Baker was reared to farm life, and when young, immigrated to Rome, Ga., where he remained about three years, and removed to Carroll County, Tenn. Residing there until 1854, he immigrated, with his family Mississippi County, Mo., making the journey, which required several weeks in wagons, by the way of Nashville. He stopped at Wolf Island and remained about one year, when he removed to within four miles of Charleston, where he purchased a farm in the woods, upon which he resided until his death on October 1, 1886. His wife died in 1879, having borne twelve children, seven of whom are living: David, Abraham, Margaret (Mrs. James Sheppard), Caroline (Mrs. A. Coleman), Josephine (Mrs. Wade Shelby), Frank and William. Those deceased are: Rachel, George, John, Mary and Larcissa. David remained on the farm, with his parents, until he was married, on November 20, 1851, to Margaret, a daughter of John and Sarah (Ansell) Davis, who were natives of North Carolina. After his marriage, Mr. Baker began for himself, and made three crops in Tennessee, when he removed with his father's family to Mississippi County, Mo. He remained for three years at Wolf Island when he removed to the Concord settlement, where he had purchased eighty acres of heavily timbered land, which required several years of industry and economy to clear and prepare for cultivation. At that time he hauled his produce to Price's Landing. Since 1879 he has been a resident of Charleston, in which he owns several town lots and a nice residence. He now has 800 acres of land, of which 600 are under a fine state of cultivation. Mr. and Mrs. Baker have had three children, one of whom is living (Mrs. Dr. A.A. bondurant). Those deceased are George S. and an infant. Mrs. Baker is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Baker is a Royal Arch Mason. He has never held office, except that of public administrator and city councilman.

Frank Baker

Frank Baker was born in North

Carolina, October 2, 1844, and is a son of Jacob and Hannah E. (Pelt) Baker, who were also natives of North Carolina. The paternal grandfather was born in South Carolina. Jacob Baker was a farmer and removed from his native State to Tennessee, and from thence, in 1856, to Mississippi County, Mo., making the entire journey in wagons. He located in the timber, in the Concord settlement, where he erected a rude log cabin with puncheon floor, and clapboard roof and doors, in which he and his family lived for several years. He worked, for a while, almost night and day, to get some land cleared, that he might raise a crop. He improved his land and made a good home, where he lived until his death in 1886. His wife died two years previously. They had twelve children: Rachel (deceased), David, John, Abraham, Margaret (Mrs. James W. Sheppard), Mary (deceased), George (deceased), Caroline (Mrs. A.D. Coleman), Frank, William, Narcissus (deceased) and Josephine (Mrs. Wade Shelby). They also reared two children of their daughter's: Thomas and Lucinda (Mrs. George McGhee). Frank Baker was about eight years of age when his parents brought him to Mississippi County. He remained on the farm with his father until he was married, in 1870, to Mary Elizabeth Small, a daughter of Napoleon and Mary Small. Soon after, he located on a farm in the Concord settlement, and in 1875 moved to the farm on which he now resides, having made all the improvements on the place. He and wife have two children: John G. and Iva May. Mrs. Baker is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a member of the I.O.O.F., and in politics is a Democrat.

Thomas Beckwith

Thomas Beckwith was born in

Mississippi County, Mo., on January 24, 1840. His father, Quiros Beckwith, was a native of Fairfax Court House, Va., and was the son of Newman Beckwith, who was also born in the "Old Dominion", and remained there until the year of 1812, when he immigrated to Missouri. He came all the way from Wheeling, Va., in a flatboat, bringing his family with him. He settled at Norfolk, Mississippi County, where he remained three years, and removed to what is known as the O'Brien farm, where he resided until his death. While a resident of Virginia he possessed considerable wealth, but lost it by going security. Quiros Beckwith was but eleven years of age, when he came with his parents to Mississippi County. He remained on his father's farm until he reached manhood, when he was married to Susan Johnston, who was born near Nashville, Tenn. After his marriage Mr. Beckwith engaged in tilling the soil, which he continued the most of his life, together with dealing in live-stock. At the time of his death he owned about 100 slaves, some of whom he had bought at considerable cost. He turned his attention entirely to business interests, and took no part whatever in politics. He died in 1862. His wife died on August 17, 1849. They were the parents of five children, four of whom are dead, viz: Quiros, Ellen W., Margaret A. and Matthew J. Thomas, the only living member of the family, was reared on his father's farm, which consisted of about 1,100 acres of land, besides a large wood-yard. He labored on the farm and about the wood-yard and saw-mill until he became of age. In 1862 the overflow of the Mississippi River swept away one of the best farms. In 1861 he enlisted in Price's company, which was organized under the old system. He served about three months, with the rank of third lieutenant, when he was taken down with the measles and resigned. In February 1862, he was captured at Long Prairie, and was confined in prison about five months, during which time he suffered many hardships, as the prison was dirty and filthy, and the chances of life were few, where the prisoners were confined for any length of time. After his release he returned home and resumed farming. On March 11, 1863, he was united in marriage with Laura, daughter of John and Sallie (Lee) Swank, who immigrated to Mississippi County in 1854. Mr. and Mrs. Beckwith have three daughters: Lillie M., Minnie L. and Ollie L. All the members of the family belong to the Methodist Episcopal Church South. Mr. Beckwith is one of the substantial men of Southeast Missouri. He owns over 3,000 acres of land in his own title, and a half interest in 4,000 more. He deals some in stock, horses, etc. and, makes loans. He now has his farms rented, and spends his spare time in exploring the mounds left by the Mound Builders in Southeast Missouri, and has one, of finest collections of stones and pottery in this portion of the State.

Capt. James B. Bibb, a substantial farmer of Mississippi County, Mo., was born in Hickman County, Tenn., March 19, 1842. His parents, John M. and Caroline (Johnston) Bibb, were natives of Dixon County, Tenn. The family emigrated from Virginia to Tennessee in the early settlement of the latter State. John M. Bibb was a farmer and miller. In 1852 he came down the Ohio River on a flat-boat to Norfolk, and settled on what is known as the Badger Mill place. He was employed as foreman of Felix G. Badger's saw-mill for a number of years. He removed to Arkansas in 1859, but returned to Mississippi County, Mo., in 1872, and died in Dixon County, Tenn., that fall. His wife died in Randolph County, Ark., in 1862. They had seven children, three of whom are living: Capt. James B., Robert S. and Sarah I. (Mrs. Andrew Miller), of Arkansas. James B. was about ten years of age when his parents removed to Mississippi County, and he remained with them until 1861, when he enlisted in the Confederate army, joining Company A, Seventh Arkansas Regiment, under Gen. Hardee, serving until the close of the war. He participated in the battles of Shiloh, Pittsburg Landing, Murfreesboro, Perryville, and various skirmishes. He was slightly wounded at both Resaca and Kenesaw Mountain, by gun shots. At the close of the war he returned to his home in Arkansas, and remained a short time. In July 1865, he removed to Mississippi County, and kept the ferry at Greenfield's Landing, Mo., until 1879, being captain of the ferry. In 1872 he purchased the farm that he now owns, to which he removed in 1882. The farm is all under cultivation, with good improvements. In January 1873, he was married to Amanda M. Haines, a daughter of Minor B. and Rachel J. (Brooks) Haines, of Hickman County, Tenn. Mr. and Mrs. Bibb have two children: Callie A. and John O. Mr. and Mrs. Bibb are members of the Christian Church.

Thompson Bird

Thompson Bird, an enterprising pioneer citizen of Mississippi County, Mo., was born in that count December 26, 1828. He is a descendant of one of the oldest and most prominent families of Southeast Missouri. His parents, John and Ingiebo (Byrd) Bird, were natives of Virginia and Cape Girardeau County, Mo., respectively, and were of English and German descent. Both of his grandparents were born in America, and both immigrated to Cape Girardeau County. The paternal grandfather, Abraham Bird, came from Virginia, and located in Cape Girardeau County about 1798. By purchasing from the government and making entries in both Cape Girardeau County and near Bird's Point, he came into possession of large bodies of land. He removed to Bird's Point about 1805, and erected a little log cabin, in which he lived for several years. Becoming disgusted with the country, on account of the overflow of the Mississippi River in 1814-15, he took a boat and went down the river to Baton Rouge, La., where he located, and remained until his death. His land became the property of his sons, whom he had left in Southeast Missouri. The maternal grandfather, Abraham Byrd, came from North Carolina, and stopped at Cairo a short time, went from thence to Cape Girardeau County, making one of the first settlements in the region. He lived to be quite aged, and died in that county. John Bird was Abraham Bird's youngest son. After his marriage he located at Bird's Point, which he made his home until his death, on September 20, 1868. Besides his land there he also had a large sugar plantation near Baton Rouge which he managed, making in all about 3,000 acres. His wife died in 1864. They were the parents of ten children, five of whom are living: Thompson, Stephen, Nancy, Clara and Andrew. Thompson has always lived on the old homestead, following the vocation of a farmer. He now owns about 1,000 acres of land, a large part of which is under cultivation. He was first married in 1863, to Nancy Emory, who died in 1865, leaving him one child, Julia, deceased. In 1865 he married Martha Emory, by whom he had three children: Rachel, Rosa and Clarissa. His wife died on March 11, 1885, and in October of that year he married Lucy Powell. Mrs. Bird is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. Mr. Bird is an intelligent man, and one of the successful citizens of Mississippi County.

Stephen Bird

Stephen Bird, one of the most prominent farmers and millers of Mississippi County, Mo., was born near Baton Rouge, La., January 27, 1836. He is a son of John and Ingiebo (Byrd) Bird. [See sketch of Thompson Bird.] The subject of this sketch was quite young when he went to Mississippi County, of which he has since been a resident, and is now one of its most successful business men. He was reared at the home of his parents, remaining with them until their deaths. In 1865 he engaged in the milling business, which he has continued, now operating both grist and saw mills. He manufactures lumber of all kinds, which he ships to all parts of the world. His farming interests, also are great, having in his possession over 2,000 acres of land. In 1867 he was united in marriage with Alice Hunter, by whom he had three children, one of whom is living, Abraham T. The second time he married Amanda Hunter. To this union one child has been born, Hunter.

John A. Bird

John A. Bird, one of the most active and prosperous farmers of Mississippi County, Mo., was born in that county on January 23, 1866, and is a son of William and Lucy (Millar) Bird, both of whom were natives of Mississippi County. When the subject of this sketch was about six years old, his father died, and his mother was afterward married to Rev. Powell, who died soon after. John A. lived at Cairo, Ill., and at Charleston, Mo., until he was about sixteen years of age, when he entered school at Caledonia, Mo., and remained twenty months. He then returned to St. James Township, Mississippi County, and lived with John Millar and others until the spring of 1887. On September 28, 1887, he was united in marriage with Miss Iva E. Donnell, who was born June 20, 1868 in Jefferson County, Mo., and is a daughter of Thomas L. and Harriet E. (Byrd) Donnell, both of whom were born and reared in Missouri. Thomas L. Donnell was born on May 19, 1818, and is a son of William Donnell, one of the old and respected settlers of Jefferson County Mo., having gone there from South Carolina when a young man. Harriet E. Byrd was born on June 7, 1833, and died on June 27, 1878. Thomas L. Donnell is a wealthy and influential citizen of Jefferson County. To Mr. Donnell and first wife, Mary (McCormick) Donnell, were born six children, four of whom are living: Sarah, Amandora, Ella and Florence. He had four children by his second marriage: Mildred, Iva E., Edna and Thomas. Mrs. Bird was also educated at the Collegiate Institute of Caledonia. After his marriage Mr. Bird removed to his present farm consisting of 220 acres with about 200 acres under cultivation, upon which he has an elegant residence.

A.C. Bogard

A.C. Bogard was born on January 15, 1837, in Bullitt County, Ky., and is a son of Clifton and Eliza (Webb) Bogard, both of whom were natives of Bullitt County, Ky., and of German descent. Their ancestors emigrated from Germany several generations back. The paternal grandfather, Cornelius Bogard immigrated to Bullitt County, Ky., passing through Louisville, when there were but few houses in that city. The maternal grandfather Webb was a Revolutionary soldier, and fought in the battle of New Orleans. The grandparents on both sides died in Bullitt County, Ky. Clifton Bogard was also born and reared in that county and was a farmer. After his marriage he removed to Hardin County, Ky., where he purchased a farm and remained until his death in May, 1884. His widow is still living on the old homestead. They had eleven children, seven of whom are living, viz: Lafayette, John C., Leroy, Alexander C., Cynthia J., Frances C. and Edna R. Those deceased are Clinton, Clinton, Leuvisa and Loucretia. Alexander C. was about four years of age when his parents removed to Hardin County, in which he received his education in the common schools. He remained with his parents until his marriage with Mary Pearman, on September 17, 1857. She is a daughter of William C. and Sallie (Trent) Pearman, natives of Hardin County, Ky. After his marriage Mr. Bogard cultivated a farm in Hardin County a few years, when he removed to Bullitt County and resided until 1870. He then removed to Mississippi County Mo., and rented land for two years, after which he bought 400 acres, which is now well improved and under cultivation. He has four acres in the city of Charleston, upon which he had his residence. Mr. and Mrs. Bogard have two children: William C. and Sarah E. (the wife of William H. Garwood) a native of Kentucky. In politics, Mr. Bogard is a Democrat. He and wife have been members of the Methodist Episcopal Church for over thirty years.

A.A. Bondurant

Dr. A.A. Bondurant, one of the most prominent physicians and surgeons of Charleston, was born in Fulton County, Ky., December 9, 1850. He is a son of John S. and Julia D. (Edmiston) Bondurant. His paternal great-grandfather came from France and settled in Tennessee or Kentucky. His grandfather, Robert Bondurant, was a farmer, and a resident of Kentucky at the time of his death. John S. Bondurant is also a farmer, and still resides in Fulton County, Ky. He and wife are the parents of ten children, six of whom are living, viz: Alpheus A., Robert A., John C. Custis B., Ella and Susan A. Dr. Alpheus A. was reared on the old homestead in Kentucky, and attended the high school of Fulton until he was twenty-one years of age, when he began the study of medicine under the direction of Dr. C.W. Miles, of Jordan. In 1873 he entered the Louisville Medical University, and afterward attended the Bellevue Hospital Medical College of New York City, graduating from the latter institution in 1875. Soon after his graduation he went to Charleston, Mo., where he has since resided and practiced his profession; meanwhile he has taken one term of lectures in the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. The Doctor is widely known as a skillful and practical physician and surgeon, and controls a large practice in and around Charleston. He is a member of the Southeast Missouri and of the American Medical Associations. In 1875 he was united in marriage with Mary J. Baker, of Charleston. Their union has been blessed by the birth of six children viz: Levie, Eunice, Earl, Flint, Vela and a son, Afer, deceased. Dr. Bondurant is a Mason and a member of Charleston Blue Lodge, No. 129.

Elijah F. Bradley

Elijah F. Bradley was born on

July 24, 1842 and is a son of Jefferson K. Bradley, a native of Kentucky, who was the only child of Elijah Bradley, also a native of Tennessee, in which State he remained until after his marriage, when he removed to Kentucky and remained until his death. Elijah was the son of George P. Bradley, who was born and married in Middle Tennessee, where he reared a large family. Jefferson K. Bradley first married Louisa Smith, a native of Kentucky. She was the mother of the subject of this sketch. Her death occurred in 1843, after which Mr. Bradley married Parlee Combs. Her death occurred in 1845, after which Mr. Bradley married Mary Walton. To this union two children were born: James and Robert. Her death occurred in 1852, after which Mr. Bradley married Rachel Brown of Kentucky. Subsequently he moved to the State of Arkansas. To this last union there was one child born - Amanda, who after the death of Mr. Bradley, on January 4, 1854, went with her mother to Illinois, where they are supposed to be living at present. Elijah F. remained at home until he was fourteen years of age, when he entered the *Argus* (now *Courier*) office, at Hickman, Ky., and served an apprenticeship at the printer's trade, after which he went to live with his great-uncle, Theophilus Bradley. He lived with him as one of his family for three years, and assisted with the work on the farm. At the commencement of the war he enlisted in the Confederate army, and served until the close, when he went to South Arkansas, where he spent about ten years raising cotton. He subsequently spent four years in Western Texas, after which he returned to Southeast Missouri, having attended school there in 1859. He located in St. James Township, Mississippi County, where he still resides. In 1864 he married Molly Cruce, a native of Kentucky. After his first wife's death, he married a Miss Mudding, of Missouri, and after her death, Mr. Bradley married Correna Cranford, a native of North Carolina. Three children were born to this union, viz: Louisa W., Henry A. and Georgia L. This wife died, and June 4, 1884, he married Mrs. Laura M. Hayden, who was born in Kentucky in 1853, and came to Southeast Missouri in 1871. By two previous marriages she has five children, three by her first marriage with Mr. McClellan, viz: Charles T., Robert J. and Ernest S.; by her second marriage, Rachel M. and Florence Hayden. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bradley - Samuel W. and Walter E. (deceased). Mr. Bradley and wife are members of the Christian Church.

Nelson D. Brewer

Nelson D. Brewer (deceased)

was born in Mississippi County, near Charleston, in 1839, and was a son of Howell Brewer, who was born Jun 25, 1805, in Kentucky, and removed to Southeast Missouri in 1830. He married Jane West, also a native of Kentucky, born in 1803. After their removal to Missouri, they made that State their home, until their deaths. They had six children, viz: Benjamin F., Rachel, Madelbert J., Nathan L., Nelson D. and Lucy A., all of whom are deceased. Nelson D. remained with his parents until he reached maturity, and his mother lived with him, on the place where his family now resides, when he was married in 1863. He married Mary E. Vowels, a native of Kentucky, born in 1844. She is a daughter of Henry and Eliza (Ice) vowels, who came to Southeast Missouri in 1860, and settled near Bird's Point. The afterward removed to Rush's Ridge, and remained until their deaths. The mother died in 1865, and the father in 1879. To them were born twelve children, viz: Robert, Mary, Jane, George, Thomas, James, Nancy William (deceased), Alexander and three that died in infancy. Mr. Vowels had two children by a second marriage - Lulu and Richard. All of his children reside in Mississippi County. Mr. and Mrs. Brewer's union has been blessed by six children, viz: Robert F., Jennie (deceased at two years of age), Lorenzo P. (deceased at four years of age), James H. (deceased at thirteen years of age), Thomas Benjamin and George D. The last two are attending school, and Robert F. is managing the home farm. Mr. Brewer died February 16, 1872. His family lost a kind father and husband, and the community a good citizen. He was a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. His widow is also a member of that church. She and her boys reside on the farm, and enjoy the comforts of a good country home.

George H. Bridges

George H. Bridges, a prominent farmer and stock raiser, residing at Charleston, was born in Mississippi County, on September 15, 1850 and is a son of James H. and Letitia (Simms) Bridges, of whom the former was born near Louisville, Ky., and the latter in Indiana. James H. Bridges was a farmer by vocation, and removed to Mississippi County about 1830, and settled in Wolf Island Township, where he purchased a tract of land, which he cultivated until 1858. He then removed to Charleston, and resided until his death. His wife is still living. They reared three children: James H. (deceased), George H. and Julia (wife of J.H. Bethune, of St. Louis). George H. remained on his father's farm until he was sixteen years of age, when he entered Christian Brothers' Academy, of St. Louis, where he remained three years. In politics he is a Democrat, and is at present secretary of the central committee. He has filled various official positions. He held the position of deputy county and circuit clerk for six years. In 1876 he was elected mayor of the city of Charleston, which office he held three terms. He also filled the position of the first clerk of the city. He has been a member of the city council for two terms, and in 1887 was elected assessor. In 1873 he was united in marriage with Dora, daughter of Judge James R. and Elizabeth Patterson, citizens of Charleston. One son, James, has blessed their union. Mr. and Mrs. Bridges are members of the Baptist Church. He is a member of the A.O.U.W.

Francis M. Brown

Francis M. Brown was born in Philadelphia, December 25, 1811 and is a son of Francis M., Sr. and Ellen H. Brown. The former was a native of Philadelphia, and the latter was born near Cork, Ireland. He parents immigrating to America, settled in Philadelphia, where they both died when she was an infant. She was reared by a Mr. Butcher, a dealer in morocco leather. The granfather, Francis Brown, came from France, coming from the island of St. Domingo with Stephen Girard and Farncis Mazaree. He settled in Philadelphia, where he resided until his death. The paternal grandmother was of German parentage, and after the death of her husband, she married another Frenchman. Francis M. Brown, Sr., was a merachant in Philadelphia for several years. About 1811 he went to cincinnati, and was afterward occupied in running a barge from that city to New Orleans, buying up bacon, etc. He was with the first steamer run from the mouth of the ohio River to St. Louis, under Capt. Henry M. Shreeves. In 1839 he visitied his mother in Camden, N.J., where he died. He was the father of three children, only one living Francis M. He remained in his native city until he reached his ninth year, when he went to New orleans with Capt. Hardin on a sailing vessel, "Ship Blaze". Remaining in the latter city about seven months, his father put him in a school at Natachez, where he remained until 1826, when he went to St. Louis with his father, and remained there for some time, serving as clerk for Collier J. Powell. His father afterward bound him out to Jacob Kepper, of Louisville, Ky., to learn the pattern maker's trade. Remaining with him two years, he went to Cincinnati and bound himself out to learn the iron-moulder's trade. After serving an apprenticeship of four years, he worked at the trade eighteen months at New Orleans. In 1832 he went to Mississippi County, Mo., and made a permanent settlement, his father having settled there in 1826. The family's first house was a little log hut, rudely built, in which they lived for several years. From 1850 to 1853 he kept a store and boarding-house in Charleston, after which he removed to his present home. He now owns 700 acres of land, with about 600 under cultivation. Mr. Brown is one of the oldest living residents of Mississippi County, and has witnessed its development from a dense forest to its present wealthy state. He has been four times married; first, on January 1, 1835, to Julia Sweeten, by whom he had six children, two of whom are living: E.L. and Mary E. (Mrs. Jacob Davy, of cincinnati). The second time he married Mary Sheppard. He next married Eliza Smith and his last wife was Emily White, daughter of Thomas White, of Tennessee. Mr. Brown is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically he is a Democrat and cast his first vote for Gen. Jackson

James M. Brown

Judge James M. Brown, a prominent citizen of Mississippi County, was born in Switzerland County, Ind., on August 10, 1834, and is one of seven surviving children of ten born to the union of James Brown and Deborah Hatch. The paternal grandfather came from Ireland and the grandmother from Scotland. They immigrated to Belmont County, Ohio, at an early day and remained there a few years. In 1820 they removed to Switzerland County, Ind., where they died, the grandfather at the age of sixty, and his wife at the age of eighty-five years. James Brown, the father of our subject, was born in Ohio in 1803 and was brought by his parents to Indiana, where he was reared to farm life in Switzerland County, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a successful farmer, and owned considerable property at the time of his death, which occurred in 1876. His wife, who is a native of New York, is still living on the homestead. She had three sons and four daughters living, viz: Cyrus A., Morrison N., James M., Margaret (widow of Joseph Rutherford, deceased), Mary (Mrs. Boyles), Jennie and Emma. Judge James M. was reared on his father's farm and received a good education in the common schools. In 1855 he went to Charleston, Mo., and learned the mechanic's trade, which he followed about three years. In 1858 he was employed in the clerk's office, where he remained until 1866, when he was elected assessor of Mississippi County, which office he held four years. Prior to his election as assessor, he was commissioned by Andrew Johnson, as assistant United States assessor. In 1870 he was elected probate judge, which office he held for sixteen consecutive years, being president, *ex-officio*, of the county court eight years of this time. He was admitted to the bar in 1872, and is now engaged in the practice of law, and is a real estate, collecting and insurance agent. He is also a notary public. He has been successful in business, and now owns 1,000 acres of good land, a part of which is well improved, and some nice city property in Charleston. In 1860 he was united in marriage with Laura A., a daughter of Maj. William and Amy Sayers, who early moved from Kentucky, to Mississippi County. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have two children, Anna L. and Henry Morton. Mrs. Brown is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. Mr. Brown is a Royal Arch Mason.

Morgan W. Bryant

Morgan W. Bryant was born in Christian County, Ky., in 1827. His parents, Lawrence and Mary J. (Morris) Bryant, were born in Virginia, being members of prominent families of that State. Lawrence Bryant served under Gens. St. Clair and Wayne, in the wars against the Indians in the Northwest Territory. He was married in his native State and removed his family to Christian County, Ky., about 1813, soon after which was drafted into Gen. Jackson's army. He was born in 1779, and when a child was bound out, and volunteered in the United States army when sixteen years of age, to get out of bondage. His parents were of English and Irish descent, his mother having been born and reared in Dublin. Mary J. Morris was the daughter of Leonard Morris, who dug the first salt wells in Virginia. The grandmother Morris bought a piece of land ten miles square, including these salt wells, and now includes Brownstown, for a rifle gun and a linen hunting shirt. Leonard Morris built Morris Fort, in Virginia, to protect himself and family from the assaults of the Indians. To Lawrence Bryant and wife were born twelve children, two of whom are living: Morgan W. and Nancy S. (wife of Jacob H. Messamore, of Fort Worth, Tex.). Those dead are Sarah, Margaret, Elizabeth, Joshua, Crockett, Mary, Lawrence, Catherine, Martha M. and William. Morgan W. remained with his parents until he was twenty-three years of age, when he went to Graves County, Ky., and was married to Mary E. Jones, a native of that county. Remaining there until March, 1873, he and family came to Southeast Missouri, and located in James Bayou Township, Mississippi County, removing to his present farm in 1882. His farm consists of 495 acres, of which 275 are under cultivation, upon which he raises 10,000 bushels of grain annually. Mrs. Bryant is the only child born to the union of Henry Jones and Emeline Elliot, natives of Kentucky and Tennessee, respectively. The father died in 1839 or 1840, after which his widow was married to A. Sutton, and to them were born five children, three of whom, Richard, Margaret and Charles are living. Mrs. Sutton died in August, 1855. Mr. and Mrs. Bryant have the following children: Henry L., John R., Joelah, Richard, Katie and Culin.

George A. Bryant

George A. Bryant, an enterprising farmer of Mississippi County, was born in Marshall County, Ala., April 14, 1846. He is a son of Thomas and Irene (Parker) Bryant, both of whom are of English descent and natives of Tennessee. Their forefathers settled in Alabama. Jesse Bryant, the grandfather, lived and died in Tennessee. Thomas Bryant was married in his native State, after which he removed to Alabama, and remained a short time, when he removed to Kentucky. In 1851 he immigrated with his family to Scott County, Mo., coming down the Ohio River to Bird's Point in a flat-boat. He remained in Scott County until about 1854, when he removed to Mississippi County, and settled near Charleston, where he resided until his death in 1864. His widow died about three weeks later. They had five children, only one of whom survives, George A. Those dead are Frank M., Polly A., Almeta and Albert. George A. was but an infant when his parents left Alabama, and about six years of age when they immigrated to Missouri. He was reared on his father's farm, and has been a resident of Mississippi County since 1854. Farming has been his chief vocation, at which he has been very successful. On August 22, 1875, he was united in marriage with Mary Alice Smith, a daughter of Abner and Margaret (Cook) Smith, the latter of whom was brought to America from Germany when an infant, her parents locating in Mississippi County. Mr. and Mrs. Bryant are the parents of five children, born as follows: Andrew J., April 1, 1878, died February 3, 1881; Gertie, July 5, 1880; William J., February 27, 1882; Albert F., April 4, 1884, and George R., January 8, 1887. Mr. Bryant is a member of the I.O.O.F. In politics he is a Democrat.

George C. Burns

George C. Burns, a successful farmer of Mississippi County, Mo., was born in St. Lawrence County, N.Y., November 15, 1845. He is a son of Owen and Catherine (Cowley) Burns, both natives of County Galway, Ireland. They were married and had one child, who is now deceased, born in their native country. In 1820 they immigrated to America and settled in St. Lawrence county, N.Y. Mr. Burns purchased a farm and resided there until 1848, when he removed to Waukesha County, Wis., where he purchased 160 acres of land for \$400, which is now worth \$100 per acre. He died in 1850, and his wife died in 1881. They reared nine children, seven of whom are living, viz: Margaret M. (Mrs. Norman Breed), Ann (Mrs. John Reynolds), Jane J. (Mrs. Francis Smith), Catherine (Mrs. William Riley), Thomas M., John J. and George C. The last named remained with his parents in Wisconsin until he was sixteen years of age, receiving his education mostly in the common schools. He attended a high-school one session. In 1861 he went South, and for seven or eight years was engaged in railroading, being employed at different times by the Nashville & Tennessee, Memphis & Charleston and Mississippi Central. In 1869 he came to Missouri, and clerked in a store at Price's Landing for three years, after which he engaged in the mercantile business for himself, at that place, continuing for four years. In 1876 he engaged in farming, renting land until 1880, when he purchased ninety acres of land, to which he removed, and upon which he has since resided. He has cleared more than half of the land since his purchase and now has about seventy acres under cultivation, with good improvements. On February 24, 1876, he wedded Mary E. Mushold, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio. She died on May 22, 1885, leaving four children: William A., Frances E., Clara E. and Edward J. Mr. Burns was again married on October 4, 1887, choosing for his wife Mabel Massey, a native of Tennessee. Mr. Burns is a member of the Catholic Church. He has served as school director for six years, and has done a great deal to advance the cause of district schools, taking a deep interest in educational matters generally. Prior to the organization of public schools in this section, he taught private school. In politics he is a strong advocate of Democracy.

James L. Bush

James L. Bush, a farmer of Mississippi County, Mo., was born on July 11, 1847. His parents, William B. and Ann Maria (Russell) Bush, were natives of Kentucky and Maryland, respectively. The former was born March 29, 1806, and the latter on June 12, 1817. William B. Bush was one of the most prominent pioneer settlers of Southeast Missouri, to which he came in 1813, removed to Mississippi County, residing there the rest of his life. In politics he was a Democrat, and served for several years as judge of the county court. He also served as justice of the peace. His wife, Mrs. Ann Maria (Russell) Humphrey's family removed to Southeast Missouri in 1836. To Judge Bush and the mother of our subject were born nine children, as follows: Palemon C., August 1, 1841, now a resident of Cairo, Ill.; John Logan, February 15, 1843, deceased; Richard B., August 14, 1845, deceased; James L., July 11, 1847; Galena Ann (Mrs. Joshua Bumpass), October 27, 1848, deceased; Joseph R. September 10, 1851, now a resident of Charleston, Mo.; Mary Ellen, September 2, 1853, deceased; Price L., April 8, 1856, and one that died in infancy. Mrs. Bush died July 6, 1885. By three previous marriages Judge Bush had five children, born as follows: George W., May 30, 1822; William H. September 1, 1826; Polly W., June 1, 1829; Robert L., November 14, 1834 and John H., June 14, 1820. Judge William B. Bush died on July 23, 1859. James L. Bush lived with his mother until her death, but began working for himself at the age of twenty-three years. In 1876 he located on his present farm of eighty acres a part of which is under cultivation. This farm has since been his home, but he has rented the land and has been at liberty to go where he desired.

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