

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



John C. Farris

John C. Farris, a farmer of Wolf Island Township, Mississippi Co., was born in Obion County, Tenn., in 1830, and is a son of Benjamin S. and Bettie (Crockett) Farris, natives of South Carolina, who removed to Middle Tennessee about 1820. They removed later to Obion County, Tenn., and remained there ten years, when they came to Mississippi County, Mo., where they resided until their deaths. Mr. Farris was a farmer by vocation, and died in the fall of 1860. His wife died in 1863. They were both consistent members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. To them were born six children: Agnes S., Isaiah A., Adaline, John C., James W. and Margaret C. Isaiah and James reside in Pemiscot County, Mo. John C. remained with his parents until he was twenty-three years old, and commenced farming in James Bayou Township, Mississippi County. He removed to Wolf Island Township in 1863, and to his present location in 1880. He was married in 1853 to Miss Martha E. Kerr, a native of Hickman County, Ky., and a daughter of Nicholas M. and Ann E. (Ednington) Kerr, natives of Virginia and Kentucky respectively. Mr. Kerr died in 1876, and his wife died in 1862. To them were born nine children: Lucy C. (deceased), Martha E., Cecelia N., Elizabeth, Price (deceased), Emma J., Nicholas (deceased), Mariah B. and Nannie. After Mr. Kerr's first wife died he married Adaline Burgess, by whom he had one daughter, Edna V., who is living with her mother near the subject of this sketch. Mr. and Mrs. Farris have eight children: Benjamin P., Bettie A. (Mrs. James B. Ringoe, of Kentucky), Katie (Mrs. Oscar Tinsley, of Pemiscot County, Mo.), James N., John C., Jr., David W., Isaiah A. and Henry H. They are also rearing a niece, whose parents are dead, Emma P. Mr. Farris is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and his wife is a member of the Baptist Church. Mr. Farris has a good farm, of which he and boys cultivate about 250 acres of land. He served as deputy sheriff under Jackson, and as deputy collector under Louis Danforth.

Thomas B. Forbs

Thomas B. Forbs was born in Rutherford County, Middle Tenn., on June 23, 1836, and is a son of Robert C. and Frances E. (Spinks) Forbs, the former a native of North Carolina and the latter of Middle Tennessee. The grandfather, Benjamin Forbs, was a native of North Carolina, who immigrated to Tennessee. The other grandfather, John B. Spinks, was a resident of Tennessee. He served during the War of 1812, and participated in the last battle, in which he was wounded by a gun-shot which disabled him for life. He died in Tennessee. Robert C. Forbs was born in 1808, and was brought to Tennessee when but seven years of age, and has since made that State his home. He is a farmer by vocation. During the late war he served under Gen. Sherman as a member of the Eighty-ninth Indiana Artillery. He was in the service three years, and was wounded while at home by a shot from a gun in the hands of a Federal, who had taken him for a Confederate soldier. The ball passed into the shoulder blade and lodged, remaining there still. He is the father of eight children, two of whom are living, Thomas B. and Francis M. Those dead are George W., Seneca C., John B., William H., Mary V. and an infant. The mother died on October 5, 1881. Thomas B. was taken to Fayette County, Tenn., when an infant by his parents, and remained with them until he was sixteen years of age, when he went to Crittenden County, Ark., where he lived for eleven years engaged in farming. He then removed to Memphis, Tenn., and remained till the fall of 1863, when he came up the Mississippi River to Wolf Island. Ten years later he purchased the farm on which he now resides. At the time of the purchase the land was covered with timber, but he located on it the next year (in 1874), and by untiring energy and industry has it now all under cultivation, with fair improvements. He has been four times married; first, to Eliza J. Butler, by whom he had two children, both deceased. She died in 1862, and he was married in 1864 to Virginia Robinson, who died in 1881. On January 5, 1882, he was united in marriage with Rebecca Broomfield, who died on July 2, 1887. On December 25, 1887, he wedded Mary J. Choate. Mr. Forbs is a member of the Wheeler society.

James G. Forgey

James G. Forgey, an industrious farmer and enterprising citizen of Mississippi County, Mo., was born in that county, August 9, 1858. His parents, Robert B. and Comfort (Eleazer) Forgey, were natives of Middle Tennessee. His paternal grandparents immigrated from Ireland, and settled in Tennessee, where they spent the rest of their lives. Robert B. Forgey was a farmer. In 1846 he, with his family, came down the Ohio River to Norfolk, Mo., on a flatboat. He purchased a farm and located below Norfolk, and also started a wood-yard, which he managed for several years, when he sold out and bought a farm near Bird's Point, to which he removed, and upon which he resided for several years. In 1859 he sold out and went to Randolph County, Ark. Purchasing a farm there he cultivated it until 1861, when he sold it and returned to Mississippi County, Mo., purchasing 160 acres of land, upon which his widow now lives. He died in 1883. They had three children: James G., George W. and Robert L. James G. was reared to farm life, remaining at home until he was eighteen years of age, when he began working for himself. He has been a resident of Mississippi County all his life, with the exception of a few years spent in Arkansas. He now owns 110 acres of land, with good improvements, and a substantial residence which he built himself. On March 17, 1881, he wedded Susie Bougard, a native of Kentucky. Two children have blessed their marriage, Comfort and Lizzie. Mrs. Forgey is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically Mr. Forgey is a Democrat.

Andrew J. French

Andrew J. French, a farmer of

Mississippi County, was born in Floyd County, Ind., February 15, 1830. He is a son of Henry and Eleanor (Smith) French, of German and French descent, respectively, the former a native of Tennessee and the latter of Pennsylvania. Henry French immigrated to Indiana at an early day, and remained until his death, about 1834. His wife lived until 1878. They were the parents of five children, two of whom are living Eleanor J. and Andrew J. The last named received his education in the common schools of his native county, and when about eighteen years of age, he went to Louisville, Ky., to learn the shipwright's trade, at which he worked three years, when he went to Arkansas, and located at Sterling. He remained there twelve years, engaged in the wood yard business and farming. In 1863 he immigrated to Mississippi County, and located where he now lives. He had previously purchased 380 acres of land, the most of which was in the woods. He is energetic, and has been a very successful farmer owning at present about 1,000 acres of land, which is well improved. In 1864 he was united in marriage with Katie Campbell, a native of Maryland. They have two children in life, Ella and Charles, and two dead, Andrew J. and Thomas M. Mrs. French is a member of the Catholic Church.

James Fugate

James Fugate, a substantial

farmer of Mississippi County, was born on New River, W. Va., in 1831. His parents, Randolph and Elizabeth (Ode) Fugate, were natives of the same State, where they lived until 1844 or 1845, when they removed to Kentucky. Remaining there until 1855, they came to Southeast Missouri and located on Sandy Ridge. Mr. Fugate was a farmer, and cultivated between eighty and 100 acres of land. He died in his seventy-eighth year, and his wife in her seventy-sixth year. To them were born twelve children: Crockett (deceased), Harmon (deceased), Emily (deceased), Bird (deceased), John (a resident of Dallas county, Tex.), James, Reuben (a resident of St. Francois County, Mo.), William (a resident of Van Zandt County, Tex.), Mary (deceased), Rachel (Mrs. W.T. Morgan, living on the old home place at Sandy Ridge) and Harrison (of Colorado). James remained with his parents until he was eighteen years of age, after which he served an apprenticeship at buggy and wagon manufacturing in Calloway County, Ky. On July 7, 1853, he married Susan Washam, of Graves County, Ky. After his marriage he ran a factory for twelve years. At the commencement of the Civil War he enlisted and served four years, after which he bought machinery and was engaged in sawing lumber, until July 1887. His first wife died in 1861, having borne four children: Elizabeth, Nancy, Randolph and Rachel, all of whom are deceased. On January 22, 1865, Mr. Fugate married Virginia Conyers. To this union have been born nine children: John C., Eudora, Minnie, James, Theodore, Elbert, two not named (deceased) and Narcissus (deceased). Mr. Fugate owns 1,000 or more acres of land. He has a policy of \$5,000 on his life in the Hartford Insurance Company.

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