



Drew County Arkansas

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DREW COUNTY

Historical

Arkansas is fast becoming known as one of the best states in the Union. For many years in the mad rush of immigrants to Texas, Oklahoma and other western states Arkansas was overlooked or despised and the prospector hurried through this rich state to the new country beyond without an idea of the splendid country he was leaving behind. All this is now becoming changed, however, and Arkansas is beginning to come into her own. Her rich alluvial lands, her magnificent forests, her unrivalled fruit and her by no means insignificant mineral resources have caught and held the attention of homeseeker and investor and for many years a steady stream of capital and immigration has been flowing into this favored state. Drew county lies in the southeastern part of the state, being in the second tier of counties both from the Mississippi river and from the Louisiana state line. In shape it is rectangular and in fact lacks but little of being a square. It extends 27 miles north and south while its greatest length is 33 miles, though the average distance is but little over 30 miles. The county was named after Governor Thomas S. Drew, the third governor of the state, who filled the office of chief executive from 1844 to 1846. It was formed into a separate county November 26, 1846, most of the territory now comprised within its borders being then a part of Bradley county. Since that time some considerable changes have

taken place in its boundary lines. In December, 1846, some territory from Chicot county was attached to Drew, and in 1848 a large area was detached from Drew and given to Ashley. Again a portion of Desha was added to Drew in January, 1861, which transaction remains to this day a source of dissatisfaction to our eastern neighbors. The line between Drew and Chicot was also changed in 1873. Drew county was settled by the best class of pioneer American citizens, mostly from Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama and the Carolinas. Settlements were begun in this county it seems soon after 1830. An old history of the county names among these old settlers John S. Handly and his brother, Jack, who settled in Clear Creek township in 1839; James Ferguson, who came from Mississippi and located in the same neighborhood in 1835; J. W. Ridgell, Bynum Nichols and Fountain Brown, the latter a Methodist preacher, who settled on what was called Hungry Run, in 1835; Jesse Whittacre and Hugh Fannin, who came from Kentucky about 1836 and located in the northern part of the county; Stephen Gaster and Reece Bowden, who came from Louisiana in 1832 and settled on Bayou Bartholomew; Ezekiel Owens, who came from Tennessee, in 1834 and also located on the Bayou; John O'Neal, Jesse Hunt, Benjamin Nettles and a man named Arnold, who settled on Ten Mile Creek, and the history adds that these men and their families constituted the entire numerical strength of the county. Whether this be correct or not, the number of settlers gradually increased until in 1850 there were over 3000 people in the county. It is interesting to note that the first post office in the county was named Montongo, and was situated about three miles west of where the city of Monticello now stands, being kept in the store house of one Carney O'Neal. The name still survives and is now borne by one of the most prominent country post offices of the county, located ten miles north of this town. The first election was held while the county was still a part of Bradley county, at the Gaster school house, on what is now Gaster Hill. The seat of justice was originally Rough and Ready Hill, just beyond the southern limits of the present city of Monticello. The records show that on Monday, March 22, 1847, the first county court met at the house of A. M. Rawles, Judge W. H. Wells presiding. The first claim to be presented was by Isaac Holcomb for \$3, which was allowed. The total amount of delinquent taxes for the first year of the county government was the inconsiderable sum of \$32.08. At the July term of the county court, 1849, the first steps were taken looking to the removal of the seat of justice from Rough and Ready. At the October term three commissioners, Josiah Holcomb, John M. Carr and J. Sanders, were appointed to select a suitable location and at the following January term they reported that Fountain C. Austin had deeded to the county 83 and 2-100 acres of land for the purpose of building a county seat. From this beginning sprang Monticello. A contract was soon let for the first court house for the sum of \$174. The cornerstone of the present court house was laid in October, 1870, and the entire cost of the building, a cut of which is shown in this paper, was around \$65,000. It is a handsome brick structure with a 110 foot tower, and we venture to say that it will compare favorably today with many of the more modern court houses of the state. The population of Drew county by decades has been as follows. In 1850, 3,276; in 1860, 9,087; in 1870, 9,960; in 1880, 12, 231; in 1890, 17,352; in 1900, 19,451.

Drew county took an active part in the war of the secession and the country was practically drained of able bodied men by the call to service in the army.

Companies were raised by Captains Jackson, Haslip, Whittington, Isom, Thomas, Ragland, Owens, Wolfe, Hellum, Reed, Miller, Taylor, Henry and "Pink" Burks. No battles were fought in this county, though there were a few skirmishes. Federal troops were here frequently and when the war closed in 1865 there were two companies in Monticello. An interesting volume might be written about the history of this county, but limited space forbids further detail.

Description and Resources

Drew county has been richly endowed by nature. It is one of the largest and is universally conceded by those acquainted with the facts to be one of the best counties in southern Arkansas. It is so located that it contains the greatest diversity of soils, varying from the rich alluvial bottoms of the Bayou Bartholomew to the sandy loam uplands so well adapted to fruit culture. In it can be found lands suitable for raising a great variety of products. Corn, cotton, peas, sorghum, oats and hay crops of various sorts are raised extensively here, while in the hill lands around Monticello fruits and melons thrive almost to perfection. In fact there is hardly a copy indigenous to the temperate zone that cannot be successfully grown here. The region has the typical mild southern climate. The winters are short and never severe. Any considerable snow fall is rare. Some winters are passed with scarcely any ice, and the thermometer seldom registers lower than 15 degrees above zero. Stock run on the range all winter and rarely suffer damage. The area of Drew County is about 828 square miles or 526,720 acres. The main portion of the county comprises the dividing ridge between Saline river and Bartholomew Bayou and it may be roughly divided in three parts, the Bartholomew bottoms, the dividing ridge or uplands, and the Saline bottoms.

The Bartholomew bottoms embrace about 100,000 acres of immensely rich lands. The Saline bottoms are comparatively narrow and comprise about 8,000 acres. These lands have not been found to be so good from an agricultural standpoint, but are heavily timbered. The remainder of the county is taken up by the uplands or dividing ridge; is generally spoken of as the hills. It is not to be understood, however, that all of this section is hilly. A great deal of it is comparatively level and practically none of it is so broken as not to be susceptible of cultivation. Slightly north of the center of the county a chain of hills begins which runs in a northwesternly direction to the county line. There are several small prairies in the county, one, Long Prairie, in the southern part of the county being of considerable dimensions. The larger part of the county, however, in fact practically the whole of it, is heavily timbered, the prevailing timbers being pine, the various species of oak, hickory and gum. There has also been considerable cypress in the county, most of which has been cut. The bulk of the pine timber lies in the Saline bottoms and the contiguous territory and in the southern part of the county, though pine is found in considerable quantities in all parts of the county except in Bartholomew bottoms. The greater part of this timber is now controlled by the Gates Lumber Company, which has a large mill at

Wilmar. Hardwoods abound in all parts of the county and a number of small mills are now engaged in cutting this timber. Much valuable stave timber has been and is still being cut and this has been no small industry for many years in this county. There is a world of tie timber which is now being worked and many thousands of ties are made and shipped from this county every year. The principal industries of Drew county are agriculture, including fruit growing, and lumbering of the various kinds. Agriculture is the most important and stable of all industries, and in this respect there are few counties in the south possessing superior advantages to Drew. The richest portion of the county from an agricultural standpoint is what is locally called the Bayou country. Bartholomew Bayou, which heads in Jefferson county, Arkansas, flows south through this state finally joining the Ouachita river in Louisiana, is supposed to have been at one time the channel of the Arkansas river. It has long been famed for its fertility and throughout its entire length is lined by large plantations many of them reaching into the thousands of acres, and containing some of the richest cotton lands in the south. Some of the finest of these plantations are within the confines of Drew county probably the largest land owner in the state, Major Tillar, having his headquarters at the town of Tillar, in the northeastern part of this county, where a large part of his holdings lie. Other large plantations are those of Col. Charles t. Duke of Baxter, and W. H. Lephiew of Dermott. Bayou land is much sought after. In a normal year it will yield a bale of cotton and from 40 to 50 bushels of corn to the acres and other crops in proportion. It rents readily at \$5 per acre and there is little of the cultivated land on the market. But while this is the most valuable land it is far from being the only good farming land in Drew county. There is an abundance of creek bottom land in the county which is above the average for agricultural purposes and will yield in a favorable season from three-quarters of a bale upward, while the average uplands of the county will give returns with proper cultivation of a half bale of cotton and from 20 to 30 bushels of corn, and many experienced farmers will tell you that it is easily possible with the right kind of cultivation to raise this to a bale of cotton and 50 bushels of corn. Like nearly all southern districts, cotton is the great staple. Drew county yields on an average from 15,000 to 20,000 bales of cotton annually, last year the crop being 20, 040 bales. From 12,000 to 14,000 bales are marketed in Monticello. The compress receipts show that last season 12, 264 bales were marketed at this town. The remainder of the crop is marketed at Wilmar, Collins and Tillar, and probably some at Dermott, just across the line in Chicot county. It is often said that this is not a corn country, but while corn is probably not the most profitable crop that can be grown, it has been abundantly proved that corn is within the list of successful crops for this section. A few instances will suffice to illustrate. Last year the first government demonstration farm was established in this county, the crop being tended by Mr. L. D. Owens, who lives four miles north of town and owns an ordinary upland farm. Under the government tuition and with moderate fertilization Mr. Owens raised a little the rise of 48 bushels of corn to the acre, also gathering, it might be noted, four bales of cotton off five acres of land. Another instance is that of Mr. John Scharff who moved to this country from Indiana five years ago and located on Long Prairie, 16 miles south of town. Mr.

Scharff came from a corn country. He brought to bear his knowledge of corn culture, used improved methods of farming, fertilized moderately and has never failed to raise from 40 to 50 bushels of corn to the acre and last year raised 60 bushels, cultivating upland exclusively. We understand that Mr. Scharff says that he never raised better corn in his life than he has in Arkansas. Hay crops of various kinds are also grown here easily and profitably. The prevailing varieties are pea vines and Bermuda grass. The latter is indigenous to the soil here and will grow with the minimum care. Two cuttings a year can generally be obtained from either of these crops, with a yield of about a ton to the acre at each cutting. Sorghum and all forage crops are easily raised. Vegetables of all sorts thrive amazingly, and there are few vegetables known to the temperate zone that cannot be grown as easily and cheaply here as any place in the United States. The hill land of central Drew county seems almost perfectly adapted to the growth of melons, and the watermelons marketed in Monticello are rarely excelled in flavor or size. Berries are also grown with a little care, and it is a fact the Mr. Z. J. Wood, proprietor of the Terra Cotta hotel, began serving strawberries in February of the present year and continued to serve them until the last of May or the first of June. Last winter was exceptionally mild, however, and the season was a month or six weeks earlier than usual. It might be added the Mr. Wood customarily raises a large amount of the finest berries off a few rows in his garden and others who have made the effort have met with the same gratifying success. Among the prosperous industries of the county, fruit culture must not be omitted. Among the fruits that can be grown here are peaches, pears, plums, grapes, and some varieties of apples, though it cannot be recommended for the latter. The leading fruit is the peach, and there hangs now in the office of the circuit clerk the certificate of highest award for peaches given at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis in 1904. The high ridge and the aforementioned chain of hills constituting the backbone of Drew county seem almost perfectly adapted to the culture of this fruit. The soil and climate combine to impart the richest color and the most delightful flavor. The pioneer peach grower of this county is Mr. A. J. Wilson, who lives about one and one-half miles south of town, a little on the east side of the dividing ridge. Mr. Wilson is an old resident of this county. He has been interested in fruit culture the greater part of his life. He first began experimenting with fruit on a small scale in this county soon after the war, first trying apples. He soon found that peaches were better adapted to this section, however, and so turned his attention principally to them. He has made a decided success of this business and is now probably the largest peach grower in the southern part of the state. In fact he is often spoken of as the Peach King of South Arkansas. Mr. Wilson now has two farms largely set to peaches, one farm being about a mile and a half south of his home place or three miles from town. He has bought and improved the latter out of the profits from the former. He now has about 10,000 peach trees on each place or a total of 20,000 trees, all bearing, though the trees on his home place are mostly too young for a heavy crop. If the next season is a reasonably good one, Mr. Wilson expects to gather 7,000 to 8,000 crates of peaches off his lower place alone, besides some 400 more crates of Abundance and Red June Plums. Most of his peach crop is

marketed in Little Rock, Pine Bluff and intermediate points and he ships generally direct to the retail dealer. His principal varieties are the Elberta, Alexander and Carmen for early peaches and a variety originated by himself and named by him Wilson's October for fall gathering. Mr. Wilson is a very enthusiastic fruit man and takes delight in explaining the craft to those interested and in showing them over his orchards. He gives it as his opinion that while apples are not so well suited to this section as peaches, still a man can always have apples by taking care to select the proper varieties. He himself raises some apples. Other persons besides Mr. Wilson have taken up the business of growing peaches on a smaller scale and all who have given the work the right kind of attention have found it a pleasant and profitable occupation.

THE CITY OF MONTICELLO

The handsome little city of Monticello, the county seat of Drew county, is situated northwest of the center of this county on the highest part of the dividing ridge. Monticello is one of the most compactly built towns to be found anywhere. There is not a vacant lot around the Public Square and not a thing but substantial brick buildings. For manufactories the town has a cotton mill, a cotton seed oil mill, a cotton compress, besides ginneries, steam laundry, etc. Monticello now has one railroad, the Warren branch of the Iron Mountain, which traverses the county from east to west, and has almost the certainty of another crossing the county from north to south in the very near future. This railroad, the Arkansas, Louisiana and Gulf, has been surveyed from Pine Bluff to Monroe, La. Work has been in progress for some months on the lower end from Hamburg, Ark., to Monroe, La., and the grading is now practically completed over that section of the road. It is thought that trains will be running from Monroe to Hamburg before the winter is over and the promoters have announced their intention to push the road on through to Pine Bluff at the earliest possible time. When this road is completed Monticello will have the best of transportation facilities. Monticello has long been famed as a city of residences and justly so. She has many advantages which combine to make her desirable as a place of residence or business. Being situated in a high and dry place with excellent water and cleanly surroundings, she is an unusually healthy city. Chills, fever and other malarial symptoms are rare. The city abounds in beautiful residences. There is not a street of any importance in the town that has not its quota of handsome buildings, many of which would adorn a city of the size of Little Rock and which are the envy and wonder of visitors. It is doubtful if there is a city of its size in the state that can compare with Monticello in this respect. It has water that cannot be surpassed anywhere and which is the especial pride of its citizens. The water comes from a well 750 feet deep. The waterworks and electric light plant are owned and operated by the city, and this management has proved entirely satisfactory. No matter what the experience of other cities has been with municipal ownership of public utilities, the experiment in Monticello has proved eminently successful.

These improvements were installed several years ago at a cost of about \$25,000. A tax was voted to provide a sinking fund and today there remains but

\$11,000 indebtedness which is paid off at the rate of about \$2,500 annually. A complete system of sewerage is now being agitated and will no doubt be installed within the next few years. The last quorum court also appropriated the sum of \$18,000 to build a new jail. Monticello's citizens are the highest type of cultured, refined, Christian people and the town will compare favorably from a moral standpoint with any city in the South. It is a city of churches and schools.

Five denominations are represented, viz: Methodist, Baptist, Episcopal, Presbyterian and Associate Reformed Presbyterian, all of whom have houses of worship. The Baptists have just completed a magnificent \$15,000 structure with a seating capacity of about 1,000, and the A. R. Presbyterians have now in course of construction a handsome pressed brick church, which will cost in the neighborhood of \$8,000 and will comfortably seat about 600 people. The

Episcopalians also have a new church which while not large, is a pretty and convenient little church in a choice location. Both the Methodist and Presbyterian congregations contemplate the erection of new houses of worship in the near future. Rev. E. P. Kennedy is pastor of the Presbyterian church, Rev. R. R.

Moore of the Methodist church, Rev. W. E. Williamson of the Episcopal and Rev. S. J. Patterson of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian. The Baptist pulpit at present is vacant but will not remain so long. Another source of especial pride to Monticellonians is their school system. Monticello was very fortunate this year in securing Prof. J. L. Spence as superintendent of all of the schools of the city. It is no exaggeration to say that Prof. Spence is one of the leading educators of the

state. He is a man of many years experience in his chosen work and has been uniformly successful. He is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and has been engaged in teaching ever since leaving that institution. Prof. Spence taught in this town once before but left here and went to Wilmar, where he established Beauvoir College, which he built up to an enrollment of nearly 500. Last fall he was prevailed upon to return to this city and he has thrown himself into the work with his accustomed zeal. Prof. Spence is one of the most enterprising and industrious of men and under his indomitable energy the high school has grown as if by magic. It has been found necessary to enlarge the school building and additional dormitory accommodations are badly needed and will be provided for before another session. In fact the contract has been let for a \$5,000 girls dormitory on the High school campus, work on which will begin at an early date.

The Monticello school system consists of the free school, comprising seven grades, and the Hinemon University school, founded in 1890, by Hon. John H. Hinemon, president of Henderson College at Arkadelphia and now a candidate for governor of the state. It is beautifully located in the Southern part of the city with spacious grounds and commodious buildings, illustrations of which appear in these pages. In addition to the literary department, Prof. Spence has introduced a commercial department and music, expression and art departments, all of the highest standards of efficiency. The total enrollment to date is 310, about 140 of this number being boarding students. The school employs altogether a force of 13 teachers. There are three literary societies the Adelpian and Crescent, both of which meet on Friday evening and the Garland which meets on Saturday evening. Much interest is manifested by the students in this work. The school is

also preparing to be a strong contestant for athletic honors when the baseball season opens up. The graded school is located in the northern part of town. This school is in charge of Prof. Fred F. Harrelson. Prof. Harrelson has been employed in the Monticello schools for the last three years and solely by his merit has worked himself up to the position which he is now holding. A corps of nine teachers are employed in this school and the enrollment at the end of last month was 378. It will doubtless pass 400 before the session closes. The school is having a very successful year and one that is very gratifying to the patrons. A new building for graded school purposes has for several years been recognized as an absolute necessity and it was planned to have such a building ready for occupancy for a part of the present session. The sum of \$30,000 was appropriated for this purpose and a deal was made with a St. Louis company to float the bonds. Some entanglements arose concerning the titles, however, in making the mortgage to the school property and the work was delayed for several months. We are informed that this matter has practically all been straightened out now and it is an assured fact that Monticello will have a magnificent new \$30,000 school building in the very near future. Monticello now has a population of about 3,000. During the last seven years her growth has been more rapid than during any similar period of her history, due partially at least to the installation of her splendid system of waterworks. Her greatest need at present is more manufacturing industries and with the advent of a North and South railroad the town will offer unsurpassed advantages to enterprises of this sort. Her present manufactories are in a highly satisfactory condition. Monticello already boasts one of the two cotton factories in the state. The history of this enterprise has been similar to that of many other like institutions. It was at first a failure and the stock depreciated until it was practically worthless. A reorganization was effected, however, and a new management installed, and the affairs of the mill have improved at such a remarkable rate that stock has advanced to about par. The oil mill has always been a paying concern and has declared some large dividends. With the coming of better transportation facilities, which is now practically assured, Monticello has a bright commercial future before her.

JUDGE HENRY W. WELLS

Judge Henry W. Wells was born in Drew County on the 27th of December, 1849, being a son of D. S. and Louisa (Wallace) Wells, and has been a lifelong resident of the country. He was educated in the schools of the county (principally of Monticello), Andrew College at Trenton, Tenn., and Kentucky State University, graduating from the law department of the latter institution in the class of 1873. Coming back to his native state after graduating, he at once began the practice of his profession, associating himself with Col. W. F. Slemons and the late Judge W. T. Wells, the firm being known as Slemons, Wells & Wells. Since that time Judge Wells has risen steadily in his profession and has been the recipient of many political honors. He served his county in the capacity of County and Probate Judge from 1884 to 1886 and was prosecuting attorney of this judicial

district from 1892 to 1898. In 1899 he was appointed by the governor a Railroad Commissioner and was further honored by being made chairman of the Commission. Retiring from this office he was again elected Prosecuting Attorney in 1902, serving until 1906 when he was elected Judge of this the 10th Judicial District, having no opposition in the race. Judge Wells is a well educated man and a man of unusual natural ability. He has long been recognized as one of the ablest lawyers of the Monticello Bar and in fact of this Judicial District. He is a liberal minded and public spirited citizen and throughout his entire career, he has ever been among the foremost in all that pertained to the advancement of his home town and county. He is now and has been for many years a member of the school board and is one of the most progressive men along educational lines. No movement for the public good fails to enlist his enthusiastic support. His popularity is very great and he has suffered few political defeats. Judge Wells is a member of the Episcopal church and of the Masonic Lodge.

COL. W. F. SLEMONS

Col. William Furgeson Slemons is one of Monticello's most distinguished citizens. Col. Slemons was born in Weekly county, Tennessee, March 15, 1830, and was educated mainly at Bethel College in Carroll County of that state. He came to this country permanently in 1852, having been here a year or two prior to that time on a prospecting trip. After coming here, Col. Slemons taught at Hamburg for a year, employing his leisure time in reading law. He then took a law course at the famous law school at Lebanon, Tennessee, graduating from that institution in 1854, after which he returned to this country and began the practice of his profession in Monticello. He soon became prominent in the affairs of the county. He was a delegate to the Secession Convention in 186_ and voted for secession. When the war broke out, Col. Slemons enlisted in Co. B, Second Arkansas Cavalry as lieutenant and a few months afterward was promoted to a Colonel, in which capacity he served till the close of the war. He commanded a brigade during the years 1862 to 1864, and was mentioned for a brigadier general but his commission for some reason never reached him. Col. Slemons took part in several important engagements. Towards the close of the war, having been transferred to the Trans-Mississippi department, he was captured near Ft. Scott, Kansas, and was confined until the war ended, first at Johnson's Island and later at Rock Island, being the last man to leave that prison in July, 1865. He refused to take the oath of allegiance and General Grant paroled him to the limits of Arkansas. After the war Col. Slemons again took up his practice at Monticello. He was elected district attorney in 1866, which office he held till he was ousted by the carpet bag regime in 1868. In 1874 when the people of the county again got control of the government, he was elected to congress, holding his office with credit for six years, when he voluntarily declined re-election, and returned to his practice in this city. In 1902 he was elected county judge without his solicitation and held the office for two terms. Col. Slemons was married in December, 1855 to Miss Martha S. Howard of this county and they have now passed the anniversary of their golden wedding. They have four children living and three

dead. Col. Slemons has had a long and honorable career. He is a man of marked ability, one who possesses the courage of his convictions and has always enjoyed in a marked degree the confidence and esteem of his fellow men.

DR. W. A. BROWN

Dr. W. A. Brown was born Nov. 23, 1843 near Fayetteville, in Lincoln county, Tenn., and like most of the other leading men in this town was raised on a farm. At the age of 18 years, he entered the Confederate army. He was opposed to Secession personally, but when his native state withdrew from the Union, he enlisted in the 8th Tennessee Infantry and fought bravely for the Confederacy. He remained with his regiment until he was wounded at the battle of Murfreesboro December 31, 1862, which incapacitated him for further service. At the close of the war Dr. Brown attended college at Danville, Ky., for one year. While there he became connected with the Presbyterian church and has been a consistent member of that denomination ever since. In 1866-67 he attended Washington and Lee University at Lexington, Va., and in the fall of the latter year, he entered the medical department of the University of Nashville, graduating therefrom in 1869. Dr. Brown moved to this country in 1873, first locating at Relf's Bluff in Lincoln county where he remained until June 1889 when he moved to Monticello. He has been in the active practice of medicine for 38 years without intermission and a great many honors have come to him as a member of his profession. He is a member of the American Medical Association and the Arkansas Medical Society, being vice president of the latter organization in 1902. He is now president of the Fourth Councillor District Medical Society and also president of the Drew County Medical Society. Dr. Brown has always been one of our most progressive and public spirited citizens and many honors have also come to him outside of his professional life. He is an ardent supporter of our public school system and has been closely identified with our educational interests ever since he has been in the state. He was elected a trustee at the beginning of our present school system about 1875 and continued in that office practically all the time till 1904. He was president of the Board of Directors of Hinemon University School for many years and was president of the Monticello Public School Board in 1902 and 1903. He is now president of the Monticello Board of Trade and has been for many years and any measure looking to the public welfare or the progress and growth of the town can always count on his hearty support. Dr. Brown has been a Mason since 1865. He is now a member of the Monticello Blue Lodge and has filled all the offices from Tyler to Master of the lodge. He is also a member and treasurer of the Royal Arch Chapter and is a member and financial secretary of the local lodge of Knights and Ladies of Honor. He has been an elder in the Presbyterian church for thirty-one years. He is the senior member of the firm of Brown, McQuiston & Co., druggists. The firm conducts a first-class drug store in all respects and receives a liberal share of the drug business of the community. Dr. Brown was married to Miss Mary Catherine Hoke of Montongo, Ark., in January, 1875. Four sons and two daughters were

born to this happy union, all of whom are living, except the youngest son, Hoke, who died at the age of eight months.

JUDGE Z. T. WOOD

Zackary Taylor Wood, a son of John S. and Martha (Bussey) Wood, was born in Drew county, September 16, 1849 and has lived in this and Ashley counties all his life. His father was a merchant and also for 58 years a Baptist minister. Judge

Wood's early days were spent on a farm and attending such schools as the country afforded at that early day. The Civil War having left his father, like so many other men, practically bankrupt, young Zackary was at the age of fifteen thrown largely on his own resources. Purchasing a yoke of oxen he spent a year hauling freight from different points on the Mississippi river to Hamburg. He then came to Monticello where he attended school for two years and then worked for a year or so longer at whatever labor he could obtain, until his good reputation for industry, ability and honesty obtained for him a position as bookkeeper in a store.

His industrious disposition and studious inclinations are well shown by the fact that while in this position he occupied his leisure moment by reading law. He did not immediately engage in the practice however, but at the end of two years began merchandising on his own account, continuing in this business from seven years. At the expiration of this time his law studies having been completed, he

was admitted to the bar in 1880 and from this time until 1898 he practiced law in Monticello. During most of this time he was associated with Js. R. Cotham under the style of Wood & Cotham, this firm building up a large practice and establishing an enviable reputation as able and successful lawyers. In 1898

Judge Wood was elected Judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, an office which he filled with conspicuous ability until 1906, when he was elected without opposition

Chancellor of the second Chancery Circuit, the office which he now holds. He was married in November 1874 to Miss Tommie Stanley, a daughter of Wm. F. Stanley, a planter of Monticello. They have four children living and one dead.

Judge Wood has long been prominent in the affairs of the town. He has been since 1876 a member of the Monticello School Board and is one of the most conscientious workers for the educational interests of the city. He is president of the Baptist's Orphan's Home and a deacon in the Baptist church. He is also an influential member of the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias lodges. Judge Wood is an exemplary Christian man and one of our most valued and honored citizens.

The Southern Compress Company

One of the Monticello enterprises that has been a conspicuous success is the Southern Compress Company. This concern was organized December 15, 1892, and was originally owned largely by Memphis parties. In June, 1902, however, the Memphis stock was bought over by R. E. Morris of Little Rock and W. A.

Wood of this place. The Morris stock of which there was a large amount was afterward bought by George H. McFadden & Bro. of Philadelphia and is still held

by them. The remainder of the stock is scattered out among local parties. For some years after its organization, the compress was managed by Dr. J. S. Dunn, now of Warren, but when Mr. Wood bought a controlling stock, he became manager and has continued to act in that capacity ever since. Mr. Wood's administration of the affairs of the company has been very successful and in fact the company has uniformly paid an annual dividend of 10 per cent during the time that he has been in charge. The company being a Tennessee corporation was reorganized last summer in order to conform with the Wingo act and the capital stock originally \$21,000 was raised to \$25,525. The present officers are: W. A. Wood, president and manager; C. B. Wood, secretary and treasurer; V. J. Trotter, W. A. Wood and A. T. Cotham, directors. From 18,000 to 20,000 bales of cotton are compressed annually at this plant and they work at times as many as forty men. Last year they handled something over 17,000 bales and the pay roll amounted to \$8,244.67. A large part of the cotton handled by the Southern Compress company is shipped in from the surrounding territory, much being received from the Valley branch of the Iron Mountain railroad and some from the M. H. & L. Most of the cotton marketed at Warren is also shipped here for compressing. A great deal of this cotton comes here through the connection of George H. McFadden & Bro. with the plant. This firm ranks among the largest cotton factors in the United States. They buy thousands of bales of cotton in the territory above mentioned, practically all of which is compressed here. C. B. Wood is their buyer at this place. The company, with an eye to the welfare of themselves and their patrons, is now shedding over their entire cotton yard, and we are informed that when this is completed they will have one of the largest if not the largest cotton shed of its kind in the state.

LODGES

Knights and Ladies of Honor

Among the insurance orders of this city, the Knights and Ladies of Honor is among the most popular and prosperous. The local chapter, Monticello Lodge, No. 1760, was organized November 22, 1892, with the following members: W. A. Brown, W. M. Robertson, W. B. Heflin, Leila Heflin, M. C. Brown, G. R. Stewart, J. B. Wilson, A. B. Stewart, M. R. Burks, Sallie Bordeaux, John H. Hinemon, Hale Robinson, J. B. Bussey, J. E. Erwin, T. W. Loper, R. B. Leslie, B. A. Hall, and A.(?) O. Evans. The officers at present are Mrs. P. A. Harper, Past Protector; Mrs. F. L. Maneese, Protector; Mrs. A. B. Cooper, Vice-Protector; W. H. McQuiston, treasurer; W. A. Brown, secretary.

Knights of Honor

Monticello Lodge, Knights of Honor, was organized in 1878, being thus the second oldest lodge organization in the town. The following were the charter members; J. A. Jackson, J. A. Owens, W. B. Thompson, W. S. Jeter, T. H. Matthews, L. E. Hoke, C. L. McCain, J. F. Burren, J. E. Kerr, W. H. Mullens, W.

T. Wells, Fayette Gabbert, A. H. Bell, T. W. Haynes, Eli Rogers, W. C. Rice, W. L. Preston, C. F. Hudspeth, H. M. Hankins, W. E. Cole and R. C. Bennett. The following officers are now serving: R. E. V. Bordeaux, Dictator; Harry M. Hankins, Treasurer; J. F. Koonce, Financial Reporter. The local chapter has 42 members and there is about \$75,000 insurance in force.

THE TOWN OF WILMAR

The town of second importance in Drew County is Wilmar, situated about 8 miles nearly due west of Monticello on the Warren Branch of the Iron Mountain R. R.

Wilmar is a thriving little city of 1,000 or 1,200 inhabitants. It is the seat of the Gates Lumber Company and up to the spring of the present year was the home of Beauvoir College. These two institutions have been responsible for the existence of Wilmar as a town and have formed the chief basis of its prosperity and growth. The first settler in the present town of Wilmar was Capt. J. T. D. Anderson, who soon after the extension of the Warren Branch to its present terminus of Warren, opened up a small store and also acted as postmaster and depot agent, using the house which now serves as a depot for the combined purposes of store, postoffice, depot and residence. Capt. Anderson owned practically all the land on which the town has been built and it was probably his liberal policy to a great extent that determined the Lumber company to locate its plant at this point. He has always been an influential citizen of the place and is today a prominent merchant and honored resident of the town. The real history of Wilmar, however, dates from the advent of the Gates Lumber Company, 17 years ago. This was augmented about ten years ago by the location in the town of Prof. J. L. Spence, who established a high school which was afterward changed to Beauvoir College and which grew to have a total enrollment of between 400 and 500 students. The college was abandoned on the removal of Prof. Spence to Monticello, but the town has a flourishing and most excellent high school, under the efficient management of Prof. W. B. Massey. The school comprises 11 grades and has a nine months term. The enrollment in round numbers is 200. Four literary teachers, one music teacher and one expression teacher are employed. The school has literary societies, boarding department, etc. and is in the best working condition. In addition to the enterprises above mentioned, Wilmar now has a stove factory with a capacity of 10,000 per day, a bank with \$25,000 capital, five general merchandise stores, one exclusive dry goods store, one drug store, livery stable, blacksmith shop and a Farmer's Union Warehouse (the only one in the county) with a capacity of 1,000 bales. The warehouse was established during the present year. Wilmar possesses one of the most public spirited citizenry to be found anywhere. They are brim full of local pride and loyalty, and any new citizen or any new enterprises may be sure of finding a warm welcome, a helping hand and hearty encouragement in Wilmar.

Prof. Otto Mahling

Prof. Otto Mahling, the present efficient music instructor at the Wilmar High School, is a native of Berlin, Germany. He began the study of music at ten years of age under Prof. Rachful, a noted musician of that city, and remained under his tuition for several years, finally when 14 years of age, going on a trip with his instructor to Russia. On returning from this trip, he went to Saxony and played quite a while in the orchestra of Count Einsidel. When 17 years of age, according to German custom, he entered the military service, joining the Heavy Artillery Regiment, and during his three years service rose to the position of concert master. At the expiration of his time with the army, Prof. Mahling, still a mere youth, joined a band of high class musicians and traveled over the various countries of Europe, spending two years in Italy, six months in France and considerable time in other countries. He then accepted a position as the people of Wilmar by a very flattering offer induced Prof. Mahling to remain there and he now has a large class and is meeting with much success. Prof. Mahling is a musician of unusual ability, being master of the cornet and violin and playing several other instruments. He takes great interest in his work and is a very efficient and successful instructor.

H. M. Wilson

One of the eminently successful business men of Monticello is H. M. Wilson. Mr. Wilson was born in Tipton County, Tennessee, January 25, 1851, being a son of Hugh and Jane (McQuiston) Wilson. His parents moved with him to this county when he was about two years old. Mr. Wilson's early life was spent on a farm a few miles north of Monticello and the only educational advantages he ever had were the three months schools of the day. When he was about 25 years old he came to Monticello and opened a small grocery store, allying himself with J. N. Harper. The young men had just \$550 capital each. They continued in business together for over 23 years or until Mr. Harper's death, which occurred in 1901. After 12 or 15 years in the grocery business exclusively, the firm embarked in the general mercantile business. The dry goods department at first was really a separate business. There were several partners and it went under the name of Wood, McCain & Co. After a few years, however, and a number of changes, Mr. Harper and Mr. Wilson bought out the other interests and consolidated the entire business under the firm name of Harper & Wilson, which arrangement lasted until Mr. Harper's death, Mr. Wilson having charge of the grocery house and Mr. Harper of the dry goods. After Mr. Harper's death the business was conducted without change for about two years when a dissolution was effected and Mr. Wilson became sole proprietor, thus establishing the firm of H. M. Wilson & Co., as it stands today. Being unable to give his personal attention to both departments of the business, Mr. Wilson about three years ago, employed Mr. J. N. Ross of Russellville to take charge of the dry goods store. Mr. Ross is an experienced and practical dry goods man. He at once gave that department, which had been suffered to deteriorate somewhat, a thorough shake up, installed a large line of the most up-to-date merchandise that could be obtained, and now has one of the leading dry goods trades of the town. They are exclusive agents

for Statesman and Thoroughbred hats, Criterion and Xtragood clothing and the Stacy-Adams line of fine shoes. They also handle the Star Brand Shoes. In the grocery and furnishing department, some of Mr. Wilson's leading brands are his Gold Leaf Flour and James & Graham and Tennessee wagons. Mr. Wilson is a man of untiring industry and energy. He has always made it a rule of his life to attend strictly to business and by this policy coupled with a high grade of business ability and scrupulous honesty, he has built up one of the largest business interests of the town. His yearly business now will average \$100,000 or more. He is a heavy stockholder and director in both banks and in the Drew Oil Mill. He is also a stockholder in the Monticello Cotton Mill and is interested in a large wholesale grocery business at Corsicana, Texas, of which his brother has charge. He is a leading member of the Associate Reform Presbyterian church. He was married January 25, 1893 to Miss Fanny Bussey of Monticello.

John B. Wilson

John B. Wilson, manager of the Drew Furniture Company, was born in Tipton County, Tennessee, August 11, 1848 and moved with his parents to this county in November, 1853. Mr. Wilson received most of his education in the schools which Mr. A. J. McQuiston taught in this county during the years following the Civil War. In 1871, however, Mr. Wilson went to Due West, South Carolina and entered Erskine College in which institution he spent two years. He returned home in July 1873 and adopted the occupation of farming, following this worthy calling for about ten years. He moved to Monticello in 1883 and has been in business of various kinds in this town since. He embarked in the furniture business about 1881 and since that time has been giving his attention principally to this line of business. Mr. Wilson is now manager of the J. B. Wilson Furniture Co., one of the two leading furniture stores of the town. He is thoroughly acquainted with this line of business and under his management, the company is enjoying a good trade. He was married Sept. 11, 1873 to Miss Eliza Wilson of this county, and they have six living children, two boys and four girls. Mr. Wilson is a leading member and elder of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. He is also a member of the Knights and Ladies of Honor lodge and is a respected and highly esteemed citizen.

F. H. Scott

Frank H. Scott, the subject of this sketch, was born at Huntsville, Ala., in 1860, but he emigrated to this state at such an early age that he is accustomed to look upon himself as a genuine Arkansas product, his parents moving to this good state when their son Frank was but six months old and locating first in Marianna and later in Forrest City. In these two cities Mr. Scott was reared. Mr. Scott began his mercantile career at 17 years of age, when he began to work as a clerk for the firm of Wynne, Dennis & Beck at Forrest City. He remained with these people for five years and then went to Memphis and accepted a position as travelling salesman for B. Lowenstein & Bros. of that city, continuing with them

for thirteen years. After this he traveled for five years for the Hargadine-McKittrick Dry Goods Company of St. Louis. A large part of Mr. Scott's long travelling career was spent in Arkansas and contiguous territory and he is well and favorably known to many of the mercantile men over a large part of the state. In 1903 he resigned his position with the Hargadine-McKittrick Company and began merchandising in Monticello in partnership with E. S. Maloney, under the style of Scott & Maloney, but at the end of a year he bought Mr. Maloney's interest and has since been running as F. H. Scott. This firm made a big hit from the start and the business has increased until now Mr. Scott has one of the leading dry goods houses of this section of the state. He carries one of the largest if not the largest exclusive stock of dry goods between Pine Bluff and Monroe, his stock invoicing around \$25,000. Mr. Scott has been in the dry goods business since boyhood and he is a thorough dry goods man. He has always carried one of the most handsome and up-to-date lines to be found in any small city and his stock includes a large number of the most popular and reliable standard brands. He is sole agent for the celebrated Edwin Clapp Shoes for men, Queen Quality Shoes for women, Swan and Tiger Hats, Headlight Overalls and the superb Wyler-Ackerland line of men's and boys' clothing. He also makes a strong bid for and gets a liberal share of the ladies' dress goods trade. He carries a splendid stock of ladies' cloaks, wraps, and all dress goods fabric. Mr. Scott is a district steward in the Methodist church, and has been a member of that church for many years.

He is also a past chancellor in the Knights of Pythias lodge and twice represented a subordinate lodge in the Grand Lodge of the state. He was married in 1895 to Mrs. Della Harris of this city and to them have been born four children, three boys and one girl. One boy, Julian, died at the age of ten months.

Geo. F. Spencer

Geo. F. Spencer was born at Lacy, Ark., March 19, 1865. His early advantages were very limited and up to the age of 16 years he had no schooling except the three months free schools which prevailed in the country at that time. When he was 17 years old he contracted to work a crop for his brother Ed, the compensation for which was to be a year's schooling at Monticello, after receiving which he returned to the farm and remained there until he was twenty-one. On becoming of age, Mr. Spencer took what money he had been able to save for the last four years and went to Smith's Commercial College at Lexington, Ky., where he took a course in bookkeeping and telegraphy, his intention being at that time to enter the railroad service. This, however, through force of circumstances he was prevented from doing. On coming back to Monticello late in the Spring of 1887, at a dull season of the year, being unable to procure a better job, he worked through the summer for Ed Wines at the depot for a salary of \$6.00 per month, with the intention of using this as a stepping stone to a position with the railroad, but in the Fall he was offered a job with D. A. Kimpel at Dermott and accepted. After remaining there for a short time he came back to Monticello and took charge of a ladies' furnishing goods store which his aunt, Mrs. L. F. Jackson had opened in connection with her millinery store. Mrs.

Jackson dying soon afterward, Mr. Spencer borrowed money, bought both stocks of goods and paid for them in about three months time. He has been in business here practically all the time since. A short time after going into business for himself, Mr. Spencer formed a partnership with B. F. Prewitt. They were merchandising on the corner where W. E. Harvill's store now stands and were laying the foundation for a prosperous business when the disastrous fire of 1890 visited Monticello and completely wiped them out. As Mr. Spencer expresses it, he got out with \$100, a bunch of keys and his credit. After this misfortune he clerked a while for E. Hoover. He then conducted a shoe store in connection with his brother Ed, for two years, after which he formed a partnership with Ed Spencer and J. M. Waddell to open a business at Morrell in Ashley County. He personally conducted this business for three years, then sold out and came back to this place, where he has been merchandising ever since most of the time being connected with the dry goods firm of Ed Spencer. In February, 1906, he opened a grocery store on south Main Street, and the measure of his success with which he is meeting, is shown by the fact that the first year he did about \$44,000 worth of business. He carries a large and select stock of both staple and fancy groceries. His special pride is his flour, the "Thelma" brand, which is put up for his individual use by a milling company in Missouri and is named after his little girl. Mr. Spencer is a steward in the M. E. Church and superintendent of the Sunday school. He is also a member of the K. of P. lodge. He married Miss Pauline Bordeaux in November 1890. They have three children living, two boys and one girl and one boy dead.

Ed Spencer

Among the important mercantile concerns of the town must be mentioned that of Ed Spencer, who runs one of the most up-to-date stores to be found in this part of the state. Ed Spencer was born at Lacy, 16 miles south of Monticello, September 5, 1859, and was the eldest son of Geo. S. and Eliza (Daniel) Spencer. During his boyhood days he obtained such rudimentary education as he could from the country schools of the day and supplemented this by one year's attendance at the Monticello school. At the age of 23 years Mr. Spencer came to Monticello to seek his fortune and began his career here as clerk in the store of Harris, Cotham & Wood, where he worked six years at a meagre salary. Having served his apprenticeship in this line, Mr. Spencer then opened a small stock of dry goods in connection with his aunt, Mrs. Lucy Jackson, but at the end of a few months, the firm of Cotham & Everett, successors to his former employers, having offered him a good position and an interest in the business, and having agreed to take his stock of goods off his hands at invoice prices, he accepted their proposition and went to them. After remaining with them for three years, he sold out to his partners and took employment with the firm of McCloy & Trotter, where he worked for a year and then opened up an exclusive shoe business in partnership with his brother George, under the firm name of Ed and George Spencer. This arrangement was terminated at the end of three years and Mr. Spencer formed a partnership with B. A. Hardy and Walter Lambert under the

style of Spencer, Hardy & Company. After running this way for five years, Mr. Spencer bought the interests of the other members of the firm and has been running since as Ed Spencer, dealer in dry goods. He now has one of the largest and best assorted stocks of dry goods to be found in any town of this size. He does a large furnishing business and a large cash business. He makes a specialty of ladies' fine dress goods and at all seasons carries a large and well selected line of the most fashionable fabrics. He also handles an unusually good line of ready-made clothing and gentlemen's furnishings and is the only dealer in this city selling the well known and hard-to-beat Hamilton-Brown shoes. Mr. Spencer's annual business will average around \$50,000 and last year it exceeded that amount. Mr. Spencer is a steward in the Methodist church and a member of the W. O. W. lodge. He is a member of the city council and a stockholder and director in the Monticello Bank & Trust Company, and is a valued and respected citizen. He married Miss Alice Harris and they have four children, two boys and two girls, the eldest daughter, Miss Allene, being now a student in the State University.

Frank Haynes & Son

There is but one firm in Monticello regularly engaged in the abstract business. This is the firm of Frank Haynes & Son, who are the owners of a set of abstract books that will soon be complete in every detail. Frank Haynes, the head of this firm, was born in 1855 in Cornerville, in what is now Lincoln County, but was then a part of Drew. His parents, E. K. and Sallie (Slythe) Haynes, settled in the above mentioned locality in the early fifties, the country being then a wilderness just surveyed by the government. His father was a land man and located and entered for non-residents thousands of acres of land in this and other counties. He became a large land owner himself at one time but lost all in the panicky times of 1873. When about 30 years of age, he became a cripple from chronic rheumatism and his son Frank acted as his amanuensis, thus picking up much useful information about land matters, especially those pertaining to the system of public surveys. This information became valuable to him in later life when he engaged in the land business himself. Although receiving but little schooling, Mr. Haynes is a well educated man. His school days ended when he was 15 years old and the remainder of his education was gained by home study without the aid of an instructor. It is doubtful, however, if there is a man in the county with a more thorough knowledge of the common school and many of the high school branches than he. On arriving at young manhood, Mr. Haynes took up the avocation of teaching and followed this profession for 15 years or more, teaching at various places in this and adjoining counties. He was employed for five years in the Monticello schools, one year as principal, and it is generally conceded that few if any better disciplinarians or instructors have ever taught in the schools of this county. He is also a man with a decided genius for literary work. He was for two years editorial writer for this paper and it is no exaggeration to say that he is one of the most forcible and versatile writers in the state. Mr. Haynes has been actively engaged in the land and abstract business for the last five years. A

considerable part of this time he was associated with attorneys Knox & Hardy of this place and J. B. Daniels of Dermott. This firm owned some large tracts of land, mostly in Chicot County. About 18 months ago, the firm of Haynes, Hardy & Co. was dissolved and Mr. Haynes then associated his only son Pope, with himself in the business under the present name, Frank Haynes & Son. They are devoting their time mostly to their abstract business, and completing the set of books which they own, though they do consider able other work, such as surveying, type-writing, etc. Their business standing is of the highest, and this often times intricate and important work when entrusted to them will be done honestly and accurately. Pope Haynes, the junior member of this firm, like his father is almost entirely self-educated. Owing to the delicate state of his health during childhood, he attended school only a few weeks. He has always been an indefatigable student and a tireless reader, however, so that he now has not only as good a literary education as the average man, but also a knowledge of many technical subjects. He lacked only a few months of work of completing a correspondence course in mechanical engineering and is a practical electrician. He is an expert typewriter and has made a record of 70 word a minute for several minutes. He was happily married on the 7th of last month to Miss Lela Trice, youngest daughter of J. A. Trice of Collins, Arkansas.

John Ahrens' Sons

The larger part of the insurance business of Monticello as well as a large part of the business of several adjoining counties is controlled by the firm of John Ahrens' Sons. This firm was established in 1883 by John Ahrens who personally conducted the business for nearly twenty years, his death occurring in 1902. By industry, ability and fair dealing Mr. Ahrens built up the largest insurance business in this immediate portion of the state. At his death the business was taken in charge of by his sons and the style of the firm changed to John Ahrens' sons, the eldest son, Darwin, becoming the head of the business. All three of Mr. Ahrens' sons were originally interested, but the youngest son, Elmo and has dropped out and is now located in Hamburg and the firm at present is composed of Darwin and Albert Ahrens. Under their management the business has continued to prosper. They now represent 51 fire insurance companies besides life, accident, etc., and the combined assets of their different companies will total about \$800,000,000. They represent only the best companies operating in this section of the country and they are doing an extensive business in the neighboring counties of Ashley, Chicot, Desha, Lincoln and Bradley in addition to Drew. The business was at first established as a fire insurance agency only, but its scope has been enlarged till now the firm writes all sorts of insurance including life stock, making of bonds, etc. Their live stock insurance is handled through the Indiana & Ohio Live Stock Insurance Company of Crawfordsville, Ind., which has just entered this state and which is the largest and oldest compnay of its kind in the United States. It is worthy of mention that no customer of John Ahrens' sons has ever lost a dollar through the failure of any of their companies. They always cheerfully and promptly reinsure a customer under such

circumstances, giving credit for any unearned premium. They have done this at a heavy loss to themselves at times, but they have never departed from the rule. They are now installed in an office on South Main Street which they recently bought and handsomely fitted up. They solicit all insurance business of whatsoever kind and all persons dealing with them are assured of the lowest current rates and the best and most reliable companies.

Dr. S. Harris

Dr. S. Harris at the present time owns the only drug store in Wilmar, having just a few weeks ago bought the stock of I. A. Bird & Son, consolidating it with his own stock and moving to the Bird stand. Dr. Harris was born in DeSoto County, Mississippi. His literary education was received at Lebanon, Louisiana, the leading institution of the Baptist denomination in that State, and his medical course was taken at Louisville, Kentucky, from which institution he graduated in the class of 1892. After leaving the medical college he came direct to Arkansas, locating first at Wesson in Union County. There he remained seven years when he removed to Wilmar where he has remained since. Dr. Harris entered the drug business last March by buying the store stated above, he has recently bought out his only competitor and now has the only drug business of the town. He carries not only a complete line of drugs of every variety, but also a large stock of jewelry, novelties and all the sundries usually found in an up-to-date drug store. (He also conducts a cold conducted by Dr. John Thomas, and as drink stand. ????????) Dr. Harris is a skilled physician and has built up a practice in Wilmar and contiguous territory that taxes his time and endurance to the utmost, while as a man and a citizen he stands high in the regard of all classes. He is a member of the Baptist Church and of the Knights of Pythias and Masonic lodges, being a past chancellor in the former. He was married on January 3, 1894, to Miss Lou Risinger of El Dorado, Ark., and two children have come to bless their home, one boy and one girl.

KIDD BROS. COMPANY

The largest mercantile concern in Wilmar, and in fact one of the largest in the county, is the Kidd Bros. Company, Incorporated. The stockholders in this company are Messrs. B. P. Kidd, R. A. Kidd, Thomas Stewart and E. L. Biggs. The officers are B. P. Kidd, president, and R. A. Kidd, vice-president and manager. The Kidd Bros. Company acts as the commissary for the Gates Lumber Co., and thus gets the bulk of the trade (of)the small army of employees belonging to that concern. Strange to say, while this business was established at the time the Gates plant was built, for several years it did not have a very successful career, changing hands frequently, until finally it came into the hands of the present management. Under their regime, the business has proved one of the most successful and best paying institutions of the kind in the country, and it has grown to large proportions. In the eleven years that they have been in charge, the floor space has been increased from 1,200 to near 5,000 feet, not

including a large warehouse and icehouse and the merchandise carried has been added to accordingly. They now occupy a nice apartment (department) store and have on hand a stock of goods that will invoice \$25,000 or more. Their annual sales will amount to about \$100,000. Both Messrs. B. P. and R. A. Kidd are proud of the fact that they are native sons of Drew County, both having been born and reared a few miles from Monticello. Their parents were R. A. and Mary (Bonner) Kidd. In addition to their mercantile business they are interested as stockholders in the Gates Lumber Company and the Bank of Wilmar, the senior brother, Mr. B. P. Kidd, being president and Mr. R. A. Kidd a director of the two latter institutions. They have established their reputation as No. 1 business men and are leading citizens of the town and county.

H. M. Trantham

H. M. Trantham, proprietor of the Oak Grove Herd, and Drew County's most successful swine breeder, was born in McNary County, Tennessee. He moved to Arkansas in 1881, first settling in Lincoln County and moving to Monticello about 1900. Mr. Trantham first became interested in hog raising some six years or more ago. At this time he began to experiment with thoroughbred hogs. He found it a fascinating pursuit and he has gradually increased his herd and improved his stock until now he has as fine a lot of hogs as can be found in the state. At present writing he has on hand about 65 head, having recently disposed of a considerable number, and it is a fact that he has some of the highest bred Poland China blood that can be obtained in the United States. His herd is headed by Meddler 2nd, son of the original Meddler, who is considered the world's champion hog, and who sold for \$6000. Meddler 2nd is two years old and weighs over 700 pounds. He is a magnificent hog and was awarded second prize for 2 year old males at the State Fair in October, many of the hog men there expressing the opinion that he should have taken first prize. Mr. Trantham also has sows in his herd that are the offspring of Perfection E. L., Corrector 2nd, each of whom sold for \$8000, Go-on, On-and-on, Chief Perfection 2nd, Black Climax, Keep-on, and many other noted hogs. Among his sows are Keep Good, a half sister to Cute Keep-on, one litter of whose pigs were sold by her owner at Eldon, Mo., for over \$12,000, Perfect Choice, 3 years old, weight 600 pounds, Lady May 2 years old, weight 500 pounds, Hope, 1 year old, weigh 375 pounds, and many others. He also has some yearling males that will average 400 pounds. Mr. Trantham took a considerable number of his hogs to the State Fair last month and competed successfully with all the leading hog raisers of this state as well as many outside the state. He captured a total of 3 first prizes and 5 seconds. As a result of the showing he made there he sold 19 head before he left Hot Springs, some of them bringing as much as \$65. Mr. Trantham is now doing a large shipping business and as a matter of fact he sells stock to some of the best hog breeders in the Southwest, many of whom have been so well pleased that they have sent back repeated orders. Mr. Trantham has made a decided success in this line of business and has demonstrated that hog raising is a practicable and profitable industry in Drew County.

Andrew J. POSEY

Andrew J. Posey, the subject of this sketch, was born near the ancient village of Selma, in Drew county, Arkansas. Mr. Posey is a self made man. His parents died when he was so small that he remembers but very little about them and in his youth and young manhood, he was dependent almost wholly upon his own resources. He first took up the occupation of farming and stock raising and remained in whole or in part engaged in this pursuit until a few years ago. In these occupations he was very successful. In 1899 he opened a store at Cut-off postoffice and sold goods at this point in connection with his plantation business for some years. He moved his family to Monticello in the fall of 1905 and was soon afterward appointed city marshal, H. C. Burks, the incumbent in the office being engaged in a political canvass. In this office he served for six months and made a splendid record. On going out of this office, Mr. Posey bought the grocery stock of C. R. McDermott and entered the mercantile lists in this city. He soon proved himself an enterprising tradesman. He at once supplied himself with a large stock of the best to be had in every branch of the retail grocery trade, pushed his business by legitimate methods and today he has one fo the best patronized grocery stores and cold drink stands in the city. He makes it a point to keep the best and he has a constantly widening circle of satisfied customers. his second son, Carroll now has charge of the store. On the first of July of this year, the town council elected Mr. Posey city marshal, on the resignation of W. R. Hammock, and he has since been filling that office with a high degree of satisfaction, it being generally conceded that he is one of the best marshals the town has ever had. He is active and conscientious in the performance of his duties and is a capable and efficient officer. Mr. Posey has been a member of the Methodist church for many years. He was married to Miss Eudora Ellis, December 6, 1883. They have three sons living and one dead.

Robert W. Wilson

Robert W. Wilson, to use his own expression, was born in "Possum Valley" and reared in "Scrougeout," both of which appellations apply to well known and well defined localities in Drew County. Mr. Wilson's early history is only the uneventful routine of farm life. He early manifested a decided ambition, however, coupled with a willingness to work for the attainment of his objects, and this characteristic has remained with him throughout his subsequent career. Mr. Wilson was educated in the common schools, Hinemon University School at Monticello and Ouachita College at Arkadelphia one year being spent at the latter institution. He also took a commercial course at Beauvoir College. On coming out of Ouachita College, Mr. Wilson began teaching and followed this profession for several years, the latter part of the time being spent in the Pine Bluff High School and Beauvoir College at Wilmar, Arkansas. After this he served for four years a private secretary to Congressman Joe T. Robinson of the Sixth Congressional District. This position opened to Mr. Wilson some splendid advantages and he was not slow to make use of them. It being his intention to enter the legal

profession, he began to study under Mr. Robinson, himself a distinguished and successful lawyer. On going to Wash- ington, he entered the National University Law School of that city and graduated from there in 1906. He was admitted to the supreme court bar of this state in the early part of 1907 and began the practice of his profession in his home town, in March of the same year. He has met with very flattering success during the time he has been in the practice in this city and has been connected with some important cases. He was appointed deputy prosecuting attorney for this county a few months ago and has made an enviable record in that office enforcing the law without fear or favor. Mr. Wilson begins his professional career unusually well equipped and has bright prospects ahead of him.

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