



W. C. Gathings

Mr. Floore was married May 10, 1883, to Miss Florence Childress, a daughter of Dr. A. J. Childress, a prominent citizen and leading banker of Terrell, Texas. Mrs. Floore was born in Tennessee, but was brought by her parents to Texas when an infant, being reared in Hopkins county, this State. Mr. Floore is a member of the I. O. O. F. and the K. of P.



WILLIAM C. GATHINGS.—The growth and prosperity of Hill county, Texas, has been upon a scale commensurate with the immigration to this region in past years, and this prosperity is largely due to the members of the agricultural profession, prominent among which stands the name of William C. Gathings. He is a fair sample of what can be accomplished by industry and perseverance. Although starting life with a limited amount of this world's goods, he is now one of the substantial farmers of the county, and is the owner of 500 acres of land, 350 acres under cultivation, considerable town property, 100 head of cattle, twenty horses, and a gin worth about \$5,000, all the result of industry and good management. He owes his nativity to the Old North State, his birth occurring in 1844, to the union of James J. and Martha W. (Covington) Gathings, and he remained under the parental roof, assisting his father in the stock business, until the breaking out of Civil war. In 1862 he enlisted in the Confederate army, Company A, Twelfth Texas Cavalry, was in General Banks' raid,

and was twice wounded, once in the hand and again in the leg. He served until the cessation of hostilities, and at the time of the surrender was detailed to take home the remains of Captain J. P. Wier, who was killed in the fight of Yellow Bayou.

After this he began buying stock for his father and himself, but horse and cattle thieves became so numerous that for six years he devoted almost his entire time in hunting them down. They were so bold and daring that they would steal a family horse, and then hire their gang to swear that the horse had been raised in an adjoining county. In 1873 our subject settled on a farm of his own one mile and a half east of Covington, but eight years later he moved to his present farm, where he has made his home since. He selected as his companion in life Miss Idella Rushing, a native of Tennessee, born February 11, 1855, and their nuptials were celebrated in 1874. She is the daughter of Joseph L. and Martha C. (Anderson) Rushing, natives of McNairy county, Tennessee, and came to Texas in 1870. Mr. and Mrs. Gathings union was blessed by the birth of ten children: William C., born December 21, 1875; James A., born December 28, 1877; Thomas E., January 31, 1881; Hugh L., born November 16, 1883; Phillip, born September 12, 1885; Ben. and Lottie A. (twins), born June 3, 1886; Cornelia M., born May 28, 1888; John, born December 6, 1890, and one died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Gathings are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are classed among the best citizens of the county. In politics he is a Democrat, and

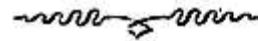
socially he is a member of the Masonic lodge. Shortly after locating in Texas our subject's father bought goods from New Orleans and Shreveport, for the purpose of trading with the Indians. Another trader settled near him and sold whisky to the Indians, but Mr. Gathings would not sell them whisky. One day, "José," an Indian chief who lived in the neighborhood, with a number of other Indians, after imbibing quite freely of the whisky, came to Mr. Gathings with the intention of killing him. William C., who was but a lad at that time, seized his rifle and placed himself near his father. The chief, noticing this said, "Brave boy, he!" and after talking a short time all went away. As a result the other trader was obliged to leave the neighborhood. After settling there the country was for a number of years wild and unbroken, and the grass being so high, William C. was obliged to wear a bell, for fear that he might get lost!



JAMES EAGLESTON, a successful farmer of Hill county, was born in Albany, New York, in 1826, a son of J. T. Eagleston, a native of New York. The latter moved to Illinois in 1834, settling in Peoria county, where he remained until his death. Our subject left the country schools of Illinois at the age of eighteen years, and engaged in farming and stock-raising. Learning of the opportunities offered by Texas for stock-raising he decided to try his fortunes in this State, and accord-

ingly, in 1859, he disposed of his little Illinois farm, and emigrated to Texas, bringing a number of good horses with him. In company with P. A. Smith he bought 720 acres of fine land, and after the division was made Mr. Eagleston had 350 acres, 150 acres of which is under a fine state of cultivation, and the remainder in pasture. During the early days the settlements were few and far between, the principal one being on Island Creek, where the first school of the county was organized. The political uprising in the '60s gave the settlement a great amount of trouble, life and property being unsafe, and after this had passed away and the settlers had begun to accumulate, a thieving element made its appearance in the vicinity and terrorized the people.

Mr. Eagleston was married in 1857, to Miss Almada Whitman, a native of New York, and they have had eight children, seven of whom are now living: Mrs. Kinmons, W. R., Mrs. Johnson (deceased), Mrs. Dr. Dean, J. W. Eagleston, Mrs. Clack, James and Harriet Ann. The family are members of the Presbyterian Church, and Mr. Eagleston has been a Mason for thirty years.



WILLIAM C. BOATWRIGHT, farmer, Cleburne, Texas.—Worthy reference to the agricultural affairs of Johnson county, Texas, would be incomplete without due mention of Mr. Boatwright, among others engaged in tilling the soil, for he is not only prominent in that respect, but as a

property by inheritance but by the honest sweat of his brow, and is one of the substantial citizens of the neighborhood. Mrs. Bontwright is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.



EDWARD BOESCH, of Whitney, Hill county, was born in Baden, Germany, March 1, 1842, and was reared and educated in that country, and also in Austria. His parents had three children: Anthony, born in 1834; Edward, in 1842; and Margaret, wife of Vincent Keefer. The parents lived to a good old age, the father dying at the age of eighty-three years, and the mother at the age of eighty years.

Edward Boesch, our subject, began life for himself as a bookkeeper in his native country, and afterward went to Austria, where he followed his profession. June 22, 1867, he left the latter country for America, and after a pleasant voyage of fifteen days landed in New York. He remained in the North until 1870, when he went to New Orleans; in 1873 he moved to Galveston, next to Houston, then to western Texas, next to Harris county, where he engaged in the lumber business. In 1883 Mr. Boesch came to Whitney, Hill county, where he now has a lumber trade of from \$15,000 to \$25,000 per year. When he left his native country he was a poor boy and came to America to seek his fortune, and, by hard work and close attention to business, has become one of the leading men of his town. He has a fine

farm of 180 acres, a nice residence, and a large lumber-yard.

Mr. Boesch was married in Harris county, in 1877, to Miss Emma Pitschman, who was born in 1863, and they have had five children: Lillie, Anna, Maud, Anthony and Gustave. Mr. Boesch is a Royal Arch Mason, a member of the Odd Fellows lodge, of the Knights of Honor, of the Knights of Pythias, and is Past Chancellor of the last named lodge.



DOCTOR E. L. SESSIONS, of Hillsboro, was born in South Carolina in August, 1842, the eldest child of Stephen C. and Caroline (Campbell) Sessions, also natives of South Carolina. The Sessions family are of Scotch and French Huguenot descent, and the paternal grandfather was a prominent rice planter in South Carolina. The mother's people were of Scotch-English descent, and settled in South Carolina at an early day.

The subject of this sketch received his education in the city schools of Louisville, Kentucky, and after graduating he assisted his father in his business. He subsequently turned his attention to commercial law and book-keeping, but on account of failing health he gave it up, and began the study of medicine. At the same time he was in the drug business at Louisville, and read medicine five years before he took his lecture course. Dr. Sessions graduated at the Louisville Medical College, and located near that city for practice, but in 1870 he removed to

Whitney, Hill county. In 1881 he came to Hillsboro, where he has since been engaged in the practice of his profession. The Doctor is a member of the State Medical Society, of the County Medical Society, a thirty-second-degree Mason, a life member of the Louisville Commandery, No. 1, Knights Templar, a member of the K. of P., and the I. O. O. F.

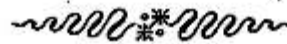
The Doctor's first marriage occurred at Louisville, where his wife died early in life, and in 1883 he was married, at Marlin, Falls county, Texas, to a daughter of H. F. Spencer, of Virginia. They have three children and a stepdaughter.



JUDGE F. E. ADAMS, Judge of the Johnson County Court, was born in Jasper county, Mississippi, November 25, 1847, and was reared mainly in his native county. He was educated in the Summer-ville Institute in Noxubee county, Mississippi, then presided over by Prof. Thomas S. Gathright, afterward president of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Bryan, Texas. He left school at the age of sixteen years, on account of rheumatism, which disabled him from using his right leg seven or eight months. He was, when a boy and young man, engaged at anything he could get to do to make an honest dollar, and in the meantime also read law. He was admitted to the bar before the District Court of Jasper county, Mississippi, at Paulding, in 1869, and was afterward elected Clerk of the Circuit and Chancery Courts of that county, which he held about one and a half years,

when he was removed by military authority as an impediment to reconstruction. Mr. Adams came to Texas in 1874, and for eighteen months resided at Dallas, after which, in July, 1876, he came to Johnson county. In 1878 he became Deputy County Clerk of the County Court, and held that position until in November, 1880, when he was elected to that office, which he held by successive re-elections until November, 1886. At that time he was elected County Judge, and has been re-elected every two years since.

Mr. Adams was married in May, 1881, to Miss Alice Durr, of Jefferson, Texas. Mr. Adams is a member of the Masonic order, of the Knights of Honor, and of the Presbyterian church.



CALVIN J. CALFEE, one of the prosperous farmers of Hill county, Texas, and a descendant, on both sides, of prominent Virginia families, was born in the Old Dominion on the 18th of November, 1837. His parents, William and Evelina (Howard) Calfee, were natives also of Virginia, the father born in Wythe county in 1803, and the mother in Montgomery county in 1806. The father was a farmer and stock-raiser by occupation, and was a prosperous citizen. He possessed the noted characteristics of the Calfee family, viz., strict integrity and uprightness, and prized his good name above all temporal things. In politics he was a Democrat. By his marriage, which occurred in 1823, he became the father of fifteen children, who are named in the order

of their births as follows: Willie, died when young; Emily, resides in Pulaski, Virginia; James, was a farmer, and died in 1869; Benjamin Franklin, died in 1851; Henry, resides in Carroll county, Virginia, and is a farmer and stock-raiser; Amanda Jane, became the wife of Robert A. Calfee, a farmer and stock-raiser of Wytheville, Virginia; William D., died at White Sulphur Springs in 1861, while in the Confederate service; John A., resides in Missouri, trader, and in the United States mail service, sub-letting contracts (he is quite prosperous and has a son, only eighteen years old, who is cashier of the Citizens' Bank of Windsor); Calvin J., subject; Lee S., is a capitalist of Pulaski, Virginia, merchant, banker, farmer, and also is one of the principal shareholders in the Dora furnace in that city, which cost over \$200,000; also of the Pulaski Development Company (who built the furnace), whose property is reported at \$1,000,000, and of which he is secretary and treasurer. He is also a shareholder in and president of the Pulaski Loan and Trust Company, a banking institution. He was also Mayor of Pulaski for a time. The next in order of birth was Margaretta, who died in 1864; Rhoda J., died in 1861; one died in infancy; Augustus G., is a merchant and resides in Pulaski, Virginia; and Monroe Howard, also resides at Pulaski, and is well educated. He is quite prosperous and worth about \$40,000; is at the present time in the Quartermaster's Department of Virginia State troops. He was the first Mayor of Pulaski, Virginia, and for years has been a delegate to the State Democratic Convention.

Eight brothers of this family were in the Confederate army. Our subject's paternal grandparents, James and Nancy (Davis) Calfee, were natives of Virginia, and the maternal grandparents, Andrew and ——— Howard, were natives of Shenandoah valley, Virginia.

Calvin J. Calfee remained with his parents and assisted on the farm until 1859, when he came to Texas, making the journey by railroad, steamboat and stage, at a cost of \$125. He first stopped in Fort Worth, but went from there to Goliad county, where he worked on a farm for some time and then bought an interest in cattle. In 1861 he enlisted in Company A, Seventh Texas Cavalry, and served until the close of the war. He was in the battle of Galveston, was on board the Neptune, and cut a piece off the eagle of the gunboat Harriet Lane, captured from the Federals, to send to his sweetheart. At the time of the surrender Mr. Calfee was home on a furlough, on account of sickness. Afterward he settled at Goliad and continued in the cattle business for a short time, but being in debt for the cattle, and having lost many of them during the war, he surrendered the balance, and thus was without means. From there he went to Washington county, Texas, engaged in farming for two years, and then returned to Virginia, where he remained about a year. He, with one of his brothers, went from there to Henry county, Missouri, continued there one year, and in the fall of 1871 went to Texas, settling about twenty miles west of Itasca. Three years later they began prospecting, continued this for some time, and in 1874 bought land in Hill

county, about two miles east of Itasca, where they resided until 1859. Since that time Mr. Calfee has resided on his present property.

In 1867 he was married to Mrs. M. J. Hall, a native of Tennessee and the daughter of Jonathan and Sally (English) Pierce, natives also of that State. Mr. Calfee began for himself when twenty-two years of age, with about \$350, and now has 440 acres of land, 250 of which are under cultivation, ten acres in the city limits of Itasca, and other property. He has a most beautiful home. He is a Democrat in politics, and he and Mrs. Calfee are members of the Baptist Church.

Mr. Calfee was a delegate from Hill county to the Democratic State Convention that met in Houston in August, 1884, and also a delegate to the Democratic Congressional Convention that met in Waxahachie in September, 1886. This convention nominated Hon. Jo Abbott for his first term in Congress. He was also a delegate to the Congressional Convention that met in Cleburne in 1888.



W H. ELLINGTON, manager of the Mississippi Store of Hillsboro, was born in Prentiss county, near Booneville, Mississippi, in 1854, the youngest son of W. T. Ellington, who was born in Virginia about 1821. He was a farmer by occupation, and died quite early in life, leaving his wife with a large family and a small farm. Our subject's mother, *nee* Esther Vernor, was a

native of Lewisburg, Tennessee, and a daughter of Rev. E. E. Vernor, a minister and traveling agent for a bible society, spending his entire life in religious work. He died in 1884, at the age of eighty years. Of the seven children of W. T. Ellington, five are now living. By the provisions of the father's will upon the marriage of the widowed mother all the children became free, and up to this event, in 1870, the boys were struggling with adversity and battling with the world for the support of the family.

W. H. Ellington did not secure even the rudiments of an education, and after his mother remarried he cut loose from home, went to Jacinto, Mississippi, entered school, and by strict economy succeeded in remaining two years, applying himself assiduously to receive a good common-school education. When we remember that at sixteen he had never entered a school room as a pupil, and that when he finally enrolled he kept up with his studies, and also did his washing and cooking and came out in two years with an education sufficient to conduct a business which has given him a competency of \$15,000 in ten years, we must admit that it was no ordinary task, and that many boys with the same energy would have given up in despair. At the age of eighteen years Mr. Ellington ran a dray at Booneville, Mississippi, one year, and then engaged with George Mraphy as salesman in his dry-goods store, and with him came to Texas in 1881. They opened the Mississippi Store, and up to this time Mr. Ellington had saved \$750, which he put into the business, but from which he retired two

years later. He next went to Pilot Point, Denton county, where he remained until the spring of 1885, and then returned to Hillsboro and engaged in the dry-goods business with J. J. Price. On January 1, 1892, the firm of W. H. Ellington & Co. was dissolved by mutual consent, that time being the limit of the partnership of W. H. Ellington and J. J. Price. Mr. Price sold his interest to R. A. Johnston, manager of the Itasca House, who is the partner of W. H. Ellington. The business will be continued under the firm name of W. H. Ellington & Co. They carry a stock of \$25,000, and do a business of \$30,000 annually. They have also a branch house at Itasca, where they carry a stock of \$8,000.

In 1888 Mr. Ellington married Nina Holt, at Pilot Point, Denton county, who died one year later, leaving no children. January 15, 1890, he married Lulu, a daughter of Richard Beall, a farmer, stock-raiser and a well-to-do citizen of Ellis county.

DOCTOR BENSON KNOX, of Hillsboro, Texas, was born in Henry county, Missouri, in 1839, the eldest of the nine children of Thomas and Elizabeth Knox. The Doctor entered the University of Missouri at the age of seventeen, and two years later became a student of Westminster College, where he completed the scientific course. He then studied medicine, under Dr. G. C. Hardeinan, of Arrow Rock, one year, and then attended the St. Louis Medical College,

session of 1860-'61. The war commencing in that year and interrupting his medical studies, he enlisted in the Confederate army and served throughout the war, in the medical department of the service. Next he returned to Saline county, Missouri, where he practiced his profession until the fall of 1867, when he moved to Texas. Locating first at Patton's Mills, he staid there one year, then moved to Milford, Ellis county, Texas. In 1875 he went to Washington, Arkansas, and staid there five years, then returned to Texas.

In 1886 he received the degree of M. D. from the University of Arkansas, and has been living in Hillsboro ever since. The Doctor is a general practitioner, but is partial to surgery. Has made several capital operations, including two excisions of the hip-joint. He also claims to have made the first aspiration of the spleen in the United States, at Washington, Arkansas, in the year 1877.

He owns real estate in the city of Hillsboro, and pasture and farm land in the county, and is somewhat interested in stock-raising. He was married in 1869, to Miss Louisa Long, of Milford, Texas, and has seven children now living, viz.: Leona, Mamie, Dovie, Rosa, Thomas, Evelyn and an infant son. The Doctor has been president of the Hill County Medical Association, and is at this time the secretary.

DOCTOR CHESTER E. RUSSELL, one of the most prominent and successful physicians of Johnson county, Texas, is a son of Dr. John A. Russell, of this State.

his territory extending over a radius of ten miles. He began life without capital, and at the early age of seventeen years was the owner of a farm, the fruit of his own labor. He now owns 500 acres of land, of which 300 are under cultivation, and has a practice that brings him \$3,000 per year. The Doctor is a member of the Masonic fraternity and also of the I. O. O. F. Politically he affiliates with the Democrat party. He and his wife are members of the Baptist church. Socially no man in Johnson county stands better than Dr. Chester E. Russell.

April 6, 1876, he married Josie Keough, daughter of John and Caroline Keough, and to them have been born seven children, namely: Julian A., Alden, John K., William C., Lelah, Charlie and Arthur.

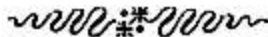


KING H. HALEY, farmer, Hubbard, Texas.—Mr. Haley has been engaged in farming and stock-raising the principal part of his life, and to say that he thoroughly understands the details of both these enterprises would be but stating the facts very mildly indeed. He is a self-made man in all that the term implies, and what he has accomplished in the way of this world's goods is the result of his own industry and good management. He was born in Mississippi, in April, 1855, and his father, William Haley, who was a successful farmer, entered the Confederate service at the breaking out of hostilities, and never returned to the farm. The mother, Susie Haley, died in 1862, when King H. was but seven years of age, and he

was reared by an elder sister. His scholastic advantages were not of the best, but he was naturally of a studious turn, and is now classed among the well-informed men of the county. He was the youngest of seven children who are named in the order of their births as follows: Mary A., married R. Rambo and now resides in Louisiana; she reared our subject; Elizabeth, came to Texas and died in McLennan county; John died in the army; Permelia died when young; Thomas is a farmer of Limestone county, Texas; and Frank is a farmer of Navarro county, Texas. King H. Haley came to Texas in 1868, when but thirteen years of age, and first located in Milam county, where he worked on a farm for three years. From there he went to Robertson county where he tilled the soil for five years, and then located in McLennan county, raising one crop there.

Navarro county was his next designation, and he was there married, in 1878, to Miss Sinai Barrington, daughter of John and Hulda Barrington, natives of Tennessee. Mr. Barrington served through the Civil war and in 1866 came to the Lone Star State, settling in Freestone county, where he died in 1870, leaving his widow and six children. Mrs. Barrington is still living and makes her home in Navarro county. Mr. Haley bought fifty acres in 1879 and sold it in 1882, and bought 140 acres in 1882 and sold in 1884; farmed on rented land in Navarro county until 1884. In 1879 he purchased fifty acres of raw land, and in 1882 he sold it and purchased an improved farm of 110 acres, on which he remained two years and sold it also.

From there went to Limestone county, where he purchased a farm of 158 acres and where he remained three years. He then purchased about 714 acres of land in Hill county, in 1887, and here he has resided since. He now has it all under fence, has a commodious frame house, and outbuildings of a substantial character. He has 115 acres under cultivation, and everything about the place indicates to the beholder that an experienced hand is at the helm. He is a Democrat in politics, and he and Mrs. Haley are members of the Methodist Protestant Church. She was born January 6, 1864. Their union has been blessed by the birth of five interesting children: Corietta, died October 25, 1880; Mary A., born September 22, 1882; Ollie M., born March 29, 1885; Eller J., born July 21, 1887; and Minnie L., born January 17, 1889. These children are all bright and quick, and natural musicians. Mr. Haley is one of the county's best citizens, and is worthy and upright in every respect.



G. L. HEATH, of Cleburne, Johnson county, was born in Dallas county, Texas, January 7, 1850, the eldest son of Major E. M. Heath. He worked on a stock ranch until twenty years of age, when he began clerking in the dry-goods house of J. A. Willingham. About twelve years later he embarked in the implement business, which he conducted five years, and then, at the death of O. S. Heath, was employed as cashier in the First National Bank. Socially, Mr. Heath

is a member of the K. T., and is Master of the blue lodge, and P. S. in the chapter.

He was married in Cleburne, in 1872, to Miss Barzoria Elston, a daughter of John C. and S. C. (Jones) Elston, of Hill county. Mr. and Mrs. Heath have six children: Arthur, Ella, Faria, Ora, Mary and Vera. Mr. and Mrs. Heath are members of the Christian Church.



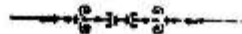
E. N. BROWN, member of the firm of Taylor & Co., and general superintendent of their dry-goods house in Cleburne, was born in Homer, Claiborne parish, Louisiana, in 1860, a son of J. J. and Mollie O. (Lovejoy) Brown. The father, a native of Louisiana, followed mercantile pursuits for twenty-five years, and died in this city in 1879; the mother, a native of Georgia, died when our subject was quite young.

After coming to this county, and while still in his 'teens, E. N. Brown spent three years on his father's horse ranch, and then spent two years more in school. He then engaged as salesman in the dry-goods house of Clayton Bros., and five and a half years later, in partnership with George Murphy, now of Sherman, he engaged in business in Greenville, Texas. Eleven months afterward Mr. Brown sold his interest in the business and formed a partnership with J. S. Taylor, for this house, now known as Taylor & Co. This house, one of the oldest in Cleburne, was established in 1875, under the name of Taylor

Bros., J. S. Taylor, now of Dallas, and W. H. Taylor, now of Fort Worth, constituting the firm. After a few years the latter dropped out of the firm, since which time the house has undergone several minor changes as to proprietorship, although J. S. Taylor has always remained in the business. The building is two stories high, 52 feet wide and 85 feet long, facing the public square, on north Main street, and is well fitted with time and labor saving conveniences, well lighted, and the display of goods as fine as can be found in any first-class city store. They carry a stock of about \$40,000, and their annual sales amount to about \$80,000. Mr. Brown has been at the head of this establishment about five years, is a young man of more than ordinary business energy, and to his own efforts alone is due his success in life.

He was married January 15, 1883, to Miss Georgia A. Alsbrook, of Hope, Arkansas. Mr. Brown is a member of the Missionary Baptist Church, and his wife of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Brown's grandfathers (Lovejoy and Brown) are both living, and about eighty-seven years old. He also has a great-grandmother living, Mrs. Polly Scaife, who is now about 100 years old. His first cousins that are alive number over 100.



M. BOONE, farmer, Brandon, Texas. It is a fact unnecessary of denial that a person is better fitted to follow the occupation with which he became familiar in

early life than to engage in an undertaking learned in later years. This truth is borne out in the career of Mr. Boone, who from a boy has known all the minute details of agricultural life. To this acquired knowledge may be added a natural faculty for that calling, for his father, Hiram O. Boone, was a farmer. The latter was a native Kentuckian and a cousin of the celebrated Daniel Boone, their fathers being brothers. Hiram O. Boone held the rank of Colonel in the Black Hawk war, was sheriff of Meade county for some time, and also discharged the duties incumbent upon the office of justice of the peace, for a number of years. He was a prominent farmer and died in his native State, in 1863. He married Miss Sarah Renfro of Virginia, and to them were born eleven children, J. M. Boone being seventh in order of birth. The latter has but one brother in Texas, Junius B. Boone, who is now residing at Yoakum, De Witt county, retired. J. M. Boone was born in Meade county, Kentucky, May 11, 1832, and there remained until 1873, when he came to Texas, first settling in Dallas county, where he rented land and farmed for two years. He subsequently purchased 100 acres of raw land in Hill county, hauled lumber from Dallas City to build a house, and there he has resided since. He has his farm all under fence and seventy-five acres under cultivation. He annually raised large crops of cotton, corn, oats and for some time raised wheat. His farming operations are conducted in a manner indicative of a progressive, thorough agriculturist, and he is also public-spirited, never failing to aid any movement

which tends to benefit the county or his fellow men.

He was married in his native State in 1859 to Miss Ellen Moorman, daughter of Lewis and Harriet Moorman of Virginia. Her parents left their native State and located in Brockenridge county, Kentucky, at an early day. There both received their final summons. The father was a farmer by occupation. Mr. and Mrs. Boone's union was blessed by the birth of nine children: William, born March 5, 1860, is now a practicing physician at Highland, Kansas, married Mrs. Florence Garrett of Hill county, Texas; Jessie L., born March 10, 1862, is now the wife of E. M. Yates and resides in Missouri; Sally H., born July 3, 1864, married Dr. J. W. Spalding, and now resides at old Brandon; Harriet P., born July 24, 1866, married J. C. Givens, a druggist at Hillsboro; Charles M., born January 5, 1868, at home; Samuel M., born January 6, 1871; Mary L., born August 19, 1873; Nellie A., born July 28, 1875; and Victoria H., born September 24, 1881. Mrs. Boone was born April 24, 1837. Mr. Boone and family are members of the Missionary Baptist Church, and in politics he is a Democrat.



JRANS DAVIS.—In this brief outline of the life history of one of the best men and most enterprising citizens that ever made his home in Hill county, Texas, appear facts which are greatly to his credit. His intelligence, enterprise and integrity and many other estimable qualities acquired for

him a popularity not derived from any factitious circumstances, but are a permanent and spontaneous tribute to his merit.

He was born in Hickman county, Tennessee, February 28, 1829, and in 1849, while still unmarried, came to Hill county, Texas, at which time there were but eight other men in the county, it then being a part of Navarro territory. In May, 1853, he assisted in organizing Hill county, and in July of the same year the county seat was located. Mr. Davis was elected one of the five county Commissioners and helped lay off the town, but it and the county was named by the Legislature. In 1853, when the election was held, there were only seventy-five voters; and all these Mr. Davis knew personally, and in fact knew every man in the county until 1854. When first locating here he got a headright from the State of 320 acres, and on this land is still living. He continued to add to this purchase until he became the owner of 2,000 acres, the most of which he greatly improved. He was married in 1853, and here reared his children, all of whom are married and have families of their own. This leaves him and his wife as they started out in life together. He has given his four children 250 acres of land apiece, and has them settled around him; but he still controls 1,000 acres, including the old homestead, which he values very highly and on which he expects to spend the remainder of his days. He has 400 acres of land under cultivation and has four comfortable and substantial residences for his renters. His own residence is a commodious and pleasant one, and has become noted for the

kindly hospitality which is extended to all. It is located on the State road from Waxahatchie to Waco, and was a convenient and popular place for freighters and movers to obtain supplies; and for seventeen years he sold corn at his own place for \$1 per bushel. He was always alive to his own interests, but has the satisfaction of knowing that his possessions were obtained in a strictly honorable manner and inconvenienced and embarrassed no one. In the early days of his settlement Indians were plentiful, but Mr. Davis was shrewd and far-seeing, and was a good reader of human nature, especially Indian nature, and always managed to keep in their good graces. Wild game was very plentiful in those days, and numbers of buffalo, deer and antelope and wild turkeys fell under the unerring aim of his trusty rifle. His grocery and store supplies were brought from Houston. He was very prosperous financially until the opening of the Civil war.

In 1862 he cast aside personal considerations and enlisted in Company D, Burford's Regiment, as a private, and served in Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas and Missouri. He was discharged before the surrender on account of disability and returned to his home, and at once began dealing in horses, cattle and raising a fine grade of mules.

During early days he helped to survey a large portion of the country in Hill and Johnson counties, and in numerous other ways helped to push the interests of this section and bring it to its present admirable agricultural condition. He was married to Miss Margaret Wood, who was born in Scot-

land, May 9, 1831, a daughter of James and Isabella Wood, who emigrated from Scotland to America in 1851 and located in Hill county, Texas, on the E. S. Wyman headright of 640 acres, where Mr. Wood became a very successful farmer. He died November 27, 1872; but his widow survived him until 1887. Their family consisted of four daughters, all of whom are married and reside in Texas. To Mr. and Mrs. Davis four children have been born: Nannie M. J., born October 31, 1855, was first married to A. Fisher, by whom she became the mother of one child, and after his death she married W. E. Glenn, an artist of Hillsboro; John H., born November 27, 1857, a farmer of this county and a carpenter of Hillsboro; Mollie A., born August 8, 1862, is the wife of William Hinton, a farmer of this county, and James W., born September 27, 1865, a tiller of the soil of this county.

Mr. Davis is a Democrat politically and he and his wife have been members of the Methodist Episcopal Church for the past forty-five years. He is a son of John H. and Nancy (Shores) Davis, the former of English-Scotch descent and a native of North Carolina, and the latter of Irish extraction.

John H. Davis was a prominent man of his section in North Carolina and filled many of the most responsible offices of his county. He was with Jackson at New Orleans in the war of 1812. He died in Hickman county, Tennessee, in 1840, at which time he was an extensive land-holder and slave-owner. His wife was a daughter of William Shores, who came from Ireland and settled in Tennessee,

