

Church. In 1852 Mr. Warren made a trip to California. There were 200 men in the company, and sixty teams, of which Mr. Warren was made captain, and W. E. Packet, of St. Louis, first captain. The trip was made overland, the company starting in April, 1852, and landing in Portland, Ore., six months later. California was reached in the spring of 1853. The second night after they left Council Bluffs they were attacked by a tribe of Pawnee Indians and succeeded in killing the chief, his son and sixty others. But two of their men were wounded. They were afterward attacked twice by different bands, but escaped both times without the loss of a man. Mr. Warren remained in Rogue River Valley, Cal., engaged in mining, freighting and fighting the Indians until 1858, returning home via Aspinwall, Panama and New York. He reached home July 3, 1856.

H. S. Wells was born April 28, 1836, in Tioga County, N. Y., and is a son of George Wells and Lucy E. (Stark) Wells, natives of Albany, N. Y., and Colchester, Conn. The father was born April 25, 1810, and both himself and wife are of English descent. The Wells family have descended from three brothers, who settled in Massachusetts at an early day, George Wells having descended from Stephen Wells, who was born in Lenox, Berkshire Co., Mass., and was an early settler in Tioga County, N. Y. He later moved to Chautauqua County, of the same State, where he died. George Wells moved with his parents, Stephen and Lois (Hubbard) Wells, to Massachusetts, receiving his early education at the common schools of Massachusetts and New York. After living in various counties and States he came to Putnam County, Mo., in the spring of 1857, where he has since resided. He began life a poor man, but by industry and economy became the owner of a comfortable competency. In 1833 he married the mother of our immediate subject, who bore him six children: One who died in infancy; Henry S., Stephen L., George E. (deceased while in service during the war), Lucy M. and Charles H. Mrs. Wells died in 1881. Mr. Wells was an influential man in his county, and at one time was a Republican candidate for State senator, his opponent being Col. Pratt, also a Republican nominee, who was elected by a few votes. Mr. Wells, however, served his township in several official capacities, such as justice of the peace, for several years. He was ordained a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church at York Township, in 1860, and was one of the pioneer members of that church in the locality where he now lives. H. S. Wells, whose name heads this sketch, accompanied his parents to Chautauqua County, N. Y., in 1841; to Steuben County, N. Y., in 1850; to Jackson and Clinton Counties, Iowa, in 1854, and in 1857 to Putnam County, where

he settled within 100 rods of his present residence. His youth was spent upon the farm, and in a general store, his education being received at the public schools of Chautauqua County and at the Addison Academy, while in Steuben County, N. Y. When of age he started in life for himself a poor man, but now owns a nicely improved farm of 300 acres, well stocked and equipped for farming. In 1868 he married Miss Nancy Owens, daughter of James Owens, who settled in Putnam County in 1849. To Mr. and Mrs. Wells have been born James O., George E., Lucy M., Susan M., Henry H., Fannie L., Esther E. and Stephen C. Mrs. Wells is a faithful member of the Methodist Protestant Church. In politics Mr. Wells is a Republican. In August, 1861, he enlisted in Company B, Eighteenth Missouri Infantry, serving four years, at different times, being corporal, sergeant and quartermaster sergeant. He was mustered out of service July 18, 1865, at Louisville, Ky., but did not leave the ranks until he reached St. Louis, where he received his pay. Mr. and Mrs. Wells are both well respected citizens, and enjoy the good will of their neighbors and associates.

James W. Wells, farmer and stock raiser, was born in Macon County, Mo., December 10, 1836. His father, James Wells, was born near Wellsburg, Va., April 20, 1790, and moved with his father, Richard Wells, Jr., to Kentucky, when an infant, his father locating in Madison County. Richard Wells, Jr., was a son of Richard Wells, Sr., who was one of a family of twenty-four sons born to his parents. Richard Wells, Jr., was an early settler of Madison County, Ky., where he improved a farm and raised his family. Col. James Wells came to Missouri at the age of twenty in 1810, and settled in St. Charles County, where he married Miss Polly Welldon in 1817, a native of the county and daughter of John Welldon, who was of German descent. He then moved to Randolph County, Mo., where he entered land and improved a farm. In 1834 he went to Macon County and in March, 1839, moved to Appanoose County, Iowa, locating on the south line of the State adjoining Schuyler County, and on the east bank of the Chariton River. He then built a saw and grist-mill which he began to operate in 1844. He died at that place February 1, 1857. He was a soldier in the Black Hawk War and held a colonel's commission. For his services he received a land warrant and entered the land upon which his son James W. now lives. He was a prominent man in his county, holding several local offices, and served as probate judge of Appanoose County. He had a family of six sons and four daughters who grew to maturity, three sons and one daughter still living. J. W. was reared in Appanoose County in sight of his present residence, where he



moved in February, 1864. He owns 800 acres of land, one-half being Chariton River bottom land and 600 acres well improved and cultivated. He has a nice new barn and an orchard of 1,900 trees. Mr. Wells was married, in Schuyler County, November 27, 1860, to Miss Theresa Ann, daughter of Simeon and Margaret Davis, formerly of Jefferson County, Ohio, where Mrs. Wells was born and reared. To this union seven children were born: Xenia A., a young lady, county teacher, Luzetta A. and Charles S., living; and four who died in early childhood and infancy. Mrs. Wells died November 22, 1865. She was a member of the Christian Church, to which she united prior to her marriage. Mr. Wells has reared two nieces, Mary E. Anderson, a county teacher, and Phoebe Jane, who is at school qualifying herself for the position of a teacher. Mr. Wells is a member of the I. O. O. F., and in politics is a Republican.

Elijah Wells was born in 1839 in Clark County, Ohio, moved to Lee County, Iowa, in 1849, and to Putnam County, Mo., in 1857, where he has since resided. His youth was passed upon a farm, and he received a common-school education in Lee County, Iowa. In 1859 he learned the blacksmith's trade at St. Joe, which he followed twelve years, after which time he gave his entire attention to agricultural pursuits. He is extensively interested in fine horses, owning a fine Percheron horse imported from France, one of the finest of that breed in the United States. He also owns a fine Morgan and Norman horse and two Jacks. His property is the result of his own unassisted toil, as he started out in life for himself with no capital when but nineteen years of age. His farm consists of 370 acres of well-stocked and cultivated land, and he is considered one of the successful farmers of the vicinity in which he lives. In 1864 he married Miss Samantha F. Beaty, a native of Athens County, Ohio, and daughter of William and Elizabeth Beaty, also natives of that State. To Mr. and Mrs. Wells five children have been born: John, Nettie May, George, Alta and Vincent A. Mrs. Wells is a member of the Methodist Church. The former is a Democrat in politics, although he believes in voting for the man and not the party. He is a Master Mason, and a member of the A. O. U. W. During the late war he served in the Missouri State Militia. He is the third of nine children born to Absalom and Mary (Garland) Wells, natives of Ross County, Ohio, who moved to Lee County, Iowa, in 1849, and to Putnam County, Mo., in 1857. They afterward went to Idaho, where Mr. Wells is living, at the age of seventy-seven. Mrs. Wells died in 1881, aged sixty-one. Mr. Wells is a son of Levi Wells, a pioneer settler of Ross County, Ohio. The parents of Mrs. Wells, David and Phoebe Garland, were natives of Ohio, and

early settlers in Lee County, Iowa, where they died. Mr. Garland was a member of the convention which formed the constitution of the State, and a representative of Lee County, in which he also held various official positions.

A. J. and Joel Wells, farmers and stock raisers of Medicine Township, are sons of James H. and Victoria (Daniel) Wells, natives of Grayson County, Tenn., and Kentucky, respectively. Mr. A. J. Wells was born in Adams County, Ill., in 1851, and moved to Shelby County, Mo., in 1865, then back to Adams County in 1867, and in 1869 came to Putnam County, Mo., where he has since resided. He received a good common-school education during his youth, but has always engaged in agricultural pursuits. He began life a poor young man upon arriving at his majority, but by good management and industry has become a substantially fixed farmer. June 26, 1881, he married Miss Mary Elizabeth Campbell, daughter of Isaac and Harriet (Mills) Campbell, natives of Ohio. Three children have blessed this union, named as follows: Grace (deceased), James Thomas and Dandridge Mardonis. Mr. Wells is a Master Mason and a member of the I. O. O. F. In politics he is a Democrat. He was the sixth child born to his parents, only one of whom—the mother—survives, and makes her home with her sons. The father died December 1, 1886, aged seventy-one. He was an active politician in his county, and was elected by the Democratic party to fill several offices of honor and trust in his township and the county. He was a blacksmith by trade, but late in life devoted his entire time to farming and stock raising. His father, Barney Wells, was a native of Tennessee, but in after years moved to Illinois, where he died at the age of eighty-three. He was one of the pioneer settlers of Grayson County, Tenn. Joel Wells, the second subject of this sketch, is the youngest child of a family of eleven, and was born September 15, 1864, in Adams County, Ill. He accompanied his parents to Putnam County in 1869, and was reared upon a farm and has chosen farming for his life occupation; he received a good common-school education at the schools of Putnam County, and although he began life for himself when but a young man has been very successful. His mother, Mrs. Victoria Wells, is a daughter of Vivian and Lucy (Hart) Daniel, natives of Virginia, who after their marriage moved to Kentucky with a family of four children, and later went to Adams County, Ill., where they died. Both Messrs. A. J. and Joel Wells are active and enterprising young farmer citizens, and enjoy the respect and esteem of the community. Their grandparents, Barney and Anna Wells, were natives of Grayson County, Tenn., but afterward moved to Adams County, Ill., where they passed



the remainder of their lives. They were of English and Welsh descent.

F. H. Wentworth, cashier of the National Bank of Unionville, was born in Maine in 1844, and brought to Iowa by his parents, who located at Centreville. Our subject was reared and educated there, and at the age of twenty accepted a clerkship in a drug store, and in 1870 came to Unionville and formed a partnership with Dr. J. G. Hart, and continued in the drug business with him several years, afterward purchasing the business which he still owns. March 4, 1862, he enlisted in the Seventeenth Iowa Infantry, serving in the same until the close of the war. He was in the battles of Corinth, Iuka, Mission Ridge, siege of Vicksburg, etc., and was wounded at Jackson, Miss., and captured at Tilton, Ga., in October, 1864, and taken to Andersonville, where he was kept until the close of the war. In 1872 he married Abia McGowen, a native of Indiana, by whom three children, Orris, Orra and Stella, were born. Orra died September 1, 1881. The Wentworths are of English origin, being descendants of William Wentworth, who came to America prior to the Revolutionary War, and from him are descended Thomas, our subject's grandfather, and Thomas, our subject's father, who was born in Maine and married in Illinois, where he taught school. He afterward moved to Iowa where he still lives at Centreville. The mother, Frances Eddington, was a native of Kentucky, and died in 1854. Mr. Wentworth is one of a family of two sons and three daughters, two sons and two daughters reaching maturity. One brother, George, served through the war in the Sixth Iowa Infantry. Mr. Wentworth is a Republican, and cast his first presidential vote for Gen. Grant.

Noah S. West was born in Putnam County, December 13, 1842, and is a son of Samuel and Susan (Oldake) West, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively. The family moved to Missouri about 1839, where the father entered and improved land in Elm Township, Putnam County, where he has since resided, and where he ranks among the prominent citizens, and has held several offices of trust and honor. There was a family of three sons and four daughters who grew to maturity, and of these, three sons and two daughters are living. Noah S. is the fourth child, and spent his childhood and youth in Putnam County. July 27, 1861, he enlisted in Company D, Eighteenth Missouri Volunteer Infantry, as private, and was discharged a private July 18, 1865. He was one of the besiegers of Atlanta, and present at all of the engagements participated in by Sherman's men upon their march to the sea. He was in the grand review at Washington. After his discharge he returned to farm life

in Putnam County, and was here married in the spring of 1867, to Mary Frances, daughter of Joseph Worthington, a native of Putnam County, whose father came from Kentucky. After his marriage Mr. West farmed in Elm Township until 1879, and then sold goods in Graysville for one and one-half years, after which he farmed until March, 1886. He then rented his farm, and engaged in the mercantile business upon his present location, where he carries a general stock of merchandise, and is doing well. He is a member of the G. A. R., and, as a Republican, has served as justice of the peace of Elm Township, and postmaster of Graysville during his residence there. His farm is located in Elm Township, and contains 160 acres, 120 being fenced, and 110 in meadow and plow land. The house is a one-and-a-half story frame, and is surrounded by an orchard of 100 apple trees and good outbuildings. Mrs. West died in the fall of 1882, and Mr. West afterward married Temperance Durbin, who is a worthy member of the United Brethren Church. The following are the children of Mr. West: Alvira, a county teacher, Essie I., Edward B., Zephyr M., Artie S., who died in March, 1887, aged nineteen, and one infant who died in the fall of 1872.

H. H. Widner was born in Sevier County, Tenn., in 1840, and is the fifth child of twelve born to Henry and Celia (Dodson) Widner, natives of South Carolina, and, it is thought, Sevier County, Tenn., respectively. The father has been a faithful and earnest worker in the Methodist Church for many years. The maternal grandparents, William and Sarah (Robeson) Dobson, were natives of South Carolina. The grandmother died in Sevier County, Tenn., and her husband in Missouri. Sarah E. Widner was a daughter of Philip and Margaret (Clay) Johnson, natives of Moniteau County, Mo. Her father was a son of John and Sarah (Moore) Johnson, of North Carolina. Mr. Johnson was a soldier of the War of 1812, and Mrs. Johnson a daughter of Jeremiah Clay, a distant relative of Henry Clay. H. H. Widner, the immediate subject of this sketch, when a child, was taken to Mercer County, Mo., and lived there until after his marriage, when he moved to Putnam County, of which he is still a resident. He was educated at the common schools of Mercer County, but farming has been his occupation since boyhood. When but a young man he began life as an independent farmer, and by unassisted labor has become the owner of 360 acres of good land. In 1866 he married Miss Eugenia Walker, who bore him one child, which died in infancy. Mrs. Widner died on April 25, 1867, and February 27, 1878, Mr. Widner married Mrs. Sarah E. Moore, *nee* Johnson. By her first marriage Mrs. Widner had one child, Virginia, wife of Robert Vincil. To her second mar-

riage the following children have been born: Alexander, Eugene (deceased), Linnura G., Henry O., Margaret E., Statia A. and Estelle. Mr. and Mrs. Widner are both worthy members of the Missionary Baptist Church, of which the former has been a deacon for many years. In politics he is a Democrat, and during the late war he served in the State militia.

Joseph Williams, a prominent farmer and stock raiser, was born August 20, 1819, near Knoxville, Tenn., and when only a child was brought by his parents to Cooper County, Mo., and to Dodge (now Putnam) County, in 1849, where he has since resided. He was the ninth of a family of ten children, and the only son of James and Susan (Webb) Williams, natives of East Tennessee, and of English descent. The father was a soldier in the War of 1812, in which he distinguished himself for physical strength, endurance and courage. Joseph Williams was reared upon the farm and has made farming and stock raising his sole occupation since the time he started to fight the battle of life for himself, at the age of twenty-one. He is a man of great energy, foresight and practical business ability, and has succeeded in accumulating a handsome competency, being the owner of 1,300 acres of exceedingly well improved land, well stocked and equipped for his business in every way. Although he attended school during his youth but very little, he has acquired enough education to aid him materially in his business ventures. March 4, 1847, he married Miss Susanna Nelson, daughter of Madison and Nancy (Simmons) Nelson, natives of North Carolina, who started for Moniteau County (then Cole) when Mrs. Williams was but a year old. They arrived at their destination in but sad spirits, however, as on the way the father and husband was killed by a runaway team of horses. To Mr. and Mrs. Williams eight children have been born: Ruth J., James W., Sarah H. (deceased), John R. (deceased), Nancy B., Mary L., Thomas Lee (deceased) and David A. Both Mr. and Mrs. Williams have been worthy conscientious members of the Baptist Church since early youth. In politics Mr. Williams is a Democrat, and as such was elected sheriff of Putnam County in 1856, serving a term of four years. In 1871 he scored a great success by being elected the tax collector by his party, in a county which had at that time 1,100 Republican majority. He was obliged, however, on account of ill-health, to resign the office before the expiration of his term. During the war he commanded a company in the State Militia. Mr. Williams is of a retiring disposition, and has never sought office himself, those he has filled being forced upon him by friends. He is a Master Mason, and has been one of the leading stockholders in the Put-



nam. County Fair Association since its inception, being one of its directors, only becoming too aged. He is one of the most respected and honored citizens of the community in which he lives, and a good example of a self-made man.

Philip B. Williams, farmer and stock raiser, was born in what is now Carroll County, Va., January 15, 1831, and is the son of Garet and Charity (Beamer) Williams, also natives of Virginia. The grandfather, Samuel Williams, was born in Wales, and was one of the early settlers of Virginia, where he spent his last days. Garet Williams moved from Virginia to Putnam County, Ind., in 1852. He remained there until 1863, and then located in Pike County, Ill., dying there in 1864. Philip B., the subject of this sketch, is the only son and third child of a family of seven, who grew to maturity. He was reared upon the farm in Carroll County, Va., and September 9, 1851, was married in North Carolina to Melinda Neugent, daughter of Jacob and Rhoda (Harrold) Neugent, of Carroll County, Va. Mrs. Williams was born in North Carolina, and is the mother of five children: Asberry F., married and a resident of Putnam County; Virginia I., wife of John Williams, of Oregon; Laura E., wife of John Farnsworth, of Appanoose County, Iowa; Hulda M., and Philip Temple, a lad of fifteen years. Mr. and Mrs. Williams are Methodists in religion. After his marriage Mr. Williams remained in Carroll County a few months and then went to Putnam County, Ind., in the winter of 1851-52, where, for the first year or two he engaged in farming and worked on public works. In 1859 he moved to Iowa, and February 14, 1860, located upon his present farm in Putnam County, Mo. He at first bought sixty acres of slightly improved land on Shoal Creek, but now owns 160 acres of well cultivated land. In July, 1861, he enlisted in the Home Guards, and in August, 1862, in Company D, Twenty-seventh Missouri Infantry, serving until discharged at Washington, June 13, 1865. He was present at the siege and surrender of Vicksburg, the battles at Jonesboro, Atlanta, Mission Ridge and Lookout Mountain, and accompanied Sherman on his march to the sea. The fight at Bentonville, N. C., was his last; he was present at the grand review at Washington. Since returning home he has been devoted to agricultural pursuits. He is a Republican, and held the office of township treasurer five years, with fidelity and zeal, and served for many years on the school board. He is the chaplain of the G. A. R. post at Omaha.

S. R. Williams was born in 1840 in Madison County, Ind., and moved to Putnam County, Mo., in 1851, where he has since resided. He was educated and reared in Putnam County, and



since boyhood has been engaged in farming. He began life for himself when eighteen years old. He inherited a little property, which he has increased by industry and good management, and is now the owner of 248 acres of well-improved and cultivated land. In 1859 he married Mary Jane Green, a native of Crawford County, Ind., and a daughter of Henry B. and Amy (Adams) Green, early settlers of Crawford County, Ind. The grandfather of Mrs. Williams, Henry Green, was one of the first settlers in Crawford County, and a soldier in the War of 1812. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Williams has been blessed with nine children: Amy Susie (wife of James Green), Martha Ellen (wife of John Green), Octavia I. (wife of H. P. Hill), Henry F., Mary R., Arthur A., Saul Granville, Anna May, and one who died unnamed. Mr. and Mrs. Williams are worthy members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and rank among the respected citizens of the county. Mr. Williams is a Republican, and a member of the G. A. R. He was the elder of two children (both living) of Zachariah and Susan (Reger) Williams. During the Rebellion our subject enlisted, in March, 1865, in Company D, Fifty-first Missouri Infantry, and served until mustered out at Benton Barracks, St. Louis, in the fall of 1865.

Zachariah Williams was born in Madison County, Ind.; in March, 1846, and has been a resident of Putnam County since 1851. He began life upon his own responsibility at the age of eighteen, with little or nothing, but being of an enterprising disposition, and possessing good business ability, he advanced step by step toward the goal of success, and is now the owner of 650 acres of good land, finely cultivated and well stocked. He was married, in April, 1868, to Miss Lydia Caroline Green, a native of Crawford County, Ind., who came to Putnam County, Mo., in 1858. She was a daughter of Henry Boland and Amy C. (Adams) Green, natives of Crawford County, Ind., and New York State, respectively, and of Irish and English descent, respectively. To Mr. and Mrs. Williams eight children have been born: John A., George E., Lorenzo Dow, Lura A., Wilber Grant, Susie A., Henry C. and Willard F. Mrs. Williams is a member of the Methodist Protestant Church. Mr. Williams is Republican in politics, and during the war of the Rebellion enlisted in Company C, Forty-second Missouri Infantry, serving until the close of the war, when he was mustered out at St. Louis. He is the youngest and second child of Zachariah and Susan (Reger) Williams, natives of Madison County, Ind. The father was a successful farmer in that locality all his life. His father, Ralph Williams, was born in Virginia, and one of the first farmer settlers of Madison County, Ind. The maternal

grandfather of our subject, Saul Reger, married Miss Dobson. He was a native of Virginia, and moved to Sullivan County, Mo., about 1858, where he passed the remainder of his days, although his death occurred while in St. Louis, under medical treatment. He was a minister of the gospel in the Methodist Episcopal Church, as was also Mr. Ralph Williams.

A. J. Williams, county clerk, was born in Gallia County, Ohio, January 7, 1853, where he lived until about twenty-one years of age, when he came to Putnam County, Mo., locating in Grant Township, where he taught school for five years. He then interested himself exclusively in agricultural pursuits until the fall of 1882, at which time he was elected to his present office by the Republican party, and was afterward re-elected in the fall of 1886. April 9, 1876, he married Eliza E. Minear, daughter of Rev. Alpheus, a United Brethren minister, and pioneer of Putnam County, who still resides in Grant Township. To them one son and two daughters have been born: William Ernest, Bertha L. and Maggie L. Mr. Williams belongs to the F. & A. M. and A. O. U. W. William Williams, Sr., the paternal grandfather, was born in Fairfax County, Va., September 17, 1757, and was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, serving in the Continental Regulars eighteen months, enduring many hardships and receiving no pay. He was in the battles of Camden and Guilford, and the siege of "Ninety-Six." In 1832 Congress passed a law which gave him a pension, but his death occurring August 23, 1832, he never received it. He was married, in Greenbrier County, W. Va., to Mary Watts, May 21, 1795. This lady was born in Maryland in 1776, and was a descendant of a Scottish family of the name of Watts. She died in 1860. Her husband died in Gallia County, Ohio, where he immigrated during the early history of the State. The father of our subject, William, was born in Greenbrier County, Va., December 8, 1808, and married in Ohio, September 11, 1834, to Lucinda Allison, a native of Gallia County, and born January 25, 1816, and still a resident of that county, where William died July 4, 1887. Three of their children died in infancy, but six sons and one daughter were reared to maturity; one son has since died. One son, James K., served in the Eighteenth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and two others, William H. and John H., were in the 100-days' service. The maternal grandfather, Allison, of A. J., was born in Virginia, served in the War of 1812, and died in 1872 at the age of eighty years. The grandmother (Carter) Allison, was a native of Virginia, and in early childhood located opposite Mount Pleasant.

Joseph Wood was born March 1, 1821, in Cocke County,