

CITATION: The Bench and bar of St. Louis, Kansas City, Jefferson City, and other Missouri cities: biographical sketches, American Biographical Pub. Co., 1884, pages 381-82

**HON. ETHAN ALLEN PINNELL.
STEELVILLE.**

NO man in southwestern Missouri stands higher for uprightness and true manhood than the gentleman whose name heads this sketch. A native of Missouri, raised and educated in the vicinity of the place of his birth, he is entitled to the credit of being self-made. His birth occurred in Crawford county, November 17, 1834, the son of Wesley Pinnell, a native of Kentucky, who moved to Missouri in 1818. His paternal grandfather, Peter Pinnell, was a South Carolinian, of French Huguenot stock, and served under General Nathaniel Greene, in the struggle of our forefathers for independence. His mother, before marriage, was Miss Eliza M. Marquis, a lady of French descent.

The early days of our subject were spent on a farm, and at school. He attended such private schools as were within his reach, and finished his education by hard study and close application to books, being principally self-taught. But his untiring energies enabled him to overcome all obstacles. He soon became quite proficient in all of the branches taught in the schools, and at the age of twenty-one he commenced teaching school, which occupation he followed until 1861, when he entered the confederate army. He was made captain of company D, 8th Missouri confederate troops. He participated in the battle of Prairie Grove in northwestern Arkansas, and in the battles in the Red River Valley, under Generals Kirby Smith and Dick Taylor, in which General N. P. Banks was defeated.

The last battle of any importance in which he was engaged was on Saline River, and was familiarly known as the battle of Jenkins' Ferry, under Generals Smith and Price, and the federal forces were commanded by General Steele. It was a bloody battle, considering the number engaged — about seven thousand on each side. He was under General Kirby Smith when he surrendered, June 7, 1865, at Shreveport, Louisiana. He returned home, and remained about two months, and then went to Pike county, Illinois, and worked on a farm. He returned to Missouri and remained with his brother-in-law, P. W. Burchard, a lawyer residing in Gasconade county, one year, where he read law. He then followed the occupation of a school teacher about four years, and in his leisure moments read law. He went to Cuba, Crawford county, in 1872, where he taught school one year. In 1873 he was admitted to the bar in Steelville, and immediately opened a law office at Cuba, where he remained until September, 1882, doing a good business. He removed to Steelville, and in November of that year he was elected judge of probate for Crawford county.

Judge Pinnell is a good lawyer, methodical, systematic and well posted in his profession, and has what may be termed a judicial mind, capable of hearing evidence on both sides of a question, and drawing correct conclusions. He is a logical reasoner, and has excellent judgment. He is highly prized as a citizen and a friend.

He was married, September 3, 1871, to Miss Frances Esther Collier, a native of Letcher county, Kentucky. They have four bright and interesting children, one son and three daughters.