

PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

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Howdeshell, of this county. To them has been born a son, Jesse V. Mrs. Benjamin Kelly, her son and his wife are all members in excellent standing of the Christian Church. The mother of Mrs. T. W. Kelly is Elizabeth, daughter of Judge Martin, a prominent lawyer of Lincoln County, who is well known among the professional men of the state. She is a member of the Methodist Church. Mr. Howdeshell is a farmer living in Monroe Township and is well-to-do in a financial way.



THOMAS HENRY WHITE, whose well improved and desirable homestead is located on sections 22 and 23, township 51, range 1, Lincoln County, is a self-made man, and has acquired the main part of his possessions in the last decade. Industrious and hard-working, he deserves the prosperity which he now enjoys, and the good-will of his neighbors, which is universally accorded him. For fifteen years he has been School Director in this district, and is also Road Overseer.

The parents of our subject were William and Mary Ann (Johnson) White, both natives of St. Charles County, Mo., the former born March 23, 1824, and the latter May 12, 1828. Joseph and Julia Ann White, the paternal grandparents of our subject, were born in the Buckeye State, and after their marriage removed to St. Charles County, where they bought a farm. Later, going to Pike County, they purchased a large tract of land near Clarksville, and thereon made their home until claimed by death. Subsequently their son William operated the home farm until his marriage, which occurred in 1846. He then purchased a farm a mile and a-half north of Prairieville, in the same county, and there lived until 1878. His wife died during their residence on that farm, in February, 1873. Five years later the father sold out and went to Madison County, Ill., where he rented a farm and resided for fifteen years. He is

now making his home with his son, Peter C., in Elsberry.

Of the family of William and Mary Ann White, which comprised fourteen children, Oscar died at the age of nineteen years; Henrietta J. married James Wells, and went West fifteen years ago and has not been heard from for a number of years; Mary Eliza became the wife of Thomas Steed, and now lives in Pulaski County, Mo.; Thomas H. is the next in order of birth; Laura S. married her cousin, James E. White, a farmer of Pike County; Elizabeth married Jacob Goodman, now deceased, and lives on a farm in Pike County; Joseph married Nancy Browning, and runs a farm in Carter County, Mo.; the eighth of the family died in infancy, before receiving a name; Peter C. married Jenny Berce, and is a resident of Elsberry; Charles R. married a Miss Wyrick, and lives in Richmond, Mo.; George W., who died April 5, 1893, married Katie McClellan, who recently married Thomas Hall, a farmer of this county; Maggie, Mrs. James Cox, lives on a farm in Pike County; Linnie died at the age of thirteen years; and Louis D., who is unmarried, is now driving a stage in Indian Territory.

The birth of Thomas H. White took place April 30, 1851, in Pike County, Mo. His services were required on the farm, as he was one of the eldest sons, and on that account his schooling was limited to about six months. When nineteen years of age he started out to make his living, working for farmers in Pike and Lincoln Counties for the next three years. December 12, 1872, he married Julia Ann Elizabeth Rooks, who was born in Pike County, September 8, 1854. She is a daughter of Alfred and Ada H. (Fyffe) Rooks, who are represented elsewhere in this work.

After his marriage Mr. White lived with his father-in-law for a year, after which he leased fifty acres of land in that locality, and there made his home for a few years. On coming to his present farm, he rented seventy-five acres for nine years from the Harvey estate, and during this time built a home for his family. September 19, 1884, the farm was sold at public auction at Troy, and Mr. White became the owner, purchasing an additional fifty-one acres, thus making a place of one hun-

dred and twenty-six acres. At the time he bought the farm he did not have a dollar ahead, but by unremitting energy and toil paid the entire amount in six years.

Eight children came to grace the union of Thomas White and wife, namely: Rettie Ann, born January 28, 1874, the wife of William Frazier, a farmer of this township; Gertrude M., born March 26, 1876, the wife of James T. Frazier, also a farmer in this locality; Osie Jane, born August 20, 1879; Thomas Henry, who died in infancy; Nellie Melvina, born January 31, 1882; Frank, born May 11, 1884, and whose death occurred July 31 following; Grover Cleveland, born July 4, 1885, and named by the President himself; and Effie Lee, born June 4, 1888, and who died March 31, 1889. The elder children are attending a school taught by Victor E. Harlow, a very bright and promising young man, who is now living with Mr. White. Young Harlow was born in Chantilly, this county, November 23, 1876, and is a son of Dr. James and Addie (Davis) Harlow, who live on a farm near Argenville. In 1891 Victor Harlow began his career as a teacher, and will graduate at Troy in the Class of '95. He is now publishing a collection of poems written by himself, and the book will be on sale some time in 1895.

In politics Thomas White has always been an unflinching Democrat, and an enthusiastic supporter of the party. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, attending Smith's Chapel. They enjoy the friendship and respect of all who know them.



ALFRID ROOKS, better known as "Barney" Rooks, was born near Richmond, Madison County, Ky., September 25, 1825. His parents, William and Eby (Hall) Rooks, were also natives of Kentucky, and the father was born in 1804. He was a farmer by occupation, spending his entire life tilling the soil. When our subject was about twelve years old his parents moved to Bartholomew County, Ind., and rented a farm, but only remained there two years. Returning to

Kentucky in 1839, they purchased a farm in Carlisle County, where they spent the rest of their lives. The wife and mother was called to the land beyond in the year 1841, and in about fifteen months the husband was married again. The paternal grandfather of Alfred was a native of Tennessee, but passed away at the home of his son, William, in Kentucky. There was one sister, who married Watson Lambert. They made their home in Indiana for a short time, and then removed to Jasper County, Ill., but our subject has not heard from her for over fifty years.

After the death of his mother, and at the age of seventeen years, our subject started out in life for himself, working as a farm laborer for a number of years. He remained in Carlisle County for three months, and then went to Greene County, Ind., where he followed the same occupation for two years. At the expiration of this time he concluded to try some other place, and leaving there went to Bloomington, Ind., where he again engaged as a hand on a farm. He remained with his employer in this place for three years, and it was here that he met and married Miss Viney, a daughter of James Barton. They made their home with her parents for a year and a-half after their marriage, by which time they had made up their minds to try their fortunes in the West, and, having heard that Missouri was one of the best farming states in the Union, decided to come here.

Mr. Rooks and his wife, together with her parents, a brother, sister, and brother-in-law, Preston Russell, packed their household goods in two covered wagons, having previously purchased two yoke of oxen, and with this outfit started for this state, not knowing at the time where they would locate. After journeying in this slow and tedious manner for six long weeks, they arrived in St. Louis, where they remained three months, two months of which time they were engaged on a flat-boat carrying wood into the city, and one month were employed in a brick-yard. This, however, did not suit them, so they once more started out on their journey, their destination being southwestern Missouri. Stopping at Osage Forks for a short time, while there they engaged in splitting rails for a living. After six weeks of this kind of