

building the first wire fence east of the latter place. The dry weather of 1884-'85 suggested to Mr. Criggs the idea of an artesian well. He succeeded but fairly well with the first attempt, and drilled another, with much better success, both of which now give an abundance of water for stock. He now has a well-improved and well stocked farm and a fine new house, the whole valued at \$7,500.

In 1880 he was married to Nannie M. Griggs, a daughter of Louis and Sarah Griggs, natives of Henry county, Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Criggs have six children: Jerry F., Annie L., Raymond E., Dou Roger, Kate and Maggie May. In politics Mr. Criggs favors the Democratic party. In early life he joined the Primitive Baptist Church, and showed such zeal in the service that he was given a license, and is now a minister in that denomination. He is at present Clerk of his church, and of the Village Creek Primitive Baptist Association.



HENRY C. FORD, Whitney, Texas.—

As might naturally be expected, mention is made in the present work of many citizens of Hill county, Texas, now prominent in their different callings, but none more so than Mr. Ford, who has represented the mercantile interests in this section until recently. He owes his nativity to Louisiana, his birth occurring in Sabine parish November 1, 1844, and when but six years old came with his father to Texas. The latter settled in Bosque county, in

Smith's Bend, and here our subject was reared and received his education in the country school. When twenty-one years of age he commenced learning the saddler's trade, and worked at this until 1872, when he went to Towash and engaged in merchandising. He continued in business there until 1878, when he moved to Hamilton Springs, where he remained until Whitney was located, after which he moved to that town. He there built a store and continued merchandising until 1890, when he sold out and is now collecting and settling up his affairs. In 1862 Mr. Ford enlisted in the Eighth Texas Regiment, when but seventeen years old, and served faithfully for three years. Mr. Ford was married in 1865 to Miss Angelina Cox, a native of Kentucky, born in 1845, and the daughter of William and Mary Cox. This union resulted in the birth of five children: Mollie E., wife of O. H. Young (see sketch); William T.; John H.; Ola; and Edward (deceased). The mother of these children died in April, 1875. Mr. Ford took for his second wife Miss Melvia Duncan, a native of Tennessee, born October 29, 1856, and the daughter of William W. and Dora Duncan. To the second marriage were born five children: Guy W.; Bertha C.; Howland C.; Berrell D. and Charles L. Soon after his first marriage Mr. Ford was afflicted with rheumatism, and was a cripple for two years. This was when he was just starting and time was money with him. However, he was not discouraged, but as soon as able went earnestly to work and soon retrieved his fallen fortune, and is now comfortably situ-

ated in the little town of Whitney. Mr. Ford's father, Thomas Ford, was a native Georgian, born in 1807, and in 1830 he was married to Miss Selantha Liles. He came to Texas about 1834, settled at Smith's Bend, Bosque county, and bought 100 acres of land, which he improved and cultivated. He died January, 1878, and his wife in 1886. They were the parents of six children: S. W.; Caroline, wife of John J. Mosley; S. A., wife of Dr. Attaway; Thomas J.; Henry C. (subject); and Elizabeth, wife of N. Bryan. The father was a member of the school board that levied the first school tax in Hill county. Our subject is a Mason, Whitney Lodge No. 855, and is also a member of the Knights of Honor, Lodge No. 3,214; also a member of the K. of P. lodge at Whitney.



JAMES M. O. WILSON, a successful farmer of Hill county, was born in Montgomery county, Kentucky, March 22, 1833, the youngest son of Samuel and Elizabeth (McCullough) Wilson. The parents were of Scotch and Welsh ancestry, the McCulloughs having come from North Carolina, and the Wilsons from Virginia. Sampson Wilson and James McCullough, the grandfathers of our subject, were soldiers in the Revolutionary war, and the latter was also in the Indian war, was held two years by the Indians, and during that time was shot and wounded and made to run the gauntlet. Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Wilson had six children, viz.: Joseph N., deceased a number

of years ago; Simeon, who was killed in the war; Catharine, wife of Samuel McFall; Mary and Bettie, who died when young; and James M. O., our subject.

The latter came to Texas with his father in 1855, settling in Hill county, where he rented land and farmed until the breaking out of the late war. He then enlisted in Company C, Sixth Texas Regiment, Ross' Brigade, and was soon promoted First Lieutenant, and next to Captain. He was in a number of hard-fought battles, was under Price in the McCullough campaign, and under Joseph E. Johnson and Hood in the campaign of Georgia. Mr. Wilson was shot and badly wounded four times, was near when the standard-bearer was shot down, and he picked up his flag, and was shot down. With a broken leg he crawled off the battle field, dragging the flag with him, thus saving both himself and the flag from being captured. He was the seventh man shot down while carrying the flag during that battle. After the war he returned home and was elected Sheriff of Hill county, but, on account of the reconstruction, he resigned after a year and a half. Mr. Wilson subsequently bought a farm of 300 acres, to which he has added until he now owns 2,000 acres, all but 300 acres of which is on the Brazos river. Mr. Wilson is also extensively engaged in stock and cotton raising, having this year 400 acres in the latter. He has served as Justice of the Peace of his precinct six years, and in 1888 was elected Representative of his county, which position he served.

Captain Wilson was married in Kentucky, in 1868, to Miss Georgia Greenwade, who died shortly afterward, and August 21, 1879, he married Miss Edwin L. Wade, who was born March 23, 1863, a daughter of Edwin and Mary Wade. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have had seven children, namely: Joseph E. (deceased), Mary E., Bertha, May, Ona and Ina (twins) and James H. Mr. Wilson is a member of the Baptist Church, has always been identified with the Democratic party, and is a member of the Grange. Mrs. Wilson is a member of the Christian Church.

MADISON G. EASTER, a farmer of Hill county, is a son of Jasper M. Easter, who was born in Mississippi, in 1812, a son of Colonel and Betsey Easter. Jasper M. removed to Texas in 1869, locating in Hill county, where he died January 29, 1874. In 1861 he enlisted in the Confederate service, and was captured at the siege of Vicksburg, after which he was paroled and returned home. Politically, he was a Democrat, and served as Justice of the Peace a number of years in Mississippi. He was a member of the Masonic order, and was Moderator of the Covington Baptist Church. Our subject's mother, *nee* Sarah King, was born in South Carolina in 1819, a daughter of James and Betsey (Garrot) King, also natives of South Carolina. Mr. and Mrs. Easter were married in 1844, and had ten children, viz.: Phebe, wife of C. L. Martin, of Itasca, and a sketch of whom is given in this work; William F., a farmer Hill county; Rachel, wife of W. B. Mangle; Sarah Thompson, at home;

Martha, wife of B. T. Major; Madison G., our subject; John and Margarette, twins, the former a farmer of Hill county, and the latter the wife of Robert Haley; Tee, wife of E. V. Cousler, of Hill county and Rufus M., at home.

Madison G. Easter was born in Mississippi, in 1855, and removed with his parents to Texas, and remained with them until 1880, when he located where he now lives. When he began life for himself he was \$650 in debt, and he now owns 245 acres of land with 200 acres under cultivation, and a gin worth about \$1,500; and altogether he is worth about \$10,000. Mr. Easter was married January 1, 1880, to Katie Carr, who was born in Mississippi in 1864, a daughter of Dr. Carr (deceased) and Rebecca Carr, natives of Mississippi. Mr. and Mrs. Easter have six children: William F., Olga, Mattie, Mande, Dutchess and Grover O. Politically, Mr. Easter is a Democrat; socially, a Master Mason; and religiously, both he and his wife are members of the Baptist Church.

RUFUS M. EASTER, a successful farmer of Hill county, Texas, is a son of Jasper M. Easter, whose sketch is given in this work. He was born in 1864, in Mississippi, and when five years of age removed to Texas with his parents, and still continues to reside with his widowed mother. He began life for himself when twenty-five years of age, with eighty acres of land, and he now owns 200 acres, with 200 acres under cultivation and well stocked and improved. Although but twenty-seven years of age, Mr. Easter

has succeeded in accumulating a property, by economy and close attention to business that would be a credit to a person twice his age. He is a young man, of exemplary habits, and a Democrat in his political views.



JOHN A. HARRELL, one of the leading citizens of Johnson county, a farmer, stockman and ginner, was born in Scott county, Mississippi, in 1851. W. R. and Minerva (Moore) Harrell, his parents, had eight sons: Thomas, deceased; John A., the subject of our sketch; Louis, of this county; Robert, Dugal, and Albert, deceased; James and Lee, residents of southern Texas. Of these, our subject was the second in order of birth.

W. R. Harrell, the father of our subject, left Mississippi in 1867 and moved to Franklin county, Arkansas, residing there for several years, from where he moved to this county in 1873. He has also lived in Cook county, Texas, for a time, and is now a resident of the Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory. During the late war he served for a while in the Confederate army. In 1872 the mother of our subject died, and the year following, the father married Miss Dora Thomas, of this county. They had four children: Stan, Mollie, Benjamin and Erva. Several years ago his wife died, and in 1888 he married Miss Ella Gould, of Hill county. They had two children, both now dead. Mr. Harrell is now in his sixty-sixth year.

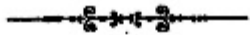
Our subject was educated in the common schools of Mississippi and Arkansas. He

commenced life for himself at the age of twenty-one, at which age he came to Texas with his father. Here he rented land for three years in the neighborhood of Grand View, and then purchased a portion of the farm which he now owns. This consisted then of sixty-five acres of slightly improved land, for which he paid \$15 an acre. To this he has since added, until he now owns 187 acres. Of this, 120 acres is highly improved, on which he has erected a handsome residence, barn, outhouses, etc. Mr. Harrell also owns 173 acres of fine land, which he purchased in 1891 for \$25 an acre. Sixty-five acres of this is under cultivation. He is also interested in four steam cotton gins, on which about 8,000 bales of cotton is ginned annually. One of these gins is on his home farm in Grand View, and another is on Mr. Louis Harrell's farm, west of Grand View.

Mr. John Harrell landed in Texas in 1873 with his wife, a wagon, a pair of ponies and \$30 in cash. All he now possesses he made by his own industry and perseverance, having bought his first home on credit. He raises most of his horses, cattle and hogs, himself, and sometimes has a surplus. He restricts his agricultural products to corn, cotton and oats, in the cultivation of which he is more than ordinarily successful.

He was married in Crawford county, Arkansas, in 1873, to Miss Bettie Laird, a native of Mississippi. Her parents, G. Thomas and Elizabeth (Caldwell) Laird, are both dead. Her brothers are prominent farmers of Johnson county, Texas. Mr. and Mrs. Harrell have five children: Lulu, Ella, W. T., Allie

A. and Annie A., twins. Both Mr. and Mrs. Harrell are members of the Missionary Baptist Church. Socially, Mr. Harrell is a member of Grand View Lodge, No. 266, A. F. & A. M.



P. McKINNON, attorney, Hillsboro, Texas.—Mr. McKinnon is one of those men, too few in number, who fully recognize the truth so often urged by the sages of the law, that, of all men, the reading and thoughts of a lawyer should be the most extended. Systematic reading gives a more comprehensive grasp to the mind, variety and richness to thought, and a clearer perception of the motive of men and the principles of things, indeed of the very spirit of laws. This he has found most essential in the prosecution of his profession.

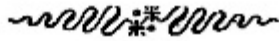
He was born in Thomas county, Georgia, December 19, 1849, and his parents, Daniel and Sarah (McMillan) McKinnon, were natives of the Old North State. He was reared in his native county, and educated in the schools of the neighborhood and at the high school at Monticello, just across the line in Jefferson county, Florida. In 1870 he began reading law in Monticello, under Simkins & Simkins, and was admitted to the bar in that city two years later. In May, 1872, he came to Texas, stopped for a short time at Corsicana, but in January, 1873, he located in Hillsboro, entered immediately upon his practice, and has resided here ever since. He has enjoyed a large practice and

has ever been engaged on a number of the most important cases which have been tried at the Hill county bar. He has always refused to enter politics as a business, preferring the law to the uncertainties of public life. He was County Attorney, however, of Hill county in 1878-'79, and filled that position in a very creditable and satisfactory manner. As a lawyer he combines ability and thorough training in legal principles with industry and close application to the interests of his clients, and enjoys general esteem as a scholarly gentleman, a valuable counselor and a useful and influential citizen. He is a strong speaker, making no especial pretensions to oratory but able to express himself forcibly, relying more on matter than manner for influence. He is an exact logician and perfectly at home even in the midst of the most complicated state of facts. He is calm in address and strictly methodical in the arrangement of his matter, terse and vigorous, pointed in phraseology and accurate in the choice of his words. Having a world of good nature in his make-up, he is never impolite or captious nor yet boisterous or egotistical. He always exhibits the nicest sense of professional propriety, his bearing toward the court being always respectful, and toward adverse counsel courteous. To the younger members of the bar he is ever willing to extend a helping hand, and no one is quicker to recognize merit or give an encouraging word to a struggling young brother than he. He possesses an abundance of patience and energy, and these he has never ceased to exercise throughout his career. Whatever of success



A. P. McKinnon

he has attained he attributes to hard, persistent labor and to a strict observance of the ethics of his profession.



DOCTOR N. B. KENNEDY, physician, Hillsboro, Texas.—Few, perhaps none, save those who have trod the arduous paths of the profession, can picture to themselves the array of attributes, physical, mental and moral, the host of minor graces of manner and person, essential to the making of a truly great physician. His constitution needs must be of the hardest to withstand the constant shock of wind and weather, the wearing loss of sleep and rest, the ever gathering load of care, the insidious approach of every form of fell disease to which his daily round of duties expose him. Free and broad should be his mind to seek in all departments of human knowledge some truth to guide his hand; keen and delicate the well trained sense to draw from nature her most treasured secrets, and unlock the gates where ignorance and doubt have stood sentinels for ages.

Such a one we find in the person of Dr. N. B. Kennedy. This gentleman was born in Sumter county, Alabama, December 24, 1837, and is a son of John and Harriet A. (Isler) Kennedy, natives of North Carolina, and both descendants of ancient and honorable families of the Old North State, the mother being a daughter of Major John Isler, a gallant Revolutionary soldier. Dr. Kennedy's parents settled in Alabama, in 1826, and there resided the remainder of their days, rearing

a family of five sons and two daughters. These were: Jane, who became the wife of Dr. E. T. Easley, of Satartia, Mississippi, both now deceased; John F., who became an eminent physician, having prepared himself for his profession both in France and Germany, and who died in middle life, at Lauderdale, Mississippi; Thomas H. became a farmer and died at his home at Little Rock, Arkansas, a few years ago; Sidney P., who became a physician and is now deceased; William A., who is now deceased; Nathan B. (subject); and Mary A., wife of George H. Hibble, of Terrell, this State. The mother died in 1866, at the age of sixty-nine, and the father in 1874, at the age of seventy-eight; the mother at her old home in Alabama, and the father at Lauderdale, Mississippi. The mother was a woman of very superior attainments, but not well educated, yet possessing great refinement. She was a great believer in education and looked personally after the training of her children. To her the Doctor is indebted for all he is and all he has in the way of education and correct training. Dr. Kennedy was reared in his native county and received his earlier education there. His later literary education was obtained in the University of Virginia, from which he graduated in 1860. He read medicine under his brother, Dr. S. P. Kennedy, at Lauderdale Springs, Mississippi, and subsequently took medical lectures, both at the University of Virginia and the University of Louisiana, graduating from both.

He located for the practice of his profession at Sumterville, Alabama, and continued there

until March, 1861, at which time he entered the Confederate army, enlisting in the Twenty-seventh Alabama Regiment, to which he was appointed Assistant Surgeon. He was in the field service for a considerable time, after which he was examined and placed in hospital service, having charge of the officer's hospital at Lauderdale Springs, Mississippi, and at Uniontown, Alabama. He was in the service and on active duty from the date of his enlistment in March, 1861, until the surrender in April, 1865.

When the war was over he went to Gaston, Alabama, and at once began practicing his profession. He remained there until 1867, when he moved to Meridian, Mississippi, and there resided until 1869, when he moved to New Orleans. In 1871 he moved to Texas and settled at Hillsboro, Hill county, which, with the exception of two years spent in Dallas, has continued to be his home since. Since reaching maturity Dr. Kennedy has practiced medicine and has made money and won considerable distinction. He has been a hard student and an industrious investigator, and works as diligently now as in former years. He has indented himself with all the medical societies within his reach and has been a liberal contributor to many of the leading medical journals. He assisted in the organizing of the Hill County Medical and Surgical Association, and has been several times president of the same. He is a member of the Texas State Medical Association, the American Medical Association; and through the courtesy of Sir Philip Bailey, author of "Festus," he received an honorary

membership in the Society of Science, Letters and Arts of London. He has contributed extensively both to the medical and secular press during the past twenty-five years, beginning with *Brenton's Journal and Surgical Reporter* of Philadelphia, in 1867, and coming down to the present time, the list embracing such periodicals as the *Atlantic Medical Journal*, the *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*, *Briggs' Health Journal* of Dallas, Texas, and *Daniels' Texas Medical Journal* of Austin, this State. The Doctor's literary efforts have extended over a wide field, covering a variety of subjects, some of practical moment, others belonging more strictly to the domain of *belles lettres*. He is regarded as the most accomplished literary man in his county, possessing a fine library and keeping up with all the literature of the day.

He has carried on his literary researches with his medical studies, not allowing either to interfere with the other. He discovered and made known the use of the injection of carbolic acid for the removal of hemorrhoids, carbuncles, etc., making the discovery in 1875, and promulgating his views in 1881. In 1866 he made a discovery equally as important: that of rendering the passage of gall stones easier by first softening them with sweet oil. On the 27th of July, 1862, Dr. Kennedy married Miss Susau W. L. Martin, a daughter of James H. Martin, of Sumter county, Alabama. Mrs. Kennedy's mother bore the maiden name of Sarah Lee and was a near relative of the distinguished Robert E. Lee. Mrs. Kennedy was born and reared

in Sumter county, Alabama. Four children (two dead) have been born to this union.

The Doctor joined the Masonic fraternity in 1863 and has been actively identified with it since. He is also an active member of the Knights of Pythias. He has never sought political distinction, being of a retiring disposition and much preferring the duties of his profession and the pleasures of literature to the turmoil of public life and the now questionable honors of political positions.

F. DABNEY, a merchant of Okeburne, was born in Newton county, Georgia, in 1852, a son of Tyre G. and N. H. (Smith) Dabney, natives of Georgia. The father died when our subject was twelve years of age, and the mother afterward married Rev. Dr. Bridges, of Newton county, Georgia. Mr. Dabney located in this city in 1876, and first sold goods for Heard & Allen sixteen months, and for N. H. Cook three years, and in November, 1879, in company with J. T. Williams, opened a stock of groceries in this city, and the partnership existed three years and four months. Our subject then sold his interest to Mr. Williams and moved to the north side of the public square, where he opened a stock of goods in the same line. He carries a stock of from \$8,000 to \$10,000 of staple and fancy groceries. Socially, he is a member of the Masonic order, of the K. T., and is Noble Grand of the I. O. O. F. lodge.

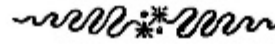
Mr. Dabney was married in this city, June 15, 1879, to Miss Georgia A. Picket, a

daughter to Dr. C. and C. (Norton) Picket, natives of Alabama. To this union has been born six children, four now living, viz.: Hallie, Eva, Tyre Glen and Herbert. Mrs. Dabney is a member of the Methodist Church of Okeburne.

J. SORRELLS, one of Hillsboro's most highly esteemed citizens, was born in Walton county, Georgia, in 1856, to John B. and Jane (Tribble) Sorrells, who were born in Georgia in 1832 and 1834 respectively. The father was an extensive planter before the war and succeeded in accumulating sufficient means to be called a wealthy man, but during the momentous struggle between the North and South he lost all. He was a Lieutenant in the Confederate service in the Army of the Tennessee, and with General Forrest's Cavalry participated in the Kentucky raid and was at the battle of Stone River. He left the army in 1864 and was elected Sheriff of his county, which office he acceptably filled for three terms. He was elected a member of the Constitutional Convention, which framed the present constitution of Georgia, and in 1869, by choice of the people, became their representative to the Legislature. In this capacity he showed himself to be a man of decidedly intelligent and progressive views and his record as a legislator of the very best. The subject of this sketch is the third of eight children and received his scholastic education in Johnson Institute, but at the age of eighteen years left this institution. After farming one year he

turned his attention to teaching in the village of Jug Tavern, and this occupation occupied his time and energies until his removal to Texas when about twenty-two years of age. For a number of years thereafter he continued pedagoguing in Collin county, then began keeping books for the firm of C. W. Jester & Co., at Sherman, wholesale saddlers. In 1881 he became bookkeeper for Euman & Co., cotton factors at Brenham, with which firm he remained one year. He next superintended the office work for B. H. Sanders & Co., at Oelburne, and at this time began to class cotton. In 1883 he opened an office of his own in the same town and for two years was quite a heavy purchaser at this point. Since then he has been a resident of Hillsboro, and the first year of his residence here (1885) handled about 5,000 bales. Mr. Yerber is a member of the firm and they buy for New England dealers as well as for export, and the coming year will handle at least 15,000 bales. Mr. Sorrells is also speculating in real estate at different points in Texas, and throughout Hill county he has the confidence of all classes, and is a business man of the highest standing and judgment, whose success has been developed upon the sure basis of efficiency and integrity. His estimable wife and formerly Miss Josie Kimbrough, who was born in Athens, Tennessee, and whom he married in 1885. They have one daughter, Annie. Mrs. Sorrells' father was I. B. Kimbrough, a Baptist minister. Mr. Sorrells' paternal grandfather, Charles Sorrells, was a Georgian by birth and was Col-

onel in the war of 1812. He was born in 1784 and died in 1854. His ancestors became residents of Virginia during early Colonial days.



G. DUNCAN, County Clerk.


Among the representative, thoroughgoing and efficient officials of Hill county, Texas, there is no one more deserving of mention than Mr. Duncan, for his residence within its borders has extended over the greater portion of his life. He is a son of William W. and Dora Duncan, both natives of Tennessee, in which State they were reared and married, and from which they removed to Texas in 1854, settling in Burleson county. There they made their home until 1860, when they moved to Port Sullivan, Milam county, where the father died, in 1884, on the sixth day after his return home from the war. Mrs. Duncan is still living, being now in her seventy-third year. Mr. and Mrs. Duncan had nine children, seven daughters and two sons, and the eldest, Charles D., died at Bremond, Texas, in 1879. He also was in the Confederate service. The daughters all reside in Hill county, as does W. G. Duncan, the subject of this notice, who was the youngest member of the family. He was born in Burleson county, December 23, 1859, and was reared in that county and in Waco, whither his mother moved in 1870. The war freeing the slaves, and the Central railroad breaking up their town, they were left in limited circumstances. The family then comprised eight

daughters and two sons, W. C., our subject, being the only protector left to his widowed mother and sisters, although he was the youngest of all the children.

He came to Hillsboro on the 1st of January, 1887, and secured a position as book-keeper with Haynes & Files, remaining in their employ until he was elected Clerk of the Hill county Court, in November, 1888. He was re-elected to the same office in November, 1890, and is still holding this position. During his first contest for the office he had considerable opposition, there being two other candidates besides himself in the field. The total vote cast in this election was 4,850, of which he received a safe majority. At the November election in 1890 he had no opposition, and polled a vote of 4,609. Although Hill county has long been well and justly noted for the sterling honesty and superior capability of her public officials, this enviable reputation has been fully sustained by Mr. Duncan. He is able to fill any position within the gift of the people, but he aspires to none higher than the one he occupies, and the functions of which he most certainly fills to perfection. His office is a model of neatness and order, and in every detail is manifested the most perfect arrangement, showing the workings of an intelligent, well directed mind. He is a beau-ideal public servant—efficient, punctual, industrious, honest and uniformly courteous to all with whom he comes in contact.

He was married in this county, June 23, 1883, to Laura J., daughter of Dr. William L. Long. Mrs. Duncan was born in Mis-

souri, but was reared in Hill county, her parents coming to this section a number of years ago. Mr. Duncan is a member of the A. F. and A. M., the I. O. O. F., the K. of P. and the K. of H.

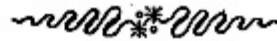
 **J**AMES PICKETT, a physician and surgeon of Johnson county, was born in Barbour county, Alabama, December 10, 1853, a son of Charles Pickett, who was born in Chester district, South Carolina, February 28, 1823. The latter was reared on a farm in Sumter county, Georgia, and in 1846 he removed to Enfanla, Alabama. He received his medical education at the Reformed Medical College of Georgia, after which he practiced his profession in Barbour county, Alabama. In 1866 he moved to Prairie county, Arkansas, in 1869 to Waxahatchie, Ellis county, Texas, in 1871 to Johnson county, and in 1882 to Burrelson, same county. On account of ill health he abandoned his profession in 1885, and is now living a retired life. He is a Royal Arch Mason, and has been a member of the Methodist Church South for about forty years.

The subject of this sketch began life for himself as a school-teacher in Ellis and Tarrant counties, and later was engaged as clerk in a dry-goods and grocery store for W. L. West, a sketch of whom appears in this work. During this time he was also studying medicine, and in 1878 he began practicing under a State license. In March, 1882, he graduated at the Vanderbilt University of Nashville, Tennessee, after which he returned to

Mr. Mertz held this position until June 1, 1880, when he resigned, being advised by his physician, Dr. J. F. Hooks, of Paris, that he must have a change of employment, owing to temporary ill health. He then, to secure out-door life, closed out his interests there, and took a herd of cattle to the Pan Handle of Texas. His health there was soon completely restored and he came to Cleburne, Texas, having obligated himself not to engage again in the banking business in Paris, Texas, for several years. After coming to Cleburne he, in company with O. S. Heath and Major E. M. Heath, organized the Johnson County Bank, and continued it as a private enterprise until June 7, 1883, when it became the First National Bank of Cleburne, of which Mr. Mertz became president. He has given his time wholly to this institution, and its success is largely due to his efforts. (See page 145 for an account of this bank.) He has also some outside interests, and among other things a fine ranch of 2,800 acres, near the Brazos river, Johnson county, sixteen miles south of Cleburne, which is stocked with thoroughbred and high-grade cattle and horses, mules and fine jacks. This is said to be the finest ranch in the county, and is known as Ruby ranch.

Mr. Mertz was married in Sherman, Texas, in 1876, to Miss Mary Belle Phillips, a daughter of David Phillips, an old resident of Kansas City. Mrs. Mertz was born in Kansas City, graduated at the Illinois Female College at Jacksonville, and is an accomplished lady. Mr. Mertz has been connected with a number of local enterprises, and is a

public-spirited citizen. He is now a member of the School Board, and takes a great interest in education. Both he and his wife are members of the Congregational church.



WILLIAM F. EASTER, one of the representative farmers of Hill county—was born in Mississippi, in 1846, a son of Jasper M. Easter, a sketch of whom is given in this work. Our subject remained at the home farm until 1863, when he enlisted in the Confederate service, in a company of independent scouts, under Captain T. L. Duke, where he remained until May, 1864. Mr. Easter was then put into the regular service, in the Nineteenth Mississippi Regiment, Company G, commanded by Colonel Duff, under General Forrest, and served to the close of the war, after which he returned home and attended school the remainder of the year. He continued to work on the home farm until 1871, when he married and settled where he now lives. He began life for himself at the age of twenty-five years, and now owns 242 acres of land, with 135 under cultivation, and well stocked.

In 1871 he married Prudence P. Major, who was born in Kentucky in 1855, a daughter of Walter S. and Jane E. Major, natives of Kentucky. Mr. and Mrs. Easter have had eight children: Baxter B., Sarah T. (deceased), John F., Lillie M., Jennie L., Edward E. (deceased), Rufus M. and Mattie. Politically, Mr. Easter is a Democrat; socially, a member of the Masonic