Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas

A Condensed History of the State, a Number of Biographies of Distinguished Citizens of the same a Brief Descriptive History of each of the Counties named herein and numerous Biographical Sketches of the Prominent Citizens of such Counties.

ILLUSTRATED.

Chicago, Nashville and St. Louis
THE GOODSPEED PUBLISHING CO.
1893.
to Buda, Ill. After his marriage Dr. Mason resided in Sheffield until coming to De Vall’s Bluff in 1873, since which time he has practiced his profession. He was first appointed postmaster at De Vall’s Bluff in 1881 (February 4), and served in that capacity until the spring of 1886. He was re-appointed in August, 1889. He was elected county treasurer of Prairie County in 1886, was re-elected in 1888, and is the present incumbent. He has been magistrate a number of times, and has held various town and school offices; he is also a member of the American Institute of Homeopathy, joining the same in 1867, and a member of the Southern Homeopathic Association. He is a member of Ames Lodge No. 142, A. F. & A. M., at Sheffield, Ill., was made a Mason in 1852 or 1853, and has also been a member of the I. O. O. F. He was a charter member of De Vall’s Bluff Lodge No. 2172, Knights of Honor. In 1882 he joined the Iron Hall Association, and has drawn one final benefit of $1,000, and considers it a good thing. The Doctor is independent in his religious views, and is willing others should enjoy the same privilege.

W. E. Maxwell, merchant and manufacturer, De Vall’s Bluff, Ark. This gentleman is one of the prominent business men of De Vall’s Bluff, Ark., and his reputation in that capacity is well and favorably known throughout the county. He was originally from Kentucky, where his birth occurred in 1852, and is the eldest of a family of six children born to the union of J. H. and Mary M. (Cole) Maxwell, the father a native of Kentucky, and the mother of Pennsylvania. J. H. Maxwell was born in Caldwell County in 1822, and was a merchant and planter. He was married in 1849 or 1850 to Miss Cole, who was a descendant of the family of that name in Pennsylvania. Mr. Maxwell died in 1884 at De Vall’s Bluff, Ark. W. E. Maxwell began business for himself by manufacturing handles at Lansing, Mich., in 1875, remaining there until 1883, when he came to De Vall’s Bluff, and there, in partnership with Mr. Wells, engaged in the mill business under the firm title of Wells, Maxwell & Co. This firm is engaged in sawing all kinds of lumber, and ships a great deal of oak to foreign parts. He is also engaged in merchandising under the firm title of Maxwell & Co., and is one of the ablest business men to be found. He is the owner of considerable town property, and owns a 1000-acre tract of land in the county. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, Hamilton Lodge No. 110, De Vall’s Bluff, and is a member of the Knights of Pythias, White River Lodge No. 41, of De Vall’s Bluff.

S. A. Minton is a worthy agriculturist of Prairie County, Ark., and enjoys to an unlimited extent, the confidence and respect of all who know him. He has been a resident of the county since 1867, and at that date settled on forty acres of land in Center Township, and at the present time has 220 acres, 100 under cultivation. Born in the State of Alabama, in 1844, he is the third child born to J. M. and Nancy (Rainwater) Minton, both of whom were born in the “Palmetto State,” the former’s birth occurring in 1818, and the latter’s in 1816. J. M. Minton settled in Alabama, where he followed farming and tanning, and his marriage occurred about 1836. After residing in Alabama until 1860, he came to Arkansas and settled at Austin, where he worked at the tanner’s trade for about ten years, then moving to Center Township, Prairie County, where he spent his declining years, his death occurring in 1884. Politically he was a Democrat and his wife was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church. They became the parents of the following children: Emily E. (who is the wife of R. N. Sparks and resides in Centre Township), S. B. (who lives in Hazen Township is married and has eight children), S. A. (our subject), Martha G. (wife of R. N. Sparks, Sr.), Adaline (who died young), Matilda S. (died in 1898 in her nineteenth year), John P. (who also died in childhood), and M. M. T. (an infant, deceased). The mother of these children died in the year 1882. The paternal grandparents, Sylvanus and Jennie Minton, became the parents of twenty-three or twenty-four children. S. A. Minton spent his youth in Alabama and came with his father to Arkansas in 1860. The following year he enlisted in Company B, Fourth Arkansas Regiment of Infantry, and the battles in which he participated were: Rich-
mond, Murfreesboro, Atlanta, Missionary Ridge, Chickamanga and Franklin. Upon returning to Arkansas he was married in December, 1863, to Miss Nancy A. Douglas, a daughter of Logan and Patience Douglas, and the year following moved to Prairie County, and as shown above, has become a well-to-do farmer. The children born to his union are: George J. (who died in 1887), Joseph M. (who also died in 1887), Emma C. (who is the wife of R. N. Sparks, Jr.), William E., Thomas W., Burrell S. and Ada B. Mr. Minton is a member of the Primitive Baptist Church and is an enterprising and progressive citizen.

Hon. William L. Moore, retired physician and surgeon, Hickory Plains, Ark. A plain unembellished statement of the facts embraced in the life of William L. Moore, a man well known to the people of Prairie County, Ark., is all that we profess to be able to give in this history of the county; and yet, upon examination of those facts, there will be found the career of one whose entire course through the world has been marked with singular honesty and fidelity of purpose, as well as sincere and efficient service to those whom he has been called upon to represent in different capacities. He was born in Wilson County, Tenn., near Lebanon, on August 29, 1814, and is the son of Robert and Ann L. (Duty) Moore, natives of Virginia and North Carolina, respectively. The parents were married in North Carolina, near the line, and the father cultivated the soil in Virginia until 1809, when he moved to Wilson County, Tenn. He was in the Creek War, was made major, and fell while leading his men at the battle of Talladega. The mother reared the family, and in 1819, was married the second time, to James L. McDonald. She then moved to Cotton Grove, Tenn., thence to Bolivar to educate her children and there died in 1827. Dr. William L. Moore was reared in Tennessee, and at the age of fourteen years, entered a store to learn something of merchandising, spending the time alternately in the store earning funds and in attending school until twenty-one years of age. He received a fair education in the common and higher English branches, also studied Latin, and subsequently began the study of medi-