

County, where he now lives and owns 180 acres of rich land, forty of which are thoroughly cultivated and improved with good barns, outhouses, and the most essential of all things, good wells of water, and a fine orchard of some 400 fruit-bearing trees. Mrs. Shipp is an earnest Methodist, belonging to the same church as her husband, and he socially affiliates with the Dutch Creek Masonic Lodge No. 269.

William Sills, one of the prominent citizens of this county, is the owner of the Sills' saw and grist mills and cotton-gin. He was born near Milford, Ohio, January 2, 1836, the son of William and Elmira (Davis) Sills, natives of Ohio. His father's occupation was that of ship-carpentering up to the time of his death, in 1835, when the rest of the family came to Arkansas with our subject's grandfather, Mr. William Davis, and settled in Crawford County. In this county William Sills was reared to manhood. He received a very limited education, and at an early age learned the printer's trade, but his health failing, he was compelled to give that up, and took to farming. At the breaking out of the war Mr. Sills enlisted in Company B, First Arkansas Cavalry, under Capt. Powhatan Perkins and Col. De Rosta Carroll, and went with the regiment to Oak Hill, where he was taken sick, and was discharged. He then returned to Van Buren, Crawford County, and continued farming until 1882, when he sold out, coming to Yell County. Here he invested in 200 acres of land, in company with his son-in-law, J. W. Blevins, who owned 500 acres at the time, well cultivated, and on which he had built a comfortable frame residence, good barns and sheds necessary for his stock. Owing to the fact that Mr. William Sills is the proprietor of the largest mills in his county, he does a large share of the work, and has the contract for furnishing the lumber for the new pontoon bridge to be built across the Arkansas River. His mills are patronized by the farmers from Logan and other counties in the neighborhood, the ginning-mills producing from 325 to 500 bales of cotton. Of his farm land, Mr. Sills has 100 acres under cultivation, forty acres of corn and sixty acres of cotton. The subject of this sketch

was married in 1863, to Miss Elenora Bushong, a native of Kentucky, but of French descent. Of a family of nine children born to them, six are now living, viz.: Willie A., Mary E. (wife of J. W. Blevins), James E., Ollie, Renna and Harry. Those deceased are Eugene, Le Roy and Emma. Both he and wife are members of the Christian Church. In politics Mr. William Sills is a Democrat, having been elected sheriff of Crawford County in 1866 on that ticket. He is the supporter of all enterprises of a public nature that would be of benefit to his county, and being a very charitable man is ever ready to help the needy.

John N. Smith, miller, Briggsville, Ark. This prominent business man was born in Chattooga County, Ga., on June 10, 1840, and became familiar with the duties of farm life at an early age. His father, John Smith, was born in North Carolina in 1817, and his mother, whose maiden name was Rebecca Jane Eddington, was the daughter of Daniel Eddington, of North Carolina. John N. Smith came to Arkansas in 1871, settled in Scott County, and there purchased 160 acres of land, which he improved, clearing 140 acres and erecting good buildings, etc. This he sold and in 1883 moved to this county, located in this township, and here engaged in milling. The mill consists of a saw-mill, cotton-gin and grist-mill, and with all the late improvements for carrying on the work. This property is worth \$3,000. Mr. Smith was married in 1862 to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Jackson Green, of Spartanburg, S. C., and the fruits of this union were three children. Mrs. Smith died in 1881, and Mr. Smith has since married Mrs. Emma David, who has borne him two children. The children to both marriages are named as follows: J. B. (who married Miss Elizabeth Allen), J. E., E. C. (who married Eptha Sullivan), Rebecca Jane and Joseph Michael. Mr. Smith and family are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is steward. In March, 1862, Mr. Smith enlisted in Company F, Thirty-ninth Georgia Regiment Infantry, and was in service until the close of the war. He was at the siege of Vicksburg, battles of Franklin, Missionary Ridge and Chickamauga. He was never

wounded, but was taken prisoner at Vicksburg. In politics he is a staunch Democrat. He is sharp and shrewd in making a trade yet strictly honest, and never goes back on a contract.

James G. Smyth, president of the Belleville Academy, or Dardanelle High School, under the supervision of Arkansas Conference South, was born in East Tennessee in the year 1859, and is the eldest in a family of three born to J. T. and Elizabeth J. (Morrison) Smyth, who were of North Carolina and Virginia origin. The father was an itinerant preacher of the Methodist Episcopal denomination, in charge of the Holston Conference of Tennessee. He died in North Carolina, in 1888, his widow still surviving him and residing with her son James. Mr. Smyth received his early training and schooling in Tennessee, finishing his education at the Hiwassee College. In 1878 he was licensed as a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and in 1879 graduated, taking the degree of M. A. For a short time he was engaged in teaching, and the following year witnessed his location in Bradley, Ark., whence he went to Eldorado, and there organized the Independent High School. Subsequently he came to Warren and founded the Warren Graded High School, and in 1885 assisted in the establishment of the noted Belleville Academy, with a department for training and graduating pupils, which will admit them to college. This school opened its first session with eighteen students enrolled, and in 1889, 200 names were found upon the attendance list, forty of which were those of boarders. In 1888 Mr. Smyth was chosen county examiner, doing much while in office to raise the grade of teachers and materially benefit them. On November 27, 1880, he led to the altar Miss Amanda Neal, of Bradley County, daughter of Orilla Neal, formerly of Georgia, but later an Arkansan pioneer. This marriage has been blessed with four children: Victor Summerfield (who died in infancy), Vasco (who died at the age of four), Lano and Lud Bolford. Mr. and Mrs. Smyth are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. The former is a Democrat politically, and has served as chairman of the Democratic Executive Central Committee. He is

a whole-souled gentleman, and has the reputation of being one of the best educators in the State.

Benjamin F. Start, merchant, Gravelly Hill, Ark. Mr. Start was born in Hempstead County, Ark., November 30, 1850, and was reared to manhood on the farm. At the age of twenty years he began for himself, as a farmer, on rented land, and three years later purchased eighty acres of unimproved land, which he settled upon and improved by clearing thirty acres, erecting a comfortable house, barns, etc. There he remained for fourteen years, and in the meantime bought an adjoining tract of 160 acres, which he also improved. At the end of the time mentioned (1886) he entered the mercantile business at Gravelly Hill, where he has continued successfully ever since, his annual sales equaling \$3,000. In connection with this he still continues agricultural pursuits, and has been connected with the steam-mill (saw, grist and cotton-mill) at this place. He started out for himself with limited means, and by his industry, perseverance and strict attention to business, he has been unusually successful. He was married, September 3, 1876, to Miss Hannah Garner, daughter of Elijah Garner of this township. Mrs. Start died August 17, 1888, leaving two children, one of whom has since died. In August, 1890, Mr. Start was married to Mrs. L. M. Garner, widow of William Garner. Mr. Start and his estimable wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is steward, and socially he is a member of the A. F. & A. M. lodge of this place. In politics he affiliates with the Democratic party. He is liberal in his support of all worthy enterprises.

E. D. M. Stevenson, a planter by occupation, and formerly of Carroll County, Tenn., was born in that State April 3, 1834, and is the eldest son of Samuel G. and Eliza (Seret) Stevenson. The senior Stevenson, of French descent and a farmer, was born in 1792 in South Carolina, and was married in Tennessee in 1832, where his wife died July 4, 1842, leaving five children to the care of her husband, who, with his family, emigrated to Arkansas in 1870 and settled in White County, residing here till his death in 1872, being in communion with the Methodist Episcopal Church, his