

this sketch. Though his station in life has not been the most distinguished, his services have been not less honorable nor less appreciated than those of any public men within the borders of the county, and his name commands respect wherever it is spoken. Judge and Mrs. Stamper have a family of seven children: Martin L., Hiram M., Porter B., Eliza C., Lena J., Martha R. and Willie L. The Judge and wife have been members of the Baptist Church at Clifton Hill since its organization, and the Judge is a moderator in his denomination. He is also one of the charter members of the Masonic order at Clifton Hill.

JOSEPH M. SUMMERS

(Farmer and Stock-raiser, near Clifton Hill).

In the lives of such citizens in Randolph county as that of the subject of the present sketch, is to be traced the true history of the development of the county and its rise from the condition of a wilderness to that of one of the first counties in the State in population, wealth and general prosperity. It is such men as Uncle Joe Summers that have made the county what it is—their muscle and brain, their industry and intelligence, their enterprise and public spirit, have wrought the change that has been effected. Joseph M. Summers has been a resident of Randolph county for 65 years, or from the time he was three years of age, and he commenced in this county for himself when a young man without a dollar, as a farmer. He has followed farming and stock-raising from that time to this, and with what success is shown by the fact that his possessions to-day are valued at over \$100,000. He has also reared a large and worthy family of children who are pursuing the same course in life that he marked out, and who have already taken places among the best people of the county. He has ever been a man of liberal ideas and has favored with generous help all movements in his vicinity calculated to promote the best interests of the public. It is such men as he who constitute the bone and sinew of the county, and it is on them that the prosperity and the progress of every community depend. Mr. Summers was born in Wayne county, Ky., December 18, 1816, and was the fifth in a family of eight children of Jeremiah and Elizabeth (Baker) Summers, his father originally from North Carolina and his mother from Virginia. In 1818 the family came to Missouri and located for a short time in the forks of the Chariton, but the following spring settled in Salt River township where the parents lived until their death. The Indians were still in the country, and Randolph county was yet almost a trackless wild, with only a pioneer's cabin here and there to indicate that the first step of civilization had been made within its borders. Joseph Summers grew up in those early days of the country and was a participant in the labors of clearing away the forests and developing the county, as well as in the sports of the chase, and all the early amusements characteristic of the times. He thus developed a vigorous constitution and learned the greatest lesson in life, that if one expects to succeed he can do it honestly only by his own industry and

good management. On the 1st of April, 1841, he was married to Miss Martha Patton, a daughter of William and Rebecca (Engleton) Patton, early settlers of this county from Tennessee. This proved a happy union and was blessed with seven children: William P., Waller H., Fannie, now Mrs. Joseph Mylam; James H., Jennie, now Mrs. E. J. Brown; Charles P. and Giles R. The mother of these died in 1854. She had for years been a faithful member of the M. E. Church South, and her children are all members of that denomination. Mr. Summers has never married again. While he knows there are many good women in the world, yet he feels that there is no one who can take the place in his heart that she once held, and in which her memory still lingers like a sweet dream. Mr. Summers has for more than a generation been regarded as one of the best farmers in his section of the county, and although he commenced in the world practically without a dollar, he now owns over 3,000 acres of fine land. Uncle Joe Summers is known all over Randolph county and he is as highly esteemed as he is widely known. He has been a member of the M. E. Church South for over forty years.

CHARITON TOWNSHIP.

ROBERT E. BAXTER

(Section 35, Post-office, Darksville).

Philip and Susanna Baxter came from Kentucky to Missouri when Randolph county was as yet but on the threshold of her existence. Settling land here, they made a home for themselves which has now descended to the subject of the present narration. R. E. was born March 23, 1844, has lived from infancy on the farm and is well trained in every branch of a profession that, more than any other, requires for its success long experience. His education was conducted at the common schools of the county, and before he had really arrived at man's estate, he became a student in the tactics of war. Espousing the interests of the North, he served in the State militia for some time. The close of the war checked his youthful thirst for glory, and before he was 20, March 1, 1864, he rushed into matrimony. The fair lady in this case was Miss Sarah, daughter of William and Elizabeth Odell, of North Carolina. Mr. and Mrs. Baxter have had nine children, of whom but four are living: Susann Elizabeth, William Philip, Annie Florence and John David. Those whom envious death did gather to her own bosom, were: Savilla, Charlie, Sarah, Ellen, Mary Cornelia and Robert Emmett. Mr. Baxter has a flourishing farm of 140 acres on which he raises principally corn and hay. He is a thrifty careful farmer, and yet in the very prime and vigor of manhood, he has a bright future before him. Mr. and Mrs. B. are members of the M. E. Church South.