

ALEXANDER S. JONES

(Post-office, Moberly).

In his fourteenth year when Missouri was admitted into the Union March 7, 1821, Mr. Jones is therefore one of the venerable old men of Randolph county. Now past the age of 76, he is still on a fine farm which he owns in the county, on which he has resided for many years, and the running of which he personally superintends and directs. Although he is quite venerable looking in appearance, yet "age sits with decent grace upon his visage and well becomes his silver locks," and if one were to judge of his years by his conversation and movements, for he is remarkably bright in the one and active in the other, he would be taken to be many years junior to his real age. He is one of those well-preserved, intelligent old men who, though their lives have been industrious and not without satisfactory success, have not wrecked themselves either physically or mentally in the inconsiderate pursuit of wealth. He has so lived that, instead of the evening of his life being darkened and made burdensome by the clouds of bitter regrets and physical anguish, it is softened and mel- lowed by the shadows of a serene old age like unto the evening hori- zon of an Italian sky. Alexander S. Jones was born in Lincoln county, Tenn., January 8, 1808, seven years to a day before the bat- tle of New Orleans. A native of the State from which the iron-willed, hero of that crowning triumph of the War of 1812, came, he was reared in Tennessee, and, like Andrew Johnson, who was born in the same year and in the same State, he learned a trade in his early years, commencing at the hatter's trade about the same time that Johnson enlisted in the knighthood of the goose or tailor's trade. Young Jones continued at his trade for about nine years and Johnson for about the same period, and the former took to agriculture and the latter to politics. But —

*"Fortune in men has some small difference made,
One flaunts in rags, one flutters in brocade;
The cobbler apron'd and the parson gown'd,
The friar hooded and the monarch crown'd."*

Johnson went to the Presidency; but while Mr. Jones has not risen to eminence in the admiring vanity of the world, his life has been one of sober, solid success — such a one as he hoped to live. His has been, and is, the middle fortune which La Bruvère has said that, after all, is the best: "There is nothing that keeps longer than a middling fortune, and nothing melts away sooner than a great one." Mr. Jones was married in his native county in October, 1830, to Miss Matilda Jenkins and five years afterwards removed to Missouri and located on the farm where he now resides, a half mile from the pres- ent depot of what is now the city of Moberly. Here, in less than another year, he will have lived for a half a century. He has a fine

body of 210 acres of land and his farm is comfortably improved. He has lived a plain, industrious and upright life, and no breath of reproach has ever settled upon the burnished shield of his character. One of the old fathers of the county in point of early settlement and long residence, he is at the same time one of its worthy old patriarchs, having reared a large and respected family of children, a number of whom are now themselves the heads of families. Mr. Jones has been twice married. By his first marriage he was blessed with 12 children, namely: Mary, now the wife of David James; Margaret, who died in maidenhood at the age of 19; Eliza, who is now the widow of Michael Shipp, deceased; Robert A.; John J.; Sarah, who is now the wife of Thomas Chrystall; Catherine, who is now the wife of Samuel Sparks; Louisa, who is now the widow of Mr. Shadrick; Thomas B., who is now deceased; Dulienna, yet in maidenhood and at home; Marietta, who is now the wife of Marion Crase; Julia ("Duck"), who is now the wife of William Barton. Thomas B. was a captain in the Confederate army and was wounded during a battle while gallantly leading his company, from the effects of which he soon after died. Mr. Jones' first wife died December 20, 1877, after a happy married life of one year less than half a century. Of her it may in truth be said, in the language of Proverbs, that "she stretched out her hand to the poor, yea, she reacheth out her hand to the needy; strength and honor are her clothing and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed and her husband also, and he praiseth her." To his present wife, a most worthy and excellent woman, Mr. Jones was married on the 9th of September, 1881. She was the widow of Thomas S. Cox, deceased, and her maiden name was Elizabeth Miller. She was originally from New Jersey and was a daughter of George Miller, who came from England. By her former marriage she has four children: Esther, who is now the wife of John C. Campbell; Grace, who is now the wife of William Lyon; Emily, who is now the wife of Hollis Hoyt; and Rose C., who is still a *femme libre*.

JOHN J. JONES

(Farmer and Stock-raiser).

When in his twentieth year, in 1859, Mr. Jones, who had been born and reared in this county, joined the live stock expedition of Charles Burton, bound for California, and assisted others to drive some 300 head of cattle and a large number of mules and horses to the Pacific coast. The expedition was on the road for about six months and endured many hardships which the young men of the present generation can hardly understand or appreciate, and which would be impossible now even if stock were still driven across the plains and through the mountains, for settlements along the route are too numerous to render the journey anything near as severe or perilous as it

was then. Mr. Jones remained in California for about six years, engaged in mining and sheep raising, and not without some success. In 1865 he returned to Missouri, making the trip by the Isthmus of Panama, in South America, and coming on to the interior from the Atlantic coast at New York by rail. Here he engaged in farming, and on the 28th of April, 1872, he was married to Mrs. Sallie H. Kimbrough, widow of Thompson C. Kimbrough, deceased, and a daughter of John Strother, of Randolph county, formerly of Kentucky. The year following his marriage Mr. Jones bought his present farm. He has a good place of 100 acres, which is better improved than the average of farms in the vicinity. Mr. Jones makes something of a specialty of breeding horses and mules, and has some fine representative stock for both branches of that industry. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have two children: Lela and Thomas J.; one died in infancy. Mr. Jones was born on his father's farm in Moberly, October 18, 1839. His father, Alexander Jones, still resides there, and is a well respected citizen of that vicinity. His mother's maiden name was Matilda Jenkins. Both were originally from Tennessee, and came to Randolph county away back in 1835.

HENRY KIMBROUGH

(Farmer and Stock-raiser).

Mr. K. was born in the county February 23, 1836, and is the son of John S. Kimbrough, of Surrey county, N. C. The father, John S., came to Missouri with his uncles at the age of nine, halted for a year in Howard county, and then came on to Randolph county, where he remained carrying on farming until his death, which occurred March 15, 1874. He was one of those who fought in the Black Hawk War. Henry K., like most of the farmers in the county, was raised to the life of an agriculturist. He was educated at Elm Ridge Academy, near Glasgow, and at Mount Pleasant College, at Huntsville. After he left college he taught school for four years in Boone and Randolph counties, and then taking up the business to which his early training inclined him, he bought raw land and improved the farm he still cultivates. He owns 175 acres of land with 140 fenced and under the plow. Upon this place are necessary buildings, orchards, etc. Mr. Kimbrough was elected justice of the peace for this township in November, 1868, which office he has held continuously since that time, having had the pleasure of tying the fatal knot for more than 50 couples. He is a Democrat from principle, and has been a delegate to numerous conventions as well as member, a number of times, of the central committee. He has had a taste also of martial glory, serving as lieutenant of Rice's company in the enrolled militia for a short time toward the close of the war. Mr. Kimbrough married, February 23, 1860, Miss Elizabeth J. Ferguson, daughter of George W. and Ann Ferguson, formerly of Tennessee. This estimable lady died January 16, 1881, leaving four children: Ann A., wife of Stephen G. Hamil-