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THE LEADING
AFRO-AMERICANS
of
VICKSBURG, MISS.

THEIR ENTERPRISES
CHURCHES, SCHOOLS
LODGES and SOCIETIES

Introductory by W. E. MOLLISON.



1908
BIOGRAPHIA PUBLISHING CO.
VICKSBURG, MISS.

F 349
VOL 4

236592

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Officers Union Savings Bank.

Interior Lincoln Savings Bank.

Mt. Heroden Baptist Church.

Holly Grove Baptist Church.

St. Mary's Church and School.

Jackson Street Baptist Church.

Bethel A. M. E. Church.

King Solomon Baptist Church.

Cherry Street School.

Magnolia Avenue School.

INTRODUCTORY.

BY W. E. MOLLISON.

A CITY set upon a hill can not be hid. Vicksburg has been in the front ranks of publicity for the past sixty years. It was the home of a race of statesmen before the war of the rebellion. It was the home town of Jefferson Davis, the President of the Southern Confederacy. It was the home of many of the reconstruction leaders. It was here that the first colored man attempted to manage a community. No reference need be had to the success or failure of those who took upon themselves this most serious task. But the Carters and Cardozas, and others whose names were household words when the present generation of active people were in kilts and short skirts, have left conflicting memories.

In the very earliest days this city attracted a number of brilliant and energetic colored people from abroad. Vicksburg became the center from which radiated the spirit and intelligence which attempted the management of the commonwealth.

It was inevitable that it should have afterward been the theater in which was played the tragedy of the second revolution. Its white people came from a race of men who had sent the Southrons to win glory at Buena Vista, and afterwards at Gettysburg and in the Wilderness, and whose valor in defense of its rugged heights added a new and brilliant chapter to American arms.

Colored people are imitative of the best as well as the worst in their white neighbors and compatriots, and they aspired to try their hands at taking part in the game of politics as they had seen the masters play it.

But not in the political field has the colored citizen of Vicksburg been shown at his best. In the gentler walks of private and business life he has won for himself a name for integrity as well as ability. The first colored physician who ever practiced in the state made Vicksburg his home. A lawyer who had won honors in Queen's College, Oxford, John D. S. Ferrier, made great progress in his profession in this city, maintaining the dignity and grace which his training in England had impressed upon him. Dr. Cornell made a

name as a general physician and surgeon, living for many years as a prominent and useful citizen.

No mere sketch could give the names of men who have been prominent in the public affairs of the commonwealth.

Dr. Thomas W. Stringer, who taught the colored people of Mississippi the great lesson that the man who did not provide for those of his own household was worse than an infidel, and who left the Masonic Benefit Association as a monument to his memory, lived and died on Cherry Street, loved and honored by thousands.

Thomas W. Broadwaters, a little less original but just as earnest and aggressive, brought Pythianism to a position of great prominence and usefulness.

W. T. Jones, who founded the order just entering a career of usefulness in the fraternal field of insurance, lived to have a thousand members march behind his bier, regretting the loss of a man whose genius had made an institution whose beneficence had made thousands happy.

But yesterday's triumphs are no more brilliant than those of to-day.

The colored man has no part in the management of local affairs. He has accepted the inevitable and pursues the path of simple industry and energetic effort to make homes and means of livelihood.

He has done this well. He has maintained a number of fraternal insurance orders whose payments have equalled a king's ransom within the past ten years. He has builded homes of beauty and filled them with books whose stories tell of hope and with articles of beauty which make for culture and progress.

He has shown the world that in the higher branches he can hold his own. He has four physicians whose works attest their worth. A colored man is dentist; another is stenographer for one of the leading business houses and still another has for years occupied the position of shipping clerk in the largest wholesale house in the country; two others are more than shipping clerks for the biggest shippers in the country.

Vicksburg has spoken in praise of her colored lawyer, whose office and equipment, as well as the questions with which he deals, equals those of any lawyer anywhere. He is known all over the state as well as the country and his works speak for the man.

Two banks with a paid in capital of some twenty thousand dollars and whose loans and discounts run close to the hundred thousand dollar mark, are among the things which

its colored citizens have established and are maintaining. It has no limit to the number nor to the eloquence of its preachers. It has within it many denominations. It boasts of the close Presbyterian, the Episcopal, who is reputed to be as liberal to a fault, all branches and varieties of Methodists and Baptists of all shades of belief and performance.

It has many beautiful and stately church edifices. To name them would too greatly prolong this story.

It has a Catholic as well as an Episcopal Parish school. Its public school system has the largest number of teachers of any city in the state. The course is the very best given to colored youths south of Memphis. The teachers are reputed to be among the best.

The colored people are too young, as a race, to have made many scholars or artists, but we have some accomplished and widely read men and women. We have some musicians of skill and ability and one musical organization of colored men have really at times made Vicksburg famous. We have colored men artisans and builders. They are workers in wood and iron, and in stone and brick and have maintained their place with the best of their white competitors.

There is a good feeling between the two races. Among the best of each there is the closest bonds of sympathy and the widest charity and good will. This feeling is not lessening. There is no maudlin sentimentality between them, but each respects all that is best in the other.

Such a people will make progress. The star of hope is in his sky. To-morrow will be better than to-day.

Whether intended or not, this book will be an inspiration to the colored youths, a source of satisfaction to those who are still doing things and a solace to those whose memories will be enlivened by the reference to things and men with which they are familiar.



EDW. P. JONES, D.D., B.S.

Grand Secretary Geo. Wilde, of England, (to the right) Presenting Fraternal Delegate Jones, of America, at Manchester, England, June 15, 1907.

LEADING AFRO-AMERICANS.

EDW. P. JONES, B. S., D. D.

THE subject of this sketch was born on the 21st day of February, 1872, in the County of Hinds, State of Mississippi.

His father, Rev. George P. Jones, was an ordained elder of the Missionary Baptist Church.

The mother of Edw. P. Jones died in 1878 when our subject was only six years of age.

Edw. P. Jones attended school at the Vicksburg Public Schools and at Alcorn College and Natchez College. He graduated at the early age of 16 and 20 from the Public Schools of Vicksburg and Natchez College, acting as valedictorian in each class. Immediately upon leaving school, he commenced teaching at Rolling Fork, Miss., as the Principal of the City School and resigned to accept the principalship of the Tunica High School. Here he was called and ordained to the ministry in June, 1894, by the Tunica County Baptist Convention. He at once accepted the call to the First Baptist Church of Tunica, Miss., and at once proceeded to tear down the old structure and build a modern up-to-date church. He led the workmen in getting out the shingles for the roof and in sixty days after he had accepted the call, a beautiful structure was erected to the untiring energy of his congregation. After serving here for a period of three years, he succeeded Dr. R. T. Hoffman as Pastor of the First Church of Greenville, Miss., where he also remodeled the Mount Horeb Church. Many were added to the church during his administration for four years and a half. During this period he also pastored the King Solomon Baptist Church at Vicksburg and the Leland Baptist Church. He then accepted the call to the First Baptist Church at Greenwood and later came to the Mount Heroden Baptist Church, succeeding the late lamented Dr. A. A. Hamilton, and the First Baptist Church at Port Gibson, Miss., succeeding the late Dr. R. J. Temple. He has built in Vicksburg a modern and up-to-date structure at a cost of \$6,000.00 and paid the entire indebtedness of \$4,000.00 owed on the Church at Port Gibson for five years previous to his

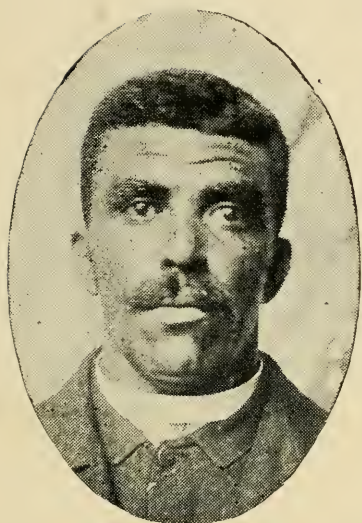
acceptance. Much could be said of his own church work, but it has been in the line of fraternal work about which we shall now write.

He was elected Grand Master of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows in the year of 1900, defeating Dr. A. D. Snodgrass, who had been Deputy Grand Master for a number of years. At the time of his election he had been only a member for two years. He has been re-elected each successive term by acclamation except at the last meeting at Vicksburg. The opposition to Dr. Jones brought forward every possible means to defeat him at this session, but after his report he was re-elected by a vote of 287 to 48. He feels especially proud of this election, as he was in Europe as Fraternal Delegate of the entire Order in America during the thickest of the fray. He has served for four years upon the Sub-Committee of Management and until his election as Grand Master of Mississippi, no interest was taken whatever in the National affairs of the Order. The first B. M. C. attended by Dr. Jones was at Louisville, Kentucky, in 1900, when he nominated the lamented General N. A. Anderson and he was elected by a handsome majority. He succeeded the lamented General Anderson at New Haven, Conn., and was re-elected at Columbus, Ohio. He was a formidable candidate for Grand Master at Richmond, Va., and by agreement withdrew and moved the election of the present Grand Master, Hon. W. L. Houston. Immediately Grand Master Houston moved the election of Dr. Jones as Fraternal Delegate to England. He is now in his thirty-sixth year and is serving as Supreme Master of the United Reformers of America, Europe, Asia and Africa, having been elected for five successive terms.

He credits whatever success he has attained to the devotion and wholesome advice given by his wife, to whom he was married November 19th, 1896. They are blessed with three boys, Eddie P., Jr., George P. and McKissack McHenry.

Caesar B. Minor, Secretary and Law Clerk to W. E. Molison, has had a wider experience in the business world than usually falls to the lot of the average young man of color. He was, up to the time of the earthquake in San Francisco, employed in a position of great trust and responsibility in the largest clothing house on the coast. He is now a very rapid and expert typewriter operator, and his experience is making him an invaluable assistant to the busy lawyer for whom he is employed. He ought to make his mark in the world.

THOMAS DARDEN.



Thomas Darden is a native of Meringo County, Ala.. He came to Mississippi about twenty years ago and settled at Utica, where he remained five years. Leaving Utica he came to Vicksburg, where he has since remained. His only school training was secured at an early age in the Alabama public schools. He has pursued various vocations in the city, but the principal work which has brought him into prominence has been his work in the Christian Home Society, of which he is president. He is also prominently identified with the Mt. Olive

Baptist Church, being one of the officers of the Church. The Christian Home Society, a benevolent institution which pays a sick benefit and buries its dead members, is a monument to the untiring energy of Mr. Darden. He has been at the head of the society seven years and enjoys the respect and confidence of all his people. He is a member of the Executive Board of the General Missionary Baptist Educational Convention. He is a prominent Mason and Pythian.

One of the most prominent colored physicians in Vicksburg is Dr. J. A. Miller. He is a native of Portsmouth, Va., and received his early training in the Portsmouth public schools. He graduated from the preparatory department of Howard College, Washington, D. C., in 1892. Four years later he graduated from Williams College, receiving the degree of B. A. He graduated in medicine from the University of Michigan in 1900. He began the practice of medicine in Vicksburg in 1900, and has built up an extensive practice.

Rev. Kelly Rucks, pastor of Holly Grove Baptist Church, spends every other month in St. Louis and has done so for twenty years. His St. Louis Church pays him a good salary and in addition pays his railroad fare to and from St. Louis.



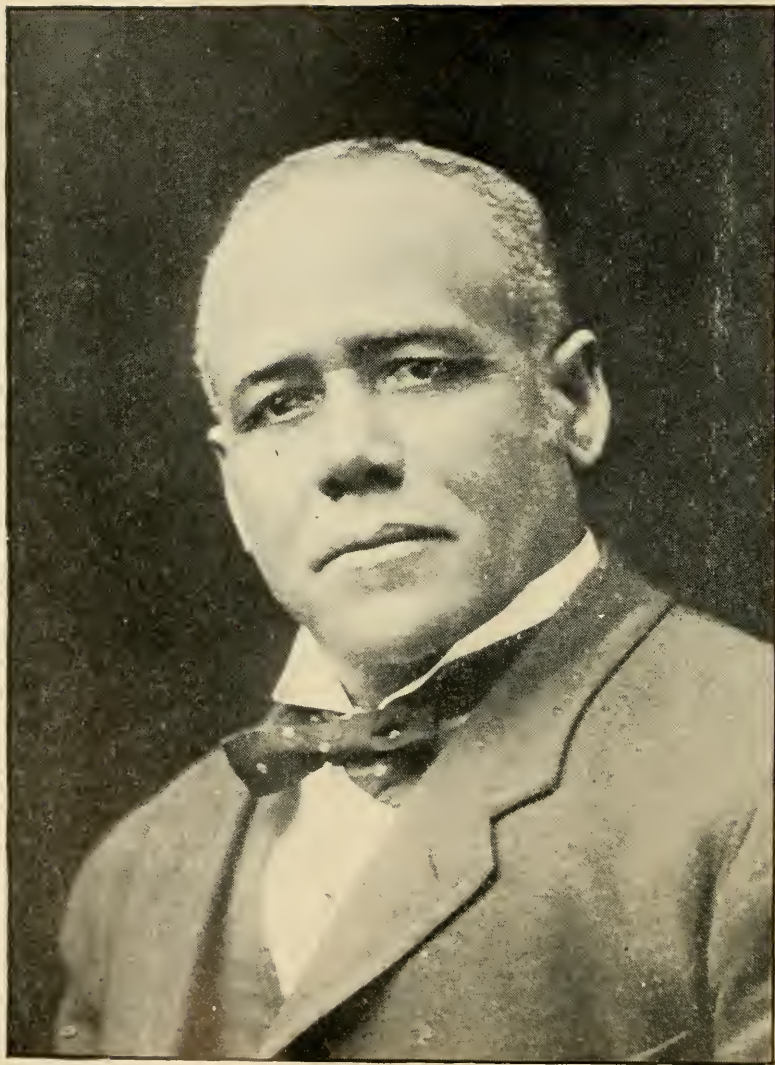
THOMAS DILLON.
MANAGER UNION GROCERY CO.

THOMAS DILLON.

AMONG the young business men of Vicksburg, no one stands more prominently as a representative of the integrity and business sagacity of his people than Thomas Dillon, Manager of the Union Grocery Company. Mr. Dillon is a native of Edwards, Miss., born Dec. 24, 1878. He has a sister older than himself and one younger brother. His early life was beset with many difficulties, and at an early age he determined to acquire an education. He applied himself studiously in the public schools of the county for several years and when about 16 years of age, he saw it would be necessary for him to sever the home ties and get out into the world and fight the battle of life alone. Leaving Edwards, he engaged in various vocations and practiced strict economy until he was able to enter Tougaloo University, where he spent five years. Being full of determination and energy and believing that there is always help for those who first show a disposition to help themselves, he had no trouble in arranging with the principal of the University to remain under its tutorage until his education was perfected to such an extent that he could take care of himself in the commercial world. He was assigned to various duties around the college and in this manner tried to keep his accounts even with his Alma Mater.

After leaving Tougaloo University, Mr. Dillon came to Vicksburg and secured employment in the Y. & M. V. shops, where he remained five years and was at all times considered one of their most valuable employees. In 1904 Mr. Dillon saw what he thought and what has since proved a good opportunity in a commercial field, and he founded the Union Grocery Company, the largest colored grocery concern in this section, interesting with him Messrs. Ed. Williams, W. M. Ware, Albert Judge and Frederic Sims. On April 15th, 1907, the company sustained the loss of their business by fire, losing over \$3,000, but, undaunted, Mr. Dillon had the business going the very next day, and a short time afterwards a new building was erected and now marks the spot where the beginning was made.

Mr. Dillon was married in 1902 to Miss Parris Speed, a prominent Vicksburg girl, who has proved a most capable and devoted helpmeet.



W. E. MOLLISON.

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR.
PRESIDENT LINCOLN SAVINGS BANK.
SUPREME GOVERNOR COLORED WOODMEN.

W. E. MOLLISON.

W. E. MOLLISON, lawyer, banker, and publicist, was born in Issaquena County at what is now Mayersville. He does not remember when he received the first part of his education. He could read at five and since that time has been a student. He attended the Blue Back Speller Schools in his native bailiwick and was, as he has been most of the time since, at the head of his classes. He went to Fisk University in 1876 and although he had not much technical schooling, he entered the preparatory school and was prepared to enter Oberlin College with the class of 1883. This, from common fractions on a plantation, showed some progress.

He was married to a schoolmate in the Fisk University Chapel in 1880, and entered actively upon the battle of life. He studied law in the office of Judge Jeffords and was admitted to the bar at his home town in May, 1881. His wife was his assistant in the passing of what was declared to be one of the best at the time.

He was appointed Superintendent of Public Education of Issaquena County by a Democratic Board of Education over a white Democrat. He served the two years in that place and in 1883 was elected Clerk of the Circuit and Chancery Courts of his county. He was re-elected in 1887 without opposition, polling within fifteen votes of the largest ever cast in the county.

In 1892 he retired from the office and resumed the practice of law. He was appointed District Attorney pro tem. in 1893 by a Democratic Judge, a distinction which no other man of his race has ever enjoyed. He was by President McKinley appointed Supervisor of the 12th Census, and with 165 enumerators under him in the most important district in the state, he discharged the duties of the office in a manner which won for him the encomiums of the people of the state.

In the political world he has been prominent for years. He has been Chairman of the District Committee of his district, and Secretary of the State Committee. He represented the State in the National Republican Convention of 1892 at Minneapolis and made a speech in that body nominating James G. Blaine which brought him to the attention of the country. He organized and put in operation the first banking institution organized and managed by colored men in the state and to-day Lincoln Savings Bank is one of the best known institutions in the country.



REV. R. T. MIDDLETON,
RECTOR ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

REV. R. T. MIDDLETON.

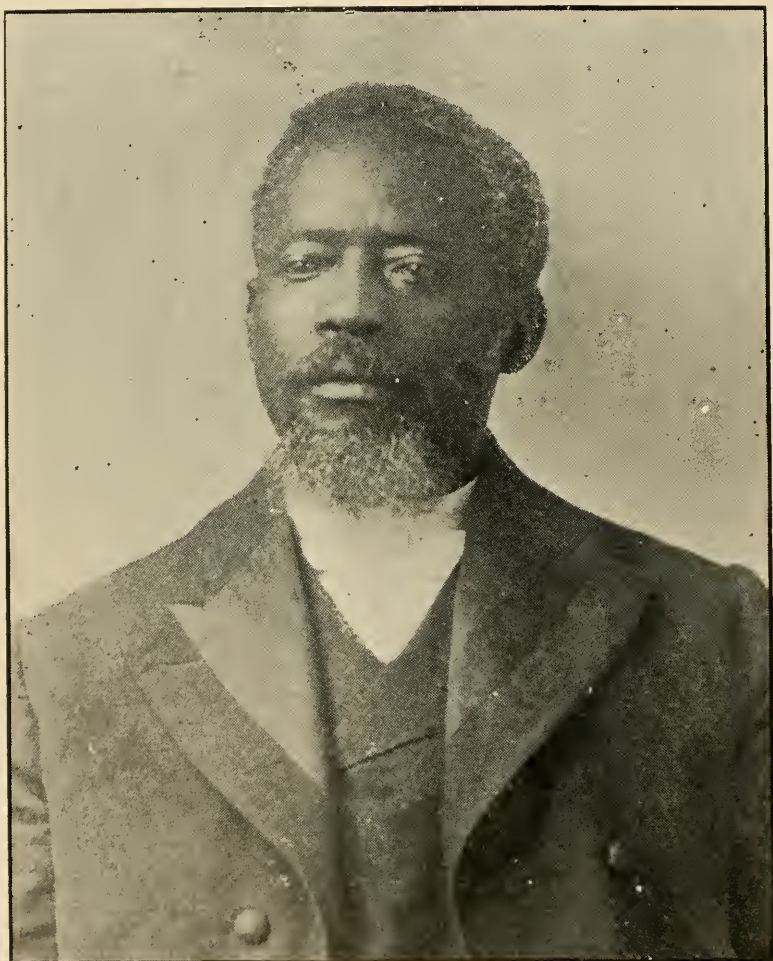
REV. R. T. MIDDLETON was born in Vicksburg, Miss., August 10th, 1873. He attended the public schools of Vicksburg during his childhood. His college training was received at Fisk University. This was supplemented by some special studies at Howard University, Washington, D. C. He studied theology at King's Theological Hall at Howard University, and was graduated from King Hall May 30th, 1900. Mr. Middleton is truly one of the sons of the prophet, his father and grand-father having both been ministers. His father was the first colored man to be admitted to the ministry of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Mississippi.

St. Mary's Church, Vicksburg, Miss., is his first and only charge. He has been there since the 10th of July, 1900. He is justly held in the highest esteem by the best people of both races. His life has approached the scriptural standard of the preacher's life, "whatsoever things are honest, and of whatsoever things are of good report." He often tells his friends that he has always had a very high ideal of what the minister's life should be; that he has never realized those ideals, but he is striving to do so.

Mr. Middleton has rounded out his life by taking to himself a wife of the temperament needed for the model minister's wife. His marriage to Miss Elizabeth Izod Roland was an event in the social life of the city of Natchez, the home of the bride. Bishop Bratton made the trip from his home in Jackson to perform the ceremony. The life of this couple in the splendid parsonage of the Episcopal Church is a model of domestic simplicity and felicity.

Mr. Middleton is the principal by virtue of his office of rector of Saint Mary's Academy. His splendid literary equipment amply fits him for the place. His friends predict for him a career of great usefulness and prominence.

Prominent among the colored physicians of Vicksburg, is Dr. J. H. Roby. He is a graduate of Meharry Medical College of Nashville, being a member of the class of 1906. He secured a license to practice from the Mississippi State Board of Health the same year and located at Mound Bayou, and after a residence of nine months he came to Vicksburg, where he is building up a lucrative practice.



REV. KELLY RUCKS.
PASTOR HOLLY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH.

REV. KELLY RUCKS.

THE history of Rev. Kelly Rucks, pastor of Holly Grove Baptist Church, if told in detail, would fill a volume this size and would be one full of interest. Some great preacher has said that this life is full of "ups and downs," where some have more "downs than ups." Rev. Rucks has had his "up and downs," and with a strong and abiding faith in the Master, and his motto, "Arise, therefore, and be doing, and the Lord be with you," he has kept in the straight and narrow path, and the Lord hath prospered him. He was born near Vicksburg, March 1, 1848, of slave parents, and was himself a slave until Abraham Lincoln issued his proclamation. He never attended school a day in his life, and what little he first learned was gathered from the children of his master, whom he attended to and from school. However, he has accomplished much along literary lines, and as a minister of the gospel, very few men can point to a more successful career. He was converted in 1868 and began the study of the bible and the preaching of the word immediately afterwards, and since that time he has ministered to twelve churches, three of which he serves to-day. He has been the pastor of Holly Grove Church since 1874 and during the whole time there has never been a day of confusion or disharmony among his congregation. He has served them faithfully and honestly, and they know it, and follow his ministrations with love and respect. In 1888 he was called to the pastorate of Pleasant Green Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo. This call came to him absolutely unsolicited and was a great surprise. He had a short time before gone to that city to conduct the funeral obsequies of one of his former members in Vicksburg, and while in St. Louis he preached several sermons which brought him into great prominence and were the direct result of the call to the church. Rev. Rucks did not care to accept the call, but the St. Louis Church believed so firmly in his ability as a pastor, that they offered him special inducements, and besides paying him a handsome salary, they paid his railroad fare to and from Vicksburg and St. Louis and have kept this up for twenty years. During his ministerial career he has baptized probably over 2,000 converts. Rev. Rucks says: "I blame it all on the Lord. He hath prospered me and all my days will I serve Him."



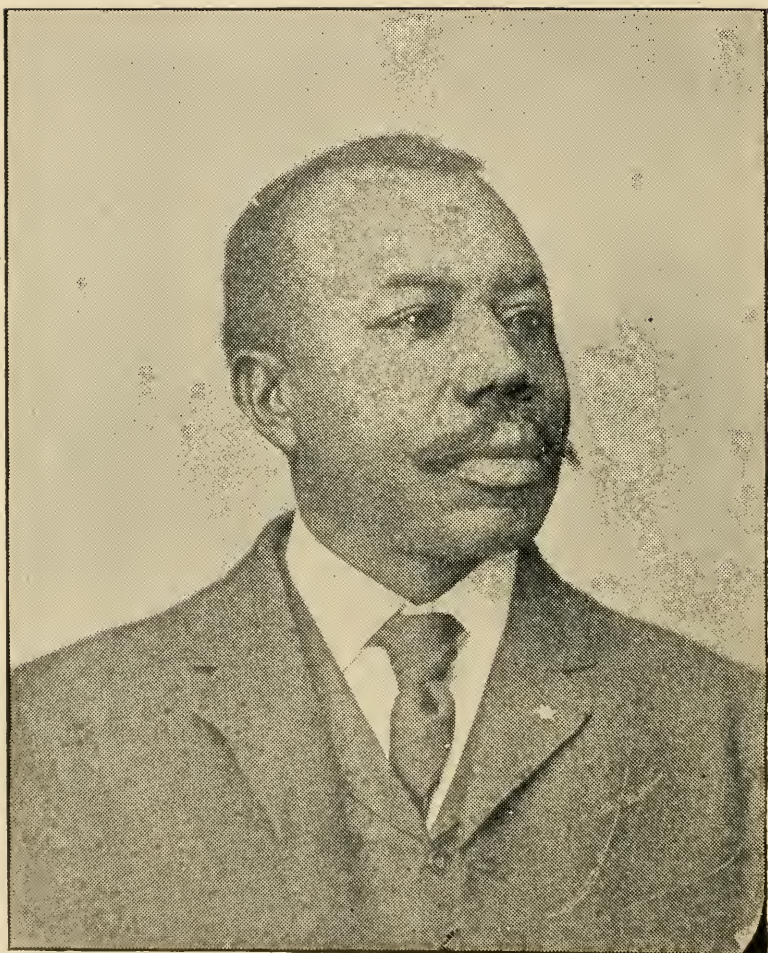
JNO. J. MORANT.
PASTOR BETHEL A. M. E. CHURCH.

JNO. J. MORANT, D. D.

WAS born near Selma, Ala., Feb. 14th, 1872. Was brought to Mississippi by parents in 1875. Had all the advantages of good public schools during his boyhood days. Raised a poor farm boy and has never known what it is to be idle. He was converted in 1884 and joined the A. M. E. Church. A few years after he was licensed to preach by the immortal Stringer. Was received into the ministry of the A. M. E. Church by Bishop R. R. Dinsey, at the session of the North Mississippi Annual Conference 1890. Served missions until 1895, when he received the scholarship of the North Mississippi Conference to Wilberforce University. He entered Wilberforce University under unfavorable circumstances, but never thought of faltering, and was the life and lead of his class even to the day that he graduated. He graduated in the Class of '99 with great honor and demonstration, with the degree of D.D. The degree of D.D. was conferred upon him by Wilberforce University in 1906 at the Wilberforce "Jubilee." He has been elected two consecutive times to the General Conference of the A. M. E. Church (1904 and 1908.) He has pastored successfully from the smallest missions to the leading stations, and is now filling the responsible pastorate of Bethel A. M. E. Church and his success here has been phenomenal. Dr. Morant is a great student, a giant debator and is matchless in oratory when fired to an effort. He is a fearless writer, a spokesman for his race in all public issues, and has often been weighed in the balances but never found wanting.

The first commercial phonograph to be used in Vicksburg is in use in the law office of W. E. Mollison, whose immense correspondence has rendered the use of the machine a necessity. The busy attorney talks into the machine the letters and legal documents and his clerk comes in and listens to the message and transcribes it on the typewriter. The phonograph is the latest turned out of the great Edison shop.

Tom Dillon represents the highest class of citizenship among his people. He stands well and has the respect of everybody, both white and colored, and strives to attain every ideal calculated to make him a man of worth and influence. He is a prominent Odd Fellow and Mason and a member of Bethel A. M. E. Church.



SANDY H. HIGHLAND.

GRAND K. R. & S. KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

SANDY H. HIGHLAND.

SANDY H. HIGHLAND, the subject of this sketch, is a native of Issaquena County, State of Mississippi. His parents, James Highland and Mary Highland, were slaves. His father was from Maryland and his mother was from Georgia. Though he was born of slave parents, they had some knowledge of books. He was taught his alphabet by his father, and when he entered school he got along pretty well. He finished up in the common schools of the county at an early age. At the age of fifteen years he passed a creditable examination and was assigned as an assistant teacher in the same school he attended. From his salary as an assistant teacher he entered the Seminary at Natchez in 1883. Owing to the health of his father, he was called home in his Freshman year. He taught school in his native county for several years, during which time he took special courses under Hon. W. E. Mollison, then Superintendent of Public Education, and Prof. F. P. Brinson.

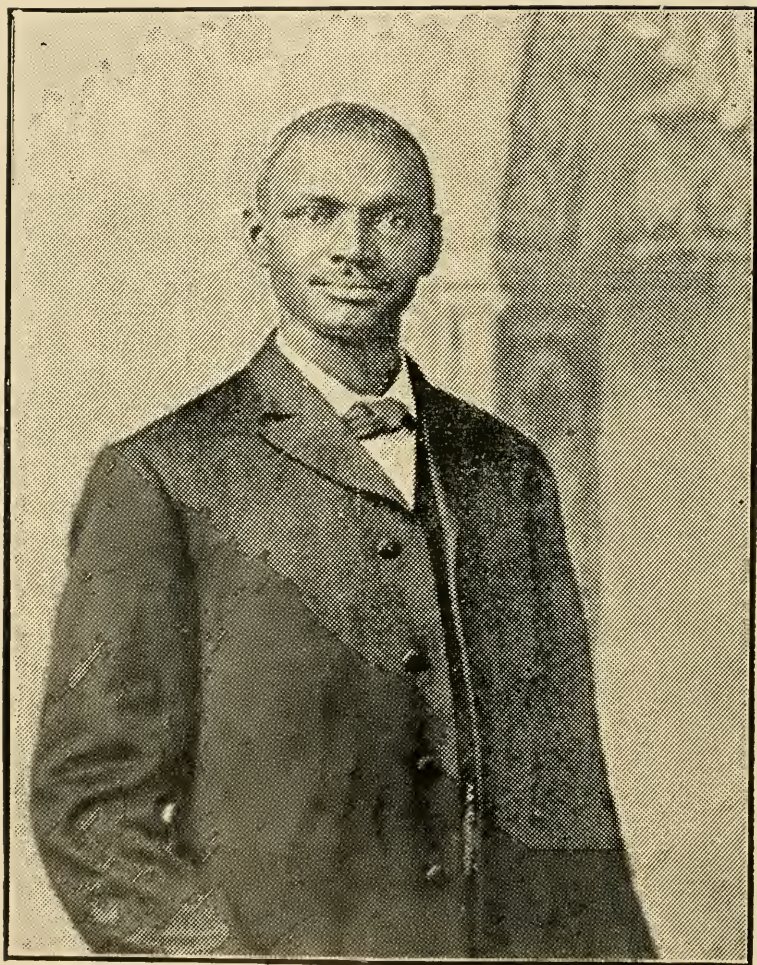
He entered politics in Issaquena County in 1887. He was appointed County Commissioner of Elections for three successive terms. In 1889 he was elected County Assessor, under fusion agreement, and held this position until the dissolution in the fusion.

In 1890, when the entire Mississippi Delta was overflowed, the Assistant Secretary of War appointed him General Manager to supply six thousand flood sufferers. The people in his vicinity were loud in their applause in praising him for his efforts. In 1899 he joined the Order of Colored Knights of Pythias and was appointed District Deputy Grand Chancellor.

Two years later he was elected Grand Lecturer and served in that position two years, after which he was elected Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, the position he holds at present. He is highly esteemed by his associates in the fraternal circle, and his counsel is considered when any question of importance confronts the fraternal body.

As a citizen of influence and worth he is esteemed by the members of both races and is noted as a man of strict integrity and character.

He was married in 1894 to Miss Ida E. Talley and their union has been blessed with one boy and two girls. They own a nice and comfortable home on East Magnolia Street.



J. H. C. HENRY.

PASTOR KING SOLOMON BAPTIST CHURCH.

J. H. C. HENRY, D. D.

REV. J. H. C. HENRY, pastor of King Solomon Baptist Church, is a native of Tensas Parish, La., born near Vidalia in 1860. He was ordained in 1884 and began preaching in Adams County, Miss. He was called to King Solomon Church in 1900 and the church has made great headway for good under his administration. He began his study of theology in the McKinley Memorial University. In 1906 the degree of D.D. was conferred upon him.

He is the statistical secretary of the General Baptist Convention of Mississippi and president of the Sunday School Convention of Mississippi. He is also a member of the Executive Board of the Convention and a trustee of Natchez College.

P. C. COPELAIN.

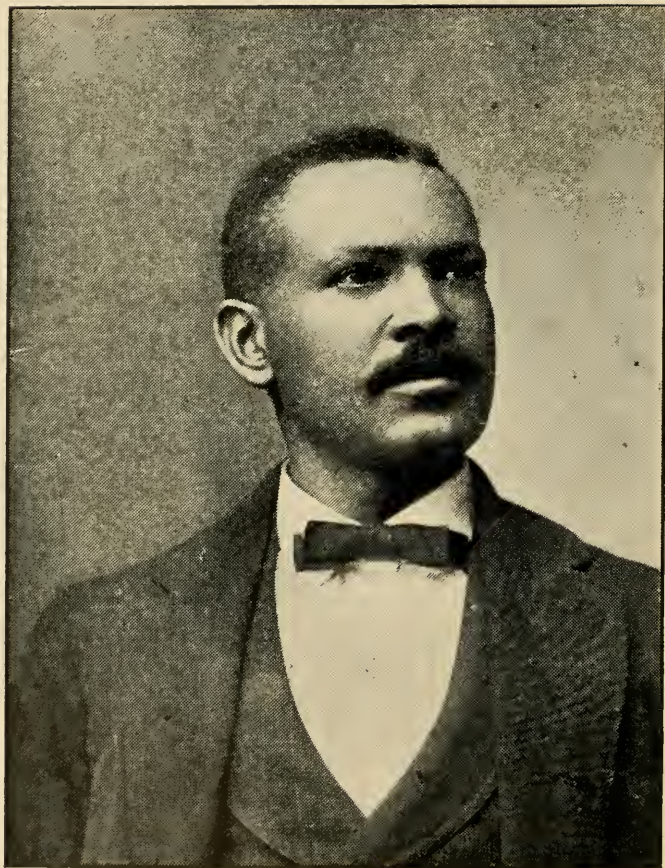


Phillip Charles Copelain is a native of Vicksburg and has been prominently identified with his people for a number of years. He has engaged in several vocations, but has made a success chiefly as a caterer and now conducts a cafe on Washington Street, where he does a nice business. He was married to Miss Julia Huff, of Brandon, Miss., and they have two girls. Both are graduates of Straight University, and the eldest is now a teacher in the Cherry Street Public School.

Mr. Copelain was one of the founders of the Lincoln Savings Bank, the first institution of the kind in Mississippi, and is at present the vice-president of the institution.

He is also prominent in fraternal circles, being a Mason, Odd Fellow, Pythian and Woodman.

He is a large real estate holder and owns in addition a nice, comfortably furnished home on Harris and Marshall Streets.



W. D. HICKS.

SUPREME GRAND CHANCELLOR BENEVOLENT INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION.

W. D. HICKS.

W. D. HICKS was born in Brandon, a small town near Jackson, in the State of Mississippi, on July 25th, 1868, which place is remarkable for nothing more than the desert-like appearance of its soil and the general dilapidation of its farms and fences. He was educated at the Grammar School of Brandon and the Alcorn A. & M. College. At Alcorn College he was elected to a prominent position over the boarding department, which office he filled five years. He then launched out in the mercantile business by opening a store in the town of Hattiesburg, Miss., which he conducted for three years with success. Feeling that he could do better in another field, he engaged with an insurance company of New Orleans, La. In this work he made a wonderful success. The company was so impressed with his success and work that after the second year it raised his salary from \$90.00 per month to \$140.00 per month. In June, 1905, they disagreed on account of the company refusing to pay, as he thought, just claims, and as the company would not remedy the matter, he resigned and founded what is known as the Benevolent Industrial Association.

BENEVOLENT INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION.

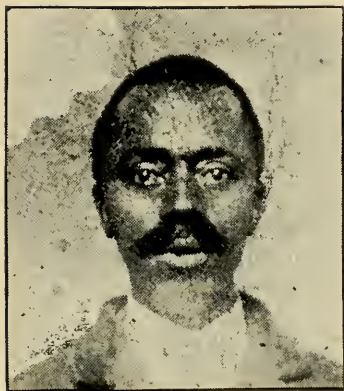
THIS Order was organized on the 5th of August, 1905. The Supreme Board Officers were as follows: W. D. Hicks, Supreme Grand Chancellor; W. H. Jefferson, Vice-Chancellor; N. C. Cannon, Supreme Treasurer, and J. M. Hicks as Supreme Secretary. Its progress has been wonderful. December 30th, 1907, the membership had increased to 4,800 members. The General Fund was \$480.00 and the Endowment Fund was \$3,200. This Association pays all claims promptly. The ritualistic work cannot be excelled. Its obligations are founded on Moses, Peter and Christ. There are seventy-five lodges in the State of Mississippi. There are four grades of policy, namely: \$4,000.00, \$8,000.00, \$1,200.00 and \$2,000.00. From each there is a benefit paid when sick and only one tax a year, which is to defray the expense of the Grand Lodge every August. The tax is known as the per capita tax and is 25 cents. The sick claims, as well as the death claims, are all paid by the Supreme Board, which leaves the subordinate lodges no responsibility to speak of, or almost free from any payments.



JERE M. BLOWE

WHO IS the recognized historian of the Most Worshipful Stringer Grand Lodge F. and A. M., Illustrious Commander In Chief of the Key Stone Consistory A. A. S. R., Right Eminent Grand Commander of St. John's Grand Commandery, Knights Templar; member of Mecca Temple Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of Mystic Shrine, Worshipful Master of Stringer Lodge No. 1 F. and A. M., Past Patron of Rose of Sharon Chapter O. E. S., an Odd Fellow, a Knight of Pythias, a United Woodman, United Reformer and an all 'round good fellow. He is a native of the city of Vicksburg, where he has spent all of his days and is proud of the old "Historic City" of which he never fails to boast.

A. L. BROWN.



The subject of this sketch, Abraham Levi Brown, was born at Raymond, Miss., July 12, 1863. At the age of three years his mother, Mrs. Mima Smith, left Raymond and moved to Jackson, where she lived one year. From there she came to Vicksburg, young Abraham being constantly with her. His first days in school were spent at Nitta Yuma, Miss., under a Northern teacher. Leaving Nitta Yuma, young Brown came back to Vicksburg and at-

tended the public schools under the tutorage of Mrs. A. A. Watkins. Young Brown in his early school days showed marked ability in grappling with the stern duties that confronted his youthful days. In the common school he was always at the head of his classes. Standing high in his scholarship and deportment, he took easy rank as the first in his school. Having finished the prescribed course in the city schools, young Brown, without the aid of anyone on earth except a fond mother's prayers, went to Holly Springs, Miss., where four years consecutively he attended Rust University. With that indomitable spirit and "stick-to-it-iveness," he finished his normal course, leaving with the honors of his class. After spending the vacation at home with his widowed mother, young Brown returned to Rust University, where he spent two years in the College Department, after which time his means gave out and he had to leave college in his sophomore year to assume the duties of real life. His first occupation after leaving college was that of school teaching, holding at all times the highest license issued in his county. On the 12th of December, 1885, young Brown was married to Miss Henrietta Vincent, with whom he lived happily for a number of years. As a result of this union six children were born, two of whom are now living, a son and a daughter. As a teacher the services of Mr. Brown are constantly sought by patrons, pupils and teachers. He, by hard and incessant study and strict application, has added so much to his college acquirements that he is known to all races of his community only as Professor Brown, a title which he more than deserves.

JNO. A. WILLIAMS.



John A. Williams is the eldest son of Robt. and Mattie Williams. He was born in Meridian, Miss., on the 5th day of August, 1876. When one year of age his parents came to Vicksburg, where he has lived ever since. Mr. Williams' scholastic education consists of what he was able to acquire in five terms at the public school at Lane's Hill. Owing to an accident to Mr. Williams' father, which incapacitated him for work, John A. was forced to give up school and provide for his parents.

Mr. Williams served in various positions throughout the city, and finally engaged with the Biedenbarn Candy Company, with whom he remained about seven years. It was here that he learned the confectionery business and the art of making all kinds of candies. Leaving the Biedenbarn Company, Mr. Williams engaged with Mr. Kahn, baker and confectioner. Here he remained until Kahn retired and sold out to Dreyfuss, and he remained with Dreyfuss over a year. During his connection with the Biedenbarn and Kahn and Dreyfuss establishments, Mr. Williams conceived the idea of going into the bakery and confection business on his own account, and on February 18th, 1907, he baked his first pan of bread. His business has seen a substantial increase ever since and continues to grow, his daily consumption of flour being one barrel. He manufactures the Sweet Home brand of bread, and many customers declare that it is the best brand of bread in the city.

Mr. Williams was married March 25th, 1901, to Miss Annie Hitch, who has proved a most lovable helpmeet, and to whom a great deal of Mr. Williams' success is due.

Mr. Williams is an Odd Fellow and Woodman and also a member of Mt. Heroden Baptist Church.

Brooks' Band and Orchestra, under the leadership of Reuben H. Brooks, is one of the best known musical organizations in the State.

H. L. SLAUGHTER.



Very few colored men occupy more prominent places in the councils of their people than Henry L. Slaughter. He is a native of Carthage, Miss., and first saw the light of day in 1857. He came to Vicksburg a few years after the war and commenced his career in this city driving a dairy wagon. Later he became butler for Dr. Harper. In 1876 he married Miss Goodwin, and began farming. Not finding the tilling of the soil as profitable as he had hoped, he en-

gaged with Fred Loyd, butcher, and learned that trade. Tiring of that trade, he began draying and after a few years of success in that field, he entered the mercantile field, in which he did well until the panic of 1893 swooped down upon him, causing him a loss of about \$3,500. After paying his creditors, he retired from the mercantile field.

He has held many places of trust for both white and black and has never proved recreant to any task. He has successively been elected president of one of the oldest fraternal organizations in the state for twenty years and is now president of the Supreme Lodge of the same organization—the Golden Rule Society. For three years he was cashier of the Lincoln Savings Bank, the oldest colored bank in the state, having only recently resigned to embark in other business.

He is the father of seven children, four of whom are living. No man, white or black, ever stood higher in the estimation of the people of his home than H. L. Slaughter. He has much influence among his people and is always advocating any measure conducive to their good.

Among the well-to-do citizens of Vicksburg none is more favorably known than Mr. Calvin Gibbs, who is the oldest hackman in point of service in the city. Mr. Gibbs conducts a line of public carriages, and is a general favorite with the traveling public. He owns valuable city property and no man stands higher than he with the community in which he lives.

B. G. VERNON.



The subject of this sketch was born in Noxubee County, Miss., January 1st, 1870. His parents, Israel and Charlotte Vernon, were slaves. He entered the public schools of his county in obscure circumstances. In many respects he had to depend upon his little classmates to get books to study. He had heard his teachers say, where there was a will he would certainly find a way. He took it for his motto, and in doing so he got along fairly well in school.

Many times his lamp was the pine knots of Noxubee County, but he made the best of the situation. He moved to the Mississippi Delta, in Issaquena County, in 1886, and entered the pursuits of a farmer. While in this employment he continued to read useful books. He joined the A. M. E. Church in 1889 and has been a devoted member of that church ever since. He was elected for several terms as Secretary of the Quarterly Conference and at present is a member of the Trustee Board of Bethel A. M. E. Church of Vicksburg, one of the largest churches in the State. In 1898 he was appointed Supreme Deputy of the K. of H. of the World by Col. G. F. Bowls and held that position until 1904, when he was elected Grand Dictator of the K. of H. of the World for the State of Mississippi. Under his administration the Order has flourished as a green bay tree. Its cardinal principles are now known over all parts of the commonwealth. In 1901 the K. of H. Bank was organized and he was one of its directors. He is also a stockholder in the Union Savings Bank of Vicksburg. In 1907 he founded the K. of H. of America and under his leadership it will soon rank among the leading fraternal institutions of Mississippi.

He is a young man and bids fair to become one of the greatest leaders in fraternal circles of the State.

Sandy H. Highland owns a fine Delta plantation of one hundred acres in Issaquena County. He has also other realty holdings.

A. J. BROWN.



No man in Vicksburg can point to a more successful career as a citizen and business man than A. J. Brown. As a business man his life is marked by acts of the strictest integrity and as a citizen who has at heart the best interests of his people, morally, socially and industriously, he stands without a peer. Mr. Brown is probably one of the most temperate men to be found among the members of his race—he neither drinks, chews or smokes, is polished in manner and clean in

thought and word and deed. He is a native of Livingston, Ala., and received his education at the Talladega Industrial College. He never left his parental roof until he had reached his majority. He came to Vicksburg in 1886 practically penniless and found employment in the railroad shops of the Y. & M. V. Ry. He was five years with the railroad people and resigned to go into the coal business, which enterprise he conducted for three years. Quitting the coal business, he took up the real estate business and it is in this particular line his greatest success has been made. During his seven years in this field he sold 851 homes to his people and accumulated five for himself. When he first engaged in the business about three hundred home owners were located on rented ground and Mr. Brown has brought the number down to about twenty-five. Two years ago he established the Brown Brick Manufacturing Company, which venture has proved a success. He has plants at Vicksburg and Kosciusko, with a daily output of 300,000 and finds ready sale for more than both plants can turn out. Mr. Brown is one of the most deserving race builders of the country. He is a christian gentleman of the highest type, a truthful and honest man and is universally respected and esteemed. He is one of the most prominent Odd Fellows in the State and is at present Grand Advocate of the order. He is Supreme Lecturer and Organizer of Woodmen of the Union of Mississippi, Vice-President of the Christian Home, Secretary of the Educational Convention of Mississippi. He is also a Pythian.

D. D. FOOTE.



D. D. Foote, a native of Vicksburg, was born Oct. 26, 1879. His father and mother were both Mississippians. The former was for a number of years in the government postal service in this city, serving as carrier, and was noted among the most prominent colored men in Vicksburg. Dr. Foote's early education was secured in the Vicksburg public schools. From Vicksburg he matriculated with Straight University, New Orleans, La., and was

in that institution four years, finishing in 1901 with high honors in a class of eighteen. After finishing at Straight University, young Foote returned to Vicksburg and entered the mercantile business, in which he remained two years. Tiring of a commercial life, young Foote decided to study dentistry, which had been his intention when he left school at New Orleans. Accordingly he entered Howard University, Washington, D. C., in 1903, and was awarded a diploma in 1906. He returned home and applied for a temporary license to conduct his profession and after one year he applied for and was granted a permanent license.

Dr. Foote is considered one of the best dentists in the city. His office is splendidly and handsomely equipped and his work will compare favorably with that of any dentist in the State, white or black.

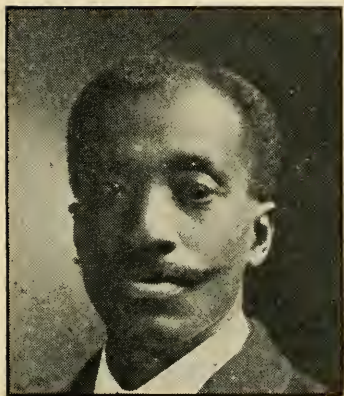
He is a young man, affable and entertaining, and has many friends among the members of both races and enjoys their confidence, respect and esteem.

He is a member of A. M. E. Church and also a prominent Woodman.

Dr. Foote's offices are located at 106½ North Washington Street, where he will be pleased at all times to see his friends.

Mr. W. E. Kelly is the owner of a splendid tract of real estate known as Bryson Hill, on which he has erected a number of cottages for rental purposes. He is a young man and an excellent citizen.

JESSE W. WILLIAMS.



Jesse W. Williams was born in Jackson, Miss., August 5th, 1864. He received his early training in the public schools of that city. At the age of 16 years he came to Vicksburg with a widowed mother, he being her only support. In 1881 he was employed as a waiter in the Pacific Hotel, which occupation he followed until 1884, when he accepted a position as cook at the United States Engineer's Office at Wilson Point, La. In 1888 ill health forced him to

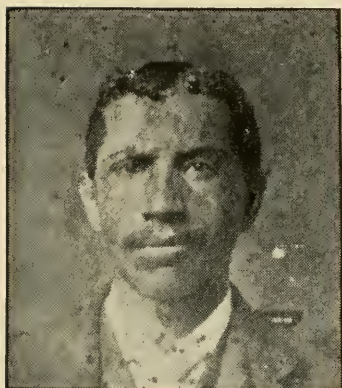
resign this service. After a stay of five months in the Northwest in search of health, he returned to this city, his adopted home, quite restored. In 1889 he accepted the position of shipping clerk of the L., N. O. & T. railroad shops here. In 1890 he was tendered the position of messenger in the United States Engineers Office under Major J. H. Willard, then in charge of said office. This position he accepted and has held ever since with credit to himself and to his race. In 1886 he professed religion and has ever since been a consistent christian. He is a member of King Solomon Missionary Church of this city, where he held many important positions, having held, among other offices of the Church, that of Secretary and Treasurer of the Building Committee.

In 1905 he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Javes, one of the most estimable and cultured ladies of the city. He is a member of Prince Hall Lodge No. 26 F. and A. M., Z. R. A. Chapter Vicksburg Commandery No. 1 Knights Templar, and is a 32 degree mason.

In young men like Williams, who enjoys the confidence and respect of both races, rests the future of the negro. Mr. Williams is modest, and unassuming, but in the van with those whose careers give promise of great and permanent success.

Robt. Ellis has one of the largest meat markets in the city and enjoys a large trade.

ARCHIE WILLIAMS.



The subject of this sketch was born at Beechwood, five miles from Vicksburg, on the 4th of May, 1872. At about the age of nine years he entered the public school of his native town, where he was a scholar for about four years. Leaving Beechwood at the age of seventeen, he came to Vicksburg and attended the public school about one year. In 1889 Mr. Williams entered the large hardware house of Lee Richardson & Co. in the capacity of stove in-

spector. He remained with this firm as one of its most valuable employes for a term of over eighteen years. This in itself is one of the very best evidences of Mr. Williams' integrity and character.

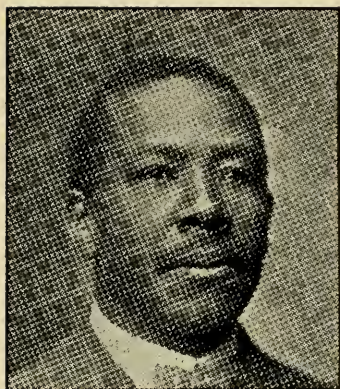
In 1895 he led to the altar Miss Mary Jane Mabre, of this city, who has proved a most devoted helpmeet and to whom he insists the credit for a great deal of his success is due. Their union has been blessed with two children, Roger Lee and Lucius, aged 9 and 7 respectively.

In 1906 Mr. Williams engaged in business in a small way with Mrs. Williams looking after the store. He handled a small line of family groceries, charcoal and ice. This business continued to grow larger, and Mr. Williams decided to give up his position with the Lee Richardson Company and give it his entire attention. He now carries a complete line of family groceries and supplies and sells annually about 350 tons of ice.

Mr. Williams owns a nice and cosy home at 722 E. Crawford Street. He is treasurer of Jackson Street Baptist Church, is K. of R. and S. Stringer Lodge 403 K. of P., a member of the Banking Committee Pedestal Brotherhood Lodge, Odd Fellows, 1844, and is President of Good Samaritan Lodge No. 1, a religious order.

Thomas V. McAllister, collector of public moneys at Jackson, is a citizen of Vicksburg and owns a handsome home on Main Street.

W. H. JEFFERSON.



William Henry Jefferson was born at Clinton, Hinds County, July 23, 1867, the second son of William and Charlotte Jefferson. When he was about six years of age his parents moved to Vicksburg. He received his education in the Vicksburg public schools. After leaving school Jefferson followed various avocations, among them a service of six years in the Pullman service. In 1904 he established the W. H. Jefferson Undertaking Company, of which he

is the sole proprietor, and for the past fourteen years he has conducted successfully the business. On the 7th day of December, 1885, he received from the Renouard Training School for Embalmers, of New York, a diploma licensing him to practice the art of embalming in connection with the undertaking business, and he is now the only colored embalmer in the State and owns the largest, finest and most complete undertaking establishment in the South. He carries in stock a full supply of metallic cases and caskets of every description. Burial robes of all styles for ladies, gentlemen and children. He also furnishes first-class carriages for funeral and wedding parties.

Mr Jefferson is a member of twenty-nine societies, figuring prominently in the Masons, Odd Fellows, Pythians and others.

He is considered one of Vicksburg's leading colored citizens, numbering his friends by the hundreds among the members of both races, and enjoys the confidence, respect and esteem of his large circle of acquaintances.

Spencer Graves is a first-class carpenter and builder, and bears the distinction of being the oldest negro Mason in the state. Mr. Graves owns nice property in the city.

Capt. January is one of the best colored butchers in Vicksburg. He has been here for a number of years and is well known and liked by all.

CHAS. H. SPATES.



Standing prominently among the young business men of Vicksburg is Chas. H. Spates, proprietor and manager of the Delta Tailoring Company. Mr. Spates is a native of North Carolina, being born at Kingston, on August 29, 1881. He began the foundation of his education in the public schools of his native town and when nine years of age his parents moved to Waterproof, La., where young Spates again attended the public schools for six years. Leaving

Waterproof, the family moved to Mounds, La. At that place young Spates finished his education and taught in the public schools for two years. This showed that young Spates had been ambitious and studious and was determined to have an education. In 1903 he came to Vicksburg and went into the service of the People's Tailoring Company, where he spent three years and gained a practical and technical knowledge of the tailoring business in all its branches. He withdrew from the above concern in 1906 and established the Delta Tailoring Company, and has built up one of the best tailoring establishments in the city. On July 4, 1906, Mr. Spates led to the altar, Miss Agnes Connor, and to her he attributes a large share of his splendid success.

Mr. Spates is a prominent K. of P. and Odd Fellow and also a member of the Jackson Street Baptist Church. He is full of energy, has a large circle of friends among both races and enjoys the confidence, esteem and respect of all.

Jas. W. Collins is the pioneer negro letter carrier, and an excellent citizen. Mr. Collins is the owner of a handsome residence, nicely located, and stands well in church and state affairs.

All the well dressed negroes of Vicksburg buy their clothes from Charlie Spates, of the Delta Tailoring Company, opposite the Piazza Hotel.

W. J. PEMBERTON.



W. J. Pemberton is another one of the staunch business men of Vicksburg, having begun five years ago with a capital of less than \$10, and a magnificent grocery business and a nice home is the best evidence that his commercial career has been a success. He carries a stock aggregating over \$1,500, and keeps two delivery wagons busy delivering things good to eat to his many satisfied customers. Mr. Pemberton is a native of Vicksburg. His educa-

tion was secured in the Vicksburg public schools. He is a man that always stood well among the people of both races. He is a prominent Mason and Odd Fellow and a deacon in King Solomon's Baptist Church.

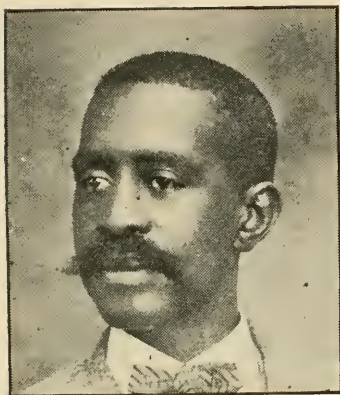
He was married in 1883 to Miss Annie Johnson, of this city, who has been very instrumental in his success. They have three sons and one daughter. Two of the boys assist in the store. It is such men as Mr. Pemberton who have set a higher standard of citizenship among his people, and he is an advocate of any measure which tends to lead his people up to a higher standard of living. He was born shortly after the war and during his early life there was not the same opportunities afforded at that time as at the present day and his success is all the more deserved.

He has endeavored to give his children a practical education and fit them for the various duties of life.

Jerry Lawson is a true type of the "horny-handed sons of toil." He is a well-known licensed drayman and can handle more cotton than two ordinary draymen. He owns several nice teams and a beautiful home. He is a prominent Mason and his presence is absolutely necessary when there is any Masonic work to be done.

Cox & Harris, colored barbers, have one of the best equipped barber shops in the city and enjoy a large white trade.

B. W. CURRIE.



B. W. Currie was born at Warrenton, Miss., in the year of 1870, and received his education in the schools of his native village and the schools of Vicksburg. At the age of eighteen he passed a very creditable examination and was assigned to teach the school at which he was a pupil only a few years previous. As a teacher he at once took high rank, especially distinguishing himself in mathematics. He gave up teaching to enter the government service as

letter carrier, which place he now fills acceptably to all parties concerned, having been advanced yearly, as a compliment to his fidelity and efficiency. By special permission from the Postoffice Department, at Washington, he was designated by Col. Mollison as enumerator of the Twelfth Census. This position he filled without one word of complaint, notwithstanding his duties carried him in the homes of three thousand people, both white and colored. He is secretary of the local branch of Letter Carrier's Association, and has been re-elected five successive terms without opposition. Was a delegate to the sixteenth convention of National Letter Carriers, at Canton, Ohio, Sept. 1907, and in that body was elected National State Vice-President, a position never before filled by a colored man. He is one of the founders of the Lincoln Savings Bank, the oldest institution of its kind in the State, a director, and secretary of its Executive Committee. He is also prominent in the fraternal world, being a Mason, a Past Master, Master of Exchequer of his K. of P. Lodge and Supreme Master of Records of the Master Builders.

Walter B. Jones is one of the successful young negroes of Vicksburg. He has the reputation of being one of the best bricklayers in Vicksburg. Steady and reliable, Mr. Jones is a member of several fraternal orders, a christian and a gentleman. He owns a magnificent residence on a popular street and other real estate. He is a director in the Lincoln Savings Bank and prominent in church and other societies.

EDWARD P. EASTMAN.



Edward Paul Eastman, the subject of this sketch, was born in the State of Mississippi near Hard Times Landing, September 6th, 1872. At an early age he was brought to Vicksburg and left to the care of his grandmother, Matilda Boyd. He attended the city schools until the failing health of his foster parents compelled him to quit school and go to work. At an early age he was apprenticed to one of the leading plumbers of that day. Where he

learned his trade he has worked continuously at the one place for twenty years and has the confidence of his employer.

He lays no claim to having accomplished anything great. He is a "plain blunt man;" attends strictly to his own affairs, trying to make the most of life and live as useful a life as possible, "for he shall not pass this way again."

He is secretary for the Jackson Street M. B. Church, superintendent of the Sunday School and a leader in most things for the benefit of the Church.

He is a home-loving man, enjoying the companionship of his wife and the love of his only daughter.

He is a member of several societies, holding positions of trust and honor, but his main object is to serve his God, serve his family and serve his fellow-man.

Joseph C. Jennings unfortunately is not a native Mississippian, he having been reared in New Orleans, La., and moved to Vicksburg about eight years ago. During his stay here in the state of his adoption, he has contracted for and successfully completed the plastering of some of the largest buildings in the city and state. His work on the Craig mansion, the Y. & M. V. passenger station, the First Presbyterian Church and hundreds of other jobs stands as a lasting monument to a young negro contractor. Mr. Jennings is a young man and employs regularly a force of a dozen or more workmen.

W. H. SPRIGGS.



William Henderson Spriggs is a native of Warren County, Miss. His boyhood days were spent on the farm and his education acquired in the public schools of the county. For several years prior to 1896, Mr. Spriggs conducted a mercantile business in New Orleans, La., beginning with a capital of about \$4,000. In 1896 he disposed of his New Orleans business and returned to Vicksburg, entering into mercantile pursuits, in which he remained two years, quitting that to take up the

interests of the Knights of Canaan. It is in the interest of this order that he has made most marked success. When he took up the work the order had very few members and was far from being on a substantial basis. Its first system of insurance was a kind of weekly benefit. Dues were collected by a collector whose duty it was to call from house to house, collecting from each member at their home. This was the first position in the order which fell to Mr. Spriggs. Several months afterward Mr. Spriggs acquired the interests of the then president, and a Supreme Lodge was organized and laws adopted for its further government. Mr. Spriggs then took the field in the interest of the order and traveled over Mississippi and Louisiana for four years. His was an up hill struggle for a long time. Many difficulties were encountered and broken down and Mr. Spriggs to-day bears the title of a "record-breaker" in fraternal work. He was and is devoted to the order and spent his money and his time freely in the effort to make it the most popular order in the State.

William H. Jones is a rising young man of splendid attainments. A college man, a Free Mason and a consistent follower of "the man of 33." Mr. Jones is a decorator and painter. He owns a nice home in the residential portion of Vicksburg and is making a name in his field of work.

You should join the Knights of Canaan.

LEADING NEGRO WOMEN.

FANNIE B. SLAUGHTER.



Among the leading negro women of Vicksburg none are more prominent than Miss Fannie B. Slaughter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Slaughter. Miss Slaughter was born in Vicksburg, but when three years old she went to Colorado with her god-mother and remained there until seventeen years old. While in the West Miss Slaughter attended the very best schools and as a result of close application to her books is a highly educated young woman

and now holds a position as assistant book-keeper in one of the large wholesale firms in Vicksburg, and is the first and only colored woman to hold such a position in this city.

By reason of her commercial ability and familiarity with such work, she is connected in a clerical capacity with several of the leading colored enterprises of the State, being assistant secretary of the Colored State Fair Association, assistant secretary of the Golden Rule Society and a member of the executive board of the Colored Press Association of Mississippi.

Besides her distinction in the business world, Miss Slaughter is very popular socially, having only recently been voted the most popular young lady in the city.

She is her father's "right hand bower," assisting him in all of his business affairs. She has traveled extensively, is well read and is a very brilliant conversationalist.

Dr. Thomas W. Stringer, who taught the colored people of Mississippi the great lesson that the man who did not provide for those of his own household was worse than an infidel, and who left the Masonic Benefit Association as a monument to his memory, lived and died on Cherry Street, loved and honored by thousands.



GEORGIA A. PROCTER, M. D.

PROPRIETOR PROCTER'S DRUG STORE.

GEORGIA A. PROCTER, M.D.

IT IS only in the past few years that women have begun to attract attention as physicians by the number of them taking up the practice of medicine. In the State of Mississippi there are very few white women doctors, and Vicksburg is the home of the only colored woman in the state licensed to practice this science. Mrs. Georgia A. Procter was born at Bowling Green, Ky., in 1872, of well-to-do parents. She completed her high school education in her native town and entered Bereah College, where she remained one year, going from there to the State University, where she remained until the death of President Wm. J. Simmons. She then removed to Eckstein Norton, where she was employed as assistant instructress. She was married in 1892 to Henry M. Procter, and in 1902 she and her husband completed the medical course at Meharry Medical College, at Nashville, Tenn. Mrs. Procter also graduated as a trained nurse at the same time. The following year she and her husband located in Vicksburg and began the practice of their profession and have always enjoyed a lucrative practice. Mrs. Procter is proprietor of Procter's Drugstore, the only business of the kind in the city owned and managed exclusively by colored people. They carry a complete stock of drugs and chemicals, as well as all the leading patent and proprietary medicines and druggists sundries.

Among the many noted colored women of Vicksburg none stands higher in the hearts of the race than Mrs. Roxena A. Jones, widow of the late W. T. Jones.

Mrs. Jones is the Grand Treasurer of the Grand Court of Calanthe of the State of Mississippi, Governess of Rebecca Circle United Woodmen, and high official in such noted orders as the Eastern Star, Knights and Ladies of Honor and the Race Pride. She bears the distinction of having been one of the first ladies promoted to the ranks of bank directors. She is a thorough business woman, minus the mannish style of business women. Mrs. Jones owns a nice residence on Crayton Street and not a few cottages for rental purposes. She is a conspicuous figure in all the Grand Lodges to which negro women attend, and is given an important place on all committees.

MRS. LUCY JEFFERSON.



Mrs. Lucy Jefferson was born in Jackson, Miss., 1867, but the greater part of her life has been spent in Vicksburg, where her parents reside. She attended the city public schools and acquired the honor of being the leader of her class. She is known as a great church and society worker in this city and possesses those qualities which make up true womanhood. Mr. Jefferson's success in his undertaking establishment is largely due to the assistance of

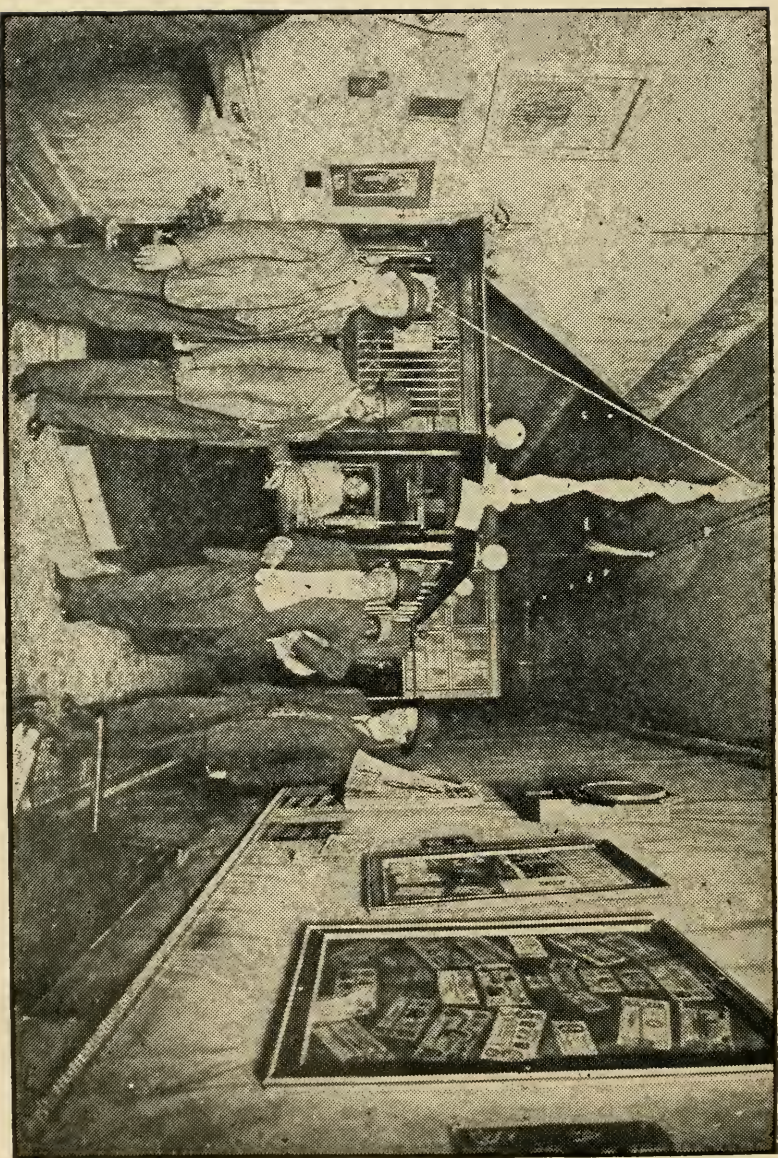
his wife. She is the president of the Women's Christian Union, who are buying a piece of property at Cedar Grove to establish an old folks home and orphanage for her race. She is pointed to with pride as one of the leaders of her race. She is a member of twelve secret societies, secretary of the Stewardess Board of Bethel Church, of which she is a zealous worker. Grand Treasurer of the National Knights and Ladies of Honor, a fraternal society.

Miss Mand Gertrude Lovett is a graduate of Straight University, New Orleans, La., and is an accomplished musician.

She is a product of Vicksburg and all Vicksburg negroes are proud of her. Miss Maude's delight is in the sonatas of Bethoven, Wagner and Listz. She is one of nature's noblest women and nothing pleases her better than to entertain with her excellent music her admiring friends. Miss Mand is one of the few colored girl heiresses of Vicksburg. She inherits in her own right the title to several valuable city lots and a farm near Mound Bayou, Miss. She is conspicuous in all musical entertainments given by her people in the city and is an honorary member of Vicksburg Commandery No. 1 Knights Templar and Stringer Lodge F. and A. M. She is the idol of the Masonic Fraternity of Vicksburg.



MRS. EDW. P. JONES.



INTERIOR VIEW LINCOLN SAVINGS BANK.

NEGRO ENTERPRISES.

LINCOLN SAVINGS BANK.

IN the business world of this section no institution stands in higher regard than this staunch institution. It was founded in 1892, largely as an experiment, for the memories of the Freedmen's Savings Bank came like harpies over the colored people of this section, notwithstanding the fact that the Government was back of that institution and it was managed and controlled by white men.

The bank's name was changed and its real career entered upon Emancipation Day, 1903. It has known few days since that it has not grown. Its first statement showed a



M. Z. MOLLISON, CASHIER LINCOLN SAVINGS BANK.

total of resources of less than \$3,500.00 including everything. The deposits for any average Monday will equal or exceed that figure, while its loans now exceed forty thousand dollars. Its president is W. E. Mollison, whose biography appears in this volume. He is known all over Mississippi as well as most of the Southern States. B. F. Lacey, the First Vice-President of the concern, is a successful and energetic planter and business man. P. C. Copelain is also a well known and progressive citizen. Its Cashier, M. Z. Mollison, has grown up with the bank, having been its book keeper and correspondent. She is a graduate of the famous Oberlin College and is an expert stenographer and very proficient book-keeper. The bank's affairs have been run by her with great success, the



OFFICERS UNION SAVINGS BANK.

President's duties requiring that for days in a stretch she is the sole authority. That the bank has grown wonderfully since she has been in control shows the confidence of the public in her ability and integrity.

Among the directors will be found the names of some of our leading citizens and business men. A few of them are here given: B. W. Currie, Walter B. Jones, C. B. Minor, Jno. W. Harris, W. W. Manaway, S. H. Highland, Lewis Johnson.

The bank's capital has been increased lately and it is now apparent that within a short time this bank will be what its promoters hope and dream: a sure enough great big bank, dispensing thousands of dollars into the channels of trade to the hundreds now being put out.

UNION SAVINGS BANK.

THE UNION SAVINGS BANK of Vicksburg, Miss., is an institution of which the negroes may justly feel proud. It was organized about three years ago with the capital of the negroes of this community who felt that they could spare a few dollars of their earnings to invest in a negro banking business venture, and has been supported during that period almost entirely by negro patronage.

The history of this institution can be told in a few words. It was in the main the conception of Dr. C. Henri Woode, a prominent physician of Vicksburg, and Mr. T. G. Ewing, Jr., the present cashier. They succeeded in interesting the representative colored people in this effort to the extent that sufficient capital was subscribed and paid to enable the promoters to begin business as soon after the first meeting as the charter could be secured. As a reward for this effort to promote the organization of the bank, Dr. Woode was made president and served the bank as such until his death. His mantle fell successively upon Prof. R. J. Rowan, president of Alcorn College and Dr. H. E. Connor, the latter of whom honors the position of president at this writing. Mr. T. G. Ewing, Jr., a brilliant and aggressive young business man, was chosen cashier and has filled this position ever since with credit to himself and profit to the bank. Its success is due largely to his management.

The rating of the bank is what reflects credit upon the business ability and tact of the race. In a city of less than 20,000 inhabitants, where five banking institutions with an aggregate capital of more than half a million dollars were

doing business, this infant institution came forth three years ago claiming a share of the patronage of the race. Many thought at the time that this was a too venturesome venture; that the odds against its success were too great, but time and result have proven the wisdom of the enterprise. It has become the Mecca institution of the negroes of this community who do financial business. Its standing is known and respected by the business institutions and business people of the opposite race. It is well known that its affairs are directed by men of honesty and business integrity that its condition is entirely solvent; that it throws around the funds of its depositors the greatest possible safeguards. Its accounts and funds undergo the regular scrutiny of an auditing committee, it carries a reasonable fire and burglar insurance, and has its officers under bond commensurate with the holdings of the bank.

The venture has been a success in a business way. Two dividends have been declared in its short history and a handsome sum passed to surplus.

The Union Savings Bank is an example of what the negroes in any community may do if they organize, having for their motto: "Business ability and business integrity."

LINCOLN PARK LAND CO.

FOUR miles north of the city of Vicksburg, nestling beneath the hills which trembled beneath the heavy guns which resisted the siege of one of the most magnificent armies of the modern days is beautiful Spout Springs, which for three generations has poured forth a stream of the coolest and most welcome water that ever came freely forth from hill or crag. There is a table land just west of it sloping down to the line of the railroad at what is known as Kings. This land is as bountifully rich as ever held the fleeting shadow of the crow or eagle. This tract of land and the beautiful elevation overlooking it seemed designed by nature for a pleasure resort. It is amply supplied with everything that would make it an ideal resort. The construction of the street railway by Houston Bros. will put this tract within three or four minutes of Vicksburg's city limits. The Lincoln Park Land Company was chartered to own and put this property, as well as a number of other pieces that have belonged to W. E. Mollison, on the market. It is not known whether it will be platted or not. Mr. Mollison has refused \$3,500 for the thirteen acre

tract and expects to have the Land Company take it in charge when the time seems ripe to put it and other lands that will be conveyed to the company. The Land Company's officers are: W. E. Mollison, President; C. B. Minor, Secretary; I W. Mollison, Vice-President; M. Z. Mollison, Treasurer. Among the directors are C. B. Minor, J. Monroe Hubbard and other well known colored citizens. It is reported that the managers have arranged that the issue of stock will not exceed ten thousand dollars, and that a new feature is that stock certificates will be accepted in part payment for building lots in Lincoln Park as soon as the leases now on the property shall expire. Shares of stock are ten dollars each, and this is a good time to buy.

VICKSBURG MERCANTILE CO.

SOME months ago a couple of promoters came through Vicksburg and solicited subscriptions to the stock of a corporation which was chartered and put into working order. A number of our leading colored citizens were interested and took part in the organization. It met and elected J. J. Morant president, Jno. W. Harris Secretary, H. L. Slaughter, treasurer and John T. Spencer vice-president and all things looked hopeful for a prosperous campaign. The corporation elected Mr. Jno. Tate business manager and is now in every way in shape to enter the business field. The panic of last fall is all that prevented the Vicksburg Mercantile Company from entering a live and active business before August 1st, 1908.

No mere sketch could give the names of men who have been prominent in the public affairs of the commonwealth.

Thomas W. Broadwaters, a little less original but just as earnest and aggressive, brought Pythianism to a position of great prominence and usefulness.

W. T. Jones, who founded the order just entering a career of usefulness in the fraternal field of insurance, lived to have a thousand members march behind his bier, regretting the loss of a man whose genius had made an institution whose beneficence had made thousands happy.

Vicksburg has spoken in praise of her colored lawyer, whose office and equipment, as well as the questions with which he deals, equals those of any lawyer anywhere. He is known all over the state as well as the country and his works speak for the man.



INTERIOR UNION GROCERY CO.

THOMAS DILLON, MANAGER. (See page 13.)



THE UNION GROCERY CO.

THE UNION GROCERY COMPANY was organized in 1904 by Thomas Dillon and the business to-day stands as a monument to his strict integrity and devotion to business. Associated with Mr. Dillon are Ed. Williams, president of the company; Wm. Ware, secretary, and Albert Judge and Ferdinand Sims.

The company began operations on the 30th day of May, 1904, with a capital of less than \$1,000, and under the careful management of Mr. Dillon it has prospered beyond the most sanguine expectations of its founders. They now carry a stock approximating \$4,000 and run two delivery wagons to all parts of the city.

On April 15, 1907, the company suffered the loss of their entire stock by fire, losing over \$3,000. Phoenix-like, however, the very next day the company was doing business, having secured temporary quarters. Shortly afterwards they built a new and large store building and the business is continuing to grow larger day by day. The company enjoys a large trade, and caters to the best trade. Their stock is always clean and fresh and everything that is good to eat can be secured from them. The fresh meat department is under the management of Mr. Williams, the president of the company. Here can be had all the choicest native and Western meats, and produce.





MT. HERODEN BAPTIST CHURCH.

EDW. P. JONES, P. C. (See page 9.)

THE NEGRO CHURCHES.

MT. HERODEN BAPTIST CHURCH.

MOUNT HERODEN BAPTIST CHURCH, organized in the year of 1869 by Rev. G. G. Middleton, who afterwards became the first clergyman of the Episcopal Church South, has ever been known for its worship as at variance with the large majority of negro Baptist Churches. Intelligence has ever held sway with this congregation. Dr. Middleton was succeeded by the lamented Dr. A. A. Hamilton, who served the congregation for fourteen years and the Baptists of Mississippi as president for four years. Dr. Hamilton's administration was one of the most successful and he deserves much credit for the great number which were added to the congregation, many of whom are now the most devout and true members of the church. Dr. Hamilton died June 24th, 1902, and the present pastor, Rev. Edw. P. Jones, B.S., D.D., was immediately called as his successor. Upon his death bed Dr. Hamilton earnestly requested that they should call this young man to his pulpit. Dr. Jones has served the church as best he could. He has succeeded in replacing the old structure with a modern and up-to-date building. One of the best pipe organs used by any colored church in the South has been purchased and is a monument to the devotion of the membership of the church for excellent music. Dr. Jones is of the opinion that he has an efficient Board of Deacons, viz.: Patrick Washington, Steven Tucker, Robert Ellis, John Campbell, Matt Campbell, Elijah Bates, I. S. Terrell and Robert Crane, who serves as treasurer, and W. P. Thompson is clerk. John W. Harris is secretary of the Relief Fund and the following are the trustees: A. Asberry, William Thomas, James Anderson, B. C. McCoy, Walter Pittman, Joshua Black and Edward Patterson.

The Church has also a flourishing Sunday School, over which Armstead Asberry has been Superintendent for twenty-five years and Miss Alice Campbell for about eighteen years.

The Church has a membership of 500 members and the Sunday School about three hundred and fifty.



JACKSON STREET BAPTIST CHURCH.

EDWARD P. EASTMAN, SECRETARY. (See page 11.)

JACKSON STREET CHURCH.

BAPTIST.

THE Jackson Street Baptist Church, Vicksburg, Miss., was organized in April, 1899, by Rev. A. A. Hamilton and others in State Golden Rule Hall with seventy-five members. The church called Rev. A. M. Johnson, D.D., of Port Gibson, as pastor. The congregation bought a lot at a cost of \$1,000.00 on the corner of Second North and Jackson Streets. For two years they continued to worship in the State Golden Rule Hall. On July 10, 1899, the ground was broke for the building of an elaborate brick edifice. This building has a main auditorium up stairs that will seat 800 persons. This is a model of beauty and is finished in the latest style. The parlor (or basement) has a large lecture room, dining room and kitchen, together with the young men's gymnasium. This is one of the best church buildings, as well as the largest and finest (when completed) owned by colored people in the State of Mississippi. It was built under the direction of the present pastor, Rev. A. M. Johnson, and the Board of Trustees. The membership of the Church now numbers about 350 members. There is one feature about the erection of this church that shows the progress of the negro, and that is, all of the work was done by negroes.

The Church numbers among its membership some of the most progressive young men and women in the State. Under the direction of the Church, they have a model Sunday School, a B. Y. P. U. and also a Benevolent Society, which looks after the wants of the poor and sick members of the Church.

The Church, when completed, will have cost about \$25,000.00.

Rev. Kelly Rucks was born a slave and freed at the age of fourteen without a home, or respectable clothes; yea, even the necessities of life, he now through God's blessings, owns a nice home and other property valued at over \$10,000, has an interesting family and enjoys the full confidence and respect of every one who knows him. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Kosciusko Industrial College. He has never been a member of any secret order.



BETHEL A. M. E. CHURCH.

JNO. J. MORANT, P. C. (See page 21.)

BETHEL A. M. E. CHURCH.

BETHEL A. M. E. CHURCH was organized in 1864 by Rev. Page Tyler. Bishop J. P. Campbell was the first Bishop of the A. M. E. Church, who visited this church and organized the first annual conference. The present site and building was formerly owned by the First Presbyterian Church (white) of this city

Many have been the hardships of Bethel congregation and great has been its struggles, but in all of it they have been more than conquerors; and to-day "Bethel" is one among the leading churches of the great A. M. E. connection. She has an enrollment of nearly seven hundred members and property valued at \$25,000.

The following are some of the illustrious ministers who have served the church as pastors: Page Tyler, Hiram Revels, Dr. Cooper, T. W. Stringer, Brother Allen, Brother Brown, J. C. Embry, Adam Jackson, J. I. Lowe, F. Carolina, C. H. Thomas, H. B. Parks, W. T. Anderson, O. P. Ross, A. J. Russel, P. W. Mills, G. W. Porter and Jno. J. Morant.

Bethel Church is an old land-mark of African Methodism and a citadel for the faith that has been delivered to the saints. The congregation is proud of her work in past days and is now turning its attention to the future and to greater achievements. In a few years, *D.V.*, a new structure will hallow this sacred spot. Bethel has done much in the way of moulding public sentiment, and stands to-day, as it has always stood, for the Fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of Man. Her pastors in the main have never been recreant to duty, and have always been found to the front in all emergencies that savored detriment to the people—and especially to the race. Her members are made up of a class of Vicksburg's best citizenry, and they live and preach "peace on earth and good will to all." Her pulpit is a veritable "watch tower" and will always seek to be on the side of right, the majority on the wrong notwithstanding. She has done untold good in bringing about amicable relations between the two races, which is evidenced by the good feeling that exists toward her by a white neighborhood that surrounds her.

Rev. E. P. Jones conducts a well equipped printing establishment.



HOLLY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH.

KELLY RUCKS, P. C. (See page 19.)

HOLLY GROVE CHURCH.

BAPTIST.

HOLLY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH was organized and founded by Rev. Mose Bell, shortly after the capitulation of Vicksburg in 1863. Rev. Bell preached to his congregation about one year under an improvised shed, and when the church was thus established, the congregation decided to build a church. Rev. Bell was gathered to his Fathers before the completion of the church, and was succeeded by Rev. Lee Davis, who remained until his death, four or five years afterwards. He was succeeded by Rev. Sterling Stiles, who remained only a short time, and was succeeded by the Rev. Kelly Rucks in 1876. Rev. Rucks found the church greatly disorganized and its erstwhile influence and standing greatly crippled. He gathered around him a few of the more devout members and proceeded to bring order out of chaos, and in a short time the church again took position among the leading churches. When the church was originally built, it was erected on rented ground, and after Rev. Rucks came to the church he bought a site and built a new church, at a cost of \$1,650. In 1907 it became necessary to tear down and rebuild, and the present building was completed in November, 1907, at a cost of about \$2,000. The congregation numbers about 225 devout members, and since Rev. Rucks has been its pastor there has never been a day of dissension among its members. The entire membership work in harmony, and go in more for pure religious worship and the good they can do, than for style and show. Rev. Rucks has only two ambitions. One is to be a good husband and father and the other to be a good minister for God, and there are any number of physical evidences that his ambition in this respect is being fulfilled. He believes that the biblical injunction that "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrines; continue in them; for in doing this thou shalt save thyself and them that hear thee * * * But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel."

When Vicksburg capitulated Rev. Kelly Rucks was a fourteen year old slave. He is now worth \$10,000, and, a yet greater asset, he is trusted and respected by both whites and blacks.



CHOIR AND CHANCEL, ST. MARY'S CHURCH. (See page 17.)



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL AND PARISH HOUSE. (See page 72.)

ST. MARYS CHURCH.

EPISCOPAL.

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Vicksburg, Miss., was established during the year 1885. The three men who did more than any other in establishing the Church were the Rt. Rev. H. M. Thompson, the Rev. Henry Samson and Mr. R. R. Harrison. Bishop Thompson did not receive very much encouragement from the majority of his people in what some of them called his "pet scheme." St. Mary's Church was the first Protestant Episcopal Church organized among the colored people of this section of the country. This church stands for an intelligent, refined and dignified mode of worship. Its ideals of christianity are by some of the people misunderstood, misrepresented and consequently severely and adversely criticised. A church is not to be blamed if its ideals are in advance of the majority of the people she tries to reach. Her duty is to minister faithfully to those who can appreciate and will accept what she has to offer. The church is growing on the people of Vicksburg, and as they know her better, she receives thankfully the sympathy and help of a great many of all classes of the citizens. St. Mary's Church was the first church in Vicksburg to organize the vested choir. Since its organization, it has had eight ministers, two white and six colored. The Rev. Dr. Middleton, now in charge, is the eighth. He has been there since 1900. Since his coming to the church very little remains of the old equipment except the floor, the walls and the ceiling. The pipe organ, as large and sweet-toned as any in Vicksburg, the pews, the carpet, the baptismal fount, sanctuary lamp and altar furniture have been placed in the church during his incumbency. However, these things would count for very little if they were all the church stood for. The minister tries to get his people to realize that it is the church's duty to do some real and tangible good for the people of the community; that its influence ought to be felt in the moral, spiritual, and, indirectly, in the social life of all the people. No church has any other excuse for existing.

W. E. Mollison is known as a writer and speaker of ability and is recognized as one of the leaders of the people in America.



KING SOLOMON BAPTIST CHURCH.

J. H. C. HENRY, P. C. (See page 25.)

KING SOLOMON CHURCH.

BAPTIST.

A MEETING of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Association, domiciled in Vicksburg, Mississippi, was held in their one-story frame edifice on the site of the present church, November 17th, 1866. After devotional exercises were had, a notice was read, authorizing the call of the council. The following ordained elders were present: Revs. Randle Pollard, Marion Dunbar, William Tensly, Marcus Bryan, Joseph Smothers, L. Woods and Ivory Williams.

Rev. Randle Pollard was chosen moderator of the council. Rev. Ivory Williams Clerk. The Moderator stated that the object of the council was to establish an independent and regular organized Church of the Baptist denomination at Vicksburg, Miss. The following resolutions were read:

"Be it resolved, that Mt. Pleasant Baptist Association be known hereafter as the Mount Pleasant Church of Vicksburg, Miss." These resolutions were received and adopted, after which the council adjourned.

The Church, at the time of its organization, was without a regular pastor. During the latter part of 1864 and 1865 spiritual help had been given by local preachers. Among the most prominent of these were Rev. Jim Middleton, Rev. Hodge and Chaplain Edwards (white) of the 49th Regiment of the U. S. Army. He assisted the church in securing the lot upon which their one-story frame building stood. He labored with them for several years after the organization of the church. By the consent of the church at a regular meeting, he changed the name of the church, March 22, 1869 from Mt. Pleasant to that of King Solomon Baptist Church. He was an earnest worker for the upbuilding of the church, and he was greatly esteemed by them. He, however, left the State in the latter part of 1869. After his departure the church called Rev. G. G. Middleton to its pastorate and afterwards ordained him for the work in 1870. During his administration the membership of the church increased to upward of seven hundred regular attendants. In 1874 he resigned his office to take charge of Mount Heroden Baptist Church. Early in the year 1875 the church elected Rev. Jefferson Thompson pastor to succeed Rev. G. G. Middleton. He labored until the summer of 1878, when he fell a victim to yellow fever, and at his

own request, his remains were buried at the southeast corner of the church, where they repose until this day. Rev. G. P. Jones was elected pastor to succeed Rev. Jefferson Thompson late in the year 1878. His administration began under the most extraordinary circumstances. He found an empty treasury, the church half finished, notes on contracts maturing, besides an oversight of the spiritual condition of his flock. He sold one of the church lots to the Drayman's Aid Society for \$600 and completed the church, bought new pews which are now in use; dedicated the church to the service of God in 1880 and paid off all the indebtedness left by his predecessor. He established our first church choir, bought an organ and added many other progressive improvements to the credit of the church and the denomination. He labored on for the good of the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ until his physical body gave way to disease and died in 1883. He was succeeded in 1884 by Rev. Marion Griffin, who served for thirteen years. He found the church in the zenith of her glory. During his administration many converts were added to the church. At the close of the thirteen years he was stricken with consumption and after lingering several months, the destroying angel came for the third visit to take the ruler off the throne, and he was buried beside his predecessor. Rev. M. Charles succeeded Rev. Marion Griffin in 1896. His career was ended on January 22, 1900. His remains were shipped to Montgomery, Ala., their last resting place.

Rev. J. H. C. Henry was elected pastor to succeed Rev. Marion Charles, Sept. 24, 1900. He accepted the call, Sept. 28, 1900. He found the church in a feeble condition—the joy of old was to be restored, the waste places to be made to flourish as before, the spiritual growth of the church to be re-established. Whether he has succeeded in the arduous work before him, we leave that to the future generations to pass judgment upon. His career as pastor and leader, during his administration, the church has increased her membership upwards of five hundred. In 1901 he built a hall for the church, to be used for suppers, concerts, etc., at a cost of \$440.00, and remodeled the church, including fixtures and furniture, at a cost of \$5,257.25. Jesse W. Williams has served as clerk of the church since 1898. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees since 1904.

The Vicksburg Light is the leading negro newspaper of Vicksburg. It is owned and edited by W. H. Rogers.

THE NEGRO SCHOOLS.

CHERRY STREET HIGH SCHOOL.

SOME little time after the civil war, there being little or no educational facilities opened to the colored people of the South, the most noteworthy Presbyterian Church organized in this city what was known as the U. P. Mission on North Cherry Street, where now is located the present Cherry Street School, a part of which was purchased Oct. 28, 1872, and the other part on Dec. 6, 1886.

It was conducted as a mission school for several years, even into the early seventies, drawing of course its support from the church which organized it.

That the educational work done by this God-sent organization was well done, is evidenced by some of the students who have taken and yet maintain high standing as worthy citizens of this very historic and progressive city. Among those worthy of mention are Mrs. A. A. McCalloway, Mrs. M. A. Bell, Hon. W. E. Mollison, Prof. A. S. Barnes and others who might be named.

There is a tide, though slightly noticed by the wise, and entirely unnoticed by the unwise, which carries man on to meet new conditions, higher planes and ideals, questions of greater moment, more difficult of solution, yet must be solved, more tasteful appreciation of the beautiful; the tide of time, which correctly solves all questions, wise and unwise—the test of all human effort.

Time brought a change. The people thought of public education and reasoned on higher things which smacked of more equitable justice towards the tattered and uncultured.

The proposition to sell and buy was agreed to, which caused a cessation of the U. P. Mission and the Cherry Street Public School came into existence, drawing on the city treasury for support.

The first principal, a Mr. Sullivan, (white) was from Dublin, Ireland. Next in order came Mrs. I. D. Shad (colored); then Mrs. Anna Watkins, now Mrs. McCalloway; then Messrs. Barnes, Reynolds, Shannon and McIntyre, the present incumbent, who has served for the past five years.

J. Monroe Hubbard is a popular China Street barber.



CHERRY STREET SCHOOL.



MAGNOLIA AVENUE SCHOOL.

MAGNOLIA AVE. SCHOOL.

WHAT is now Magnolia School was begun as a result of an overflow of attendance at Cherry Street School. About fifteen years ago Cherry Street School, which was then the only public school for negro children in Vicksburg, became so congested that the Board of Education felt called upon to provide other accommodations for the excess of attendance, and for those who had been refused permission to enter. Accordingly, they rented the Golden Rule Hall on Clay Street and employed several teachers under the supervision of the principal of the Cherry Street School, to teach those who by force of circumstances were compelled to enter this place. This incipient institution became known as Clay Street School and continued for four years in this relation to Cherry Street School. At the end of this time the increased importance of the school made it necessary that a supervisor be placed in the building, and so the board elected a principal whose duty it was to supervise this work, and thus organized it into a separate and distinct school. From this time forward the school began to grow. Its faculty of four teachers was increased with the increasing demand to five and then to six.

Finally the Board of Education decided that a building was necessary. A committee from this body selected a lot situated in the center of negro population of this city and recommended its purchase and the erection thereon of a six room school house, to the city council. This recommendation was acted upon and in January, 1902, the six teachers and pupils of Clay Street Schools were installed in their new quarters on Magnolia Avenue. Subsequently three rooms and as many teachers were added to the school to accommodate the increasing attendance. The school has now a principal and eight teachers; an enrollment of 581 pupils. Among the furniture of this school is to be found an organ, a book case containing about 400 books and pictures which are copies of the master artists of the world. There are many other furnishings and apparatus of an educative character which have been added by popular subscription to the school.

Prof. G. M. McIntyre, principal of Cherry Street High School, has been at the head of that institution for five years, and the school has never enjoyed greater prosperity.

ST. MARY'S PARISH SCHOOL.

THE writer believes that he is simply stating a fact when he says that the Episcopal Church, generally speaking, does not appeal to the absolute unlettered person. A greater or less degree of education is really necessary to a just appreciation of her service and mode of worship even. The church and school are usually found side by side, or the one is very soon followed by the other.

St. Mary's Parish School was opened in 1900 when the Rev. A. A. Roberts was rector. The school was taught in the church building; it was afterwards moved to the old Benevolent Hall just across the street, and later to a hall on First North Street, between Main and First East. In neither of these places were conditions favorable, as the teachers had only one room in which to do their work. Conditions are very much better now. Through the untiring efforts of Bishop Bratton, the school now owns a large two-story building containing eight rooms, which is used as a school and parish house. The accompanying cut does not represent the spacious grounds, almost a half block, nor the teachers cottage that fronts Main Street.

The school admits children from any or no denomination who will be obedient and teachable. Like the public schools, it has been patronized by some of the best and some of the worst families in Vicksburg. It is a fact that some of the young people who have gone from this school to the Universities of this and other States, have kept their places in the grades they left in our school.

We have three lady teachers, with Mrs. A. A. McCalloway as principal and Miss M. L. Harrison and Miss A. B. Coates assistants. Mrs. McCalloway was for some time principal of the public school and is known to be thoroughly capable. The school has a hundred and fifty or more pupils. The girls are taught sewing and the boys are taught to make themselves handy about the grounds. We hope in time to have a boarding school with other industries for the boys and girls.

Jno T. Spencer is Supreme Treasurer of the Knights of Honor of the World.

You should join the Knights of Canaan.

LODGES AND SOCIETIES.

GRAND LODGE F. & A. M.

THE MOST WORSHIPFUL STRINGER GRAND LODGE was organized in the city of Vicksburg, Miss., July 3rd, 1876. The first Grand Master was Dr. Thomas W. Stringer, through whose efforts Masonry was introduced into the State to negroes in 1867. The Fraternal Life Insurance Benefit was created by the M. W. Stringer Grand Lodge, which pays a death benefit of \$700 to its beneficiaries. The Grand Lodge has a membership of nearly 14,000 members and owns timber lands along the line of the Y. & M. V. R. R. of 1,000 acres for which they have refused an offer of \$15.00 per acre for the timber alone. They paid to widows and orphans in 1907 \$110,000.

The present Grand Master is Dr. E. W. Lampton, of Greenville, Miss., who is serving his fourteenth year as Grand Master. Under the direction of this financier and matchless leader the Stringer Grand Lodge is easily the most foremost Grand Lodge in the world operated by negroes. The annual communication is looked forward to with much pleasure by the craftsmen. Instead of ancient stove-pipe hats and short-tailed coats, Dr. Lampton's representatives, who are medical doctors, lawyers, professors, merchants, preachers, brick-layers, etc., appear in Prince Albert coats and latest style silk hats. The greatest desire of Dr. Lampton is to advance the interests of the craftsmen generally, and the young men among them especially. He is the idol of his fellows. A large percentage of the lodges own their own halls, etc., a movement advanced and personally looked into by the Grand Master.

The negro Free Masons stand head and shoulders above all other fraternal organizations in the state.

INDEPENDENT ORDER ODD FELLOWS.

VICKSBURG is the home of the Grand Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The Odd Fellows is one of the oldest colored lodges in the state and also the wealthiest. In the city of Vicksburg there are twelve subordinate lodges, four Households of Ruth and two Patriarch Councils.

Edw. P. Jones is Grand Master of the Grand Lodge.

THE COLORED WOODMEN.

THE colored people have so many fraternal orders with high sounding names, and so many of them have lived their brief hour and disappeared or died, that the public has tired of learning new names and titles. A few have survived the period of infancy; some have dragged out a miserable existence and some have died of starvation.

No institution is any stronger than its membership and the integrity of its officers. No fraternal order can boast of any millions of assets. It must have the determined effort of the members of the order to continue the good work, and the energy, intelligence and integrity of its officers to wisely direct and honestly manage the affairs of the order.

The Colored Woodmen was born less than three years ago. It had a large and powerful body of persons well directed who imagined themselves injured by its existence and prosperity. The public was told that it had no charter and when that was shown to be false, they fell back on the charge that it was not licensed; then that it was not paying enough benefits. Its splendid record has contradicted all these slanders. The shafts and arrows of malice have fallen harmless at its feet. It is the young giant among the fraternities. In its Supreme and Grand Encampments will be found the flower of the youth and vigor as well as the intelligence and character of the colored people of Mississippi. It has no apology to make for its being. Its success and good works are sufficient answer to the slanderous tongue and the records of fraternal orders will be searched in vain for one which has passed the five hundred dollar mark of death payment within two years after the grant of the first license.

This Order has had a phenomenal growth. It started in November, 1905 with practically no membership. It was chartered and licensed and commenced business January, 1906. It is now licensed and authorized, under a ten thousand dollar bond to do business in the State of Arkansas, where it has nearly twenty-five working Camps and Circles. It is authorized and is working in the State of Alabama, where it has four hundred and fifty members in good standing. In Mississippi it has nearly one hundred and fifty Camps and Circles. The payment of death benefits now reaches the princely sum of \$600.00. It has collected no assesment in excess of 75 cents in any one month. Its promises are as good in the market as gold bonds. Its officers are all under bond; are all new men; are fresh from the people, and are vigorous in

the prosecution of the work. It has no large number of old members; its growth is from the growing and vigorous oak and cypress and cedar. It is destined to a great and prosperous future.

The Supreme Governor is W. E. Mollison, President of the Lincoln Savings Bank, and an active practicing attorney at Vicksburg. He has just been honored by election as Delegate from the State at large to the Chicago National Republican Convention. The complimentary notices in the press about his election show the high regard of the people of Mississippi for him. The Supreme Banker is Benjamin F. Lacey, of Shiloh, Mississippi, a planter of large means and influence. He is Grand Senior Warden of the Masons of Mississippi, which in itself is an assurance of his popularity and ability. The Supreme Secretary is Miss M. E. (Tunstall) Ingram, of the town of Byhalia. She has recently completed a course of shorthand and typewriting at Rust University and is thoroughly fitted for the work before her. She has the regard and esteem of all the people in her section of the State. She makes a model.

The State of Mississippi is under the immediate jurisdiction of J. E. Walker, Grand Governor, a man of large property holding in the town of Gunnison, Mississippi, a practicing lawyer, and an ardent and enthusiastic worker in woodcraft. Its Grand Banker is W. M. Foote, who is known as the watch dog of the Treasury. He lives at New Albany, and his bond is signed by all the leading bankers and merchants of the town. The Grand Secretary is R. M. Boyce, of Byhalia, whose ability and integrity won for him a reputation under the former management of the Woodmen. S. Watson, A. B. Andrews, R. A. Armstrong, W. C. Johnson, Wm. Atkinson, C. L. Yates and G. P. Gordon are some of the men who have contributed to the great success of this giant young order. They are the oaks, cedars and cypresses upon which the structure of woodcraft rests in Mississippi.

The Supreme Officers are: W. E. Mollison, Supreme Governor, Vicksburg, Miss.; B. F. Lacey, Supreme Banker, Shiloh, Miss.; M. E. (Tunstall) Ingram, Holly Springs, Miss.; W. C. Atkinson, Supreme Orator, Coffeeville, Miss.

The Grand Officers are: J. E. Walker, Grand Governor; Gunnison, Miss.; R. M. Boyce, Grand Secretary, Byhalia, Miss., Wm. M. Foote, Grand Banker, New Albany, Miss.; S. Watson, Grand Lecturer, New Albany, Miss.

You should join the Colored Woodmen.

STATE GOLDEN RULE SOCIETY.

AMONG the many Societies which have done and are still doing a great work for the unfortunates of its membership may be mentioned the State Golden Rule Society. Its charities have not been confined to its membership, but to the deserving without restriction.

The Society was organized in the early seventies by Rev. Chas. H. Smith, a man of much influence among his people, and its growth in a short time was wonderful. Its members took a leading part in the yellow fever fight of '78, being identified with the Howard Association, and did much to relieve suffering humanity.

In 1882 the State Golden Rule Society was chartered by a special act of the Legislature. During its existence it has distributed upwards of fifty thousand dollars in sick benefits and other charities, and has given decent burial to more than one hundred of its dead.

Under the leadership of H. L. Slaughter, which covers a period of twenty-two years, it has been identified with every movement looking to the betterment of its members in particular and the negro race generally.

The State Golden Rule Society teaches, as a part of its obligations, respect for the law of the land, and that it is a crime to protect a criminal.

During the overflow of 1897 it threw open its headquarters to those who had not food or shelter and also contributed liberally to the fund raised in their behalf.

Lodge No. 1 owns valuable property in the city and is a large holder of stock in several enterprises.

So well has the State Golden Rule Society succeeded, that in 1898 it voted to extend its field of usefulness, and accordingly an endowment department was established and the Society extended to other towns. They have at this time forty lodges in Mississippi with a large membership.

The dealings of the Society have been strictly upon the principle of the Golden Rule. No high-sounding promises are made to catch the unthinking, the performance of which would be impossible. On the other hand the Society promises to conduct its affairs in a business-like way at the smallest cost per capita of perhaps any Society in the South.

H. L. Slaughter is Supreme President, and Prof. J. F. Gayden, of Benlah, is Supreme Secretary-Treasurer.

The State Golden Rule Society is licensed under the super-

vision of the State Insurance Department, and stands well with the Department.

The Supreme President has been a citizen of Vicksburg for many years, and has earned an excellent reputation for reliability and integrity, and possesses the esteem of the people of both races.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

VICKSBURG is the birth-place of the Order of Colored Knights of Pythias of Mississippi. It was organized April 17th, 1880, by Thomas W. Stringer, T. M. Broadwater, E. A. Lightfoot, A. S. Barnes and others.

Like many fraternal orders, it suffered many obstacles before it had a financial footing. The founders of this order never dreamed when they launched it under such adverse circumstances, it would ever rise to such prominence in the world that it has. It drifted with the "tide" with a few lodges, here and there, for several years. New life was injected into the order in 1899, when that untiring leader, Major W. T. Jones, became Grand Chancellor by reason of the death of Hon. G. F. Bolds, then the Grand Chancellor of the order. Under his administration the order progressed as never before. When he entered upon his duty as Grand Chancellor, his native city, Vicksburg, had four subordinate lodges. At present it has fifteen financial lodges whose postoffice is Vicksburg. Of the ninety-eight thousand dollars paid into the Endowment Department annually, the lodges at Vicksburg and its vicinity pay 25 per cent. Vicksburg and its vicinity have thirty-three financial lodges. Their names are as follows:

Pride of the West No. 33—J. A. Freeman, C. C.

Progress No. 35—A. J. Lindsey, C. C.

Belmont No. 51—John Whitney, C. C.

Golden Leaf No. 100—F. S. Morris, C. C.

Willow Glenn No. 112—A. R. Davis, C. C.

Bright Crown No. 116—R. D. Dewberry, C. C.

Pride of the South No. 117—G. Brown, C. C.

Signal No. 124—Jerry Carter, C. C.

Magnolia No. 126—S. G. Johnson, C. C.

Pride of the East No. 133—J. B. Robinson, C. C.

Forest Home No. 136—Geo. Jinkins, C. C.

Golden Grain No. 170—B. G. Vernon, C. C.

Golden Gem No. 184—E. G. Flowers, C. C.

Southern Beauty No. 192—J. J. Price, C. C.

Morning Star No. 221—Wm. Johnson, C. C.
 Golden Crown No. 245—W. P. Porter, C. C.
 Silver Moon No. 247—Monroe Pilort, C. C.
 Center Beauty No. 252—W. S. Hargrove, C. C.
 Valley Park No. 278—J. W. Young, C. C.
 Mt. Olive No. 286—H. R. Burns, C. C.
 Hickory Tree No. 319—Wm. Walker, C. C.
 American Beauty No. 320—Boss Eastman, C. C.
 C. Henry Woode No. 363—Simon Nathan, C. C.
 Huntsville No. 371—J. C. Tate, C. C.
 T. W. Stringer No. 403—Louis Jenkins, C. C.
 Union Square No. 415—Jno. M. Williams, C. C.
 Chickasaw No. 435—C. R. Custard, C. C.
 Mount Vernon No. 438—Jesse Drayton, C. C.
 Greenwood No. 441—E. C. Brown, C. C.
 J. C. Ross No. 471—J. W. Seals, C. C.
 Silver Leaf No. 475—L. A. Hindricks, C. C.
 Sir A. J. Lindsey, C. C. of Pride of Progress Lodge No. 35;
 Secretary of Grand Trustee Board and City Deputy.
 Sir J. W. English, C. C. of Pride of Onward Lodge No. 23
 and a member of the Grand Trustee Board.
 Sir P. C. Downs, Grand Lecturer.
 Sir S. H. Highland, G. K. of R. & S.
 Sir L. D. Hendricks, D. D. G. C. of the Northern Division
 of Warren County.
 J. M. Head and G. Brown, D. D. G. C. of the Southern
 Division.

Its management is in the hands of a good and efficient
 corps of bonded officials, which insures the safety of all its
 members.

KNIGHTS OF CANAAN.

THE Order of the Knights of Canaan was founded by
 Prof. Wm. H. Spriggs, a native of Warren County, Miss.
 The Order was organized under great difficulties, having as
 a nucleus only about half a dozen persons, and these at times
 were ready to faint and fall by the way. On June 22, 1883, a
 Charter of Incorporation was applied for and obtained and
 after that time W. H. Spriggs, in person and at a great sacri-
 fice of time and money, traveled over four States, Mississippi,
 Louisiana, Texas and Alabama, lecturing and representing
 the cause of Canaan. To him the cost of establishing the
 Order of the Knights of Canaan was great in every way. It

cost him the accumulation of many years of toil. From a financial viewpoint it cost him his banking account of \$4,000.00. But being the undaunted leader that he is, he did not give up the struggle until the Canaan banner floated in the breeze over the humble cabins of the dwellers in four states. The founder of the Order not only intended that the Knights of Canaan should be what any other secret organization is, but more; and in carrying out this idea, he has been called the "record-breaker," and so he is, for while other fraternal organizations look only after the sick and dead, the Canaans in addition to this pays its members for living. Its membership is made up of all classes and professions: Lawyers, Doctors, Preachers, Teachers and Farmers, aggregating in numbers many thousands. As a charitable institution it has but few equals. It does not content itself with giving its members their weekly sick benefits, but goes farther and furnishes them medicine and pays their physician's bill, aids its members when in distress, helps to secure them employment and helps them in all possible ways. One of the prime objects of the Order is to inculcate and propagate the teachings of Christ and to promote peace, good-will, benevolence and charity among its members; to help the sick and feed the hungry, and to do all such works of kindness and humanity as will develop among its members a proper appreciation of the principles of the Christian religion. The Knights of Canaan takes rank easy as one of the greatest negro organizations in America. It redeems all of its pledges, both with the states and the people. Many a widow and orphan has been saved from destitution by the benevolent hand of the Knights of Canaan. And men and woman of color throughout this broad land are singing its praises.

THE KNIGHTS AND LADIES OF HONOR OF AMERICA.

WAS organized July, 1907, its founders being B. C. Vernon and K. B. Johnson. During its short period of existence it has made wonderful progress and now numbers one hundred and fifty subordinate lodges and over four thousand members. Since its organization it has paid out over \$3,000.

The object of this order is to relieve the distress of widows and orphans. The aspiration of the order is for the amelioration of humanity; for drawing men together by the gentle

cords of love and mutual sympathy; for uniting them upon one common platform; for enlisting them in one common cause against one common enemy: honesty, love and truth, its paramount idea—this comprehends the elevation of man in the moral, social and intellectual scale. Veneration for pure religion; a just deference for law and order; the promotion of free education; general moral culture; the suppression of vice, and the earnest advocacy of such relation as tend to awaken the sympathy and generous feeling. Its desires in membership only those of good moral character who are willing to subscribe unreservedly to a submission to its laws and usages and pledge fidelity to its principles. It will give them work to do, for so long as there are sorrows to soothe, bleeding heart-strings to tie up, desolate widows to help and cheer, orphan children to feed and educate; until there are no more cesspools of slander and calumny to mildew a fair reputation or destroy a priceless character; until all men shall be fraternal and tolerant, will it find labor to be done. Its divine mission is to hasten the period when man shall hail his brother man with fraternal greetings; when wickedness and falsehood shall be drawn from the earth and the race of Adam form a universal family, acknowledging the God of the universe as their father and every child of man as a brother; when, in short, one law shall bind all nations, races and tongues of the earth and that law the law of universal brotherhood. Thus will it strive until the shout of the archangel and the triumph of God shall announce the end of time and the great clock of nature shall peal out its last note on the stagnant air, its wasted machinery run down and its sluggish pendulum stand still.

Vicksburg is soon to have a bottling works owned and managed by negroes.

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