

COUNTIES
OF
TODD AND CHRISTIAN,
KENTUCKY.

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL.

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ILLUSTRATED.

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The following is a list of the gentlemen now engaged in business at this point :

Bank—Bank of Elkton.

Drugs—E. M. Weathers, William Terry and F. G. Miles.

General Stores—S. H. Perkins & Co., John Lewis, E. Garth.

Groceries—G. W. Lewis, Russell & Edwards, Joe Russell, Russell & Wilkins.

Dry Goods—Boone & Bell and L. J. Hancock.

Millinery—Miss Mary L. Russell, Mrs. Mary Hays, and Mrs. Elizabeth Hooser.

Harness Shops—William Tolbert, John A. Goodman.

Furniture Store—Millen & Millen.

Tinware—Mauzy & Bro.

Tailor—Caleb W. Bell.

Hotels—Kennedy House, Misses Kennedy; Nick and Will House, Mrs. Hunter.

At present the town contains about 900 inhabitants, and it is claimed that the size of it has not increased any for the past thirty years. It is to be hoped that with the advent of the new railroad the town will spring into new life, and that other citizens may be induced to locate here.

The newspapers of the town of Elkton have had a very precarious existence. Several different sheets have been started, but one by one most of them have died the death of the righteous. About the first paper issued for the gratification and divertimento of the people of this county as well as for the purpose of ministering to the finances of the editor was the *Green River Whig*. This paper, or at least its outfit, was brought here from Hopkinsville by James R. Abernathy, in about 1851. In the course of a year or two the paper changed hands, Mr. A. B. Stark purchasing the office. He also changed its name to the *Elkton Banner*, and made V. B. Morris the editor and publisher. This sheet continued in operation here until about 1857. From this time until about 1872 there was a dearth of newspapers, when the *Elkton Witness* was started by Dr. Cox. This gentleman ran the paper about three years, when he sold out to Bradley & Reeves, and under this administration the paper finally became extinct. In September, 1878, Maj. F. H. Bristow and H. F. Willoughby began the publication of the *Elkton Register*. These gentlemen were the proprietors of the paper until the summer of 1882, when S. D. Reese began the publication of it, and still issues the paper.

Town Organization.—The town of Elkton was originally incorporated and organized under charter, soon after the original plat and additions were made. But upon examination all the early records were found to be lost, and a statement as to the early officers cannot be made.

county October 23, 1822; was a son of Jesse Wells, and descended from an old Virginia family, which was represented in the State of Kentucky at a very early day. William H. married Mary E. Porter, daughter of Samuel Porter, once a resident of Elkton. She was born February 11, 1827, in Todd County, and died September 26, 1872. William H. Wells was a member of the Presbyterian Church, of the I. O. O. F., and of the Masonic fraternity. He served the county as Deputy County Clerk, and was elected to the first clerkship of the county, under the new constitution, and held the office at the time of his death, which occurred on the 30th of April, 1854. To William H. and Mary E. Wells were born three children: Mary B. (wife of B. H. Milliken, of Paducah, Ky.), Samuel H. and William H. Wells, of Elkton, Ky., the latter of whom is the present Deputy Clerk of the County Court. Samuel H. received a common English education, and when quite young was employed as salesman in a mercantile house, in which he was employed until 1870, when he entered the office of Clerk of the Circuit and County Court, as Deputy under Judge B. T. Perkins; remained in this connection eight years, and in 1878 was the choice of the people for the office of County Clerk. He was re-elected to this office in 1882, and is now serving his second term with universal acceptance. Mr. Wells was married in this county June 1, 1881, to Miss Sallie M. Mimms, daughter of William T. Mimms of Todd County. Mrs. Wells is a native of Todd County and was born November 1, 1855. Their only child, Mary P. Wells, was born April 20, 1882. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wells are honored members of the church—he of the Christian and she of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

HARRY F. WILLOUGHBY, lawyer, Attorney for Todd County, was born in 1852, in Montgomery County, Tenn. His parents were Frank and Mariah (Hackney) Willoughby, who removed to Todd County, while Harry F. was a small boy. His father was a member of the Baptist Church, by occupation a farmer, and died in this county in 1861. His widow was subsequently married to Mr. W. T. Kennedy, who died in 1877. She is still living and now a resident of the town of Elkton. Harry F. was educated in Todd County, read law in the office of S. W. Kennedy, and was admitted to practice in 1874. From that time until 1876, he was the editor and proprietor of the *Elkton Witness*; later, in

connection with Maj. Bristow, he conducted the *Elkton Register*, but sold his interest in this paper to his partner in 1879. He was elected to the office of County Attorney in 1882, and was serving the county with credit to himself at the time of his death in 1844. He was a member of the I. O. O. F. and of the A. F. & A. M.

