

One of the wealthiest and best known citizens of the state of Mississippi is Dr. **ALEXANDER A. BRYANT**, a resident of Coffeetown, Yalobusha county. He was born in Richmond county, Va., in 1829. His parents, Thomas and Susan (Pope) **BRYANT**, were natives of Virginia. In 1840 they removed to Mississippi, settling in Marshall county, where Mr. **THOMAS BRYANT** purchased a tract of land near Holly Springs. He was fortunate in business and acquired considerable property. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, volunteering as a substitute for an old gentleman who had been drafted. He died in De Soto county, Miss., in 1854, having removed to that county in 1852; he was fifty-seven years of age. His wife was born in 1797 and died in 1846; she was the daughter of Ezekiel Pope, who was one of the early settlers of Westmoreland county, Va. His ancestors came from England. He married Rachel Packett, a Virginian by birth, and to them were born three sons and three daughters. **ALEXANDER BRYANT**, the grandfather of our subject, was of Scotch ancestry, his forefathers having immigrated to this country as early as 1420. The land on which they settled on the Rappahannock river, in Virginia, has never passed out of the family, and is now owned by **ALEXANDER BRYANT**. The grandfather served in the Revolutionary war, as did also Ezekiel Pope. He married **SUSAN LYLES**, and to them were born several children. The parents of **ALEXANDER A.** reared a family of two sons and four daughters, all of whom are living except one daughter; their names are as follows: Mrs. E. C. Still, **JOHN W. BRYANT**, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Weber. The subject of this sketch was reared in Mississippi and received his education at Holly Springs. In 1851-2 he was a student in the medical college of Louisville. He began the practice of his profession in 1803 in Lafayette county, Miss., and remained there until 1866; in that year he came to Coffeetown, Miss. He decided to abandon his profession and embark in the mercantile trade. He formed a partnership with S. B. Herron, the firm name being **BRYANT & Herron**; this relationship continued until 1878, when Mr. **BRYANT** retired, devoting his whole time to his landed interests, which are very large. He owns about seven thousand acres of land in Mississippi, five thousand five hundred of which are in Yalobusha county; he also owns vast tracts in other states. The Doctor was united in marriage in 1860 to Miss Margaret Steen, a daughter of W. H. Steen, of South Carolina. She was born in Mississippi in 1844, and all the relatives bearing that name, except J. B. Steen, her father's brother, are now deceased; they were early settlers in Rankin county, Miss. Mrs. **BRYANT** was an only child. Her mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Lusk; she died at the residence of her daughter in 1889, aged eighty-two years. Mrs. **BRYANT** was educated in Pontotoc county, Miss., and was a woman of rare attainments and unusual force of character. She died in December, 1884, leaving three sons and one daughter: Edgar, an attorney of Arkansas, was elected judge of the Fort Smith district in 1884; William C. is one of the proprietors of the Birmingham Wholesale Dry Goods company; Clyde, who takes her name from the river Clyde, Scotland, is a highly accomplished young woman, and was educated in Nashville, Tenn.; **ALEXANDER**, the youngest, is named for his father. In his early life Dr. **BRYANT** became connected with the Masonic fraternity. In his political opinions he affiliates with the democratic party, and he is an enthusiastic supporter of the principles of that body. He has a most comfortable home, where he is surrounded with all the luxuries of modern life. He is a man fully abreast of the times, of broad, liberal views, generous in his support of public measures, and withal a citizen of whom any state may well be proud. The original home place, that was settled by his ancestors in 1720, is a tract of twelve hundred acres; the name of Alexander is a family name, and with one exception it has never been held by one of any other name; **ALEXANDER BRYANT** is the present owner of this place. The father of the Doctor was a musician of no little note. He delighted in singing the beautiful Scotch ballads, and, in fact, was pleased with anything pertaining to the native land of his ancestors.

Biographical Historical Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. I

One of the oldest and most highly respected citizens of Lee county, who has been prominently connected with its history for many years, is **SAMUEL BRYSON**, of Bethany. He is a native of South Carolina, born August 15, 1809, in Laurens district, the son of **JAMES** and **ELIZABETH ANN (BLAKELY) BRYSON**, also natives of South Carolina. **JAMES BRYSON** was a son of **WILLIAM BRYSON**, a native of Ireland, who emigrated to America with his parents, and settled in South Carolina. There he grew to maturity, and was a conspicuous figure during Revolutionary times. He was twice married, but his children were born by the first union. **JAMES BRYSON**, father of our subject, was born, lived, and died in Laurens, S. C. He died in 1831, aged sixty years. He was a soldier in the war of 1812. His wife, Elizabeth Ann Blakely, was the daughter of Thomas and Margaret (McGaftick) Blakely, natives of Pennsylvania and Ireland respectively. They reared a family of eight children, of whom Elizabeth Ann was the oldest. She lived to be eighty-six years of age, and died September 27, 1874. Our subject is one of a family of thirteen children: William, Thomas, Samuel, James, Hampton, Margaret, (wife of Alfred O. Sheills), Polly, Eliza, Henry, Porter, Emily, Presley and John. Eliza married William Caldwell, and Emily is the wife of **MATTHEW BRYSON**. The family emigrated to Mississippi in 1801, making the journey from South Carolina by wagons. **SAMUEL BRYSON** settled on the place where he now resides. He was married December 3, 1833, to Miss Jane Milam, a native of South Carolina. She died August 1, 1857. They had born to them twelve children, three of whom are yet living: William D., Thaddeus M., and Mary E., wife of Robert Gambrel; the names of the other children were, Alvinus, Wilson, Elizabeth, Margaret (the wife of T. W. Houston), Nancy, Samuel, Martha, Jane, Eliza G. and Milton. Four of the children and the mother died at the same time of flux. Mr. **BRYSON** was married a second time, October 25, 1860, to Margaret A. Crockett, widow of Eli Crockett. Her maiden name was McCullough. Seven children were born of Mrs. **BRYSON**'s first marriage, one of whom survives, Thomas J. Those deceased were Anna E., John M., David E., Benjamin F., Ruth E. and Priscilla. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. **BRYSON** by their second union: Calvin L., Ludie P., and Argile, deceased. They are now bringing up a little girl, Abby Adelia, daughter of **W. D. BRYSON**. Dr. **BRYSON** and wife are members of Bethany church. Politically he adheres to the principles of the democratic party. He is a man of superior business qualifications, and accumulated a large amount of property. He has been able to assist his children in making a start in life, giving to each of them at one time \$2,000, **THADDEUS M. BRYSON**, a son of **SAMUEL BRYSON**, was born December 12, 1845, and was but six years of age when his parents removed to Mississippi. He was educated in the common schools, hut owing to the late Civil war his advantages were extremely limited. He left the schoolroom for the battlefield, and enlisted in the Thirty-second Mississippi regiment. He saw a great deal of active service, and was seriously wounded at Chickamauga. He had a furlough of seventy days and rejoined his regiment at Tunnel hill, Ga. He was wounded again at Jonesboro, in the right hand, and before that, by a spent shell. After the surrender he made his way home, and found that everything there had been laid waste. He went to work with a will to assist his father, and by their joint management, soon recovered a portion of their property. The son operated a saw and gin mill in connection with the planing, and for several years led a very busy life. He was married December 20, 1866, to Miss Louisa E. Young, a daughter of Francis and Elvira (Caldwell) Young, natives of South Carolina. Mrs. **BRYSON** was born in October, 1817. Nine children having been born of this union: Mary J., James Y., M. Ella, Samuel F., Anna E., Effie E., Essie E., John M. and Zilphia. The Brysons are of excellent lineage, and stand second to no family in the community.

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