

BIOGRAPHICAL and
" HISTORICAL
MEMOIRS OF **MISSISSIPPI**

VOL. I

EMBRACING AN

AUTHENTIC AND COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNT OF THE CHIEF EVENTS IN
THE HISTORY OF THE STATE, AND A RECORD OF THE
LIVES OF MANY OF THE MOST WORTHY AND
ILLUSTRIOUS FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS

IN TWO VOLUMES

ILLUSTRATED

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received her education at the Aberdeen high school, and was married in 1849 to Dr. Erasmus Broyles, a native of East Tennessee, who then and afterward resided in Monroe county, Miss. He received his literary education in South Carolina, and afterward fitted himself for his profession in a leading medical college. She is a well-educated, intelligent lady, an earnest Christian woman, who has devoted herself zealously to rearing and training her children, all of whom have given, or promise to give, such success in life as will insure them the respect and consideration of all with whom they may come in contact.

A successful planter and merchant of Quincy, Monroe county, is Dr. Ira G. Broyles, who was born in Lincoln county, Tenn., in 1816, the son of Isaac and Mary (Whittenberg) Broyles, the former a farmer, who was a volunteer soldier and fought with General Jackson in the Seminole war. Dr. Broyles received his education in Tennessee, and was later a clerk in a dry goods store in that state. At the date mentioned he went to Mount Hope, Ala., and there read medicine with a distinguished resident physician. He moved to Monroe county, Miss., in 1849, and through the remainder of his active life was engaged in the practice of his profession. In the late war the Doctor took a very useful part by assisting the families of many who had gone to the front. Dr. Broyles was never married, and knows the full value of that much-vaunted single blessedness—the life of a bachelor. He is the owner of about one thousand four hundred acres of well-improved land. Politically he is a democrat, though he has never taken any active part in politics, and has never been prevailed upon to take an office. He is a helpful and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church. His sister, Mrs. Ann White, was born in 1825. His brother, Jacob, was born in 1802, and is residing in Armory, Miss. Isaac, another brother, born in 1818, is living in Texas. While his father and mother were residents of Tennessee, living a pioneer life in a little old log cabin, one day a huge rattlesnake came into the house, drove his mother out and held possession until killed by a large dog, ever afterward a great favorite with the family. The Doctor is one of the wealthiest men in the county, widely known and very popular.

One of the wealthiest and best known citizens of the state of Mississippi is Dr. Alexander A. Bryant, a resident of Coffeeville, 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 1720. 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 1853 in Lafayette county, Miss., and remained there until 1866; in that year

he came to Coffeeville, 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 1890; 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.

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 (McGaffick) 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 1851, making the journey from South Carolina by wagons. Samuel Bryson settled on the place where he now resides. He was married December 5, 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, but 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 ginmill 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, 1847. 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.

James M. Buchanan was born in Lawrence county, Tenn., in 1837. He is the son of Hon. Franklin Buchanan, who was born in Giles county, Tenn., in 1812, and whose early life, from the age of fifteen years to the year 1831, was passed as an employe in the office of the clerk of his county. In the year just mentioned he was married to Adelaide Simonton, and after that event he became a farmer. He was elected three times to represent his district in the Tennessee legislature, and was speaker of the house in 1846. Mr. Buchanan was a very public-spirited man, and took deep interest in the political affairs of his state. He was the father of ten children, the following named of whom are still living: James; Mrs. Adelaide McIntosh, of Nashville, Tenn.; Mrs. Isabella Fowlkes, of Buena Vista, Miss.; John M., of Texas. Mr. Buchanan was a member of the Baptist church. He came to Monroe county in 1850, and died in March, 1851. James M. Buchanan received his education at that famous Tennessee college, Jackson. His chief occupation has been that of a planter. About ten years ago he established a store on his plantation, and does an extensive local mercantile trade. January 4, 1859, he married Sarah A. McGaughy, of Lee county, Miss., and they have had six children, named as follows: William F., Evalina, Sallie, James, Mary and John. Mr. Buchanan is a member of the Knights of Honor, and he and his wife are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, the house of worship being near his plantation. In 1862 he enlisted in company B, of the Forty-fifth Mississippi regiment, commanded by Captain Martin. He did service at Perryville, Resaca, Jonesboro, Chickamauga and Franklin, and in other engagements. He was