

ment of the Excelsior Springs Company until 1910, a period of twenty-two years; during the last ten years he had full charge of its properties. He then became associated with the W. A. J. Bell interests, in charge of the Golf Hill properties, on which is located the celebrated Excelsior Springs Golf Links and comprises 600 acres.

Mr. Fish is a Republican and a member of the Commercial Club, and was chairman of the publicity committee of that organization for many years. He is one of the active promoters of the park system on which Excelsior Springs spent over \$100,000.00. He is progressive and enterprising, and one of the public spirited citizens of Excelsior Springs.

Judge Alonzo H. Shelton, a former police judge and now justice of the peace at Excelsior Springs, is a Civil War veteran, who has been identified with Clay County practically all his life. He was born in Todd County, Kentucky, December 21, 1839, and is a son of Charles C. and Emeline (Scott) Shelton.

Charles C. Shelton was born in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, June 27, 1815, and in early life removed to Kentucky. In 1842 he came to Missouri, settling in Ray County. About four years later he removed to Clay County where he was engaged in farming, during his active career. He was a prominent citizen and took an active part in the early development of this County and its institutions. He was a liberal contributor to William Jewell College. He died in 1899.

The Shelton family dates back to Colonial days, in this country, Charles C. Shelton being a son of Beverly B. Shelton, a native, of near Norfolk, Virginia, who was a soldier in the War of 1812. Henrietta Armistead, wife of Beverly Shelton, was a daughter of a Revolutionary soldier who was also a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses and a large slave holder.

To Charles C. and Emeline (Scott) Shelton were born thirteen children, of whom Alonzo H., the subject of this sketch, was the eldest. The others who are living are: Beverly D., Overland Park, Kansas; Marguerite Ella, who resides with her brother, Beverly; Emma V., Overland Park, Kansas; Doniphan S., Excelsior Springs, Missouri; and Stephen D., Holt, Missouri.

Judge Shelton was about two and one-half years old when he was brought to Clay County by his parents. He was reared on the farm and in his early days experienced all the primitive methods of pioneer farm-

Note 1

Note 1: Henrietta Shelton was the daughter of Armistead Shelton 1753-1844 (the son of Crispin Shelton) and Susannah Shelton daughter of Daniel Shelton 1729-1809, youngest brother of Crispin.

ing, and often drove oxen, to break the native sod. When the Civil War broke out he served in the state guard for a time under Colonel John T. Hughes and Colonel G. W. Thompson. Eight months later he enlisted in General Shelby's Brigade, serving ten months, when he was transferred to General Cockerell's Brigade. He served in the Army of Tennessee under General Joseph E. Johnson and was at Jackson, Mississippi, when the war closed. While in the service he received a gunshot wound in the left hand which was followed by blood poison and necessitated the amputation of his arm below the elbow.

After the close of the war Mr. **Shelton** went to Virginia where he remained about six months and was there married. He then returned to **Clay County** and followed various occupations and taught school for a time. He then engaged in farming in Fishing River township, near **Missouri City**. In 1901 he came to Excelsior Springs and was engaged in the real estate business. In 1912 he was elected police judge, serving four years in that capacity. He was then elected justice of the peace, an office which he still holds. He is the oldest justice of the peace in **Clay County**, both in terms of service and in years.

September 21, 1865, **Judge Shelton** was married to Hattie J. Wheat, a native of Bedford **County**, Virginia, born May 31, 1846, and died January 10, 1911. She was a daughter of Zachariah J. and Martha Ann (Hancock) Wheat, both natives of Bedford **County**, Virginia. To **Judge Shelton** and wife were born six children, as follows: Otis Eugene, supply agent for the street railway company, St. Louis, **Missouri**; Charles J., died in infancy; James C., real estate dealer, Excelsior Springs; John Beverly, a conductor, St. Louis; George Edward, superintendent of an oil company, Haskell, Oklahoma; and Lily, died in infancy.

Doniphan S. Shelton, a prominent merchant of Excelsior Springs, who has been engaged in the mercantile business here for the past twenty-nine years, was born in Platte **County**, **Missouri**, February 22, 1861. He is a son of Charles C. and Emmeline (Scott) **Shelton**, a more extensive history of the **Shelton** family appears in this volume in connection with the biographical sketch of **Judge A. H. Shelton**.

Doniphan S. Shelton was reared on a farm and educated in the public schools. He taught district school in **Clay County** for seven years. In 1891 he engaged in the mercantile business at Excelsior Springs, carrying a complete line of men's shoes and ladies' ready-to-wear garments.

He continued this business successfully for twenty-nine years and built up an extensive trade. In January, 1921, he opened an exclusive shoe store, carrying a complete stock of shoes, and his store compares favorably with any similar establishment to be found in the larger cities.

Mr. **Shelton** was married March 8, 1882, to Laura F. Ferril, a native of **Clay County** and a daughter of Robert and Sarah M. (Means) Ferril, the former a native of Tennessee and the latter of **Missouri**. Robert Ferril was a farmer and stock man and is now deceased and his widow resides with her son, **Judge** Ferril, of Liberty, **Missouri**. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. **Shelton**: Jesse E., died at three years; Nina, married L. J. Edmonton, of Excelsior Springs; and Robert F., of Springfield, **Missouri**.

Mr. **Shelton** is a stockholder in the bank of Excelsior Springs. He is a Democrat and has served as alderman several times and held the office of treasurer of Excelsior Springs four terms. He belongs to the Presbyterian Church, of which he is a member of the board of trustees and a deacon. He is a prominent Mason, a member of the Mystic Shrine, Mystic Workers of the World, Modern Woodmen of America and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

J. E. Thomas, a well known farmer and stockman of Gallatin township, who is also president of the Bank of Linden, is a native of **Platte County** and a descendant of one of the early pioneer families of western **Missouri**. Mr. Thomas was born in **Platte County**, December 20, 1873, and is a son of J. F. and Nancy S. Elliott (Hamilton) Thomas.

The Thomas family were early settlers of **Clay County**, J. F. Thomas being born in Gallatin township. He died in **Platte County** at the age of seventy-six years and his wife died there at the age of seventy-two years. He was a member of the Home Guards during the Civil War.

The following children were born to J. F. Thomas and wife: Charles, Gashland, **Missouri**; and J. E., the subject of this sketch. By a former marriage of J. F. Thomas to Mollie Akins, two daughters were born: Annie, married James Johnson and they live in **Cedar County**; and Belle, married John Price of Liberty, **Missouri**.

J. E. Thomas was reared in **Platte County** and attended school at the Boydston school house in **Platte County**. He followed farming and stock raising in **Platte County** and bought his present place which corners on the townsite of Linden, from Sim Collins. This place is well improved and