

Oklahoma; Ilo, Myrtle, Samuel L. and John W. Cobb.

ROBERT JONES, a member of the well-known firm of Jones & Company, the largest retail butcher firm in Checotah, Oklahoma, is also one of the most extensive stock dealers in his part of the state. Mr. Jones was born in Washington county, Arkansas, in 1855, and is a son of Daniel and Margaret (Jones) Jones. The parents were among the early settlers of the state, and the father was a soldier in the Union army during the Civil war. He was killed while doing scout duty near Fayetteville, Arkansas. He and his wife reared seven children, viz: Eliza, deceased, wife of John O'Brien; N. S., of Checotah; Albert, deceased, whose family lives in Checotah; Robert; James, of Checotah; Nannie, deceased, wife of James Gilbert; and John, of Fayetteville, Arkansas.

The early days of Robert Jones were spent in his native state, where he lived until seventeen years of age. He attended school but a short time and is largely self-educated. In 1873 he went to Texas and located in Bell county when it was sparsely settled. After the first year he engaged as a cowboy, and spent several years in this occupation. When first arriving in Texas, however, he spent one year hunting buffalo in Jones, Haskell and Shackelford counties, then public domain. Shackelford county was then a border county, and the men who were with Mr. Jones had five Tonkaway Indians, who were in the service of the U. S. as scouts, to show them where lay the danger line between the whites, Comanche and Kiowa Indians. In 1877 Mr. Jones hunted buffalo with others in Taylor county, near Abilene and Colorado Springs, although at that time there were no settlements in these places. At that time it was a frequent occurrence to see wagon trains containing buffalo hides and meat, and Mr. Jones brought back to Belton, the county seat of Bell county, a load of buffalo hams and venison, perhaps the last load sold in that county.

Mr. Jones spent several years in Bell county engaged in farming, stock raising and dealing in stock, which he shipped to distant markets. The southern and eastern

portions of Bell county were almost in a virginal state, and so few were the settlers that all kinds of game abounded with the exception of buffalo, and continued for several years. Belton was only a small village; Salado, on Salado creek, was an older town, but not so large, and these two were the only trading points in the county. Schools were very few and the settlers had to bear the hardships and privations of pioneers. They generally had their corn ground at a water mill, and Colonel Jones had a mill some few miles east of Salado, on Salado creek, to which the farmers frequently hauled their grain from thirty-five to fifty miles. Mr. Jones was one of the earliest young men to migrate to Texas after the war, and had some very exciting and trying experiences in the days of early settlement in that state. He became very successful as a farmer and stockman, and in 1903 removed to Coryell county, where he engaged in ranching and stock dealing until 1906, when he became a resident of Checotah, Oklahoma, where he has since been actively engaged in farming and stock raising. He is also manager of the most extensive butcher business in the city. He is also the most extensive dealer in cattle and hogs in his community. He cultivates about six hundred acres of land and owns other real estate. He is the architect of his own fortune, and has acquired his wealth through earnest endeavor and unremitting energy.

On November 11, 1875, Mr. Jones married Barbary E. Moore, daughter of Christopher and Martha (Rampey) Moore. Mr. Moore and his wife had ten children, as follows: Thomas J.; Barbary; Mary, wife of Henry Goodnight; Texana, wife of Tom Goodnight; Mattie, wife of Will Pertiet; Rev. Letcher; Eva, wife of Andrew Grissom; N. G.; Henry; and Munroe. Mr. Moore and his wife reside in Bell county, Texas. Mr. Jones and his wife became the parents of nine children, four of whom lived to maturity: Annie, wife of Mose Lewis, of Hood county, Texas; Edgar; Minnie, deceased, wife of Frank Smith; and Ethel, wife of H. F. Allen, of Checotah; Edgar married Daisy Hendrickson, a daughter of T. D.

and Roda (Bigam) Henderson, now of Coryell county, Texas.

Politically Mr. Jones is a Democrat of the old type. He is a member of Checotah Lodge No. 20, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. Jones is very well known and highly respected.

WILLIAM H. BUSH. A line of enterprise which has important bearing upon the material and civic progress of every community is that involved in the proper handling of real estate, and among the able representatives of this business in Coweta county is Mr. Bush, whose home and headquarters are in the thriving little city of Coweta. The books of his real-estate agency at all times show most desirable investments, and his annual transactions have attained large dimensions, implying a popular appreciation of his ability as an intermediary and of the fair and honorable business policies followed by him.

Mr. Bush was born in Morris county, New Jersey, in 1849, and is a son of Ralph and Ellen (VanWert) Bush, both representatives of staunch Holland Dutch ancestry and members of families founded in the historic old commonwealth of New Jersey in the early colonial days. Both the paternal and maternal grandfathers of the subject of this review were found enrolled as valiant soldiers in the Continental line during the war of the Revolution, and the names of both the Bush and VanWert families have ever stood exponent of the utmost loyalty and patriotism, as one generation has followed another onto the stage of life's activities. Ralph Bush was one of the honored citizens of Morris county, New Jersey, at the time of his death, when eighty-eight years of age, and he and his wife reared a family of five children, of whom the eldest is he whose name initiates this sketch; Louis is a resident of Los Angeles, California; Sarah is the widow of John Ward and maintains her home in the city of Newark, New Jersey; George passed the closing years of his life in Huntington, Indiana; and Emma is the wife of Edward Renshaw, of Boonton, New Jersey.

William H. Bush was reared to maturity

in his native state and received his early educational training in the common schools of the city of Newark. There also he learned the trade of a brickmason, and when eighteen years of age he went to Dennison, Iowa, where he continued in the work of his trade as a journeyman until 1872, when he engaged in contracting and building on his own responsibility and principally in the direct line of his trade. He was successful in his efforts as an independent contractor and continued in this line of business for thirty years.

In 1904 Mr. Bush moved to Oklahoma and took up his residence in Coweta, which was then a village of comparative insignificance. Here he immediately established himself in the real-estate business, and in connection with the same he has contributed materially to the upbuilding and civic advancement of this community. He is also the owner of a well improved ranch of five hundred and twenty acres, affording a fine range and excellent agricultural facilities, and he is one of the successful farmers and stock-growers of Wagoner county, as well as one of the representative business men of Coweta, where he has erected for his own occupancy one of the most attractive modern residences in the city. He is essentially progressive and public-spirited, and all measures tending to conserve the best interests of his home city, county and state receive his earnest support. In national affairs he gives a staunch allegiance to the Republican party, but in local matters, where no definite issues are involved, he is independent of strict partisan lines, casting his ballot in support of candidates who seem best fitted for the respective offices. Both he and his wife are held in unqualified esteem in the community in which they maintain their home and in which their interests center.

On the 2d of May, 1872, Mr. Bush was united in marriage to Miss Caroline E. Lowell, of Des Moines, Iowa. She is a daughter of John J. and Elizabeth (Beardsley) Lowell, who were early settlers of the Hawkeye state, whither they moved from Michigan. Both the Lowell and Beardsley families are of English ancestry, and the Lowell family was founded in New Hampshire long prior