

Mr. Nathan W. Norton, of Forrest City, St. Francis county, Arkansas, was born in Bourbon county, Kentucky, on the 15th of October, 1850, and is a son of William and Rebecca (Kennedy) Norton, both of whom are now deceased. The father was a farmer during the major portions of his active career and he became the parent of one child, the subject, Nathan W. In the '60s the Norton family moved from Oxford, Ohio, whither they had previously emigrated, to Clark county, Illinois, where Mr. Norton, of this review, continued to reside until 1869, in which year he came to Arkansas. His preliminary educational training was procured in the schools of Oxford, Ohio. On his arrival in this state he settled at Wittsburg, which was then the judicial center of Cross county, and where he became deputy circuit clerk and acted as bookkeeper for merchants. While occupying these positions he took up the study of law on his own account and was admitted to the bar of the state in 1881. On his admission he engaged in practice of his profession at Wittsburg, and in 1885 removed to Forrest City, where he has remained to the present time, in 1911, and where he has gained prestige as one of the most prominent and influential barristers in St. Francis county, as well as in the state of Arkansas. His clientage has been of extensive and important order.

In politics he has ever been aligned as a Democrat. He is ex-president of the Arkansas State Bar Association, has served frequently as special judge on the supreme bench of the state, was a member of the state capitol commission, represented Cross county in the state legislature in the session of 1883-5, and has written and spoken on many important political movements affecting the general welfare of the state. He is a man of extraordinary mentality, keen business acumen and great vitality. No measure projected for the good of the state has ever met with anything but approval and endorsement from him and he holds a high place in popular confidence and esteem both on account of his ability and on account of his broad human sympathy, which is extended to every one in need of assistance.

At Wittsburg, in 1879, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Norton to Miss Carrie Roleson, who was born in the city of Louisville, Kentucky. She is a woman of most gracious personality and is dearly beloved by all who have come within the sphere of her gentle influence. To this union have been born four children, namely, Edward R., Nathan B., Charles W. and Virginia R.

Source:Hempstead's Historical Review of Arkansas-1911