

T. C. MERWIN, who has filled the office of county clerk of St. Francis county, Arkansas, with the utmost efficiency since 1900, has resided in this section of the state of Arkansas for nearly fifty years. He was born in the city of Louisville, Kentucky, on the 25th of December, 1845, and is a son of A. N. and Anna L. (Chartner) Merwin, both of whom are now deceased. The father was engaged in the mercantile business during his active business career, and he removed with his family to Tunica county, Mississippi, in 1860, at which time T. C., of this review, was a youth of fourteen years of age. He was educated in the schools of his native place and in those of Tunica county, which latter he attended until the inception of the war between the states. In 1861 he enlisted as a member of the First Arkansas Cavalry, Confederate army, and he was mustered into duty at Helena, Arkansas. He saw much active service in Arkansas, Indian Territory and Missouri, and he lived up to the full tension of the strenuous war times. He was a faithful and gallant soldier, and, though

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extremely young, was promoted to the position of lieutenant of his company, serving at one time as commander, on the occasion of the loss of the regular captain. From November, 1864, to the close of the war he was held in duress as a prisoner on Johnson's Island, Lake Erie.

After the close of the war Mr. Merwin, who had become deeply impressed with the natural resources and latent advantages of Arkansas at the time of his sojourn there during the war, located at Walnut Bend, in what was then Phillips county, but which is now included within the confines of Lee county, and thence he came to St. Francis county, where he has resided continuously since 1894. He immediately identified himself with the farming line of enterprise, and in 1894 he was elected deputy clerk of St. Francis county, retaining that position, through successive re-elections, until 1900, in which year he was chosen as clerk of the county. Nothing further can be said concerning the confidence and respect accorded him by his fellow-citizens than that implied in the fact that he has continued the efficient incumbent of the office of county clerk during all the intervening years to the present time, in 1911. All his records are thoroughly up-to-date, and in connection with all the responsibilities of his office he has acquitted himself with honor and distinction.

Mr. Merwin wedded Miss Emily Govan, of Holly Springs, Mississippi, the ceremony having been performed on the 28th of May, 1879. This union has been blessed with five children, whose names are here recorded in respective order of birth: Mrs. Olivia Bomar, Mrs. Mary Knight, William, Georgia and Frank, of whom the latter three remain at the parental home.

Mr. Merwin retains a deep and abiding interest in his old comrades in arms and signifies the same by membership in the United Confederate Veterans' Association, in which he is paymaster general, with the rank of lieutenant colonel on the staff of General Jones F. Smith, commander of the Arkansas division, United Confederate Veterans. In politics he accords a staunch allegiance to the principles of the Democratic party, and his interest in the civic affairs of Forrest City and St. Francis county have ever been of the most insistent character. His family are zealous members of the Episcopal church, and they hold a secure vantage ground in popular confidence and esteem. Mr. Merwin is a man of impregnable integrity and fine human sympathy, and it has been said of him that his charity knows only the bounds of his opportunities.