

interests in the field of banking are maintained by his membership in the Alabama Bankers Association, and he is a director in the Ashford Savings Bank. In 1922, his career in public office began with his election as probate judge of St. Clair County, serving one term. His other official positions include a term as chairman of the St. Clair County Democratic committee, alderman, and as mayor of Ashville. In 1942 he was elected to the Alabama Senate, and served one term, and he has also served as president of the St. Clair County Farm Bureau. Mr. High who is a Baptist, fraternally is a Mason and Shriner, member of the Zamora Temple.

Samuel Roland High married October 31, 1907, Bettie Burford Young, native of Dixon Springs, attended the Joseph Allen College at Carthage, Tennessee. Their children are: 1. Sallie, married William Guemmer, and they are the parents of Bettie Burford and Sally Ann. 2. Josephine, married John A. Wright, and they are the parents of Sam and John A., Jr.

**CHARLES S. MARTIN**—For a decade Charles S. Martin has been the exceptionally capable president of the M. and H. Valve and Fittings Company, one of the firms that have contributed so greatly to the industrial development of Anniston. His election to his present post stemmed directly out of long and extensive experience in several industries in several states, and some years of activities as superintendent and manager in Anniston concerns, including the one he now heads.

Mr. Martin is a native of Middlebury, Indiana, born on July 27, 1882, son of David L. and Elta E. (Shriver) Martin and the grandson on the paternal side of Martin and Elizabeth (Lehman) Martin. David L. Martin was born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, on May 11, 1851, and died on November 20, 1920. His widow, born in Canton, Ohio, July 27, 1858, was a resident of New Carlisle, in 1938.

Charles S. Martin attended grade schools and Milford (Indiana) High School. From 1904 to 1912, he was employed in various capacities, by the W. J. Oliver Manufacturing Company, in Knoxville, Tennessee, following which, until 1915, he was a master mechanic for the Lafollette (Tennessee) Coal and Iron Company. In 1915, he was with the Aetna Powder Company, in Gary, Indiana, a subsidiary of the Aetna Explosives Company, of New York City. He was first in charge of the construction and operating force in the military guncotton plant, subsequently was promoted to resident manager, and in 1917 was appointed ancillary receiver of the company. From April 1, 1919, to November 1, 1919, Mr. Martin served as works manager of the F. B. Foster Company, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and from 1920 to 1921, was mechanical superintendent of the Woodstock Operating Corporation, of Anniston. In the latter year, he was elected secretary of the Woodstock Operating Corporation, and was made resident manager of the Woodstock Iron and Steel Corporation. In 1924, he was elected president of both companies, which were liquidated in 1937.

In 1932 Mr. Martin became vice president and general manager of the M. and H. Valve and Fittings Company, in Anniston, and since 1937 has been president of the company. The M. and H. Valve and Fittings Company, which was organized in 1927, are manufacturers of waterworks and hydrant valves, as well as a line of industrial valves. A large amount of Alabama raw materials is used in the manufacture of the company's products, which are sold interna-

tionally. Approximately two hundred and fifty persons are employed in the plant, which is the only one of its kind in the South. The M. and H. Valve and Fittings Company was founded in 1925 by Whitfield Clark, W. P. Aker, W. H. Weatherly and J. W. Conway. The first president of the firm was J. W. Conway, who was succeeded by Whitfield Clark who died in 1937, since when Charles S. Martin has been the chief executive upon whom rests the responsibility for carrying forward to new heights the production of the company during World War II period and the present reconversion of its business and plant facilities.

The military record of Charles S. Martin is both interesting and unusual. Although a young man at the time of the first World War, he was too old to be eligible for infantry service, but from May, 1915, to February, 1919, was associated with the United States Army Intelligence Department. From 1917 to the signing of the armistice he was a member of the War Industries Board, connected with the Calumet Industries District, in Gary, Indiana. As has been indicated, during World War II his duties largely were those of supplying the Army and Navy and Air Forces with valves and fittings that were in immense demand, and did a good job under difficult circumstances and conditions.

As one of the exemplary citizens of Anniston, Mr. Martin cooperates in many local, civic and other projects. He is chairman of the city's Water Works Commission. In politics he is a Republican, as was his father before him. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Free and Accepted Masons, the Chapter Royal Arch Masons, and the Lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He is a popular member of the Anniston Chamber of Commerce, the Anniston Country Club, the Sportsman's Club, of which he is vice president, and the Calhoun County Chapter, Citizens Historical Association. His favorite recreations are hunting and fishing. He attends the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is liberal in the support of religious and charitable movements.

On May 14, 1904, Charles S. Martin married Nettie R. Risto, who was born in St. Joseph, Michigan, April 10, 1884, daughter of Henry and Martha (Ewing) Risto, both of whom are now deceased. Henry Risto had been a shipping master on the Great Lakes. Mr. and Mrs. Martin are the parents of two sons: 1. Charles H., born November 2, 1907; a graduate from the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, class of 1931, and now works manager with M. and H. Valve and Fittings Company, in Anniston. He married Theresa Wolfing and they have one daughter, Beverly Jean. 2. James R., born January 31, 1909; graduate from Duke University with the degree of Doctor of Medicine, class of 1937. He married Mary Youtsey, of Pennsylvania, and they have one child, Charles David.

**JONES FALL ROBERSON**—A descendant of one of the earliest southern families, Jones Fall Roberson has devoted his entire business career to activities in a most successful merchandise business, and has served in the Alabama House of Representatives. He was born December 21, 1876, at Cropwell, Clair County, son of James Russell and Addie (Jones) Roberson, both natives of that town. They are also parents of Ada, and Pat H., president of the First National Bank of Pell City. James Roberson, who is the founder of a large general merchandise firm, is the son of James and Hulda (Williamson) Roberson of Cropwell, the former of whom was the son of J. Roberson of Abbeville District, South Carolina.

Colonel in the War of 1812. Addie Jones Roberson was the daughter of John William and Anne (McLeod) Jones of Cropwell, the former having been in command of the militia of that section during the War Between the States. The McLeods are descendants of John McLeod of Scotland, who settled in Montgomery County, North Carolina, two years prior to the Revolution.

After the schools of his native community, graduating from the high school in 1891, Jones Roberson entered Howard College in Birmingham, continuing his studies there for three years, his activities including membership in the Franklin Society, Sigma Nu, and he was on the baseball team. After returning to Cropwell he assisted his father in his general merchandise business of which he later became owner and manager, continuing in this capacity through the present. Mr. Roberson's extensive service in public office includes his election to represent St. Clair county in the Legislature in 1911 during the Henderson administration, and his re-election to that office during the administration of O'Neal. He also was appointed by Governor Comer in 1924, as delegate to the Democratic National Convention to nominate Underwood. A Baptist in his religious affiliations, he has served as a member of the executive committee, and also as secretary of that group.

Jones Fall Roberson married at Selma, July 29, 1905, Nellie Drew Thompson, daughter of William Lewis and Mary Frances (Smith) Thompson of that city. Her father is descended from Colonel William Claiborne, who was Secretary of State of the colony of Virginia, member of the council, and treasurer of the Colony. The descent is through Thomas Fox, first lieutenant, 10th Virginia Infantry of the Continental Army, who married Philadelphia Claiborne, great-granddaughter of William. Mr. and Mrs. Roberson are the parents of 1. James Russell. 2. Jones Fall, Jr. 3. Nancy Claiborne.

**HERMAN BLUE HAMNER**—A lifetime of devotion to educational work, supplemented by constant study, has placed Herman Blue Hamner, county superintendent of education of Russell County, in the foremost ranks of those who in recent decades have modernized the schools and school system of Alabama and given their State a high standing among the states of the Union in the estimation of the educational world.

Born on October 6, 1889, at Rutledge, Herman Blue Hamner was the son of the Rev. John Wesley Hamner and his wife Lula (Arant) Hamner. Both of Herman Blue Hamner's grandfathers were soldiers in the Confederate Army during the War Between the States. The Rev. John Wesley Hamner was a native of Dale County, and his wife of Butler County. He was a devoted Methodist minister and a member of the Alabama Conference of his church for thirty-seven years.

Herman Blue Hamner as a boy attended the public schools, graduating from the Eclectic high school of Elmore County in the year 1905. He then attended the Southern University at Greensboro, graduating with the class of 1909. During his college days he worked with his father during the summers. His first teaching assignment was at Crescent City in Florida, where he remained for two terms, transferring then to Arcadia and subsequently to Bartow in the same state, teaching for two years at the first of these places and

for one year at the latter. In 1915 he returned to his native state, becoming principal of the school at Inverness, where he remained until 1917.

From Inverness Mr. Hamner went to Midway, where he taught school for a short time only before entering the United States Army for service during the First World War. He received his military training at Camp Gordon in Georgia, being assigned to the 384th Infantry, a part of the 96th Division, with the rank of regimental supply sergeant. He received his honorable discharge from the Army on December 18, 1918. Returning to his profession as teacher, he was connected with high school at Anniston for a time before being made principal of the similar institution at Seale. He continued there until July 1, 1920, when he took up the duties of superintendent of all the schools of Russell County, to which post he had been appointed. Every four years since then, Superintendent Hamner has been re-appointed as head of the Russell County school system, and is now serving his twenty-sixth year in that office, a striking proof of the high regard in which he is held by the people of Russell County both as an educator and as a man and fellow-citizen.

Superintendent Hamner is a member of the Alabama Education Association, of the National Education Association and of the American Association of School Administrators. He belongs also to the Alabama County School Superintendents Association, of which he served as president in 1925. Always eager for more knowledge, particularly knowledge bearing upon his profession as a teacher and his duties as a school administrator, Superintendent Hamner has attended summer session classes at college during a number of seasons. He is interested in all aspects of life in his community, and is particularly active in the work of the Lions Club, of which he is a past president. He is a devoted participant in the works of the Methodist Church, in which he serves as teacher of the men's class. He is also a member of the Masonic Order. During the second World War he was a member of the Russell County Selective Service Board, and received a certificate of award from the United States Government for his work in this connection. Since the days of his military service in World War I, Superintendent Hamner has been an active member of the American Legion.

On December 21, 1918, Herman Blue Hamner married to Almya Orum of Midway, who was a student at Auburn before becoming a school teacher, which calling she followed for fifteen years. Of this marriage there are three children, all sons: 1. Herman Nicholas, who during World War II served in the armed forces of our country for two and a half years, with the rank of corporal. He saw service in the European Theater of War. He is now a student at Emory University. 2. George Feagin, who also answered the call to the colors in the recent war, and served in the Pacific Theater for three years, holding the rank of sergeant. George Feagin Hamner is now a student at Auburn. 3. Gustavus Orum, who is also a student at Emory.

**R. CLARENCE WILLIAMS**—A lawyer prominent at the bar of Alabama and by many considered of excellent jurisdictional qualifications, R. Clarence Williams has for nearly two decades been identified with the legal fraternity of Calhoun County, of which he is a native, and of the county seat, Anniston, where

County, and the latter an aunt of Dixon H. Lewis. He received his education in the common schools, and for a few years engaged in farming. In 1849, he began the study of medicine with Dr. William Rives, and in 1852, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, and soon afterward began the practice of medicine, at Snowdoun, Montgomery County. In the summer of 1861, he served in Virginia with the Independent Rifles, but was not regularly enlisted. He joined Co. A, Fifty-sixth Alabama cavalry, in 1862, and fought at Mud Creek, in the Mississippi campaign, and from Rome, Ga., to Atlanta. He was in the Carolinas with Johnston, when the surrender came. After the war, he again resumed the practice of medicine. He was in Waxahatchie, Tex., from 1870 to 1876. He was also extensively engaged in farming in Elmore County. Married: in 1853, to Mary W., daughter of Henry and Ann (Walker) Holmes, who came to Alabama in 1820, and settled in Montgomery County for the remainder of their lives; the former a native of South Carolina and the latter a native of Virginia. Children: 1. Henry Holmes, d. in infancy; 2. George, farmer in Elmore County; 3. Edward Walker, farmer, Elmore County; 4. Frank Lewis, deceased; 5. Robert Glenn, farmer, Elmore County. Last residence: Snowdoun.

RIVES, GEORGE M., grand secretary, grand lodge, Masons, 1822.

ROANE, JAMES H., *soldier of the American Revolution*, age not given, a resident of Morgan county; 2nd lieutenant 10th Regular U. S. Infantry; enrolled on April 18, 1825, payment to date from January 28, 1825; annual allowance, \$90; sums received to date of publication of list, \$684.22; Acts military establishment.—*Revolutionary Pension Roll*, in vol. xiv, Sen. doc. 514, 23rd Cong., 1st sess., 1833-34.

ROBBINS, GASTON AHI, lawyer, representative in congress, was born September 26, 1858, in Goldsboro, N. C., deceased; son of Capt. Julius A. Robbins and a Miss Alford, the former who was a native of North Carolina, practiced law at Selma, served throughout the War of Secession, and was killed just before the surrender, at Mt. Sterling, Ky., while leading a cavalry charge, made by a division of the brigade of Gen. John H. Morgan, the latter who was a lineal descendent of Henry Alford, Dean of Canterbury; and a brother of Mary LaFayette Robbins, author of "Alabama Women in Literature," which was published in 1895. He moved from Goldsboro to Randolph County, N. C., attended Trinity college, and was graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1879. He studied law; was admitted to the bar, in 1880, and practiced at Selma. He became editor of the "Southern Argus," in 1881, which he published for many years, finally sold it to the Times publishing company, and by consolidation, it became the "Times-Argus." He was presidential elector on the Cleveland and Hendricks ticket, in 1884; was elected as a Democrat to the Fifty-third and Fifty-fourth congresses, and served from March 4, 1893, to

March 13, 1896, when William F. Aldrich, who had contested his election, succeeded him; was re-elected to the Fifty-sixth congress, and served from March 4, 1899, to March 3, 1900, when he was again succeeded by William F. Aldrich, who contested this election. He was unmarried. Last residence: Selma.

ROBBINS, JOSEPH H., hardware merchant, was born March 17, 1830, in Bertie County, N. C.; son of John Robbins and a Miss Harrall, the former who was a farmer, a native of Virginia, and of English descent, who died in 1846, the latter who after the death of her husband came to Alabama, in 1850, with her sons. He attended Bertie academy, and was graduated M. D., from the University of Louisiana, in 1854. He then commenced the practice of medicine on his plantation, continuing until 1865, when he engaged in the hardware business with his brother and a Mr. Aram, at Selma. In 1869, he purchased the interest of his partners, and became sole owner. In 1874, his son, Eugene, became a member of the firm, and in 1883, J. Syd., another son became a member. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and a Mason. Married: in 1854, in Dallas County, to Mary Ann Jackson, of North Carolina Quaker descent, and a daughter of Nathan Jackson, planter, of Dallas County. Children: 1. Eugene, b. February 15, 1855, merchant at Selma, m. Cammie Smith; 2. J. Syd., Selma. Residence: Selma.

ROBBINS, MARY L., author. Residence: Selma.

ROBBINS, W. MACK, major, 4th Alabama Infantry regiment, C. S. Army.

ROBERSON, JOHN, *soldier of the American Revolution*, aged 74, and a resident of Tuscaloosa County; private Virginia Militia; enrolled on July 20, 1833, under act of Congress of June 7, 1832, payment to date from March 4, 1831; annual allowance, \$28.11; sums received to date of publication of list, \$70.38.—*Revolutionary Pension Roll*, in vol. xiv, Sen. doc. 514, 23rd Cong., 1st sess., 1833-34.

ROBERSON, JONES FALL, merchant, was born December 21, 1876, at Cropwell, St. Clair County; son of James Russell and Addie (Jones) Roberson, both of whom are natives of Cropwell, St. Clair County; grandson of James and Hilda (Williamson) Roberson, who resided at Cropwell, and of John William and Anne (McLeod) Jones, who resided in Cropwell, the former who was in charge of the militia at Cropwell during the War of Secession; great-grandson of John Roberson of Abbeville District, S. C., who was a colonel in the War of 1812. The McLeods are descendants of John McLeod who came from the parish of Engh, Lewis Island, off the coast of Scotland and settled in Wilmington, N. C., two years prior to the revolution. Jones Fall Roberson received his primary education in the school at Cropwell, under Prof. I. W. Hill, and later attended Howard college at East Lake.

