

"JAMES R. ESTILL. Mr. Estill, on the father's side, is of Scottish origin, the founder of the family in this country, having come over from Scotland prior to the revolution. His grandfather, Captain James Estill, was one of the early settlers of Kentucky, to which he emigrated as early as 1780. The following extract concerning his life in that state is taken from Collin's Kentucky: "Captain James Estill, in honor of whom Estill county was named, was a native of Augusta county, Virginia. He came to Kentucky at an early period and settled on Muddy creek, in the present county of Madison, where he built a station which received the name of Estill's station. In 1781, a skirmish with the Indians, he received a rifle shot in one of his arms by which it was broken. In March, 1782, with a small body of men, about twenty-five, it is believed, he pursued a similar number of Wyandotts across the Kentucky river and into Montgomery county; there he fought one of the severest and most bloody battles on record when the number of men on both sides are taken into account. Captain Estill and his brave Lieutenant South, were both killed in the retreat which succeeded. 'Thus fell,' says Captain Morehead in his Boonsboro address, 'Captain James Estill, one of Kentucky's bravest and most beloved defenders.'" He was only thirty-two years of age when he fell in defence of the state by the bullet of the savage. He was married in Virginia, to a Miss Campbell, by whom he had five children. Wallace Estill, James R.'s father, was in his infancy at the time of his father's death. He was reared to habits of industry by his mother, and when he reached manhood had acquired a good education and was a practical surveyor. He was twice married. His first wife, Miss Mary Hardin, daughter of Colonel Hardin, survived their marriage only about three months. About five years afterwards he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Rodes, a prominent business man and a large farmer of Madison county. From this union five sons and a daughter were reared. Between 1815 and 1819, he visited Missouri several times, buying lands in Howard and Boone counties. On one of this visits he, with some others, laid off the town of Columbia, the present county seat of Boone County. Though he often expressed a purpose so to do, he never settled in Missouri, but continued to reside in his native state until his death, which occurred in Madison County. His wife preceded him to the grave about five years. Early in life they both connected themselves with the Baptist church, but after the Christian denomination was established they united with that church, with which they ever afterwards held the closest and most exemplary relationship.

James R. Estill, the subject of this memoir, was born in Madison county, Kentucky, January 30th, 1819. He was reared to manhood in his native county and there afterwards served as sheriff two years. In 1843, he came to Howard county, and here, two years subsequently, purchased 460 acres of land on which he still resides. This purchase embraced the farms improved by Drake, Brown and Cooley. Some of it has been in cultivation since 1816, sixty-seven years, and is said to be as productive now as when first broken. His farm, however, at this time, contains 1,450 acres, all finely improved and in excellent condition. What is not in cultivation is in grass, either blue grass, clover or timothy. He has several large orchards, one of fifteen acres, devoted to a single variety of fruit exclusively, the "Ben Davis" apple. He also feeds for the markets several hundred head of cattle every season. Mr. Estill now owns in this county about 2,800 acres of land. He also owns large amounts of real estate in Chariton and Saline counties,

and valuable property in the city of St. Louis, besides his landed interests in Kentucky. As a citizen he is as useful to the county and as public-spirited as he has been successful in his private affairs. But he has never sought office nor aspired to any position of prominence except as a leader in the development of the resources of the county, and in this he has taken conspicuous and active parts. He was prominently identified with the movement that resulted in the construction of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railway through this county, and contributed as much and perhaps more than any other citizen of the county to that result. In recognition of zeal for this enterprise and of his special fitness for the position, he was appointed agent for the county by the county court, to manage its stock subscribed to the road. And in further recognition of his services in this enterprise, Estill station, on the road in this county, was established and named in his honor. His chief ambition has been to make himself a useful citizen, and to contribute his share toward the material development and social elevation of the community in which his life and fortune have been cast. He is a steadfast friend of education and of every movement that tends to enlighten or ameliorate the condition of the people. As a farmer and stock raiser he belongs to the advanced progressive school that believes in farming on intelligent principles and raising none but the best class of stock. Such has been his business and social life - his life as a citizen. Mr. Estill was united in marriage to Miss Mary Turner, daughter of Talton and Sallie Turner, March 20th, 1845. Eight children were born as the fruit of this union, four of whom are still living: Wallace, married and settled in Franklin township; Ellen, William R. and Mary C. Alice died about six months after her marriage to Mr. Lewis C. Nelson, son of James Nelson, of Boonville, and at the time a banker in Fort Scott, Kansas. The others died in infancy. Talton Turner, the father of Mrs. Estill, was a native of Kentucky, but came to Missouri in an early day, and for many years was one of the leading citizens and traders of central Missouri. He was a practical surveyor also, and surveyed several counties of this part of the state for the government. He was a man of more than ordinary ability, enterprising and energetic, and was a leader among the men of his time.