

Oscar Ray Middleton of Gibson City, Illinois His Middleton, Bathurst, and Easterbrook Ancestry

Oscar Ray Middleton's paternal grandparents were the Reverend Samuel Middleton and Mary Easterbrook. Mary was the sister of Joseph Easterbrook, subject of the biographical sketch below. She married the Rev. Samuel Middleton and her brother Joseph married Samuel's sister, Hannah. George and Elizabeth (Purcell) Easterbrook, as well as Jacob and Rebecca (Bathurst) Middleton, were Oscar's great-grandparents. The pages are from the book, *Portrait and Biographical Album of McLean County, Illinois* (Chicago: Chapman Brothers, 1887). Digitized by Google and available as a PDF for download.

516

MCLEAN COUNTY.

village lot upon which are good improvements. Soon after coming to this county he was united in marriage with Miss Lydia A. Hooton, who was born and reared in Madison County, Ky., and came with her parents to Illinois in her girlhood. Her father, Nicholas Hooton, is still living in Bloomington, and is eighty-five years of age. The mother died in Heyworth some years ago.

Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Miller there were born six children, two now deceased, Eddie and Mary; Smiley became the wife of Charles Robershaw, who operates a cabinet-shop in Heyworth; Henry is out West; Callie and Hattie are at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Miller are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and in politics our subject is a reliable Democrat.

JOSEPH M. EASTERBROOK, a resident of Belleflower, and one of its most solid and substantial citizens, has been a resident of this locality since 1865 and during this time has fully established himself in the confidence and esteem of the people of this county. Mr. E. is a native of Ross County, Ohio, where he was born June 3, 1830. His father, George W. Easterbrook, was born on the Atlantic Ocean while his parents were on their journey from England to the United States. His grandfather, John Easterbrook, was born in the city of London and was a leader in Gen. Proctor's band during the Irish rebellion; he also figured prominently in the War of 1812, having come to the United States during its progress. He was captured by the troops of Gen. Harrison during the battle of the Thames. He had been forced into the English army when quite young, against his own wishes, and after his capture by the Federals he foreswore allegiance to the King and joined the colonists, being given a Captain's commission by Gen. Harrison. After peace was declared he located at Cincinnati, Ohio, and followed the profession of music in the schools of that city for a number of years, until he became quite aged. His death occurred in Fayette County, Ohio, after he had attained the advanced age of ninety-six

years. His son, George W., the father of our subject, was reared in Cincinnati and Ross County, and having received a good education, adopted school-teaching as a profession, which he followed nearly all his life. He came to Illinois and this county in 1867, spending the last years of his life in Belleflower Township. He died here in 1875.

The mother of our subject, who before her marriage was Miss Elizabeth Pursell, was born in Ross County, Ohio. She became the mother of two children, our subject and his sister Mary. The latter married Rev. Samuel Middleton, and died in Barnesville, Ohio. Joseph M. was reared on his father's farm and assisted in the labors around the homestead. This was originally a tract of timber land and as soon as our subject was old enough he had to work upon the land, while his father added to the family income by teaching school. Our subject remained on the homestead until nine years after his marriage, and then, in 1865, purchased the farm which he now owns and occupies in Belleflower Township. Upon this there was a dilapidated frame house, and a part of the sod had been broken. The old house has now been replaced by a handsome and substantial farm dwelling, with a good barn and all other necessary out-buildings. He has been prospered in his business and farming transactions, and has added to his first purchase until he now owns 240 acres, all finely improved and under a good state of cultivation, with a fine area of pasture. The farm and its belongings constitute one of the attractive spots of the township.

Mr. Easterbrook was married, Oct. 5, 1854, to Miss Hannah J. Middleton, who is the daughter of Jacob and Rebecca (Bathurst) Middleton, natives of Center County, Pa. Her grandfather, James Middleton, of Pennsylvania, descended from English ancestry, followed agricultural pursuits, and spent the last years of his life in Ross County, Ohio. Jacob Middleton was reared in his native State, and after his marriage removed to Ohio, in 1821, settling in Ross County upon a tract of timber land. He cleared a farm from the wilderness, where he remained until 1866, and then came to McLean County, Ill., but returned to Ohio in 1873, and there died two years later. The maternal grandfather of our subject, Lawrence Bathurst, was

a native of Pennsylvania, whose grandfather, Allan Bathurst, a native of England, emigrated to the United States and located in Center County, Pa., where he was engaged in teaching school. The mother of Mrs. Easterbrook is still living; she makes her home with our subject and his wife, and is now ninety-three years old.

Mr. and Mrs. E. are the parents of five children, as follows: Ada, the wife of John T. Brokaw, lives in Bellefower Township; Harry is at home; Carey and George W. are at Saybrook, and Jacob is also at home. Mr. and Mrs. E. and four of the children are connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church. In politics our subject is a staunch Republican.

The grandfather of Mr. Easterbrook was left an orphan when quite young and was taken in charge by his uncle, Rev. Joseph Easterbrook, who was a minister in the Church of England. This gentleman gave him a father's care and sent him to school. About three months prior to his graduation he was out with other students "sky-larking" in Lincoln, and he with six others were found with the King George sixpence in their pockets, and were forced to leave school and go into the army.

— — — — —

DR. DAVID A. WHITE, a prominent and successful physician of McLean County, residing at Oak Grove, White Oak Township, is a native of Jackson County, Ohio, and was born March 22, 1847. His parents were William and Anna (Wade) White, natives respectively of Maryland and Pennsylvania. William White was born in 1804, and Anna, his wife, July 4, 1812. They were married in Beaver County, Pa., Dec. 30, 1830, and resided there until 1845, when they removed to Jackson County, Ohio, in company with the family of Isaac Scott and Nancy Bryan and her father, Elisha Veasy. They came down the Ohio River on a flatboat. The water was very low, and they spent eleven days on the river from Logstown to Gallipolis, from which latter place they continued their journey in wagons.

The grandparents of our subject, Arthur and Elizabeth (Bell) White, were natives of County Down, Ireland, where they were reared, and mar-

ried in 1799. They emigrated to America early in their married life, and became the parents of fourteen children, as follows: Their first child died while crossing the ocean but was buried in America; John and Johnson (twins), William, Mary A., James, Alexander, Arthur, Ellen, Andrew (died in childhood), Samuel, David, Robert and Andrew. They all married and reared large families except Johnson, who never married. John, Johnson, William and Robert are deceased. James, Alexander, Arthur and Samuel are living in Pennsylvania. David, Andrew and Ellen, in Ohio; Mary A., in Kansas. The mother of these children died in 1827, at the age of fifty years. Arthur White settled in Beaver County, Pa., in an early day, where he followed farming and weaving. He was married three times, and was the father of nineteen children. His second marriage was with Jenny Horner in 1831, and they had two children; the first, a daughter, died when a few months old, and the second was a boy (imbecile), the mother dying a few days after his birth. The third wife of Arthur White was a widow, Mrs. Brown, with five children. The first birth of this marriage was twin boys, one of whom died when a few months old; the other, Joseph, grew to manhood and died in the Union army during the Rebellion. The second born, Elizabeth, is still living in Pennsylvania. His third wife lived to the advanced age of ninety years. Arthur White died in 1853, at the age of eighty-four years. His parents, Arthur and Mollie (Ingram) White, were natives of Ireland. They had two sons and one daughter, as follows: Henry, Mollie and Arthur.

The father of our subject, William White, died in Jackson County, Ohio, March 17, 1878; the mother is still living in that State, and is in her seventy-fifth year. The household circle included eleven children, eight sons and three daughters, of whom the record is as follows: Samuel married Miss Mary R. Ransom in 1855; they are now living in Jackson County, Ohio, and have become the parents of thirteen children, one deceased. James married Miss Amy Groosman, and they are living in Carroll County, Mo.; they have five sons and one daughter, two boys deceased. Arthur died in his youth; John W. married Miss Margaret Harper;

*Note that there is an error in the above sketch: Hannah Middleton was the daughter of Jacob Middleton and Rebecca Bathurst of Center County, Pennsylvania; her grandfather was **Lawrence** Bathurst, Jr. of Center County, PA. Lawrence Bathurst, Jr. fought in the American Revolution and was the grandson of Sir Francis Bathurst, 6th Baronet of Bathurst. (See Lineage of the Baronets of Bathurst.)*