

William Hocker. For nearly thirty years, from 1832 to 1860, William Hocker followed school teaching in Howard county. His parents came to this state in an early day, in 1824, when William was but ten years old, and he was reared on his father's farm. In those days not all the young men enjoyed good school advantages in their youth, and the subject of this sketch was one of them that did not. He only attended school a few months, but by study at home he acquired a better education than most of the others did who had good school advantages, so that at the age of eighteen years he was well qualified to commence teaching. He made teaching his regular occupation, and followed it until he was able to fix himself on a farm comfortably for life. He has followed farming since 1860, and has a splendid place of 600 acres in an excellent state of cultivation and improvement. He was born in Lincoln county, Kentucky, September 8, 1814. His father, William Hocker, and his mother, whose maiden name was Sarah Allnut, were both natives of Maryland. They emigrated to Lincoln county, Kentucky, in 1790, and there reared a family of nine children, of whom William, Jr., was the eighth. They came to Howard county in 1824, and here the father died July 12, 1849, and the mother November 19, 1852. When the war broke out in 1861, Mr. H. identified himself with the south, and was taken prisoner subsequently and sentenced to be shot, but made his escape from the detail of soldiers ordered to shoot him—under the fire, however, of the whole posse. On the 7th of April, 1836, he was married to Miss Margaret, daughter of Philip Turner, of Howard county. She was born in this county November 24, 1819. They have six children living — William R., Gerard C., Juliet B. (now Mrs. Wm. Moons), Hattie H. (now Mrs. Jack White), Emma G. (now Mrs. S. L. Higgins), and Ina. Philip Turner, the father of Mrs. Hocker, died April 22, 1827, and her mother January 28, 1856. Her mother's maiden name was Miss Brezell Hyatt, and both her parents were natives of Kentucky and came to Missouri in 1815. Mr. Hocker is a member of the I. O. O. F. and of the Christian church.