

### CHARLES EDWARD WILDER

Charles Edward Wilder has been a resident of Sylvester for more than twenty-two years. For about ten years of that time he and his family have spent the winters in their home in Boynton, Florida, coming back to Sylvester in the summer.

He moved with his parents, Edward Erastus and Adeline (Cherry) Wilder, from Warrenton, Warren County, Georgia, when he was five years old and settled on land that he owns today. When he was 17 years old his father began a mercantile business in Acree and put C. Ed Wilder to manage the store. After his father's death he became the proprietor of the business and merchandised there continuously for forty-two years. For twenty-one years of that time he was the postmaster, and eighteen years he was depot agent of Acree. He also owned large farming interests there. He moved his family to Sylvester in 1911 and retired from active life, turning his business over to his son, Roy Wilder.

He married Clemmie Cochran, of Dougherty County. They are blessed with three children, Annie (Mrs. John Wickliff Jackson, of West Palm Beach), Bennie and Roy Wilder, who married Pearl Autrey, of North Carolina.

This splendid family, whether they lived in Acree, Sylvester or Boynton, Fla., exerted a strong influence for the betterment of their community and were the greatest supporters of the Missionary Baptist Church. They were chiefly the movers in the organization of the church in Boynton.

### SPURLIN FAMILY

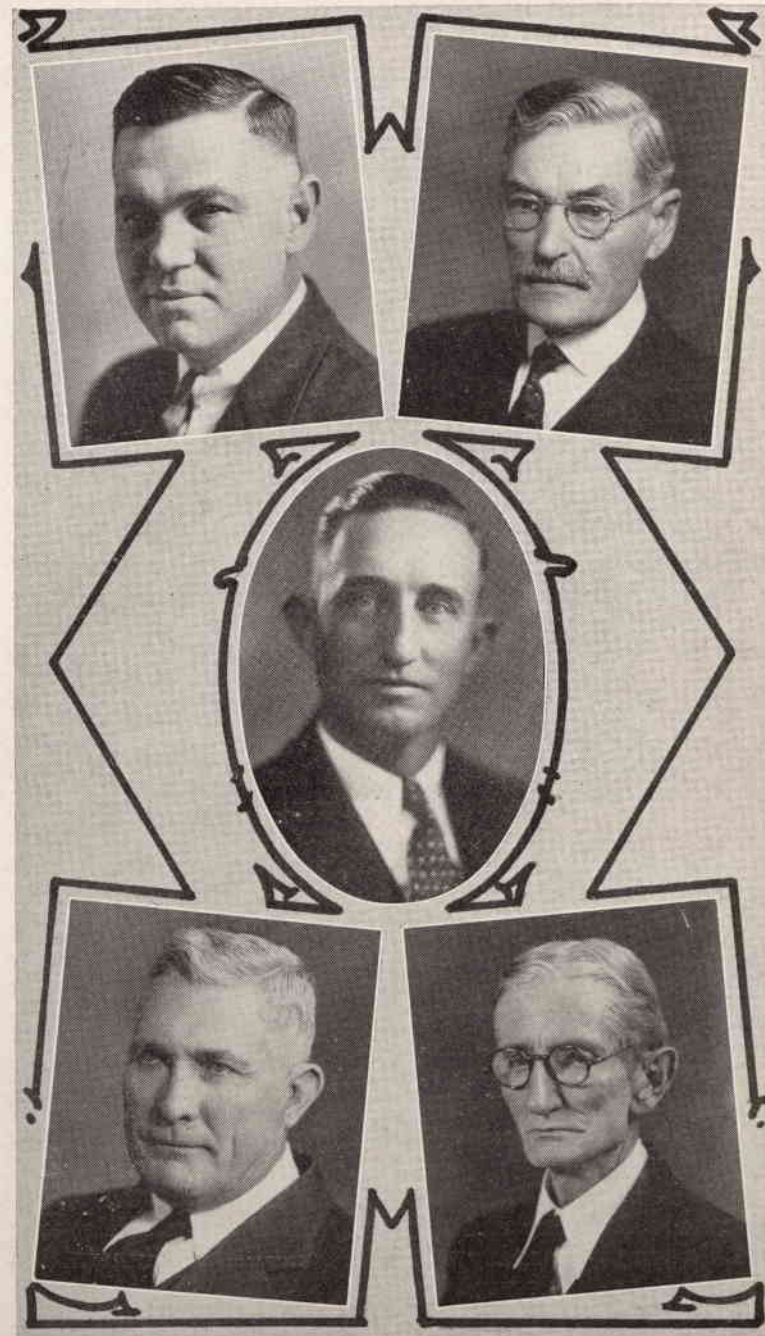
The father of the Spurlins of Worth County was W. H. Spurlin, born in Shelby, N. C. He was a Confederate soldier, who moved to Pulaski County, Ga., and married Mary Catherine Dewitt. Their children are: Thomas Augustus (called "Gus") Spurlin, J. G., W. C., R. L., J. D., G. Clarence Spurlin and daughters, Ella and Edna.

Four of these, T. A. Spurlin, Col. G. Clarence Spurlin, (Soldier General of Valdosta Circuit), Miss Ella Spurlin, and Mrs.

Legend for cut on page 449.

Top row: Roy M. Hillhouse, Hardware and T. A. Spurlin, Undertaker. Center: P. M. Lancaster, Fire Insurance, and Senator elect for the 10th senatorial Dist.

Bottom row: N. G. Houston, Farmer and Clifford Grubbs, Fee Appraiser of the Home Owners Loan Corporation.



See Legend on page 448

Edna Webster, made their homes in Sylvester for a number of years.

Only T. A. Spurlin is a citizen of Worth now. Miss Ella and Mrs. Edna Webster live in Florida. Col. G. Clarence Spurlin is Solicitor of Valdosta.

T. A. Spurlin came to Sumner in 1891, lived there nine months, then went to Tifton, Ga., and worked for H. H. and W. O. Tift for six years as bookkeeper and salesman.

He married Miss Josephine Fogler in Tifton, Ga., June 10, 1896.

She is the daughter of John Daniel Fogler and wife, Julia Elizabeth (Havener) Fogler. Mrs. T. A. Spurlin was born in Brazos County, Texas. Her parents moved from South Carolina to Texas where she was born. They returned to South Carolina where she spent her girlhood in Port Royal, and at Boiling Springs, Barnwell County, S. C. She then moved to Brunswick, Ga. and to Tifton with her parents, where she met and married T. A. Spurlin. On her paternal side, her father, a Confederate soldier, John Daniel Fogler, was born in Barnwell County, S. C. He was the son of J. D. Fogler, born in North Carolina, and wife, Annie (Johnson) Fogler, born in Beaufort County, S. C.

The mother of Mrs. T. A. Spurlin was, before marriage to John Daniel Fogler, Julia Elizabeth Havener, born in Alledale, S. C. She is the daughter of Joseph Sayle Havener, born in Limerick County, Ireland. The mother of Julia Elizabeth Havener was, before marriage, Mary Elizabeth Evans, born in Charleston, S. C.

After marriage, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Spurlin moved to Sylvester, Sept. 13, 1897. He worked for the firm, J. S. Westberry and brother, as clerk until 1899 when he went into business for himself, at first a grocery business; later he opened a dry goods, millinery and furniture store.

Mr. Wm. H. McPhaul urged him to go into the undertaking business which he did in 1900, taking the course of embalmer in Atlanta, and Augusta. He has followed this business for 33 years.

In December, 1899, he leased, and later bought, the Worth Telephone Company and organized the Sylvester Telephone and Telegraph Company which he sold to the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Co. Nov. 1, 1909.

T. A. Spurlin was made a deacon of the Sylvester Baptist

Church thirty-five years ago and has been on the active board of deacons to date (1934).

Mrs. Spurlin became a member of the Woman's Missionary Society of Sylvester Baptist Church when it was organized in 1900 and has served in every phase of its work since. For a long time she was President and has held every office. She has been, and is now, one of its principal leaders. This couple have two children: daughter, Annie Hazel, (Mrs. Parker) of Edison; son, Ernest L. Spurling married Florine Giddens. They have two grand-children, Patricia Parker, and Thomas Ernest Spurlin.

This family has been identified with every worthwhile movement to build up a better community in which to live. Especially is this true in the building up of the cause of education and religion. They can always be depended upon for substantial help in these.

### STEPHEN ROBERT MURRAY

Stephen Robert Murray is the son of James Lafayette Murray and wife, Mary E. (Patton) Murray, of Bronwood, Ga. They were natives of Schley County, Ga. James L. Murray was considered one of Terrell County's most progressive and prosperous farmers at the time of his death, July 6, 1924, at the age of 68 years. His mother still lives on her farm near Bronwood.

S. Robert Murray was brought up in an environment of thrift and Christian culture which go a long way in making life a real success. This early training, connected with his prudence, practical business judgment and persistent industry, have made him one of our most successful business men. While still a young man he is proprietor and operator of one of the oldest mercantile establishments in the city which has been continuously operated under the same management. He came to Sylvester in 1911 to accept a position with The Empire Mercantile Co. In 1912 he went into the shoe and gents furnishing business for himself, where he has since been doing business continuously at the same location. In 1920 he built a beautiful home on the south corner of Isabella and Pope Streets. He served on the City Council for several years and has been steward of the Methodist Church for a long period of time. For some time he was a member of the Kiwanis Club. He is a staunch Democrat.