

Work Progress

Administration Attala Co., MS

WPA Records

James Swanson Niles, born January 18, 1887, Attala County, was the son of Judge Henry C. Niles.

In the acquirement of an education, he attended the preparatory school of the University of the South, and afterward completed a course in that university. He next enrolled as a student in Cumberland University at Lebanon, Tennessee, graduating from there in 1907 with the degree of L.L.B. He then engaged in the mercantile business, and later accepted a position with the Bank of Kosciusko. (1)

He was appointed postmaster in 1922, serving in that capacity until 1936, when he was succeeded by Roy S. Burroughs.

Niles is now serving as City Clerk.

The first postmaster at Ethel was T. J. Middlebrooks, appointed by President Arthur. In 1925 the postmaster was I. I. Massey, who is also serving at the present time.

The first postmaster at Sallie was Mark Shelby; present one is Tom L. Guyton.

Barksdale was the name of the first post office at McCool, and S. C. Conly was postmaster; present one is Bunyan Boyd.

Other post offices are: McAdams, with Mrs. Pattie Gowan as postmaster; Center, with Ed Leach as postmaster; Zama, with Mrs. Stella Gregory as postmaster.

SURVEYORS-ENGINEERS

John Irving was elected as the first surveyor of Attala County about 1835 or 1836. Benjamin McCary followed him, then those who followed in succession were: William Holland, John T. Holland, J. H. Sultan, W. J. Clark, T. J. Portwood, J. H. Kimbrough, C. C. Comfort, J. H. Kimbrough. (2) Kimbrough was born in Attala County in 1861 in the Liberty Chapel neighborhood. He completed his course as civil engineer at Vanderbilt University and serving for 25 or 30 years. When his term of office expired he moved to Harrisburg, Arkansas, where he still resides.

K. L. Welborn was appointed surveyor by the Board of Supervisors after Kimbrough's term ended. The office is now appointive and not elective,

(1) The Heart of the South, By Dr. Dunbar Rowland, Vol. IV.

(2) Records in Chancery Clerk's office.