

CHAPTER V.

SAMUEL BERRY COONS AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

The sixth child of John R. Coons and his wife, Sarah Bradbury was born March 19, 1831 in St. Louis, Missouri. He was christened Samuel Berry, but to his family was always called Sam. At the time of his birth, his parents resided in Gratiot's Grove; but for the birth and to execute some commissions in gilding, the mother went to her parent's home in St. Louis.

The education of Sam began at the age of 7 in the first school, erected of logs, in Snake Hollow in 1838. Brother Henry and two cousins were schoolmates.

The activities of the youth were directed to mining, prospecting, and mining machinery.

On October 18, 1860 he was married to Georgiana Rackerby of Dubuque, Iowa. In such marriage Samuel followed the example of his father and brother in winning a remarkable woman. She was the daughter of John Hancock Rackerby and Georgiana Dudley, daughter of Capt. Robert Dudley* of the War of 1812. The bride of Sam was well educated and for many years after raising her family taught school in Pierce City, Joplin and Carl Junction, Missouri. She was adept with the pen and facile with her words, writing many verses. The following, on the subject of teaching, has been selected as particularly noteworthy:

"I tried by little deeds of love
And admonitions clear
To lead thee to green pastures
By waters pure and clear.
And if I have by word or deed
Estranged one heart from Heaven,
Oh! may I, Heavenly Father,
In mercy be forgiven."

* A scion of the famous Dudley family of England.

Samuel Coons and his wife remained in Wisconsin until 1873, when they moved to Orongo, Missouri, where Mr. Coons engaged in mining for one year. From 1874 until 1882 the family lived in Lincoln County, Kansas. After a year's residence in Rogers, Ark., the family moved to the flourishing mining town of Lehigh, Mo., finally locating in Carl Junction.

Three children were born to Samuel and Georgiana:

1. William Henry, *infra*.
2. Susie May, *infra*.
3. James B. "Beck," *infra*.

Samuel Coons died August 21, 1911, at the age of 80. He was buried with Masonic honors at Carl Junction. Samuel Coons was an unobtrusive man, quite reticent except in private conversation. He was well versed in science and the arts and a great reader.

His wife, Georgiana, survived him ten years, dying in Carl Junction, March 4, 1921, at the age of 82. She was a charter member of the Eastern Star in Carl Junction.

1.

William Henry Coons.

William Henry, son of Samuel Berry Coons, was born in 1861 in Wisconsin. He died March 10, 1908, in Joplin, Mo., of pneumonia. He earned his livelihood as an engineer on the Frisco Railroad. He was a member of the Masonic organization and of the Baptist Church. His wife survived until July 4, 1938.

Four children were born to William Henry and his wife.

a. Ethel, married to Travis Carpenter, and now living in Independence, Mo. She has one son.

b. William, married and in the grocery business in Wichita, Kansas. He has a son and grandson.

c. Georgiana, married to Lane, residing in Wichita, Kansas.

d. Susie May, married to Braithwait, residing in Wichita, Kansas.

2.

Susie May Coons Isherwood.

The subject of this sketch, called by the Wisconsin Coons, Aunt Susie, was born February 21, 1865, in Potosi, Wis. She was married in Carl Junction, Mo., to Hortensius L. Isherwood on June 17, 1888. The husband was a graduate of Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa, and of Rush Medical College, 1878. The activities of Dr. Isherwood were many. He went to Missouri to practice his profession of physician and surgeon in 1880. He also engaged in mining and farming, and conducted a drug store.

He was elected on the Democratic ticket to the Thirty-seventh General Assembly of Missouri, where he served ably and well. Dr. Isherwood was a Mason.

Susie May was educated at Missouri Normal Institute. Throughout her life she was interested and active in community affairs. One of her chief interests was the Sorosis Club, a social and educational organization. She was a member of the Eastern Star, the White Shrine, and the Baptist Church.

To Susie May Coons and her husband were born three children.

a. Hortensius, died at the age of 23, July 16, 1916, as a result of an accident in a baseball game. He was then a student at Kansas State Agricultural College at Manhattan, Kansas.

b. Niena, formerly a teacher in Joplin High School. Now the wife of H. A. Henley, and residing at Columbia,

Missouri, where her husband is a teacher. She has four sons and one daughter.

c. Eber Dudley, married to Christine and residing in Carl Junction, where he conducts a drug store.

Susie May died September 16, 1936. She is buried in the family lot in Carl Junction. Her husband predeceased her, dying in 1924 as a result of injuries in an automobile accident. In her widowhood, Susie May carried on her activities and interests, frequently entertaining friends and relatives.

3.

James B. Coons.

James B., commonly called "Beck," is the youngest son of Samuel Berry Coons. He was educated at Fort Scott Commercial College. On July 18, 1899, he was married to Cora A. Smith at Neosho, Missouri, in the Methodist parsonage. He now resides in Carl Junction, where he carries on a plumbing business in addition to being a mail carrier.

One daughter, Norma Dee, was born to "Beck" and his wife. She grew to beautiful young womanhood, was graduated from high school and college, and at once assumed a leadership among the women of her community, Neosho. She was most active in the D. A. R., in church work, and in clubs. She was married to Roger Reynolds. One daughter, Anna Dee, was born to this marriage.

Death in 1938 cut short her promising and useful life; but in her brief years she gave the world so much friendship and cheerful help that her record is written high in the Book of Judgment.