

JOSHUA BILLINGS JETER

This gentleman was born at Wetumka, Alabama in August, 1852 and was educated at Central Institute, Alabama, and Shilo Academy, near Paris, Tex. He came to Kiamichi county, Choctaw Nation, in 1872, and there commenced teaching public school, which profession he followed until 1884. In that year he was elected district trustee of Third district, and held the office for two years. In 1886, when Thompson McKinney was a candidate for principal chief, J. B. Jeter was elected to the senate from Kiamichi county. He was the second white citizen who had ever been elected to the Choctaw legislature; but no sooner had he taken his seat among the law-makers than they forced him to retire, appointing John Martin, from the same county, in his place. Mr. Jeter had voted the wrong ticket that year. Two years later he might have taken his seat without a majority opposition.

The subject of this sketch obtained his citizenship through marriage with Sarah E. Oakes, second daughter of J. W. Oakes.* The issue of their marriage is six children — Gertrude E., Harriet S., James T., Francis B., William W., and Bonnie B.

Mr. Jeter owns one hundred acres in farm, fifty head of cattle, one hundred and fifty hogs, and an interest in three undeveloped coal claims. He is a young man in excellent education, intelligent, bright, and of good moral character, a Mason and a member of the Presbyterian church. He was appointed coal weigher for the Nation on the Choctaw Coal and Railway Co.

* Sarah E. Oakes was the daughter of T. W. Oakes, not J. W. Oakes.