

CHRISTOPHER MANN—THE OLDEST MAN IN MISSOURI.

What he says about himself:

"I was born Sept. 15, 1774, in Virginia, and when about two years old moved to Kentucky with my parents. My father's name was Jonas and my mother's name was Agnes and her maiden name was Williams. At this time Kentucky had a very few settlers, and my father was among the first.

"When my father crossed the Alleghany Mountains from Virginia to Kentucky, they had one pack horse to carry the small children and household goods. My sister and myself were tied to a bed, which was thrown over the old gray horse, and thus we traveled day after day, father ahead leading the horse and mother walking behind carrying some articles on her shoulders. I was reared in Kentucky and saw Daniel Boone many, many times. I saw him in his hunting dress on the chase with six dogs and three sons with their guns. Daniel Boone hunted animals for their furs and sold them in markets east of the mountains. Boone lived there many years, but, finally, after a few settlers had come into the present State of Kentucky, he said: "I must move away; a settler has come within seventy miles. This is no place for me." I left Kentucky for Ohio when about twenty-four years of age, where I married Miss Betsie Rusk, by whom I had seventeen children—seven of whom are still living. Their names were as follows: Peggy, Ann, Peter, Jonas, David, John, James, Sallie, Nancy and Washington (still living in California now over seventy years old); Andrew Jackson (living in California), Christopher (living in California), Elson (living in California), Samuel (living in California), Betsey (married to Wm. Mayes and still lives in California), Julia (married to Ezekiel Robinson and still lives in California). Some of my children died while infants. My first wife died in 1844 in Jackson county.

"I lived and farmed in Indiana for many years. I made a flat boat near the old battle field of Tippecanoe and with the boat shipped my farm produce to New Orleans.

"I came to Missouri, Jasper county, in the year 1838, and after living there about five years, came in 1843, to Jackson county and settled on land now owned by H. M. Vaile. I bought the land of Nicholas Crenshaw to the amount of eighteen 80's or 1440 acres. I lived here many years and then removed to the Monroe farm which overlooks Wayne City. The farm is known as the Daniel Monroe place. August 5, 1863, the bush-whackers came and robbed my house, turned my family out, and burned the house to the ground. They came to me and told me if I would remain and watch my house while they burned a few of my neighbors' houses, they would not burn mine; but when they came back they burned mine also. They asked me if I was not a black Abolitionist, and when I told them: "I am a Union man, sir!" one of the bush-whackers struck me with his revolver and broke out two of my teeth.

"After the war I bought the Gov. Gilpin farm, where I now live. It is one and a half miles northwest of Independence, Sec. 27, Tp. 50, R. 32.

"I was married a second time to Mrs. Lydia Ann Dean, March 24, 1848. The names of the children are: Mary (died when two years of age), Frances Jane, William Franklin, Wilson B., Louisa L., Sallie R., James M., Alice B., and Lydia Anora. The youngest of my children will be only fifteen years old on the 1st of July, 1881.

"My health is good, and I expect to live a long time yet. I never took a dose of medicine in my life. I am a Republican, and have been a hard shell Baptist for eighty years. I have always been a hard working man, and put up as many

as six cords four foot wood in one day. I have cut and split 500 rails in a day. I have voted for every President of the United States at every election since the time of Washington. I have voted for the man who was elected each time, except when Harrison was elected, and at one other time. I voted for President James A. Garfield at the election Nov. 2, 1880. I started to the polls on foot, but before I reached there Mr. Z. S. Ragan overtook me and persuaded me to ride to Independence. I shall always vote the Republican ticket for President if I live a hundred years longer. I drank some whiskey but never was intoxicated in my life. I never sat and played cards and bet on games in a saloon. I detest drunkards and gamblers. I have not much of an education, can spell all kinds of common words, but cannot read my letters. I was in the Black Hawk War and in the battle of the Big Woods. I was out on that campaign thirty days and received therefor thirty dollars in cash and one hundred and sixty acres of land. I was in the Home Guards during the Civil War of 1861-5.

“ My father's family consisted of seven boys and six girls. My father was a native of New Jersey, and grandfather was a native of Germany.

“ My height is just one quarter of an inch less than six feet and my average weight has been one hundred and sixty-five pounds, I have weighed one hundred and ninety, but now weigh one hundred and fifty pounds. I could hold my breath one minute and a half, and can yet. I use no spirits, but use tobacco. I could walk to Independence, and I think I could walk to Kansas City. I can do light work on the farm even now. I never had a decayed tooth, but have had some drawn by a dentist, though never had the toothache.

“ When I went to Ohio it was a territory, and when I left, I went boating on the Ohio River. I enlisted in Jackson's War, but my father paid and would not let me go; he paid \$110 to another man to go in my place. I removed again to Kentucky and then again to Ohio.”

It might be remarked that Mr. Mann is now a hearty, healthy, and intelligent man, possesses a complete command of his mental faculties, and can remember all the important incidents of his long and eventful life. He talks readily and intelligently on all subjects. He has a full head of hair, walks with a firm and steady step, though his sight is imperfect in consequence of weak eyes. He appears as an ordinary man of about sixty or seventy years. He says that he wants his last days to be his best days.