

Mr. Editor: I have concluded that it might not be uninteresting to your readers to have a short history of the rise, progress and prospects of Brownsville, in the county of Hinds. It is a small village, eight miles north of Bolton's Depot. It is situated in a high, rolling country, about seven miles from the Big Black river, and is remarkable for its healthfulness. It is 35 miles from Vicksburg, 17 from Jackson, 12 from Clinton, and 16 from Raymond. In the midst of the village is a very bold spring of excellent water. It was originally called "Spring Hill," but afterwards received its present name in honor of Elisha Brown, who built the first cabin. Mr. Perry and Mr. Brown were induced to settle here about the year 1830, on account of the abundant supply of spring water, and the general beauty of the country around it. Both of these gentlemen have long since gone to the world of spirits, leaving children behind them that are an honor to the place and to their ancestors.

Brownsville was at first built on each side the public road that runs through the centre of the village, and is now the principal street. With the rapid settlement of the country, the town was soon filled with a population of adventurers, and it became notorious for irreligion and immorality; drinking, gambling, street brawls and Sabbath breaking were the characteristic features of the place, and this continued to be the case until the year 1851. About this time Tappan Lodge of Free Masons, which had been established in the year 1843, felt that for the honor of masonry an effort ought to be made to bring about a reformation of the evils. It was evident that if the tipping houses could be suppressed the work would be of easy accomplishment. Accordingly, by a unanimous vote, it was determined to establish schools in the town, at the expense and under the control of the Lodge, provided the people would sign a petition to the Legislature prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquor within five miles of the village. The proposition of the Lodge was warmly seconded by the people, and the law, which was passed at the extra session of 1851, has been faithfully carried out. Its good effects were immediately felt in the increase of business and the rise in the price of property. A male and female school have been established by the Lodge, and are entirely under its control. With large comfortable school houses and able teachers, they now number forty scholars each, and are believed to be equal in every respect to any schools in the country.— Brownsville is now spoken of everywhere in terms of praise, for its tone of high moral and religious feeling. Free Masonry has proved herself to be, in truth, the handmaid of religion, for under her great influence religion has so revived, that two large church edifices, the one Methodist, the other Baptist, have been erected in the last twelve months, that would do honor to any town in the State. Every Sabbath morning, fifty or sixty children are seen going to and returning from the Sunday school, which is conducted by several of the first men in the country. Brownsville has several large dry goods stores, a drug store, two shops for making and repairing wagons and carriages, a saddle and harness maker's shop, and a blacksmith shop. Brownsville is a masonic and christian town, and is destined to become celebrated for its schools. Several families are now building dwelling houses, with the view of educating their children at its schools. The writer of this article would advise persons who wish to have summer residences at a healthy and pleasant place in the country, and those who wish to have the advantage of well-managed schools, to visit Brownsville before they locate elsewhere.