

Edward J. Ball, President of the Peoples National Bank of Wapanucka, one of the pioneer settlers and business men of Johnston County. He first located at Emet, in 1877, he came there as a youth about 19 years old, coming from Meigs County, Tennessee, where he was born on December 29, 1858.

His father William H. Ball, who died in Wapanucka in 1906, was also a native of Tennessee. Being born in 1828, a son of David Ball, who was born and reared in the Common Wealth. David Ball was not far removed from the Englishman who founded the family in the United States and reared a family of nine children.

William H. Ball served his time as a blacksmith and was pursuing that vocation in Tennessee, when the Civil War broke out. He enlisted in the Confederate Army and on account of his trade was accepted and spent all of his time smithing for the Army. He married Annie, daughter of John Andes, of Virginian ancestry, who married in Tennessee, Mollie Harvey.

To the union of William H. Ball and wife were born, Edward J. Ball, of this sketch, Landon C., of Wapanucka, Thomas J., of Lehigh, Okla. and John D., of Wapanucka.

Mr. Ball brought his family into the Chickasaw Nation along with the first immigration that settled there after the close of the Civil War. After farming on a leased tract of land three years, near Emet, he concluded to engage in merchandising in company with his son, Edward. With a Capital of \$500.00 started in such pursuit. Mr. Ball had secured the establishment of a Post Office at Emet, which then was with but little more than a name. The frame shack housed the Office also contained their little stock of goods, which they sold under the name of, W. H. Ball and Company. This firm did business there for four years and then moved to Boggy Depot. A place of more importance, and it was one of the firms of that historic town until 1896, when the final move was made to Wapanucka, then a new town, with promise of railroad communication.

The firm of Skeen and Ball here succeeded the Old Ball firm. During the first six years being located in Old Wapanucka, I. T., and it was one of the first firms to identify itself with the New Town on the east side of the track.

It was about that time that Mr. Ball purchased his partner's interest. After an interum of three years, they later resumed partnership. Organizing the Wapanucka Trading Company, of which Mr. Skeen secured the entire control three years later. Mr. Ball retired and then organized the Ball Company, a Mercantile concern with a Capital Stock. With this he was actively identified until 1905, when he organized the Peoples National Bank and has given his personal attention to this ever since. The People's National Bank has a Capital Stock of \$25,000.00 and has the following officers:

Pres. E. J. Ball Vice-Pres. Dr. E. O. Loomis
Cashier- Mr. S. L. Barnes

Its official Board comprises, besides these officers, C. S. Cobb, Denison, Texas, Wm. N. Dunn, Olney, and F. M. Jackson, J. B. Farris, M. A. Butts and B. Statler, Wapanucka, and R. R. McLish, Ardmore.