William Nelson Crenshaw was born near Alexandria, Mo. January 3, 1833, being the oldest child of Joel and Nancy Crenshaw. He grew to manhood in the county where he was born, locating on a farm near Foley, where he spent his entire life, dying January 5, 1915, at the age of 82 years and 2 days. He married Elizabeth Vertrees April 23, 1857, and to this union were born twelve children, five of which grew to manhood and womanhood, as follows: Martha Ellen, wife of A. G. Chewing, of New Mexico; Mary, the deceased wife of H. G. Magruder, of New Mexico; Willie Albert, deceased; Nancy Lee, wife of R. D. Tiller, of Old Monroe; and Joel Vertrees, of Foley; the other seven dying in infancy. This wife died Feb. 15, 1891, at the age of 50 years and one month. He was again married Dec. 15, 1896, to Mary Jane True; one childe was born to them, Eldridge, of Elsberry.

He professed faith in his Savior in 1870, and united with the Baptist church at Star Hope and was soon afterward made a deacon in which office he performed well until death. When the Baptist church was organized at Foley he was one of its first members and served as one of its deacons, Sunday school superintendents and other important positions, until death. He leaves besides his children seven grand and one great grandchild, six sisters and many other relatives and friends to mourn his departure. He was much esteemed, which was demonstrated by the great throng that attended his burial, which took place at Foley. Services were conducted by the writer, assisted by Eld. Felton Bartine, of Winfield. He was made a Mason of New Salem lodge in 1870, affiliating in the work until death and was buried with the honors at the family burrying place near Argentville. May the same Lord whom he loved and so faithfully served comfort the bereaved and bring them all unto Himself, at last.—J. S. Eames.