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## MR. AND MRS. HEZEKIAH. S. BROOKS

In this connection a short sketch of the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Hezekiah S. Brooks will not be out of place. Mr. Brooks was born in Murray County, Tenn., and when but a small child his parents moved to McNairy County and settled one and a half miles south of Purdy. When thirteen years of age Mr. Brooks, after having attended the common schools of the Purdy neighborhood for a few years, began carrying the mail on the star route between Purdy, Tenn., and Jacinto, Miss., via Farmington and old Danville, his father being the contractor. Three days were necessary to make the round trip. He continued this employment for one year, when he entered the school at Purdy, attending one term, and then entered the employ of Alfred Moore, a merchant at Purdy, as clerk, where he remained for two years. He next, in partnership with a half brother, A. L. Beaty, purchased the mercantile business of Stephen Davenport, at Jacinto, and after doing a successful business for a year, disposed of the establishment. Shortly before disposing of his mercantile interests Mr. Brooks was married to Miss Mary Francis, daughter of Judge and Mrs. E. C. Gillenwaters. Later Mr. Brooks moved to a place south of Stephenson Hill, and opened a store and securing and forwarding to the postoffice department a numerously signed petition asking for a postoffice, was appointed postmaster, the new office being named Mingo City. Mrs. Brooks attending to the duties

of the office while Mr. Brooks managed the store. About one and a half years later, after the starting of the new town of Corinth, the office at Mingo City was discontinued, and Mr. and Mrs. Brooks moved to Corinth, where he clerked in the drug store of Dr. Anderson and assisted his father-in-law, Mr. Gillenwaters, in the postoffice, the latter having been appointed postmaster upon the resignation of H. C. Hyneman. This arrangement was continued until Mr. Brooks was appointed postmaster, when Mrs. Brooks was again chosen as deputy, and together they satisfactorily managed the office until the evacuation of Corinth by the Confederate Army. Going to Tupelo Mr. Brooks was appointed postmaster of that place and served until the removal of the army. After the close of the war, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks returned to Corinth and lived for one year on a farm on Bridge Creek, when they disposed of the place and opened a dry good and furniture store in Corinth, and for six years were quite successful. Disposing of the store to H. C. Klyce, Mr. Brooks clerked for a time for D. Baum and also for Bills & Young, and then entered the employ of A. J. Yancy as traveling salesman for the Corinth Marble Works, which position he filled for one year, when he opened a marble establishment on his own account and has since managed the same in a financially successful manner. Mr. and Mrs. Brooks are among the oldest and most respected citizens of the county. Bro. Brooks refers with pride to the fact that he was never once in his life accused of theft, and that was on the occasion of his stealing five hundred mail sacks from the Federal government for the benefit of the Confederate postoffice department. The accompanying illustration shows Mr. and Mrs. Brooks as they appeared while in charge of the Corinth postoffice during the first year of the Civil War.