

HISTORY OF BUCHANAN COUNTY, MISSOURI.

BY JOHN R. WILLIAMS.

THE PLATTE PURCHASE.

When Missouri was admitted into the Union in 1820, the western boundary of the state differed from the present. It was a line crossing the Missouri river, at the mouth of the Kansas, where Kansas city now stands, and running north and south from Arkansas to Iowa. South of the Missouri the state line was identical with the present—north, instead of the boundary following the course of the river as it now does, it was a continuation of the line south of the Missouri, and extended straight north, coinciding with the line running between the present counties of Clay, Clinton, De Kalb, Gentry and Worth on the east, and Platte, Buchanan, Andrew, and Nodaway on the west.

The long triangular strip of country lying between the original western boundary of the state and the Missouri river was known as the Platte country, and afterward on its being bought by the United States Government, as the "Platte Purchase." It included the present counties of Platte, Buchanan, Andrew, Holt, Nodaway, and Atchison. This tract of country had been selected by the Indians, with their usual sagacity, as a reservation; and not till after the year 1836 was it given up for the occupancy of the white settlers. Of the physical characteristics of this region it is only necessary to state that they were such as made the Platte Purchase the natural garden spot of the Missouri valley. A fertile soil, an agreeable climate, numerous streams affording an abundance of water, and advantageous sites for mills, alluvial bottoms rivaling the far-famed country of the Nile in their richness, rolling land covered with a heavy growth of timber, and beautiful stretches of prairie—all combined to make the Platte country the paradise of the pioneer. It is no wonder that the early settlers of the bordering counties of Northwest Missouri looked with longing eyes on this favored country. Before the Indian title was extinguished white settlers advanced over the border, and here and there erected a cabin and cleared a piece of land, from which they were often driven by the United States soldiers, the government endeavoring as far as possible to preserve inviolate the treaty rights with the Indians.

As the adjacent counties of Clay, Clinton and others, became somewhat thickly settled, the demand became imperative that the Platte country should be taken from the Indians and given up to the requirements of civilization. Thomas H. Benton, that far-seeing statesman whose illustrious public career reflected credit on his State, lent his influence to this measure, and in 1836 the passage of a bill by Congress was secured, annexing to the State of Missouri that part of the Indian Territory since known as the Platte Purchase. In 1837 a treaty with the Indians was concluded, by which they were removed west of the Missouri river, and the newly-acquired territory was opened to the occupancy of the white settlers.

Immediately there occurred such an influx of settlers as scarcely has a parallel in the history of the West. As soon as the news spread that the Platte country was open for settlement pioneers poured in from all directions, each anxious to be early on the ground in order to secure an advantageous location. Many from Clay and other counties had visited the country while it was yet in the possession of the Indians, and had selected the site of their future settlements to which they returned as soon as possible after permission was given by the government to enter, not a few of them arriving during the severe cold and deep snows of winter. They came from Clay county, from Jackson and other parts of Missouri; from Kentucky, from Virginia and Tennessee; and only a short time was required to transform the country from the abode of Indian tribes to a comparatively thickly-populated region. A division into counties was soon effected. Platte county was organized December 31st, 1838; Buchanan county, six weeks later, on the 10th of February, 1839; and the same month all that portion of the Platte Purchase north of Buchanan county was organized, and attached to Buchanan for civil and military purposes, under the name of the Territory of Ne-at-a-wah, from which the counties of Andrew, Holt, Nodaway and Atchison were subsequently organized.

FIRST SETTLEMENTS IN BUCHANAN COUNTY.

The present city of St. Joseph was the site of not only the first settlement in Buchanan county, but in all the Platte Purchase. The first white inhabitants of the present Platte county was one Zadoc Martin, who by permission of the government settled about 1827 on the Platte river and kept a ferry at the crossing of the military road from Liberty to Fort Leavenworth. In the Purchase, north of Buchanan county, while the country was yet in the possession of the Indians, there was no early settlement, so that Robidoux's settlement at St. Joseph was by far the earliest permanent location made by any white man in the Platte Purchase.

Joseph Robidoux, the earliest settler of the county, was of French descent, and connected with that class of French pioneers who settled St. Louis, St. Charles, and Ste. Genevieve, and gave the first impetus to civilization in the present great state of Missouri. The early French settlers of the Mississippi and Missouri valleys were in the main "adventurers" in the true sense of that word. They were Frenchmen who first explored the Mississippi from the direction of Canada in 1673. French pioneers about 1685 formed the first permanent settlement in the Mississippi valley at Kaskaskia, in Illinois, eighty miles below St. Louis. The French settled Ste. Genevieve previous to 1750; St. Louis in 1764; and St. Charles in 1762. These French settlers were a light-hearted race, sturdy and enduring, and possessing characteristics eminently qualifying them for pioneer life and association with the Indians. Toward agriculture they made little progress, but engaged chiefly in hunting, fishing, and trapping. They adapted themselves with remarkable facility to the manners of life among the Indians, with whom they were always on terms of friendship. Their adventurous dispositions led them to make frequent excursions to the distant rivers where they would be absent among the Indian tribes for months, returning at last to their homes laden with a choice stock of furs and peltries. The city of St. Louis was founded, indeed, for the express purpose of securing a convenient depot for the prosecution of this trade with the Indians in furs and peltries, and in 1800 one of the principal merchants and traders in St. Louis was Joseph Robidoux, father of the Joseph Robidoux, the founder of St. Joseph.

Joseph Robidoux was the only white person who ever visited Buchanan county. He traversed this part of Missouri in the year 1799, doubtless in the prosecution of his plans for Indian trading. He desired to select an advantageous outpost where he could profitably and conveniently trade with the Indian tribes, and in 1800 located near the confluence of the Black Snake creek with the Missouri river, and there carried on his business as a fur trader, up to the time of the removal of the Indian tribes. The exact site which he occupied was on the river just above the mouth of the Black Snake, on land which has since been swallowed up by the treacherous current of the Missouri. In the selection of this spot he evinced the same shrewdness and good judgment which usually characterized intelligent pioneers throughout the West. At this point the line of bluffs encroached close upon the bottom lands which

above and below border the Missouri. The bluff-line was frequently broken up into mound-shaped knobs, diversified in size and shape, and seemingly rounded off by the hand of man. Toward the south, King Hill, the most prominent of these bluffs, jutted out, and was familiar to the Indians as a landmark, and was used by them as a place of burial. The character of the adjacent territory made the location central, and Robidoux for a long period of years carried on a thrifty and friendly trade with his Indian neighbors.

For long years Robidoux was the only white inhabitant of the Platte Purchase. His log cabin was the only break that the hand of the white man had made in the wilderness. Later on, while the Indians were yet in the possession of the country, a few scattering white settlements were made in various parts of what is now Buchanan county, but the stay of these pioneers was so transient that we shall allude only to the settlements as they were formed after the Platte Purchase was opened up to the whites early in the year 1837. The settlers poured thickest in the western part of the county, in Platte, Jackson, Crawford, Bloomington, and Centre townships. Never was country settled so rapidly. In a short time each quarter section had its family. Clay county, perhaps, furnished the largest number of pioneers of any one section of the State. From this county came several like Judge Zachariah Everett, Absalom Munkrat, and James and Robert Gilmore, whose fathers had been the earliest pioneers of Clay county, settling in the neighborhood of Liberty as early as 1819 and 1820. Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, and the river counties of Missouri, all furnished a liberal quota, and in a few months the population was sufficiently large to demand the organization of Buchanan county. Farther on, in the histories of the townships, will be found the names of the early settlers of each locality.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY.

The territory now included in Buchanan county was first attached to Clinton county. Judge Everett, who was elected a member from the Platte Purchase of the Clinton county court, and served in that body till Buchanan county was organized, is still living in Platte township. Buchanan county was organized by Act of the Legislature, February 10th, 1839. The first county court was held in the neighborhood of Sparta, in the log house of Richard Hill, one of the county judges. The other two members of the court were William Harrington and Samuel Johnson. The first business transacted by this body was the appointment as county clerk, of William Fowler, a resident of the Black Snake Hills, or what is now better known as the city of St. Joseph. The first circuit court was held at the log house of Joseph Robidoux, Black Snake Hills, commencing July 15th, 1839. Hon. Austin A. King, afterward Governor of Missouri, presided as judge. P. H. Burnett, was circuit attorney; Edwin Toole, clerk. The sheriff was Samuel M. Gilmore. The grand jury was composed of Reuben R. Reynolds, John Henry, William Bedose, Elijah Martin, Abel Evans, George S. Nelson, Esackiel W. Smith, Job McNamee, Daniel Ferrell, Hugh Copeland, Hiram Rogers, James R. Barnett, Ezra Rose, Lloyd Beall, Hugh Glenn, John Martin and Jesse Curl. Reuben R. Reynolds acted as foreman. Gen. Andrew Hughes was the only resident attorney at that time.

Justice continued to be administered at the Black Snake Hills, till the location of the county seat on the 25th of May, 1840, at Old Sparta. Bloomington (now De Kalb) the oldest town in the county, laid out in September, 1837, desired that this honor should be conferred on her, but the Commissioners decided that another location was more central and preferable. Accordingly a quarter section of land was selected in Centre township, and the foundation laid for the town of Sparta. It was nine miles south of St. Joseph, and the site is now included in the farm of Samuel McCauley. A court-house was built of logs, and completed in the year 1843, at a cost of three hundred dollars. It still stands on Mr. McCauley's premises; and this first temple of justice for Buchanan county sadly suffers by the contrast with the present magnificent court-house at St. Joseph. Sparta at the height of its prosperity was only a small town containing three stores, two or three groceries, court-house and jail, and a population of twelve or fifteen families. The old town is no longer in existence. Its glory departed with the removal of the county-seat to St. Joseph, and its streets and lots, the scene of many an interesting incident in the days of the early history of the county, are now devoted by Mr. McCauley, the proprietor, to the production of useful agricultural staples.

The county-seat was removed to St. Joseph in 1846. The corner-stone of the present court-house was laid August 19th, 1873; and the building for its purposes is one of the finest and largest in the State. Its cost exceeded two hundred thousand dollars.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

The surface of Buchanan county is diversified, and offers favorable conditions for the prosecution of every kind of agriculture. The Missouri river forms the western boundary, and receives the Black Snake, Contrary, Lost, and other smaller creeks. The Platte river runs from north to south through the east central part of the county. The One-Hundred-and-Two river, Bee creek, and other smaller streams flow into the Platte on the west, and the Third Fork of Platte, Castle, and Malden creeks on the east. These streams are clear, springs are abundant, and good water can easily be obtained in any part of the county.

Among the noteworthy features of the county, is the number of lakes in the Missouri river bottoms. The principal of these is Contrary lake, five miles southwest of St. Joseph. It is a considerable body of water, semi-circular in shape, six miles long, and half a mile in width, abounding in perch, black-bass, and other kinds of fish. It is a place of frequent resort for the anglers and sportsmen of St. Joseph. Sugar lake contains also an abundance of fish. Horseshoe, Muskrat, Lost, Singleton, Prairie, and Mark's lakes are found in the townships lying on the Missouri river.

Wide, level bottoms border the Missouri. Marshes seldom exist, and nine-tenths of these bottom lands can be brought under cultivation. A line of bluffs bound the Missouri river bottoms, about 145 feet in height north of St. Joseph, and southward reaching higher elevations. King hill, two miles south of the city, is the most noted of these, and is 255 feet above the surrounding bottoms. There is a bluff about eight miles southwest of St. Joseph, 310 feet high, and one between three and four miles east of Winthrop 250 feet high. The summits of these hills are probably of about the same elevation as the general interior upland.

The eastern and northern parts of the county near and on the "divide" between the streams are mostly prairie land, or what was once prairie now covered by a growth of thickets. The country bordering on Platte river, and also the southern and western portions of the county, are heavily timbered. The timber on the Platte river and its tributaries is commonly oak, walnut, elm and hackberry; in the Missouri bottoms it is mostly elm, cottonwood and

hackberry; on the bluffs and uplands—oak, walnut, hickory, linn, ash, elm and maple.

The soil, both of bottom and upland, is rich and fertile, and fully justifies the expectations entertained of the productiveness of the Platte purchase before its settlement. The Platte country, indeed, is famed for its fertility; and the deep soil produces all kinds of grains, grasses, fruits and vegetables common to the latitude. The agricultural productions are corn, wheat, barley, hogs and live stock as the leading staples. Considerable amounts of hemp, grapes, apples, peaches and small fruits are also grown. Hemp was formerly a leading staple, and was extensively grown, some of the leading merchants of the county making no inconsiderable part of their fortunes from the hemp traffic. The wine and grape interests have grown in magnitude of late years. Several persons have large vineyards, and the manufacture of wine of an excellent quality has been engaged in. Concord and Catawba grapes are the varieties preferred.

The area of the county embraces 272,329 acres.

ST. JOSEPH.

INCIDENTS IN HER EARLY HISTORY.

The city of St. Joseph was so named in honor of its founder, Joseph Robidoux, whose settlement at the Black Snake hills as an Indian fur trader in the year 1803 has already been mentioned. Up to 1843 the place was known only as the Black Snake hills, and contained only two log houses and a small frame flouring mill which stood on Black Snake creek.

After the Platte purchase was opened for settlement, and a numerous population began rapidly to pour into the country, Robidoux allowed no settlers on his claim till he obtained his title to 100 acres of land, which came into his hands in May, 1843. In June, 1843, Robidoux laid off the town of St. Joseph, and a sale of the lots took place in the following September. Inside lots were sold at the uniform price of one hundred dollars, and corner-lots at \$150 each. The first store opened (with the exception of the one conducted by Robidoux for the purpose of trading with the Indians) was in May, 1843, by A. M. Saxton and Elias H. Perry. The kind of Robidoux's log block house was used as a store-room. There was, of course, neither boarding-house nor hotel in existence at that date, and Messrs. Saxton and Perry boarded themselves in a back room of the store, and at night slept on the counter. A post-office was established in 1843, and the first post-master was Fred. Smith. Postage on those days was twenty-five cents; and whether from this cause or the smallness of the population, the amount of mail matter which passed through Mr. Smith's hands was not burdensome, and his hat generally answered all the demands of a post-office. In 1843 the first frame dwelling and store-house was erected by Julius C. Robidoux. Samuel Hall acted as the first justice of the peace, and it is said that he, in common with Mr. Smith, made a convenience of his hat, and saved office rent by carrying it in his docket. The succeeding year, 1844, was marked by the opening of a school for small children by Mrs. Stone. In the fall of 1843 other merchants had begun mercantile business, and the town was soon solidly established. In 1845 the first church was erected chiefly through the agency of Rev. T. S. Reeves, Elder Patton, Bishop Marvin and Elder Rush. It was used as a Union church, was twenty by thirty feet in size, and stood half a block east of the site of the Pacific hotel.

The population rapidly increased, and in 1846 St. Joseph was a town of eight hundred inhabitants, with business houses carrying on an extensive and profitable trade, and with every evidence of prosperity. Space will not allow us to mention all the citizens of St. Joseph in the days of its early history, but among the principal residents and business men in and adjoining the town, from 1844 to 1846, were Joseph Robidoux, William P. Richardson, Fred Smith, Simon Kemper, R. W. Donnell, Dr. D. Benton, John Corby, Joseph C. Hull, A. M. Saxton, Elias Perry, Rev. T. S. Reeves, Isadore Poulin, Dr. Daniel Keedy, Israel Landis, Henry M. Vories, B. C. Powell, Jonathan Levy, I. and J. Curd, John D. Richardson, William H. Edgar, Robert I. Boyd, Ben. F. Loan, James R. Gardenhire, J. M. Bassett, Lawrence Archer, W. P. Hall, Thomas Mills, Solomon L. Leonard, William Ridenbaugh, Michael Miller, Elisha Glavin, Elisha Sollers, Joseph Davis, J. G. Kame, James Higley and C. Carby.

Capital invested in land in those days brought productive returns. In 1844 A. M. Saxton pre-empted, by actual settlement and the building of a log cabin, a quarter section of land a mile and a half east of the Patee house, and paid for the same \$1.25 per acre. This tract of land with improvements a year or two ago was estimated to be worth \$32,000—a fact which shows at a glance the immense increase which has taken place in the value of real estate in the neighborhood of St. Joseph. In 1846, John Corby, for two hundred dollars, bought eighty acres of land, now Corby's grove; the 320 acres now included in Patee's addition to St. Joseph was purchased the same year for \$2,400 by John Patee.

As the town increased in population changes were made in the form of government to suit the demands of the times. St. Joseph was incorporated as a village, February 26, 1845, with Joseph Robidoux as president of the first board of trustees. A city charter was obtained February 22, 1851, which at various times has since been amended. Thomas Mills was the first mayor. The first daily mail was received in 1857. The population was in 1845, 600; 1850, 3,460; 1860, 8,332; 1870, 19,625, and at the present time is estimated to be fully 30,000. The assessed value of property in the city was in 1845, \$40,000; 1850, \$583,016; 1855, \$847,860; 1860, \$4,355,693; 1865, \$3,167,200, and in 1870, \$11,283,435.

The rapid growth of the place and the facilities it offered for the transaction of business attracted all classes of residents, and the town was at one time infested by an organized band of thieves who carried on their lawless transactions to the dread of all good citizens. We are indebted to the St. Joseph Herald for an account of the following incidents:

"On one occasion Joseph Robidoux had \$600 in silver stolen from his cabin, and suspicion pointed strongly toward certain well known parties as the thieves, but no positive evidence could be found against them. Three of them were, however, arrested by a Vigilance Committee, and with their arms pinned, were conducted a short distance out of town, for the purpose, as they were informed, of being shot. The exact place to which they were taken was a beautiful mound-shaped hill just one block east of the St. Joseph brewery. On the way out the Committee freely discussed, in presence of the prisoners, the plan of execution, and finally decided to separate them, and shoot one at a time. On arriving at the place designated, one prisoner was left in charge of two of the Committee on the south side of the hill, and the others were conducted around the hill out of sight. In the course of a few minutes shots were heard by those on the south side, as they were busily preparing their prisoner for his doom, and in a few minutes more another volley, when the vigilantes informed this last prisoner that the others had already met their deserved fate

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and his time had come; if he had anything to say now was the time. As the execution was about being carried into effect, it was finally proposed to the prisoner that as he was the least guilty one of the three, in order to recover the money, the Committee would spare his life if he would make a clean confession, and show where the stolen money could be found. This unexpected mercy the doomed man gladly accepted, believing as he did that his two comrades had already been shot, and he eagerly unbuttoned himself to the pretended executioners, implicating not only the other two men already prisoners, but a number of others who had not been suspected of complicity in this and other crimes. He also conducted the party to the spot where Mr. Robidoux's money had been buried, and the full amount was recovered. All the three then, including the two that were supposed to have been shot, were notified that they could have one hour to get out of this town, which pressing invitation they lost no time in accepting.

For a few years, from 1847 to 1851, St. Joseph became again the headquarters of an organized band of thieves, that bore an attempt at officers and law-abiding citizens to convict, notwithstanding there were many of them well known, and their robberies almost of weekly occurrence. The gang was headed by one Tom Farris, an old man of pleasant address, and rather prepossessing appearance. He stole everything he wanted, and many things that he did not want, but he could never be detected. John Corby was the first packer in St. Joe, and he was associated very much by "Old Tom Farris," as he was called, stealing hams from his smoke-house for the use of his family and his friends. When Mr. Corby proposed to him one day that if he would take shoulders, he would supply him with all he and his family could use, but he didn't like to have him steal his hams. Old Farris replied that he would rather have his hams stolen than have his family starve.

During the great rush for California in the days of '49, Tom Farris was in his glory, and many a victim to his artful tricks was compelled to pay tribute to the old rogue. In the spring of 1849 the facilities for crossing the Missouri river were limited to a few unwieldy flat-boats, and the waters being high at that season of the year, made the crossing of the thousands of gold seekers very slow and tedious. The hills and valleys round about St. Joseph were filled with the camps of the sturdy adventurers, and with their tents and camp-fires, their white-covered wagons, the scene resembled more the camp of a grand army than anything else. It lacked only the blue coat and brass buttons, with the bugle's startling reveille or its musical retreat to complete the picture. Many were compelled to wait for weeks their turn to undergo the trying ordeal of crossing their trains. Tom Farris was busy then. A train of wagons, or perhaps a single outfit would move up to the river bank preparatory to crossing in the morning, unhitch their cattle, drop their chains in a line as is the usual custom, and camp for the night, eagerly looking for the morrow, when they would go on their way rejoicing. Lo, and behold! when the morning came they missed their chains, and were unable to hitch up. The hind wheel of a wagon was gone. Their turn had come to cross after waiting a week or two, and they could not move. No chains could be found in St. Joseph; the supply was exhausted. To have a new wheel made was next to impossible. What a strain! There is always a way out of the greatest difficulties. Some ministering angel seems to work out our salvation when we think we are lost. Tom Farris was far from being an angel then; we don't know what he may be now. However, he appeared as one to these men. A kind, portly, prepossessing old man, as he was, he would walk down with his cane in his hand, along the river bank, and coming to the camp of the unfortunate would say, "Well, boys, you're off to-day; good luck to you." The conversation would at once turn upon the lost chains and the missing wheel. Old Tom would extend his sympathy. "That is too bad! too bad! Some mischievous boys, they are always up to some mischief." Tom would engage himself to hunt the wheel up, of course they would pay him well. The old man would hunt diligently for a short time, and finally discover a stout rope fastened to a stake in the water's edge, draw it in, and with it the missing wheel, to the joy of the owners. Of course he would get his ten or twenty dollars. "Now boys, I guess I can help you out on a few chains, though I don't like to let them go, for there are none to be had in these parts, and they are worth money," would come from his generous lips. They would pay any price. Farris had a few barrels of chains salted down. When he would steal the new chains at night he would put salt on them to sell them, back to the owners in the morning.

Many stores and dwellings were robbed from time to time by Farris and his gang, but notwithstanding the leaders were well known they always managed to evade the law, and it was impossible to fasten any evidence upon them.

"One fine May day the good people of St. Joe became so tired of their stealing that old Tom and his first lieutenant, a handsome and well-dressed man, was conducted to the top of Prospect hill, and there received the kind admonitions of the law-hike to the tune of 100 each, with a pass through the lines good for thirty minutes. This broke up their thieving gang, and St. Joseph had a breathing spell."

THE ST. JOSEPH OF TO-DAY.

St. Joseph is now recognized as the most wealthy and prosperous city of the Missouri valley, and recent statistics concede to her the position of the commercial metropolis of the Northwest. In the wholesale trade her pre-eminence is unquestionable. Below is found the amount of business transacted by wholesale houses during the year 1876, the figures being compiled from reliable sources:

Groceries.....	\$6,250,000	Crackers.....	\$200,000
Dry Goods.....	5,653,500	Stoves, Tinware, etc.....	180,000
Books and Stationery.....	1,200,000	Hardware and Jewellery.....	35,000
Drugs and Paints.....	1,200,000	Leather and Shoe Findings.....	150,000
Liquors.....	1,200,000	Printing.....	130,000
Lumber.....	1,400,000	Saddlery.....	130,000
Iron and Hardware.....	1,200,000	Books and Stationery.....	150,000
Flour and Feed.....	600,000	Toys.....	100,000
Clothing.....	700,000	Vinyls, etc.....	55,000
Furniture.....	500,000	Feather Dusters.....	55,000
Tobacco and Cigars.....	400,000	Handkerchiefs.....	45,000
Hats, Caps and Millinery Goods.....	300,000	Seeds.....	45,000
Agricultural Implements.....	200,000	Guns and Sporting Material.....	45,000
Hides, Tallow and Fur.....	200,000		
Carpets.....	250,000	Grand total, 1876.....	25,185,000
Wool.....	250,000	Grand total, 1875.....	19,880,000
Harness and Saddles.....	200,000		
Quinnware.....	200,000		
Laundry and Fruit.....	200,000		
		Increase for 1876.....	5,305,000

Tributary to St. Joseph is a large tract of country comprising sixteen counties in northwest Missouri, eight counties in southwestern Iowa, nine counties in Nebraska, and eight in Kansas, the merchants of which come to St. Joseph as their natural business center. In addition, the leading wholesale houses sell goods in Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, the Indian Territory, and in some branches even in California.

The city does a large pack-packing business yearly, and statistics show that only four cities in the whole country surpass St. Joseph as a packing point. The vast corn and stock country in the centre of which St. Joseph is situated, will doubtless require that the facilities of the city, ample as they now are, as a packing point be increased from year to year.

MANUFACTORIES.

The manufacturing establishments of St. Joseph at the beginning of the year 1877 were as follows: Nine wagon factories, three axle factories, three boiler works, two foundries, three machine shops, three cider manufactories, five breweries, two cracker bakeries, one starch factory, one glue factory, two box factories, one soap factory, one woolen factory, eight harness manufactories, one tannery, two planing mills, one flour mill, one whip factory, one iron fence and nail works, nine cooperages, two boot and shoe manufactories, three printing and book-making houses, two furniture factories, one plow factory, four pork houses, seventeen cigar manufactories, one pottery and terra cotta works, one broom factory, two collar factories, one shirt factory, two soda-water manufactories, eight brick yards, four candy manufactories, one jewelry manufactory and six carriage factories, making a grand total of 122 manufacturing establishments, employing 2,100 skilled artisans, whose wages average from \$12 to \$20 per week, and whose annual products amount to \$12,000,000.

There are five newspapers now published in St. Joseph, four daily and one weekly, beside the weekly editions issued by the dailies.

The *Gazette* was established in 1845 by Lucien Eastin, and in 1849 passed into the hands of William Ridenbaugh. In 1854 it was purchased by P. S. Plouts and J. H. R. Cundiff, who in 1857 began the publication of the *Daily Gazette*, the first daily newspaper ever published in St. Joseph. Messrs. Plouts and Cundiff controlled the paper till June, 1891, at which time the war of the rebellion had begun. The *Gazette*, then as now, Democratic in politics, was outspoken in its sentiments, and toward the close of the year 1861 was obliged to suspend publication. In 1868 the paper was re-established by its former proprietors, who continued the numbers regularly from the suspension of the paper in 1861. In October, 1873, the paper was sold for \$25,000. It is now owned by the *Gazette Company*. It is Democratic in politics, has a large circulation, is vigorously managed, and has been of great service in building up the interests of St. Joseph.

The *St. Joseph Daily Herald*. The first number of the *Morning Herald* was issued on the 12th of February, 1862, by Wilkinson and McKibbin. It was then printed on a sheet about half the size of the present paper, and was "Independent Union," or Republican in politics. The following April, the name of the firm publishing the paper was changed to C. B. Wilkinson & Co. At that time John L. Bittinger became associated with Col. Wilkinson as one of the editors and proprietors, and under this management the paper was published for thirteen years, or until the fall of 1875. The paper was always successful, and from the day of its first publication held a high rank among the journals of the West, and wielded a powerful influence in moulding public sentiment. It is decidedly Republican in sentiment, and outside of St. Louis, no Republican journal in the State has been so influential in shaping the policy of its party. It is progressive and liberal, has labored heartily for the advancement of the prospects of St. Joseph, and is worthy of the generous support it receives. Since September, 1876, it has been owned and published by Messrs. Tracy & Co. The gentlemen now engaged on it, Frank M. Tracy, Robert Tracy, Daniel W. Wilder, and George Thompson were similarly engaged on the *St. Joseph Free Democrat* in 1860, the first Republican paper ever issued in St. Joseph.

The *St. Joseph Daily Chronicle* is an evening paper, established by the Chronicle Printing Company in 1876, with M. B. Chapman as editor, and D. A. Sutton chief business manager. It is Democratic in politics, and as an evening paper supplies a want long felt in St. Joseph. It is handsomely printed, well edited, and has grown rapidly in public favor.

The *Westliche Volksblatt* is published daily and weekly, and ranks among the best German papers of the State. It was established a weekly in 1858, by Leopold Mader, and the publication of the daily was begun in 1865, by Col. Heirrichs. It is now published by H. Brunsing & Co., with Hermann W. Kaster as editor. It is a well printed, six column paper, ably edited, and is the organ of the Germans of St. Joseph, its influence extending, however, to other classes in the population. It is Republican in politics, and by its handsome appearance, has made it a general favorite.

Among the other papers once published in St. Joseph, but now defunct, were the *Adventure*, the *Cycle*, a Whig paper published from 1850 till 1855; the *Journal*, established as a weekly in 1856, and changed to a daily in 1858, Whig and Union in politics, first owned by Miller & Cady, and published for a period during the war by John P. Prince, and suspended publication in the hands of Gov. R. M. Stewart; the *Free Democrat*, an anti-slavery paper, established in 1859 by Tracy & Co.; the *Evening News*, the first evening daily paper published in St. Joseph, Independent in politics, established by Asa K. Miller in 1862, and ran four months; the *Daily and Weekly Tribune*, a Republican paper, established by D. A. Able, and after a year merged into the *Herald*; the *Daily and Weekly Union*, a Republican paper, established by R. D. Mitchell in 1864, and afterward passed successively into the hands of Eugene Ayer & Co., the Union Printing Company, and Hinman, Marsh & Co.; the *Daily Commercial*, established in 1866 by Jule, Robidoux & Co.; and in the opinion of the leading actors and actresses of the day, one of the best amusement papers ever published in the United States; the *Indefatigable*, a Democratic journal, started by Mill & Co. in 1869, and published for two years; the *Weekly Reflector*, Democratic, started in 1872 by James A. Millan, and lived two years; the *Evening Commercial*, a daily Democratic paper, established by C. C. Scott in 1872, and published for two years; the *Weekly Standard*, an Independent journal in politics, started in 1872 by R. K. Calkins.

RAILROADS.

St. Joseph has always been an important point in the line of communication joining the East with the Far West. Years ago, in the days of its early history, it was the rendezvous for the emigrants on their way to set out on the plains. Outfits were procured and trains made up at St. Joseph, and crossing the Missouri to Kansas the emigrants bade farewell to civilization and struck out on their adventurous, and oftentimes perilous, journey to the mountains or to California. The usual route of emigration to California after the discovery of gold in that State was to cross the Missouri at St. Joseph. In the spring of 1849 and 1850 thousands of emigrants congregated here on their way to the Pacific Coast. The same may be said of the emigrants, years later, to Pike's Peak and the Mountains. The hills and valleys about the city were taken up with the camps of these adventurers, and the scene resembled at times the encampment of some vast army.

The same advantages, which made St. Joseph such an important point in the days of overland emigration by wagon trains, the city still possesses as a railroad centre. The first railroad constructed was the Hannibal and St. Joseph. Chiefly through the efforts of the late Gov. Robert M. Stewart, member of the State Senate, James Craig and James B. Gardenhire representatives from Buchanan county in the Legislature, a bill was passed in 1846 incorporating the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad Company. Nothing was done for several years toward building the road, and in 1852 Hon. Willard P. Hall, the chairman of the committee on Public Lands, procured the passage of a bill through both branches of Congress, giving six hundred thousand acres of land to the company to assist in its construction. In 1859 the road was opened to the public, and the event was enthusiastically celebrated at St. Joseph. The opening of the road marked a new era in the history of the city, and five years the population increased four-fold. The Hannibal and St. Joseph was the first railroad to cross the State. Its main line extends 200 miles from St. Joseph to Hannibal on the Mississippi river, and there connects with trunk lines to the East. A branch runs also from St. Joseph to Atchison, Kansas.

The Kansas city, St. Joseph, and Council Bluffs railroad has its general offices, machine shops, car shops, etc., located at St. Joseph, and has been an important factor in the promotion of the growth of the city. The main line extends southward sixty-eight miles to Kansas city, and northward 129 miles through Council Bluffs, connecting with the Union Pacific road. There is also a branch from Amazonia, a point on the main line ten miles north of St. Joseph, to Hopkins, Missouri, where it connects with the Chicago and North Western road. The Kansas city, St. Joseph, and Council Bluffs road, intersecting as it does the main trunk lines east and west, gives close connection and direct communication with all portions of the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico.

The St. Louis, Kansas city, and Northern railway has a branch, seventy-two miles in length, extending from St. Joseph to Lexington Junction, and there connecting with the main line. This route affords direct and quick communication with St. Louis, and all the points reached by the main line of the St. Louis, Kansas city and Northern road and its branches.

The St. Joseph and Denver city railroad crosses the Missouri river and extends 2.7 miles to Hastings, Nebraska, where connection is made for California and the Far West. The construction of this road opened up, and made tributary to St. Joseph, some of the finest sections of Northern Kansas and Southern Nebraska.

Beside these roads, connection is made by branches with the roads diverging from Atchison, Kansas, and other points, so that St. Joseph possesses ample railroad facilities with the prospect that these will be largely increased at no distant day. The city also has two lines of street railroads—the Citizens' Street Railway and the Union Street Railway Company, which have four miles and a half of road in operation, and have done an important work in improving the suburban portions of the city.

The Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific railroad runs through the southwestern part of the county, affording communication with Atchison, Leavenworth and Chicago.

An important item in the railroad facilities of St. Joseph is the railroad bridge crossing the Missouri. It was constructed by the city, and is also intended for wagons and foot passengers. The bridge is pronounced the best on the river, and its cost was in the neighborhood of a million of dollars. The sub-structure consists of six piers of solid masonry, resting on the bed-rock about fifty feet below the surface of the water. The superstructure is of iron, the length, 1,345 feet. The bridge was located July 14th, 1871, and its completion celebrated May 31st, 1873.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND INSTITUTIONS.

In the number of handsome public buildings St. Joseph surpasses many cities having a population three times as large. One of the chief ornaments of the city is the new Court House, one of the finest public buildings in the State. It was commenced in August, 1873, and completed in August, 1876, at a cost of \$173,000. P. F. Meagher architect, and John De Clue, builder. It is the most stately and imposing structure of the city, and its lofty dome can be seen at the distance of many miles. The building is massive in style, and admirably proportioned, Corinthian porticoes adorn the three fronts, the graceful stone columns supporting the elaborate capitals contrasting finely with the otherwise plain character of the building. It has a depth of 295 feet, and fronts 235 feet on July, Fourth and Fifth streets. The roof is of slate and tin, and the guttering of copper. The basement story, which is twelve feet high in the clear, and extends under the entire building, is of rubble masonry faced with ashlar; the super-structure is of brick trimmed with cut-stone. The first story, in which most of the public offices are located, is eight feet high in the clear; and the second story, in which is the Circuit Court-room, twenty-five feet. In point of convenience, as regards light, and arrangement of rooms, it is unexcelled by any building. From the first floor to the lantern of the dome, the height is 145 feet.

The City Hall is a spacious and elegant three-story structure, occupying the area of Market Square. Its dimensions are 70 by 140 feet. The altitude from the pavement to the eaves, is 55 feet; and from the base to the top of the steeple, 92 feet. The lower floor is used as a city market house. The second floor is occupied by the Board of Trade room, the offices of the city officials, lawyers and others. The third floor is one immense public hall, fitted up with gallery and ante-room. The upper floors are approached by four spacious and easy stairways at either end of the building, affording safe and convenient ingress and egress at all times, and under all circumstances. The principal material employed in its construction is brick. In view of its fine appearance, convenience of internal arrangements and other advantages, it is one of the most economical public structures in the State. Its cost was in the neighborhood of fifty thousand dollars.

The State Lunatic Asylum No. 2, stands a half mile east of the city limits. In March, 1872, the Legislature passed a bill appropriating means for the erection of a new lunatic asylum, and a Board of Commissioners was appointed to determine its location. The Commissioners in May following, visited the city and vicinity, and selected the site in the southwestern part of the State, and after a spirited contest for the location with Liberty, Independence, and Kansas city, St. Joseph was selected as the most appropriate site. In June, 1873, a tract of 120 acres was purchased for \$28,800; the contract was let in September, and the building completed in January, 1874. Of the original structure, exclusive of subsequent additions, the main building fronts west with a depth of 58 feet, and is 150 feet long. The entire building is four stories high, with a basement. The basement and first story are 13 feet high in the clear. The fourth story is Mansard, and presents 48 elegant gothic dormer windows. The top of the roof of the structure has an altitude of 59 feet from the range work. On the front of the main building, the clock and bell tower rises to a height of 115 feet from the ground. The smoke tower in the rear of the same section, is 100 feet high. The walls are faced with stock bricks and trimmed with Milwaukee pressed brick. The arches are trimmed with spring, ring and keystone of Warrensburg sandstone. Over 3,000,000 bricks are contained in the walls of the original building, and these were manufactured on the asylum grounds. The building was opened for the reception of patients about the 1st of November, 1874, an up to January 1st, 1877, 329 patients had been treated. The patients in the asylum at the beginning of the year 1877, were 163.

St. Joseph is in the possession of one of the handsomest Opera Houses in the country. Eastern cities have larger and more spacious theatres, but for beauty, adaptation and finish, no structure in the West surpasses Toole's Opera House. It was erected in 1872 by Milton Toole, one of the wealthy merchants of the city, and first opened to the public on the occasion of Monday, December 9th, 1872, on which occasion Maggie Mitchell appeared as the leading star in the popular play of "Fanchon, the Cricket." The auditorium is sixty-one by one hundred and twenty feet in dimensions, the stage spacious, and supplied with all the modern appliances for the production of theatrical representations. The drop curtain, a beautiful specimen of artistic work, is one of the features of the building. The walls are faced with stock bricks and trimmed with Milwaukee pressed brick. The arches are trimmed with spring, ring and keystone of Warrensburg sandstone. Over 3,000,000 bricks are contained in the walls of the original building, and these were manufactured on the asylum grounds. The building was opened for the reception of patients about the 1st of November, 1874, an up to January 1st, 1877, 329 patients had been treated. The patients in the asylum at the beginning of the year 1877, were 163.

Among the other institutions of St. Joseph, are the Convent of the Sacred Heart, a fine building occupying the most prominent position in the city; St. Joseph College, erected in 1858, and opened as a educational institution in 1867, under the care of the Christian Brothers; and the St. Joseph Female College, established during the year 1876, which occupies the large Patee building, formerly the Patee House, erected at a cost of \$120,000, and one of the most prominent structures in the city. This institution has been founded under the most favorable auspices and with the amplest facilities for instruction. There are other private educational institutions, among them the Young Ladies' Institute, an old established seminary, and the Roman Catholic parochial schools. The city owns nine substantial public school buildings, with an estimated value of buildings and furniture included, exclusive of the grounds, of nearly \$90,000. Eight additional public schools are maintained in rented buildings.

St. Joseph possesses numerous church edifices, some of which are costly and elegant structures. These places of worship are: The Jewish Synagogue, a chaste and elegant gothic brick structure; the St. Joseph Cathedral, (Roman Catholic), a massive building in the Corinthian order of architecture, erected at a cost of \$75,000; the German (Catholic) Church of the Immaculate Conception, St. Patrick's Church, St. Roch's Church, within a short distance of the city, occupied by a French congregation, and the Church of St. John, Baptist, a mortuary chapel, also outside of the city limits, erected to the memory of John Corby; the Fifth Street Methodist Episcopal Church; South St. Joseph, or Second Methodist Episcopal Church; Francis Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South; Tenth Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South; Grand Methodist Episcopal Church; Elderberry Church, a handsome structure completed in 1857 at a cost, including parsonage, of \$50,000; Westminster Presbyterian Church; North Presbyterian Church; the Congregational Church; the First Baptist Church; the Second Baptist Church; the Mission Band Baptist Church; the Freewill Baptist Church; owning no house of worship; the Methodist Episcopal Church (colored); the Christian Church, erected in 1875; Christ Church, Protestant Episcopal, destroyed by fire December 24th, 1876, another building to be erected; the German Lutheran Church; the First German Evangelical Church, the oldest brick church edifice now standing in the city, erected by the Presbyterians in 1847; the Second German Evangelical Church; and a Society called the Re-organized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, erected in 1876 in section 16, township 36 N., range 10 E., St. Joseph has three blue lodges of Masons, the oldest of which is St. Joseph Lodge, No. 78, chartered October 10th, 1845; two Royal Arch Chapters, the

HISTORY OF BUCHANAN COUNTY, MISSOURI.

oldest was chartered in May, 1849; St. Joseph Council, No. 9, and a commandery (St. Joseph, No. 29) of Knight Templars. Howard Chapter, No. 10, Eastern Star, is also in active operation. The Odd Fellows are numerous. There are four lodges (of which King Hill Lodge, No. 19, is the oldest) and two encampments. There are two lodges of Pythias; seven different organizations of Good Templars; two of the United Ancient Order of Druids; and one of the Independent Order of Foresters. Among the other fraternal and benevolent organizations are the B'nai B'rith Joseph Lodge, an Israelite society; the Caledonian Society, organized in 1860 by the Scotch American residents of St. Joseph; St. Patrick's Benevolent Association; St. Joseph Catholic Union; the German Turn Verein, the Harmonia, the Schutzen Section of the Turn Verein, the German Schule Verein, the Unterstutzungs Gesellschaft, the Reform Verein, Bismark Band, the Dramatic Section of the Turn Verein, the Familien Schutz Verein, the Gruetli Verein, composed of a Swiss membership; and the Typographical Union. The Ladies' Union Benevolent Association have under their care a Home for the Friendless. There are three distinct Medical Associations, two local and one embracing physicians in the northwest part of the state. There are four public libraries—the law library at the court-house, two circulating libraries, and a library association connected with the Francis street Methodist Church.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

MENTION has been made in a sketch of the early history of St. Joseph of the first settler of Washington township, Joseph Robidoux. He was born in St. Louis, Missouri, then a mere trading post. He first engaged in trading with Indians at the Straits of Mackinac, and along the shores of Lake Huron; returned to St. Louis and commenced trading with the Indians along the Missouri river. He extended this trade to New Mexico—the Indians on the plains, and to the roving bands in the mountains and along the Upper Missouri, and established himself at the site of the present city of St. Joseph, then known only as the Black Snake hills. His death occurred in the year 1868, at the age of eighty-five.

There is abundant evidence of the occupation of the country by the Indians from an early date. It is related that on the northeast slope of King hill, in this township, was fought a hotly-contested battle, between the two then powerful tribes, the Black Snake and Flat Head Indians, with their allies. The Black Snakes gained a strong position on the summit of King hill, and from there successfully repulsed the repeated assaults of their enemies, the Flat Heads charging up the steep northwest slope of the hill. A full account of this battle has often been related by Mr. Robidoux, and many flint arrow heads and spear heads have been picked up by the curious hunters after relics and many Indian bones strewn the ground some thirty years ago.

Among the settlers of Washington township, outside of the limits of the city of St. Joseph, were John H. Whitehead and William Whitehead, two brothers, originally from Virginia, but who came from Clay to Buchanan county, and in 1837 made settlements about two miles southeast of St. Joseph. Henry W. Hanson came from Kentucky in 1837, and located on the edge of the bluffs about a mile south of St. Joseph. In the bottom near Contrary creek, in the southwest part of Washington township, James Cochran, Fred Wayne, and several families by the name of Devorse, were early settlers. William Pough, a Kentuckian, came from Clinton county in 1837, and made a settlement on the southeast corner of section 33, township 57, range 35.

Chaiborne Palmer arrived from Ray county in 1838, and settled at the foot of the bluffs south of St. Joseph. He was one of the oldest residents of the township. He came from Kentucky in 1840, and settled where he now lives on section 32, township 57, range 35. Thomas, John and Elisha Sollers were pioneers, and settled north of St. Joseph. James Higley was another old resident, and his death has only occurred within a few years.

Stephen Parker made a settlement about a mile northeast of St. Joseph, and Isaac and Michael Miller located on lands adjoining Parker. James G. Kames, from Monroe county, West Virginia, arrived in the county in the fall of 1839, and settled north of St. Joseph, on section 34, township 58, range 35. Shortly afterward he moved to the place where his widow and family still reside. Alexander Fudge, from Clay county, Virginia, arrived from Clay county in the spring of 1839, and located on section 34, township 58, range 35, where he lived till his death in January, 1875. Sabert Sollers in the fall of 1839 settled on section 27 of the same Congressional township. Leroy Kaufman, the same year, settled the place now owned by Wallace Asher. Benjamin Williams was one of the early settlers on the bluffs south of St. Joseph. Groshon, Logan, James and Edward Maxwell made early settlements in the same neighborhood where they now reside near the northern line of the county. On the One Hundred And Two river a man, named Waymire, at an early day bought a mill which occupied the site of the present Cory's mill. John H. Cox was an early settler on the bluffs south of St. Joseph, near the One Hundred And Two river and the bluffs were the McCorkles, but that vicinity was sparsely settled. A man, named Ewing, lived near Saxton station. William Sally and a man named Keaton were other early residents. Jo. Davis was an early settler north of St. Joseph.

Washington township contains a considerable German settlement. The first German settler was Nicholas Oenzelberger, who came from Wayne county, Ohio, in 1847, and located where he now lives in the northeastern part of the township, between One Hundred And Two creek and the bluffs. An extensive German settlement has since been made, mostly by Germans of Swiss origin. The singular name of One Hundred And Two river was given to that stream, according to common belief, by the men employed in making the United States survey from the circumstance that it is just 102 miles in length.

MARION TOWNSHIP.

THIS township occupies the northeastern part of Buchanan county, and was not so thickly settled at an early date as the southern portions of the county. In the neighborhood of Easton, Calvin James was one of the earliest settlers. He came to the county in 1837. Benjamin Cornelius from Clay county came in the fall of 1837, and settled on section 15, of township 57, range 34. When Cornelius settled here his nearest neighbor was four miles distant, and was Peter Boyer, the father of Jacob and Henry Boyer, who lived on Third fork where he settled the place now owned by Isaac Gibson. James Blakely came from Kentucky in 1838, and settled on section 22, township 57, range 34. Thomas McCown arrived the same year, and settled south of Blakely. About a mile and a half west of Third fork the Markers from Ohio settled at an early date. Caleb Haenmeyer, from Ohio, one of the earliest German settlers of the township, came about the same time with the Markers. The Clarkes are among the oldest residents. The family was originally from Tennessee, and came to the county in 1838. Jesse Clark and Barnes Clark are still living in the township. John Ledgerwood came from Clay county in 1838, or 1839, and made a settlement on the east side of Platte river. Nicholas and James Roberts, from Clay county, in the spring of 1838 settled in the township, the former on land now owned by E. V. Kelly, and the latter on the place now occupied by Monroe McCorkle. James McCorkle, in the spring of 1838, settled in the forks of Platte and Third fork on land now in the ownership of Jesse A. Clark. McCorkle was from Clay county. George Rapp was an early settler of the township. The first settler of the school section (16) of township 57, range 34, was an unnamed man, by the name of Dougherty, who afterward left the country. Joseph Kessler, living near Easton, was one of the first Germans to locate in the township. Jacob Wambelst, John Wunderlich and Wolfgang Beck were also among the earliest German citizens. John Slaybaugh came from Pennsylvania, of Pennsylvania German descent, and was an old citizen of the county outside of St. Joseph, and is a good business point. It is on the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad, twelve miles east of St. Joseph. In 1848 Mr. E. McCarty purchased 400 acres of land where now stands the town of Easton. In 1854 Mr. McCarty opened a store on his farm, and the same season laid out the town of Easton. The second store was established in 1855, by Abalom Kernes with a man named Lambark as his partner. The latter disposed of his interest to Kernes, George Berry, Isaac Gibson and C. Benight, and the business was carried on in that manner till the breaking out of the war. Dr. I. S. Talbot was the first physician to locate in the place. The growth of the town has been steady, and it now contains four general stores, and the usual complement of other business houses. There are two churches, an Old School Presbyterian and a Union

Church in which Cumberland Presbyterians and Christians worship. Easton Lodge, No. 101, of Masons, meets here, and also a lodge of Odd Fellows.

TREMONT TOWNSHIP.

THE Rock House prairie in the southern part of this township was so named from the following circumstance: While the Indians still occupied the country, the route traveled between Clay county and the Indian agency near Agency Ford, after crossing the Platte river, led across this prairie. On a rocky point of ground, near the present residence of Ransom Ridge, the Indians had erected a huge pile of stones shaped as much as possible in the form of a house. This was known as the Rock House. It stood directly on the road traveled from Agency Ford to Liberty and attracted the attention of every white man who traversed that region, and from this fact at an early date the prairie came to be called the Rock House prairie.

One of the first settlers of Tremont township was Ishmael Davis, from Kentucky, but a native of Maryland, who in the spring of 1837 settled on the edge of the Rock House prairie. His son, E. T. Davis, now a resident of St. Joseph, born here in April, 1837, was in all probability the first white child ever born in Buchanan county after its occupancy by the white settlers. Ambrose D. McDaniel came from Kentucky in 1837, and also settled on the Rock House prairie. He was killed at his home in the township during the war of the rebellion. George Jeffers, a native of East Tennessee, came from Clay county to Buchanan in 1838, and located on section 24, township 56, range 34. He pre-empted his claim, broke twenty acres of ground, planted with corn and fenced it, and moved in with his family the February of the following year. He pre-empted the place now owned by his son, James M. Jeffers. James Gibson in 1838 settled on the east side of the Platte about a mile from Dixon's mill. He died there. Harold Miller came with Gibson and settled in the same neighborhood with him, joining him on the east. He was from Virginia. Robert Erwin in 1838 settled about a mile northeast of Dixon's mill. He was born in Tennessee, but came to this county from Clay. He was a prominent citizen of the county and a member at one time of the county court. He emigrated to Oregon, and died there in 1874.

Samuel D. Gilmore, the son of James Gilmore, who lived in the Platte Purchase long before its settlement by the whites as blacksmith to the Sac and Iowa Indians, opened up a farm on the east side of Platte river, half a mile above Dixon's mill. Samuel D. Gilmore was the first sheriff of Buchanan county. He emigrated to Oregon and died there in 1874. Stephen Bedford, the first justice of the peace elected in his part of the county. He was from Kentucky, but had lived in Clinton county before coming to Buchanan. Daniel McCray, a Tennesseean, settled on the waters of the Malden in 1838. John Shultz, who was also from Tennessee, arrived in the spring of 1838, and made a settlement on the east side of Platte river, near the southern part of the township. Fraxen is a post-office and station on this road, distant fifteen miles from St. Joseph. It is growing in importance as a point for business.

AGENCY TOWNSHIP.

WHERE the town of Agency now stands there was formerly a ford, extensively used in the days of the early settlement of the country, called Agency ford. The name originated from the fact that the Platte river was forded at this point in coming from the Indian agency established west of the Platte to Liberty, in Clay county, in those days the nearest point of trade.

The first settler of Agency township, after the Platte Purchase was open for white settlers, was Robert Gilmore, who came from Clay county in the early part of the year 1837, and settled on the northwest corner of section 29, township 56, range 34, or where now stands the town of Agency. Robert Gilmore was a native of East Tennessee, and had come to Missouri at an early date, and settled near Liberty, and was one of the earliest pioneers of Clay county. He was the father of James J. Gilmore, now living at Agency, and the brother of James Gilmore, who lived in the Platte country as a blacksmith to the Sac and Iowa Indians long before the removal of the Indians from the country and the arrival of the white settlers. Robert Gilmore established a ferry at Agency ford which was much used when the country first settled up. In the year 1844 the Platte bottom was flooded, and the Gilmore's ran their ferry a mile and a half from one shore to the other at this time. James J. Reynolds came from Clay county in 1838, and is still living near Agency where he first settled. Samuel Potette settled near Agency, where James J. Gilmore now lives. He was originally from Tennessee, but came to Buchanan from Clay county. He reached the country in the summer of 1837, a few months after the Gilmore's. William Meeswell, also from Clay county, came in the spring of 1837. He was an unmarried man at the time, but pre-empted a claim on the river below Agency, which he subsequently traded off, but lived near Agency till his death in 1874. Jacob Reese, a native of North Carolina, reached the county about the year 1838, and settled where he now lives on Pigeon creek. The farm which Reese occupies is the oldest farm in the county, and was opened up at least ten or twelve years before the settlement of the country by the whites. While the Indians still lived in the country James Gilmore lived on it, who has been previously mentioned as living in the Indian country and serving as blacksmith to the Sacs and Iowas. Benjamin Moore and Littleberry Estes were also early settlers on Pigeon creek. Moore was from Virginia and is still living in the place where he first settled. He was the first post-master in that part of the county, and kept the post-office, which was called Walnut Hill, at his house. Estes was from Clay county and has been dead a number of years.

John McGanhey came from Indiana in the summer of 1839 and settled on his present farm, a mile and a half south of Agency. Bright Martin was the first settler of the farm of M. W. Farris, on section 31. He came from Clay county. John Lamb settled on the Platte, just north of the Jackson county line, in 1839. He came from Clay county; lived on the Platte for a number of years, and then started for California and died on the route. The first mill on Platte river, in Buchanan county, was Dixon's mill, which stood about two miles and a half above Agency following the windings of the river. It was built by Benjamin and James Dixon and James Gilmore, and was constructed in 1838. The old mill stood there for many years, doing good service for the settlers, till it was finally washed away by a flood in the Platte. The Dixoons were one of the early settlers of this township. Richard Fulton was one of the early settlers of this township.

THE town of AGENCY has grown up within the last few years to be one of the most important places in the county. It is where the old Agency ford was situated, and where the St. Louis, Kansas City and Northern railway now crosses Platte river. William B. Smith was one of the early settlers, a saw mill and a large flouring mill, and a Union Church, a substantial frame structure built in the year 1869, and owned by four denominations—the Cumberland Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists and Christians.

At the survey of the country by the United States government the surveyors reported Platte river as a navigable stream, and it was so marked on the government maps.

CENTRE TOWNSHIP.

In the northeast corner of Centre township (section 1, township 56, range 35) formerly existed the old Indian agency. Its situation was on a prairie which still bears the name of Agency prairie. Among the first settlers of Centre township was Richard Hill, who in the fall of 1837 settled in the immediate vicinity of the subsequent town of Sparta. Hill was one of the leading men of the early residents of the county—he was a member of the first county court which held its sessions at his house. Robert Duncan, William Hunter and John Richey, in 1839, made settlements east of Sparta. A man named Coates also lived at an early date in

that part of the township. Jesse Reames, Zachariah Waller, Elijah Smith and John Hill were among the early residents west and southwest of Sparta. Along the line of bluffs in the western part of the township, John Martin settled in 1837, seven miles south of St. Joseph. When he first came to that locality his log house was the first south of Robidoux's in following the line of the bluffs. Thomas Moore made a settlement a mile south of Martin's, also in 1837. In the southeast part of the township William Farris settled in 1840, on the farm where his son, N. B. Farris, now lives. He came from Indiana, as did also George Raney, one of the old settlers of section 36—still living. Martin Hirsch is an old settler living in the same neighborhood. Coates settled in 1840 the place where George Hirsch now resides. The first settler to improve section 35 were Joseph Mathers and his brother-in-law, Ouan Miller, who settled there in 1842. On section 34 Samuel McCauley was the first to begin any improvements which he did in the fall of 1841. On section 23, a man named Spratt had a farm at an early day, and a man by the name of Pell a wagon shop. John Copeland, who settled on section 22, was one of the early residents of the county. He was from North Carolina, and lived to the extreme age of 105 years, his death occurring in 1873.

Samuel McCauley, one of the leading men of the township, settled here in 1840. He was from Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, started without money, and has become one of the wealthiest citizens of the county. The Ganns are also early settlers of this township. William C. Connett, father of William C. Squire S. and Horace T. Connett, settled in March, 1839, where the residence of the sons now is. He came from Lexington, Kentucky. The Connetts, to some extent, have been engaged in pork packing since 1836. Steam was brought into requisition in 1870, the works have been enlarged from that date to the present, and a heavy business is now carried on.

The old county-seat of Buchanan county—Sparta—stood on the present farm of Samuel McCauley. The county-seat was located there in 1840, and six years afterward removed to St. Joseph. It was only a small town when at the zenith of its prosperity, and after the removal of the seat of justice it died a natural death, and the site has since been abandoned. The plat of the town was recorded in December, 1840, and the place was doubtless intended by those interested in it, to become a populous and important town. Its streets were named Harrison, Main, Walnut, Cherry, Cedar, Chestnut, Market, Vine, Olive, Prime and Hazel, and ample provision made for its prosperous growth, but it is now numbered with the things of the past. Richard Fulton was the Sparta post-master.

The old Sparta graveyard was started in 1842, and the first person to be buried in it was a man named Whittle, a noted character, who followed the occupation of racing horses. Whittle was killed by a man by the name of Gillet, under the following circumstances: A race had come off on Bee creek between horses belonging to Gillet and Whittle, in which Whittle's horse was beaten. Whittle, who was a man of vindictive passions, became so enraged that he went out and shot the tail of Gillet's horse, and bringing it in, shook it Gillet's face. Gillet drew a pistol and shot him dead. Whittle was a large and powerful man. His grave was the first dug in the Sparta graveyard.

WAYNE TOWNSHIP.

CONTRARY LAKE lies partly in this township. Contrary creek flows into it, and was so named from the fact that the general course of the stream is opposite, or contrary, to that of the Missouri river. One of the earliest settlers of Wayne township was Peter Price, who, in the year 1837, settled in the northeast corner of the township where Thomas Leasure now lives. Stephen Hawley, near and after Price, and settled within half a mile of him. William Jones, in 1841 or 1842, settled where his sons, Levi and Frank Jones, now live. Daniel Devorse, a native of Ohio, but who came to Missouri from Indiana, was an early settler of the township. Henson Devorse became a resident of the northeast corner of the township in 1846, and for three years previously had lived in Washington township. The township is mainly bottom land, and contained fewer early settlers than many of the other townships of the county.

There are two stations on the Kansas City, St. Joseph and Council Bluffs railroad in this township. LAKE station is four miles from St. Joseph, and has a glue factory. HALE is in the southeast corner of the township. A post-office is established here, known as EVELINE.

LAKE TOWNSHIP.

LAKE is the smallest township in the county, and is included mostly within a bend of the Missouri river. It receives its name from the number of lakes found within its limits. There is no town or post-office in the township; and the population is smaller than that of any of the other townships of the county. Fifty-seven years ago, in the year 1841, the first settlers came to this township from Bartholomew county, Indiana. William McHammer settled in this township in the spring of 1841. Henry Sibert, father of the wife of Isaac L. Peck, arrived in the fall of the same year. With Sibert, came Nathaniel Wilson, father of John Wilson; William McCallister, James McKinney; John, James and Thomas H. McCallister, and John Wilson. Eli Galbert came about the same time. All these settlers came from the neighborhood of Columbus, Bartholomew county, Indiana. At the time of the overflow of 1844 the country was flooded, and the population moved out and sought safety on the bluffs. The only time of late years that the bottom has been submerged was in April, 1867, when a considerable portion of the bottom was overtopped, doing however but little damage in comparison with the wide-spread destruction of 1844. Isaac L. Peck, one of the leading residents, is a native of New York, and has been living in the township since 1851.

RUSH TOWNSHIP.

THE bottom lands of this township were formerly covered with a dense growth of rushes—a circumstance which gave the name to the township and to the town of Rushville. This rush bottom was widely known, the rushes in the winter time affording good sustenance to cattle. Stock would fatten on them. Farmers from Clay and other near counties were accustomed to drive their cattle to the "rush bottom" and there keep them through the winter. It is said that they were sometimes driven here from even as far as Ray county. The town of Rushville was laid off on the Missouri river, in the northern part of this township in March, 1842, one of the oldest towns in the county.

Perman Henderson was the original proprietor of the town of RUSHVILLE. That town was laid off in 1848 under the name of Columbus. It is built at the foot of the bluffs, six miles from Atchison and sixteen from St. Joseph. Rushville is one of the oldest places in the county, and at an early date was an important point. Its growth in population has been steady, and it now has two dry goods stores, two drug stores, one grocery store, two churches, belonging to the Methodist, Episcopal, Church, South and the Christian denominations; a large brick grain warehouse, and a steam flouring and saw mill. It has ample railroad facilities, three roads passing the town—the Kansas city, St. Joseph, and Council Bluffs road, and the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific railroad which here leaves the bottom and extends inland.

WINTHROP is a small settlement opposite Atchison, Kansas. It has a store, and is an important railroad junction. A railroad bridge crosses the Missouri river at this point, by which a grocery store is made east of the river connect with those diverging from Atchison. It is also designed for foot and wagon traffic, and is taken advantage of by a considerable number of residents in Platte and Buchanan counties who trade in Atchison.

BLOOMINGTON TOWNSHIP.

THIS township was thickly settled at an early date. It contains one of the best bodies of land in the county, and has always had a numerous and wealthy population. The town of DE KALB (formerly called Bloomington) was laid out in the year of the first settlement of the county. The plat was filed for record, September 8th, 1837. James G. Finch was the original proprietor. The town lies on the divide between the eastern Sugar and Contrary creeks. In 1840 it was an important point, the largest town in the county, had two stores, blacksmith shop, tailor shop, and two groceries. One of the early institutions of the town was a coffee-house, on the west side of the public square, which the proprietor had established with the benevolent intention of providing refreshment for the thirsty and hungry. Its sign read conspicuously

HISTORY OF BUCHANAN COUNTY, MISSOURI.

"KAUHPHY HOUSE." On the establishment of a post-office, some time after 1850, the name of the town was changed to De Kalb by reason of there being another Bloomington in the state. When the town was laid out it was thought that it might become the county-seat, and a public square was reserved with that idea in view. Another site, however, was selected for the seat of justice, the public square remains to this day without a court-house, and De Kalb was thus saved countless lawyers' wrangles and the turmoil attendant upon the administration of justice. The town now has a population of about three hundred. It contains two dry goods stores, two groceries, two blacksmith shops, a drug store, hotel, grist mill, and saw mill. The Baptist denomination and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, have houses of worship.

Among the early settlers of the township was A. C. Patton. He came from Jackson county in the spring of 1837, and settled three miles west of De Kalb on land now owned by Absalom Smith; Matthew Geer, and a man by the name of Ballou came about the same time, and settled in the same neighborhood. Stephen Field in 1836 settled in the northwest corner of the township. Humphrey Finch, a year or two afterward, settled on the present farm of Thomas Steele. Isaac Van Hoosier, from Tennessee, reached the county in 1837, and was one of the earliest settlers of the northwest part of this township. Michael Gabbard, a Kentuckian, settled in 1838 where he now lives on Contrary creek. Eli Judah, father of Samuel and Levi J. Judah, settled in the eastern part of the township in 1839. John Bell, a native of Warren county, Kentucky, but who came to Buchanan from Jackson county, was one of the earliest pioneers, and settled on section 29, where William C. Moore now resides. Bell planted one of the first orchards in the county, which, in 1841, according to the recollection of A. A. Whittington, was thrifty and composed of good sized trees. Isaac Gardner was one of the earliest settlers of the township, and was from Kentucky. Judge Cornelius Roberts, now living north of De Kalb, was one of the early pioneers, as were also Benjamin Sampson, from Indiana; John Underwood, from Kentucky; and Howland Jones. John T. Martin built a mill on Sugar creek at a very early day, and afterward put in operation a steam mill at De Kalb.

CRAWFORD TOWNSHIP.

CRAWFORD township in wealth and improvements takes a leading rank. It has had a numerous population from the first settlement of the Platte Purchase; and as soon as the country was opened up, settlers began to crowd to this part of the county, to take up the choice lands. By the year 1838 or 1839, all the land in the township was taken up, and each quarter section had its claimant. It was one of the most thickly settled portions of the county, and in 1842 probably had as large a population as at present.

It is impossible to mention all who became residents of the township at an early date, but we give the names of several: A Tennessean, by the name of James Webb, was one of the earliest pioneers. He arrived early in the year 1837. He entered the township from the direction of Platteburg, and cut down the paw-paws before him along the ridges and divides, in order to make a road for his team. He settled on section 29. Jacob Cogdel, a native of Tennessee, but who came from Clay county to Buchanan, settled north of Halleck in the fall of 1837. Gideon L. Brown, also a Tennessean by birth, the same fall settled two miles southwest of Halleck. James O. Toole, now living in St. Joseph, settled three miles southwest of Halleck. He came from Jackson county. Harvey Jones, from North Carolina, settled near Halleck; and Henry Williams, who was from Kentucky, south of that town. Bartlett Curle arrived in 1837, and located on section 19, where A. A. Whittington now resides. James Curle came the same year, and settled on the same section.

Among the other early settlers were William Fowler, Ezekiel Stewart, O. M. Spencer, Sanford Feland, Jonathan Cox, Dr. McDonnell, Hiram Rogers, Samuel Whitaker, Widows Henderson, Roswell Wilkerson, James McQuire, Joel Pennick, John Allen, John Rosser, William Harrington, Jesse B. Thompson, and a man named Donnell. All these settled in the township between the fall of 1837 and that of 1838. A man named Aldridge came at an early date, and located on section 30. When the country was surveyed, Aldridge's improvement fell on the claim of Turpin Thomas, and Aldridge left the country about 1840. Judge Thomas A. Brown arrived in the county in March, 1838; was one of the early judges of the county-court, and is now living in Centre township. M. C. Ferrell came to Crawford township from Jackson county, Tennessee, in 1840, and with perhaps one exception is now the oldest settler living in the township. Edward Davidson and Wallace Davidson became residents of the township in the spring of 1838.

West of Halleck, where Milton Murphy now lives, Joel Pennick opened a store, one of the first stores ever kept in Buchanan county. The first post-office established in the county was in the neighborhood of Halleck, before that town had any existence.

HALLECK formerly altogether, as it is yet frequently, was known by the name of TAOS. The place had an earlier name still. At this point a man by the name of Fanchier had established a blacksmith shop, and a man named

Ray kept in his house whisky in a barrel, which it was his custom to dispense to the thirsty on application. Ray and his barrel of whisky became quite noted throughout the country, and from this circumstance the place was called Barrel creek. The barrel of whisky has disappeared, but the creek still flows on, and by the old settlers is still sometimes called Barrel creek. When the war with Mexico broke out the citizens of Crawford township were patriotic. Several enlisted in Col. Price's regiment, some as soldiers and some as teamsters. They accompanied the expedition to New Mexico, and wintered at Taos, an old Mexican town of that region. On their return they bestowed the name of Taos on Barrel creek, and the place was universally so called till in recent years. The post-office established here was first called Birning, but sometime during the war of the rebellion the name was changed to Halleck, a designation which has grown in popularity, and is becoming more general. The town now contains one store, a Union church in which several different denominations worship, a lodge of Odd Fellows, and a Masonic lodge and Chapter. A very fine flouring mill is located here, the flour produced from which holds the first rank in the market.

WALLACE, a station on the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific railroad, was laid off in 1871, under the name of JEANETTE. It has several business houses, and has the prospect of a substantial growth before it. The town is built on the farm originally improved by William Fowler.

JACKSON TOWNSHIP.

PLEASANT YATES was the earliest pioneer of the northern part of the township. He settled in the vicinity of where he now lives. He came in the spring of 1837, and when he arrived there, no white settlers were living within a distance of several miles. In the northern part of this township Isaac Farris was also one of the earliest settlers. He was a native of Lincoln county, Kentucky, removed to Indiana, and in the year 1837 emigrated from that State to Missouri. He came directly to the Platte Purchase, and in the fall of the year settled on section 6, township 55, range 34. The father of Isaac Farris, John-son Farris, had previously been one of the pioneers of Kentucky, and is said to have built the first house ever erected in Warrensburg, in that State. The father of George W. Ray, who is now one of the leading residents of the township, settled at an early date about half way between Matney's mill and Arnoldville. Several families by the name of Holland made settlements at an early period to the south of Matney's mill, and their descendants formed a considerable part of the early population in that locality. Levi Jackson, from Kentucky, located on Platte river, above Matney's mill, and was one of the early settlers of the township. Judge Blevins was one of the pioneers. He came in 1837, or 1838, and settled on the river bluff, south of Matney's mill.

At Matney's mill one of the first mills was built that ever stood on Platte river. Harrison Whitson began building it about the year 1838, and five years afterward sold it to John Bretz. Bretz was interested in the mill till 1857, when William M. Matney became the sole proprietor. Whitson came from Clinton to Buchanan county, afterward went to Texas, and died at Dover, Missouri. William M. Matney came to the county in 1845, and is now one of the leading citizens of the township, and still the owner of the mill. A post-office was established at this mill in 1848, and John Bretz was the first post-master. A post-office still exists in the vicinity of the mill, and is known as PLATTE RIVER.

ARNOLDVILLE is a town and post-office in the southwestern part of the township. It has two stores. It was so named from the fact that Eli Arnold was one of the first settlers of the town. Platte river forms the eastern boundary of the township. Jackson is the only one of the twelve townships of the county not touched by a railroad.

PLATTE TOWNSHIP.

JUDGE WESTON J. EVERETT, in February, 1837, arrived in the township, and made a settlement on section 13, township 55, range 34. He was from Clay county. He had visited the Platte Purchase in the fall of 1836, and then explored the country with the view of selecting a location where he might settle when the purchase should be opened up to pioneers. His brother-in-law, Absalom Munkres, accompanied him. As soon as the transfer of the country from the Indians to the United States government was completed, Everett and Munkres set out for the Platte Purchase. They were anxious to secure the locations they had previously selected, and arrived in February, 1837, in the midst of a severe spell of cold weather, with six inches of snow on the ground. Absalom Munkres was a Tennessean, but came to Buchanan from Clay county. He settled on section 18, of township 55, range 33. Everett bought a cabin from Absalom Eyward, who had moved over into the Platte Purchase as soon as it was reported that the government contemplated buying the country from the Indians, but was run off by the United States soldiers. Munkres built his own cabin out in the woods. Everett and Munkres had started from Clay county together, but the latter fell in company with a family

in Clinton county, and was detained about a week so that Everett arrived first.

James Williams arrived later in the year 1837, and located where Judge John Rohan now lives. Williams went to California, and died there. Jackson Erickson, from Tennessee, but who came to Buchanan from Ray county, reached the township toward the close of the year 1837, and located on section 7, township 55, range 33. Old "Uncle Jack Huntsucker," as he was familiarly called, settled on Castle creek, in 1837. He came from Tennessee. Peter Bledsoe, in the latter part of 1837, settled in the northern part of the township. He is still living. He was from Tennessee. William Cobb was one of the early settlers, and is still living in the township. Jesse Fletcher, in the latter part of 1837, began an improvement in the northwest part of the township; he was from Tennessee; moved to the Grand river country in Caldwell county, and died there. James Fiddler came into the township in the spring of 1838, and that year raised a crop on the place where the widow of his son, James, now lives; he was from Tennessee, and died on the place he settled. Adjoining Fiddler Morris Pile settled also in the year 1838, and is still living there.

John G. Elliott, who is now living in Platte township, says that his father, John Elliott, came from Kentucky in 1833 or 1834, and settled in the Platte Purchase next to the Clinton county line. The country was of course at that date in the possession of the Indians, and at the time the white settlers were driven away by the soldiers. Elliott moved over the line into Clinton county, but still continued to carry on the farm in the Purchase. John Commins, the father of Eli Commins, was also one of the earliest settlers of the county, and lived in Platte township years before the country was bought from the Indians.

John Fletcher, a son of Jesse Fletcher whose name has been previously mentioned, came with his brother-in-law, Asa Rockhold, in March or April, 1837. Fletcher settled the place where the widow of Richard Deacon now lives, and Rockhold where Mrs. Head now lives. The only settler between the Fletcher and Rockhold places and Matney's Mill was John Tobin, who located on the hill half a mile northeast of the mill. He was from Kentucky, and arrived in 1838. The same year John Dryden settled about a mile north of the Platte county line. Thompson Burnham made a settlement in the southeast corner of the township in 1837. Charles Kennard came at the same time with John Tobin and Morris Pile, whose brother-in-law he was, and settled on section 13, township 55, range 34, and is still living there. James Anderson was an early settler in the northwest part of the township. Dr. Samuel Trower, from Kentucky, reached the county in 1838, settled on section 12, township 55, range 34, and was the first physician to practice medicine in Platte township. He practiced his profession for many years, and died in Kansas. Nelson Witt arrived early in the spring of 1838, and settled where his son, Jackson Witt now lives. He was from Kentucky. Daniel Clark came in 1838, and his children are still living in the vicinity of where their father settled. John Berryhill settled in the forks of Malden in the early part of 1838. James Courtney bought the place which Jackson Erickson originally settled, on the latter's death, and lived in the township till his death in November, 1876, at the age of seventy-seven—the oldest man in the township when he died.

During the years 1839 and 1840 the population of Platte township increased rapidly, and at the Presidential election, 1840, when Harrison and Van Buren were the opposing candidates, 230 votes were cast in Platte township—a greater number than has ever been cast at any one election since. The first justice of the peace in Platte township was Nelson Witt. He was a prominent citizen and for three terms member of the county court. The first meeting-house in the township was built by the Calvinistic Baptists, on land belonging to Judge Nelson Witt, and within a hundred yards of his dwelling. It was known as the "Witt Meeting-house." It was a large structure, built of hewn logs, with eight corners, and held a considerable number of people. The first minister who ever preached in this church, and indeed in Platte township, was John Evans. He was a Calvinistic Baptist from Kentucky. The Missionary Baptists subsequently erected a frame meeting-house, called "Hebron," which is still standing in a ruined condition, but is not used for church purposes. A Methodist Meeting-house in the northern part of the township, called "Jones' Chapel," was burned down during the war. David Munkres, son of Absalom Munkres, was the first white child born in Platte township; his birth occurred in April 1837. The first school-house in the township stood on the Rockhold place, less than a quarter of a mile from the house of Asa Rockhold, on a little branch which flows into Castle creek. It was known as the Rockhold school-house, and the first school in it was taught by a man named Jackman. There is no town or post-office in Platte township, the inhabitants getting their mail from the post-offices of the adjoining townships and counties. The only post-office ever in the township was kept for about two years during the late war, at the house of Henry Wellmore who was post-master.