

HISTORY OF CLAY COUNTY, MISSOURI.

THE Mississippi River was discovered as early as 1539, by Ferdinand De Soto, the then Spanish Governor of Cuba, who explored the country as far West as the Rocky Mountains. But the right of discovery was not asserted until Robert Cavalier de La Salle, in 1682, took formal possession of the Territory in the name of Louis XIV., King of France, and for him named the new Province, Louisiana.

That part of the Province West of the Mississippi was, in 1762, ceded to Spain, but was in 1800 retroceded by Spain to France, and was in 1803 sold by France to the United States for the sum of fifteen million dollars. This entire purchase, extending from what is now the South Boundary of Arkansas north to the British Possessions, and from the Mississippi to the Pacific Ocean, contained more than a million square miles, was, in 1804, by Congress organized into the "District of Louisiana," in 1805, into the "Territory of Louisiana," and in 1812 into the "Territory of Missouri."

The Territory of Missouri was, by Congress, in 1820, reduced to its present North and South limits, and to extend West to a latitudinal line through the mouth of the Kansas River, and August 10, 1821, was admitted as a State, the twenty-fourth star on the American flag. March 28, 1837, the "Platte Purchase" became a part of the State of Missouri.

Under the Territorial organization of 1812, all west of the Mississippi and north of the Missouri formed St. Charles County; from which, in 1816, that part of Howard, north of the Missouri, was taken, and from Howard, in 1820, Ray County was formed, including all the region west of Grand River to the then State line, and from the Missouri River to the Iowa line.

January 2, 1822, Clay County was formed from Ray, and extended from the Missouri River north to the Iowa line, with its present East and West limits. The Legislative act creating the county appointed John Hutchins, Henry Estes, Enos Vaughan, Wyatt Adkins, and John W. C. Gilmore, Commissioners to select a "permanent seat of government" for the county, and provided that, until such selection, courts should be held at the house of John Owens. In their report to the Circuit Court July 1, 1822, as a reason for their selection, the Commissioners say: "That, in pursuance of the object of their appointment, they assembled together on the 20th of March last, to examine the different donations offered to the county, and continued in session three days examining the sites for a town, that after mature deliberation and minute investigation the tract of land owned by John Owens and Charles McGee was thought best adapted for the object for which it was designed, as being more central for the population, surrounded with good and permanent springs, lying sufficiently elevated to drain off all superfluous water, in a healthy and pure part of the county, and entirely beyond the influence of lakes, ponds or stagnant waters of any kind; they, therefore, unanimously agreed to accept of the proposition of Mr. Owens and Mr. McGee of a donation of twenty-five acres each for the use of the county."

January 2, 1833, the county was reduced to its present limits, and is bounded east by Ray, north by Clinton, west by Platte and south by the Missouri River separating it from Jackson County. The county was divided into only two municipal townships—Gallatin and Fishing River—the town of Liberty being in Gallatin until June 2, 1825, when Liberty Township was created. Platte was created June 4, 1827; Washington August 9, 1830; and Kearney September 3, 1832. That part of the county north of its present limits was, in 1831, created into Lafayette Township, and then on the west side for civil and military purposes, comprising most of what is now Platte County was, in 1837 and 1838, divided into Pettis, Carroll, Far West and Preston Townships.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

With this statistical review of the geographical and Governmental divisions and connections of the inheritance before us, it becomes pertinent and interesting to inquire whose heirs are we? First, it was the favorite hunting ground of the Indian. His mighty rivers bore onward his canoe, and its great forces nurtured and sustained animals to supply his wants for food and clothing, and his tastes for the chase. "The delicate wild flower, with scented breath, and look so like a smile in groves immeasurably old," wooed his simple heart to love. We might the restive hunter the Indian he served to protect such a home and such a land from the encroachments of the white man. The Sacs and Foxes, numbering about two hundred, were the last of the tribes to control this Territory, and it was during their occupancy, in 1809, that the Osages and Iowas fought a considerable battle near the present site of Liberty.

The French cherished the belief that westward of the Mississippi existed rich mines of gold and silver, and from this time to this day, as early as 1795, organized a prospecting party that came here, and as far West as the mouth of the Kansas—where they were kindly welcomed by the Indians.

The next venture, as far West as Clay, was by M. De Bourgmont, the Commandant of Fort Orleans, a French post near the mouth of Grand River, in 1774, who came to effect peace between Indian tribes at war with each other, and met them at what was afterward Fort Osage—now Sibley. The first French traders and trappers, the Chouteaus and Robidoux, came as far up the river as Clay in 1799, and in that year a few French were in camp trapping at Randolph Bluff.

But the first Americans here were Lewis and Clark, in 1804, on their celebrated exploring expedition. Major John Dougherty, late of this county, passed through, in 1807, on his trip to the Rocky Mountains for the Fur Company. The permanent settlements began, as soon as the Government surveys were made, in 1819, and in that year Charles McGee, George Taylor, John Braley, Zachariah Averett, Benjamin Hensley, John Wilson, Travis Finley, Cornelius Gilliam, Edward Fyburne, William and Thomas Campbell, and, perhaps, others settled in the vicinity of Liberty—in the encroachment began in earnest, and settlements were made on Fishing River, Big Shoal, and throughout the southern portion of the county; and in 1822 Alexander Hardwick, Samuel Crowley, Gilbert and Archibald McIlvain settled in the northeast, and Humphrey Smith, Benjamin Cornelius, Wm. Livingston, George Gage, Abhi Smith, Archibald and George Wills and Joseph Castled in the northwest part of the county; from that time settlements became general. In the pages of this sketch will be mentioned the names of many persons in connection with facts that will identify them as early settlers. From the others, not so mentioned, who have done a great deal to build up the interests of the county we can name David Ashby, John and Robert Ault, John and William Averett, Thomas and Garrett Arnold, John and Jonathan Adkins, Pleasant Adkins, John Akers, Humphrey Best, Cyrus Brashears, John Barton, David Boggess, John Berry, William and Stephen Baxter, Walker and Truman Bivens, Hugh and Joseph Brown, John and Joseph Broadhurst, Leonard Brasfield, Ambrose Brockman, Ed. Linn Breckenridge, Abijah, Robert H. and Van Brooks, John Boggess, Charles H. Berryman, Jonathan Cameron, John and Nathan Culp, Abram Croydsale, Robert and Wm. Collins, John Collier, Cyrus Curtis, John Capps, Nathan Chappin, Daniel and John Carey, Henry Coleman, Clayton and Jacob W. Creek, Wm. J. O'rum, Joseph and Thomas Courtney, George Claybrook, Uriel Cave, Edward and Richard Clark, James Chanslor, Simon Cockrell, Weekly Dale, Robert and James Dunlap, Matthew, William and Alex. B. Duncan, Rice B. Davenport, Archibald L. Darby, John Ewing, John Eton, Ambrose Embree, Robert Elliott, Ely, Peter, William, John, Littleberry and Bartley Estes, Simeon and Hiram Fugitt, Joseph and Young Fowler, Alex. Fudge, Martin Fisher, George B. Finley, Hiram Ferri, Samuel Gilmore, Beni, Samuel, Wm. Jefferson, Wm. James, Henry, Jacob and John Gragg, Jacob and David Grooner, Abram, Amos, Isaac and Joseph Groom, John and Joseph D. Gash, Andrew and Richard Gartin, Robert Gilliam, Joshua R. Gocher, James and Samuel G. T. Greenfield, J. Conway Garner, Gov. Henry Hill, James and Samuel Hyatt, Philip A. Hardwick, Simon and Samuel Hudson, Anthony Harsel, Nigire Hutchison, Daniel Hughes, Thomas Hixon, Collet Haynes, John Howdeshell, John and Moses Hutchins, Ezekiel Hittman, Robert, Jefferson and James Harris, Peter Holtzclaw, Robert Henderson, Woodford and Richard Jesse, Jonathan Jones, Wm. Linn Jones, John Lewis, John Linville, John Lakey, George B. Linnefelter, Abram, John and George Lincoln, Wm. Laidlow, J. and Reuben Long, Leonard W. Ligon, Alvan Lighthurn, Richard, Redmond and Wm. Muncks, Arch. and John McKelvie, David McKelvie, David McKee, Andrew Means, Ed. Munday, John M., David and Joel P. Moore, John S. Major, James Marsh, Henry Matles, Samuel Monroe, Joseph H. and John McWilliams, Caleb Magill, Wm. and John S. Mallet, Wm. and Thomas M. Morton, Thomas Morrison, Nicholas Mosby, Nicholas Michalucine, William Nall, Clement Neely,

Robert Officer, Nicholas Owens, Winfrey E. Price, John, Adam and Henry Pence, Beni, and Edward Pickett, James Potet, Nathaniel Powell, Daniel Patton, George M. Pryor, Ashby, Ira and John K. Peters, Beni, and Thomas Parish, Joseph and Baruth Prather, Lee Rollins, Samuel Ringo, Beni, W. Hezekiel, and Alfred M. Riley, Jonathan and Allen U. Reed, James and David Roberts, Andrew Russell, Wm. Rice, Wm. David S. Rogers, Littleberry Sublette, Thomas Slaughter, Sabert Solters, James Sullivan, Beni, Soper, Mason Summers, John Shouse, Jesse Stollings, Daniel Stout, John and Wm. Throp, Wm., Elisha and Joseph Todd, Ebenezer Tins, John Talbot, Eleven Thatcher, Wm. Thomson, Ed. C. Tillman, Handle and Solomon Vance, Samuel H., Peter, Jenkins and James J. Vassar, John, Francis and Peter Weitsmuth, Tarleton Whitlock, Peter and Archibald Woods, James Williams, George Wallis, Fountain Waller, Beni, and John M. Wilkinson, Charles Warren, Robert and John Walker, Samuel Wymore, James and Waltus L. Watkins, James B. and David Wills, Abijah Withers, John Wilson, Henry and Caleb Weedon and Charles Younger. Such are some of the names entitled to record in the annals of the county; there are many others equally as deserving who would be mentioned if their names were known to the writer, and we can only content ourselves with the list in the thought that every such record must of necessity be imperfect.

The pioneers of Clay County, principally from Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Maryland were possessed of intelligence, industry and integrity. Children of revolutionary heroes, they were fearless, determined and self-reliant, brought here to give the spirit of adventure so much as through an earnest and manly purpose to give their toil and lives to the development of this rich country, so full of bright promises for the future. Many obstacles had to be overcome, many privations and inconveniences endured. Their advent found them in a vast wilderness of savage beasts and hostile Indians, with no shelter but the camp and tent. For years their homes were only rude log cabins, daubed with mud, covered with bark or boards, secured to the roof by heavy poles laid lengthwise, with dirt floors, and chimneys made of wood—stone not being used. The farm seldom consisted of more than ten or fifteen acres of corn, one of hemp or flax, and a little tobacco, although every one owned his quarter-section. Bread was made of grain beat in mortars. "Beers, deer and bees abounded, and bear meat, venison, honey, beeswax and skins were staple supplies, and constituted the chief exchanges for "store goods," there being but little money in circulation. Every immigrant had his "flint-lock" and dog; and hunting, trapping and fishing were occupations. The people were social to excess. "Shooting matches," "log rollings," "quintings," and frolics of every kind were in vogue, and every body would go, and all were welcome. Some would drink whisky, some dance, some play at games, and every one would have a good time. The revolutionary successes were still remembered as of recent occurrence, and perpetuated a patriotic fever and military spirit. The militia maintained a strict organization, and held frequent "muster," which were the places usually assigned for the adjustment of personal differences. There existed a continuous dread of Indians, and to provide against any sudden attack, four block-houses were built in 1820—two near Fishing River; one, one and a half miles southeast and the other five miles southwest from Liberty. A skirmish that year in the eastern part of the county, in which seven Indians were killed, seemed to demand this precaution. The first house built in 1821, near Liberty, by Samuel Tilford, and ground only corn. Its barnstones were made of "lost rocks." The first flour-mill was built by Humphrey Smith, in 1822, fifteen miles northwest from Liberty, and was run by the waters of Smith's Fork, of Platte. For thirty consecutive years this mill was operated by the Smiths, and did most of the milling for the entire county—the Platte country and the Northwest generally. Such being a New Yorker and an avowed and outspoken anti-slavery man caused his mill to be known far and near, by the early settlers, as "Yankee Smith's." A few steps south of the Baptist Church, in Liberty, was built a log school-house in 1821, the first in the county; and the first school was taught there by Sebron G. Sued. The first grasshopper visitation was in the fall of 1821, the second in 1866, and the last in 1874, continuing to spring of 1875.

The United States Land Office was at Franklin, in Howard County, and the price per acre was \$2—part cash and part on time. In 1822 the price was reduced to \$1.25 per acre, and the Land Office was removed to Lexington. As early as 1823 Liberty had become a thrifty frontier town, and a considerable out-fitting and trading point—in that year a Government Trail was opened from Liberty, via Smith's Mills, to Council Bluffs, where United States troops were stationed. The soldiers then changed the place of getting their mails from Franklin to Liberty—an express was run upon the new route, and traders, Government contractors and mountaineers made it their thoroughfare for transporting by pack-mules. Fort Leavenworth was located in 1827, and the year following the military road from Liberty was established and opened. This was a great advantage to Liberty, and the county generally, as the Platte country for more than ten years afterward belonged to the Indians, and was wholly unsettled. Fort supplies were obtained from this county, and contracts were let to our trading citizens—so that every thing for sale brought a large price, and contractors grew opulent. The United States Arsenal, three miles south from Liberty, was completed in 1839, by David M. Bevin, of this county, contractor.

The first great overflow of the Missouri River was in 1826, and the next in 1844. The first steamboats this far up the river were the Government steamers, *Expedition* and *R. M. Johnson*, in 1819, on the celebrated Yellowstone Expedition.

COURTS AND ELECTIONS.

April, 1821, the first County Court of Ray County met at Bluffton, the then county-seat; the judges being John Thornton, Elisha Camron and Isaac Martin; Wm. L. Smith, Clerk, and John Harris, Sheriff. Two days after approving the act forming Clay County, that is to say, on January 4, 1822, Alexander McNair, Governor, appointed and commissioned John Thornton, Elisha Camron and James Gilmore Judges of the Clay County Court, who, on February 11, 1822, convened and held their first court at the house of John Owens—now owned by Peter B. Grant—on the northwest corner of Water and Mill Streets, in Liberty. At that term Wm. L. Smith was Clerk, John Harris, Sheriff, and Jesse Gilliam was appointed Clerk, and required to enter into a bond of \$1,000.

March 4, 1822, the first Circuit Court was held at the house of John Owens—David Todd, Judge, Wm. L. Smith, Clerk, Hamilton R. Gamble, Circuit Attorney, and John Harris, Sheriff. The court was in session two days, and had for Grand Jurors: Richard Linville, Foreman; Zachariah McGee, Beni. Sampson, Robert Y. Fowler, Zachariah Averett, Howard Averett, John Ritchie, James Munkres, John Evans, Thomas Estes, Andrew Robertson, Richard Hill, David Magill, Walker McClelland, Robert Ponge, Samuel Tilford, David Gragg, Wm. Allen, Elisha Hall and James Williams. There was no Trial Jury until the July term, in the case of "The State vs. Jonathan Chaney." Indictment for Affray. The Jurors were: Abijah Means, Richard Chaney, Abraham Creek, John Bartleson, James Gladden, Francis T. Slaughter, Enos Vaughn, Andrew Copelin, John Carrell, Matthew Averett, Eppe Tilley and Samuel Magill. Verdict, "No guilty." There was no fixed place for holding court, it being sometimes held under the arbor of a tree, until 1812, when the first court house was built mostly from the proceeds of sales of lots in Liberty, and from the voluntary donations of citizens. This court-house was constructed of brick, and was afterward enlarged by additions on the east and west sides, and by erecting two small offices not attached. The accidental destruction, by fire, of this edifice, in 1857, led to the erection, in 1858, of one of the handsomest, most commodious and convenient court-houses in the State on the site of the former—a beautiful blue grass plat, two or three feet higher than the surrounding streets, adorned with forest and ornamental trees. The old stone jail, still standing just north of the Presbyterian Church, was built, in 1823, by Elisha Camron, at a cost of less than \$600.

August 5, 1822, was the first election; in Gallatin Township, at the house of John Owens—James McClelland, John Evans and John McKisick, Judges; and in Fishing River Township at the house of James Munkres—Thomas Officer, Howard Averett and Baley George, Judges. At that election Jeremiah Burns was elected Constable of Gallatin, and James Dagley of Fishing River Township. The vote of the county was in 1822, 240; in 1830, 567; in 1832, 720; in 1835, 764; in 1846, 1151; in 1856, 1636; in 1860, 1734, and in 1876, 3459.

LIST OF OFFICIALS FROM THE ORGANIZATION OF CLAY COUNTY.

CONVENTION DELEGATES.

1845.	Daniel Branstetter, of Ray.	1865.	Alex. W. Doniphan, of Clay.
"	John E. Pitt, of Platte.	"	James H. Moss, of Clay.
"	Thompson Ward, of Platte.	"	Elijah H. Norton, of Platte.
"	Brown, of Ward.	1875.	"
1865.	Dr. Wm. A. Morton, of Clay.	"	Dewitt C. Allen, of Clay.
"	Samuel A. Gilbert, of Platte.		

STATE SENATORS.

1822-26.	Duff Green, of Howard.	1850-54.	Dr. Joseph Chew, of Ray.
1826-28.	Martin Farmer, of Clay.	1854-58.	Dr. A. M. Robinson, of Platte.
1828-30.	Libburn W. Boggs, of Jackson.	1858-62.	J. T. V. Thompson, of Clay.
1830-34.	Richard Linville, of Clay.	1862-66.	John Doniphan, of Platte.
1834-42.	J. T. V. Thompson, of Clay.	1866-68.	George W. Park, of Platte.
1842-46.	Cornelius Gilliam, of Platte.	1868-72.	James H. Birch, Jr., of Clinton.
1846-48.	Andrew Johnson, of Platte.	1872-73.	Thomas McCarty, of Clay.
1848-46.	Wm. R. Blythe, of Ray.	1873-76.	John R. Keller, of Clay.
1846-50.	John G. Price, of Clay.	1876-80.	R. P. C. Wilson, of Platte.
1846-50.	Lewis Burns, of Platte.		

REPRESENTATIVES.

1822-24.	Simon Cockrill.	1844-46.	Coleman Younger.
1824-34.	John Thornton.	1846-48.	Henry Owens.
1830-32.	Andrew Robertson.	1848-52.	Thomas T. Swetnam.
1832-34.	Dr. Woodson J. Moss.	1852-54.	James H. Moss.
1834-36.	David R. Atchison.	1854-56.	Nathaniel Vincent.
1836-38.	Thomas C. Gordon.	1856-58.	Alex. W. Doniphan.
1838-40.	John Thornton.	1858-60.	Joel Turnham, Sr.
1836-38.	Alex. W. Doniphan.	1860-62.	Benj. Lampton.
1838-40.	David R. Atchison.	1862-64.	Lake W. Burris.
1840-42.	James M. Hughes.	1864-66.	Thomas C. Gordon.
"	Jesse Morris, of Platte.	1866-68.	Oliver F. Moss.
1840-42.	Wm. T. Wood.	1868-70.	Robert McMillen.
"	John Dougherty.	1870-72.	Wm. G. Garth.
1842-44.	Alex. W. Doniphan.	1872-74.	Henry Smith.
1844-46.	Dr. Woodson J. Moss.	1874-76.	John T. Chandler.
"	Merrill Tilley.	1876-78.	James M. Bohart.
"	Thomas C. Gordon.	1878-80.	James E. Lincoln.

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES.

1822-31.	David Todd.	1863-65.	George W. Dunn.
1831-37.	John F. Ryland.	1865-67.	Walter King.
1837-48.	Austin A. King.	1867-74.	Philander Lucas.
1848-62.	George W. Dunn.	1874-80.	George W. Dunn.
1862-63.	Austin A. King.		

PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS.

1822-24.	Hamilton R. Gamble.	1849-52.	Mordecai Oliver.
1824-26.	Abiel Leonard.	1852-56.	Christopher T. Garner.
1826-27.	Charles French.	1856-60.	Aaron H. Conrow.
1827-31.	Robert W. Wells.	1860-62.	De Witt C. Allen.
1828-29.	John Wilson, Acting.	1862-64.	David P. Whitmer.
1829-31.	Amos Rees, Acting.	1864-65.	Wm. A. Donaldson.
1831-34.	Amos Rees.	1865-68.	Elijah Esteb.
1834-37.	Thomas C. Burch.	1868-72.	John G. Woods.
1837-40.	Wm. T. Wood.	1872-74.	James E. Lincoln.
1840-41.	Peter H. Burnett.	1874-76.	Horatio F. Smirall.
1841-48.	George W. Dunn.	1876-78.	Wm. H. Woodson.
1848-49.	Charles J. Hughes.		

CIRCUIT COURT CLERKS.

1822-31.	Wm. L. Smith.	1866-70.	Bishop A. Bailey.
1831-54.	Samuel Tilley.	1870-74.	Edwin G. Hamilton.
1854-65.	Alex. J. Calhoun.	1874-78.	Alex. J. Calhoun.
1865-66.	James Love.		

RECORDERS OF DEEDS.

1869-70.	Edwin G. Hamilton.	1870-78.	Sidney G. Sandusky.
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COUNTY COURT JUDGES.

1822-24.	John Thornton.	1846-53.	Merit Tilley.
1822-25.	Elisha Camron.	1850-54.	Benj. Ricketts.
1825-27.	James Gilmore.	1850-58.	Wm. V. Hodges.
1824-25.	Zadoc Martin, Sen.	1853-54.	Edw. M. Samuel.
1825-26.	George Burnett.	1854-56.	Joel Turnham.
1825-27.	Sebron G. Sued.	1854-58.	Joseph Thorp.
1827-31.	George Huffaker.	1858-62.	Thomas M. Chevis.
1825-27.	Howard Averett.	1858-65.	Alva Maret.
1826-27.	Eppe Tilley.	1858-65.	Isaac Wood.
1827-31.	James Gilmore.	1862-65.	James M. Jones.
"	Elisha Camron.	1865-66.	Joseph T. Field.
1827-30.	Samuel Tilley.	"	Miltner Haynes.
1827-30.	Joel Turnham.	"	John Chrisman.
1830-34.	James T. V. Thompson.	1866-67.	Wm. T. Davis.
1830-31.	James Duncan.	1866-68.	James Henshaw.
1831-32.	Archibald McIlvain.	1866-72.	Anderson B. Everett.
1831-34.	Shubael Allen.	1866-74.	Thomas M. Wilson.
1832-38.	Elisha Camron.	1868-70.	Gabriel T. Hughes.
1834-38.	John Bird.	1868-70.	Franklin Graves.
1838-44.	John Turnham.	1870-72.	Isaac Wood.
1838-40.	James Kuykendall.	1872-76.	Thomas J. Gunn.
1840-42.	Merit Tilley.	1872-78.	John Broadhurst.
1840-46.	Elisha Camron.	1874-80.	Linnues B. Sublette.
1842-50.	Nathaniel Vincent.	1876-82.	Wm. F. Gordon.
1844-50.	Robert Adkins.		

COUNTY COURT CLERKS.

1822-31.	Wm. L. Smith.	1853-59.	Thomas McCarty.
1831-35.	Wm. T. Wood.	1859-65.	John D. Murray.
1835-48.	Abraham Shafer.	1865-70.	Wm. Brining.
1848-53.	Greenup Bird.	1870-78.	Luske W. Burris.

SHERIFFS.

1822-26.	John Harris.	1858-62.	Richard A. Neely.
1826-30.	Shubael Allen.	1862-62.	R. W. Fleming, Coroner.
1830-34.	Cornelius Gilliam.	1862-63.	Southard W. Long.
1834-38.	John Baxter.	1863-65.	Francis R. Long.
1838-42.	Samuel Hadley.	1865-66.	Darius Gittings.
1842-48.	John Baxter.	1866-66.	James M. Jones.
1848-50.	Oliver P. Moss.	1866-68.	Joseph H. Richards.
1850-54.	Samuel Hadley.	1868-72.	Oliver P. Moss.
1854-54.	Winfrey E. Price.	1872-74.	Geo. E. Patton.
1854-56.	Trigg T. Allen.	1874-78.	John S. Groom.
1856-58.	Samuel Hadley.		

HISTORY OF CLAY COUNTY, MISSOURI.

COUNTY COLLECTORS.

1822-23. Jesse Gilliam.	1832-33. Lewis Scott.
1823-25. Timothy Bancroft.	1833-35. James Hadley.
1825-27. Thornton Strother.	1835-37. Jacob P. Hymer.
1827-30. Leonard Searcy.	1837-72. The Sheriff.
1830-31. Merit Tillery.	1872-78. John J. Moore.
1831-32. John D. Hall.	

COUNTY TREASURERS.

1822-25. The County Clerks.	1850-60. Stephen R. Shrader.
1825-26. Ware S. May.	1860-64. Benj. F. Tillery.
1826-33. The County Clerks.	1864-66. David S. Miller.
1833-36. Hiram Rich.	1866-68. Joseph T. Field.
1836-38. James M. Hughes.	1868-74. Trigg T. Allen.
1838-53. Graham L. Hughes.	1874-76. Lewis B. Dougherty.
1853-59. Madison Miller.	1876-78. Clinton Tillery.
1859-59. Ephraim D. Murray.	

COUNTY ASSESSORS.

1822-23. William Hall, for Gallatin Township.	1849-53. Mabry Mitchell.
1822-23. Joshua Adams, for Fishing River Township.	1853-58. Greenup P. Collier.
1823-24. Joshua Adams.	1858-60. Range 30. James Dagley.
1824-26. Eppe Tillery.	1860-62. " 31. Jacob P. Hymer.
1826-27. Reuben Tillery.	1862-63. " 32. James H. Compton.
1827-29. Michael Arthur.	1863-66. " 33. Benj. F. Wood.
1829-30. John Thorp.	1866-68. " 30. James Dagley.
1830-31. James T. V. Thompson.	1868-72. " 31. Ryland Shackelford.
1831-32. Solomon Kinsey.	1872-74. Range 32. Wm. T. Groom.
1832-33. Geo. Huffaker.	1874-76. " 33. Wm. T. Groom.
1833-34. John Hendley.	1876-78. " 30. James Burns.
1834-35. Solomon Kinsey.	1878-80. " 31. Timothy R. Dale.
1835-36. James Dagley.	1880-82. " 32. Charles J. J. Leopold.
1836-38. Samuel Hadley.	1882-84. " 33. Thomas Harsel.
1838-41. James Dagley.	1884-86. " 34. John Collins.
1841-42. Jacob P. Hymer.	1886-88. " 35. Wm. L. Thompson.
1842-43. Simeon Wilhoite.	1888-90. " 36. Daniel Stout.
1843-49. Thomas T. Swetman.	

COUNTY SURVEYORS.

1822-29. David Manchester.	1850-61. Wm. L. Thompson.
1829-33. Geo. Withers.	1861-68. Timothy R. Dale.
1833-39. Timothy R. Dale.	1868-80. Thomas R. Rogers.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1853-54. Alex. W. Doniphan.	1854-77. Geo. Hughes.
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PROBATE COURT JUDGES.

1825. Elsha Camron. Appointed.	1850-60. Henry L. Routt.
1825-27. Wm. L. Smith.	1860-61. James C. Vertrees.
1827-29. The County Court Judges.	1861-77. County Court Judges.

The Constables During the First Decade of the County were for, GALLATIN TOWNSHIP.

1822-24. Jeremiah Burns.	1830-31. James H. Berry.
1824-26. Robert Cain.	1831-32. John W. Brown.
1826-28. Richard Barrs.	1832-34. Simeon Wilhoite.
1828-30. Merit Tillery.	

FISHING RIVER TOWNSHIP.

1822-26. James Dagley.	1831-32. Roland Stark.
1826-27. Shewsbury Williams.	1832-34. James Dagley.
1827-31. Thomas Peely.	

LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP.

1822-34. Silas McGuire.	
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LIBERTY TOWNSHIP.

1825-26. Solomon Fry.	1829-30. Gallatin Searcy.
1826-28. Laban Garrett.	1830-32. John Baxter.
1828-29. James Campbell.	

PLATTE TOWNSHIP.

1827-30. Jesse Yocum.	1831-32. Henry Owens.
1830-31. James Winn.	1832-34. Nathaniel Mothershead.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

1830-31. John Wright.	1831-34. Taylor McCully.
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RESIDENT ATTORNEYS TO 1850.

Gen. David R. Atchison.	Gen. Bela M. Hughes.
Gov. Peter H. Burnett.	Gen. John Loughborough.
Gov. Alex. W. Doniphan.	Lewis Ramage, Esq.
Frederick Gwiner, Esq.	Capt. Thos. McCarty.
Benj. Hays, Esq.	Col. James H. Moss.
Gen. And. S. Hughes.	Judge Wm. T. Wood.
Hon. James M. Hughes.	Col. Henry L. Routt.
Sebron G. Sneed, Esq.	Abraham Shafer, Esq.

WARS.

For the Indian "Black Hawk War," in 1832, several companies of militia were furnished from this county. They had scarcely reached the Iowa line when the war terminated, and the militia returned, being absent about four weeks. Lewis J. Woods, now and for many years a resident of this county, was a Colonel in charge of several companies from Clinton County furnished for this war.

For the Indian "Heathery War," in 1836, two companies of militia were sent out, one under Smith Crawford, Captain—and the other, the "Liberty Blues," under David R. Atchison, Captain, and both under the command of Shubael Allen, as Colonel. They were in service only eighteen days, and had no engagement.

The dedication, in 1831, at Independence, Missouri, by Joseph Smith, of a site for a new *Mormon Temple*, brought to this part of Missouri a large number of Mormons, who became involved in quarrels with the people, and in conflicts with mobs. The Mormons were successively driven from Jackson and Clay Counties, and finally settled at Far West, Caldwell County, where violence and outrages continued, and persons were killed on both sides. Finally, in 1836, the Mormons, with arms, assembled in large bodies, fortified their towns and defied the officers of the law. The conflict assumed the character and proportions of civil war. The militia of Clay and other counties was called out by the Governor. But a conflict was prevented by allowing the Mormons to leave the State.

For the "Mexican War," in 1846, Clay furnished one company of one hundred and nine men, that formed a part of Col. Doniphan's Regiment, and left the county in May, 1846. The following are their names:

O. P. Moss, Capt.	Wm. Wallis, 2d Sergt.
L. B. Sublette, 1st Lieut.	A. K. McClintock, 4th Sergt.
James H. Moss, 2d Lieut.	George H. Wallis, 1st Corp.
Thomas Ogden, 3d Lieut.	* Carroll Scage, 2d
* Thomas McCarty, 1st Sergt.	John S. Groom, 3d
* James Long, 2d Sergt.	* Martin Cloud, 4th

PRIVATEES.

* Abraham Estes, Bugl.	Robert Fleming.	Wm. Pence.
* Henry Amos.	* Fleming.	Joshua
* John Brisco.	* Gunter.	* Peter C. Pixlee.
Wm. Beal.	* Hiram Green.	* Pendleton.
Wash Bell.	* Carroll Hughes.	* Pendegrass.
James Barnes, Blks'th.	* John T. Hughes.	* Martin Ringo.
James Burns.	* Willard P. Hall.	* Alonzo Rudis.
* Burton.	* Doc. Hall.	* Robt. Sherr.
* James Cooper.	* James Hall.	John Shouse.
* Smith Cumins.	John D. Holt.	John Shouse.
Wash Crowley.	* Bailor Jacobs.	James Sites.
* Ed. Crabster.	Newton	Cunningham Scott.
* John Christy.	And. Job.	And. Job.
* James Corn.	* John Lard.	Thos. Stephenson.

PRIVATEES—Concluded.

* Rufus Cox.	Addison Smith.
* Allen	* Shelton Samuels.
* James Campbell.	* Jos. Sanferson.
Hiram Chaney.	* Wm. Snowden.
* Paley Carpenter.	* Riley Stout.
Hudson Clayton.	Joshua Tillery.
Wash W. Drew.	Henry
* Harvey Darnell.	* Thompson.
* Matt. Duncan.	And. Tracey.
* Wm.	Thos. Waller.
* Theo.	* Wm. Wells.
Riley Everett.	Hardin Warren.
Henry Ellis.	John
Harvey English.	* James Will.
* Spencer Faubus.	* Gideon Wood.
* Matt. Franklin.	James York.
Riley Franklin.	John
* John Findley.	* Jack Laidlow. (Col'd.)
Thos. Fielding.	Capt. Servt.
* Dead.	
* Deserted.	

In 1847, this State furnished five hundred additional men for the Mexican War, commanded by Maximilian, Gilpin, Henry L. Routt, Adjutant-General. During the LATE CIVIL WAR, the peace and prosperity of the county was greatly interrupted by a sort of guerrilla and predatory warfare; but the only engagement that occurred here that can be called a battle was at "Blue Mills Landing," September 17, 1861, between about seven hundred Federals and some Confederates in ambush. The Federal loss was twenty killed and fifty wounded.

Clay County furnished a large number of volunteers, principally to the Confederate army, but with the close of war both Federal and Confederate returned to their homes from the tented field, and mingled in the peaceful pursuits and social walks of life, forgetting and forgetful of the awful and terrible conflict just ended.

RESOURCES.

Clay County contains 257,966 acres. The southern half is timber land, much of it heavily timbered. About one-fifth of the north half is prairie land. The timber includes all the varieties of oak, hard and soft maple, black walnut, hickory, cottonwood, linden, cherry, hackberry, elm, ash, honey locust, sycamore, coffee-tree and sumac. Limestone suitable for ordinary building purposes and for making lime is found everywhere. Some sandstone is found along the bluffs. The county is traversed by Fishing River, Big Shoal and Smith's Fork of Platte, and their tributaries. These, with numerous springs, and the water easily obtained by wells, gives abundance of water for all purposes. The soil is exceedingly fertile and productive, adapted to the growth of all the cereals, grasses, hemp and tobacco.

The average yield, per acre, is of corn 40, wheat 18, oats 35, rye 20 bushels, of hemp 900, tobacco 1,000 pounds. In 1876 there was produced of wheat 222,416, corn 1,975,793, oats 35,634, and rye 42,751 bushels, of tobacco 260,966, and wool 65,833 pounds; of hay 4,041, and hemp 1,089 tons, and of wine 8,320, and molasses 23,923 gallons. Fruits common to this latitude, and many varieties of grapes are grown, and are receiving special attention from many of our farmers.

The wealth valuation in 1870 was \$8,000,000, and the assessed valuation of 1876 is \$4,458,371.

The entire debt of the county, \$249,900, is funded, and will be reduced in 1877 to about \$225,000. The debt is in ten per cent. interest bonds, on which the coupons run out in 1880, and sell at a premium of three to five per cent. County warrants are paid as issued.

The expenses of the county have been for 1882, \$263,888; for 1847, \$2,006,191; for 1857, \$4,621,000, and for 1876 (not including \$25,000,000 interest paid), \$20,184,731.

While the population has been, in 1830, 5,338; in 1840, 8,282; in 1850, 10,332; in 1860, 13,023; in 1870, 15,564; in 1876, 15,320; the colored population has been, in 1830, 895; in 1840, 1,999; in 1850, 2,747; in 1860, 3,498; in 1870, 1846; in 1876, 1,623.

TOWNS IN CLAY COUNTY.

LIBERTY, the county-seat on the Kansas City line of the H. and St. J. R. R., fourteen miles from Kansas City, three and a half miles north of the Missouri River and Liberty landing depot of the St. L., K. C. and N. R. W., was laid out in 1822, incorporated a town in 1829, and in 1851, and contains about eighteen hundred inhabitants. The streets are newly and well macadamized, and the pavements are generally substantial and good. Forest and ornamental trees extend along the streets and intersperse the city. It has five churches, the Baptist, Christian, Methodist, Presbyterian and Catholic, also four dry goods, three drug and five grocery stores, one book store, one clothing store, three merchant tailoring stores, two tin and stove stores, two flouring and woolen mills, two wagon and plow factories, one foundry and machine shop, four blacksmith and carriage shops, two banks, two hotels, two newspapers, one marble yard, a photograph gallery, and an elegant public hall. The chief objects of interest are its colleges, elsewhere named—O'Fallon and Masons each own halls here. Liberty has a bonded debt of \$50,000.

MISSOURI CITY, on the north bank of the Missouri River and on the St. L., K. C. and N. R. W., is seven miles southeast from Liberty, and twenty-one east from Kansas City, and was incorporated in 1859. It has two churches, six stores, a bank, a flouring and saw mill, a hotel and a tobacco factory. It is the principal shipping point in the southeast part of the county. Population about six hundred.

KEARNEY, on the H. and St. J. R. R., nine miles north from Liberty, incorporated in 1869, contains three churches, eight stores, a flouring mill and a hotel. Population about five hundred.

SMITHVILLE, fifteen miles northwest from Liberty, has six stores, a blacksmith's shop, a hotel, and a fine water flouring and saw mill. Population about two hundred.

HARLEM, on the north bank of the Missouri River, opposite Kansas City, connected with it by the H. and St. R. R. Bridge, and a steam ferry, has a population of about one hundred and fifty. ROBERTSON, HOLT, ARNOLD (Blue Eagle) and MINAVILLE (N. M. Junction) are small towns on the H. and St. J. R. R., and the remaining towns of the county are BARRY, GREENVILLE (Claytonville), GOSNEYVILLE (Paradise), CLAYVILLE (Prospect Hill), PRATHERVILLE and MOSCOW.

EDUCATIONAL.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS are in successful operation in every part of the county, and are sustained and fostered with a liberality and heartiness that is certainly indicative of an intelligent people, deeply and earnestly interested in posterity and the future of their country.

The Public school fund at interest is \$42,400. Colored schools in operation..... 6
The value of Public school per capita is \$2,000. White persons of school age..... 4,695
Paid for teachers wages yearly..... 15,000. Colored persons of school age..... 444
Average length of school term..... 35 1/2 weeks. Average yearly salary by county..... 3 months
Average length of school term..... 35 1/2 weeks. Average yearly salary by county..... 3 months
White schools in operation..... 59

Average cost, per day, for each scholar's tuition..... seven and four-fifths cents.

The Liberty Public School building was erected and furnished in 1871, at a cost of about \$15,000, and is justly regarded as a school of high merit.

THE CATHOLIC CONVENT ACADEMY, conducted by the "Sisters of Humility of Mary," was organized in 1872, at Liberty, and is provided with an elegant new two-story edifice. The school is in a prosperous condition, and merits a hearty support.

CLAY SEMINARY.

This high school for young ladies is the out-growth of a long, systematic and persistent effort on the part of our people to provide ample facilities for higher education and culture for their daughters. Mrs. Frances A. Peters, as early as 1828, established at Liberty a High School for young ladies, which she continued to teach until in 1838. "Liberty Female College" was organized with fifty leading citizens as stockholders, who erected a brick building—now the residence of Judge Wm. H. Lane—which was many years used for school purposes. Mrs. Peters is known as the educator of many of the mothers and grandmothers of the present generation. From 1844 to 1849 Oliver and Hannah O. Cunningham were in charge of the Female College, and their efforts, as they deserved, were attended with great success. They were succeeded by G. W. Ash, and he in 1852 by the distinguished educator, Rev. E. S. Dalin, who in 1854 was succeeded by Sarge T. Kirby.

"Clay Seminary," so long celebrated as one of the best female schools in the

West, was founded in 1854 by James Love, who, with the assistance of his wife, Mrs. Lucy A. Love, conducted the school uninterruptedly for twenty consecutive years, embracing the period of the civil war until 1864, and made for the institution a most honorable name and record.

Under the auspices of the Baptist Church, 1854, J. T. Davis opened "Liberty Female College," and in 1859 was succeeded by Rev. J. B. Toombs. In 1864 Clay Seminary and Liberty Female College were consolidated into one school, under the presidency of B. R. Vinyard, succeeded in 1867 by Rev. X. X. Buckner, and he, in 1869, by Rev. A. M. M. M. M. In 1874, Rev. A. B. Jones, the present principal, assumed charge of Clay Seminary, under whose direction it has continued until the present time, in a very prosperous condition.

WILLIAM JEWELL COLLEGE.

This is one of the early established institutions of Clay County, and the chief ornament of Liberty. It was founded, in 1849, by the Baptist denomination of Missouri, acting through their General Association, and was named in honor of Dr. Wm. Jewell, of Boone County, one of the principal contributors to its endowment. The College edifice, regarded as one of the best in the West, was completed in 1854, and, with the grounds, is valued at \$75,000. The location is beautiful, and the landscape view from the College Hill, on rich farm-seats in every direction, hill and valley, the Missouri River in the distance, with frequent trains of two of the great railways of the West, is magnificent.

The present endowment of the College is over \$100,000, but a considerable part of it is land, yet unproductive. Rev. E. S. Dalin, D.D., L.L.D., the first President, was succeeded, in 1854, by Rev. Robert S. Thomas, A.M., and he by Rev. Wm. Thompson, L.L.D., in 1857. In 1868, Rev. Thomas Rambout, D.D., L.L.D., became President, at which time, and chiefly through his exertions, the Jeremiah Varnham School of Theology was added to the College, with a special endowment of \$40,000. Since 1873, Rev. W. R. Rothwell, D.D., as Chairman of the Faculty has been Acting President. Within the last year the office of Chancellor has been created and filled by Rev. W. Pope Yeaman, D.D., who has in charge the endowment and the promotion of the general interests and growth of the institution. The officers of the Board of Trustees are Hon. J. B. Wornal, President; J. L. Peak, Esq., Treasurer, and Hon. D. C. Allen, Secretary. The College is organized in schools, on the same plan as the University of Virginia, and rigidly maintains a high standard of scholarship. The Faculty is composed of Rev. W. Pope Yeaman, D.D., Chancellor; Rev. W. R. Rothwell, D.D., Professor of Moral Philosophy and Theology; R. B. Semple, A.M., Professor of Latin and Greek; J. G. Clark, A.M., Professor of Mathematics; J. P. Eaton-Ph.D., Professor of Natural Science; Rev. A. J. Emerson, A.M., Principal of Preparatory Department. Students, 159.

The College is provided with a very complete Apparatus, Library and Reading Room. The two Literary Societies publish a monthly magazine of sixty-four pages, entitled "THE JEWELL." The very fortunate location of this College, the numbers and wealth of the denomination pledged to its support, its steady growth, and the high rank it has taken and maintained, give assurances to reckon and regard it one of the leading Universities of the great West.

CHURCHES.

THE REGULAR BAPTISTS built their first church in the county in 1822, a log building, on mile East from Liberty, and this, and Mr. Pleasant on Fishing River, organized in 1823, and their stone church in Liberty, organized in 1828, were their first churches, and their first preachers were Henry Hill, Wm. Thorp, John Edwards, and John Atkins. This denomination now has eight houses of worship.

THE BAPTIST (MISSIONARY). The three oldest churches of this denomination are New Hope, Liberty and Providence, all organized some time prior to 1843. It now has twelve houses of worship and 1,300 communicants in the county.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH held its first service in Liberty, in 1845, Father Bernard Donnelly officiating. Its house of worship was erected in 1847, its parsonage in 1870, and its Academy building in 1872. Membership, 300.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH. The first division of the Baptist Church that resulted in this new church, of Christians, was organized, August 28, 1813, by Zachariah and Howard Everett, Jonathan Reed, John Thompson, John Leitchworth, James Kuykendall and others. But the Christian Church properly was organized by Elder Augustus A. F. Payne at Liberty in 1837, and now has thirteen churches in the county, and numbers 1,550 members.

THE METHODIST. The first religious services were held in this county in 1820, by this church at Elbert, generally in private houses, in groves and under arbores. The church at Liberty was organized in an early day; the number of its churches in the county now being nine.

THE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIANS built their first church in 1826, near Wm., in Gallatin Township, Robert D. Morrow, D.D., being their pastor at that time. Number of churches now, 5; members, 300.

THE PRATHERIAN CHURCH was founded in a grove near Liberty, August 29, 1829, by Rev. H. Chamberlain; the Elders then elected were Robert Elliott, James McWilliams and Wm. Model.

NEWSPAPERS.

Quite a number of newspaper enterprises have been attempted in the County, all of which can not now be enumerated. "The Far West," founded in 1836, was edited by Peter H. Burnett. "The Western Journal," founded in 1841, was edited by Leader & Ridenbaugh. "The Liberty Banner," founded in 1843, was edited by Henry L. Routt and T. W. W. DeCourcy. "The Western Pioneer," founded in 1844, was owned by Wm. Ridenbaugh and edited by Benjamin Hays. "The Democratic Platform," founded in 1853, was owned by James T. V. Thompson and edited by Robert S. Kelly. "The Clay County Flag," founded in 1860, was edited by C. Denby Dickerson. "The Liberty Weekly Union," founded in 1867, was edited by Sallards & Sons. "The Clay County Democrat," founded in 1870, was edited by Holloman & Bowman, succeeded by Bowman & Simons. All the above-named were published at Liberty. At Missouri City, "The Richmond Monitor," founded in 1855, was published by James C. Vertrees. Other papers have been published there by George W. Withers, T. L. P. Hoffman and others. At Kearney, "The Sentinel," founded in 1875, had a brief existence.

The only publications of the County now are the "Liberty Tribune," "The Advance" and "The Jewell." The Tribune is a weekly newspaper, founded April 4, 1846, by its present veteran editor, Robert H. Miller. The Tribune always presents a clean and handsome face, expressing just news as should be contained in a country town paper, making no vain attempt at literary smartness and putting on no metropolitan airs. Through thirty continuous years Mr. Miller has stood by the Tribune, through good and evil report, and has justly earned for it and himself the success and good name that they each enjoy. "The Advance" is also a weekly newspaper, founded February 4, 1875, by its present editor George E. Patton, assisted by Thomas W. Frame. These young men make their paper spicy, incisive and newsworthy, and deserve for it and themselves the confidence and popularity so unhesitatingly given by our people. "The Jewell" was founded in 1875, published monthly by the "Liberty Union" of Wm. Jewell College, is claimed to be the largest College Journal west of the Mississippi and is designed to give a record of education progress all over the country. It contains articles on historical and scientific subjects, biographical sketches, reviews, poetry, humor, and that kind of reading that will furnish relaxation.

HONORED NAMES.

Proud as we are of Clay County, its growth, development and progress its grand achievements, its good and intelligent people, of what it has been, and is promises to be, we are yet equally proud of the honored and distinguished citizens she has given to the world. This was the home of Col. A. W. Doniphan for thirty years, of General David R. Atchison for ten years, of Dr. Joseph M. Wood for twenty-five years, of Hon. James M. Hughes for twenty years, of Col. James H. Moss for twenty years, of Maj. John Dougherty for twenty-five years, of Gov. Peter H. Burnett for ten years, of Edward M. Samuel, Esq. for thirty-five years, of Hon. James T. V. Thompson for forty-five years, of Capt. Thomas McCarty for thirty-two years, of Gen'l Andrew S. Hughes for fifteen years, of Rev. Moses E. Lard for twenty-five years, Rev. Augustus A. F. Payne, Judge Wm. T. Wood, Benjamin Holliday, Esq. Genl. John Loughborough, and Genl. Bela M. Hughes.

CONCLUSION.

Thus imperfectly, but impartially, have we endeavored to present some of the more prominent events and names of our beloved County. It has been to us a labor of love, and our every effort and toil has intensified our interest and extended our desire to know and to record all, in a permanent history for posterity and for all time to come. But the field is too extended and not within the design of our present task. We have been permitted to only explore the narrow beach, leaving the wide sea left undisturbed. Here and there on the shore we have gathered a few bright and beautiful shells, which being held to our ears furnished sounds fairly representative of a deeper and grander roar of the ocean of history that seems to extend limitlessly beyond.