

HISTORY OF HARRISON COUNTY, MISSOURI.

In preparing a sketch of the history and early settlements of the County, it appears appropriate to give a short history of the early settlements of the country of which it forms part. This introduction must necessarily be brief.

The Western Continent was discovered by Columbus, in 1492. The discovery of the western world may be regarded as the most important event that has ever resulted from individual enterprise and genius.

On Easter Sunday, in the year 1512, Juan Ponce de Leon landed on the coast of Florida. This was the first time of which we have any reliable information that white men landed upon the main land of America. Other voyages of discovery followed without any remarkable results, until the year 1538, when Ferdinand de Soto, a Spanish cavalier of noble birth, who had acquired wealth and distinction as the lieutenant of Pizarro in the conquest of Peru, formed the design of conquering Florida. Extravagant notions were entertained of the richness of the country, great mines of gold, and the fabulous Fountain of Youth. After landing in Florida with his brilliant band of about a thousand brave followers, he marched into the interior. But instead of the rich mines and fabled fountain, he found only a wilderness of timber, or a wild waste of prairie abounding with wild beasts and wilder men. He was not dismayed by all these dangers and lack of success, but still onward he pressed, following a hope that ever died at his approach. Through winter storms and summer suns, he continued his fruitless search for gold, until May, 1547, when he reached the banks of the Great Father of Waters, and thus achieved immortality. De Soto came to the Mississippi river a few miles below where Memphis now stands, and after crossing the river, he pushed northward into the southern part of Missouri. This was the first time that the feet of white men had pressed the soil of our State. De Soto then struck out in a south-west direction four or five hundred miles, thence he went down the Washita and Red river to the Mississippi, where he died in May, 1542. To conceal his death, he was wrapped in a mantle, and placed in a rustic coffin, and in the stillness of midnight, in the presence of a few faithful followers in silence and in tears, all that was mortal of De Soto was sunk in the middle of the stream. "Who had crossed the Atlantic and a large part of the continent in search of gold and the "Fountain of Youth," found nothing so remarkable as his own burial-place. It constituted his glory and his grave. After his death his followers abandoned the country. They found no traces of civilization, they left none, and for more than a century afterwards the West remained almost utterly unknown to the white man.

Spain, France and England were the three great colonizing powers that tried, with varied success, to settle and occupy the New World. France had made permanent settlements in Canada, from which expeditions were fitted out to explore the lakes and the "Great River of the West." In 1682, LaSalle descended the Mississippi river to the Gulf of Mexico, and took formal possession of the country in the name of Louis XIV. the reigning king of France, in honor of whom he called the country Louisiana.

It is believed the first settlement of Missouri was made about 1735 at St. Genevieve, although there is no very reliable history as to the date of the first settlement. In 1763, Pierre Laclede Liget made the first settlement where St. Louis now stands. In 1762, France ceded all the territory west of the Mississippi river to Spain, and in 1801, Spain retroceded the same to France. In 1803 the United States purchased from France the Louisiana Territory for \$15,000,000. The vast domain thus secured by the United States embraced the present state of Louisiana and all the territory lying west of the Mississippi river south of the British possessions and north and east of the then Mexican possessions. In 1804, Congress passed an act dividing the province into two territories called "Territory of Orleans" and "District of Louisiana." The latter was generally called Upper Louisiana. On the 4th of June, 1812, Congress passed an act organizing the Territory of Missouri. The first Legislature under this territorial government consisted of nine members of the Council, and thirteen members of the House. The Civil law of Rome, as modified by the laws of France, and the several colonial regulations of Spain, constituted the main body of the laws until the year 1815, when they were changed by an act of the territorial legislature, by which the common law of England and the statutes of a general nature passed prior to the fourth year of James I. so far as the same were not repugnant to the Constitution and laws of the United States, and the statutes of the territory, were adopted as the laws of Missouri, and they have been continued, with similar restrictions, to the present time.

In 1818, Missouri applied for admission into the Union as a sovereign State. Objection was made in Congress to the admission except as a free State, and thereupon there arose in Congress a discussion continuing during two sessions, which convulsed the country, and appeared to threaten the dissolution of the national Union. The people of the territory were much divided and greatly excited upon the subject. The division of sentiment was so great, and the discussions so bitter and violent that the peace of the territory was in great peril. At length the matter was settled by the passage of what was known as the "Missouri Compromise," and Missouri was admitted as a State, virtually in 1820, though not actually recognized until 1821. Thus Missouri was admitted into the Union as the eleventh State admitted under the Federal Constitution. The length of the State, north and south, is 277 miles, the average breadth, about 244 miles, comprising an area of about 65,350 square miles. The population of the State in 1820, was 66,586. The population in 1870, was 1,721,295. When admitted into the Union, Missouri ranked as the twenty-third State. From this it has gradually arose and outstripped sister States, until, in 1870, she took the proud position of the fifth State in population.

In 1812, when the Missouri Territory was organized, St. Charles County embraced all the territory west of the Mississippi, and north of the Missouri river, extending north to the British possessions and west to the Pacific Ocean, being, in extent of territory, perhaps the largest County that ever existed. In 1816, Howard County was organized, and comprised the territory north of the Missouri west of the mouth of Osage river. In 1820, Ray County was organized, and included that part of the then State west of the mouth of Grand river. In 1826, Caldwell and Daviess Counties were formed of territory from the north part of Ray; Caldwell with its present boundaries, and Daviess extending from Caldwell north to the Iowa line, and including the present limits of Harrison County.

In 1836, the Mormons sent ambassadors into this goodly land to spy out for them a home in the western wilderness, where they could be free from the contaminating influence and persecutions of the Gentiles. They selected the site of Far West in the western part of Caldwell County. Here settled Joseph Smith, the leading prophet, with his apostles, and the Mormons from all parts of the country flocked to their new capital. They began work upon what was intended to be one of the most magnificent temples in the United States. In the centre of the town a large square had been laid off as the site for the future temple. It was approached by four main streets, each one hundred feet wide. In 1838, the

corner-stone was laid with great pomp and ceremony, but the temple was never built. From the capital they spread out over the country north. They built a town on the east banks of Grand river about five miles north of Gallatin, which they called "Diamon," declaring that at that place was the grave of "old Father Adam." In 1839, Diamon contained about 500 inhabitants, and Far West about 3,000. Elated with their prosperity, and relying upon their numerical strength in the new country, they boldly proclaimed that the "Lord has given the earth and the fullness thereof to His people," and that the Mormons are "His people," and consequently had a right to take whatever they desired from the Gentiles. The lawless element among them practised their thieving propensities until they excited the ill will of the settlers, who united against them for mutual protection. As the Mormons had a majority in Caldwell County, and controlled the County offices, they could not be brought to justice before civil tribunals. This caused the settlers to try to protect their property by force, which resulted in violence and mobs. These disorders and resorts to violence became so great and so frequent that Gov. Boggs called out the militia to restore order and disperse the rioters. The militia were placed under command of Gen. John B. Clark, and the Mormons, numbering about one thousand men, were led by G. W. Hinkle. The principal engagement was fought at Haun's Mill, south of the present town of Breckinridge on the H. & St. Jo. R. R. The Mormons had entrenched themselves in the mill and blacksmith shop, where the militia attacked and captured them. One militiaman was wounded, and eighteen Mormons were killed, some of them, it is said, after their surrender. A treaty was then made by which the Mormons were to give up their arms, surrender their leaders for trial, and the remainder to remove from the State. Indictments were found in Daviess County against Joseph Smith, Hyram Smith, Sidney Rigdon, Lyman Wright, Col. Hinkle and others. Upon their application the venue was changed to Boone County, and while being conveyed to Columbia, under military guard, they made their escape. It was charged and generally believed that the guard was bribed.

Harrison County was organized by an act of the Legislature, February 14th, 1845, and named in honor of Albert G. Harrison, then a member of Congress from Missouri.

The limits of the County, as given in General Statutes of Missouri, of 1845, page 258, are as follows: "Beginning at the north-east corner of Daviess County, thence north on the range-line, between ranges twenty-five and twenty-six, twenty-four miles; thence west to the range line between ranges twenty-nine and thirty; thence south on said range line to the north-west corner of Daviess County; thence east along the northern line of Daviess County to the beginning." By referring to some act, Sec. 14, we find the north line of Daviess County thus described: "From the north-east corner of section thirty-six, in township sixty-two, range twenty-six, thence west on said section line to the north-west corner of section thirty-one, township sixty-two, range twenty-six."

At the time Harrison County was organized, *Stephens Salomon*, was the Representative in the Legislature from Daviess County, and he lived on the south side of township sixty-two, and as he desired to retain his residence in Daviess County, he had the bill so framed, when it passed the legislature, that one mile on the south side of township sixty-two, running the entire length of the County, was retained in Daviess County.

The north line of Harrison County was then about one mile north of the present town of Eagleville. The state line between the States of Missouri and Iowa was then in dispute, and the district north of township sixty-five, for about twelve miles, was called "disputed territory." The State line was settled and permanently surveyed and located about the year 1850 and iron stakes about six inches square and six feet long, were planted along the State line every ten miles. On the first day of March, in the year 1851, the territory between the old County limits and the State line, being about six miles in width, and twenty-four miles in length, was added to the County, making the County a little over thirty miles long and twenty-four miles wide, comprising an area of over 720 square miles. The State line does not run exactly with the section lines, but bears south and west. So the true area of the County comprises about 495,000 acres of land.

THE FIRST SETTLEMENTS were made along the water-courses and in the edge of the timber land. There were several reasons for this. They were thus more convenient to wood and water, nearer the best trees and hunting grounds, and their terms were not heavy enough to break up the tough prairie soil.

THE PRINCIPAL CURRENCY among the early settlers was beeswax, honey, coon skins, and wolf scalps. The State allowed fifty cents each for wolf scalps, and the small taxes were mostly paid with them. The principal trading point for several years was at Liberty, in Clay County, about eighty miles distant. The settlers operated together upon true Grange principles. The settlers would assemble at some convenient place, each bringing the honey, beeswax, coon skins, and other "productions." He had to spare; they then loaded a wagon and sent one of their number to Liberty to sell the "produce" and purchase coffee, tea, calico, domestics, and such other goods as were absolutely required by the settlers. Upon the return of the teamster the neighbors met together again and made proper partition of their goods and the remaining money, if any left.

It has been said that there were no genuine money there could be no counterfeit. While the early settlers were generally hard-working, honest men, occasionally there were those who would try to take some improper advantage, so it was impossible to retain strict parity in the early currency, but occasionally some of the yellow cakes would be adulterated with improper alloy. At one time when the teamster arrived at the trading post one large cake of beeswax had a corner broken off exposing the inside filling of tallow. The counterfeit currency was returned to the dishonest owner, and the neighbors were so indignant at his conduct that no one could be induced afterwards to convey his beeswax to market, and the "small stream upon which he lived was called the "Tallow Fork of Beeswax," which name it retains even unto this day.

The early settlers of this County were composed of that class of hardy pioneers who usually push out upon the border of civilization and reduce the uncultivated domain to the purposes for which it was intended by the all-wise Creator, who they contended, "We who live in the enjoyment of the results of their labors, owe them a debt of gratitude which we can never repay. What are the results of their labors? Behold the orchards and meadows, the green fields and waving grain, the beautiful farms they carved out of the dense forests and wild prairies, the elegant coat-houses and beautiful school-buildings, the roads and bridges, the villages and towns, the rest of their hardships, their industry, and perseverance, and above all, the hospitality, the strict integrity, the high moral and reli-

gious character they inculcated and have left us to imitate and emulate. All honor to the noble pioneers who laid the foundations and paved the way for the wealth and prosperity of the country. Let all vie in rendering the honor due to their memory. Yet a few more years and the last of these venerable forms will have gone to join their comrades who have gone before them. The marble shaft that marks the last resting-place in "the city of the dead" will soon be reared over the last of those honorable veterans, but a monument more enduring will be engraven upon the hearts of their descendants and those who enjoy the benefits of their labors.

I will subjoin the names of the early pioneers who settled in the County prior to 1845—the time of the organization of the County, so far as I have been able to gather them from the public documents and the remaining pioneers:

John S. Allen, Stephen C. Allen, Wm. R. Allen, Abel W. Allen, Josiah Allen, Thomas Allen, Samuel Alley, Sampson Alley, Benjamin Ashby, John J. Arnold, Joseph Arnold, Wm. C. Allen.

David Back, Henderson Back, John W. Brown, Asaph Butler, John Bedford, Jacob A. Brown, Thomas Brown, William S. Brown, William E. Burris, Aaron Bates, Jonathan Booth, Robert Burlington, Howell Blaketer, Benjamin S. Burns, Noah Bender, Jonathan Bender, Wm. H. Bender.

John Condit, Wm. Chambers, C. W. H. Cox, A. M. Cox, Fleming Cox, John W. Casebolt, Harrison Casebolt, Dennis Clancy, Lewis Charlton, Arthur Charlton, John Charlton, John Y. Criswell, Wm. Clapton, Wm. Cammins, Luther Collins, Lott Cain, Wm. Crawford.

Thomas Dunkerton, James A. Dale, W. E. Dold, Willis Dickinson, Philip Davis, John Duly.

Samuel Edmiston, John P. Edmiston, James M. Edmiston, Edward L. Ellis, Aaron England, John D. Enloe, Anthony Enloe, Avram Endsley, Hugh Endsley, Simon P. Flesner, Saml. Flesner, Thomas Flint, John Fields, Dilwood Fields, Robert Ford, Henry Fuller, James Fuller, S. L. Fox, Elijah Fleming, Thomas Foster, John Foster, Levi Fields, Jesse Fowler, John J. Ford, Matthew Franklin, Elcana Glover, John Gibson, Benjamin Grubb, O. P. Green, Thomas M. Geer, David Garton, Annias Garton, Russell Guy, Noah Grant, Joseph Gillenpie.

Phillip Harris, Joel Harris, David Harris, Isaac Haunners, William Haunlin, Thomas Hutchins, A. B. Harless, Edward Hunt, Elijah Hubbard, E. S. Hughes, John J. Hinton, Marshall K. Howell, Wm. W. Harper, Thomas Hart, Henry C. Hamilton, J. D. Hardin, Henry Herrington, Charles Haack, Lewis Hunt, John Hudson, John W. Hobbs, Joseph Hunt, John Hyde, Edward Higgins, Wm. Hunter, Henry Hunter, Porter Hardin.

Charles L. Jennings, E. M. Jennings, Martin Jennings, Samuel O. Jennings, Miles Jennings, Ishabod Jinks.

Charles Kilian.

Wm. Long, Iren Low, Isaac N. Ladd, Joshua Low, Wm. Lauderbach.

Wm. Mitchell, John Mitchell, Reuben Macey, Eli McDaniel, James Mitchell, Daniel Mitchell, F. H. McKinney, Patrick McGill, Elisha Meeker, James Malet, Francis B. Miller, Cornelius Murphy, Daniel Morgan, Wm. Manna, John McGinley, Charles Miller.

George W. Noah, Harrison Noble, Samuel M. Nelson, James Nash.

Hardin Ottman, Clem Ottman, John Ottman, John Orain, Wm. Oxford, Jacob B. Oxford.

Samuel Prewitt, John Prewitt, Robert Peery, John Frazier, Wm. Pilcher, James Powell, Anthony Pymel, Peter Price, Joseph Price.

Wm. Robitson, James K. Rees, James Ramey, Wm. Rice, Sheddick Robertson, Solomon Richardson, Hugh Ross.

Ephraim Stewart, Wright Stephens, Wm. M. Selby, Vincent Smith, John W. Stryenson, John K. Scott, George Smith, Jonathan H. Smith, Andrew J. Smith, James Stone, Amos Spurgin, Eli Salmon, Thomas Shain, Noah Snell, Jacob Stumbaugh, Rhoderick Stark, Charles M. Scott.

L. Dow Thompson, Thomas Tuelser, Beverly Travis, David Travis, Wm. A. Travis, Hiram Tinney, John Taylor, Thos. Taylor, Christopher Taylor, James Taylor, Thomas Thompson, Thomas Terry, Daniel M. Thomas, Elcana Tummins, Reuben D. Tiller.

John W. Virden, Jesse Vail, Daniel Vanderpool.

George Williams, Alfred Williams, John Williams, Andrew Williams, Richard Watson, Noah Whit, Sharp Wittingham, Elijah Wilcox, John Wilcox, Hiram K. Weddle, Calvin Williams, Adam H. Wilson.

Jereemiah Young, Harvey Young.

At this late date, it is almost an impossibility to collect a correct list of the names of all the early settlers. An earnest effort has been made to make the list as full and correct as possible, and as there must necessarily be some omissions and mistakes, it is hoped they will be excused in consideration of the efforts and sincere desire to give all a record in this sketch.

If my should ask, "And the old man of whom you spoke is he still alive?" We could reply, "Many of whom remain until this day, but some have fallen asleep." From the best information I have been able to gather, only about one-fourth of those whose names are above set down, are now living. I find it impossible to state with precision either the time or place of the first settlement of this County. The earliest settler in the County that I have been able to find, is Joseph Arndt. He says he came to the County with his father and Levi Hunt, in the year 1838, and settled on the west of Big Creek, near the present site of Mitchellville. When they came here, they found John Fields living on the east bank of Big Creek a couple of miles lower down; he had a little log hut and a small field enclosed and in cultivation, and evidently had settled here the year before.

William Mitchell, Jacob Mitchell, and others, settled on Sugar Creek, in the south-east part of the County about the year 1838. During the years 1838 and 1839, there were several families settled in the County at different points, and the neighborhoods were generally known by the names of some of the more prominent settlers. They had the names of Dunkerton's Grove, Taylor's Grove, Harris' Mill, Foster's Farm, and other similar designations, by which different points were as well known then, as the towns and villages are now.

For about eight years after the first settlements were made, the history and records of the County are connected with that of Daviess. These were years of toil and hardship of genuine hospitality and true friendship, of harmless simplicity and rustic frugality. They erected rude log cabins with clapboard roofs and paneled floors, or often without any floors, with clapboard doors and greased paper windows. It is reported that Asaph Butler was the first settler who used window glass in his house, and his neighbors regarded him as rather aristocratic, if disposed to put on a little too much style for a new County. Immigration came in slowly; the settlements gradually extended until they bordered upon each other, and began to lose that distinctiveness of separation which had characterized them during their earliest years; gradually the monotony of the

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wide stretches of country intervening between the settlements was filled up by the rude cabins of other settlers, until the isolated settlements became linked together. As soon as a settlement became strong enough, the neighbors would turn out and erect a log school-house, each contributing his part of the work, and each man paying for the schooling of his own children.

Before the organization of the County, the territory thereof was attached to Daviess, and formed a part thereof. John W. Brown was appointed Justice of the Peace, and decided all the litigation of the territory. At first it was thought there was no appeal from his decisions, but that his decisions were final and irrevocable; they were generally satisfactory, and the man who objected to abiding by the justice's decision, was regarded as a very mean, contemptible man.

As there were no mills accessible to the first settlers, they grinded their own meal, and pounded their corn for hominy. Those were the days of which the poet has spoken:

"They pounded corn to make it fine, They pressed the grape to make their wine, And when good meal, they wished to eat, They shot the buck or doe, in this new Country."

The first mill in the County, was erected by Philip Harris, in the year 1841, on Big Creek, about two and a half miles south-west of Bethany. He put in one small pair of bars, and the people called it "the corn cracker."

But winters the creek would freeze up and stop the mill, and such of the settlers as had failed to have a sufficient supply of meal prepared, had to resort to "gritting and pounding" until the mill "thawed out."

In 1843, Isaac Hammers erected a grist mill in Taylor's Grove, which was run by horse power; as this did not freeze up, it virtually put a stop to the gritting process.

There were no stoves in the County then, and the cooking vessels were not numerous. Frequently the whole outfit consisted of a two gallon pot, and a "Johnny cake board."

Corn was about the only grain grown, but sometimes buckwheat was raised; it was usually ground in coffee-mills, and buckwheat cakes and honey were considered quite a luxury, even "good enough for the preacher."

With five large flouring mills in our County, and a dozen "corn crackers" along the streams, with the luxuries and comforts we enjoy; we can scarcely imagine the inconveniences and hardships endured by those first settlers, who had to grind their meal and bake it upon a Johnny cake board, or even in the better times, when they would carry a couple bushels of corn ten or fifteen miles on horseback to a horse mill, and drive the horses around their dull tread two or three hours in order to grind out their grist.

Although the people were then free, and perhaps a little rough in their manners, they brought their religious principles with them, and in the year 1841, a few brethren met together and formed what is now known as the Christian Church at Bethany; John S. Allen and Ephraim Stewart were selected as elders, and much credit is due to them for the uninterrupted continuance of the organization to the present time.

There were in those early days no Post-office or post-roads in the territory of our County, and what few letters were written by the settlers, had to be taken to the Post-office at Cravensville in Daviess County, a small town on Grand River, about five miles north of Gallatin, which had been built and formerly occupied by Mormons, but since that time has gone to decay.

MILITARY.

In 1843, an order was received requiring the citizens of the territory to organize into military companies; a couple of companies were organized, and Charles L. Jennings was selected for Colonel and Stephen C. Allen for Major, and commanders of all the militia in the "attached territory."

When he got in the neighborhood of his home he found he was on the east side of Grand River, and could not cross that stream. So he had to go back north again to cross Grand River. His failure to return home alarmed his family, and they sent to the mill to ascertain the cause of his continued absence.

KILLIAN WALK.

Charles Killian was a citizen of the territory residing in the north-east part of the County. He came to Harris' Mill in the spring of the year 1844, with a pack of corn. While at the mill the creek raised so it could not be forded, and as it was likely to remain in that condition several days, he set out north to head the creek.

THE MORMON WAR.

The second war in which the militia of this County were engaged was against the Mormons in the spring of 1846. In the spring of 1846 the Mormons were driven from Illinois and emigrated westward through the southern part of Iowa, then unsettled. A large portion of them, led by Brigham Young, stopped for a season near where Leon, Decatur County, Iowa, now stands.

from two States, and had no desire to meet armed men. The Mormons raised the white flag, and the Colonel advanced and inquired for Brigham Young. Brigham soon made his appearance, smiling and bowing very politely, and inquired, "What is wanting, sir?"

Brigham stated that they had been persecuted and driven from their homes in Illinois, and had started for the west, and intended to seek a place of safety and seclusion far removed from the Gentiles, and where they might rest for all time to come without interference from the Gentiles, but having run short of provision they had stopped to raise a crop, and would then proceed upon their journey.

As soon as they were that the Act organizing the County had become a law, the settlers appointed a day to meet at Phil. Harris' mill, and select the persons they wanted for county officers, and recommended them to the Governor for appointment.

FIRST COUNTY COURT.

The first term of the County Court was held under the shade of trees on the west bank of Big Creek, about fifty yards south of Phil. Harris' Mill, two and a half miles south-west of where Bethany now stands.

The County-seat Commissioner employed some hands to cut the brush and jack oaks of the town site, so it could be surveyed, and engaged John Plaster, Surveyor of Geny County, to survey off the lot. He laid off that part of the town site on the first survey of Bethany, being fifteen blocks.

COURT-HOUSES.

At this term of the County Court John S. Allen was appointed Commissioner to contract for building a court-house—I copy from the record—of the following dimensions, to wit: the building to be a frame 24 feet long by 20 feet wide, 14 feet high, so as to make a story and a half; the first story to be 9 feet high, 2 windows in the upper story and 7 windows below, all to be twelve-light windows;

At the June term, 1845, of the County Court, the order appointing Henry Fuller County Treasurer was revoked, and David Buck was appointed Treasurer until the next election, and "to give bond as such to the satisfaction of the Court."

At the August term, 1847, the Commissioner was authorized to contract for judge's stand in the court-house of the following description, on the record: "A seat for the judge, to be on a platform 2 feet high, 2 feet wide, and 3 feet long, to be banistered up in front with a railing, and a plank on top 8 or 10 inches wide; also one step to ascend the platform, one foot high; also a bar in front of the judge's seat, to be 13 feet long."

The Commissioner thinks the plank on top was "planned off," but does not think it any part of the house was material. Neither does he think that the siding or floors of the house were of dressed material. This old-court-house and lot were sold to Charles J. Blackburn, in 1838, for \$500.40. In this connection I will give the court-house history as it appears to come in properly.

At the October term, 1845, of the County Court, John W. Brown, Sheriff and ex-officio Collector, made settlement with the Court for the tax-books for the year 1845. He was charged with:

The amount of the tax-book, \$296.76 Credit by Delinquent List, \$37.38 Com. for services, \$10.00 47.38

Balance to Treasurer, \$249.38 The County-taxes for 1846 were, \$308.76 Delinquent and Sheriff's Com., 27.77 Amount to Treas., \$280.99 In February, 1847, the records show settlement made by David Buck, Treasurer. He was charged with the amount received of Sheriff, \$280.99 Credit by amount paid for County Warrants, &c., 276.04 Balance on hand, \$4.95

pleted about the 15th of November, 1874. It is a good substantial brick-building, and considered the best Court-House in North Missouri.

JAILS.

At the February term of the County Court, 1847, E. S. Hughes was appointed Commissioner to let, contract and superintend building of a jail. He let the contract to build the jail to John and Clement Outman for \$346.80. The building erected was two stories high, sixteen feet square, consisting of two thicknesses of hewed logs; the logs were hewed out of good solid oak twelve inches square, and fitted together tightly, with floors and ceiling of the same material, each story being eight feet high.

In 1850 the County Court appointed Charles J. Blackburn Commissioner to prepare specifications, let, contract, and superintend erection of jail and jailor's house. He let the contract to Gardin R. Sanderson at eight thousand dollars. Sanderson commenced the work in 1851, but owing to the war and difficulties in the County, the work was retarded, and the building was not completed until the year 1856.

BETHANY.

The people did not like the name of "Dallas" given to their County-seat, and at the November term, 1845, of the County Court it was proposed to select a new name. The names "Bethany" and "Carthage" were proposed. It was agreed that the court and officers present, including Sheriff, Clerk, Treasurer, Attorney and County-seat Commissioners, should select the name by vote.

When the jail was first completed, it was considered utterly impossible for prisoners to break jail; but in a few years they learned to make fire against the stone and throw water on the stone while hot, thereby causing scales to peel off. They continued this process until the jail was rendered insecure, and a few prisoners escaped. In 1875 iron cells were placed in the jail by W. T. Cooper at a cost to the County of \$2,400.

The first lands entered under that survey were entered by John S. Allen, David Buck and James A. Dale on the 22d day of December, 1846. At the same time John S. Allen as County-seat Commissioner entered for the County of Allen, survey purposes one hundred and sixty acres of land, to wit: the east half of the south-west quarter and the west half of the south-east quarter of Section ten (10), Township thirty-six (36), Range twenty-eight (28).

LAND OPENED FOR ENTRY.

The U. S. Survey originally laid off the land by townships, each being six miles square. All of Harrison County north of township sixty-two remained in that condition until the Spring of 1845, when it was surveyed and laid off into sections and opened for entry. In and near the timber section and half section corners were marked by large stakes driven in the ground, with the number of the section, township and range marked upon them.

CIRCUIT COURT.

The first term of Circuit Court in the County was held at Bethany, commencing on the 23d day of April, 1846. Hon. Assis. A. King was Circuit Judge; George W. Dunn, Circuit Attorney; John W. Brown, Sheriff; John S. Allen, Clerk. Among the attorneys present were Philip Edwards, Ephraim B. Ewing and Mordecai Oliver, and others, all of whom, the records say, "were admitted to practice as attorneys and counsellors-at-law and solicitors in chancery."

There were three cases upon the docket, one an appeal for damages for killing a dog, one an ejectment suit, one "assumpsit." The first two were dismissed at the cost of plaintiffs, and the other was continued. The Grand Jury returned two indictments. Court held one day, and adjourned until court in course. The record of the proceedings, including the opening and adjourning, orders and empanelling of the Grand Jury, occupies only a little over three pages of the record.

REVENUES AND FEES.

At the October term, 1845, of the County Court, John W. Brown, Sheriff and ex-officio Collector, made settlement with the Court for the tax-books for the year 1845. He was charged with:

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The Court thereupon made an order allowing David Back for his services \$4.95, and this made him even with the County. Those were not good times for salary-grabbers or office-seekers to get rich from public funds.

The State and County-taxes of this County for the year 1875 amounted to \$30,561.88. The commission of the County Treasurer for receiving and paying out the same amounted to \$541.10, being more than double the total taxes of the County for the year 1845.

POPULATION.

The population of the County at the census in 1850 was 2,447; in 1860, 10,626; in 1870, 14,635.

NEWSPAPERS.

The first newspaper published in the County was issued on the 4th day of August, 1859. It was called "Bethany Star." It was published by Edwin R. Martin and Samuel A. Allen, "Editors and Publishers." It was a neat folio paper containing six columns to the page. It was an independent, neutral paper, issued weekly. They continued the publication of the paper until the year 1861, when they sold their press to Wm. A. Templeman. He changed the name of the paper to "Weekly Union." D. J. Heaston, J. S. Allen and W. A. Templeman, Editors. In 1863 the press was sold to Henry Howe, who changed the name to "Weekly Union of States." In 1865 Henry Howe sold the press to Thomas D. Neal, who changed the name to "North Missouri Tribune." He continued publishing the paper as a Republican paper until 1872, when he sold to Wm. T. Foster, who continued the paper until 1875, when he sold to John H. Phillebaum. Mr. Phillebaum changed the name of the paper to "Harrison County Herald" and changed the politics, making it a Democratic paper. In 1876 he sold to Al. S. Hickman and James P. Berry, who are now issuing a neat folio paper, with eight columns to the page, Democratic in politics. It is ably conducted, and has a good circulation.

In 1868, Wm. P. Robinson and others purchased a printing-press and published a weekly paper called "Harrison County Press," independent in politics. After the nomination of Grant and Seymour for President, Mr. Robinson sold his interest in the "Press" to Paul Conner, who continued its publication as a Democratic paper over a year. In 1870 D. J. Heaston purchased the "press" and changed the name to "The Bethany Watchman." He continued its publication until 1873, when he sold out to citizens of Worth County and the press was moved to Grant County, Mo., and is now used in publishing the "Worth County Times."

In 1873, T. D. Neal purchased a new press and published the "Bethany Republican" until the fall of 1875, when he sold to W. J. Wightman, who changed the name to "Harrison County Republican." It is a neat folio paper, eight columns to the page. It is ably conducted, and has a good circulation.

In 1874, Walter J. Wightman established a paper at Eagleville called the "Harrison County Eagle." He continued its publication at that point about eighteen months when he purchased the Bethany Republican, as before stated, and united the two offices at Bethany.

In March, 1876, B. F. Knapp established a paper at Eagleville called "Eagleville News," which he is now publishing. It is a neat quarto, with five columns to the page. It is independent in politics, ably conducted, and has a good list of advertisements.

There are now three papers published in the County. The Herald, Republican, and News.

LIST OF COUNTY OFFICERS.

A list of the County Officers would necessarily form a part of the history of the County and also the term of their service respectively. In many cases this has been almost impossible to ascertain the correct dates. In such cases they have been omitted.

CIRCUIT JUDGES.

The following Circuit Judges have held Court in this County, none of whom were citizens of this County:

Table listing Circuit Judges: Austin A. King (1859), James McFerran (1859 to 1862), James J. Clark (1862 to 1872), Samuel A. Richardson (1872 to present time).

The only State Senator elected from this County was George W. Elwell. He was elected in 1866 and died while in office in 1869.

REPRESENTATIVES.

Table listing Representatives: L. D. Thompson (1846 to 1850), Stephen C. Allen (1850 to 1852), Elijah Hubbard (1852 to 1854), Henry O. Nevill (1854 to 1856), S. C. Allen (1856 to 1858), James M. Nevill (1858 to 1860), Samuel Downey (1860 to 1862), Thomas D. Neal (1862 to 1868), Wm. H. Hillman (1868 to 1874), James B. Brower (1874 to 1876).

PROBATE JUDGES.

Table listing Probate Judges: Wm. G. Lewis (1853 to 1857), J. H. Phillebaum (1857 to 1861), D. H. Heaston (1861 to 1862), Thornton H. Templeman (1862 to 1866), T. D. Neal (1866 to 1868), John W. Wirth (1868 to 1872), Wm. P. Robinson (1872 to 1876).

SHERIFFS.

Table listing Sheriffs: John W. Brown (1845 to 1846), Henry Fuller (1846 to 1848), Wm. R. Allen (1848 to 1852), M. K. Howell (1852 to 1856), John P. Devers (1856 to 1860), Thomas Monson (1860 to 1862).

Table listing Circuit County Clerks: Wm. H. Hillman (1862 to 1866), Wm. R. Simms (1866 to 1870), James C. Baker (1870 to 1872), George S. Graham (1872 to 1876).

CIRCUIT COUNTY CLERK.

Table listing Circuit County Clerks: Thos. Flint (1845 to 1846), J. S. Allen (1846 to 1850), John W. Brown (1846 to 1864). Note: In 1854 the offices of Circuit and County Clerk were separated.

CIRCUIT CLERK.

Table listing Circuit Clerks: John W. Brown (1864 to 1866), George W. Bradshaw (1866 to 1869), James C. Baker (1869 to 1870), H. J. Skinner (1870 to 1876).

COUNTY CLERK.

Table listing County Clerks: Henry O. Bryant (1864 to 1866), John Slinger (1866 to 1872), Wm. C. Heaston (1872 to 1874), John W. Kenyon (1874 to 1876).

TREASURERS.

Table listing Treasurers: Henry Fuller (About one month), David Back (1845 to 1848), John S. Allen (1848 to 1856), C. M. Scott (1856 to 1860), B. T. Wheelbarrow (1860 to 1862), James Price (1862 to 1866), Veary Price (1866 to 1868), Geo. W. Myers (1868 to 1872), Alfred N. Cave (1872 to 1874), Ezra T. Baldwin (1874 to 1876).

THE WAR.

The people of Harrison County were nearly unanimously for the Union when the war came in 1861. There were not over fifteen to twenty persons west from Harrison County into the Southern army, while there were nearly a thousand soldiers west from this County into the United States army, most of them for three years' service.

Wm. P. Robinson was Colonel of the Twenty-third Regiment Missouri Infantry Volunteers, and Horace Fitch was Lieutenant-Colonel of the Thirty-fifth Regiment Missouri Infantry Volunteers.

The following Companies were composed principally of Volunteers from this County: Company D, Twenty-third Missouri Infantry, W. P. Robinson, Captain; Company E, Twenty-third Missouri Infantry, Captain Arch. Montgomery; Company F, Second Missouri Cavalry, generally known as "Merrill's Horse," Captain Elijah Hubbard; Company A, Thirty-fifth Missouri Infantry, Captain Horace Fitch; Company I, First Missouri State Militia Cavalry, Captain Milton Burns; Company E, Third Missouri State Militia Cavalry, Captain Charles B. McAfee; Company G, Sixth Missouri State Militia Cavalry, Captain John A. Page; Company H, Twelfth Missouri Cavalry, Preston Sharp First Lieutenant; Company E, Forty-third Missouri Infantry Volunteers, Captain Simeon Sutton.

Besides the foregoing companies there were many volunteers from this County in various other companies.

In 1862, Governor Gamble issued an order requiring the loyal men subject to military service to organize into companies and regiments. In pursuance of this order eleven companies were organized in Harrison County, which formed a regiment and was known as the Fifty-seventh Regiment of Enrolled Missouri Militia.

The following were the first commissioned officers of the regiment and companies:

Table listing officers: David J. Heaston (Colonel), James M. Nevill (Lieutenant-Colonel), Wm. G. Weldon (Major), and various Captains including F. M. Jackson, Simeon Sutton, Benj. S. Ramsey, J. C. Frisley, Wm. J. Fraier, S. C. Allen, Preston Sharpe, Wm. Canada, James H. Linch, Wm. W. Harper, and James Stanbrough.

The regiment was called into active service on three different occasions, and in all performed about two months' actual service.

There was no battle or conflict of arms in this County, during the war, and only two or three persons killed in the County from any cause growing out of the war.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The first preachers in the county were A. B. Hartin, of the Baptist, and John S. Allen, of the Christian Church; both came to the County about 1841.

The first physician was Doctor Hardin Outman, who came to the County about 1840.

The first regular attorney was Wm. G. Lewis, who came to the County about 1847.

The first hotel in the County was kept by Robert Ballington, in a one-story hewed log house, on the north side of the Public Square, in Bethany, where the City Hotel now stands. The original part of the house erected by Mr. Bullington still remains, though sided up with, and additions and second story added, so that it has almost lost its identity.

The first drug shop kept in the County was by Dennis Clancy, who in 1845,

* Died in office. † Appointed to fill vacancy.

obtained license from the County court to keep a "grocery" at Harris' Mill, for six months, by paying ten dollars State tax, and ten dollars County tax. The first blacksmith shop in the County was started by Joseph Hunt, about 1840, on Big Creek near the south line of the County.

THE GALLOWES.

The only person ever executed in Harrison County was Joseph P. Hamilton. Hamilton shot and killed Elisha W. Hallock, while at work for him in the field upon Hallock's farm, a few miles east of Princeton, in Mercer County, Missouri, on the 14th day of July, 1871. Hallock, at the time of his death, was about forty-eight years old; his wife, Mary Hallock, was about twenty-eight; and Hamilton was about twenty-one. Hamilton had been working for and living with Hallock over a year before the murder. The evidence tended to show too great intimacy between Hamilton and Mrs. Hallock. She was jointly indicted with him for the murder. She had her cause changed to Putnam County, Mo., where upon the second trial, she was acquitted. Hamilton asked for a change of venue, and the cause was sent to Harrison County for trial. At the July term, 1873, of the Harrison Circuit Court, he was tried, and the jury returned a verdict of "Guilty of Murder in the First Degree." Hamilton's attorneys appealed his case to the Supreme Court of the State. At the February Term of the Supreme Court, the judgment of the lower Court was affirmed, as may be seen by reference to vol. 55, Mo. Reports, page 320.

The Supreme Court set no time for the execution, and official notice of the decision was not received until the September term of the Circuit Court, 1874. The Judge then fixed Friday, October 30th, 1874, as the day of his execution. The scaffold was erected near the foot of the hill, north-east of the public square, where four or five thousand people assembled to witness the solemn scene. The day was dark and gloomy, heavy clouds overcast the sky, and chilly north-west winds drove the scattered snow fiercely by. Yet the multitude lingered and tarried to behold the dreadful sight. About two o'clock, the fatal trap fell, and the soul of Joseph P. Hamilton was ushered into the unknown world. Almost as soon as the trap fell some of the crowd began to quietly and almost imperceptibly withdraw, but many remained until the body was taken down and removed to the jail.

Although about ten murders have been committed in Harrison County in the last thirty years, yet in nearly every case the murderer has escaped arrest or been acquitted upon the flimsy plea of insanity, or sentenced to very slight punishment.

BETHANY.

BETHANY, the County-seat of Harrison County, is pleasantly situated on the east fork of Big Creek, about six miles south of the center of the County, thirty miles south-west of Princeton, on the C. R. I. & P. R. R., and about sixty-five miles north-east of St. Joseph, Mo. The site for the County-seat was located here in 1845; the town was laid out and settled soon after. In 1860 it was incorporated under the name of the "City of Bethany." West Bethany was incorporated separately in 1871, but the two towns are usually considered one. Bethany has the advantage of good building material near at hand; such as stone, timber and good clay for brick. It contains a fine flouring mill and woolen factory, two banks, fifteen stores, two saddler shops, two newspapers, three hotels, four millinery shops, three churches—Christian, M. E. Church, and Cumberland Presbyterian—the aggregate value of church buildings being about fourteen thousand dollars, one primary school, and one high school with four departments. The building for the latter cost about eleven thousand dollars. The present population is about twelve hundred.

EAGLEVILLE is sixteen miles north of Bethany, is located in a beautiful prairie, and surrounded by a fine farming district. It has a good flouring mill, a dozen stores, three hotels, a weekly newspaper, three churches—M. E. Church, Baptist, and Christian—population 700.

GAINSVILLE is situated on the east bank of Grand River, twenty miles north-east of Bethany. It has a good flouring mill upon the river, contains two churches, several stores, is a good trading post. Population about 300.

MARTINSVILLE is located ten miles north-west of Bethany, in a beautiful prairie, has several stores, two churches, and a population of about 150.

BROOKLYN is ten miles north of Bethany, on the east bank of Big Creek. It contains a good flouring mill, and several stores and shops; has a population of about 100.

BOLTON is a small town and trading point, twelve miles east of south-east of Bethany, contains two stores, and a population of about 50.

LORRAINE is a small town and trading point about eight miles north of north-east of Bethany. It has a couple of stores and shops, and a population of about 50. It is nicely laid off, and improving rapidly. Its inhabitants claim that it is the center of the County, and will be the future County-seat.

MT. MORIAH is situated in a beautiful prairie about one mile west of Grand River, and fifteen miles east of north-east from Bethany. It contains four stores, two hotels, and a population of about 100.

MITCHELLVILLE is a small town and trading point on the east bank of Big Creek, five miles south of south-west from Bethany. Population about 50.

LAMPSON CREEK, a post-office and trading point ten miles west of Bethany. Within a past few years several houses have been erected here, and it now has two stores and a population of about 50.

BLUE RIDGE, a post-office ten miles south-east of Bethany.

BURR OAK is the name of a post-office south-west of Bethany.

HAPPY VALLEY is the name of a post-office ten miles south of Bethany.

PLEASANT RIDGE is a post-office seven miles south of south-east of Bethany.

THOMAS is a post-office seven miles east of Bethany.

YANKEE RIDGE is a post-office ten miles north-east of Bethany.

AKRON is a post-office twenty-five miles north, north-east of Bethany.

CONCLUSION.

This historical sketch is longer than I intended to make it when I began, and yet I find there are many other matters of interest that might well be awarded a place. When accessible I have resorted to the public records for such facts as contained therein, but for many incidents and facts I had to rely upon information given by old settlers, who I have found ever willing to give what aid in their power, and to whom thanks are due.

Whatever of errors, omissions, or imperfections may be found herein, it is hoped will be excused in consideration of a sincere desire to present the facts, and the difficulty in many cases of procuring them.