

White Settlement.—The names of the principal streams would indicate that the discoverers of this section were French. The Pomme de Terre (Potato) river; the Auglaise, the Gravois, the Weaubleau, etc., are unmistakable in their origin. It is equally clear that the pioneers who followed the discoverers and successfully pushed back the savages, the wild beasts and the profuse wildness of the face of the country, and effected an entrance into its dark and often nearly impenetrable woods, and crossed its swollen, bridgeless streams, were Democrats of the Andrew Jackson type—men who partook more or less of the stern nature of the old hero of New Orleans; resolute, fiery and unconquerable by nature themselves, they sincerely admired these qualities in perfection in Gen. Jackson, and hence they were greatly pleased to honor their county by giving it his character cognomen, and then further showing their admiration by appropriately naming their county seat after the favorite name of Jackson's homestead. One of the streams in Hickory County, Hogle's Creek, received its name from an Indian trader of that name, who settled at the mouth of this creek, he and his partner, Pensoneau, being the first white settlers in this part of the Osage Valley. Hogle was a German, and Pensoneau was a Frenchman. The latter was one of the French who settled in Cahokia, Illinois, one of the first settlements in that State in the eighteenth century.

Into Hickory County there came, about the same time, two streams of pioneers—one from the north, into that part which was at one period in Benton County, and the other from the south, into the southern part of the county.

The impression prevailing with the old settlers of to-day is, that probably the first arrivals were in the south part. Judge Neihardt, who prepared, in 1876, the centennial sketch of the county (which unfortunately, like all the early records, was destroyed when the court house burned), states that about the first white settlement was on Lindley Creek, near where is now Pittsburg. Here were two families as early as 1832, the Zumalts and Ingleses; but which came first, or whether they came together, could not be ascertained. Their given names, or what became of their descendants, is not known. The fact is that others of

the pioneers all attest that these individuals were living there when they first knew of the locality.

E. F. Halbert, postmaster at Hermitage, who has lived in the county since 1842, says that he was often told by Andrew Vandever that this county was his birthplace (born, probably, some years before 1832). The Vandevers settled on Stark Creek, about twelve miles east of Hermitage. Settlements were known to have existed in the southeast part of the county as early as 1832.

In the northwest part was Judge Joseph C. Montgomery, who settled on what became the Samuel Walker place. After him was named Montgomery Township, when it was first formed (a part of Benton County) in 1835. At that time he was one of the county judges of Benton County. Samuel Judy settled on the southwest quarter of Section 33, on the place now owned by Mrs. S. Lollar, a short distance south of Quincy, and for years this was called Judy's Gap, on account of being the narrow strip which joins Twenty-five Mile Prairie and Hogle Creek Prairie, and where the timber of Little Pomme de Terre and Hogle Creek nearly join. Near Judy's was John Graham. It is known that these families had settled there prior to or in the year 1833.

In the northeast portion, west of the town of Cross Timbers, on North Prairie, was a settlement, probably as old as any in the county. There were enough settlers there as early as 1833 to form an organization of the Primitive Baptist Church at the house of Washington Young. The ancient church records give the names of the first members of this church as James Dawson, John Potter, Daniel Lake, Nancy Young, Ann Foster, Nancy Holloway, Nellie Dawson and James Richardson. The preachers for this denomination were James Richardson, James H. Baker, Hezekiah Parker, Daniel Briggs, Marcus Monroe and James Walker.

The military road, or the "old road," was the first known appearance of an English-speaking people in this part of Missouri. This passed through Hickory County, as it ran from Boonville on its way to Springfield, Missouri, and thence to Fayetteville, Arkansas. This road, which had been used as early



AN EARLY HABITATION.

as 1821, was regularly cut out, and made a proper United States road by act of Congress in 1835.

The above list of very first settlers probably comprises all who were here prior to 1833. Of course, all who came in before the formation of the county, in 1845, are to be reckoned as the county's pioneers. It was soon after 1833 that the great tide of Eastern emigration set in toward the West. General Jackson vetoed the United States Bank in 1832, and following this was the wild scheme of private banks in great numbers, and often by those who proposed no other capital than "talk," on which to found their institutions. These, instead of seeking a place of habitation in the busy haunts of men, rather avoided them as much as possible, so as to get their bills in circulation as far away from home as they could, and also to make it more difficult for the bills to find their way to the parent bank for redemption. They flooded the country with cheap money, and in every way encouraged the people to borrow money for all manner of speculation. Four years, from 1832 to 1836, were characterized by a reckless spirit of speculation unknown up to that time in the history of the country. The main field for speculators then was in the wild lands of the Northwest. Vast sums of this money found its way to the land offices, and, as fast as the Government could open land offices and surveyors could survey and sectionize the lands, great crowds would besiege the offices eager to invest in lands. It was in this year that the surveyors from Boonville surveyed, on their way South, the lands in the upper half of Benton County. In the midst of the wildest of this wild spirit of speculation in 1836, President Jackson issued his famous circular instructing the land offices to receive in pay for lands only gold and silver. The "wild-cat" bills were then sent to the banks for redemption, and then came the memorable crash of 1837, which sent financial ruin to the borrowers of the country. While depressing business in all the old States, it had stimulated a wave of emigration to the West that has never stopped, and that perhaps in the course of affairs would not have started for many years after 1833-36. Hickory County, although at a distance from the great waterways leading emigration westward, caught some of the emigrants, and the real commencement of the settlement of the county may

be fixed as at that time. About that time, too, the county west of the Pomme de Terre was opened to white settlers. In 1839, Archibald Cock, a name afterward well known in the Turk-Jones "Slicker war," made a settlement just north of Quincy, and Abraham C. Nowell began his improvements three miles north-west of Cock's.

Three brothers, James, Samuel and Robert McCracken, came in 1837; Samuel made his improvement on Section 26; Robert settled on Section 27, Township 36, Range 23. In this township, in 1837, had located Nathaniel Holland, William B. Bodine, Russell M. Morgan, William G. Baynham, Bird Estes, John P. Rogers, Thomas Holland, William J. Metcalf. This was at that time the strongest settlement in the county.

John Starks had settled on Stark's Creek, whence its name. His place is about twelve miles east of Hermitage.

Turk-Jones Affray.—A short distance south of Cock's, there settled in 1839, the noted Turk family, consisting of the father, Col. Hiram K. Turk, and four sons, James, Thomas J., Nathan and Robert. The family came from Tennessee, and their arrival here and the bloody vendetta which soon after arose between them and the Jones brothers, who lived a little north in what is now Benton County, form one of the most terrible and bloody chapters in the whole range of the history of border settlements. Montgomery Township was then in Benton County, and Turk's house was in 1840 a voting place. The Turks were magnificent specimens of physical manhood, tall, straight, lithe and muscular. Gray-headed men now, who were boys then, often relate that no man ever made so strong impression upon them at first sight as did Col. Turk. His commanding person and courtly carriage, the elegance of his dress and dignity of manners, were a revelation to them. The family had all received good educations for that day, and all knew well the civility and politeness of gentlemen. The boys were disposed to dissipate, tending largely to racing horses and gambling. The four Jones brothers were the opposite of the Turks in everything except animal courage and physical prowess.

The first act of the drama opened at the August election, 1840, at Turk's house. The Turks had a store—no doubt the

first ever kept in what is now Hickory County — and sold liquor among other things. A large portion of the voters on that day having freely imbibed, a difficulty arose between James Turk and Andy Jones, and a general free fight was inaugurated. The Turks were the victors, it seems, and no one was seriously hurt. The Jones party rushed into court, and had the Turks arrested and bound over. Abraham C. Nowell, a quiet and peaceable farmer, was, most unfortunately, a witness against the Turks. When he was on his way to court, on the morning of April 3, 1841, in company with Julius Sutliff, a near neighbor of the Turks, he was overtaken at the branch near Arch. Cock's house by James Turk, who objected to his (Nowell's) testimony against him. Some words followed, when Turk dismounted, and, drawing his pistol, approached Nowell, who was unarmed; the latter, however, secured Sutliff's gun, and, as his opponent rapidly advanced, shot him dead. Nowell's friends advised him to flee the country, which he did, but returned at the next term of the court, and was tried and acquitted. Open and relentless war was now declared by the Turks against the Joneses and their clan. The next move was the arrest or kidnaping of Morton, a relative of the Joneses, and sending him back to Alabama, to be tried for killing a sheriff of that State when the officer was in the act of arresting him. This act increased the members of the Jones party, and added to it some of the prominent men of that day. The Turks were recruited, on the other hand, by the bad conduct of the Joneses and their cronies, and they were openly charged by the Turks and others with stealing horses and other stock. In the future developments of this affray, it came out that the Jones party regularly organized their clan, and swore them in, one of their first purposes being to kill Col. Hiram K. Turk, who had been arrested and bound over for kidnaping Morton. Jabez Harrison, when he was whipped by the Turks, confessed that the Jones party, led by Andrew Jones, had entered into a conspiracy to kill Hiram K. and Tom Turk. July 17, 1841, Hiram K. Turk was shot from ambush, and soon after died. He had been to Squire Alexander Breshears' to attend a lawsuit, and was returning, in company with Alex. and Thomas Cox, E. T. Condley (these parties all

lived in now Hickory County, near Turk's), and Andrew Turk. The last, though bearing the name, was not related to the other Turk family. Col. Turk was shot in a brushy hollow on Breshears' prairie, near where is now Quincy, near the house of Sampson Norton. Andy Jones and others were indicted for this murder, and on trial were acquitted. Joseph C. Montgomery was foreman of the grand jury which returned the bills of indictment. When the trial was over, the Turk party, becoming convinced that perjury was so easy, and that there was but one course open to them, took the law in their own hands. Tom Turk became the leader on his side, and had a trusty following of about one hundred men. On the other side, Andy Jones was principal. The Turk party gathered Friday, January 28, 1842, moved down in force upon the Jones neighborhood, intending to kill their enemies, and drive their confederates out of the county. They failed to find any one of the Jones boys at home, but, securing Thomas Meddows, took him out and whipped him with roasted hickory withes ("slicking," as they called it) so severely that he soon after died. William Brookshire was also subjected to treatment almost as severe. Luther White was also whipped, and then John A. Whitaker. Afterward, finding Jabez L. Harrison at Samuel Brown's store, these vengeance-seekers gave him a cruel whipping, and it was then they made him confess to the conspiracy to kill Turk. After each whipping, the victims and many others were warned to leave the county within ten days. No secret was made of naming those whom it was intended to kill on sight. Such was the state of excitement that the militia were called out, and, under command of Captain Holloway, were in Benton County quite a while. The Jones party had their headquarters in Warsaw, at "Dutchfort," as a saloon kept by a German was called, while the Turks rendezvoused at Hastian's Hotel. At one time, while the military were still there, a party of 100 of the Turks came down to attack the Jones party, then quartered at what is now Lemon's hotel. Captain Holloway prevented an encounter on this occasion. Several of the Jones party were killed in personal encounters in the meantime. The Jones party were finally either killed or driven out of the country, and went to Texas.

Nathan Turk followed, and was instrumental in exterminating the last of them, several of whom were hanged for cattle stealing. Nathan was subsequently killed in Shreveport in a broil over a game of cards, and thus ended the Turk-Jones vendetta.

In the above account, it is only attempted to give the main outlines as they apply to the chief parties on the two sides. During the two years the vendetta raged, there were many of the best citizens in the country involuntarily more or less drawn into the dreadful affair, and thus some of the best people were at times visited by the "slickers," men often finding it necessary to bravely defend their homes. After the Joneses had been driven out of the country, Tom Turk and Isaac Hobbs secreted themselves near Nowell's house, and, when he opened his door one early morning and stepped out, shot him dead. Over this assassination Tom Turk and his accomplice soon after quarreled, and Hobbs waylaid and shot him to death.

LAND ENTRIES AND CUSTOMS.

The land in Hickory County was surveyed and sectionized in 1838. The first land entries were by William J. Metcalf and Robert H. McCracken, October 22, 1838. Twelve parties entered land that year, and in 1839 the number largely increased. The following are the list of early land entries, given by townships:

Township 35, Range 21.—Eliza Ingles, November 22, 1843; southeast southeast Section 5. George W. Pollock, December 8, 1857; southeast Section 1. Henry Manship, December 17, 1858; west half southwest Section 1. Mary A. Ramsey, May 26, 1854; northwest northwest Section 1, and northeast northeast Section 2. John Fisher, June 22, 1856; south half northwest Section 2. Henry O. Gilger, December 18, 1858; west half southwest Section 4. Jesse Zumalt, August 4, 1853; northwest northwest Section 4. John C. Pitts, April 29, 1854; northwest northeast Section 5, and northeast northwest same. Jesse Zumalt, south half northeast and southeast northwest Section 5. John McBride, November 13, 1857; west half southwest Section 5. Jonathan L. Rix, February 9, 1857; southwest northeast Section 6. Robert Allen, January 11, 1856; southeast