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HISTORY OF MT. VERNON AND LAWRENCE COUNTY

1931 NI MCPL



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Dedicated

to

The spirit of the pioneers who braved so
much to lay the foundation for the remarkable
growth and progress

of

Mt. Vernon

and

Lawrence County, Missouri



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History of Mt. Vernon and Lawrence County, Missouri

CHAPTER I

LOCATION & EARLY SETTLERS

Lawrence county was first settled by white men in 1831, during which year John Williams and his son moved here from Tennessee. A number of families accompanied him from Tennessee but on reaching the creek and brakes near the eastern part of the county, all became disheartened and turned back except Mr. Williams and his son, whereupon the creek was called Turnback, and still bears that name.

The portion of Missouri that is now Lawrence county was originally Crawford county which embraced all southwest Missouri. In 1833 it was changed to Greene, in 1835 Barry, in 1841 to Dade and not until 1845 was it set aside as the county of Lawrence. Crawford Co. was organized Jan. 23, 1829 and was named in honor of Wm. Crawford of Georgia candidate for President in 1824. The first organization of a county called Lawrence in 1818 was never perfected, however the present county of Lawrence was organized by an act of the Legislature in Feb. 1845 and its county seat Mt. Vernon was located the same year.

It was named for the gallant sea captain, James Lawrence whose last words were, "Don't give up the ship."

During the time that the names of

the counties were changing, T. M. Hickman (the father of H. T., Miss Flora Hickman and Mrs. Grace Sheppard) was born on the old homestead and this was his place of residence until his death. So it can be truly said that he was born, lived and died in the same yard in three counties.

Mt. Vernon is one of the pioneer towns of Southwest, Mo., and its early history dates back to the year 1845. It is the county seat of Lawrence county and is situated almost in the exact center of the county, on section 30, township 28 and range 26.

It was first decided to locate the county seat at Salem where the first post office was stationed, however, the county court moved it to Mt. Vernon considering it more centrally located in the county; and the officials had personal holdings here.

Perhaps it would be interesting to know that at this time a letter cost 25 cents per sheet and if the postmaster thought more than one sheet was enclosed he would require the patron to open it at the office in his presence. The postmaster collected the postage from the addressee.

The land where the original town of Mt. Vernon stands was purchased by the county. The location was se-

lected by Larkin Newton, Elijah Gray and Harris Joplin who were appointed by the legislature as commissioners, for the purpose. In February 1845 a town charter or grant was obtained and in May a part of the town was surveyed and laid off into town lots by John D. Allen. During the clearing of the land which was covered with post oak, hickory, black oak and underbrush, the following incident will show how plenty game was at that date. While the surveyor and his assistants were eating their dinner in the woods, near where the present court house stands, they heard a report of a rifle; on investigation found that Robert Jennings had shot and killed a fine large deer only a short distance from where they were sitting.

Prior to 1843 the first postoffice (which was named Mt. Vernon in memory of the home of America's first president) was stationed at a farm house northwest of Mt. Vernon now known as the Geo. Tillotson farm. This land was homesteaded by Wm. Orr, father of John A. Orr and grandfather of George B. Orr. Wm. Orr reared his family there and John A. Orr also reared his family on the old homestead disposing of this farm a few years ago. Soon after the new town began to grow the post office was moved to the county seat thereby giving the town the name of Mt. Vernon and J. M. Kellogg was appointed postmaster. Mr. Kellogg was the first merchant in Mt. Vernon erecting the first building and opened a country

store on June 1, 1845. This was a frame building about 16 feet square, 2 stories high and located on the square. When the town was platted and the town lots put on the market he purchased a lot at the southwest corner of the square and moved the building there. Mr. Kellogg died on Dec. 19, 1884 in his 75th year.

On July 4th, our national birthday is was considered by the citizens of Mt. Vernon an appropriate day to celebrate the new county. Men were dispatched on horse back to those parts of the county having settlements, with invitations to every man, woman and child to gather at the county seat and join in the first 4th of July celebration ever held in Lawrence county or this neck o' the woods. All Lawrence county was at Mt. Vernon on the specified day. There were no other houses than Kellogg's primitive store building and the cabin of Wm. M. Matthews, so inviting booths were constructed of poles, covered with branches of trees, so that no one was uncomfortable. The day was celebrated with a "barbecue" and "bran dance." A bountiful and sumptuous repast was provided for all, consisting of whole roasted or barbecued oxen, sheep, pigs, etc., and all other good things then procurable.

Mrs. Loren K. Wright was the first baby born in Mt. Vernon and was named Sarah Margret Matthews. She was born March 14, 1845 in a log cabin which stood where the Mt. Vernon Lumber Co. office is now. Her father cleared a patch and built this

cabin when he and his family came here in 1841. Sarah Margret was the only infant present at this celebration and bran dance and was very popular with both young and old. Mr. Jim Kirby was then a young man and he asked to hold the baby. She was dressed in pink calico and red flannel according to the fashion of that time. Her father Wm. Matthews and some other generous soul purchased a barrel of brown sugar as a special treat to the crowd and everyone enjoyed the sweet to the fullest.

The 4th of July oration was delivered by Buck Whann who was then an itinerant pedagogue. After the oration and dinner were over the bran dance was inaugurated in which the "elite" of the new county took part. This is the preparation made for the bran dance: A plot of ground was cleared off, leveled down and made hard and smooth, then a layer of one or two inches of wheat bran was scattered over the surface and the ballroom was declared completed and ready for the dancers. The music consisted of a single violin and Dick Chitwood was the performer thereon. He could play only two airs, "Rye Straw and "Chicken pie" and he played these alternately. Perhaps no other time or place was a dance more universally enjoyed and appreciated. The plot of ground on which they danced is where our present court house stands.

In 1845 the Union Hotel was built and opened by Wm. M. Matthews and was continually used as a hotel for

many years and kept by Mrs. Sally Matthews, widow of the original proprietor. This building stood where the T. A. Miller Lumber yard was afterwards located. During the Civil war Mrs. Matthews would ring the big bell that hung over the hotel to warn the citizens when it was thought the Rebels were coming. In case of fire this bell was rung. (This was back in the days of the bucket brigade.) Also this bell was tolled when a funeral procession was on its way to the city cemetery.

Mt. Vernon was incorporated as a town Feb. 9, 1848 and as the city of Mt. Vernon under the act of Nov. 4, 1857. At this time N. B. Hocker was named mayor but the first mayor elected for Mt. Vernon was John M. Skinner, serving from 1884-86. Wm. M. Matthews was justice of the peace and from 1847 to 1854 married eleven couples.

In 1846 Mt. Vernon contained the families of Wm. Matthews, Dr. Kelly, Pleasant M. Wear, T. R. Whaley, J. M. Kellogg, E. Gaither and B. K. Turk. Mr. Turk was not married at that time. He erected a black-jack cabin south of the square and for four years he shod horses, with steel-toed shoes for \$1.00 and plain shoes for 75 cents. Mr. Turk was a tanner by trade. He died in 1918 at the age of 87.

Harrison Haley was a pioneer merchant of Mt. Vernon coming here in 1845. Wm. A. McCause came to Mt. Vernon in 1847 and clerked for Mr. Haley. Mr. Haley and Mr. McCause

were partners in the mercantile business in the early 50's. Uncle Billy McCause, as he was more familiarly known, was married in 1852 to Miss Catherine Newman by Matthew; Arrington, M. G. He and Wm. Gay were the first to have carpets and parlor furniture in their homes. The men went to St. Louis and Mr. McCause bought a carpet, a marble top center table and a horse hair upholstered parlor set. Mr. Gay purchased a parlor set, carpet and melodeon. It is said that folks would come to town especially to see these parlors.

About 1852 Thomas Stringer owned a wagon and carriage shop which was located just west and south of the J. A. Cochran and Mrs. Harvey's properties. In 1863 Mr. Stringer was accidentally shot and killed while hunting.

In 1852 Dale Burton moved his family to Mt. Vernon and established a cabinet shop, making furniture and coffins.

The settlers came mostly from Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana and Virginia with a few from almost every state east of the Mississippi.

Jesse H. Duncan and George Duncan opened the first store and sold the first goods that were sold in the territory now forming Lawrence county. Their place of business was at the McKenzie Spring on Spring River about 8 miles west of Mt. Vernon. They sold goods there during the years 1833-34-35.

John Williams and his family were the first settlers coming here in the

fall of 1831 from Tennessee. Mr. Williams settled on land three miles east of Mt. Vernon and his farm is still in the family, owned by the John McCause estate. Two great grandchildren of the first settler, living in Mt. Vernon today are Henry McCause and his sister, Mrs. Arthur Johnson. Also Mrs. Lorene McCause Richardson and Lawrence Henry McCause (brother and sister) and the children of Henry McCause, are the great great grandchildren of John Williams and live in Mt. Vernon. Henry T. Williams and Mrs. M. V. Kirby (cousins) are grand children of this first settler and live here.

During the lapse of time between 1831 (the first settling of this county) and 1931 (one hundred years,) six generation have existed and come forward.

Naming for example some of direct lineage of Judge John Williams the first settler of the county. John Williams, father; Mrs. Martha Williams, Robert, daughter; Mrs. M. V. Roberts Kirby, grand-daughter, Mrs. Hattie Kirby Owen, great-grand-daughter, Mrs. Leila Owen Jennings, great-great-grand daughter, Shirley Owen Jennings, great-great-great grand-daughter. The last four named are living and Mt. Vernon is their place of residence. Mrs. Kirby is ninety-one years of age and Shirley Owen Jennings is three years old.

Another direct line of descent of this first settler, making seven generations which has existed and come forward in one hundred years is John

Williams, father; Mrs. aMrtha Williams Roberts, daughter; Mrs. Martha Victoria Roberts Kirby, grand-daughter; Mrs. Ora Kirby Helm, great-grand-daughter; Mrs. Nelle Helm Harvey, great great-grand-daughter; Mrs. Rose Ora Harvey Jones, great-great-grand-daughter and Viola Marie Jones great-great-great-great-grand-daughter. The last five named are living at this time. Mrs. Kirby lives in Mt. Vernon, Mo., and the last four reside in California.

James M. White who came here the same year, 1831, settled where the town of Verona is, and headed a direct line of five generations, namely: James M. White, father; Mrs. Sarah White Marbut, daughter; Wm. Newton Marbut, grandson; Mrs. Dorothy Marbut Hill, great grand-daughter, and John William and Robert Brooks Hill, great great grand-sons. Mr. Marbut is one of Mt. Vernon's druggists and Mrs. Hill and family live near Mt. Vernon.

CHAPTER II

COURTS AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

It might be interesting to know something about the origin and earliest proceedings of the county's government.

Mt. Pleasant, the first town established southwest of Springfield, was the county seat of Barry county from 1835-40.

When the county seat question was presented to the pioneers of Barry one party wanted it at Sarcocixie, then called Centerville, the other at Prewett's Creek, later called Clear Creek. The Prewitt Creek people succeeded after a long strife, and the town of Mt. Pleasant was established almost two miles west of what is now Pince City. The first meeting of the county court of Barry was held at Mt. Pleasant Feb. 4, 1835 when the following order was made: "We the judges commissioned by the Governor, and authorized to select a place for

holding courts of justice for the county of Barry, do hereby select a place on Clear Creek owned by Wm. Capps for said purpose, said place to be called and known by the name of Mt. Pleasant." This order was signed by Samuel Vaughn, then living near what is now Cassville; John Williams, the first settler near Mt. Vernon and Thomas B. Arnett, one of the first settlers on Clear Creek, county judges. James M. Williams was appointed county clerk; Geo. M. Gibson, sheriff; James Mayfield, assessor and Gideon B. Henderson, treasurer. The first term of the county court was opened at Mt. Pleasant Feb. 16, 1835, and periodical meetings were held at Capp's house.

The first public building erected within the original Barry county was that at Mt. Pleasant within the present boundaries of Lawrence county.

Perhaps it would be interesting to know the construction of the first court house in the original Barry county where our courts were held until the county of Lawrence was established and its seat of justice Mt. Vernon located in 1845. Work on the new court house at Mt. Pleasant was in progress in Feb. 1837. The order of Feb. 7th reads as follows: "Ordered that Jas. M. Williams be appointed agent for the completion of the court house as follows, to wit: indoors shutter, case and face a window to be cut out, sash to contain six lights faced and cased and a shutter to cover said window; chinked and daubed and pined chimney, run out with stick and clay, back barth and jams of stone; lock and key to the door, stand for the judge, benches to be maid of 2 inch oak plank 12 inches wide to extend all around the house, judge's seat to be banistered round, and room enough for clerk's table and the clerk is ordered to advertise and let the same out to the lowest bidder giving ten days previous notice." In 1838 John Mulkey was allowed \$32.00 for his work on the house.

The first county court was held at the cabin of R. B. Taylor two and one half miles northeast of Mt. Vernon on April 7, 1845. Nothing of great note was transacted at this session but at the next meeting early in May W. H. Stroud was appointed commissioner of the seat of justice, and at the same term Larkin Newton, Elijah Gray and Harris Joplin were al-

lowed ten dollars each for locating the county seat.

The first circuit court was held at George White's house (later known as the Rev. John E. Fenton farm) one mile west of Mt. Vernon, Oct. 20 1845, with Chas. S. Yaney presiding. At this time the deeds of gift by John Hamilton and Sampson Wright and the deed of Wade Stroud were presented for approval, which decree of approval was ordered to be certified to the county court. The first indictment was against Ethan Brown for selling goods without license.

The first marriage on record in Lawrence county, was that of P. Wilkes and Eliza Wilks, March 5, 1845, by Jesse M. Wilks, Elder C. C.

The first divorce granted was that of Wm. Jennings from his wife, Anna in April 1848.

The first trial for murder was held Sept. 1847 against Wayne Oliver for the murder of Montgomery Means; the verdict, "not guilty."

The Justices of the Peace appointed in 1845 were W. H. Stroud, John Fooshee, Elijah R. Hurley and Geo. T. Taney of Mt. Vernon Township; Peter M. Swatzell and Joel Smith of Vineyard; Oliver Woods, G. M. Gibson and Carver Gunn of Spring River; Thomas Eubanks of Ozark; Wm. Hamilton, Matthew Dunegan and Jacomire Baldwin of Greene; Henry Feats of Mt. Pleasant; Henry McMullin, Jacob Burger, Goolsberry Kirby and Daniel Wan for Ozark.

In August 1845 John Fooshes was appointed superintendent for the

court house and jail to be erected in Mt. Vernon. On May 4, 1846 the court house was completed and ready for use and in June 1846 the jail was reported completed. The court house was a frame building about 18 feet wide and 30 feet long two stories high and was used as a court house until 1855 when a new brick structure was erected. The first court house stood on the lot just west of the present jail and after a new court house was built it was remodeled for a dwelling and millinery shop and was occupied by Mrs. Syrena Booth. In later years it was used as a blacksmith shop. The first jail was built of hewn logs ten inches square closely fitted together, then an outer wall was built in the same manner of like materials, built so as to leave a space of 6 inches between the walls and this space was filled by logs 6 inches thick set vertically. The floors above and below were made of hewn timber ten inches thick with an additional covering of one inch oak plank nailed down on the timbers, the nails being driven one inch apart all over the floor. There were two small openings on the east and west sides about 12 inches square secured by heavy gratings. The entrance was made thru a trap door from above, in the center of the building, by means of a ladder which was withdrawn when anyone was put in jail. It was used as the county jail until 1853 when it was burned down by a prisoner confined in it. In 1855 a new court house was built. This building was erected at a

cost of \$7,000 and was constructed of brick; with stone foundation, sills and lintels. It was 50x60 feet square three stories high and was built in the center of the square. The third story was built by the Order of Free Masons and was divided into two halls and one room was rented to, and occupied by, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. This building was condemned and torn down about 1899. The third and present court house, which adorns the center of the square is a beautiful stone structure and was completed in 1901 at a cost of \$50,000.

In 1868 another jail was built, a small brick, and is still in use as a part of the dwelling just west of the telephone building.

In May 1874, a third jail was erected it being a fireproof structure; the jail proper is built of yellow stone brought from the Marionville quarries and is still in use as the county jail.

The first county officials of Lawrence county and their respective offices were: Representative, F. R. McFall, 1845-48. County court justices, Joseph Schooling, Joseph Rinker and R. B. Taylor, 1845-1846; probate judge, R. H. Landrum, 1866-1870. From the organization of the county court to the first of January 1867 the county court had jurisdiction. At the November election 1866 the first Probate Judge was elected, being Judge Landrum. Judge J. W. Hopper was the third Probate Judge, serving five successive terms, from 1878 to 1894, making 16 years. Sheriff

Washington Smith 1845-1846; Circuit Clerk, Thos. Hash 1845-48; County Clerk, S. S. Williams 1845-48; prosecuting attorney, Norman Gibbs, 1872-74. Circuit attorney acted as county attorney up to 1872. County treasurer Geo. White 1845-48; County assessor Aaron Winters 1845-48; County collector J. J. Cherry 1874-76. The offices of sheriff and collector were combined until 1864. County surveyor John D. Allen 1845-1850; Coroner W. S. M. Wright 1845-48; school commissioner, now called superintendent, Jesse M. Wilks 1846-60; public administrator, L. G. Hillhouse 1878-80; Recorder Caswell T. Wear 1862-86. Up until 1882 the office of recorder was combined with that of circuit clerk and the circuit clerk performed the duties of both officials.

In August 1854 Dr. Fish and his wife and child were murdered and his home burned by two negroes. This resulted in the burning of the negroes which took place at Carthage. Crowds from Arkansas, Kansas and Indian Territory were there. The negroes were chained between two large posts, a cord of fagots and shavings were piled around them waist high and two colored men set the pile on fire. The murderers screamed but soon the flames wrapped around them and their bodies sank gradually down in ashes. A heavy electric storm added to the terrors of the day and many of the visiting women and men died soon from the effects of the journey and the sight.

The first official hanging on record

same years later, was that of Samuel Orr at Mt. Vernon on May 18, 1877 by John L. Whaley sheriff of Lawrence county. In front of the scaffold stood the children of the murdered Davis while a great crowd of men and women gathered to see the murderer launched into eternity. The scaffold was erected in front of the jail building. Owing to some error he was choked slowly before that crowd, taking 23 minutes to die. Sheriff Whaley was assisted by Elder Lollar in the hanging. The funeral services were conducted by Revs. Hubbard and Freeze of the Methodist and Cumberland Presbyterian churches. Interment was made in Mt. Vernon city cemetery.

In May 1846 James McKoin was granted license for a dram shop in Mt. Vernon, the tax was \$7.50 state and \$7.50 county for three months. In Feb. 1855, nine years later, the first opposition to dram shops in Mt. Vernon was manifested; the court ordered that in accord with the petition of the inhabitants of Mt. Vernon municipal township no dram shop license could be issued within the succeeding year.

In May 1869 Dr. Knapp was appointed county liquor inspector for the ensuing four years. This same year, 1869, our county poor farm was built.

In August 1846, James Kellogg and Wm. Matthews were appointed superintendents for building a public well and were also authorized to have 100 feet around the court house cleared

of trees and the stumps cut even with the ground. This well was just north of the present court house and was filled in a number of years ago. Mt. Vernon's water supply is now furnished by a spring on the west side of town, commonly known as the "town" spring and the power house which is located near it, pumps the water over the city.

This spring and a hundred feet of land all around it was deeded to the inhabitants of the County of Lawrence and their successors forever on May 6, 1845 by John Hamilton and his wife, Margaret Hamilton. This was a part of the land Mr. Hamilton had entered in 1839.

On June 10, 1897 Lawrence county leased this spring and land to the

city of Mt. Vernon for the purpose of erecting a water works plant to supply the city and citizens of said city with water for fire, mechanical, public and domestic uses.

Said lease to expire June 10, 1906. This spring is situated on the north-east quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 25, Township 28, range 27, near the north line of said quarter.

The latest marriage license to date issued for a Mt. Vernon couple was that of Miss Lorene Shelton and Mr. Albert Mason, June 20, 1931.

The last names recorded who were granted a divorce at the last term of the county court of Lawrence county is that of Erma Blanchard vs R. O. Blanchard, May 6, 1931.

CHAPTER III

CHURCHES AND CHURCH ACTIVITIES

The earliest religious services in Mt. Vernon were conducted by circuit riders and date back to 1847. The M. E. church south of Sarcoxie may be said to have been founded in 1837 and in 1838 it was made a circuit station. In 1847 this circuit was divided into Mt. Vernon and Carthage and through the hospitality of Major Wear his home was always for these ministers a 'stopping place.' The circuit riders used saddle bags instead of grips or suit cases. The first court house was used as a place of worship at an early date as well as

the county seat of justice. The earliest religious services in the county date back to 1836. When Revs. A. A. Young and T. M. Johnson arrived in the Southwest in 1836, they found Revs. Buchanan, McCord and Blair in possession of the ministerial field. In the fall of that year the Ozark Presbyterian church, was held at Alford Moore's house on Spring River in what was called Barry county at that time. In the spring of 1837 A. A. Young moved to a point near Verona and in Oct. 1839, the Spring River church was organized with

Rev. Young as pastor. He resided there until his death which occurred in 1880. In the fall of 1864 Revs. C. C. Williamson and R. J. Simms advertised a revival meeting to be held at Mt. Vernon. Owing to Price's raid the preachers failed to appear, however Rev. A. A. Young (known as "Uncle Young") took charge of and conducted the services, (the male members of his congregation all being armed,) and won a hundred con-

In Oct. 1867 a meeting was called to consider the question of organiz-

ing a Cumberland Presbyterian church in Mt. Vernon. In November Wm. A. McCause, F. M. Lebow, R. H. Landrum, S. E. Roberts and others incorporators organized the C. P. church now merged with the Presbyterian. The lot on which the present church stands is the original location and was a gift of Wm. A. McCause who departed this life some years ago.

The Baptists began their church building in July 1869. The Baptist Sunday school at Mt. Vernon was organized in April 1874 with Elder Powell, W. M. Peck, John Cecil, W. N. Davis and Wm. Decker officers. At this time the Methodist Sunday school was reorganized.

The first Methodist Episcopal church house in Mt. Vernon was built in 1869, Rev. A. McClitock being the pastor in charge. Mr. Emery Wright and Dr. Sloan were two of the chief promoters.

Two local preachers who were quite acceptable came to the com-

munity in 1868. They were J. E. Fenton and J. S. Estep. Father Fenton continued to preach until his ninety-second year, and died at the age of ninety-three years past. The corner stone of the present church was laid in 1891.

The M. E. church South in Mt. Vernon was built about 1898 and Rev. H. C. McPherson was its first pastor.

Some of the chief promoters of this church were:

Benjamin K. Turk, R. C. Sedwick, Judge Harley Price Hickman, M. C. Dowdy and Jacob Roop. In 1916 this church building was moved to Miller, Mo. and is now used as a place of worship by the Methodist Episcopal people of that city.

In 1876 a meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe P. Porter to consider the building of a Christian church. Elder E. P. Cake presided with John Teel, secretary. Mrs. S. Booth reported that subscriptions in cash and labor amounted to \$1,014.80. A building committee was appointed comprising R. H. Landrum, John Teel, Porter Jones, J. F. Hargrove, A. Erickson and W. D. Fullbright. Later Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Clay Wear, Miss Fannie Catts and Thomas H. Jones were instructed to collect all promised money. This building was completed in 1878.

The Methodist church (colored) was organized about 1872 with 31 members. The charter members were Wilson Whipple, Jack Snead, Phyllis Pettigrew, Phyllis Snead, Jane

Lanagan, Clarrisa Crump and others. At one time they had a ladies aid society. The lot on which the Methodist church (colored) stands was a gift from Daniel Sloan.

James M. White, (grandfather of W. N. Marbut,) organized the first Sunday school in the county in 1840. Sunday schools at that time were looked upon as schools of learning to both old and young. On Sunday mornings, families in the neighborhood for miles around would rise early, eat breakfast, do the chores and be off to the school house taking their dinners and books (usually a Bible, Webster dictionary and a blue back spelling book.) The school houses then were built of logs, and the benches of trees split open with wooden pins in the round edges for legs. At noon was recess for the children but the old people would discuss their Bible lessons. At the proper time in the evening they would "turn out" with the understanding that they would meet again the next Sunday.

Following are the officers elected in the year 1901 to serve in the various Sunday schools of Mt. Vernon:

Methodist—

Superintendent	J. L. Lester
Assistant	Mrs. Dr. Cravens
Secretary	Dr. D. M. Fenton
Treasurer	Dr. J. W. Fenton
Organist	Miss Nell Wright
Chorister	F. P. Sizer

Presbyterian—

Superintendent	T. E. Shriver
Assistant	Dr. H. G. Voorhies

Secretary	Miss Myrtle McPherson
Treasurer	W. C. Trimble
Organist	Miss Kate Skinner

Christian—

Superintendent	J. A. Perigo
Assistant	Will Darrow
Secretary	Mrs. B. R. Peden
Treasurer	Horace Pearce
Organist	Miss Dixie Whaley
Chorister	Mrs. M. S. McMahan

C. P. Sunday School—

Superintendent	Samp Jennings
Assistant	W. E. Hickman
Secretary	Miss Bess Cecil
Treasurer	W. A. McCaense
Organist	Miss Marie McCaense

Baptist —

Superintendent	Mrs. Gibbs
Assistant	J. W. Hopper
Secretary	J. S. Coleman
Treasurer	Mrs. H. Warren
Organist	Mrs. Malta Williams

South Methodist—

Superintendent	R. C. Sedwick
Secretary	Luther Turk
Bible Class	Mrs. McFall
Class No. 1	Mrs. Rouse
Class No. 2	Miss Edith Dowdy
Class No. 3	Miss Kate Elmore

Among the noblest of modern Sunday school workers in the county in 1888 was L. L. L. Allen, who lived in Peirce City.

The church houses of Mt. Vernon have all been rebuilt on their original sites.

Our houses of worship in Mt. Vernon today are artistic in structure, comfortable and some are equipped with baptistries, whereas in former years baptism by immersion was per-

formed in the creek near the bridge that leads to the Sanatorium hill.

The ministers of Mt. Vernon today are: Rev. W. L. Requa, M. E. church Rev. R. W. Crain, Presbyterian church, Rev. A. E. Booth, D. D. Baptist church, Christian church not supplied, L. C. Ramsey, Assembly of God church, M. E. (colored) not supplied.

Within the past forty years Mt. Vernon has witnessed several beautiful church weddings. Among those married in the Baptist church were. Miss Maggie Gillingham and Mr. Euphrates Boucher, Miss Jennie Williams and Mr. Chas. Guthrie, Miss Iona Davault and a Mr. Harris of Columbia, Mo., Miss Fay Shelton and Mr. Chester Johnson. Those in the M. E. church were: Miss Myrtle Seamans and Rev. Horace Pierce, Miss Freda Fenton and Mr. R. B. Harness, Miss Frances Breeden and Mr. John Paul King, Miss Frances Schmidtke and Mr. Azell Morris. Miss Virginia Pierson and Rev. James McKinley and Miss Mary Sehnert and Mr. Joe Moore. Those in the Presbyterian church (then the C. P. church) (were: Miss Nora Millsap and Mr. Carol Harriman

and Miss Grace Fenton and Rev. Geo. F. Harbour. Those in the German M. E. church were: Miss Anna Meyer and Mr. Gus A. Schmidtke who (in 1898) was the first couple to be married in this church, Miss Anna Hoberg and Rev. H. W. Koewing, Miss Dina Hoberg and Rev. O. M. Brinkman and Miss Millie Witthaus and Mr. Al Leipman. There have been no wedding in the Christian church in Mt. Vernon to the writer's knowledge. M. E. (colored) Alpha Omega Dicus and Rev. Bateman.

Of these the most recent wedding was that of Miss Mary Sehnert and Mr. Joe Moore who were married on Thursday evening, June 27, 1929, at 8 p. m., Katherine Sehnert Wilson officiating. The bride and her sister, Miss Martha Sehnert, were known as the 'Ozark Smile Girls' and spent one winter in New York City studying music and voice. Previous to Miss Mary's marriage they toured several states singing over various broadcasting radio stations. These girls were born and reared in the Ozarks, the "Land of a Million Smiles" and their genial manners and pleasant smiles prove their land of rearing.

CHAPTER IV

EDUCATION

In Nov. 1853 was the first order appointing a commissioner for common schools; Jesse M. Wilks was honored with the position. Before the war there were very few school

houses in the county and they were generally constructed of logs and without any furniture except a few rough plank benches and in many instances without maps or black-

boards. Most of them had only a door on one side and a single log sawed out on the other for light and ventilation. A huge fire place in one end of the building heated the whole room.

Mt. Vernon organized a school district in 1866. In 1867, there were two public schools, one was presided over by a Mr. Wood, the other by Mrs. Wilson in her home; Mrs. Stringer's subscription school was also well attended. The Mt. Vernon Christian College was in existence in 1878 with J. R. Woodfill, president. Teachers' Literary Association of Lawrence county was organized Oct. 11, 1870 with W. N. Davis, superintendent of schools, president. In 1886, W. H. Sloan was re-elected director and J. T. Potter, to fill Judge Hopper's place in the school board. At this time the district voted to build a \$6,000.00 school house in the old site; this location is where the old grade school building stands in the east part of town.

The land was deeded to the town by Mr. Henry Brumback, for the purpose of a school building. Mr. Brumback was a prominent and pioneer lawyer of Mt. Vernon.

Mt. Vernon's new grade school is now located in the south part of town it is a one story brick structure, modern in every way and was built in 1927 at a cost of about \$35,000.00.

Mrs. Harriet Warren was one of the early school teachers of Mt. Vernon and taught a subscription school for primary pupils, in her home,

about the year 1872.

Prior to 1903, our high school was limited to three years course of studies, but in 1903 the fourth course was added making it a complete four year high school.

Minnie Coleman (now Mrs. Robert Hinshaw and a teacher in the schools at Miller, Mo.) resumed her studies, being the first to take the fourth course and was the only student and graduate of the class of 1903. W. P. Roberts was our county superintendent of schools at that time.

A Freshman entering a higher educational institution from Mt. Vernon high school now, does so with fully accredited units.

The Mt. Vernon Academy was an institution of higher learning and was established about 1889 under jurisdiction of the Presbyterian church. This institution was discontinued some years ago.

Mt. Vernon's high school was not an approved school until about 1906. Its first commencement exercises were in 1895 and has continued to be an annual affair since that time.

Its honor roll for valedictorians and graduates ranking high in scholarship was begun about 1903, and this record was preserved up to 1928 when the high school building was destroyed by fire and all records, trophies and equipment burned with it.

The caps and gowns were first worn by the class of 1917.

The following is a partial list of the honor graduates and their respective classes as near as could be

obtained from memories: 1897—Fannie Brown Turk; 1903—Minnie Coleman Hinshaw; 1908—Frank Allen; 1909—Royal Sloan; 1910—Lloyd Rutledge; 1911—John Harley; 1912—Ruth Pugh Johnson; 1913—Floyd Bacon; 1914—Katherine Wilson; 1915—Paul Sandmeyer; 1916—Frank Banner; 1917—Daisy Johnson; 1918—Bryna Hargrove; 1919 Frances Turk Ray; 1920—Frecla Austin Hillhouse; 1921—Mannie Horstman; 1922—Ruth Frances Hurley Davis; 1923—Antonette Mesley White; 1924—Ben Schmidtke; 1925—Francis Horstman; 1926—Kenneth Garrison; 1927—Hal Austin; 1928—Lorene Fieker; 1929—Mary Elizabeth Hickman; 1930—Mary Frances Patton; 1931—Anna Lou Smith.

In the class of 1897, there were only four and Fannie Brown Turk made the highest average; at that time there was no announcement of valedictorians. In the class of 1903, Minnie Coleman Hinshaw (as has been stated before) was the only student and graduate of this class and the first to take the 4th year course in our high school. The officers of the Mt. Vernon High School Alumni for the ensuing year are: Mrs. Frances Ray, Pres.; Richard Landrum, 1st Vice Pres.; Tim Newberry, 2nd Vice Pres.; Miss Lottie Cameron Sec. and Leon Pugh, Treas.

The 5th Annual Commencement of the Mt. Vernon High school was on April 20, 1900 at the M. E. church. Those in the first graduation class at the beginning of this, the 20th cen-

tury, were: Storm Onus Whaley, Mayme Claude Johnson, Elizabeth McLin Harris, Clifford Claud Robinson, Harry Frazier Sedwick, Flora Edith Harlow, Julia Edoth Dowdy. The program for the evening was:

Invocation by Rev. G. F. Harbour,
Music by orchestra

Oration, "The Import of Originality," Storm Onus Whaley.

Oration, "Ships That Pass in The Night," Mayme Claude Johnson.

Quartette, Messrs. McCanse, McCanse, Griggs and Voorhies.

Oration, "The Best Service Cannot Be paid In Gold," Elizabeth McLin Harris.

(a) "The Flatterer."

Piano: Miss

(b) "La Francesca,"

Miss Gertrude Guthrie.

Oration "Educational Thought," Clifford Claud Robinson.

Solo, "My Old New Hampshire Home," Harry Rawlings.

Oration, "Ambition and its Results," Harry Frazier Sedwick.

Oration, "Hope" Flora Edith Harlow.

Orchestra.

Oration, "Every Cradle Asks Us 'Whence'; Every Coffin 'Whither,'" Julia Edoth Dowdy.

Orchestra

Presentation of Diplomas, Rev. R. E. L. Jarvis.

Benediction.

In 1901 Storm Onus Whaley, Harry Frazier Sedwick, Elizabeth McLin Harris, Nelle McCanse Wright and Katherine Work Skinner were gradu-

ated from the Mt. Vernon Academy. The Baccalaureate sermon was delivered by Rev. J. E. Bright of the Presbyterian church on Sunday, May 12th. The commencement exercises were held in the Presbyterian church (a part of the Academy building) on Friday evening, May 17th at eight o'clock. The program for the evening was:

Invocation by Rev. G. F. Harbour.

Piano Duett, Misses Jean Skinner and Marie McCause.

Oration, "Self Denial", Storm Onus Whaley.

Vocal solo, Miss Gertrude Guthrie and Mr. C. A. McCause.

Piano Solo. Miss Marie McCause

Oration, "The Power of the Human Mind," Harry Frazer Sedwick

Vocal Solo, "I'd Like to Hear That Song Again," Harry Rawlings

Mandolin Club

Oration, "The Path to Success," Nelle McCause Wright.

Quartette, Messrs. Cravens, Mitchell, McCause and Pearce.

Oration, "It Might Have Been,"

Elizabeth McLin Harris.

Piano Solo: Miss Minnie Connel

Vocal Solo, "The Blue and the Gray," Keith McCause.

Oration, "The World's Migrations" Katherine Work Skinner.

Mandolin Club

Presentation of Diplomas, Rev.

John Bright.

Benediction.

Previous to 1912 Mt. Vernon high school was never heard of in athletic circles. Today, however, these and

other activities of our school rank among the first in the state. In the year 1918 Coach Taylor introduced one of the best track squads in the entire state.

Another honor came to Mt. Vernon and Lawrence County in 1918 when Miss Byna Hargrove won the scholarship in American Citizenship given by the Missouri Society of Colonial Dames of America. The value of this scholarship was one thousand dollars to be used in procuring a higher education in the University of Missouri. It was won in a competitive examination upon high school subjects and was open to seniors in first class high schools in the State of Missouri.

The debating team of 1918 is a team that we are proud of. The debaters were Leland Koewing and Cecil Smith; they won the championship of the western half of the state, but were finally defeated by Ironton at Columbia. Their coach was Prof. Elmer Garringer. The debating team of four for 1931 was: Bernice Hillhouse and Anna Mae Smith on the affirmative side and Katherine Wise and James Hurley on the negative side of the question. The question for debate was: "Resolved that Chain Stores are Detrimental to the Best Interest of the American Public." This team was defeated at the tournament of high schools at Bolivar, Mo. The coach for this team was Prof. Floyd Ray.

Honorable mention should be given the alumni of our high school. Mt. Vernon high school was established

in 1890 and has in succeeding years passed through its curriculum some hundreds of students. Some have been forced to abandon their education, while a vast majority of those who enrolled in the Freshman class, finally received their diplomas and entered institutions of higher learning or passed on into citizenship directly from the school. You will find these alumni scattered throughout the length and breadth of our land. Not a few of them hold positions of great responsibility and trust; others less fortunate occupy lesser positions, while other voices are heard no more; they have passed the great divide.

In the eighty-six years of Mt. Vernon's existence she has produced physicians, lawyers, ministers of the gospel, educators, men of finance and young men and women of much talent. An educator and writer of recent date who was born and reared in Mt. Vernon is Ralph A. McCause. He has written a book entitled "The Road to Hollister" which is just off the press. Mr. McCause is an instructor in the English department in the University at Madison, Wis.

John Harley who was born in Mt. Vernon and was graduated from the Mt. Vernon high school in 1911, as valedictorian of his class, is now an authority on international law and has published a book on that subject.

The first young lady from Mt. Vernon to graduate from the University of Missouri was Ruth Sedwick, (now Mrs. C. W. Blakey.) Since her grad-

uation she has been engaged in W. C. A. work and teaching.

One of the most important social events at the close of Mt. Vernon's high school each year is the Junior-Senior reception. The one for 1931 was held in the basement of the Presbyterian church on Friday evening, April 10th. The color scheme of red and white, the high school colors, and red and grey, the Senior class colors of 1931, was carried out in over-head and table decorations. Bouquets of yellow jonquils adorned the long tables, with place cards and program booklets beside each plate. A banquet was served at 7:30 o'clock to about 49 seniors, 35 juniors and the faculty numbering seven. The menu consisted of baked chicken, dressing and gravy, potato in shell, peas, salad, hot rolls, butter, coffee, ice cream and cake. Sweet strains of music came in over the radio during the banquet hour, and songs of burlesque on each teacher were sung between courses, by both classes. Ralph Hickman, president of the Junior class, was toastmaster and presided with much dignity. James Hurley, in a humorous manner, gave the welcome address, expressing, in behalf of the Junior class, their well wishes and regret at seeing the much loved seniors of the class of 1931, leave the ranks of the Mt. Vernon high school. Johnny K. Smith, president of the senior class, gave the response. Amateur vaudeville, rendered in song by junior boys added much merriment to the occasion. Miss Armfield's speech "Thoughts

vs Success in Life" was very appropriate. The Senior Will, by Dolores Krueger, bestowed priceless gems and startling futures upon the several students. "Life's Game of Ball," by Beverly Simmons was ably given. Quartette by junior girls, was sung very sweetly. Mr. Ray's speech, "The Best Years of Life," put forth good logic. "A Glimpse of the Future" by the junior girls and the high school song by everyone closed the program.

Well wishes for success and happiness go with the seniors who have just launched and have yet to anchor.

The members of the Mt. Vernon high school faculty are: Prof. Floyd Ray, Supt; Miss Marie Armfield, Principal; Mrs. Frances Ray, Miss Lela Smith, Miss Mildred Hoss, Martin Smith and Max Cherry.

The grade school teachers for the coming term are: Mrs. Mary Pugh, Principal; and teacher of the eighth grade, Mrs. Ruth Johnson, seventh; Mrs. Frances King, sixth; Miss Lottie Cameron, fifth; Miss Winnie Pugh, fourth; Miss Jewell Davis, third; Miss Ethel Boster, second; and Miss Eula Shelton, first.

Mt. Vernon's public school for the colored children was taught for several years by Thompsy Crump, the daughter of Aunt Clarissa Crump and sister of Amnon. Its teacher now is Mrs. Edith Cooper.

Mt. Vernon high school commencement program for 1931 was given in the auditorium of the high school building on Thursday evening, May 14th.

Address, "Seniors, Past, Present, Future," Mr. Ray.

Presentation of class, Miss Armfield.

Presentation of diplomas, Dr. Fulton.

Benediction, Rev. Regua.

The graduation class of 1931 numbered 46, namely:

Faye Cantrell	Alice Carr
Hazel Eggman	Lorena Garoutte
Lorene Gist	Vonda Greeson
Bernice Hillhouse	Daisy Johnson
Ada Keeton	Pauline Nivens
Marguerite Orr	Beatrice Richmond
Elizabeth Shelton	Anna Lou Smith
Anna Mae Smith	Irma Smith
Helen Sutton	Martha Vandergrift
Gladys White	Katherine Wise
Esther Weise	Russell Bacon
Marvin Carl	Clarence Harlow

The program follows:

Processional

Invocation, Rev. Crain

Solo, "The Gypsy Trail", Dwight Seneker.

Address, "Commencements, Their History", Anna Mae Smith.

Duet, "The Song is Ended", Bernice Hillhouse, Virginia Silverwood
Salutatory address, "The Future on the Farm", Johnny K. Smith.

Quartet, "Kentucky Babe", Kenneth McGehee, Dwight Seneker, Doy-
le Troxel, Ross Breeden.

Valedictory address, "Our Greatest National Asset", Anna Lou Smith
Mixed quartet, "The World is Waiting for the Sunrise," Bernice Hillhouse, Daisy Johnson, Dwight Seneker, Kenneth McGehee.

Dilce Holman	Merwyn Howard
Kenneth McGehee	Hollis Matthews
John Mosby	Ralph Neimeyer
Hillard Norton	Ralph Norton
Willard Norton	Eldred Roberts
Dwight Seneke	Johnny K. Smith
Earl Snyder	Clell Spradling
Doyle Troxel	Arnhart Veith
Colley Wilson	Don Witherspoon
Virginia Silverwood	Ross Breeden
Paul Perriman	McChesney Kendall

The Baccalaureate sermon for this commencement was given in the M. E. church on Sunday evening, of May 10th with the following program:

- Processional
- Invocation, Rev. Requa
- Song, Commencement Song.
- Song, "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"
- Sermon, Dr. A. E. Booth.
- Song, "Give of Your Best to The Master." Selected high school choir.
- Benediction, Rev. Crane.
- Recessional
- Mrs. J. A. Sehnert in charge of singing.

Thelma Kendall, pianist.

THE WHITE OAK ACADEMY

As soon as the early settlers of the county built their first cabins and otherwise cared for the physical comforts of their families, they began to erect schools. Some time between 1840 and 1850 the Cumberland Presbyterian Church established an academy in the western part of the county. It was known as Spring River Academy, sometimes called the White Oak Academy. It was on the farm now belonging to the Tillman

estate. Nothing is left to show its location except the square that was cleared and the mound of brick that marks the location of the building.

The school was conducted by Robert King, a Tennessean, and his wife. King operated a farm in the neighborhood with slave labor. At the opening of the Civil War, he took his family and slaves back to Tennessee. The school was never reopened.

Many young people received their secondary training here. Some of them later became prominent citizens. Among these was John Holland of Springfield and Judge Holliday of St. Louis.

Marionville Collegiate Institute

This school was established at Marionville about 1872. It was organized by the Lawrence County Teachers Association for the training of teachers. Later it was taken over by the Methodist church and conducted by them until the school was taken to Carthage and reorganized as Ozark Wesleyan College.

This school at one time was largely patronized. Many of the men and women of southwest Missouri received much of their training there and many of their fondest recollections cluster about the old campus.

In 1931, the grade school in Mt. Vernon held its graduation exercises on the afternoon of May 15th in the auditorium of the grade school building. Dr. A. E. Booth made the address and presentation of diplomas was made by Professor Floyd Ray.

An interesting program was also given. The class numbered twenty-six, namely:

Glenn White, Lucille Webb, Nanna Widick, Fay Boyd, Harry Brown, John Barnes, Imagean Farensworth, Veta Greeson, Kenneth Moore, Madge McDonald, Martha Jane Pugh, Mildred Pittman, Charles Perriman, Victor Rowe, James Taylor Smith, Max Smith Violet Schmidtke, Don Smith, Gale Smith, Wayne Hunter, Charles Hickman, Jewell Hood, Wilda Hunter, Iris Hunter, Phyllis Jeffords, Fern Johnson.

The May Day Fete, a colorful event of the season, is presented by the pupils of the grade school each year and is always well attended by parents and friends. The May Day Fete for 1931 was held in the evening on May

1st on the school house lawn, and consisted of May poles, together with folk dances, drills and operettas. Each grade wound the poles with ribbons of varigated colors. The May queen, Martha Jane Pugh, was elected by the student body. Her maids of honor were, Violet Sshmidtke and Iris Hunter. Twelve eighth grade girls were her attendants and Harry Brown and Don Smith her heralds. Martha Smith and Mary Louise McPherson, the flower girls and Carolyn Landrum was her crown bearer. Freda Gray and Doris Bruhn her train bearers, and she was crowned by Ruth Boswell. The queen was attired in yellow, and dainty summer dresses of pastel shades were worn by the attendants.

CHAPTER V

CLUBS, FATERNAL ORDERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Mt. Vernon's fraternal societies were organized at an early date. The Masonic Order No. 99 dates its record book Jan. 26, 1853. On Jan. 27 1853, the following officers were installed, W. H. Burns, W.M.; E. Gaither, S. W.; Thos. Hash, J. W.; R. Bradford, Treas.; C. F. Wilson, Sec'y.; J. B. Worsham, S.D.; P.P. Brickly, J.D.; and S. M. Anderson, Tyler.

Roberta Chapter, No. 89, O. E. S. was organized in 1875. The charter members were Mrs. Mary Gibbs, the Worthy Matron; L. K. Wright, Worthy Patron; Mrs. Mary J. Roberts, Associate Matron; Willis A. Moody, Treasurer; Joseph P. Porter, Secretary; Mrs. Emma J. Jones, Conductress; Mrs. Susan Harvey, Associate Conductress and Mrs. Abijah Hopper. Mrs. Harvey and Mrs. Roberts are the only living charter members. Mrs. Harvey is in her 89th year and Mrs. Roberts who resides in Kansas City is in her 97th year. Roberta Chapter No. 89 helped to institute the Grand Chapter of the State of Missouri.

Mt. Vernon Lodge No. 151 I. O. O. F. was here at an early date with the masons and was presided over in 1875-76 by J. H. Wear, with J. H. Matthews, secretary. This fraternity has charge of the upkeep of the I. O. O. F. cemetery just southeast of town.

The Rebecca Lodge in Mt. Vernon was organized March 10, 1896. Its

charter members were. Mrs. Retta Brown, Mrs. Lula Williams, Mrs. Jane Nance, Mrs. Lenna Leisi, Mrs. Nora Boyd, W. S. Overton, J. S. Coleman, Miss Betty Boyd, John Cecil, A. A. Cox, J. T. Boyd, Frank Gum, J. S. Overton, J. B. Nance, Mrs. Addie Overton, W. S. Brown, T. T. Witherpoon, A. Turner, Miss Dan Fullbright Miss Emma Fullbright, Mrs. Florence Cecil, Fred Leisi, W. O. Kelly, Mrs. Nelle Kelly, Mrs. Lillie Coleman, J. W. Patton and W. S. Hill.

A. O. U. W. lodge was established

The M.W.A., W.O.D. and Royal Neighbors Societies were organized in later years.

in Mt. Vernon Jan. 4, 1879 by H. W. Busse, Grand Master of the state. The officers installed were: Willis A. Moody, P.M.W.; Jos. P. Porter, M.W.; John Leathers, G.F.; G. T. Collins, O; T- K. Gay, R.; E. P. Linzee, Receiver; Z. C. Denny, F.; W. Taylor, G.; J. L. Whaley, I. W. and Isaac Bard, O. W.

Union Lodge, I.O.G.T. No. 434 was in operation at Mt. Vernon in 1884 with John S. Stansill, J. P. Colley and C. T. Massey, Executive Committee.

Not until 1928 was a Masonic building erected in Mt. Vernon and the lot on which it stands was a gift from the late Mrs. Mary Gibbs. This generous woman donated the land on which our well equipped high school

and grounds are located. She and her husband, the late Norman Gibbs, were generous donors for the building of the new Baptist church.

The present officers of the fraternal organizations of Mt. Vernon are:

Masonic Order No. 99 A.F.&A.M.: Homer Goodman, Worshipful Master; Leon Pugh, Senior Warden; Dee Fosssett, Junior Warden; S. E. Morgan, Treas.; Miles Phillips, Sec'y.; Carlin Kemper, Senior Deacon; George Pugh Junior Deacon; Dr. Tripodi, Senior Stewart; Allen Holmes, Junior Stewart; Dwight Richardson, Tyler. W. N. Marbut is District Deputy Grand Master and Deputy Grand Lecturer. The writer's father, R. C. Sedwick, was secretary of this lodge for 23 years serving from Jan. 1896 to January 1919, when at this time he refused re-election. He is believed to have been re-elected the greatest number of times of anyone holding this office in Mt. Vernon. In appreciation of his services he was presented with a beautiful watch charm emblematic of the Masonic Order.

Roberta Chapter No. 89, O.E.S. Mrs. Lorene Richardson, Worthy Matron, Homer Goodman, Worthy Patron; Miss Frances Potter, Associate Matron; Dwight Richardson, Associate Patron; Mrs. Leota Maxwell, Conductress; Mrs. Homer Goodman, Associate Conductress, Mrs. Dora Knapp Chaplain; Mrs. Mattie Pugh, Secretary; W. N. Marbut, Treas.; Mrs. Gaylord Hancock, Pianist. Those representing the points of the star are: Miss Dora Dyer, Ada; Mrs. Verna

Glenn, Ruth; Miss Jewell Davis, Esther; Mrs. Hattie Phillips, Martha; Mrs. Georgia Myers, Electa. Our Deputy Grand Matron is Mrs. Vera Schmidtke.

The officers of the I.O.O.F. Lodge No. 151 are: S. A. Terry, Noble Grand; F. S. Sullivan, Vice Grand; J. P. Colley, Chaplain; Joby Boyd, Warden; W. E. Hickman, Treas.; Earl Roberts, Sec'y.; Andy Crawford, District Deputy Grand Master.

Fideliah Rebecca Lodge No. 182: Mrs. Bertha Matthews, Noble Grand; Mrs. Jesse Orr, Vice Grand; Mrs. Myrtle Williams, Chaplain; Mrs. Leota Maxwell, Financial Secretary; Miss Lillie Kemper, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Morah Hickman, Treas.; Miss Ethel Boster, Pianist.

M.W.A.: J. C. Walker, Venerable Council; Roy Kemper, Worthy Advisor; S. E. Morgan, Banker; Joe Case, Clerk; Wm. McNelis, Ira Patton and Walter Hensley, managers.

Royal Neighbors: Mrs. Morah Hickman, Oracle; Mrs. Cora Case, Vice Oracle; Miss Marcella Woolsey, Past Oracle; Mrs. Margaret Hall, Chancellor; Mrs. Essie Morgan, Recorder; Mrs. Edie Kendall, Receiver; Joe Case, Mrs. Retta Brown and Mrs. Julia Turk, Managers; Mrs. Sadie Carl, Marshal.

W.O.W.: Chas. Meyer, Council Commander; Albert Ragain, Advisor Lieutenant; Earl Pugh, Banker; Arthur Bartlesmeyer, Financial Secretary; S. E. Morgan, Escort; Joe Gooding, Sentry; J. H. Brown, E. A. (Lon) Smith and R. C. McCorkhill,

Auditors.

Woodman Circle. Mrs. Maggie B. Williamson, Guardian; Mrs. Jennie Guthrie, Advisor; Mrs. Millie Sutton Corresponding and Financial Sec'y.; Mrs. Lulu Boyd, Banker; Mrs. Cora Patton, Chaplain; Mrs. Ora Wise, Miss Mary F. Patton, Mrs. Myrtle McDonald, (now deceased) managers Mrs. Alberta Wilder Hudson, Attendant; Mrs. Lucy A. Seaman, Inner Sentinel and Mrs. Lucy Seaman, Outer Sentinel.

The Lawrence County Agricultural and Mechanical Society was incorporated Feb. 27, 1857 with fifty members. The Lawrence County Agricultural Society was organized June 15, 1867, with Joshua Holt, Pres.; Robt. Kelly, Sec'y.; and John D. Allen, J. M. Filler, John B. Woods, G. H. Moore, H. Childress A. J. Durnell, D. T. J. Colley, R. Henson and T. R. Whaley, directors. Of this board John D. Allen was president. Judge Cherry donated land, as in the case of the old society and bound with the same conditions.

The Lawrence County Agricultural and Mechanical Society was again incorporated May 21, 1867, on petition of E. G. Paris, Wm. Orr, G. A. Orr, R. H. Landrum, W. L. Morgan, W. Anderson, A. G. McCanse A. Dobyms, Edward Ragain, J. B. Thomlinson, J. H. Woods, J. L. Holt, D. T. J. Colley, Robert Castiller, A. L. Phariss, B. K. Turk, T. R. Whaley, T. J. Guthrie, G. W. Jones, Z. T. Newman, J. M. Kellogg, T. W. Kelton, Hiram Waller, N. B. Hocker, B. R. Matthews, G. H.

Moore, F. M. Marsh, J. M. Etter, J. W. Moore, P. M. Wear, B. L. Hendrick W. H. Overstreet, John D. Allen, J. M. Moore, Henry Childress, W. A. McCanse, D. E. Gibson, L. A. Gibson, Daniel Lester, J. W. Leathers, Fimo Faucett, W. J. Johnson, Jonathan Jones, R. S. Wilkes, Nathan Bray, C. A. Williams, P. F. Clark, J. S. Jones, H. George, S. E. Roberts, J. M. Filler, J. B. Woods, N. C. Spillman, Wyatt Harris, A. J. Durnell and James C. Martin.

In August 1869 the county appropriated \$150.00 to be expended in the purchase of premiums.

The seventh anniversary of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry was celebrated at Zion church, five miles south of Mt. Vernon, Dec. 4, 1874. The Granges represented were Pleasant Grove, Buck Prairie, Ozark, Union, Shady Grove, Elm, South Bend and Zion.

Alfred Davis was marshal and E. D. Bobbett, Jeff Pannell (Master of Shady Grove) William Cochran of Ozark and H. S. Hammers, orators. Dry Valley Grange was organized later.

The Temperance Union of Lawrence county was organized Jan. 15, 1878, with 305 members. W. S. Hubbard, presided, C. T. Wear was elected president and B. Hocker, secretary.

The Mt. Vernon Colored Temperance club was organized in 1878 with 32 members.

In 1887 the Womens Christian Temperance Union of Lawrence county

was presided over by Mrs. M. S. Grigg and Mrs. H. G. Shoemaker, secretary and Mrs. C. A. Mitchell, tres.

The Lawrence County Stock Co. elected the following officers in May, 1871. John W. Moore, Pres.; Robt. Kelly, Sec'y.; Geo. Kendall, Treas.; S. E. Roberts, A. G. McCause, J. J. Spillman, G. H. Moore, James Patton John W Moore, Wm. Orr, John Cherry and R. H. Landrum, directors.

The County Fair Association was organized Aug. 23, 1879, with S. E. Roberts, Pres.; John Cecil, Sec'y.; and W. E. Wright, Treas. The other officers then elected were: W. C. Whinery, Wm. Schoen, W. D. Garrison, James Cherry, John A. Orr, John A. Tennis, John T. Teel, Chas. Lawson, John W. McCause, A. J. Little, John H. Cherry, W. H. Johnson, John Henson, R. H. Landrum, G. B. Moore and J. B. Davis.

The first Immigration Society was organized July 2, 1878, with H. Brumback, Pres.; A. McKinney, vice Pres.; W. N. Davis, Sec'y.; E. P. Linzee, Corresponding Secretary; W. E. Wright, Treasurer with W. E. Wright Dr. Green and J. T. Teel a committee on constitution and A. McKinney and R. H. Landrum a committee on topography. As a result of this organization Judge Landrum prepared a lengthy topographical and historical paper much more complete than Captain Harris' Centennial History.

Lawrence County Medical and Surgical Society was organized March 12 1870. T. W. Kelton was elected president. Dr. Hocker was among the

first members.

The Anti-Horse Thief Association was organized in Mt. Vernon May 29 1880, with the following members: W. S. Goodman, B. K. Turk, H. S. Worsham, W. B. Allen, Jas. W. Patton, S. C. Patton, G. B. Moore, J. W. Shipman, Jas. W. Curtiss, Thos. Ray, P. Johnson, J. D. Jones, J. R. Hillhouse, Z. T. Newman, T. R. Isbell, A. M. Burgess, Page Woods, Ezra Fowler, A. G. McCune, Hiram Gatton, P. L. Hobbs, J. C. Jennings, M. E. Johnson, G. L. Bowers, Stephen Hite, G. L. Knapp, John T. Teel, John A. Tennis, W. H. Johnson, C. H. George and J. H. Cherry.

The Library Association was organized Oct. 30, 1876. Miss M. L. Spillman was elected Pres.; J. G. Elkins, vice-Pres.; F. M. Harrison, sec'y Miss Hattie Lollar, Treas. and Miss Hattie Faiburn, Librarian. The financial committee comprised Miss Maggie Overton, Misses Lollar and Faiburn, Miss Myrtle Gaither and Miss Jennie Overton.

The Alpha Literary Society was organized in September 1877 with G. H. Smeltzer, Pres.; Emily Mann, as Sec'y, and Nora Hewlet, Treas.

These and many other organizations of the town and county have long gone out of existence and many of their members have passed with them.

The several social clubs in Mt. Vernon today began their organizations some 30 years ago and have played an important part along educational lines. The first of these was the 20th Century Club and its organization dat-

es back to 1900. Its charter members were: Mesdames E. Boucher, E. Brumback, J. N. Davis, D. M. Fenton, Al Kahn, J. A. Harris, J. N. Hoshaw, N. Gibbs, G. L. Knapp, J. M. McPherson, C. A. McCause, W. N. Marbut, John Cecil and J. C. Turk. This club was organized at the home of Mrs. Boucher and Mrs. Brumback was the first president. Its officers for 1931-32 are: Pres. Mrs. S. A. Terry; Sec'y., Mrs. Harry Moore; Asst. Sec'y., Mrs. J. A. Harris; Treas., Mrs. G. L. Knapp; Critic, Mrs. Knowles Smith. This club was federated in 1902.

Later on it was followed by the Home Culture and Saturday Book Clubs.

The Home Culture Club was organized in 1904 at the home of Mrs. Kahn and Mrs. J. C. Turk was its first president. The charter members were: Mesdames W. N. Marbut, C. A. McCause, C. R. Landrum, Al Kahn, J. C. Turk, W. H. Cecil, J. M. McPherson, Walter Orr, C. M. Lebow, D. M. Fenton and Misses Gertrude Guthrie and Nelle Wright. This club was federated in 1906. Its officers for 1931-32 are: Mrs. S. E. Morgan, Pres.; Mrs. Richard Landrum, vice-President; Mrs. Clyde Moore, Sec'y, and Treas.

The Saturday Book Club was first a book department of the 20th Century Club and the members were voted in through the 20th Century Club. This not being satisfactory, they withdrew from the mother club and changed to the Saturday Book Club. They

were organized as an independent club about 1909 and Mrs. Knapp was its first president and served eight consecutive years.

This club was organized at the residence of Mrs. U. S. Hargrove with the following members: Mesdames G. L. Knapp, E. Boucher, N. Gibbs, H. Fowler, U. S. Hargrove and George Melton and Misses Criswell, McMeekin, O'Neal, Taylor, Hawkins, McGuffin, Shoemaker and Wakeman. The officers elected for 1931-32 are: Miss Lela Smith, Pres.; Mrs. Hal Johnson, Vice-Pres.; Mrs. J. A. Harris, Sec. and Mrs. L. E. Seneker, Treas

Chapter CU of the P.E.O., Sisterhood in Missouri was organized in Mt. Vernon, May 7, 1917. Its charter members were: Mrs. Helen Taylor, Mrs. Emma Millsap, Miss Freda Fenton, (Mrs. R. B. Harness), Miss Nina McCause (Mrs. L. R. Millsap) Miss Ruth Sedwick (Mrs. C. W. Blakey), Mrs. Montie Morris, Mrs. Stella Marbut, Miss Adaline Taylor, (Mrs. Dueker), Mrs. Pearl Fowler, Mrs. Lucy B. Orr and Mrs. Mable Hickman. This chapter has an enrollment of 41 active, non-resident and dimitted members.

The chapter's first officers were: Mrs. Helen Taylor, Pres.; Miss Ruth Sedwick, Vice Pres.; Mrs. Nina Millsap, Rec. Sec.; Miss Adaline Taylor, Cor. Sec.; Mrs. Emma Millsap, Treas; Mrs. Stella Marbut, Chaplain; and Mrs. Montoe Morris, Guard.

The officers for 1931-32 are: Mrs. Viva Fowler, Pres.; Mrs. Louise Pugh Vice-Pres.; Miss Jewell Davis, Rec.

Sec'y.; Miss Lela Smith, Cor. Sec'y.; Mrs. Bina Shelton, Treas.; Mrs. Lucy Orr, Chaplain and Mrs. Lora Holmes Guard.

The Lambda Alpha Mu and Phi Delta Mu Clubs originated in our high school and were originated in 1920 and 1921 respectively, by the girls.

The charter members of the Lambda Alpha Mu club were: Lora Fenton (Mrs. Fred Willingham), Lois Landrum, (Mrs. Paul O'Connell), Lucille Cherry, (Mrs. Winfield Bartlesmeyer) Frances Schmidtke (Mrs. Azeil Morris), Fay Shelton, (Mrs. Chester Johnson), Elizabeth Boucher, (Mrs. Alfred Reese), Lurline Whipple, Esther Colley (Mrs. Elmer Rutherford), Erma Shelton (Mrs. C. L. McColloch), Lora Cochran (Mrs. Arlie Holmes), Anna Cherry, Grace Newman, (Mrs. C. Napier), Lois McCause, (Mrs. Arnold Klemme), Elizabeth Newberry, (Mrs. Ernest Young.) The record of this club's first officers cannot be found or remembered correctly. Its officers today are: Mrs. Dorothy Fulton, Pres.; Mrs. Katherine Browning, Vice-Pres.; Mrs. Lora Holmes, Sec.; and Mrs. Bina Shelton, Treas.

The charter members of the Phi Delta Mu Club were: Louise Bruck, (Mrs. Leon Fugh), Alma Cherry, Wilma Cherry. (Mrs. Russell Turk), Charline Fenton, (Mrs. Royce Kendall), Lorene McCause (Mrs. Dwight Richardson) Ina Smith, Frances Turk (Mrs. Floyd Ray). The first officers of this club were: Charline Fenton, Pres.; Louise Bruck, Sec'y and Treas; Frances Turk, reporter. Its officers

today are: Mrs. Charline Fenton Kendall, Pres.; Miss Thelma Kendall, vice Pres.; and Mrs. Mable Howard Holmes, Sec. and Treas.

The Mt. Vernon Ad Club is a men's organization and stands for civic improvement. Its motto is. "Make Mt. Vernon a Bigger and Better Place to Live In." This club was organized in 1920 with Charles Mill-sap, Pres.; H. A. Reitz, Vice- Pres.; and Keith McCause, Sec'y and Treas. The officers of this organization today are: Dr. A. E. Booth, Pres.; Henry Tollivar, vice-Pres.; Gaylord Hancock, Sec'y and August Schmidtke, Treas.

The Ladies' Ad Auxiliary co-operated with this organization and was organized Feb. 11, 1925. Its purpose was general improvement of the appearance of our city by having well kept lawns and gardens. Its first officers were: Mrs. Gaylord Hancock, Pres.; Mrs. M. R. Maxwell, Vice pres; Mrs. A. H. Schmidtke, Sec'y. and Miss Wilma Cherry, Treas. This organization was discontinued June 25, 1930. At that time its officers were: Mrs. J. C. Turk, Pres.; Mrs. H. A. Reitz, Vice-Pres.; Mrs. Clyde Moore, Sec'y. and Mrs. W. H. Austin, Treas.

The church societies of Mt. Vernon cooperate with their respective religious organizations and are a great spiritual uplift to the community. These comprise the missionary society Ladies Aid and the young peoples societies.

The Brotherhood in Mt. Vernon

originated in the Baptist Church and was organized in the fall of 1929. Its purpose is cooperation and the building up of religious interests in the churches of Mt. Vernon. Its first president was Frank Williams. The officers of this organization today are as follows: J. E. Rutter, Pres.; A. A. Hillhouse, Vice Pres.; Chas. Brown, Sec'y and W. H. Austin, Treas.

Rev. J. B. Fly of Logan, Mo. and L. A. Dunlap of Mt. Vernon wrote the history of the pioneer preacher, A. A. Young and issued the book in Aug. 1881.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union in Mt. Vernon and Lawrence County today has a strong membership. The officers of this organization in Mt. Vernon, today are: Mrs. Arthur Johnson, Pres.; Mrs. C. R. Landrum, Vice Pres.; Miss Margaret Spillman, Sec'y and Mrs. W. H. Brown, Treas.

Another organization of importance is the Dramatic Club in Mt. Vernon's high school. Those initiated into this club in April 1931 were: Virginia Pate, Sylvia Hunter, Madeline Hunter, Helen Woods, Gladys White, Max Dyer, Dwight Seneker and James Hurley. The candidates for initiation were required to represent some character through the day preceding the evening of the initiation, namely: Virginia Pate, a little girl; Sylvia Hunter, a Spanish dancer; Helen Woods, a gypsy; Max Dyer an old man; Dwight Seneker a typical farmer and James Hurley, Charley Chaplin. At night each was

required to bring a broom, a tow sack and a paddle. Then, they each had to walk from the high school to town in a sack, sweep the walks on the square and bow on entering McShane's Drug store and say, "I'm the scum of the earth." Prof. Ray and Mrs. Ray, assisted by Misses Bernice Hillhouse and Anna Mac Smith, conducted the ceremonies of initiation. After going through such strenuous degrees it is hoped they each will gain fame as actors and actresses.

The Boy Scouts in Mt. Vernon were organized about 1919 with Dr. M. R. Maxwell as scoutmaster. Prior to 1918, however, boys in Mt. Vernon received some scout training, and soon after 1918, the National Scout Organization was given credit in Mt. Vernon and Dr. Maxwell was given authority by the National Organization in N. Y., to be scoutmaster.

Troop No. 1 originated in the Presbyterian church and additional numbers came from the Methodist and the Baptist churches. These boys proved a standard organization of scouts and their scoutmaster could rely on them even in his absence.

When R. M. Hornidy came to Mt. Vernon he was listed as scoutmaster of troop No. 2. Previous to this Mr. Hornidy had been a scoutmaster for a number of years and Dr. Maxwell was very much pleased to reorganize the troop into one and have Mr. Hornidy take charge of the organization. Since 1921 or 22 Mr. Hornidy has been continued as scoutmaster here. The scouts receive the best training

in matters mental, moral and physical which gives them adequate preparation to meet the problems of life. One of the scout government authorities has determined that Mr. Hornidy is exercising the highest standard of training along scout lines. Kendall Swearingen and Warren Halterman were high scout leaders. With the training they received in Mt. Vernon and at Annapolis, Md. and West Point they have been able to secure government position in navy and army lines. The training and high scout grades made by Kendall Swearingen in col-

lege work and scout duties in Kansas City, proved to the authorities there his ability which gave him his rank as a naval officer.

Warren Halterman received military training at Riverside Military Academy, Gainesville, Ga., and was graduated from there with highest military honors which entitled him to a scholarship at West Point. He was graduated in 1928 from West Point, N. Y. on the Hudson River, and in May 1930 was commissioned second lieutenant at Ft. McKinley, near Rizal, Phillipine, Islands.

CHAPTER VI

BUSINESS INSTITUTIONS AND DIRECTORIES

Mt. Vernons first bank was The Mt. Vernon Bank, incorporated by the State Secretary, Dec. 22, 1885. Its first president was Jas. T. Potter. In the summer of 1886 contracts were sold for the erection of a two story brick block known as the Bank Building and McCanse store. The banking house and safe cost \$3,800.00. The safe was brought here by Arch L. Simms whose intention was to start a banking house.

The Farmers Bank of Mt. Vernon was organized July 1, 1890. Win. A. McCanse was its first president. Both these banks were in existence for 45 and 40 years respectively. Our commercial bank now is "The First National Bank of Mt. Vernon," and was organized in 1930.

Mt. Vernon has felt the effects of the world financial depression of these times, having had two bank failures. The Mt. Vernon Bank closed its doors in July 1929, and the Farmers Bank of Mt. Vernon closed its doors in Sept. 1930. These banking institutions have been replaced by the First National Bank of Mt. Vernon.

The First National Bank of Mount Vernon, Mo., has a capital of \$25,000 00, surplus and undivided profits of \$7,806.52. Its first and present officers are J. H. Hahn, president; H. W. Putman, vice pres.; John O. Burson, Cashier; S. T. Danforth, Ass't. cashier; Allen McReynolds, director, and W. E. Carter, director.

The Building & Loan Association in Mt. Vernon was organized in Mar-

ch 1888 and incorporated the same year. Its first officers were W. R. Harley, Pres.; John Cecil, Sec. Mt. Vernon Building and Loan Association is now in its 43rd year and its past record of stability and achievement is surpassed by none. During the past financial depression it has been the financial Rock of Gibraltar in this county and never has an investor lost one dollar of his investment but has always had a good return. Its officers today are: W. N. Marbut, president and Thos. E. Shriver, secretary.

One of the most important enterprises to the farmers of this community, is the Carnation Milk Products Co., which operates a condensery in Mt. Vernon. On the evening of July 7, 1923, a public meeting was held at the court house to consider the question of a condensery in Mt. Vernon. Eight hundred cars (actual count by Roland Ford, so ordered) were parked in and near the square. The court house was twice filled to its capacity, (by farmers and others) to consider the question. By a majority decision, Mt. Vernon was selected for the site. On the morning of July 9, 1923 the digging of a well was begun on the site. Construction of this building began in Sept. 1923, and on May 1, 1924, the first milk was taken in, the amount being 25,000 pounds. The first person to arrive with milk that morning was W. J. Cherry.

Our state sanatorium for Incipient Pulmonary Tuberculosis is situated

on Chigger Hill, just north of town, and is a little city in itself. Ceremonies for the laying of the corner stone of the first building, the Gupton Villa took place, Aug. 15, 1906.

The business directory as published in the Fountain of March 14, 1867, gave the following names: Daniel Biddlecome, public administrator; H. Brumback, attorney; McCause and Paris, general merchants; T. W. Kelton's, drugs and dry goods; Jones & Hocker's, groceries, notions and shoe store; Ullman & Pharris sold groceries, medicines, paints, etc.; Hendricks & Brays, law office was in the court house, Joseph Estes had his law office there (also A. G. McCune, Chas. A. Williams was attorney, claim and real estate agent, with office in the court house; there also was the office of Williams & Stephens, war claim agents; Wyatt Harris, County clerk; Henry C. Lollar, circuit clerk; Price & Leathers, livery; George Haley's hotel was just established; John Leather's stage office and hotel, second block east of the square, Wright Co. general merchants, northeast corner of square; Matthews & Guthrie general store was on the southeast corner; (in 1869 Guthrie moved to Jolification) T. R. Whaley's general store was on the west side of Main Street, two blocks south of square Lebow and Brothers, General Store and C. S. Hill was agent for the S. W. P.R.R. Co. here. Odd Fellows lodge and Masonic lodge quartered in the third story of the court house, while religious societies worshipped in the

Lumbland Presbyterian church. Later, in 1867, B. L. Hendricks' real estate office, Woods' book store and Bracknridge's grocery were established.

The physicians practicing in Lawrence County in 1873-74 were: S. A. Saunders, E. H. Reese, E. P. Haussard, H. J. Maynard, D. Cunningham, A. A. Keran, T. W. Nichols, T. J. McCord, V. B. Young, P. S. Deafsfity, John Kerr, E. D. Griggs, E. Browning, N. T. Clevenger, William H. Means, W. Wilson, Marsh Jonathan, Peter R. Moore, J. W. Filler, J. E. Wilson, M. B. Smith, Wm. C. McNatt, J. A. Burton, J. G. Star, W. C. Wilkerson, F. H. Moore, H. C. Moehler, R. B. Archibald, D. T. Brueck, John D. Carter, Hiram Waller, N. B. Hocker, Thos. W. Kelton, T. W. Nickle, S. L. Scott, Cyrus Pearce, Granville L. Knapp, (the same who in 1870 was appointed inspector of liquors), Wesley Wright, Wright and J. B. Ensey. The physicians of 1875-83 were W. W. Undegragh, Andrew Wilson, Sephen Briton, R. H. D. Long, J. L. Roberson, in 1875: David C. Gore, T. R. Crane, J. R. Harding in 1876: W. J. Rutledge, Andrew Woolsey, in 1877: Amon A. McGill, J. M. Titterington, in 1878: Edward M. Hendrick and S. W. Hopkins, in 1879: G. H. Smeltzer, Samuel Johnston and Henry V. Worley, in 1880: Jonathan Flattery and L. L. Bovnton, 1881: F. D. Wright, J. E. Bell and R. S. Crabbs, in 1882; J. M. Allison, in 1883.

Some of our registered practical nurses prior to 1866 were: Mary Gillingham, Ruth E. Petty, Sarah Merrill, Nancy Manley, Nancy Pendleton, Mary E. Neece, Sarah E. Smith, Mary M. Moover, Margaret McFall, and Elizabeth Pritchell and Mrs. Elizabeth P. Bearr, prior to 1881.

Among the physicians registered under the act of May 29th, 1883, whose names are not given in the previous list are Coleman Z. Denny, G. L. McDarnell, Geo. Coyle, E. D. Grigg, J. C. Herriford, E. Browning, J. J. Gulick, T. Young, Charles Moore, C. P. Powley, T. H. Scott, R. A. Sayers, P. J. Jack, W. J. Montgomery, C. T. Dusenbury, John Oakes, J. M. Allison, H. C. Sams, Lafayette Henson, Geo. Adam, H. C. Barnard, Eugene Maynard, T. J. Gosset, Ira A. Collingham, J. R. Brewer, J. H. Smith and Alex J. Stark. The practicing physicians in Mt. Vernon today, 1931 are: Drs. C. W. Shelton, P. A. Holmes, W. I. Fulton, M. R. Maxwell, Dr. of O., B. D. Baird, Dr. of O., Dentists having offices in Mt. Vernon during the 90's were Drs. Joseph and D. M. Fenton; later Dr. C. M. LeBow, and later still Dr. Otto Schlicht who were succeeded by our dentists today who are: Drs. H. S. Fulton and H. E. Marshall.

The business directory of Mt. Vernon, today 1931, comprises: The Carnation Milks Product Co., Burgner Bowman Matthews Lbr. Co., A. H. Schmidtke, Gen. Mgr., Mt. Vernon Lbr. Co., Troy Call, Gen. Mgr., The

First National Bank of Mt. Vernon, Mt. Vernon Hotel, Myron Moore, prop., H. K. Hunter Motor Co., Howser Motor Co., Mt. Vernon Motor Co., Cottage Hotel,

Mt. Vernon Mill and Elevator Co., H. S. Fowler Hdwe. Co., Ceundet Hdwe., Mt. Vernon Hdwe., and Grocery Co., Bartlesmeyer Hdwe., Mt. Vernon Ice Plant, Carnation Bottling Works, Mt. Vernon Power House, Kendall Supply Co., Reitz Grocery, Walter S. Smith Grocery, Tanler & Prater Grocery, H. S. Osfall grocery, Dick Banner Grocery, Mt. Vernon Bakery, J. C. Stone Dry Goods store, Millsap Bros. Merc. store, Beauty parlor and Millinery, Skinner and Shriver Merc. Co., and Millinery, Marvin Dry Goods and Millinery, Ken's Fashion Shop and Millinery, Marcella Woolsey Beauty Shoppe, W. N. Marbut Drug Store, McShane Drug Co., W. C. Speer Jewelry Store, R. J. Jones Variety Store, Mrs. Virginia Painter, Prop., Phillips and Fossett Furniture and Undertaking, Phillips and Fossett Funeral Home, Geo. Orr Furniture Co. and Funeral Chapel, Western Telephone Corp of Mo., The Strand Theatre, Geo. (Pints) Leathers, prop., Emory Hill Investment Co. D. C. Woods, Abstracts and Farm Loans, Arch L. Simms Farm Loans and Insurance, A. E. Booth Insurance Agency, Fikes and Turk Insurance agency, Porter Jones Barber Shop, Geo. Kendall Barber Shop, Gray and Hles Barber Shop, A. R. Campbell plumber and electrician, Jimmy Good-

ing, plumber, Frank (Quarts) Leathers, plumber and electrician, W. H. Johnson meat market, A. O. Johnson Harness Shop and Shoe repairing, N. H. Hammer shoe shop, Stauffer and Kirby Blacksmith shop, Ennis Tin Shop, W. W. Owen painter and paper hanger, Chas Freeman, painter and paper hanger, Art Lyons and Son, painter and paper hangers Amos B. Hoehn garage, G. C. Block, garage, S. A. Terry, garage, R. M. Hughes service station, Shell Service Station, Joe Case, prop., Tydol Service Station, Phillips Petroleum Co., Standard Oil Co., Mt. Vernon Gas and Oil, Daniel's Tire and Battery Shop, Ray Bean Tire Shop, Harlow Service station, Porter and McPherson, abstracts, farm loans and insurance, post office, Frisco Railroad station, Likins Bros. Flour and Feed Store, Williams and Swearingen Feed Store, Farmers Exchange, Guthrie Produce, Ozark Produce, Mt. Vernon Produce, Empire Hatchery, J. G. Hillhouse, Ins. agency, Geo. Moore auto truck transfer, R. A. White Auto truck transfer, George Carl, Auto truck transfer, Auto Bus Line, M. K & O. Auto jitney drivers: Elmer Hammer and Albert Garringer (familiarly known as Dad Garner) Mt. Vernon Fire Department, Miniature golf links Afton Paris, Prop., Hudson Cleaning and pressing shop, Seneker Cleaning and pressing shop, Victor Rawlings Tailoring and Cleaning, E. L. and Bolten Dyer real estate Agt., Carnation Coffee Shop, Ivan Smith Confectionery, Patterson Cafe, S &

P Sandwich Shop, Lymon Moore, prop., Henry Orr, grocery and lunch, The Comer "Eats" Bakers Products sold by F. V. Pearce, Alexander Rooming House, Mrs. J. B. Bum board and rooms, Mrs. John Poston board and rooms, Dee Ayers lunch room, Hicklin's Place, Dee Ayers popcorn and peanut stand, Photographer, R. O. Harris, Carpenters: Chas. Meyer, Albert Ragain, John Newberry, Joby Boyd, F. S. Sullivan, Wm. Collins, Brick layers: Frank and Charlie Ereckenridge and Lon Parker, (colored) W. H. Collins, Stone mason, Ed Hinrichen, concrete contractor. Mt. Vernon's Newspapers: The Lawrence Chieftain, edited by Miss Virginia Cecil and The Lawrence County Record, edited by Charles Whaley. Mt. Vernon's notary publics today, 1931 are: Misses Thelma Kendall and Eunice Guthrie, Mrs. Louise Pugh, Parker Potter, Leon Pugh, Arch L. Simms, J. C. Turk, D. C. Woods, J. G. Hillhouse. Our lawyers are: C. R. Landrum, Rex McPherson, J. C. Turk, Harry Whaley, Robert Stenmons, Eldred Seneker and Parker Potter. Mt. Vernon's County officials today, 1931, are: Frank Pruitt, Collector of the revenue; J. Dewey Mills, Circuit Clerk; O. W. Matthews, County Clerk; Earl Roberts, Recorder; Andy Crawford, Treasurer, J. P. Colley, Probate Judge; Homer Goodman, Assessor; Richard McPherson, prose-

cuting Attorney; Emery Smith, Judge of the Circuit Court; Judge of the county court are: G. J. Ragain, presiding judge, C. H. Morrison, Judge of the eastern district; Theodore Harris Judge of the Western District. Prevoius to Mr. Smith's election, Chas. L. Henson (Democratic) was judge of the Circuit Court of Lawrence County for 12 consecutive years. A. H. Hensley, Sheriff, with E. A. (Lon) Smith, deputy, Dave Jeffords, jailer, Miss Thelma Kendall City collector, C. B. Hudson, Mayor; R. C. McCorkhill, justice of the peace, D. L. Patton, Coroner, Harry Moore, county supt. of schools, J. E. Rutter, county agricultural agent, Miss Nina McCracken, county economics agent, Mrs. Ethel Howard, welfare officer, Hyson Wise, supt. of the county farm, Snowden Hillhouse, court house janitor, Julius Neimeyer, street commissioner, Joe Gooding, constable, Clint Carter, city marshal and W. N. Lyngar, nightwatchman of Mt. Vernon. Physicians practising in Mt. Vernon today are: Drs. C. W. Shelton, P. A. Holmes and W. I. Fulton, M. D's Mrs. M. R. Maxwell and B. D. Baird, Drs. of Osteopathy. Dentists practicing in Mt. Vernon today are: Drs. H. S. Fulton and H. E. Marshall. Veterinaries: Dr. Lacy Patterson, Mt. Vernon, Dr. E. H. Connell, rural, Dr. B. M. Troxel, rural.

CHAPTER VII

MILITARY HISTORY

The period from 1843 to 1861 was one of quiet, steady growth in population. Farms multiplied and the wealth increased gradually.

Then the Civil War came on and dark days were experienced until 1865 when the war ended. In May 1861 the Lawrence County Home Guard Regiment was organized. The organization took place four miles west of Mt. Vernon on the prairie. John M. Filler was elected lieutenant colonel. There were ten companies averaging one hundred men each. After losing officers and men, so many being killed and dying from disease, they disbanded in Sept. 1861. In Feb. 1862 a Confederate Company was sent cut to take all substance around Verona and other towns. They took everything.

Later under "Hawkeye" Livingston they attacked the house of Thos. Marsh where Jas. and Hardy Marsh, Jas W. and W. N. Davis had come from their hiding place to supper. When they saw the Rebels coming they fled but were captured.

Hardy Marsh was strung up to an apple tree but was let down before dead. The two Marsh boys and W. N. Davis were tied in a bunch and made to travel in that form half way to Mt. Vernon where they were released from the bonds and taken on in charge. Next day they were given the job of killing hogs at the Craft

farm east of Mt. Vernon. On April 18, 1863 Capt. Robert's men started at 6 a. m. to scout Bower's Mill to Dale's Mill. Dr. Hocker of Mt. Vernon was surgeon of the second Arkansas Calvary. On returning from Springfield in 1864 he was asked how he was going to vote. He responded, "For Lincoln or nobody as there are 50 chances in 100 of losing one's life by voting otherwise."

The State Constitutional Convention was held in St. Louis, Jan. 6, 1865 and on Jan 11 the ordinance abolishing slavery in Missouri was adopted.

Ephriam Gaither was killed near Bowers Mill in 1861 by Captian Musgrove's men. Caswell T. Wear and another member were with Mr. Gaither but the two escaped. Mr. Wear's ride for life being one of the stirring incidents of the war. John Brite a Confederate was killed at Saline, Ark. George S. Millsap, was wounded by bushwhackers south of Pierce City

Samuel Cotter was war postmaster at Mt. Vernon.

From March 1862 until the close of the war, Lawrence county was in the hands of the Federals, and with the exception of its southern settlements, suffered little in comparison with the adjoining counties.

In 1867 the American House owned by Mrs. E. Gaither was damaged by fire. This hotel stood where the

Ford garage and Strand theatre are located and was first the home of Dr. N. B. Hacker but when the Civil war came up his home was taken from him for offices. After the war Mrs. Gaither remodeled the building, converting it into a hotel and named it "The American House."

During these hundred years Mt. Vernon and the county have experienced three wars: The Civil War, the Spanish-American war and the World War. Each time they have contributed their share of fathers and sons to preserve peace.

Some organizations of these veterans of past wars are as follows:

Jewell Post No. 118, G.A.R. was organized under charter Oct. 29, 1883, by Jesse Rhodes commander of the post at Carthage. The officers elected were W. N. Davis, C; J. D. Whaley, SVC; J. D. Jones, JVC; J. W. Shipman, chaplain; M. V. Walshe Surgeon; W. W. Cushing, O of D; Geo. A. Hiles, Q.M.; John McCause, O. of G; Euphrates Boucher, Adjustant; Thos. B. Marsh, S.M.; Z. T. Newman, Q.M.S.; In Jan. 1885, W. N. Davis was installed Commander and Euphrates Boucher, Adjustant. Those living in Mt. Vernon today who are veterans of the civil war and belong to the G.A.R. and John A. Cochran Marion Howard, Lee Howard, and Jonathan Tolliver. There are no Confederate soldiers known to be living

in or near Mt. Vernon today.

A strong Union feeling existed here and a strong physical force gave effect to this feeling.

The American Legion was organized in the fall of 1918 in France and all American sailors, soldiers, marines and war nurses who served in the World War from 1917 to 1919 and were honorably discharged are eligible to belong to this organization.

The Mt. Vernon chapter of the American Legion is called the Fred A. Boswell Post No. 137. This post was established in 1919; Dr. W. I. Fulton, commander and Ross Gahring, adjutant, Dr. B. D. Baird is the commander today, and L. F. Tillotson is the adjutant.

It was named for Fred A. Boswell who was killed in action in the World War about one half hour before the last gun was fired on Nov. 11, 1918.

Two years later his body was brought from France and a military funeral was held on the court house lawn in Mt. Vernon. Rev. Ehrstein was the minister upon this occasion and interment was made in the I.O. O.F. cemetery.

In cooperation with the American Legion is its Auxiliary, and those eligible to belong are the mothers, wives daughters and sisters of a soldier who is a member of the Legion.

CHAPTER VIII

NEWSPAPERS

Mt. Vernon's first newspaper was published in 1856 and was called "The Lawrence County Register." L. Lampkin went to St. Louis and purchased the press, shipped it to Jefferson City and from there it was hauled by wagon to Mt. Vernon. The time had hardly come for newspapers in so isolated a country so it was moved to Cassville. Several newspapers were published in Mt. Vernon between 1856 to 1873 but each of short duration. The Press Convention of Southwest Missouri assembled at Springfield, Oct. 7, 1869 and Robert Kelley represented the "Fountain" of Mt. Vernon.

On July 13, 1871, the following heading to a descriptive article appeared in the Spring River Fountain (published in 1867) It tells the history of those days: "Rum Davis and James Wood engaged in the cattle trade. Go to St. Louis with a car of stock. Sell, get money. Return safe to Verona. Take the hack at that point for Mt. Vernon. Six miles from town become alarmed. Believe they are about to be attacked by robbers. Become demoralized, leave the hack, take to the brush, the hackman takes a scare and comes to a halt. The consternation of the inhabitants of Mt. Vernon, on account of the failure of the mail to arrive on time. Davis and Wood arrive and are interviewed."

The two county papers longest in

existence in Mt. Vernon were "The Fountain and Journal and the Lawrence Chieftain."

The Fountain and Journal was issued in 1873 by the Mt. Vernon Publishing Co., with R. H. Landrum, Daniel Sloan and John Cecil directors. In March 1874 Mr. Euphrates Boucher and Mr. Cecil were its editors. Mr. Cecil sold out to Mr. Boucher in 1875 and established The Lawrence Chieftain. After a short time, Mr. Cecil sent for his brother, W. H. Cecil and they were partners for a number of years in editing The Lawrence Chieftain.

Miss Hattie Breckenridge began work with the Fountain and Journal in 1878 and was employed there for a number of years. Miss Maggie Gillingham was in there in 1882 and afterwards was employed in the Chieftain office and was succeeded by Miss Bettie Boyd in this office.

Mr. Boucher continued the publication of the Fountain and Journal until about 1914 when he sold to J. W. Jones. This publication was discontinued shortly after.

The Lawrence Chieftain is still in existence and is now edited by Miss Virginia Cecil, daughter of the late John Cecil.

The Lawrence County Record was founded in 1899 by W. E. Hickman, but is now edited by Charles Whaley.

CHAPTER IX
OTHER LAWRENCE COUNTY
TOWNS

MARIONVILLE—

Marionville dates back to 1854 or about the time the Atlantic and Pacific railroad excitement spread out westward from St. Louis and extended its beneficial influence to one of the land owners at this point. The town of Marionville was surveyed by John W. Wilkinson, Jan. 21, 1854. The plat was acknowledged Jan. 28, 1854. The Marionville Collegiate Institute at one time made Marionville an educational center but has since been removed.

A home for the aged has been established here and is maintained by the M. E. church.

VERONA—

Verona dates settlement back to 1867, altho it was not platted as a town until 1868. This town was surveyed on May 2, 1868 for James M. White who acknowledged the plat on that day.

Mr. White (almost coeval with Judge John Williams) was the first settler here, locating on land now part of the town, and remained here throughout a long and active life. A monument to this pioneer was erected near Verona in his honor as being the first person to establish a Sunday school in the county.

PEIRCE CITY—

Peirce City is one of the pioneer towns of Southwest Missouri and was

named for Andrew Peirce, one of the first presidents of the Frisco system.

In 1870, when the Frisco railroad was completed through this part of the state, Peirce City was a struggling village of a half dozen houses and two stores. The Baptist church and cemetery covering seven acres, for long years, was dedicated to the uses of progress. The plat of Peirce City was acknowledged April 8, 1870. The oldest established financial institution in Lawrence County is the Lawrence County Bank of Peirce City.

This bank was established in Oct. 1873 with Jacob Linzee its first president, and Lewis L. L. Allen, cashier. At that time the population of Peirce City was only 300. The Peirce City Baptist College was at one time an important educational institution in the county.

AURORA—

The town of Aurora was surveyed May 9, 1870, by J. W. Black, for Stephen G. Elliot and acknowledged by the owner, before Geo. W. Rinker the same day, but was not platted until in 1872.

This modern mining town was a village of 600 or 700 inhabitants in 1886, but in 1888 its population was placed at over 2,000.

In Oct. 1886 it was organized as a city of the fourth class with Carr Mc-

Natt, Mayor; Chas. Wallich, marshal; A. R. Wheat, J. D. Conrad, Warren Vertrees and Henry Woods, aldermen.

The valuable discoveries of lead and zinc may justly be said to have been the cause of the rapid growth of Aurora.

MILLER—

The town of Miller was laid out in 1890 for a syndicate composed of Leven W. Shafer, G. W. Gilmore, Wm L. Miller, Sr., J. T. Potter, J. R. Tarrant and J. B. Davis who bought the Woodford Paris farm on the northeast quarter of section 23, in Lincoln township, with the primary object of locating a town there. T. A. Miller then a resident of Greenfield and its leading lumber dealer conceived a plan to relieve his town from the inconvenience of being remote from a railroad. Through the success of T. A. Miller, the Greenfield and Northern railroad was built between Greenfield and Aurora and the town of Miller was made a station and soon

thereafter a depot was erected by Mr. Miller. In the spring of 1896, Miller was incorporated as a village and on the 7th day of September 1915, it was granted a charter for a city of the fourth class.

HOBERG—

Hoberg is a thriving little town on the Missouri Pacific railroad in the western part of Lawrence county. It was laid out on a tract of land owned by Daniel Withaus and Henry Hoberg in September 1903.

The Presbyterian church was built in 1906, the postoffice was opened in 1907, and has several rural free delivery routes connected with it. The T. A. Miller Lumber company bought out the McGannon Lumber yard, and added largely to it. The first brick building was erected by Joseph Schlo-man. The first barber shop was opened in 1910 by Luther Hunt, and the Bank of Hoberg was formed in 1912 by W. M. Pate. Hoberg is in close proximity to Mt. Vernon.

CHAPTER X

INTERESTING BITS OF HISTORY

The following are some strange and destructive happenings which occurred during the '60's and '80's. On July 1, 1861, a brilliant comet was visible from this district. Grass-hoppers were plenty in 1862. On July 3, 1863, a vast smoke floated over the country and continued until July 6th. The blizzard of Jan. 1, 1864, set in with terrific violence. In

Nov. 1872 the remains of a Mrs. Sherman (who died in 1868 and was buried at Bowers Mill) were exhumed. The hair was perfectly solid, the clothing the same as on the day of interment, and the body as solid as stone, while the features were unchanged from the moment of death. The tornado Dec. 4, 1881 destroyed the colored men's church, Joe Hen-

sley's cabin, damaged the Methodist and Baptist church buildings and moved Wright & Co.'s warehouse. Also in 1881 the locusts destroyed the crops but the next year fortune smiled again on agriculture and crops henceforth were above the average of any previous decade.

The most severe storm which Mt. Vernon has experienced in recent years was in June 1923. Trees were uprooted, telephone wires broken, and the tin roofing on Millsap Bros. store was torn off and dry goods were damaged.

We read and hear of people who make preparations for events which often seem far in the future. One case of this preparedness was that of Rev. J. F. Hargrove who wished to be laid away in a casket made of material of his own choice. Fifteen years previous to his death he asked his son, T. G. (Tom) if he would do him a favor. The favor asked was that the son go to the Hargrove farm and cut down a certainly exceptionally tall walnut tree which was two feet in diameter, and have it sawed into lumber for the purpose of making caskets and casket boxes for himself and Mrs. Hargrove. Tom cut the tree down, hauled it to the saw mill west of the Big Spring where it was sawed into full inch thickness. Mr. Will Collins made both the caskets and boxes of the solid black walnut and they were finished in their natural color and stored in the barn on the residence property in Mt. Vernon. When needed they were trim-

med and decorated by Orr and Co. Rev. Hargrove was one of the committee appointed for the building of the first Christian church in Mt. Vernon and was pastor of this church for a number of years.

One old land mark of life and beauty in Mt. Vernon, is a large elm tree which stands on the lawn near the curb, at the north entrance of the court house. Another is the stately pine standing in the yard of the old L. K. Wright property. The oldest house is supposed to be the dwelling just east of the W. H. Sloan property and was formerly owned by Aunt Nellie Price Simms.

The first piano (an old fashioned square of solid walnut with genuine ivory keys) was owned by Mrs. E. Gaither when she lived in the American House. It was also used in the "Opera House" over Millsap Bros. store. After serving its time it was stored in the John M. Skinner smokehouse where it remained until a few years ago when it was shipped to a relative to be made into some other nice piece of furniture.

The first lumber yard in Mt. Vernon was established about 1880 by Geo. Collins and was located on the lot where the Johnson meat market now stands. Prior to this, lumber was hauled in from Arkansas by a Mr. Mastin who took orders, and the lumber was stored with Wright & Co., also it was shipped to Verona, Marionville and Peirce City and hauled to Mt. Vernon from those points. Some years later R. J. McIntire pur-

chased the lumber yard and moved it about a block northwest of the square. This location is still used for that purpose and is now known as the Burgner-Bowman-Matthews Lumber Co. and August Schmidtke is manager. It was formerly owned by the late M. L. Coleman of Aurora, Mo., and R. C. Sedwick was general manager for 25 years to within a short time of his death in Jan. 1923.

The first brick masons in Mt. Vernon were Charlie and Henry George.

The first bake-oven shop stood where the Walter Smith grocery store is located and "Dutch George" (the only name he is remembered by) was the baker.

The first furniture store in Mt. Vernon is believed to have been owned by Lanse & Comstock. Geo. A. Orr, (father of Mrs. Annie Stone), was married in 1866 and bought his furniture at this store, with which to begin housekeeping.

Revolutionary Soldier—

William Lumley, an old Revolutionary soldier came here in 1835 and his body lies moldering in the dust on Turnback, near where Lumley's mill stood, on the Mt. Vernon and Bolivar road. In 1876 the good citizens of the neighborhood in which he was buried, raised, by subscription, money enough to cause a substantial stone wall to be placed around his grave. This was done in memory of the only Revolutionary soldier whose body lies buried in Lawrence county.

Spanish Fort—

This old fort is about 3 miles south of Mt. Vernon and is said to have been built there in the 17th century by the Spaniards. There is no written record of this early settlement, so that its credit to the Spanish explorers is merely legendary.

However a marker has been erected on the wall or breastworks near the church with the following inscription upon one side:

Fort Ancient, believed to have been constructed by a group of eastward migrating mound builders, a band of Indians probably long antedating the Osages, on their way to what is now Ohio. These earthworks are a small replica of the great Fort Ancient in Ohio, where this prehistoric group reached its greatest culmination. This tribe probably had its village in the valley, and used these fortifications for defense. First pioneers described the walls as originally about 5 feet high and the moat 2 feet deep.

Springfield University club historical marker, No. 16. Erected, October 1930.

Marker reads on other side. Locally known as the Old Spanish Fort.

In August 1867 the Mt. Vernon cemetery was cleared of heavy brush which spread over it during the war.

The land on which the city cemetery is located was a gift of Royston Haley and Wm. Matthews and was deeded to the county for the purpose.

Reed Bros. Furniture Co. owned the first horse-drawn hearse in Mt.

Vernon about 40 years or more ago. Orr & Co., had the first funeral car in Mt. Vernon about 1916 or '17.

With the coming of the automobile we are now carried through life at a fast rate from the cradle to the grave.

George Haley (grandfather of V. L., George and Harry Rawlings, brought little cedars from Arkansas and set some in the city cemetery and some in front of his home, now known as the Dr. Shelton hospital and residence property. Some of these cedar trees are still standing at both places.

Mrs. Haley was the first person in Mt. Vernon to have false teeth and they were made by Drs. Young and Natress. She was also the first to own a sewing machine in the county. The machine was small and when it was to be used it was fastened to the end of the table and the needle was set in motion by a little wheel which was turned by hand.

George Haley was agent of the first express office in Mt. Vernon and his office was stationed in his hotel which stood where the Dr. Shelton hospital and residence now stands. This was for the stage mail and the stage barn stood on the northeast corner of the John B. Smith lot. At that time Mr. Haley owned the block where the bank and all stores on the east side of the square, the lots where the J. M. Skinner and John B. Smith homes were afterwards located and where his hotel stood on what is now the Dr. Shelton property.

When excavating in 1926 for the new Mt. Vernon Bank (where the old Wright building had stood) several pieces of bar lead were found. Geo. Haley buried this lead and a lot more of it that has not yet been found.

Mr. Haley lived in a house on the east side of the square, on the lot between the old Wright building (where the First National Bank of Mt. Vernon is located) and W. N. Marbut's drug store. During the war when Price made his raid up thru Missouri it was thought he would come by Mt. Vernon and as he was robbing and burning on his way, Mr. Haley buried this lead to keep it from falling into Price's hands. At that time people made their own bullets and Mr. Haley was a great hunter.

The first modern barn of the modern ones built in 1875 was built for Knox Gibson of Ozark Prairie. At that time his cattle could not be induced to go nearer to it than 120 feet.

The first reaper in this county was owned by W. H. (Hamp) Cherry.

The first grist and flour mill nearest Mt. Vernon stood on the north bank of Williams creek near the bridge that leads to the sanatorium hill and was first operated by Tom Adams and son. Later by a man by the name of Wagner. This was an old burr mill and was run by water power.

The new roller mills in Mt. Vernon were opened Oct. 1887 with Mr. Rinsman, Miller and Wm. Ragan, engineer.

The first turning lathes and mortis-

ing machines in Mt. Vernon were owned by Thos. Stringer and E. D. Burton who came here in 1852. One turning lathe and mortising machine was used in the wagon and carriage shop of Mr. Stringer and the other by Mr. Burton, in his cabinet shop. The turning lathe in Mr. Burton's shop was operated in this manner: a platform was built with an incline and a horse was made to stand in this position with all four feet in grooves; when the lathe was set in motion, the horse would have to peddle the length of time required to complete the piece of work. The mortising machine in Mr. Stringer's shop was used for mortising spokes into hubs for wagons and carriages, (since hubs were shipped in solid form.) The other mortising machine was used in Mr. Burton's cabinet shop. This shop was located just east of the Presbyterian church on the lot where Mrs. Bron McDonald's residence now stands.

The first ice plant in Mt. Vernon was owned by Eli Paris, who put up ice in this manner: a house was built with double walls, with sawdust filled in between; ice was brought from the creek and a layer of ice was placed on the floor, then water poured over and let freeze, then another layer of ice and water and so on until the house was filled. The roof was then put on and the coming summer's store of ice was ready for use. This ice house was located just east of where the First National Bank now stands.

Mrs. Ruth Rawlings who had a little restaurant in connection with her husband's grocery store, was the first person to sell oranges and lemons in Mt. Vernon.

The first livery stable in Mt. Vernon was owned by Bill Price and was located on the lot where the Johnson meat market now stands. This stable was destroyed by fire in the latter part of 1867.

With the coming of the railroad in 1890 Mt. Vernon took on a sudden development of new industries and business enterprises. The rugged slopes of the Ozark Hills were transformed into fields of rare beauty and places of wealth.

The following is a list of some of the first members of the Home Culture Club who (in the early years of this organization) were entertained with a banquet by the husbands:

Mesdames: C. A. McCause, Frank O'Neal, W. N. Marbut, Joe McPherson, J. C. Turk, Jim Miller, C. M. Lebow, C. R. Landrum, Walter Orr, Misses Myrtle Connor, Gertrude Guthrie, Nelle Wright, Madge Stone.

Clippings from the Chieftain Printed 51 years ago:

"Protracted meeting at Zion begins third Sunday."

"Remember the Democratic primaries at the court house Saturday."

"Rev. J. E. Fenton, threshed 900 bushels of wheat from 30 acres, or 30 bushels to the acre."

"The Burlesque Troupe will give an exhibition at Lea's new hall to-

night for the benefit of the fair ground. All should attend and have a good time."

"The Directors of the Peirce City Baptist college have elected Prof. C. S. Sheffield of Atchison, Kansas, as president, and will commence their first term on the first Tuesday in Oct

"Programme for the Temperance meeting next Friday night: Music, prayer, address, song, Two Merry Maids are we, by Miss Virgie Sloan and Miss Saddle Stone. Declamation, Willie Hammers, select reading, Miss Lib Roberts, Paper."

"The County Sunday School Convention held in Mt. Vernon last week was one of unusual interest. A large number of Sunday school workers of all portions of the county were in attendance and everything passed harmoniously and beneficially. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Geo. W. Rinker, Aurora, President; J. M. White, Verona Vice President; M. F. H. Smeltzer, Mt. Vernon, treasurer; L. L. Allan, Peirce City, secretary; John Cecil, Mt. Vernon, assistant secretary. The following are the township vice presidents: N. A. Branstetter, Spring River; J. D. Hillcuse, Aurora; Rev. J. B. Fly, Buck Prairie; J. B. Reagan, Turnback; Sam Richardson, Ozark; Wm. Cochran, Lincoln; J. G. Elkins, Mt. Vernon; Jonathan Hunt, Greene; F. C. Johnston, Peirce, Vineyard and Mt. Pleasant. The number of Sunday schools in the county have nearly doubled over last year and interest is still increasing. A full report of

the convention will be published in the semi-annual, sometime in September."

In May 1868 Mt. Vernon received mail only three times a week. On that date the now daily stage line between Springfield and Neosho via Mt. Vernon was an established fact. On March 7, 1886, the first Sunday mail between Verona and Mt. Vernon was established. The first post office was stationed in a two roomed dwelling (where the Gibbs property was afterwards built) and one room was used for the post office.

Then there was the little cart, drawn by one horse, which carried Uncle Sam's mail, for awhile, to and from the depot and post office. Now the mail is transported on trucks and automobiles buses to and from our post office which is located in the McPherson building at the west side of the square. This building was completed in July 1925.

The U. S. rural mail service is one of our greatest conveniences and those who are in the service at Mt. Vernon, today are: Route 1, Albert Brown; No. 2, R. M. Hornidy; No. 3, Lester Browning; No. 4, A. U. Hunt and No. 5, Arlie Holmes.

T. J. Kemper was the first of Mt. Vernon's rural route carriers to retire and after 26 1/2 years of continued service was retired on a pension.

When Mr. Kemper retired, routes 3 and 4 were consolidated and called route 3 and Lester Browning was made carrier. Then route 6 was

changed to route 4, making 5 routes instead of 6 .

Varying a little from real early history, let us bring to mind the old bus and wagonette which met the train each day including Sundays. Always on Sunday afternoons it was a custom for the young folks to be at the depot to see the "jerky" come in. It was in the gay 90's that these vehicles carried us to the Big Spring where moonlight picnics were enjoyed. Today Lawrence county's Baptist Assembly Temple and camping grounds are situated on top of the hill above this spring and it is called Baptist Hill.

The first rubber-tired buggies in Mt. Vernon were owned by Joe J. Manlove and Dr. Challie Lebow, about the year 1901 or '02 consequently these young men were "the catches" of the town.

The vehicle owned by "Joe J." was a stanhope and the harness was of white leather.

The first automobile in Mt. Vernon was owned by John T. Holland about 1906 and was a Jackson. Prior to this time the buggy and carriage were the luxurious mode of travel. When the present court house was built the old hitching rack of posts and chains around the court house yard were moved, some to the west side of the square and others to the city cemetery and put around graves. The horses are now hitched to hitching racks and telephone poles on side streets. Airplanes are seen today flying over Mt. Vernon and our near-

est air-port is stationed at Carthage.

The telephone line between Peirce City and Mt. Vernon was completed Nov. 12, 1883, and John Cecil sent the first message from the Chieftain to the Empire. About fifteen months later, the telephone took the place of the telegraph.

The Mt. Vernon telephone building was planned and designed in every particular by the late J. N. B. Shelton and built in 1923.

During the period of railroad construction, along the south line of the county, murder and pillage were common crimes. So clear was this fact that travelers were thoroughly armed and watchful. W. H. Johnson, county collector and R. H. Landrum, deputy, left Pierce City about this time with a large sum of money collected that week. They were aware they were watched, but on Saturday evening mounted their fast horses and reached Mt. Vernon seventeen miles by road then-in one hour and 30 minutes.

"The old swimmin' hole" not far distant in Williams or Cherry's creek was a joy to the "boy of yesterday."

Those who years ago enjoyed the cool waters of the old "Bob Whaley Swimming Hole" might be interested to be reminded how this swimming hole got its name. It is said that Bob Whaley, in quest of a place to swim in Williams creek, stepped in "hands over head" and this swimming hole there upon took his name. The shifting sands of this creek have since filled it up.

A Gentlewoman—

The following poem was written by Miss Edith Boyd, a patient at the Missouri State Sanatorium.

There's a lady at the Eaton
Whom the patients love to see,
Or hear her brisk footsteps approach
With earnest dignity.
With her curly iron locks
And her figure, straight and tall,
With a mighty trusting faith in God
And kind greeting from us all.
She's the night nurse at the Eaton
And her busy fingers fly
She reads the best of verse or prose
And her heart and soul are high.
What an interesting speaker
Holds attention to the end
While her stories have a moral,
She would make a worthy friend.
My mother hoped that I would be
A gentlewoman, pure and sweet
But I ne'er knew one that played
that part

'Till Mrs. Mattie Boucher, did I meet.
Birth Announcement —

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Bartlesmeyer of near Mt. Vernon received a wire this week from their son, A. V. (Alvin) Bartlesmeyer of St. Louis announcing the birth of a baby girl.

Then there was Ammon Crump, (colored) who for years was a familiar figure on the streets of Mt. Vernon and was a handy man around the court house. Bob Crump (colored) was one of Mt. Vernon's barbers for a number of years.

Those who have been away from the "old home town" for some years and should chance to read these lines,

the following names will remind them of some more of their old Mt. Vernon acquaintances who possessed nicknames: George Leathers (Pints); Geo Whaley, Chinch; Harry Rawlings, Booker; Charlie Millsap, Phoebe; Victor Rawlings, Feathers; Floyd Fullbright, Buck; Homer Gardner, Quail; Lawrence Samuels, Mink-eye; W. N. Marbut, Deacon; W. W. Cecil, Bidge; Hal Johnson, Pete; Truman Hickman, Hoggie; Jesse Owens, Bunker; Charlie Nelson, Birdie; Clarence Boster, Tige and Baldy; Charley Gray, Big Ears; Albert Whaley, Buck;— Ragain, Grinner; Harry Silverwood, Deafy; Cark Trimble, Blabb; Bert Bryant, Governor; Tom Ryan, Rebel; George Rawlings, Big Booker; Geo. Cochran, Poguer; —Jones, Twinkle; — Ragain, Oxhead.

In adding to the list of nicknames several of the following are of later generations: Charlie Freman, Freedy; Walter Counts, Humpy; Clarence Williams, Fuzzy; Arthur Bartlesmeyer, Dutch; C. B. Hudson, Curly; Everett Cochran, Bones; Cecil McCause, Straggler; Lawrence McFall, Mug; Tom Phillips, Pidge; Charlie Bryant, Poker; Walker Bryant, Hiker; Harry Halterman, Skipper; Lloyd Rutledge Tudy; Vernett Baugh, Dinger; Azell Morris, Nellie; Robert Hughes, jr., Jiggs; True Mullins, Puny; Frances Reid, Possum; Allen Holmes, Squatty; Floyd Ruckert, Gale; Ryan Landrum, Dumps; Edwin Schmditke, Duck; Ralph Silverwood, Buck and Raymond Gardner, Sister.

There are those in these lists however, who have been called by a loving voice and guided by a wise hand across the great divide.

'Tis said the "robin" is the first harbinger of spring, but Mt. Vernon has a more dependable weather prophet than the "robin" it is none other than Frank (Luke) Breckenridge, according to our local newspaper. This gentleman's locks are never shorn until the leaves have all put out, frost and freezes are over and spring has made her decided appearance.

Chas. (Cabbage) Warren was once the village blacksmith but this shop has been discontinued. Now he can be found most every day at the Chas. Guthrie Produce near by the old shop building, where he can dream of the horses and horse shoes as he watches the automobiles go by.

In 1868 the first Mt. Vernon baseball nine was organized, "Star of the West," and was in existence in 1874. The members were Frank Smeltzer, Will McCause, Tom Booth, Tom Kelton, Manse Gaither, Alf Whaley, Jerry Elkins, Ike Counts, Chas. Hocker, and John Skinner. The second line of that club comprised B. Hocker, A. Whaley, W. Cecil, J. Stone, H. Fowler, M. Gaither., C. Thompson, C. Warren and P. Gaither. The Centennial Base Ball club was organized in 1875. Its members were J. Sloan, A. Whaley, W. H. Turk, J. E. Gaither, F. W. McFall, Z. Phillips and C. W. Warren, A. T. Booth.

Today's base ball team comprises: Joe Cherry, catcher; George Pugh,

first base; Floyd Mullins, pitcher; Charles Jeffords, pitcher; Emery Hammer, third base; Eldred Roberts, short stop; Sid Rounds, catcher; Alvin Whittle, second base; Roy Brown, outfield; Ivan Shockley, outfield; Metz Cherry, outfield.

Other sports which Mt. Vernon's boys and girls engage in today are miniature golf and tennis. The golf course is owned by Afton Paris and the tennis courts by Robert and William Pugh.

The H.G.L. Club entertained on Friday night at the home of Miss Mary Cochran. The club meets once a week and entertains the young men once a month. Those so fortunate as to receive invitations were: Messrs. Ed Friar, Pleas Richardson, Gabe McFall, Rufus Sizer, Dick Williams, Clyde Johnson, Emery Alexander, Jim Potter, Will Bearden, Everett Cochran and George Leathers. The mystic letters "H.G.L." seem to be a symbol for a good time, what ever else they may mean. The members of the club are Misses Mable Cochran, Ida Dyer, Myrtle Alexander, Lillie Halterman, Glen Faust, Amanda Dyer, Ollie Dickey, Minnie Coleman, Ida Conklin and Rose Dyer.

Party date was 1901.

Recorder Mitchell says he issued 333 marriage licenses during the year 1900.

Feb. 2nd, 1931—Regular Meeting of the Ad Club Held Monday Night.

The Mt. Vernon Ad Club met in the basement of the Presbyterian church Monday night with an attend-

The boys of the Mt. Vernon fire department, (on the hook and ladder team), won the championship three consecutive years after which they brought home the belt for keeps.

The present organization of the Mt. Vernon band, with Max Turk as director, comprises: Russel Turk, Lincoln Weiss, Keith Turk, Lloyd Matthews, Floyd Matthews, Oral Woods, Harry Woods, Vernetta Baugh, Newton Patton, David Allen, Loren Buehler, Rochard Landrum, Ryan Landrum, Dr. D. A. Wilson, Dwight Senecker and Kenneth Terrell.

The oldest person living in Mt. Vernon today is Mrs. Kirby who is 91 years old and lives with her daughter, Mrs. Hattie Owen.

The person living in Mt. Vernon the greatest number of years is believed to be Mrs. Alice McFall.

The oldest persons born in Mt. Vernon known to be living are Mrs. Alice McFall and her brother, Pleasant Wear. Mrs. McFall was born Feb. 29, 1948 in Mt. Vernon and has always lived within this school district. Mr. Wear was born in 1846 and resides in Oklahoma.

The most recent death of one who lived in Mt. Vernon a number of years is that of Mrs. George Ryan who came to Mt. Vernon in 1887 and resided here until her death on June 2, 1931.

The Phi Delta Mu's Mothers

Banquet. (Held in 1925)

The Phi Delta Mu Club gave a three course turkey dinner in honor of their mothers, Wednesday evening of

Nov. 11th, 1925. The Carnation Coffee Shop was the scene. Miss Alma Cherry, president of the club welcomed the mothers and Mrs. W. N. Marbut responded. Between courses toasts were given Miss Frances Turk acting as toastmistress. Each mother and daughter was called on for short talks. The favors were pink carnations.

The members present accompanied by their mothers were Misses Alma Cherry, Mary and Pauline Leathers, Anna Ruckert, Louise Bruck, Dorothy Marbut, Frances Turk, Edith Agan, and Mrs. Lorene Richardson, Mable H. Imcs and Wilma Turk. Misses Olive and Naomi O'Dell two other members of the club had their sister Mrs. Porter Jones as their guest and Mrs. Lottie Hurley was another mother present whose daughter, Miss Ruth Frances Hurley is also a member but is attending the university and was therefore unable to attend.

On Wednesday evening, Jan. 7th, 1925, the Lambda Alpha Mu Club held their annual dinner at the home of Mrs. Lora Holmes. After dinner was served beautiful little gifts were exchanged. The remainder of the evening was spent in talking and listening to the radio. Mrs. Fred Willing ham of Kansas City, Missouri was guest of the club and the following members were present: Misses Frances Schmitdke, Mabel Bellis, Lurlene Whipple, Lois McCanse, Lois Landrum, Frances Potter, Eunice Guthrie, Anna Cherry and Mrs. Lora Holmes and Mrs. Ruth Fossett.

A very enjoyable meeting of the 20th Century Club was held on Friday, the 9th, 1925, the subject for the day was "Missouri Writers." Mrs. Fenton was leader of the program. It is a matter of increasing pride to Missourians that we have so many illustrious authors to our credit and the number is constantly increasing. We had the pleasure of having with us at this meeting, one of our budding authors, Mrs. Mae McCord of our near by city of Springfield, who was a guest of Mrs. Henson. She has written many creditable articles which have been accepted by different magazines. She writes mostly in a humorous vein and it was our pleasure to have her read and recite several of her poems and spicy articles. She has lived most of her life in the heart of the Ozarks and her articles show that she has fully imbibed the beauty and charm of the region and an appreciation of its early inhabitants. We shall expect to read many articles from her pen in the future. We had also as a guest Mrs. Robert Harness of Kansas City who sang in her charming way a beautiful solo, the words of which were written by Miss Kidd, a former teacher in our high school in Mt. Vernon.

The Lambda Alpha Mu Club was entertained at the home of Miss Byna Hargrove south of town Wednesday afternoon of last week. A very pleasant social hour was spent after the business meeting. Delicious refreshments were served to fourteen club members and the following guests:

Misses Inez Pugh, Louise Bruck, Hazel Hillhouse, Mona Ragain, Wilma Cherry, and Mrs. Rex Johnson and Mrs. Landreth Gurley of this city. Miss Kathleen Hargrove of Atlanta, Ga., and Mrs. Lora Willingham of Kansas City.

(The above party was in 1924)

P.E.O. Entertains (1926)

Chapter C.U. of P.E.O. entertained May 18th, 1926 their mothers and other guests. A seven o'clock dinner was served at the home of Mrs. Sedwick with Mrs. Hurley as hostess to the chapter. Covers were laid for 32 and the tables were artistically decorated with the P.E.O. colors of yellow and white with lighted candles. Yellow irises and lillies of the valley added charm to the occasion. Following the dinner an interesting program of which Mrs. Marbut was the leader was given, consisting of music and the "History of P.E.O." On leaving many words of appreciation were spoken by the guests.

Mrs. Loren E. Seneker announced the engagement of her daughter, Elizabeth to Mr. Harold Cather of Springfield, Mo., at a delightful breakfast, Wednesday, July 15th, 1931. The table was decorated in pink and white with kewpies used as the centerpiece and on place cards. A cousin, David Nelson Roper of Sarcouxie was the only man invited, but he won honor by serving the breakfast most efficiently to the sixteen young ladies. Ruth Eaton and Mildred Cather of Springfield were the out of town guests.

On Friday, July 31, 1931, one of the weights on the courthouse clock fell crashing from the dome through one floor to the other until it reached the first floor. Fortunately no one was in the path of the weight.

Charles Millsap returned from the Philippine Islands. He had been there about five years and during that time had ben home twice. He returned by way of the Holy Land where he spent several weeks. He said the country is very much as is pictured.

(About the year 1911)
Golf News, In Aug, 1931

The big matches seems to center on Miles Phillips and Frank Pruitt, both just learning the mashie from the putter. Dee Fossett who is Phillip's manager claims that Frank is handicapped by the fact that Miles is just about the same size as Bobby Jones. Charley Guthrie, beyond doubt is one of the fastest players on the Aurora course. He and Andy Crawford hit a happy medium. Dr. Baird is still studying shots and trying to make them. And speaking of golf it would be a good game for Dr. Booth and Walter Speer. Troy Call takes a round now and then but the last time he seelcted a 36 player. The clubs of Anderson Myers and Jake Millsap are beginning to rust but with cooler weather, they may be back. Dee Fossett is playing a hard game and talking while everyone else putts. He came in with ties while playing Tim Newberry the other day and Tim spent the next evening swinging his

irons in the back yard. The Hancock boys are taking anyone, anytime, playing single or dcuble as you want it. Prof. Ray is back from the college and really better. This is the first season he hasn't admitted this. C. B. Hurison hasn't been out since he heard some one say he needed a brassie, it almost resulted in a fight before he could be told he didn't have to wear it. Richard Landrum has also showed improvement as well as Fred Likins. J. Dewey Mills attracted a great deal of attention on a Springfield course recently, making 200 to 250 yard drives with one arm and playing a real game. Max Goodman still beats his father, Homer.

Boy Secut Activities —

Troop 54 Mt. Vernon Scouts have the greatest number of activities to their credit of any troop in this district composed of 20 counties and they challenge an ytroop in the U. S. for greater. The following is a list in part for year ending in June. In June 1930 they sold 250 flags, observed Flag Day by raising Flag at Mt. Vernon and Mo. State Senatorium. In July made official visit to Boy Secut Camps. In August they made an overnight hike. In September they observed Labor Day with a parade and program. Canvassed the town for board and room for 300 pipe line employees and maintained a first aid and furnished information during their two months stay. Also maintained first aid and furnished information at Harvest Show. In Oct. they were placed in charge of Charity

Fund for the city and sponsored it throughout the winter. In Nov. they observed Armistice Day by raising flags and collected food and clothing and distributed to the poor. In Dec. they visited negro Sunday school with Santa Claus and gave toys and candy to children. Visited and delivered 32 baskets to shutins and needy. Visited 70 hospital children and took them candy. Visited county jail and gave each prisoner fruit and candy. Visited county farm with same. Helped to decorate city. In Jan. they entertained Troop 18 of Springfield with banquet. Feb. they celebrated 21st anniversary they celebrated the 21st anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America with speeches, music and program. In March they sponsored Court of Honor at Missouri State Sanatorium and furnished banquet and program for the Springfield, Monett, Republic, Hoberg and Stotts City troops. They attended the dedication of a cabin at Monett for Scout headquarters. Went on two afternoon hikes. In April they

attended an official meeting at Camp Arrowhead. Attended religious services in a body. In May they sponsored a bird house building contest, 65 entries. Each boy who entered was given a good knife. Observed Decoration Day by raising flag and helping decorate three cemeteries.

Birthdays Party

A most delightful time was spent at the home of Miss Ruth Frances Hurley Saturday evening, Dec. 18th, 1920, the occasion being in honor of her 16th birthday. Games, charades and music were the amusements of the evening. The birthday cake, a large white cake decorated with 16 pink candles, contained a ring, a thimble, a button and a coin which foretold the futures of the finders. The candles were lighted and fortunes in nut shells were drawn from beneath the cake and read aloud which added merriment to the evening. After refreshments were served the guests departed with expressions of having spent a very pleasant evening.

CHAPTER XI

REUNIONS AND HOMECOMINGS

On May 27, 1874 the Grangers great picnic was held at Mt. Vernon. Col. Coleman delivered the address. One hundred and twenty-five wagons formed the procession in which 2,000 persons participated.

The beginning of the old settlers reunions of Lawrence county, dates back to August 18, 1883, when a

large number of pioneers gathered on the sward east of Phelps and held their first reunion. Dr. M. Taylor presided. At this meeting James White of Verona related that four of his children, born on the old homestead claimed each a different county as the place of birth. At least 4,000 people were on the grounds. Stands

and swings were numerous. The address of W. B. Skinner was highly spoken of by the large and attentive audience who heard him. The prize of \$25 was equally divided between Judge J. M. White and Judge D. E. Gibson who were the oldest settlers present, both coming here in Oct. 1831. Elizabeth Williams, who was present, came in Nov. 1831. The Delaware Indians were their neighbors in 1831. A similar present was awarded to the oldest person on the ground, which was won by Jas. H. Robinson, Sr. age 83. John Chandler claimed to be 101 but had no records so was omitted. Among the other competitors were J. M. White 74; Elizabeth Williams, 71; Mary Wicker, 73; Harriet Tillotson, 81; N. H. Goss, 77; Arminius Dobyns, 76 and Mary Downing, 80. Mrs. Wm. Connell's baby won the carriage. Miss Gertrude Kirby won the prize as the prettiest woman, Jacob Stenmons as the handsomest man and Dr. M. Taylor as the ugliest man. Jas. E. Johnson a most industrious citizen was awarded the prize as the laziest man and Emma Roberts as the prettiest girl under 12 years of age.

For years the Miller picnic has been held annually on Aug. 18th and 19th and Mt. Vernon is always well represented.

The band boys of Mt. Vernon always looked forward to the Phelps and Miller picnics back in the 90's and 'tis said it was then that they just couldn't resist hunting "pa's" (?) wagon just before noon to take a

peep at the fried chicken, pies and cakes which had been brought in from the surrounding country. (What else could be expected of hungry fellows on such occasions?)

Mt. Vernon's first home coming was on May 31, 1920. This occasion brought back many old friends and relatives to the old stamping ground; and memories of bygone days as well. The weather was ideal and dinner was served on the west side of the square at the door of one of the rooms in the Harris block building. The food was served on paper plates which were handed out free to each one asking for dinner. The speakers of the day were Major Wilks and I. V. McPherson. Major Wilks was the honored guest he being the oldest living settler in the county at that time. He is thought to have been in his nineties at that time. A special automobile decorated with flags was sent to Verona to bring Major Wilks to Mt. Vernon. His speech was entirely historical of the county. The second Home Coming was on May 29 and 30, 1921. A revival meeting which was held under a big tent on the grounds where the Masonic building now stands, closed on Sunday the 29th. A great number of people came to Mt. Vernon on this day and hearty hand shakes and greetings were exchanged. Many remained for the Home Coming on Monday the 30th and Decoration Day was observed as well. In the afternoon volunteer speeches were made by Chas. Millsap, Storm Whaley, Dr. Voorhies, Claud

Kendall and others and the community singing was led by Miss Ruth Sedwick. The day was bright and warm and a bountiful basket dinner was served on the court house lawn where they assembled for the day. In the evening after a weiner roast at the town spring they assembled at the Strand Theatre and the object of this gathering was to reminisce. One very interesting speech was given by Mrs. Linnie Cecil Harryman who described and explained to us how the plum leaf fan was trimmed and worn as a hat one summer, by the fair damsels of Mt. Vernon back in the 90's.

Mrs. C. R. Landrum, in her dramatic way gave the reading, "Mr. Doodle and Dolly," which caused much laughter. James Potter, Jr. (known by his Mt. Vernon pals as Corn-bread Jim) made a very enthusiastic speech which was thoroughly appreciated. Dale (Colonel) Ryan introduced the speakers. In presenting Storm (Pug) Whaley he made it doubtful as to the honesty of this young man since the bank in which he (Storm) had been employed had been robbed several times and Storm would always flee to the vault for safety until the robbers were gone.

Mrs. Nora Millsap Harryman and Mrs. Nelle Millsap Eichenberger and many others expressed their happiness at being back for this occasion. Mr. Eichenberger in relating his first visit to Mt. Vernon to see his fair lady, Miss Nelle Millsap, spoke of one occasion which was given in his honor, saying he had never seen so

many pretty girls in one bunch as he saw on that occasion. Of course we all felt flattered. Claude Kendall gave several readings, of his own composition, pertaining to both these Home Comings and bygone days. The meeting was opened by Claude Kendall who called on Mr. George Mc-Canse to act as chairman. After these speeches, readings and responses goodbyes were said and at a late hour the party disbanded leaving the old stamping ground of their childhood for their several homes in others states, towns and counties. The committee for these Home Comings was: Claude Kendall, Victor Rawlings and Frank (Quarts) Leathers. The idea of these Home Comings originated with this committee one evening while they were sitting on the court house lawn engaged in conversation. Both these occasions will long be remembered.

As this bit of history goes to print, plans are well under way for another Home Coming in celebration of Lawrence county's one hundredth birthday. The following article appeared in the Lawrence Chieftain of July 20, 1931:

**Lawrence County Proclaims Welcome Centennial to be Held at Mt. Vernon
September 24-25th**

In the year 1831 the word "depression" played no part in the life of Lawrence County's first settlers. With inborn courage each trial was met. Hardships were accepted and humble souls gave thanks for the day's meager blessings.

In keeping with this pioneer spirit the Mother Heart of the Old Homestead sends forth a call that all, by birth or adoption, who owe allegiance to this favored land, return to pay worthy homage to these forefathers. Every wanderer is urged to come home for this historic occasion where together, we may turn back the pages of memory in happy reminiscence and association.

We will tell once more the tales we told,

When the world was young and kind;

'Mid the scenes of the "Old Swimmin' hole

And an old Sweetheart of mine.

Old Timer if you have the B.B's (broke and blue)- hitch-hike home, they'll be a light in the window.

Name and address of any former Lawrence County folk will be much appreciated. Be sure and write us you're coming, for those who remain on guard, would like to clasp your hand again and say, "Put'er there, Old Pard."

State Committee:

St. Louis, Keith McCause, Charles Gray.

Kansas City, Clara Crawford, Challie Lebow

Jefferson City, Jimmie Potter, Chas. Millsap.

Springfield, Alma Roseberry, Hollis Wright.

Joplin, Alma Manlove, Will McDonald

County Committee:

Aunt Pernie Lacy, Lem Allen, Ka-

thryn Gardner, George Reagan, Cora Boothe, Tom Loy, Hannah Davenport Joe Smith, Ben Joeckel, John Spillman, Ida Beck, George Orr, John Moore, Dellie Barris, Zeb Williams, Uncle Jim Downing, Vic Rawlings, Della Harris, Lillian Arthur, Frank Neece, Emma Williams, Jim Moore, Jim Wooten.

Out-State Committee:

Oklahoma, Blanche Wear, Lolah Thompson.

California, Bob Whaley, Edgar Gum.

Arkansas, Storm Whaley, Dixie Jennings.

Kansas, Lucy Greer

Nebraska, Al Davis

Colorado, Ira Lewis

Florida, Anne Melton

Oregon, Anna Forrette.

Wyoming, Blanche Gibern

Washington, Billy McCause

New York, Guy Boyd

Illinois, Ethel Logsdon.

Texas, Jennie Turrentine.

Washington, D. C., Louise Armfield, Dick McPherson.

Claude Kendall, Gen'l. Chr.

We've Off

Lawrence County's Centennial Home Coming was officially launched Monday night by the chairmen of the various committees and the date fixed for Thursday and Friday, Sept. 2 and 25. Our special invitations will be off the press this week and we are urgently asking everyone who have relatives, neighbors or friends, who have left the best county in Mis-

ouri, to bring or send in their names and address. We will camp right on their trail and make 'em come home for a visit. The old timers are the ones we all want to see and if they ever lived inside the fence of old Lawrence we're going after 'em strong. Kindly help out and send in the names. Give us their nickname too if they were bad enough to have one. Address,

Centennial Committees

A meeting was held last week for the purpose of appointing committees and outlining a program for the big centennial and home coming celebration to be held at Mt. Vernon sometime during the early part of September the date is September 24-25.

The committees appointed by A. E. Booth, president of the local Ad Club are as follows: General chairman, C. L. Kendall, advertising. The executive committee of the Ad Club, Geo. Orr, chairman.

Home Coming and Entertainment. Claude Kendall, City; J. B. Moore, Pierce City; Chas. Whaley, City; Mrs. C. R. Landrum, City; Mrs. Katherine Gardner, Aurora; Gene Loy, Aurora; Dr. P. A. Holmes, City.

History and Antiques: R. M. Hornidy, City; Mrs. Gaylord Hancock, City; Mrs. Lottie L. Hurley, City; Miss Virginia Cecil, City; Robert Schoen, Friestatt; John Matlock, Stotts City; Dr. C. W. Shelton, City; Henry McCause, City; Victor Rawlings, City; W. B. Lowry, Aurora; Sanford Turk, Miller; Judge Geo. Ragain, Marionville; F. L. Gillispie, Pierce City; Hen-

ry Williams, Mt. Vernon; J. W. Brown Marionville.

Finance: Gaylord Hancock, city; J. O. Burson, City; Dr. B. D. Baird, city; Ben Cuendet, city; Emery Hill, city; Donl Adamson, Miller; Finis King, Aurora; Al Forsythe, Pierce City; Byron Coleman, Marionville; W. M. Pate, Hoberg.

Concessions: C. B. Hudson, city; John Hancock, City; Troy Call, city; Eldred Seneker, City; B. B. Dyer, City; Chas. Meyer, City.

Exhibits: J. E. Rutter, city; Martin Smith, City; Bert Jennings, RFD; G. W. Moore, City, RFD.; Ivan Smith, City; H. A. Reitz, City; Ernest Young Verona; Francis Young, Bowers Mill; Ira Patton, City; Linn Drace, Aurora.

Parade and Floats: Mrs. Earl Pugh, City; Miss Nina McCracken, City; Earl Smith, City; Miles Eliff, Aurora; Miss Marie Armfield, City; O. L. Howser, City; E. M. Pottinger, City; Miss Lottie Cameron, City; Harry Moore, City; Floyd Ray, City.

Cooperation with Legion: Dr. H. E. Marshall, city; August Schmidtke, City; Dee Fossett, City; Elmer Tandler, Rex Johnson, City.

Claude Kendall, Gen. Chair. Telephone 27, Mt. Vernon, Mo.

Lawrence County People

Are you helping on the Centennial Home Coming by sending in names and correct addresses of all who have lived in (and left) the best county in Missouri? It will be perfectly safe for some of the old gang to come back as all boyhood crimes even up to hoss' stealin' has been forgiven.

Names are coming fine, bring or send your list. We are making a complete card index for public use in the future.

Claude Kendall, Tel. 27. Gen. Chr. Boy Scouts to Build Old-Time Cabin For Centennial

Among the many interesting features of the Lawrence County Centennial, will be an old time log cabin of the kind our forefathers used a century ago.

It will be built on the northeast corner of the city pary by the boy scouts, assisted by Scoutmaster R. M. Hornidy and Prof. Martin Smith. The latter was asked by Mr. Hornidy to superintend the work which he has kindly consented to do. Work will commence this week, and it is planned by those in charge to complete it about a week before the date set for the Centennial. The cabin will be a permanent construction, and after it has served its mission as a Centennial feature, will be modernized somewhat and used as boy scout head quarters and as an information bureau. Much work will be put on it and it is no small undertaking even for willing young hands.

The cabin will be a one room affair, sixteen feet square. A clap board roof, puncheon floor, loft, fireplace and glassless windows with shutters will add the pleasing primitive touch. No nails will be used in the construction of this building, but wooden pegs will take their place. A ladder will be used as the stairway to the loft and there will be a latch

string on the door, in addition to the lock with the wooden key.

The cabin will contain furniture in accord with itself. A four poster bed and the trundle bed beneath. An antique clock will grace the mantle piece with candles on either side. A spinning wheel will add a pleasing touch and the fire place will have the proper equipment, including a Dutch oven.

Mrs. Claude Kendall has ask for the privilege of landscaping the grounds surrounding the cabin and Mr. Hornidy has gladly granted her request. Hollyhocks and other flowers that grandmother loved will be transplanted and add the finishing touch.

Mr. Hornidy says the only modern thing about the cabin will be the electric lights, which he feels is necessary because of those who may desire to view the cabin at night.

Part of the Gang:

Below are a few of the old gang that are expected at the big Lawrence County Home Coming and Centennial Celebration. The old timers mentioned below have all received invitations from Claude Kendall, the general chairman of the celebration.

Storm Whaley, Tom Jennings, Jim Potter, Bill Thompson, Al Davis, Frank Jones, Dade Ryan, Jim Sater, Otto Hickman, Joe Manlove, Elmer Rutherford, Dick McPherson, George Catts, Carl White, Fred Orr, Charley 'Saddlebags' Gray, Chas. Henson, Hal Matthews, George Ryan, Arlie Johnson, Loy Lebow, Keith McCanse.

These boys write they'll be back for the Centennial—"Yeh" and we'll be mighty glad to see them.

Claude Kendall, General Chairman
What Have You?

The committee on history and antiques for the Lawrence County Centennial Home Coming, September 24-25th have learned at this early date

our county is a veritable store-house of priceless relics and keepsakes that all played their part in the daily life of our early settlers. The steady march of progress has made many of these articles practically obsolete, yet they are a mute and oftimes tragic reminder of bye-gone days.

CHAPTER XII

CONCLUSION

Coming down through the years from 1845 (the first settling of Mt. Vernon) to 1931, we find that our professional industrial and commercial enterprises have made marked progress.

Lawrence County's fruit and dairy farms have made wonderful development during the past hundred years.

Her highways and country roads have been greatly improved.

U. S. Highway 66 (The Mainstreet of America) is seven miles north of Mt. Vernon and highways 38 and 39 leading out of here, connect with it.

Among the many civic improvements of our city is the water, light and sewage system which provides protection, convenience and sanitation.

Our population, not including the Sanatorium, has increased to almost 1400.

Our social, educational and religious organizations have reached a high standard, and today Mt. Vernon is one of the most beautiful and prosperous small cities of southwest Missouri.

(The End)

An After-Word

This bit of history was given in part (by the writer) as a program for one of the social organizations, (Chapter CU of P.E.O.,) in Mt. Vernon, and the writer was requested to have it published. In doing so more has been added.

If any erroneous statements have been made, please pardon, for this information has been obtained from the memories of early settlers and from records of the past and present.

In writing this brief history, a special effort has been made to bring out in someway the name of every earliest and early settler (or descendants thereof) who have in someway helped to make Mt. Vernon and Lawrence county what they are.

Miss Virginia Cecil, editor of the Lawrence Chieftain set by hand every letter of the type which was used in printing the original publication of this history as it appeared in the Chieftain.



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