HISTORY OF MERCER COUNTY, MISSOURI.

Missouri forms a part of what is known as the Louisiana Purchase. This Purchase comprises what is now Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, Oregon, Colorado, Indian Territory, Montana, Washington Territory, Dakota and Wyoming.

This wast country, many times as large as either France or Spain, was, a century ago, by turns the possession of each. These powers regarded it as a possession of nominal value only; and in negotiations it was considered only as small change to make up small balances in the settlement of disputed questions. Of all the nations of Europe, the French were the most per-evering inland discoverers. As early as 1682 they estended their explorations among the savage tribes from Canada, where they had gained a foothold, across to the Missispipi river, and down its course to the Gulf of Mexico, and took possession of the country in the name of the French king; and seventeen years afterwards they founded the first settlement in this territory.

In 1702 France coeded it to Spain, and, after occupying it for one hundred and they egged to the Company of the United States purchased the core.

This purchase not only inclused the right of eminent domain over the territory, but also the fee simple of the soil, except small tracts granted away by the governments of France or Spain.

Thus our territory has been subject to three different systems of jurisprudence; and it not unfrequently happens that the courts of the state, in deciding causes, have to extend their inquires into the laws of Spain and France of more than a century ago.

In 1735 the first settlement with the territory of Missouri was made by the

have to extend their toquiries into the laws or open and the century ago.

In 1735 the first settlement with the territory of Missouri was made by the French at St. Genevieve, and twenty-nine years later Pierre Laclede Liguest made the first habitation for civilized man built in the present site of St. Louis, In 1812 Congress passed an act organizing the territorial government of Missouri. The territory included then the whole Louisiana Purchase north of the present boundaries of the state of Louisian. Its territorial legislation consisted of a council of nine and a house of thirteen members.

nembers.

In 1820, after a very heated discussion upon the slavery question both in Con-rees and throughout the country, Missouri was admitted as a state of the Union y what is known as the M'ssouri Compromise Bill; the state then having a little as than 70,000 population.

grees and caroughout the counts, it is a source to the state then having a little less than 70,000 population.

In the year 1812 the territorial legislature organized the county of St. Charles, of which the territory of Mercer county formed a part—a very small part, however, as St. Charles county then extended north-west to the Pacific ocean, and north to the British possessions.

After several subdit isions, by which the territory now forming this county was made a part of Howard, Livingston, and Grundy counties, by act of Legislature in session of 1841—2, Mercer county was created, but attached to Grundy county for judicial and military purposes.

Its county government was organized in 1845, and the same year the county seat was located at the present site of Princeton.

In September, 1845, was held the first term of the Circuit Court for the county. This court was held by Judge James A. Clark, Circuit Judge. There being as yet no public buildings in the county, it was held at the house of Joseph Girdner. The docket was small, there being but four civil cases on the docket, two of which were appeal cases. The grand jury, at this term, found two indictments. The first returned was for the illegal sale of whisky.

The modern drinker, who pays ten cents for a gill of very bad whisky, can't now understand why it was that in these early times a man should have been indicted for selling straight, honest whisky by the tin cupful at the rate of ten cents per gallon.

An examination of the early records of the court shows that a considerable part

The first recurred was for the illegal sale of whisky.

The modern drinker, who pays ten cents for a gill of very bad whisky, can't he modern drinker, who pays ten cents for a gill of very bad whisky, can't he modern drinker, who pays ten cents for a gill of very bad whisky, can't he modern drinker. Who pays ten cents for a gill of very bad whisky, can't hold the contained the contained to the contained t

mpossible, at this date, to collect a full list of the early settlers.

The following list of the pioneers of the county, in addition to the above-named persons, is compiled from the early jury lists and other public records, and from such other sources as have been accessible to me. Doubtless some have been omitted: Reuben Hatfield, Petr-Cain, Joseph Moss, Marin Moss, Joshua Moss, R. D. Slover, William B. B.-Ilew, Thomas Ballew, Richard B. Bailew, John Hart, Morgan Hart, Peter Hart, Archibald Smith, H. B. Gale, Aviala Miles, John Receves, James Morgan Samuel Speer, Samuel Furiti, James Clark, Robert W. Rockhold, John Rockhold, William Statistics, and the most of the arrivals of each year were more numerous.

The earlier settlers came mostly from the mountainous parts of Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina; and the most of them came with only enough means to pay for the lands they bought of the government.

Although in the county there was a 1-nge amount of praine lands, yet these early settlers selected their homes in the woods, where the soil was much inferior to that upon the prairie.

Nemer settiers came mostly from the montannous parts of Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina; and the most of them came with only enough means to pay for the lands they bought of the government.

Although in the county there was a large amount of praine lands, yet these early settlers selected their homes in the woods, where the soil was much inferior to that upon the prairie.

It was not until the year 1850 that the prairie lands began to be taken up, when emigrants began to come from Ohio, Indana and Illinois. By 1856 the most of the land of the county had been entered, although large tracts were entered to the county and the settlement of the land of the county had been entered, although large tracts were entered to the land of the county had been entered, although large tracts were entered to the land of the county and the land of the county of the land of the county had been entered, although large tracts were entered to the land of the county of the land of the county of the land of the land

southern part of the county, which numbers 10,000 vines. There are also a number of other vineyards of from 500 to 5,000 vines. The Concord is the principal variety planted.

Twelve years ago, the culture of the grape in North Missouri was very profitable to the few who had extensive vineyards, grapes then selling at fifteen cents per pound. The fabulous amounts realized from a few acres of grapes gave a great impetus to the cultivation of the vine here. But the expectation of large gains have not been realized. So many vines have been planted that now grapes are a drug in the market, even at the rate of two cents per pound.

In 1868 the Chillicothe and Des Moines City Railroad Company was organized, its officers being J. H. Shanklin, of Grundy county, President, and of this county R. B. Ballew, Treasurer, and Ira B. Hyde, Secretary. The capital stock of the company was principally subscribes by Mercer and Grundy counties, each taking \$200,000 stock, and paying for the same with their bonds, due in twenty years, bearing 8 per cent, interest.

This stock was subscribed by the county, in obedience to a vote of the people, at an election, at which more than two-thirds of the votes were cast in favor of taking the stock was albacribed to the contract for making the road-bed ready for the iron from Princeton to Chillicothe, and after this was completed, or nearly for the iron from Princeton to Chillicothe, and after this was completed, or nearly for the iron from Princeton to Chillicothe, and after this was completed, or nearly for the iron from Princeton to Chillicothe, and after this was completed, or nearly for the iron from Princeton to Chillicothe, and after this was completed, or nearly

at an election, at which more than two-thirds of the votes were cast in favor of taking the stock.

This company went ahead, and let the contract for msking the road-bed ready for the iron from Princeton to Chillicothe, and after this was completed, or nearly so, the road-bed from Princeton to Trenton was donveyed, by a perpetual lease, to the Chicago and South-western Railway Company, which last company, under the patronage of the Chicago. Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Company, put it in successful operation in the summer of 1871. It is now known as the South-western Branch of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad. The payment of the county indebtedness incurred in the taking of stock in the railroad company, and the interest on the same, entails upon the county a considerable tax, but, in the estimation of most of the people, this is more than overbalanced by the advantage derived from the railroad.

The county has, so far, promptly met the interest on this debt, and is now raising, each year, a small sum wherewith to pay the principal.

Princeton, the county seat, is situated in Section No. 27, Township 65, Range 24. The original plat is dated lune ist, 1846. By the plat forty acres, purchased by the county-from the Unid States for a site for the county seat, was laid out into lots. These lots were sold by the county, and the proceeds used in the erection of county buildings. They even the year of the property of the county court to well any lot for five dollars, and as much more as be can pet."

That an investment in Princeton lots was a good speculation, is shown by a comparison of the prices for which they were sold with their present value. The block west of the public square was sold in eight lots at an average of eight dollars per lot, or in all sixty-loar dollars. Eight thousand dollars for the same lots, exclusive of the buildings thereon, would now be considered a low price.

Before the completion of the railroad, Princeton was farther from a railroad than any county seat in North Missouri, and, as a consequence, its trade was confined to a very small territory near it. At the time the railroad was located, Princeton did not possess a business building worth \$500. Since the completion of the railroad, it has been the trading and business centre for a large tract of country, including parts of Harrison, Purnam and Sullivan counties; and at now contains fourteen large brick tusiness buildings, and several large frame store-houses, while as great an improvement has been made in the private residences of its inhabitants, there being now in the town a number of the finest residences of its inhabitants, there being now in the town a number of the finest residences in this part of the state. Its population is about 1,250.

It now contains six dry-goods stores, the sale of each of which amount to from forty to seventy thousand dollars annually, beside a number of other smaller ones. Two hardware stores, one of which also deals in stoves and tinware, and one tim and store store; six drug stores, three wholesale and retail grocery houses, and four exclusively retail grocery houses, and four exclusively retail grocery towers; one boot and shoe store, two harmess shops, one browers, a number of blacksmith and wagon shops, and three hotels.

In the year 1874, Mr. Geo. C. Holt started his large business as dealer in business and general country produce. This business has grown until now its taste amounts to \$110,000 annually stablished in 1873, on a paid up capital of \$25,000, and has met with flattering successe. It has, since its organization, added to its capital a surplus fund of \$25,000. The present officers are: Wm. Bradley, President; Ira B. Hyde, Vice-President; Wm. Speer, Cabits on dition on this bank on the 10th day of July, 1877, which will give a clear idea of its condition and business:

Liabilities. Capital stock, Surplus fund, Interest and exchange earned since last dividend, Deposits,	6,727.32
Total liabilities,	\$157,507.06
Bills receivable. Due from banks, Expense account, Real estate, Furniture and fixtures, Casta, Casta, Casta, Casta,	\$107,492.46 18,094.61 753.29 4,831.87 1,205.50 25,076.23 53,10
	\$157.507.06

At the present writing, Mr. William B. Ballew is making preparations to start another bank, to be known by his own name, and of which he is to be the proprietor and cashier. This is to be started with a capital of \$10,000. Those who are acquainted with Mr. Ballew's business ability, consider the success of this enterprise already assured.

The lumber trade is now an extensive branch of business in Princeton. There are two lumber yards, and each carry a large stock of everything in their line.

RAVANNA

Is a thriving and enterprising town, and is located in Section 10, Township 65, Range 23. The site of the town was laid out in 1857, by William R. McKinley and Addison Sparks, proprietors. It is surrounded by the very best quality of farming land, and is the trading centre of a neighborhood of prosperous and enterprising farmers. The town is on the route of the Mississippt and Missouri River Air-Line Railroad—a projected railroad, running through the northern counties of Missouri, It contains three hundred inhabitants. All branches of trade are well represented by a number of enterprising merchants.

trade are well represented by a number of enterprising management.

GOSHEN CITY.

The plat of this town is dated Murch 2d, 1866. Its proprietor, Mr. James McKinney, anxious to perpetuate the memory of his name, christened it McKinneysville. But this name not suiting its people, they changed it to Goshen City. It contains two small stores and a blacksmith shop.

HALF ROCK.

This place, founded in 1874 by Thomas Cooper, has three stores, a blacksmith shop, and a saddle shop, and is the trading resort of a large neighborhood of well-to-do farmers. COTTONWOOD

Is a small village on the railroad, about eight miles north of Princeton; was founded by Henry Hickman. It contains a small store and blacksmith shop. MODENA MODENA

Is a small village in the south-western part of the county, of less than 100 inhabitants. It contains two small stores and a blacksmith and wagon shop. It was laid out in 1856 by A. M. Thompson and George W. Stewart.

MILL GROVE

Is a small village on the railroad, in the south part of the county, which has grown up since the completion of the railroad. It was laid out by C. H. Siewart in 1870, and is the location of what is known as Stewart's Mill. It contains three stores and blacksmith and wagon shop.

MIDDLEBURY MIDDLEMEY,
Alas for summer hopes! This village, in the extreme southern part of the county, at one time contained several stores, and did a thriving business, and its population looked forward to the future with hope. But the railroad missed it by two miles, and now it has gone to rest with Babylon and Nineveh, while the farmer plows across its streets and alleys, and its business lots wave with luxu-

SUMMERSETT.

The only remaining village in the county is Summersett, situated in the northeastern part of the county. This was platted in the year 1856, and contains two small stores, at which a farmer can buy almost anything he wants, from a wagon or a mowing machine down to a box of pills or a bottle of platent medicine. The name of the post-office at this place is Cleopartia.

In oslities, prior to the breaking out of the war, the county was pretty equally divided between the Whig and Democratic parties.

Below I give a list of the representatives who have served in the Legislature from the county, affixing to the name of each the political party to which he belonged.

Below I give a list of the representatives who have served in the Legislature from the county, affixing to the name of each the political party to which he belonged.

The fact that the Democratic party sometimes carried the county, did not prevent Mr. Richard B. Ballew, who was an active and zealous Whig, from holding all the best offices in the county. "Dick," (for that was the name by which he was generally known,) was County Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and Recorder of Deedo from 1848 to 1864, and a large part of the same time was also Probate Judge of the county. Beside being an affable gentleman, and an accommodating public officer, he was a skillful adapt; in the art of electioneering. Many a time the Democrats of the county rallied their strength, and tried every means to induce the rank and file of their party to vote the ticket without a scratch, to oust the Whig who had so long monopolized the best offices of the county; but, on a count of the votes, it mattered not that the Democrats had carried the county on the state and national tickets, for "Dick," was always far ahead.

Inown in Missouri as the Radical party, and at the people we filed a leave to the county of the c

sceept two votes.

Since 1866 the two great parties of the country have each maintained a pretty
thorough organization in the county, which has been Republican, however, by
majorities ranging from 500 to 700.

HISTORY OF MERCER COUNTY, MISSOURI.

In 1850 the first national census was taken in the county. The following shows the aggregate population in the county at that and the two following decimal periods:

Since the taking of the census in 1870, there has been a very large increase of population, and it is believed that the present population will not fall short of 16,000.

There never were many slaves in Mercer county. The county, besides containing a considerable number of anti-slavery men, bordered upon the free state of lowa, which afforded to slaves, if discontented, too many opportunities for escape to make that species of property a safe investment. The coass of 1870 shows a slave population of twenty-four.

Although the county was not the scene of actual hostilities during the war, yet it affected all the material interests of the people disastrously. A great number of the able-hodied men were in the army, while those who remained at home lost all interest in everything except the great struggle.

The Southern Confederacy found very little sympathy here, while the Federal government received the support of almost the entire people, and the services of a large number of its citizens in the army.

The state government, at the breaking out of the war, being in the hands of the Confederates, it was a considerable time before Missouri was in a situation, as a state, to call to the aid of the Federal government the services of its people. In the meantime, large numbers of Mercer county men enlisted in the service of the adjoining states. A considerable part of the 5th Kansas cavalry and toth Kansas infantry were composed of soldiers raised here. It is estimated by those who are competent to judge, that at least 350 Mercer county soldiers were in the regiments of Kansas and lowa. Parts of the following Missouri regiments were raised in this countyl for the Federal service:

3d Missouri State Militia.

27th Missouri State Infantry.

ad	Missouri	State	Militia.	27th 3	lissouri	State	Infantry.
3d 6th	66	66	44	23d	44	44	44
7th	44	64	44	2d	64	**	Cavalry.
44th	44	64	Infantry.	rith	46	64	4
18th	46		44	12th	44	44	**
	-	46	**	S2200			

According to the best estimate that can be made, there were during the war from this county not less than L400 soldiers in the Federal service. The most careful impairy can discover only six of the citizens of Mercer county who enlisted in the Confederate army.

In scarcely no part of the country did as great a part of the able-bodied men enlist in the army. This is shown by the fact that, nowithstanding so large a number were enlisted and credited to other states, yet the people here had no terrors of the draft, for the country was always far ahead of its quota in voluntary enlistments. The following is a list of the commissioned officers in the Federal service during the war from this country.

Lieutenant H. J. Alley.

Majo	r M. C. Hensly.	Lieutenant H. J. Alley.
	in Wm. B. Ballew,	" John McIntosh,
4	Squire Ballew.	" Aaron McIntosh.
44	Hiram Stanley.	" George W. Calvin.
44	Geo, T. Hamblin.	" Wm. Argo.
44	Wm. B. Rogers.	" Stephen S. Clark,
44	Elisha Vanderpool.	" Wm. H. McKinley.
44	Joel H. Shelly.	" Wm. Wilson,
**	Harvey Shook,	" Elisha Horn,
41	John R. Clark.	" George T. Prichard.
44	Jonas I, Clark,	" Samue! Cargo,
"	Wm. Roberts,	" F. M. Clark.
. 66	Nathan Arnold,	" John N. Clampitt,
	Greenville Watson.	" Wm. N. Herriman,
44	Garrett Gibson.	" O. H. P. Cox.
. 66	George Linder,	" I. L. Hunt.
	20.700 P. (2000) (2.700)	" James Dykes.

The following list of the county officers has been compiled partly from the

cords and partly from other sources deemed renable:	
Representatives.	
W. N. McAfee, Democrat,fron	1846 to 1848
H. B. Duncan, Whig, "	1848 to 1850
John M. Nichols, Democrat, "	1850 to 1852
Geo. T. Prichard, Whig,	1852 to 1854
O. C. Roberts, Whig	1854 to 1856
John R. Clark, Democrat,	1856 to 1858
Andrew Wolsey, Know-Nothing,	1858 to 1860
Asa Campbell, Democrat,	1860 to 1862
Joseph A. Kennedy, Republican,	1862 to 1864
David M. King, Republican,	1864 to 1866
W. L. Jerome, Republican,	1866 to 1868
R. D. Keeney, Republican,	1868 to 1870
Joseph H. Barrows, Republican,	1870 to 1874
C. H. Stewart, Republican, "	1874 to 1876
T. E. Evans, Republican,	1876 to 1878
Sheriffs,	
Wm. J. Girdner,fron	1846 to 1848
Peter Cain	1848 to 1852
John R. Clark,	1852 to 1856
S. E. Mickey, "	1856 to 1860
F M Clark	1860 to 1862

Joseph Moss,appointed	1862
Wm. B. Rogers,from	1862 to 1864
H. J. Alley,	1864 to 1868
Wm. Speer,	1868 to 1872
Iames D. Dykes, "	1872 to 1876
Charles E. Minter,	1876 to 1878
Clerk of Circuit Court and Recorder.	
Green W. Laughlin,from	1846 to 1848
Richard B. Ballew,	1848 to 1864
W. L. Jerome, "	1864 to 1866
D. M. King, "	1866 to 1874
Wm, M. Casteel,	1874 to 1878
Clerk of the County Court.	
Green W. Langhlin,from	1846 to 1848
Richard B. Ballew, "	1848 to 1864
Benj. F. Cornwell, "	1864 to 1865
John W. Crawford, "	1865 to 1866
Charles H. Stewart, "	1866 to 1874
D. M. King,	1874 to 1878
. 그렇게 화면 화장을 가지를 하면 하면 가게 되고 있다. 그리지 않는데 하는데 하는데 가게 되었다면 하는데 하는데 그래요?	

The Probate Court of Mercer county was created by special act in 1849. It

1849 to 1857
1857 to 1859
3 months,
2 "
11 4
1862 to 1865
1865 to 1868
1868 to 1875
1875 to 1878

There is one person, though not a county officer, who should be noticed in this connection. This is Mr. Thompson B. Harrington, who came about 1844 from Kentacky. He was soon after elected a justice of the peace. This office he has now continuously held for thirty years. His sound judgment and impartiality in his long official life has won for him the universal esteem of the people of the county. He has long been known by the euphonious sobriquet of "Old Dad." The business done in this court is as great, perhaps, as that done by all the other justices of the peace of the county. Though greatly oppressed by the infirmities of age and disease, he still attends at his office, and transacts his large business.

Dissiness.

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION.

Soon after the passage of the law of 1872, authorizing counties, on a vote of the people, to organize a system of township goverament, this county, by a large majority, adopted the township system, and soon put the same into successful operation. The county was divided into nine townships, nearly corresponding with the old election precincts, called Lindley, Marion, Summersett, Harrison, Morgan, Ravanna, Madison, Washington and Medicine townships, This mode of municipal government, giving to the people of each township the control of its own local affairs, soon became very popular. Under this system the townships, by their own officers, assessed and collected the revenue raised by taxation within their own territory, and had a general supervision over the public highways, smaller bridges, and the disbursement of the township and school moneys within their respective jurisdictions.

In 1877 the legislature abolished these township governments, and restored to the county court the supervision of all the matters of which the township board had control. This caused very general dissatisfaction among the people. Inasmuch as the system had been adopted by a vote of the people, and as the new constitution of the state provided that the legislature might, by law, provide for its alsolishment by a vote, they regarded the act of the legislature, destroying these manicipal governments, without their consent, as an unwarrantable interference in their local affairs.

SCHOOLS.

SCHOOLS.

Until about twelve years ago, Missouri had paid but little attention to popular education, although there were, in the wealthy parts of the state, many private schools open to such of the people as were able to bear the expense; yet no system that placed the school within reach of all the people had been adopted.

In 1866 the legislature enacted a law organizing a free school system throughout the state. This law found the people of the county almost destitute of school-houses. Such as had been used before the war were, during that exciting struggle, neglected, and were in a dilapidated condition. The wages of competent teachers were high, new school-houses were to be built in almost every district, and all kinds of building material were exorbitantly high, so that the patting into operation of the new school law imposed upon the people a very heavy burden of taxation. Notwithstanding these discouraging circumstances, the people earnestly set themselves about the organization of the free schools of the county. There are about fifty school districts in the county, each of which is now provided with a comfortable school-house. The want of competent teachers experienced on the adoption of the free school system, is now no longer felt, and efficient schools are kept open in each district from five to eight months in each year. In these schools all the common branches are taught, while in many of them students pursue algebra, geometry, history and philosophy with success.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Very soon after the organization of the county there was erected a log jail and ourt-house at the county seat. The jail stood upon the lot now enclosed with

the residence of Mr. John C. W. Lindsey, and the court-house was on the lot now occupied by the store building of Speer Brothers on the east side of the pub-

now occupied by the store building of Speer Brothers on the cash success of the square.

In 1858 the court-house now in use on the public square was erected. The contract price of this building was \$8,000. In 1874 the new jail was erected. This is a substantial brick structure. The prison apartments are constructed within the brick walls, wholly of iron, and on the most improved pattern. There are three considerable streams that traverse the entire length of the county, the bridging of which has been the cause of a very large outlay of the public funds. There are now seven substantial bridges across Grand river, which have cost, on an average, \$2,000 each, while a still greater number have been placed across Muddy and Medicine creeks, though at a less cost,

CLIMATE.

Like the climate of this latitude throughout the country, we are subject to occasional "cold snaps" in winter as well as very warm weather in the summer. There are three belts of timber running north and south through the country, which, acting as wind-breaks, considerably moderate the severity of the winters. The winters are subject to occasional spells of very cold weather, during which the thermometer has been known to fall as low as twenty degrees, and on rare occasions even lower, while the summers are frequently subject to very hot weather. These extremes, however, are an exception. The climate here is more mild than that of the same latitude east of the Mississippi, and is well adapted to ornwine all the stable grains of the country. growing all the staple grains of the country.

RELIGIONS.

It is believed that the first religious society was organized in the county in 1840. It was known as the Salem Baptist church; was organized in the south part of the county. Its minister at the time was Rev. Ira Blakely.

The Methodists soon came, and organized in various parts of the county several small societies; and with them came that then popular mode of religious revivals—the camp-meeting. This denomination increased rapidly in the county until the division of the church into the North and South Methodists. This internal strife almost entirely broke up the organization of these societies, and from that time the Methodists did but little work in the county until after the close of the war, since which time the North Methodists church has rapidly increased in its membership throughout the county.

Both the Methodists and Baptists have, in almost every neighborhood, an organized society, and each have in the county a number of convenient and respectable church buildings.

The membership of these two denominations, at the present time, is about equal.

The Christian church has also a number of societies in the county, those at Princeton and at Goshen being quite large. The society at Goshen have a commodious church edifice. In the other parts of the county, the members of this church meet for worship in other churches or in the school-houses. There are in the county societies of several other denominations, but their membership is small, and none of them have a church building.

NEWSPAPERS.

The first newspaper published in the county was the "Princeton Reporter," the publication of which was commenced in 1859 and continued till 1867. The publishers of this sheet were P. O. James and James A. Scarbaugh. In polities it was neutral, and was patronized by persons of all political parties; but it is said that the opponents of the Democratic party who contributed to its support complained that its nominal neutrality was but a very thin disguise of its support of the Democratic party. The paper collapsed on the breaking out of the war, and the press and material were sold for the debts of its proprietors.

The next paper started in the county was "The Mercer County Advance," published weekly by A. O. Binkley. Its publication was commenced in 1866. and, after having changed hands a number of times, it was finally purchased by its present proprietor, Mr. W. L. Robertson, in 1872. A few years after its publication was commenced its name was changed to the "Princeton Advance." This paper, in politics, was first Republican, and its publication as a Republican newspaper was continued till November, 1874, when Mr. Robertson, its present proprietor, changed its politics, and made it Democratic, since which time its support of the Democratic party has been able and zealous. Whether wooking in Republican or Democratic harness, its management has been creditable, and it has been well sustained. It is now published as a four-page, eight-column sheet, with what is known as a patent outside.

The next newspaper to be noticed is "The Princeton Telegraph." This was founded in 1873 by L. W. Brannon, an experienced newspaper man, who still owns and manages it. This paper has been ably managed, and its circulation was commanded in the proposed of the state. It is a four-page, eight-column sheet, and published with a patent outside. It has always been a zealous supporter of the Republican party and its politics. It has always been a zealous supporter of the Republican party and its politics. It has always been

Until the year 1851 the nothern boundary of the state was in dispute. Iowa and Missouri each claimed the territory north of Township No. 65 for a distance of twelve miles. Over that part of this strip adjace—4.50 it, Mercer county exercised jurisdiction. The people living on the dispr. distribution by part in the elections for county officers. Mr. H. B. Duncan, then living in this disputed territory, was elected to the legislature of Missouri as Mercer county's representative in 1848, and after the settlement of the dispute, while residing in the same house, he was elected to the legislature in the state of Iowa. This dispute was finally settled in 1851, each state getting about half of what it claimed; and the boundary was surveyed and marked by iron posts act in the ground every ten miles.