

# HISTORY OF MORGAN COUNTY.

---

## GEOLOGY, PHYSICAL FEATURES AND RESOURCES.

The oldest possible history of any spot upon the globe is to be found in its geological records. Being the oldest, it is also, so far as it can be read, the most authentic. The nature of the soil is determined by the rocks, and the rocks carry us back to the first beginnings—the gases. The wealth of Morgan County is combined in her vast stores of minerals under the earth, and her agricultural wealth, that comes from the use and cultivation of the soil above her immeasurable coal fields, and her rich deposits of lead, zinc, iron, clays and still other valuable mineral productions, of which there are many indications.

*Topography.*—The county contains a superficial area of nearly 640 square miles, and its most elevated portion is 400 to 550 feet above the Osage River and from 600 to 700 feet above high-water mark at St. Louis. This elevation passes nearly east and west through the county, and but a little south of the middle, forming the divide of the north and south water-sheds, the north streams flowing ultimately into the Missouri River, and those south into the Osage River. The divide passes through Versailles, the water from the south side of the public square going south; that from the north side flowing in the opposite direction. The streams on the north are more sluggish than those on the south, and they also differ in this, that the former are from pools and surface water only, while those on the south are fed by deep and strong springs, and are cold and clear, except for a short time after heavy rains. On the north the majority of the streams at times become very low and sometimes dry, while at the south they are but little affected by the weather.

The surface of the country is rolling, and is divided between timber and prairie land. The latter is rich and rolling, presenting the most beautiful landscapes to the eye in passing over the county. The prairie land is in the middle, north and northeast part of the county, and is about one-third of the area. In the southern portion it is heavily timbered. The surface in the middle portion of the county is elevated, undulating prairie mostly, and toward the south there are at first gentle slopes, gradually becoming more hilly, and when near the Osage and tributary streams, it is of a somewhat broken and rocky nature. The most elevated point in the county is about five miles west of Versailles.

*Streams.*—The largest stream touching the county is the Osage River, on the south. It forms the boundary lines of the southwest and southeast corners of the county. In the south water-shed is Big Gravois Creek, the largest stream south of the divide. It rises in Township 42, Range 18, flowing southwest to the Osage, and has a length of twenty miles, with a fall of 400 feet. It is a strong stream, about seventy yards wide at the mouth, and is a fine water power. There are several small branches flowing into it, all clear, rapid and strong streams. In the southwest part of the county are Proctor, Mills, Little Buffalo and Minow Creeks, and Jenkins', Huff's and Lick Branches. Such is their fall as to give them good horse power for mechanical purposes.

Big Buffalo Creek heads in Township 42, Range 19, running southwest, crossing the line into Benton County. A branch of Little Gravois Creek heads in Township 41, Range 16, running south and west four miles, where it joins the main stream.

North of the divide are Big and Little Richland, Haw and Flat Creeks. Except Flat Creek these head in Township 42, Ranges 18 and 19, flowing northerly, and empty into Flat Creek in Township 45, Range 19, and form the Lamine. These streams are more sluggish than the streams running south, as they have less fall. Flat Creek is the largest stream north of the divide; it connects with Richland near the north county line to form the Lamine. Northeast of Versailles a short distance some head branches of North Moreau rise, flowing northeast into Moniteau County. In addition to Moreau Creek are Linder's, Burris' and Smith's Forks. Taking Versailles as the central point, the drain-

age from here carries the water in all directions, but mostly north, northeast and south.

*Soil.*—Nearly the entire area of the county is occupied by the series of magnesian limestone and sandstone, representing the calciferous rocks—the lower part of the Lower Silurian. The alluvium of the Quarternary period ranges up to forty feet in depth, in which there is a slightly mixed coarse sand. The heavy alluvial deposits are in the valleys, mostly a yellowish clay, the alluvium mixed with this being left by the streams or brought from the highland. The uplands, where free from rocks, are rich and productive in plant food, especially the cereals, and are finely adapted for fruits of nearly all kinds grown in this latitude. The rocky portions are only in the southern part of the county, and these lands are superior ranges for stock, and suited to the cultivation of the grape. A natural product of the soil, produced by pasturing, is a luxuriant growth of blue-grass.

*Caves.*—On the headwaters of the Gravois, southwest of Versailles, is a cave, called Cave Mills, about a quarter of a mile long, that forms a perfect tunnel through the hill, with a natural and ample opening at each end. It is walled, roofed and floored; the roof at the entrance on the creek is about thirty feet above the floor. In entering at this point there is seen a fine spring. One is impressed in looking at this, probably the most ancient tunnel in the world, with the idea that the prehistoric races built railroads and tunneled the mountains.

East of Versailles, and about a quarter of a mile from Martin's coal-pit, is Wolf Cave. It has never been investigated. It opens nearly perpendicular, and a tree has slid into the hole, and leans at an easy angle; wolves formerly made their entrance and exit by means of the tree. In former times innumerable tracks of these animals could be seen about this opening.

Price's Cave, southeast of Versailles eight miles, on Indian Creek (dry branch), enters on a level, in which one can ride a horse. This has been examined for more than a mile; room after room appears, with some of the ceilings more than fifty feet high, and between these rooms are some large and some small openings. The cave appears to branch and run in different directions. Numerous fine specimens of stalagmites are found.



*Horace A Swift*

COLE COUNTY.



The Jacobs' Cave, seven miles south of Versailles, was first discovered by a miner, who, in digging, opened out into a very large room. This has been explored half a mile without the end of it being discovered.

Purvis Cave, on Mill Creek, in Section 17, Township 40, Range 17, has a fine entrance. It has been explored between two and three miles. It also seems to branch in different directions. In it have been found bear-dens and evidences that at one time the Indians occupied parts of it. Lead has been found in this cave in considerable quantities.

At the mouth of the Big Gravois is a cave with an opening of fifty feet. This runs back about 300 yards. From the hill is an opening down to the cave, through which voices below can be heard.

*Timber and Rock.*—All the valuable hardwoods are found in the forests, the heavy growths of white-oak leading in quality and value. All the varieties of oak of this latitude are found. Black and white ash and walnut are plentiful. It will be many a day before the dark old woods are hewn away.

Building and lime-making rocks are abundant all over the county, and of easy access. The best encrinital limestone is found in Richland Township, the limestone and composite quartz being the most abundant. Some specimens of the latter have been worked, and polish equal to granite.

*Minerals.*—The county seems to be a vast storehouse of valuable minerals. Zinc and lead are probably up to the present the best developed, and worked with most profit. The Buffalo Spring Mine, on Section 12, Township 24, Range 18, is sending off about two car-loads of ore a week. It has been in operation one year. Other mines are being opened. The ore outcrops in several places in the county, especially in the northern shed, on Haw Creek, where are picked up and can be found specimens of zinc, or "Black Jack," of a grade unsurpassed anywhere. Mining and shipping are already among the valuable industries in the county. New lead mines are being opened, and projectors are constantly coming.

When Morgan County has the proper facilities for transportation she will show a production of iron great in quantity and

excellent in quality. In the southern part of the county are apparently beds of brown and red hematite ores, of a kind and quality not surpassed in the State. A few years ago the Osage Iron Works were established just south of the south line of the county. This induced the opening of mines in that part of Morgan, but the enterprise failed, and the development of this source of wealth here therefore stopped. It was the mistake of situation, caused by the absence of means of transportation, that caused the works to be abandoned. Iron is found in outcrops, and following these leads to valuable beds of the ore. In Section 27, Township 41, Range 17, large bodies of the "pipe-stem" brown hematite are found. The outcroppings are in masses, and are ten feet in diameter, the vertical columns indicating the qualities behind them. Heavy spar, containing iron and lead in fine crystals, are found in Section 24, Township 41, Range 17, and Section 18, Township 41, Range 16. This is very abundant, especially at Section 24.

Lead is found in greater or less quantities in every township in the county. Originally deposited in the magnesian limestone, it now appears mingled with chert and rock fragments in the superficial deposits, as well as in regular fissures and rock cavities, in places lying loosely on the ground's surface in abundance, and there can be no question of the quantities in the rocks below. East of Versailles is a continuous bed of lead ore. It is deposited in the magnesian limestone series, and is also found in the sheds of Haw and Richland Creeks, and in clay pockets, both here and at other points, almost wherever hunted for. In the third and fourth magnesian limestone series disseminated lead ore is thoroughly mixed with the rocks, needing improved machinery to crush and properly extract it. The surface ores are so far the only ones attempted to handle.

The Globe Mining and Smelting Works, on Mill Creek, Section 9, Township 40, Range 17, are in operation, having a capacity of 6,000 pounds a day. They own 7,000 acres of ore land. Their works were started in January, 1889.

At the mines nine miles northwest of Versailles there was a solid lump of lead ore weighing 30,000 pounds mined. At the Jones mines, two miles southeast of Versailles, a solid piece weighing over 12,000 pounds was taken out.

Great fields of "glass-tiff" are found in the county. A tiff mill is now in successful operation, started in September, 1888. It is on Section 1, Township 41, Range 19, six miles due south of Versailles. The deposit is in the third magnesian series.

Recent developments establish the fact that in this county are some of the most extensive coal fields in the west, both cannel and bituminous. The cannel coal measures begin near Tipton, and extend along the eastern portion of Morgan County to the head of Indian Creek, occupying all the east and north-east portions of the county. It is of fine grate and gas quality, and will not be exhausted in generations, as shafts have been sunk in beds of from ten to fifty feet thick. Where the cannel coal measures stop, the bituminous coal commences, and this in quality and thickness of vein is probably not surpassed in the United States. Numerous shafts at a depth of about thirty feet reach micaceous veins of superior block coal from fourteen to sixty feet in depth. Experts from all quarters who have examined these openings pronounce them far superior to anything they have ever seen. The extent of these fields renders them nearly inexhaustible.

*Miscellaneous.*—The south part of the county is supplied with many strong springs. The largest in the county is in the south part of Osage Township, on Section 21, about ten miles south of Versailles. It furnishes a motive power for the Gravois Mills. About three miles south of Versailles is a strong spring of excellent water, that will supply the city with abundance of excellent water at small outlay.

In Richland Township are vast deposits of fire-clay and excellent potter's clay, and beds of kaolin are plentiful in the county. At Florence is an extensive pottery, working the clays and kaolin; this is a prosperous enterprise.

Inexhaustible beds of white or glass sand are found between the second and third Laurentian series. The finest bed of this is near the Globe Smelting Company's land.

The geological formations in this county, especially the mineral and coal deposits, have puzzled and deceived geologists in a most extraordinary way. Even the high authority, Mr. Broadhead, after examining the county, made his report, and said it was



a "pocket county," that is, that the lead and coal would only be found in pockets, with no well-defined fissure veins or rock formations that are considered as a part of the regular geological formations. They were judging by the books and the world's past observation and experience. It was only when practical experts came, who had had much experience in the Joplin District, that practical tests were started which soon sent to the winds the theories of geologists. People declared that in digging down a few feet they would find, sometimes, cannel coal, bituminous coal and black-jack, either side by side or lying adjacent, or the zinc and coal sometimes mixed, and about these would be tumbled rocks of chert, magnesia, composite or cotton rock, apparently just as it happened in the tumble and toss-up. Two years ago Capt. A. Arnold, a practical mining expert, who had had years of experience in the southwest mines, came here, and after looking over the ground sunk a coal shaft southeast of Versailles, in what Broadhead would call a "pocket." He followed the trend of the deposit, and sunk experimental holes covering about 7,000 acres of land, and demonstrated that whether it was a pocket or regular vein it was wholly immaterial; that, certain it was, here was the most wonderful coal deposit in the world—the thickness of the bed over seventy feet, all to be reached simply by stripping, when it can be loaded like soil from a hillside. All these things give, upon a careful estimate, a deposit of coal under each acre of land in the 7,000-acre tract of \$150,000. It is being demonstrated every week at this time that the geologists were mistaken when they pronounced Morgan a "pocket county."

At the lead smelting works eighteen miles southwest of Versailles, after taking out great quantities of lead in the clay, a depth has been reached where work is done in a regular walled fissure vein, demonstrating that all that is necessary to develop one of the richest lead ore fields is to go into the rocks and find the regular deposits. No scientific mining has ever been attempted here; no improved machinery, simply the pick and shovel, the old-fashioned windlass and bucket, and invariably, when prospectors have scratched the surface and picked up such loose mineral as they could find in the soil, they have abandoned this to go to a new place.

*Mineral Waters.*—It seems that these have been almost wholly overlooked in the county, but there can be no doubt that some day in the near future they will attract wide attention. A flowing but neglected spring, southeast of Versailles a short distance, was well known to the early settlers for its curative qualities in all bilious and malarial diseases incident to the settlement of a new country. Years ago the woodmen, by exposing themselves in the bottoms, frequently became sick, and soon learned, when they could get well in no other way, to change their location; but when they worked near the spring and used the waters their former rugged health was restored. Invalids of all kinds found the waters very beneficial. For years it has been neglected, and is now known only to few. It is filled up with debris and to some extent sipes to the surface and escapes in various directions. Sulphur and iron waters are frequently found.

*The Alum Well.*—Near the corporate limits of Versailles, on the southwest, is what has long been known as the alum well. A shaft was sunk about twenty feet deep, and a strong flow of water was found. People pronounced it very strong alum water, even stronger, possibly, than could be made by dissolving any amount of alum in water. It was discovered by teamsters that to bathe their horses' shoulders in this water would cure them of any sores. It was a powerful diuretic, and excited some curiosity years ago, but was never analyzed, and the shaft was allowed to fill with surface water. Those who are acquainted with the noted medicinal waters of Eldon, Iowa, believe this to be possessed of the same qualities, and as strong if not stronger.

*Resources.*—The wealth of Morgan County is probably nearly equally divided between that hidden under the soil and that grown above it. Her coal, lead, zinc, iron, baryta, clays, kaolin, etc., are not yet sufficiently developed to measure them with even approximate results. As to other resources, the following authentic figures will speak for themselves. The official report of 1880 shows:

Wheat, 9,019 acres, 79,231 bushels; corn, 39,651 acres, 1,215,783 bushels; oats, 8,532 acres, 126,558 bushels; broom corn, 40,600 pounds; sorghum, 48,929 gallons; maple sugar, 830 pounds, 62 gallons molasses; wool, 10,902 fleeces, 55,925

pounds; flax, 6,224 bushels, 40 tons straw; orchard products, \$4,468; potatoes, 29,665 bushels; sweet potatoes, 1,536 bushels; tobacco, 8,660 pounds; honey, 2,309 pounds; wax, 549 pounds; barn-yard poultry of all kinds, 86,708; hay, 5,123 acres; horses, 4,717; mules, 1,592; milch cows, 4,863; other cattle, 11,042; swine, 26,649; butter from farms, 213,939 pounds; cheese, 460 pounds; number of farms, 1,530, average, 170 acres; meadow, 36,140 acres; farms and improvements, \$2,090,678; farm implements, \$119,185; live stock, \$2,096,084; value farm products, 1879, \$490,316; forest products, 1879, \$29,426.

*Assessment and Valuation.*—The assessed wealth of Morgan County in 1886 was: Acres, 385,928, value, \$1,178,400; town lots, 669, value \$82,441; total real estate, \$1,260,841. Personal property: Horses, 4,482, value, \$160,384; mules, 1,818, value, \$80,856; asses and jennets, 54, value, \$2,867; neat cattle, 14,039, value, \$166,915; sheep, 11,702, value, \$11,984; hogs, 19,967, value, \$32,007; moneys, notes and all other evidences of debt, \$191,264; other personal property, \$123,156; total personal property, \$769,433; total taxable wealth in county, \$2,030,274.

The valuation for 1888 was as follows: Acres, 384,969, value, \$1,288,844; town lots, 653, value, \$92,122; horses, 5,082, value, \$176,287; asses and jennets, 80, value, \$4,695; mules, 1,810, value, \$74,883; neat cattle, 16,792, value, \$187,093; sheep, 8,956, value, \$9,013; hogs, 15,046, value, \$25,249; notes and evidences of debt, value, \$222,995; total real estate value, \$1,380,966; total personal property, \$827,225; total taxable property, \$2,208,291; increase over 1886, \$178,017.

*Manufactories.*—There is water power enough in the county to turn all the machinery of the State for many years to come, and there is fuel enough to supply a world. Quick and cheap access to markets is now the only requisite essential to support here as large a population as any community in the United States.

*Fruit.*—The water, soil and climate invite the tree-man to come with his budded fruit of every kind that grows in a temperate climate. The figures above show but little of the facts, as the greatest improvement in fruit growing is now being constantly made. Apples, peaches and grapes will be the standards, and in time every foot of dry land in the county will be in fruits

or rich pasture land, that is now considered too rocky or rough for agriculture.

*Live Stock.*—This is a natural breeding ground for cattle and hogs, and that industry is now being advanced rapidly, both in numbers and quality. The ranges are natural and never-ending pasture lands for these and all domestic animals. Graded cattle, blooded horses and improved breeds of hogs are rapidly replacing the original stock. Mules are raised here with much profit, and farmers find in them remunerative and sure returns.

The promises and possibilities in the development of the natural resources of Morgan County are marvelous to the outsider who has heard nothing of this to him *terra incognita*. The awakening, however, is just begun, and the near future will acquaint the world with the wealth that here awaits their coming. The stream of keen-eyed investigators has started hitherward; at present it is a little stream, and mostly comes from overdone Kansas. But many are seeking this location, and soon these will swell to a great and mighty host.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT.

*Original Occupants.*—Morgan County was at one time in the possession and occupancy of the Osage Indians. Upon ceding this part of their territory to the Government they retained the right to hunt in expeditions over the ground for a term of years. These expeditions every spring and fall made the people nervous, and Indian scares, often serious and widespread, were common. Not unfrequently families would sleep concealed near their houses during the night, and again the entire settlement would gather in order to be ready for defense against night attacks. Then for some years after they ceased to hunt in the county they passed through on the old "Harmony Mission Trace," on their way to and from St. Louis to get Government supplies. This "trace," the first great east and west route through the county, was followed from St. Louis to this place by the pioneers. The Boone and fur traders sometimes passed on the trail going to St. Louis.

The Indians never attacked the whites of Morgan County, and no serious depredations can now be recalled. Practically

the last seen of them in the county, except passing as delegations on their way to Washington, was in 1835.

*First Settlers.*—Following closely upon the footsteps of the trappers, hunters and Indian traders came the first pioneers to what is now Morgan County—a daring and hardy race of men, full of self-reliance, and possessing those self-contained resources admirably fitting them to lead civilization in its marvelous rise and progress across our continent.

In the year 1825 Hugh Kelsay and the younger Alexander, James, Samuel and William Kelsay settled on Moreau Creek, about six miles east of Versailles. Soon after William Donegan, Thomas Kennedy, John Thompson, Furniss Adair and a man named Pushong settled in the Kelsay neighborhood. In 1829 came Willis Brown and family, among whom was Cyrus C. Brown, still living within a mile of Hugh Kelsay's place.

North of the Kelsay settlement about six miles were located, among the next earliest settlers, Buford and William Allee, William Fulks, James Stinson, Elisha Taylor and Mordecai Bell. Most of these were in what is the southeast angle of Mill Creek Township. Further north and northwest of this were Philip Barger, James Enlow, Nathan Smith, Jesse Hallford, William Kirkpatrick, Absalom Wood, Benjamin Gist, William G. Porter, William Monroe, Ward Howard, James Birdsong, James Stinson, Elisha Taylor, H. Vivion, Orville Beatty, James Donaldson, Hickman Estes, Hay Hogue, Hardin Hix, Richard Larimore, Martin Parks, William C. Porter, Amos Richardson, James Rucker, Nathan Smith and Green Scott.

In the northwest part of the county, now Richland Township, Hugh Morrison, Absalom Wood, Isham Hatfield, John B. Morrison, John Taylor, William K. Anthony, Shannon Aiken, James Y. Cooper, J. W. Fridley, J. Gibeny, John T. Harman, Thomas Hackney, Joseph Jamison, Francis Nixon, George Nixon, P. S. Owenby, E. S. Rollston, Joshua Self and R. B. Harris settled.

West and northwest of Versailles, in Haw Creek Township were Hugh Morrison, Samuel Kelsay, Woodson Scoggins, James G. Wooten, Joseph Smith, William S. Barnett, David McFarland, William M. McCarroll, Samuel Thruston and Robert Wilson.

In the southwest part of the county, probably all within what

is now Buffalo Township, were John R. Huff, William C. Scott, William James, James Lamm, Hugh Brown, Thomas J. Morris, James Bushow, John Dobbins, Alexander Findley, John Farris, Joseph Modders, J. A. Paul, William Powell and P. Webber.

In the southeast part of the county were Warner Houser, William Poor, William Rhea, Elvin Caldwell, Thomas J. Morris, Morton and John Jones, Solomon Kemp, Seth Moore, Enoch Taylor, William Dorrell, E. S. Drake, Tyre H. Bell, Joseph Sidebottom, T. J. Bond and James Farris.

East of the Kelsay settlement, in Moreau Township, were William French, Sterling Gunn, Walter Hines, Francis Laher and Preston R. Taylor. G. W. Stewart settled two miles south of Versailles, and George Campbell and William T. Cole, four miles north (latter was killed by John Ruthven in 1853). Josiah S. Walton, among the early settlers, located southeast of Versailles, on Gravois Creek. He put up a saw and grist-mill in 1835, and other settlers located at that point, it being the temporary county seat, called and known for a time as Milltown. John B. Fisher, father of Trusten F., made a settlement in the north part of the county, and it is sometimes claimed that his was the first settlement in the county.

John Tracy was located ten miles east of Versailles as early as 1831, and James Scoggins and Aaron Allord, about the same time, were eight miles west. Seth Howard settled at the mouth of Gravois Creek, and John Crenshaw at the mouth of Buffalo, very early. Howard started the once promising place, Miningport. James McFarland and sons settled about five miles south of Versailles, about 1831. Zacheus German was a prominent early settler, and came about the same time as McFarland. He first located twelve miles east of Versailles. Street Thruston and son, Dr. J. B. Thruston, were also among the early settlers.

In the list given above those without the date of coming attached to their names were known to be here in the early part of 1833.

The first marriage license in Morgan County was issued March 28, 1833, to Layton Adair and Edith Summers. They were married by Philip Barger, justice of the peace.

*Land Entries.*—The earliest purchase of the Government of

land in what is now Morgan County was made by George McFarland, Sr., February 13, 1824, the east half northeast Section 8, Township 44 north, Range 18 west. Subsequently other tracts were settled, mention of which is here made; the settlement by townships is observed:

Township 41, Range 16: September 24, 1826, Hiram M. Madole, north half southwest Section 8; October 1, 1832, Walker Moore, southeast southeast Section 1; October 5, 1832, David P. Taylor, northeast Section 1; August, 1834, E. B. Dooley, Section 11; April 12, 1835, H. B. Kelsay, Sr., east half northeast Section 5; May 5, 1836, Daniel Merry, northwest Section 19; May 29, 1837, William Bunker, southwest northwest Section 19; November 28, 1836, H. B. Kelsay, southeast northwest Section 5; February 13, 1837, Jeremiah Johnson, south half southwest Section 9.

Township 42, Range 16: October 27, 1831, Andrew McCasland in Section 36; February 27, 1832, Edmund Wilkes, west half southeast Section 23; November 20, 1833, Andrew J. French, east half northwest Section 5; January 31, 1834, George W. Claybrook, in Section 2; January 29, 1829, John H. Howard, in Section 36; June 9, 1829, Zacheus German, northeast Section 23; November 16, 1829, Andrew Phillips, west half northeast Section 13; July 10, 1836, Marquis Calmes, southeast southeast Section 21; June 23, 1840, David Dutcher, east half southwest Section 21; October 31, 1836, H. San Ira southeast Section 18; February 2, 1836, William Monroe, east half southeast Section 13; November 16, 1839, Andrew Phillips, west half northeast Section 13; February 16, 1836, Edward S. Ellis, west half Section 4; September 4, 1836, Simeon Ratcliff, east half northeast Section 8; February 2, 1837, A. J. French, in Sections 5, 6 and 7.

Township 43, Range 16: November 16, 1832, Willis Brown, southwest southwest Section 10; November 10, 1835, William Killison, Jr., south half northwest Section 19; January 12, 1836, William Cooper, northeast Section 19; November 30, 1832, Thomas Kennedy, northwest southwest Section 33; May 28, 1835, Hugh Kelsay, southwest northwest Section 30; June 25, 1835, James Kelsay, west half southwest Section 30; June 10,

1836, Hugh Brown, east half northwest Section 30; June 12, 1836, Willis Brown, west half southeast Section 30; October 25, 1836, John Glover, east half northeast Section 30; January 12, 1836, John Larkin, southeast Section 19; August 6, 1836, Henry Holman, east half southeast Section 33; October 16, 1838, Mordecai Bell, northeast northeast Section 33; July 7, 1836, L. W. Beanland, east half southwest Section 33; May 30, 1839, Margaret Ann Townley, southeast southeast Section 29; November 9, 1836, Jacob Oglesby, southeast southwest Section 17; same date and section, John Oglesby, southeast southeast; January 14, 1837, David W. Johnson, west half southwest Section 17.

Township 40, Range 17: April 1, 1836, Solomon Poor, southeast southeast Section 2.

Township 41, Range 17: October 15, 1832, James Lemon, southeast and northeast Section 27; February 24, 1835, John May, northeast southeast Section 7; September 16, 1836, Nancy Huff, northeast northwest Section 7; January 25, 1836, Charles Newkirk, northwest southwest Section 36; October 14, 1836, Joseph Sidebottom, southeast northwest Section 35; April 10, 1839, E. Caldwell, southwest northwest Section 7; December 4, 1834, Tyre H. Berry, southwest northwest Section 27; August 12, 1836, C. F. Holtzwart, southeast northeast Section 28.

Township 42, Range 17: In 1836 Fleming Meadows, Joel Meadows, William Mitchell, James Huff and Peter Link each made entries in Section 21; November 27, 1837, John Lindley, southwest northeast Section 17; December 3, 1834, Fredrick How, southwest southwest Section 6; December 20, 1834, Jacob Chism, southeast northwest Section 6; December 21, 1835, Street Thruston, northwest southwest Section 6; April 25, 1835, William S. Barnett, southwest northwest Section 6; November, 1836, N. W. Crook, William Pennebaker and C. A. Campbell each made entries in Section 7; April 30, 1833, Wyan and Galbraith, west half southeast Section 6; November 8, 1834, same, east half southwest Section 6; October 16, 1834, W. H. French, north half northeast Section 14; July 18, 1836, John McClannahan made entry in Section 6; October 31, 1836, Thomas Miller, southeast northeast Section 6.

Township 43, Range 17: February 8, 1833, John Pulley,



northwest northeast Section 18; August 17, 1833, Jackson Johnson, southwest southeast Section 7; July 29, 1833, Obadiah Summers, southwest southwest Section 7; February 3, 1831, Elijah Anderson, east half northwest Section 7; November 2, 1832, Willis Brown, southeast southeast Section 25; February 14, 1833, Henry Fisher, southwest northwest Section 7; January 8, 1836, Jesse Jopling, northwest Section 33; January 29, 1836, Henry Fisher, southwest northwest Section 7.

Township 44, Range 17: March 7, 1829, Robert Rogers, west half northeast Section 28; July 11, 1831, Furniss Adair, east half southeast Section 7; November, 20, 1833, Calvin Williams, northwest northwest Section 17; January 28, 1833, Elijah McFarland, northwest southeast Section 29; December 12, 1836, Thomas G. Thompson, west half northwest Section 27; May 21, 1836, Charles Newkirk, west half northwest Section 28; January 22, 1837, James B. Huff, east half northwest Section 32.

Township 41, Range 18: September 3, 1833, Morton James, southeast southeast Section 1; September 3, 1833, W. K. Anthony, southwest northeast Section 2; January 13, 1836, Stewart Barnes, southwest southeast Section 1.

Township 42, Range 18: May 1, 1833, Jacob Chism, east half southeast and west half southwest Section 10; December 20, 1833, John Chism, west half southwest Section 11; December 20, 1834, Hardin Chism, northwest southwest Section 12; December 3, 1834, John McClannahan, east half Section 5; November 19, 1834, Noah Gordon, northeast Section 12; September 19, 1835, Street Thruston, east half southeast Section 4.

Township 43, Range 18: October 29, 1832, John Boyar, southwest southeast Section 12; same date, Robert Wilson, southeast southeast Section 12; February 15, 1833, John G. Estes, southeast southeast Section 13; June 12, 1833, Thomas Blakely, southeast southeast Section 24; December 12, 1833, Littleton Seat, east half northeast Section 25; December 10, 1833, Martin Boyar, northwest southeast Section 25.

Township 44, Range 18: November 4, 1836, J. C. Todd, southwest southeast Section 15; September 1, 1838, Harry Mayfield, northwest northwest Section 23.

Township 45, Range 18: December 20, 1830, Samuel Smith,

west half northwest Section 9; December 21, 1831, W. H. Shanklin, northeast Section 9; December 21, 1831, John Carpenter, west half southwest Section 9; January 28, 1831, Elijah Shanklin, northeast southeast Section 9; February 4, 1828, William Steele, west half northwest Section 8; April 27, 1827, William Steele, west half northeast Section 8; November 20, 1832, John Carpenter, northeast southwest Section 9; January 7, 1833, Nathaniel Garten, southwest northwest Section 9; November 4, 1834, Elizabeth Findley, northwest northwest Section 10; December 4, 1833, William Hix, southeast southwest Section 11.

Township 41, Range 19: April 4, 1835, Joseph Byles, southwest southwest Section 6.

Township 42, Range 19: November 26, 1833, Aaron Allen, southeast southwest Section 6; January 24, 1836, Enoch Taylor, southeast northeast Section 14.

Township 43, Range 19: November 18, 1833, Almer Weaver, northwest southeast Section 30; December 12, 1836, Charles H. Stevens, northwest Section 29.

Township 44, Range 19: November 30, 1833, W. C. Reed, southwest northwest Section 15; September 30, 1835, William Neal, southwest northeast Section 10; November 6, 1835, Hugh M. Blackburn, northwest southwest Section 29; July 6, 1836, A. C. Sloan, northeast northwest Section 28.

*Customs.*—The abundance of game and fish on every hand in pioneer days left only the question of bread and building material a necessity to provide for. For some years the nearest post-office was six miles north of Tipton. The arrival of a letter, twenty-five cents postage, was a county episode, as it would be read and re-read to nearly everyone in the county. Fear of the Indians made the people collect in settlements, and all were on the lookout for a new settler, ready to extend to him every hospitality and aid in making a home and locating as a neighbor. They built their cabins of logs, and their first sawed lumber was from the whip-saw. Walton's saw-mill opened an era in the new county's progress. The people could haul their bread-stuff hundreds of miles over the trackless waste, but the heavy lumber they could not. A constant dread of danger from Indian raids, and wild animals, made the people not only watchful, but inclined to gather at night

at each other's cabins. Social and hospitable, simple and honest, they needed neither officers nor courts.

### COUNTY ORGANIZATION.

Morgan County was organized by act of the Legislature in 1833. An act of the Legislature of 1868 transferred to Miller County a strip the length of two townships from the southern east side of the county; and in 1881, by another law, the line running diagonally northwest from the northeast corner of Township 42, Range 16, to the southeast corner of Section 12, Township 44, Range 18, was changed to strike the northeast of said Section 12. With these changes the boundary lines are as follows:

Beginning at the northeast of Section 12, Township 45, Range 18; thence west on subdivisional lines to the northwest corner of Section 7, Township 45, Range 19; thence south by range line between 19 and 20 to the point where it strikes the Osage River; thence down the middle of said river to where it intersects the southeast of Section 30, Township 40, Range 18; thence by subdivisional lines to the Osage River; thence down the middle of said river to the southeast of Section 12, Township 40, Range 16; thence by subdivisional lines to the township line between 41 and 42; thence east to the range line between 15 and 16; thence north to the northeast corner of Township 42, Range 16; thence northwest in a straight line to the northeast of Section 12, Township 44, Range 18; thence north by range line between Ranges 17 and 18 to the place of beginning.

*Township Formation.*—The county was divided into six townships by the county court in 1833. Since the original formation there has been no change in them except the change of the name of "Willow Creek" to Mill Creek Township.

Richland forms the northwest corner of the county. Flat and Richland Creeks join and form the Lamine Creek. Flat Creek is crooked through fourteen sections, from where it enters the township at Section 18 to its mouth. This creek bounds the timber on the south of "Little Morgan" Prairie; Haw Creek gives it abundant water and drainage on the south part. It is divided into two voting precincts, contains eight school-houses, and Bethlehem Church. Florence Village is on Section 11. The township has a population of 2,000.

Haw Creek lies in the central western part of the county. A

high rolling prairie extends from the east to the west side through its center; to the north and south of this are excellent timber and mineral lands. It contains four congressional townships, in each of which is a voting precinct. Jones Chapel Church and school-house are near the north township line. Three Lutheran Churches and Freedom Church, and Stover Postoffice, a Baptist Church and Union Church, and nine school-houses are also in the township, which has a population of 2,400.

Buffalo Township is in the southwest corner of the county. It is all timber-land, and is finely watered and drained, the Osage River forming a part of its boundary; the river and creek bottoms are a deep alluvial loam that makes them the best agricultural lands. The township is divided into three voting precincts, Brandy Hill, Boyler's and River View. Proctor Post-office is also here, and five school-houses. Population, 1,400.

Osage Township forms the boundary of the southeast corner of the county. It is also partly bounded by the Osage River. Some very rich farm and pasture lands are found in the several bottoms of the Osage River and the Gravois, Indian and Mill Creeks. All these streams water and drain this township. The land is heavily timbered, and underneath most of it is the yet richer deposits of coal, iron, lead and zinc. The township contains two post-offices—Cape Galena and Gladstone; Hame's Mill, saw and grist; three churches, Catholic, Methodist and Union, and three school-houses. It has three voting precincts. Population, 1,550.

Moreau Township is north of Osage Township, and forms part of the east and northeast county line. In lead and coal it is probably the richest part of the county, and especially in its coal fields, some of which have been operated for years, and others are being opened. It is also rich as an agricultural district, the larger part of the prairie in the county being within its borders; this is rich and rolling, and is drained by Moreau Creek on the northwest, and on the north and east by Smith and Burris Forks of Moreau Creek, and on the south by Gravois and Indian Creeks. It is divided into three voting precincts. Versailles, Barnett and Excelsior are in this township. Near the center is Big Rock Church, Masonic Hall and school-house, on Section 9;

Hopewell Church on Section 29, Wesley Church on Section 25, Rock Spring Church on Section 4, Mount Zion Church on Section 9, and St. Martin's Post-office on Section 4. Population, 4,350.

Mill Creek Township forms the north and part of the east boundary lines of the county. It is mostly timber-land, and is watered by Big and Little Richland Creeks. The southwest portion is prairie; the whole is fine farming land. The railroad from Tipton to Versailles runs through the east and southeastern part of it. The township is divided into two precincts. The main line of the Missouri Pacific Railroad passes through the northwest corner on Sections 10, 11, 14 and 15; on this line is the village of Syracuse. The township has two churches and five schools. Akinsville is on Section 19. Among the early settlers were Elijah Shanklin, John Jamison, John Carpenter, James Bridges and Jonathan Huff. There is a saw-mill three miles southeast of Syracuse, and ten miles south is a flour-mill. The population is 2,250.

*County Seat.*—The temporary county seat of Morgan was fixed at Josiah Walton's, southeast of where Versailles now is. It remained at this place nearly two years. The county court appointed Street Thruston commissioner to locate a permanent county seat. He selected the present site of Versailles, on Section 6, Township 42, Range 17. The land was donated by Wyans & Galbraith, and the court sold the lots at public vendue.

*Court-house.*—In December, 1836, the county purchased of Philip Barger the house standing on the northeast corner of the public square as a court-house. At least a part of this building is still standing, and is the rear of Capt. Neilson's house.

In 1844 a modest brick court-house was put up in the center of the public square. This answered all public purposes comfortably, but unfortunately was burned in the general town fire of March 12, 1887.

At this time the county has neither jail nor court-house. Courts are held in Wassung's hall, and clerk's offices, etc., are in the Lumpee Block and in Spurlock's building.

At the November election, 1886, a vote on the proposition to appropriate \$15,000 to build a new court-house was submitted. By a misunderstanding of the voters it was a question as to

whether the proposition had legally carried or not. The question was brought before Judge Edwards at the February term, 1889, of the circuit court, and he sustained the validity of the vote. The county court, therefore, will at once proceed to build. The county has \$4,000 insurance on the old court-house, and this will swell the building fund to \$19,000. This expenditure will give all the needed court room for years to come.

*Jail.*—A substantial log jail was put up in 1842. It was of the pioneer sort of jail, but all say for it that it was good for the intended purposes, not ornate, but strong, having double walls, with loose upright logs between the walls that made it difficult to cut a way out. It was destroyed by fire in 1862.

A brick jail was erected in 1865 on the city's lot, a little southeast of the public square. Its occupants in a few years had dug and chipped away at it until, in the language of one of the town wags who had been put in it, it was not safe to sleep in, as a "fellar is likely to fall out anywhere." It was condemned and torn down in 1877. The county does not seem to greatly suffer on account of there being no jail.

*Poor Farm.*—In February, 1877, the county purchased the farm of G. J. Harvey, for a consideration of \$1,500. It is situated three miles east of Versailles. The county at once added to the original building and put up other needed improvements. Prior to this it had rented Mr. Harvey's farm and used it for a poor farm.

### COURT AFFAIRS.

*Circuit Court.*—The first term of the circuit, Hon. David Todd, presiding, convened at the house of Josiah S. Walton, June 13, 1833. Alfred McCutchen was sheriff, and Robert W. Wells attended as attorney-general. Thomas G. Davis was appointed clerk of the court. No cases were on docket, and no presentments by the grand jury. At the next regular court, the judge not appearing, court was adjourned *sine die*. No trial case was called until February term, 1834. The only attorney of record at this term was Robert W. Wells. No presentment was made by grand jury until March term, 1835, and then only a small misdemeanor. At the September court, 1835, Charles H. Allen was judge.

At May term, 1836, the attorneys regularly enrolled to practice law in Morgan county were: John Wilson, David Steriger, Charles P. Bullock, Charles S. Yancy, Littleberry Hendricks, Benjamin L. Lisle and Washington Adams. At the June term, 1837, William Scott was judge, succeeded by Judge James W. Morrow, who presided until 1851, when Judge George W. Miller was elected. He was successively re-elected until 1868, when Judge Theron M. Rice succeeded, holding the office six years, when Judge G. W. Miller was again elected, and continued in office until he died, in 1879. Hon. E. L. Edwards was elected to fill the vacancy, and has continued in office to the present time.

*County Court.*—The first court met at the house of John B. Fisher, in February, 1833. It was composed of Zacheus German, Seth Howard and John B. Fisher. In law they were "called county justices." Thomas G. Davis was appointed clerk; Joseph M. Bernard, collector of the county; Howard Chism, surveyor. Lot Howard was appointed assessor. At the May term court adjourned "to the store-house of Hugh Galbraith." This court transacted probate business until 1847. In 1835 the court was composed of Philip Barger, Joseph M. Bernard and William S. Barnett. In 1836 William S. Barnett resigned, and J. B. Fisher was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Court then consisted of Barnett, Fisher and German; in 1838, Philip Barger, presiding judge, with John Chism, Zacheus German and Philip Barger, were the court; in 1841, Francis Ross, associate; in 1843 the court was composed of John Porter, Charles M. Brooking, Buford Allee; in 1844, John M. Reed was appointed; in 1845, E. J. Salmon; 1846, William K. Brown; 1848, B. F. Wilson, Coleman Bridges, associates; 1852, Martin H. Parks succeeded Brown; in 1854 the court was W. K. Brown, John Sims, John Porter; 1857, James W. McCoy, Hugh Kelsay, associates; 1858, John Porter, elected; 1860, Hiram Madole and C. O. Rice; 1862, B. F. Wilson, Jacob Cline, John Sims; 1863, Hugh Kelsay; 1866, Hugh Kelsay, I. Luckenbill, S. M. Wilson; 1867, W. V. Parks and Peter Haase; 1869, John H. Papen; 1870, Samuel M. Wilson, judge, John H. Stover, William V. Parks, associates; 1871, W. V. Parks, judge, John Bohling, E. D. Bailey,

associates; 1872, Eben D. Bailey, John Bohling, S. H. Legg; 1873, Joseph N. Martin, elected; 1875, T. B. Clark and J. M. Salmon; 1877, H. P. Bond, associate; 1878, J. N. Martin; 1879, D. M. English, elected judge for four years; H. B. Bowlin, First District; Henry Ghers, Second District; 1881, B. G. Bohling, J. H. Webster, associates; 1883, J. H. Alfter, judge, E. F. Gunn, First District, and J. W. Camp, Second District; 1885, I. H. Earnest, associate; 1888, Henry Wagenknecht, judge, F. L. Callison, First District, I. H. Earnest, Second District, associates.

*Probate Court.*—By act of the Legislature, in 1847, the probate court was formed, thus taking away from the county court probate business.

In 1847 James P. Ross was elected the first probate judge for the term of six years. Ross went to California in 1849, and E. J. Salmon succeeded. He died in August, 1851, and was succeeded by John A. S. Tutt; in October, 1858, Judge William C. Sevier; 1862, Andrew Masters, judge; 1865, William C. Reed, judge; May term, 1867, John C. McCoy, judge; November, 1872, James B. Allee, who died in March, 1875, and Jonathan C. Todd was appointed to fill the vacancy. He was then elected to the regular term. James S. Thruston came in in 1881; the term is now four years. He was first elected for two years, then for four, and re-elected. His present term will expire in 1891.

*The Bar.*—In the earliest courts in the county there was no occasion for either judges or lawyers, except to open and adjourn courts. At the first court only the judge and Attorney-General Wells were present, this officer then being *ex-officio* prosecuting attorney for the county. At the next term Attorney-General Robards was present. At the May term, 1836, was enrolled the first list of attorneys to practice in Morgan County. The list is given elsewhere. Among the early visiting members of the bar were Judge William Napton, J. A. S. Tutt, G. W. Miller, afterward circuit judge; Mr. Richardson, P. R. Hayden, E. L. Edwards, the present circuit judge; Mr. Stewart, of Boonville; Littleberry Hendricks, George White, B. F. Robbins, Mark Means, Benjamin Stringfellow, James B. Gardenhire, Foster P. Wright, William Muir, Mr. Harbison. These are given somewhat in the order as they appeared to practice law at the terms



of the court. For many years the coming of the members of the bar at each term was a great day for the little county capital.

The first resident lawyer in Versailles was James McCord. But as one lawyer in a county is as much as but one blade of a pair of shears, he was soon followed by Mr. Slaughter. Then came, nearly in the order given, F. A. Kaunslar, Garrett Milner, James P. Ross, J. A. Tutt, William Sevier, Col. John Stover, A. W. Anthony, James Spurlock, Daniel and James Ray.

The members at present of the Morgan County bar are as follows: A. W. Anthony, B. R. Richardson, D. E. Wray, James A. Wray, John D. Neilson, John D. Bohling, J. B. McGuffin, Samuel Daniels, A. L. Ross, county attorney; James A. Spurlock, R. A. Long and A. Arnold.

*Criminal Record.*—In the fall of 1853 William T. Cole was slain by his son-in-law, John B. Ruthven, in Versailles. It was Morgan County's first and only homicide until the war. The prominence of the people as well as the many remarkable circumstances surrounding the case made it a notable one.

Cole and wife had had a disagreement, not the first, it is said, and Mrs. Cole went to her daughter's, Mrs. Ruthven's, with the declared intention of a permanent separation from her husband. The daughter took the side of the mother, and in time Ruthven joined with his wife, and there was bad blood, it seems, in the family toward the husband and father. Cole had visited his daughter's several times to induce his wife to return to her home. On the fatal day he had gone again on this mission, it is supposed, and was killed in Ruthven's house. No one, it appears, saw all that occurred just at the time of the killing. Ruthven shot Cole twice, both fatal shots, and the physician, who was called in a few minutes, found Cole dying, with a pistol in his hand. He never spoke, so far as could be learned, after the shooting.

This case was tried, and resulted in a mistrial, and was moved to another county, and in the course of time Ruthven was acquitted, and the case, so far as the courts were concerned, was dropped.

Cole was one of the early settlers of the county, and had served in the State Legislature.

A terrible murder and attempted robbery occurred in the

early part of 1865. The victim was a man named Murry, who lived six miles southeast of Versailles. Zeke and Tom Hart, brothers, went to the house and demanded money, and made an attack. The man and family defended themselves, and finally drove off the murderers, but Mr. Murry was shot, and died the next week. The men were arrested, identified by the family, and the younger, Tom, confessed. They were tried separately, and at the September term, 1866, of the court, Zeke was sentenced to be hanged on the 19th day of October, of that year. He was accordingly executed, the first and only execution that has ever taken place in Morgan County.

Tom being the youngest, and having sworn that he was compelled to the awful deed by his brother, was let off with a term in the penitentiary.

### THE WAR.

There were other border counties, both in this and other States, during the late war, but the history of this county during that unfortunate period probably differed materially from that of her sisters. Many and many of the staunchest men in the county when approached on the subject would shake their heads and simply say that it was one they did not care to talk about. Yet so far as bloodshed was concerned, or even those secret assassinations and horrible nameless outrages that marked many a locality of our Union, the county was comparatively free.

When the news of the firing on Fort Sumter reached the county the people were dazed, and instead of gathering in excited crowds and discussing matters, each seemed to desire quietly to go to his home, and in an undertone talk it over.

*Beginning.*—In feelings toward the Rebellion and the Union cause, Morgan County was probably nearly divided, with a preponderance on the side of the Union cause. This mutual quiet continued until the capture of Camp Jackson by the Union forces, May 10, 1861. Then the war sentiment broke forth, and the people became actively excited. These noisy demonstrations on the Confederate side soon stirred the Unionists to outspoken words and to active and energetic efforts in aid of the Government. To the infinite credit of each side, it can now be truth-

fully told that the fighting element on both sides seemed by common consent to make up their minds to attach themselves to the regular army organizations before they should do any fighting. And on both sides men quietly went away, singly and in small squads, to find recruiting stations where they could be regularly enrolled in the respective armies. Had this respectable element in commencing been all, then the county would have felt no other than the fate of any land where the people have gone off to the war.

So far as one can now learn there were certain elements that remained here which of course produced more or less influence upon the community. The blood that was shed during the war, many of the assassinations and murders, if not all of them, in the county, are laid at the doors of marauding parties.

*War Troubles.*—A man named Stephenson was the reputed head of the little band of bushwhackers in Morgan County. The opposing armies passed a number of times through the county, but all agree that they perpetrated few outrages on the people, at least not more than each side expected, and by the commanders' orders there were none. There was no battle within the county's boundaries. The nearest approach to a skirmish was not far from Versailles. It seems that five Union men had been sent out for some purpose. They were ambushed, or, as some accounts say, were caught in a lane and attacked by the bushwhackers. They made the best defense they could, and retreated. In a short distance George H. Dancer's horse fell, and he was overtaken by the rebels and shot dead. James M. Drummonds was wounded and taken off and killed. Henderson Marple was wounded. Aaron Wear and Newt. Brown escaped unhurt.

Joe Jolly and Humphrey Cotty were hanged at Mount Carmel Church by bushwhackers.

There was a slight skirmish between bushwhackers and Home Guards near Byler's Mill, but no one was killed or seriously wounded. The bushwhackers killed several Union soldiers, and also two Germans near Florence, and Pete Hayes, a man named Palmer, and G. W. Shackleford, of Syracuse. John Rutherford was killed north of Versailles. Hugh and Peter Barger were carried off to Benton County and executed.

A bushwhacker named Job was court martialed and shot for murder.

Several Morgan County men, Germans, were killed in the Cole Camp attack. The only ones whose names are now recalled were Henry Otten, Peter Defore and a man named Jacobs.

An incident which occurred in Versailles during these troublous times will go far to leave upon posterity's mind something of the true condition of affairs. Two men, old citizens of Versailles, returned to town after an absence in the rebels' interest. One of them had had a horse and buggy taken by the Union forces. The two men charged that a man named Crawford had informed against them and been the cause of their loss, and openly avowed their intention to kill Crawford. They called him out of the post-office and told him their purpose. Dr. Thruston went to the man's rescue. Crawford jumped behind the doctor and seized him in his arms, begging him to save his life. The men then swore they would even kill the doctor unless he got out of the way. After much parley they told Crawford to get on the horse behind one of them, and they would not hurt him. He did so, and they rode into the brush south of town. Thruston followed, and when they halted he went to them and told them if they harmed Crawford the whole people of Versailles would be murdered and the town burned by Federal troops. The men claimed one of their brothers had just been arrested and taken to Tipton. After much parley Dr. Thruston agreed if they would give up Crawford he would take him and go to Tipton and bring the brother back. This arrangement was finally made, and Crawford was taken to Dr. Thruston's house. In the night he (Crawford) slipped out, went to Tipton, reported the affair, and soon 300 of Gen. Palmer's men came to wreak vengeance on Versailles. The officers fortunately called on Dr. Thruston, but learning all the facts, departed without molesting anyone.

In this way the prominent men on each side in the county were compelled, often at the risk of their lives, to interfere to save the community.

On the other hand there is laid to the fault of the Home Guards nearly an equal number of inexcusable acts. It is said they would charge a man with feeding bushwhackers, perhaps, and then com-

mit serious offenses as a punishment. Henry Chaney, living ten miles north of Versailles, who was believed by the Home Guards to be a bushwhacker, was visited and killed, and his house burned, by a captain and squad of men.

While really there were very few great crimes in the county, yet the horrors of civil war were upon the people. Everyone felt that he carried his life in his hands. Every bush and hiding place the imagination filled with dreaded assassins. Suspicion attached to each person. Families were afraid to sleep in their houses at night, and men afraid to travel the roads or work in their fields by day. There were, indeed, few families but that at some time during these dark and dreadful days, slept away from their house. At first no one knew whom to trust or suspicion. How fortunate it is that now they can know their fears were often so groundless, and that the danger was more imaginary than real.

*Troops Furnished.*—It is difficult to tell, in fact utterly impossible to accurately know, just how many men from Morgan County were in the service, on one side or the other. The adjutant-general's report only shows between 200 and 300 in the Government volunteer service, with some 600 who were in the Enrolled Militia service. In the rebel army it is a mere matter of estimate, and is placed at from 40 to 100 men.

On account of the conditions in the early part of the war, many men went to Sedalia and to Kansas, and some to Illinois, to enlist, and they have never been credited to Missouri on the records. The Confederates either hunted for Price's army or went to Claib. Jackson, at Jefferson City. There never was a public recruiting rebel officer in the county.

In 1861, when was loosed "the dreadful days of war," there were two full companies of Missouri State Guards in Morgan County—one commanded by Capt. Samuel Livingston, and the other by Capt. George Butler, a brother of the present senator of that name, from South Carolina. These were State troops, and participated in the first Missouri battles. Butler's lieutenants were James B. Salmon and J. S. Thruston. Livingston's first lieutenant was W. H. Goddard. After the Camp Jackson capture, and before they entered the Confederate service, the compa-

nies were reorganized, and Butler became captain of the consolidated company, and Livingston, first lieutenant. After the Corinth battle Livingston was captain; Frank Madole and W. H. Meador, lieutenants.

In addition to the scattering squads which were enrolled in places outside of the county, and not therefore properly credited to this place, there was in the three-years' service in the Federal army, Company I, Twenty-ninth Missouri Infantry Volunteers, Capt. John L. Consales. He resigned March 10, 1863, being succeeded by John P. Hibler, who was severely wounded in a charge on the Yazoo. First Lieut. Hibler was succeeded by John W. Saunders, and Saunders was succeeded to the second lieutenancy by Joseph S. Rice. The Twenty-ninth Regiment were sent to Benton Barrack September 22, 1861; down the Mississippi, stopping at Cape Girardeau and Helena; up the Yazoo, then to Mississippi, and were in the siege and capture of Vicksburg. They were in Gen. Frank Blair's Fifteenth Corps and took part in Sherman's march, also being at Corinth, Chattanooga, Tusculumbia, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, etc. The regiment saw three years of hard service. Their ragged and decimated ranks were the grim evidences that Gen. Frank Blair was a fighter in the fullest sense of the word.

This company was raised in the northern part of the county, their first rendezvous and recruiting station being Syracuse.

In the Forty-third Enrolled Missouri Militia was Company K, from Morgan County, enlisted August, 1862. This at first was a battalion company—Capt. William A. Mills, First Lieut. John Gills, Second Lieut. John H. Fisher. The first captain of this company was Belford S. Walker. He resigned, and was succeeded by First Lieut. Mills, when John Giles became first lieutenant.

Company M was also attached to the Forty-third Regiment, Capt. C. H. Brace, First Lieut. William H. Hartman, Second Lieut. August Ochrke being officers.

Battalion Company A, forty-three men, was attached to the Forty-third Regiment, and was officered by Capt. John Sims, First Lieut. William D. Morris, Second Lieut. James H. Reed; also Battalion Company B, Capt. C. H. Brace, First Lieut. William Hartman, Second Lieut. August Ochrke.

September 25, 1862, Andrew J. Hart, of this county, became lieutenant-colonel of the Forty-third Regiment Enrolled Missouri Militia.

In this regiment Company C was officered by Capt. Moses S. Courtright, First Lieut. Thomas Harvey, Second Lieut. John McAdoo.

There were, in addition to the above, 600 Morgan County men in the different militia companies organized during the war.

There were Morgan County men in the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Eighth, Twenty-ninth and Thirteenth Kansas Regiments, but who and how many never be known.

Gen. Lyons called out the Home Guards of Morgan County in May, 1861, to resist Price's State Guard. The Enrolled Militia were organized by authority of the governor in 1862. The Provisional Militia were ordered out in 1864 to resist Price's raid through this portion of the State.

The Morgan County Mounted Volunteer Militia, Capt. A. J. Hart, were organized in February, 1865, to look after the returning rebels.

*Results of Civil Strife.*—From the inception of the war to the passing away of its worst effects were a sad decade of years to all the people of Morgan County. The first half of the ten years noted the going and returning of neighbors, and often old and dear friends, to the opposing armies, and their sometimes meeting in the far and sunny Southland just after a bloody battle. Of these actual soldiers who had met as enemies in the red gaps of war, those who lived to return to their old homes resumed their places quietly in society, content to forget the bloody past so far as words and actions were concerned. With them, when the fight was over it was wholly over, and in this respect there probably never was a better exhibition of good citizenship than was to be seen among the people of Morgan County.

Within the next five years after the war the effects had passed away, and the quiet and order, the good fellowship among the people, were the blessed evidences that peace hath her triumphs as well as war. A more orderly, quiet and peaceable community, one where life and property are secure and as little molested, than that of Morgan County, is not to be found in America.

An incident referred to elsewhere is given to illustrate something of the state of affairs during the troubles, and another incident, which occurred after the war, will go far to leave a correct impression of the second period of these times.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, building in Versailles had been taken by the Methodist Episcopal Church, North, and they had a minister and were holding meetings. The old minister of this church in the *ante-bellum* times was Rev. Litsinger. He attended meeting as soon as he returned, and when services were over he rose and announced that the regular Methodist Episcopal Church, South, would resume again their church, and hold regular services, commencing the next Sabbath. This announcement created a perfect commotion. He had taken the precaution to get the key and put it in his pocket. Upon being demanded to give up the key he refused, and some strong talk was indulged in. It continued to simmer and grow until finally the gentleman was arrested, and put under \$600 bonds for preaching without having taken what some called the "kuckleburr oath." The same court had a few days previously put a horse-thief under \$200 bonds. The Reverend made the neat retort on the court that "in this court it is three times worse to preach the word of God than to steal."

## TOWNS, VILLAGES, ETC.

### VERSAILLES.

Versailles, the county seat of Morgan County, has a population of 1,420. It is situated in the northwest corner of Township 42, Range 17, Section 6—its elevation giving it a commanding view in every direction, especially over the prairies west and northwest. While it is not the highest elevation in the county, yet the waters part, to run south and north to the Osage and Missouri Rivers, at the north and south sides of the public square.

*Location and Surroundings.*—The original town plat, made in 1835, was a donation to the county by Wyan & (Hugh) Galbraith. They gave thirty-six blocks, each 170 feet square, one of which, next to the north tier of blocks, was made a public



square. The town was long and narrow, being three blocks wide and twelve blocks in length. North and south there were but two streets, while there were ten running east and west. The highest point was selected as a public square. The vast and unbroken view to be seen at that time from this point, nearly overlooking the county, was evidently the determining point in the mind of the locator of the county seat, and which was approved universally by the people. To the southwest, west and north are the beautiful, rich, gently rolling prairies, and to the east and south are seen the deep wooded pastures in gentle swells passing away to the distant blue ridges. For beauty and health there are few spots anywhere that surpass Versailles. To these may be added a climate without extremes, and then one can gain some idea of the capital town of Morgan County. Mr. Street Thruston was commissioner to locate the county seat, and this point was selected and named Versailles in February, 1835. The lots of the county seat were sold at public vendue.

*Manufactories and Business.*—Hugh Galbraith built the first house, in which he opened the first store. The next merchant was Levi Blackwell. In 1836 William Hicks opened a three-room log tavern. Zebulon Moore built a log house on the northeast corner of the public square, and the same year (1836) Joseph Steele built on the south side of the square. Daniel Williams opened a blacksmith shop in 1836. The same year a man named Freeman opened the first saloon; Milton O'Bryan, carpenter, built his residence, and John T. Harmon erected a dwelling in which he kept a boarding-house in 1836. T. & P. Miller opened a store on the northwest corner of the square in the winter of 1836-37. Dr. J. B. Thruston settled in Versailles and commenced the practice of medicine in 1836, and is still acting in the profession. It seems he was alone in the medical line until 1838, when Dr. John J. McClellan came. Nelson opened his store in 1839. In 1840 Hugh Miller was keeping a store. In 1840 the population was a little more than sixty or seventy, and there were about twenty buildings in the place.

The first bricks ever made in the county were by a man named Jones, and of these was built Hugh Galbraith's store. The first steam merchant mill was built in 1872. It now has the "roller

process," and is a first-class mill. (J. F.) Taylor & Goddard (William H.) carried on merchandising from 1852 to 1856. Henry C. Dunn and Crook & Tooley were also merchants at one time, about 1850.

*Incorporation.*—By a vote of the people Versailles was made an incorporated village February 13, 1866, and B. S. Walker, A. J. Hart, W. C. Reed, E. Lindley and R. Boyd Williams were the trustees, W. C. Reed, chairman, and J. Tyler Campbell, clerk. The other adjuncts in the way of necessary legal and official machinery were put in operation. There was not, it seems, very much government meddling needed, and the different officials appear to have run the town smoothly and economically.

May 21, 1881, an election was called, on the question of incorporating the town under the general law as a fourth-class city. The total vote cast was seventy-two, and the result was a majority of eight voted in the affirmative. Then July 9 following was held the first election for mayor and aldermen. Two wards, east and west, had been created. B. R. Richardson was elected mayor, and James McNair, James L. Townley, George W. Petty and John D. Neilson, aldermen.

At the April election, 1881, Max C. E. Joachimi was elected mayor, and J. F. Townley and William Lewis, aldermen; 1882, L. S. Wright, mayor, and John T. Beal and D. A. Fairly, aldermen; 1883, Samuel Livingston, mayor, and in 1884, S. R. Woods; 1887, B. R. Richardson, mayor.

The present officers (1889) are William L. Stephens, mayor; J. B. McGuffin, clerk, and James McNair, G. W. Petty, M. F. Jones and Carl Biersach, aldermen.

*Banks.*—The first attempt at banking in Versailles was by J. B. Kelsay, in 1875. He put in a small capital, and ran along five years and closed. The losses to patrons were trifling.

The Bank of Versailles was founded November 22, 1882, with the present officers: P. G. Wood, president, and W. L. Stephens, cashier. The bank organized with the smallest capital the law allowed, because of the uncertainty as to the prospects caused by the failure of a bank a short time previously. Therefore its capital was placed at \$10,000, but the actual capital issued by the bank soon exceeded \$25,000. The bank is a suc-

cessful and prosperous institution. It is in the Wood's Block, north side of the public square. P. G. Woods is President, and W. L. Stephens, cashier.

On April 16, 1889, the Bank of Morgan County began business at Versailles, with W. E. Maynard, president; Jno. Lumpee, Jr., vice-president; W. W. Moore, cashier, and J. S. Thruston, assistant cashier. In addition to those mentioned (except Mr. Moore), Jno. T. Williams, Hon. Conway Jones, James McNair, Geo. W. Petty, and David Hardy are directors. The capital stock is \$15,000, to be increased as the necessities of business may justify. With such names connected with this financial institution—a guarantee of careful and strict management, its success is assured. Among the correspondents are the Hanover National Bank, New York city, Fourth National Bank, St. Louis, Mo., and the National Bank of Commerce, Kansas City, Mo.

*Present Business.*—The enumeration given below of the enterprises and business now carried on in Versailles, while they make a respectable showing for a town of its size, may not give the reader a sufficient idea of the many inviting advantages the city possesses. The leading stores are large concerns, carrying complete stocks of goods, and doing an extensive business, and even the smallest establishments are usually crowded with customers. There is a wide, rich range of country that contributes to the trade of Versailles—east, south and west, especially, there being no competing point for many miles. The following are the principal concerns and proprietors: Elevator, flour warehouse and ties, Freebairn & Joachimi; merchant, steam mill (roller process), Banks & Moser; clothing John Lumpee, Jr.; general stores, John Lumpee, Jr., Spurlock Bros., Beckman Bros., Banks Bros., C. H. Long, John Freebairn; grocers, E. Thayer, I. Dodson, T. D. O'Bryan, James Poe and C. J. Polston; drugs, J. M. Lumley, J. F. Stephens, C. L. Woodbury, Samuel Martin; agricultural implements, P. Damp, Hardy & Mason; hardware, M. F. Jones, Curtis & Gray; livery, Clark & Williams, Fairley, Ivey & Price; restaurants, Mrs. Maroney, C. Bauer; tobacco and confections, M. Spidel; photographer, E. A. Clodfelter; blacksmiths, Henry Jacobs, William Smith, John Sass and Padgett & Johnson; wagon-makers, Jacob Rains and J. R. Slocum; painters, Duff &

Benson; shoe-makers, Joseph Luckley, Otto Kuhn, Gus Walters; lumber yards, Summerhauser & Co., Petty & Drumgold; carpenters and builders, John Rankin & Son, Duff & Duff, Kidder & Bro., Riley Rainwater, Luther Johnson, J. Tillett & Son, William Ragsdale, George Leatherman, Joseph Stearne and A. L. Bernay; saddlery and harness, John Wassung, A. Klahn; butchers, Hardy & Mason, Swindler & Price; furniture, A. F. Treake, David Kidwell; hotel, Samuel Martin; jewelry, George B. Bohling; stationery, James M. Clifton; millinery, Miss Philips and Mrs. Burkhart, Mrs. E. A. Sackett, Bowels & Clifton; real estate, Davidson & Arnold, Richardson & Taylor, McGuffin & Cravson, J. D. Neilson.

*Versailles' Attractive Features.*—The north side of the public square is built up solidly, nearly all new two-story bricks, in modern style and plate-glass fronts. The business blocks, new two-story bricks, on the west side of the square, require but a few more houses to occupy them solidly. On the east and south sides are mostly frame buildings, though on the southeast corner is a new two-story brick block. On the streets immediately from the square on the north and west sides, are some new and elegant brick structures. During the past year eleven new brick business houses have been erected. In the residence part of town are in every direction new and modern style houses, and several in the course of construction. From the new, neat cottage to the spacious and elegant mansion to be seen on every hand, are evidences of prosperity that impress the visitor strongly. On adjoining lots are frequently to be seen the ancient southern architecture, with two-storied porticos or verandas, and great outside chimneys, and the most modern swell fronts and plate glass. In the early planting of shade trees the people made the mistake of using the black locust. These are rapidly being taken away, and their places will be taken by the elm and the maple.

The supply of water is abundant and inexhaustible for all future manufacturing purposes. In the center of town are some wells 165 feet in depth, and then in the corporate limits are strong flowing wells with considerable pressure. At one time in digging for coal in the north part of town, the water, within a few feet of the surface, flowed in such quantities as to force the men from the

shaft. Adjacent to town are strong springs, one of which has an eight-inch flow. The sole thing necessary to render this place one of the best in the country for manufactories of all kinds is cheap transportation. The proper energy and vigilance of the people in behalf of their own interests will surely soon bring this about.

*Coal Mine.*—Within a few yards of the city's eastern limits is the Martin coal mine, with steam sawmill attachment. Here, if no other is ever discovered, is a cheap and easy of access supply of fuel that will last for generations.

*Fires.*—No serious destruction by fire occurred until October 23, 1886, when one commenced in Fairley & Freebairn's livery stable, northwest of the public square, spreading from there to Freebairn's agricultural implement house, and then destroying a two-story frame building, in which was a butcher's shop, the second story containing the I. O. O. F. and G. A. R. hall. It then crossed the street, and burned the two-story frame in which was the Masonic hall, and traveling south, destroyed the City Hotel and Freebairn's two-story frame residence and business house. This was quite a public calamity, as there was but little insurance on the property. But the people went to work and cleared away the *débris*, and for the burned inferior buildings put up good, substantial modern business houses.

October 2, 1887, the second and greater fire visitation was inflicted upon the people. This commenced in Lumpee's block, on the northwest corner of the public square, burning out that corner down to Lumpee's present brick store-house, and then extended east on the public square, destroying everything to the bank building. A high northwest wind prevailing carried the burning fragments to the court-house, and to the old house on the southeast corner of the square, and destroyed it.

The whole community was fairly prostrated for some time by this calamity, coming as it did so soon upon the heels of the previous one. So quickly, however, did they rally and again put up new and better buildings, that all are now enabled to see that in the end it was but a part of the town's good fortune.

*Societies.*—The A. O. U. W. Lodge, No. 150, was organized August 16, 1879, by P. G. Woods, J. T. Beale, Elwyn Price,

R. T. Walker, F. H. A. Fuegner, John Briscoe, John Grills, Lewis Walter, John Watson, T. D. O'Bryan, J. B. Kelsay and J. W. Morton. First officers: P. G. Woods, P. W. M.; Lewis Walter, M. W.; J. W. Morton, G. F.; Elwyn Price, O.; J. T. Beale, Rec.; J. B. Kelsay, financier; R. F. Walker, receiver; F. H. A. Fuegner, G.; T. D. O'Bryan, I. G.; John Wassung, O. G.

The present membership is nineteen, and is officered as follows: Charles Banks, P. G. Wood and W. H. Kavanaugh, each P. M. W.; J. T. Beale, F.; J. T. Williams, O.; George Decker, G.; John Wassung, R.; J. W. Morton, Rec.; Elwyn Price, F.; Charles Banks, I. W.; J. D. Bohling, O. W. Their hall is in the Versailles Bank building.

Versailles Lodge No. 231, I. O. O. F. There was a small organization of this society here several years ago, but its charter was surrendered and it went out of existence. The present organization was formed in 1883, and elected the following: Louis Lumpee, N. G.; E. M. Duff, V. G.; John Wassung, Treasurer; W. L. Stephens, Secretary. The present membership is twenty, and the officers are as follows: E. M. Duff, N. G.; W. S. Huffman, V. G.; Joseph Popper, Secretary; John Wassung, Treasurer. The charter members were Louis Lumpee, John Wassung, E. M. Duff, H. Spurlock, W. L. Stephens and G. W. Miller.

The charter of Versailles Lodge No. 117, A. F. & A. M., was dated May 10, 1850. Unfortunately it was destroyed by fire October 23, 1886. The charter members were L. E. Williamson, W. M.; W. J. Tutt, Sr. W.; W. B. Tooley, Jr. W., and John Murray, Thomas Monroe, William M. Anderson, S. P. Hunter, Andrew Livingston, W. A. Parks, Thomas R. Jones and J. B. Thruston. Its present membership is ninety-one. The officers are Elwyn Price, W. M.; A. L. Ross, S. W.; John E. Sims, J. W.; P. G. Woods, Treasurer, James McNair, Secretary; William R. Estes, S. D.; W. O. Huffman, J. D.; H. P. Bond, Tyler.

Royal Arch Chapter, No. 72, was organized June 13, 1871, with the following officers and membership: J. V. Allee, M. E. H. P.; D. Williams, E. K.; L. E. Williamson, E. S.; R. C. Armstrong, Captain of Host; D. E. Wray, P. S.; J. B. Clemmer, R. A. C.; William Simpson, M. 3d V.; W. H. Goddard, M. 2d V.;

J. P. Ingram, M. 1st V.; W. R. Litsinger, Guard. The charter is dated October 7, 1871. The officers given above constituted the charter members.

The chapter now has forty-two members and the following officers: P. G. Woods, M. E. H. P.; H. R. Fish, E. K.; O. A. Williams, E. S.; E. Price, Treasurer; James M. Clifton, Secretary; James H. Painter, Captain of Host; E. Price, P. S.; William Lewis, R. A. C.; C. W. Biersach, M. 3d V.; T. R. Brown, M. 2d V.; L. B. Hawks, M. 1st V.; H. P. Bond, Guard.

The Versailles G. A. R. Post was established in May, 1881. The first officers were Maj. W. A. Mills, Commander; Maj. George Stover, Senior Vice; Samuel Tillett, Junior Vice; M. Joachimi, Officer of the Day. The following were charter members: M. Joachimi, Willis B. Jones, Hobert Ripley, Robert Phillips, George Decker, A. J. Williams, Henderson Marple, George H. Stover, John P. Sullens, Otto Kuhn, James F. Craig, Aaron Weare, David C. Duff, August Walters, Samuel Tillett, H. T. Talbot, M. C. Ogden, J. R. Slocum, W. A. Mills and H. W. Smith.

The organization is prosperous, and now has a membership of forty-five. Present officers: M. Joachimi, Commander; Samuel Tillett, Senior Vice; W. H. H. McCarty, Junior Vice; Orrin Hamlin, Quartermaster; M. Moore, Officer; Otto Kuhn, Officer of Guard; John Holloway, Chaplain.

The Y. M. C. A. was formed in 1877, the active parties being J. K. Gwynn, R. S. Harker and Mr. Buck, with thirteen members. They meet in Masonic Hall, and have thirty-seven members.

The Versailles Building and Loan Association was organized in 1887, and now has 150 members and 500 shares. They are preparing to start a new series. A. F. Treakle is president, and W. P. Banks, vice-president, John D. Neilson being secretary.

A branch of the Sedalia Building Association has commenced business in Versailles. They have disposed of seventy-five shares. J. M. Taylor is agent.

*Newspapers.*—Morgan County has been creditably represented in the press fraternity since 1858, and its two newspapers now published indicate that they are conducted by men who keep up with the spirit of progress in the country.

The *Morgan County Forum* was the first newspaper enterprise started in Morgan County; a six-column folio, established and run by John Henderson and brother. Its first number was in 1858. The paper was continued until the breaking out of the war, when the boys went off on a jolly soldiering, and the paper ceased, and has never been revived.

The *Morgan County Banner* was the second newspaper venture in the county, and the first that was republican in politics. Its first issue was in 1865, started by William J. Jackson, a six-column folio. After running it about one year Mr. Jackson sold to B. S. Walker, W. A. Mills and J. H. Stover, a publishing company. In this manner it was published about one year. In the spring of 1867, by purchase of the others' interest, W. A. Mills became the proprietor. In the fall of the same year Mills sold out to W. H. H. McCarty, who conducted it until 1870, when it again passed into the possession of Mr. Mills. He conducted it until January, 1871, when he sold the concern to John A. Hannay. The *Banner* was then furlled.

*Morgan County Gazette.* Immediately after purchasing the *Banner* office, in 1871, John A. Hannay started the *Gazette*, a six-column, Democratic paper. In 1874 the name was changed to the *Versailles Gazette*. Under this name it had a prosperous life until 1875, when the office and good-will were sold to J. K. Gwynn.

The *Morgan Messenger* was started by J. K. Gwynn October 9, 1884, an eight-column, Democratic paper. He published it successfully until October, 1886, when it was destroyed by fire. He then purchased the *Gazette* office of John A. Hannay, and consolidating the two papers started the *Messenger-Gazette*, first issued in November, 1884, as an eight-column, Democratic paper. It prospered, and was regularly issued until the fire, in March, 1887, when the office was totally destroyed, and the paper was never revived.

The *Versailles Vindicator*, a seven-column folio, was started by P. R. Crisp in 1868. It was Democratic in politics. After running one year it stopped, and the office was removed by Mr. Crisp to Kansas.

The *Versailles Argus* existed as a Democratic paper in 1871,



by Monroe Brothers. It had a brief existence of only a few months, and expired. It was a six-column, Democratic paper, and from the fact that it issued a semi-weekly for a short time it is supposed the paper overreached itself, and was discontinued.

*Morgan County Leader*, A. W. Villmoar and R. A. Wright, proprietors, was started January 6, 1887, by Villmoar and John D. Bohling. It is an eight-column folio, and is Democratic in politics. At the expiration of two years Mr. Bohling sold his interest in the concern to R. A. Wright, present member. They are young men, practical printers, and the mechanical make-up of their paper is an evidence of their skill; the editorial columns also manifest their abilities as writers on the political and economic subjects of to-day. Its main interests, however, are in the growth, welfare and development of Morgan County. The subscription books show over 1,500 names.

The *Journal* was a Republican paper, started in Versailles in April, 1872. It was a six-column quarto, and though run in the name of the Missouri Printing Company, was presided over by George Cook. It was sprightly and enterprising, and buffeted nobly the troubled waters of the sea of journalism for over two years, but was probably for the time started upon too large and expensive a scale, and it ceased to exist in the fall of 1884.

The *Methodist Monitor*, as its name indicates, a church paper, was started in the early part of 1888, by Rev. J. M. Stully.\* When the conference sent Mr. Stully to new fields of usefulness, he took the paper with him, and is now publishing it at Wright City, Mo.

The Versailles *Statesman*, a seven-column folio, is Republican in politics, but its strongest faith is in Morgan County, to which its editor, proprietor and founder, J. F. Mounts, is ever a devoted and active friend. It was launched in the world of journalism September 29, 1887, and already can claim a circulation of 800. The mechanical work on the paper shows that a practical printer is at the helm, and its general make-up and matter are evidences that its proprietor is a trained newspaper man; and, what is better than all else, its general tone of prosperity indicates on the part

---

\* Or Stultz.

of the paper a lively appreciation of the press as an educator and friend of the county's institutions.

## REEDSBURG.

Reedsburg was platted and made a legal village January 1, 1858, by Norman Reed. It was on Section 2, Township 41, Range 18, on the line of the contemplated railroad across the county. If the road had filled expectations then the town of Reedsburg would also have no doubt done likewise. As it is, it is mostly *non est inventus*.

## EXCELSIOR.

This town was platted February 3, 1868, by John C. Radcliff. It is situated on Sections 18 and 19, Township 43, Range 16, and is east and a little north of Versailles. It has fifty inhabitants, a postoffice, store, blacksmith, flour-mill and church.

## FLORENCE.

The first settlers of Florence were Dr. Sherman, who settled at this point and started a store, and William Baughman, blacksmith, who opened a shop. It was laid out and platted June 3, 1882, and now has a population of sixty. Its largest industrial interest is J. M. Hummell's pottery. There are general stores kept by Charles Steinbach, C. L. Hughes, John Camerick, Shroder & Rodekohr, and a saddlery shop, blacksmith and wagon shop. Churches of the Lutheran and Baptist faith, and a Reformed Church (St. John's) exist. Before railroad times the town was an important business center. It suffered from fires during the war, and since has never recovered its prosperity fully.

## SYRACUSE.

Syracuse was originally called Pacific City. The first settlers were J. H. Sand, E. S. Ralston, John Finley and T. J. Shanklin. A part of the land on which the town is built was entered by Ralston. He and George Shackelford's farms composed the original plat, as laid out January 25, 1859, by Kendall, Houk & Co., and George Shackelford. The first store was by W. E. Tomson & Son in 1859; the second by Charles Pringer, started the same

year. For nearly two years this was the terminus of the Missouri Pacific Railroad. The population is 250. There are four general and one grocery store, kept by H. M. Keevil, David Crowe, W. H. Carpenter, Joel Bonnell and L. M. Cardry. The town also contains a blacksmith and wagon-maker, the Union Church, a school and postoffice.

#### PROCTOR.

Proctor is situated one mile north of the Osage River, on the Springfield and Boonville road. It was settled at an early day by Samuel Willison, and in time became a small trading point, and was made a postoffice. General stores are kept by Talbott & Bryan and J. W. Hemphill; a drug store by T. J. Gibbs; also a tavern and blacksmith shop. It has about seventy-five inhabitants, and a church and school house. Rich coal and mineral lands lie all about it, and the location is dry, healthy and picturesque.

#### GRAVOIS MILLS.

Gravois Mills was platted and made a village January 22, 1884, by Humes Bros. It has a population of thirty; contains one general store, by J. T. Washburn, one grocery and one drug store and a blacksmith shop. Near the village is the Gravois Mills, water power, flour and saw, and a short distance above the mill is a woolen factory, which was started in 1870 by Humes Bros. The early settlers in this vicinity were James Faris, James Lamb, Daniel Richardson and John Kayes. The first store was by Charles Swanson. Josiah S. Walton originally built the mill.

#### OTHER VILLAGES.

*Akinsville*, a station on the Versailles Railroad, contains a postoffice, blacksmith and wagon shop, and a general store kept by Davinna Bros. The population is thirty.

*Glensted*, six miles north of Versailles, a station on the railroad, has a population of twelve. A church and two residences, and a store by Joseph Milburn, constitute the town's interests.

*St. Martin's*, east of Glensted four miles, has a postoffice, a blacksmith-shop and a general store kept by James R. Lewis.

*Boyer's Mill*, sixteen miles southwest of Versailles, contains

a water flour-mill by Frisch Bros., a postoffice and store by W. P. McKean.

*Barnett* is twelve miles southeast of Versailles. Population, thirty. It has a church, drug store, blacksmith-shop and postoffice, and general store by F. W. English.

*Cape Galena* is eighteen miles south of Versailles. The merchants are J. W. Calfee and Henry Dougherty.

*Pyrmont*, a postoffice hamlet, has a store kept by Gehrs & Warnke.

*Bebra* contains a general store by Carl Hildebrandt.

*Stover*, ten miles west of Versailles, has a church and general store by George Brankhorst.

*Postoffices.*—In Morgan County there are twenty postoffices, as follows: Akinsville, Barnett, Bebra, Boyler's Mill, Cape Galena, Crittenden, Excelsior, Florence, Gladstone, Glensted, Gravois Mills, Proctor, Pyrmont, River View, St. Martin's, Search, Stover, Syracuse, Todd, Versailles.

## SCHOOLS.

With a population of 14,000; with but one town of any size in the county—Versailles, and it with a population of 1,420—the erstwhile sparse settlements, and a not very generous or liberal public school policy in the State, yet Morgan County has seventy public district free schoolhouses, and a school population of 4,165, and also has two male and female institutes where the higher education is being successfully taught. The degree of efficiency and excellence is well maintained in the schools of the county. Under the circumstances, the surroundings of the *ante-bellum* period, the disorganized condition of society for the five years of the war and the five years immediately after, surely these figures show a remarkable degree of intelligent energy in the cause of education. The ex-slaves have been kindly considered, and the white man has paid his taxes freely to supply the colored children with the means of education. The people seemed to realize that the best thing for all was to improve the intelligence of their former slaves, now that they are fellow-citizens. Therefore, there have been no symptoms of race trouble

in Morgan County. And the different church denominations have exhibited the broadest spirit of liberality toward each other, and have been ever ready to join hands in the good work. Still no people have ever been more watchful and conservative in the matter of going in debt for any kind of public purposes. They have put up such schoolhouses only as they could without going deeply in debt or greatly distressing the tax-payers. For this reason they have not made as much noise and commotion as have some communities, but they have acted wisely, as time will abundantly prove.

*First and Later Schools.*—As early as 1833 Thomas G. Davis taught a school in a small log house near Joshua McPherson's, about twelve miles northeast of Versailles.

Soon after the county was organized, in 1833, it was divided into twenty-four school districts and numbered from one to twenty-four. Of course, schools were opened in these districts as rapidly as settlements became numerous enough to sustain them, and in some localities this condition did not occur for several years.

The next school was at the Walton settlement, afterward the first postoffice and town or named place in the county. Walton had built his mill, and the place took the name of Millville. When the county seat was taken from Millville and brought permanently to Versailles, the people of the place in 1836 built a log schoolhouse and employed as teacher a man named Thomas. A two-story frame schoolhouse, two large rooms, was put up, and answered for many years the school purposes of Versailles. The old frame building stands near the present brick schoolhouse.

In 1885 the present brick edifice with four spacious rooms was built, at a cost of \$6,000. An excellent graded school is maintained; the four rooms are principal's, first, second and third assistant's. Charles M. Banks is principal; Mrs. James A. Wray, Misses Lucy Williams and B. D. Robinson, assistants.

*Versailles Institute.*—A male and female high-school was incorporated in May, 1885. It was a movement on the part of the prominent citizens of Versailles, who felt a deep interest in the cause of education. Meetings were held, and stock subscribed and a company formed. The company purchased the

Williamson residence for school purposes, paying therefor \$1,500. At the time of the purchase the property was owned by W. C. Silvey. The professor in charge of the school was Prof. J. K. Gwynn, with an assistant teacher. It failed to receive the expected support, and languished. It is now again operated under new auspices, and is prospering fairly well. The youths of Morgan County can now be prepared at home for entry upon the regular courses in the higher institutions of the country. It is in charge of Prof. F. Gwynn.

*Akinsville Normal and Commercial Institute* was incorporated October 22, 1886, and is one of the prosperous and progressive institutions of Morgan County. It is a male and female institution, and is intended as both a practical and commercial school and to fit the youths of the county to enter the regular college courses, as well as prepare for the profession those who are intending to become school-teachers.

*Buildings.*—One of the very early schools in the county was at the place now Hopewell Church. This is the oldest settled neighborhood in the county, and the neighbors met and by their labor put up a log building for school and church purposes. Here the primitive subscription school was taught for many winters. Three months' school then during the year was the limit that many good people supposed would never be surpassed. Their first school term was taught in the winter of 1832-33. The next one was near McPherson's, north of Hopewell. Near the same time a log schoolhouse was built and a school taught in the north part of the county. Some of the pioneer children walked as far as three and a half miles daily to school, when there were no other roads, often, on the way than slim paths or trails, and on the way they would often see the wild animals of that time, especially the deer and wolves. One of these former school-boys will now tell that he had no fears of the wild animals, but always passed certain points on the way in mortal dread of its concealing a band of war-painted Indians.

In these seventy district school buildings there are taught terms of four to nine months every year. They are all frame except five log houses. The size and excellence of some of these compare favorably with even city schools. Among others giving

the best school advantages may be noted Barnett's, Mobley's, Kelsay's, Walnut Grove, Hopewell and Fisher's.

But two or three districts have any school debt, and these are small amounts of bonds for buildings.

*Statistics.*—The following are the districts and the school population in each. Some of these have a very small population. This is from the fact that such districts are partly in another county:

District No.	Township.	Range.	Number.	District No.	Township.	Range.	Number.
2	40	16	57	1	43	18	59
2	41	16	92	2	43 and 44	18	74
1	42	16	52	3	43	18	55
2	42	16	60	4	43	18	74
3	42	16	91	1	44	18	122
4	42	16	31	2	44	18	71
5	42	16	42	3	44	18	48
1	43	16	71	5	44	18	33
2	43	16	11	6	44	18	32
4	43	16	35	7	44	18	31
6	43	16	50	1	45	18	77
1	40	17	92	2	45	18	75
2	40	17	73	3	45	18	72
1	41	17	73	2	40	19	46
2	41	17	66	3	40	19	49
3	42	18	51	1	41	19	41
3	41 and 42	17	53	3	41	19	43
1	42	17	49	4	41	19	33
2	42	17	40	1	42	19	54
1	43	17	51	2	42	19	69
2	43	17	46	3	42	19	37
3	43	17	32	4	42	19	57
4	43	17	39	1	43	19	93
1	43 and 44	17	23	2	43	19	56
5	43 and 44	17	72	1	44	19	88
6	43	17	21	2	44	19	78
3	44	17	1	3	44	19	35
4	44	17	79	5	44	19	61
1	40	18	60	1	45	19	61
2	40	18	30	2	45	19	70
1	41	18	55	3	45	19	50
2	41	18	21	3	45	18	7
1	42	18	66	3	45	19	7
2	42	18	52	Syracuse.....			97
3	42	18	28	Versailles.....			412

Morgan County receives \$3,700 from the state annually as her share of the pro rata school fund.

Certainly the most attractive feature in the school affairs of the county, at least to the tax-payer and to those contemplating coming here to make their homes, are the excellence of the school

buildings and number and excellence of the schools; as well as the absence of any heavy indebtedness and a very low rate of school taxes. A wise economy has been used—not at the expense of efficiency—and it is easy to see that this kind of conservatism will soon place the county in an enviable position both as to schools and finances.

### CHURCHES.

The pioneers of Morgan County were a moral and a God-fearing people—not noted for wild fanaticism nor their witch-burning proclivities. They were patient, plodding and conservative, and were always more or less inclined to keep their religion and politics separate. But the old patriarchs looked after the religious welfare of their households, and therefore, as soon as enough had gathered in a settlement, they would have “meetings” whenever a local or chance passing preacher could be called into requisition. For many years they would meet at some one of the neighbors’ houses, organize and do what they could to keep brightly burning the fires of the faith within them. Indeed, in several places in the county, yet, there are not enough to form separate denominational societies, and so meet in “union” gatherings, and often have built “Union” churches. That is, the different congregations joined and worked together, but held their separate meetings, and had, when they could get them, their own preachers.

Morgan County has about thirty-five churches and one saloon. This statement bears its own comment.

*Methodist Episcopal Churches (North and South).*—For many years it was simply the Methodist Episcopal Church, but here, as elsewhere in the Southern States, when the split in the Church occurred the Church in the division became the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

The first church in Versailles was Methodist, and organized in 1836. Services were held for some years in the court-room, the first pastor conducting the same being Rev. Abram Millice. He was Morgan County’s first circuit rider. In the course of time the congregation was served—holding at first not more than monthly regular meetings—by Revs. Armitage, Dunlevy, Thomas Wallace and Daniel Leeper.



In 1842 the congregation built their church on the ground now occupied by their present building. It was a large frame structure. In 1877 it was remodeled and rebuilt into its present size and form. The old building was torn down and narrowed in the new and otherwise improved edifice.

Rev. J. B. Woolridge was for years pastor, perhaps longer in charge than any one man.

In 1858 Rev. W. R. Litsinger was in charge, and for some years he was the factotum of the church. During the war it was in a suspended condition, and when the trouble was over, the old members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, again took possession of their property.

There are two Methodist Episcopal Churches (North) in the county—the German Methodist Episcopal Church in Haw Creek Township and the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church in Versailles. The latter building is near the colored school, and was erected in 1880. A large congregation hold regular services. Lewis Shepherd is pastor in charge.

Places of worship of the Methodist Church in the early pioneer times in Morgan County were established in about the following order and places. There was an organization and services at Hopewell Church, Abney's, eight miles west of Versailles; a church was built on the Gravois, near Thomas Allen's, eight miles south of Versailles; another at Self's, eight miles northwest of Versailles, and one at Wesley Church, six miles east of Versailles.

Glensted Methodist Episcopal Church building was erected in 1886—a substantial frame. Regular services are held, joined in by a large congregation.

Rock Springs Methodist Episcopal Church building was erected in 1874-75. It is situated on the Moreau, eight miles northwest of Versailles. It has stated meetings.

Proctor Methodist Episcopal Church is a frame house in the hamlet of Proctor, two miles north of the south county line. The building is quite ancient, and services are held but seldom and irregularly.

Hinken Methodist Episcopal Church was organized as early as 1850. It is situated in Haw-Creek Township, ten miles north-

west of Versailles. A good frame building is here, and a strong society, the pastor in 1888 being Rev. Dryer.

Mount Nebo Methodist Episcopal Church (South) was built as the property of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. A good building, on a beautiful site, is six miles northwest of Versailles. The title to the property is just now in doubt. Rev. Bond of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, holds regular services. Good sized congregations are in attendance. The building was erected in 1882.

Self's Chapel (Methodist Episcopal Church, South) in Haw Creek Township, is near the north line of Haw Township. The society has been organized since 1855. Joshua A. Self is the founder and principal.

Wesley Church (Methodist Episcopal, South), is northeast of Versailles seven miles. The building was put up in 1859. A small congregation attend the services, which are held irregularly.

*Baptists.*—The Baptist Churches are of the particular denomination called "Regular."

Freedom (Baptist) Church was built in 1857, and is a large and flourishing congregation, worshiping in a commodious church building. The ministers in charge have been Revs. Estes Woods and Thomas Greer, Josiah M. Chaney, J. D. Box, J. L. Baughman and John Robinson. The present pastor is Rev. J. T. Letts. The church organization is ten years older than their building.

The Versailles Baptist Church is also called the First Baptist Church of Versailles. The congregation was organized in 1863, with thirteen members. The first pastor was Rev. J. B. Box, followed by Revs. R. H. Harris, James Price, S. M. Victor, J. T. Letts and the present minister in charge, L. M. Berry. The erection of the present church edifice was commenced in 1876. The congregation now numbers twenty.

The Colored Baptist Church of Versailles have a comfortable building and fair sized congregation. They hold regular services. Lewis Anthony is pastor in charge. Their building was put up in 1881.

Florence Baptist Church has a comfortable building in the village.

Salem Baptist Church is in Haw Creek Township, the building having been erected in 1880. J. L. Baughman is pastor.

Mount Carmel Baptist Church is about seven miles south of Syracuse. The good building is occupied by a fair congregation, with stated services. Aaron Hodge is one of the prominent and early men in the organization; also Robert Moore and A. C. Lampton.

Mount Olive Baptist Church, in the northwest of Mill Creek Township, occupies a building which was erected in 1879.

Bethlehem Baptist Church, in Richland Township, has as pastor Rev. Dinwiddie.

Big Rock organization is twenty years old. Their present building was put up in 1886, the first edifice having been erected about 1870. Their present pastor, Howard Jackson, and John West have been the principal ministers in charge.

Big Gravois Baptist Church is at Hume's Mill, a new and good building. Previous to that meetings were held in the district school-house. Rev. A. Bowers was first pastor, and then J. E. Sims. The present pastor is J. L. Baughman.

Upper Gravois Baptist Church, sometimes called Richey Church, is situated seven miles south of Versailles. The building house was erected in 1884, previous to which a school-house was occupied. Rev. Baughman is pastor. The first preachers were Revs. A. Bowers, J. M. McCourtney and Daniel Bowers.

*Christian Churches.*—New Prospect Christian Church is situated seventeen miles south of Versailles. The organization was effected in 1885, and meetings are held in the school-house near the old place once called Mining Post, at the mouth of Gravois.

The Christian Church at Versailles was organized in February, 1886, by State Evangelist G. A. Hoffman, with ten members: John Witten and wife, S. K. Woods, Mary L. Woods, Tabitha French, Susan Anthony, Betty Robinson, Isaac Dodson and Mary Dodson. The elders were Witten and Dodson; first pastor, O. A. Feltner. Meetings are held in the Baptist Church. The membership at present is ninety. The present minister is William P. Dorsey. Preaching is held once a month. The Sunday-school numbers 140. For some years S. R. Wood was superintendent. He was succeeded by W. D. Ross, assisted by P. G. Wood.

Barnett Christian Church is the second church of this denomination. Its name indicates its place in the county. They have a comfortable church house and stated services. The congregation is in a prosperous condition. The church was built for a union church and school-house in 1884. Among the early organizers was Levi Dutcher, who served them. The present pastor is E. F. Hoffman. Rev. J. D. Thompson was pastor the second year.

Hopewell Christian Church, in Moreau Township, east of Versailles, was organized in 1866, under J. W. Sappington. He returned in 1878, and preached two years, being succeeded by James M. Tennyson for three years; then O. P. Davis and Rev. J. W. Frost. A union Sunday-school is held. In this house the congregations of Christians, Missionary Baptists and Cumberland Presbyterians hold services. Of the Christian preachers there have been J. H. D. Thompson and D. W. Connor; then J. D. Thompson and then the present pastor.

Their present building is the third that has been built at this place, succeeding, first, the Presbyterians and Methodists; then Baptists and Christians, after which the third building was erected, and is their present church. It is a large, commodious edifice, 60x40 in dimensions.

*Episcopal Church.*—This denomination was organized in Versailles in 1888. Meetings are held in the Baptist Church. The first services were conducted by Rev. Wilkins. Their present pastor is Rev. Fulton.

*Union Churches.*—New Hope Union Church was built by Cumberland Presbyterians early in the 70's, under Rev. Tipton. The Baptists, Cumberland Presbyterians and Christians hold regular services in this building. It is southeast of Versailles, on the Gravois.

Syracuse Union Church was put up in 1860. There are three church societies that meet at stated times in this building.

Pleasant Union Church is in the northern part and near the west line of the county. The Congregationalists now hold regular meetings in this church.

Chaney Chapel is a union church. The Methodists and Baptists have regular preaching in this building. It is about twelve miles southwest of Versailles.

*Lutheran Churches.*—This denomination has three churches in Haw Township. This part of the county was settled at an early day by Germans, and they built their churches soon after coming to the county. They have comfortable buildings and strong societies. North of Florence are two Lutheran Churches.

*Catholic Church.*—The Catholic Church of Morgan County is in Osage Township. It has stated visits from pastors. One of the leading men of this church is Mr. Fitzpatrick, and he was largely instrumental in having it located in that place. It is served at stated times from distant points.

*Mount Zion Church* (Mennonite), situated seven miles northeast of Versailles, Daniel Driver, pastor, is a comfortable frame building, erected in 1874. The people of this faith began their settlement in this part of the county in 1869–70, and soon after effected their church organization, holding meetings at members' houses until their church was built.

*Prairie View Church* (Dunkard) is about half a mile from St. Martin's postoffice. It was built in 1881; David Bowman is pastor. It was organized in 1875 with twenty members, which number has increased to seventy-four.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

*The Wheel.*—In the absence of societies of farmers, such as Patrons of Husbandry, agricultural societies, etc., the agriculturists of the county have introduced the "Wheel," a secret society, formed, so far as can be learned, for the benefit of its members in the matter of purchasing their mercantile supplies. To state their purpose in fewest words, it would seem to be their object to rid themselves of buying and selling through "middle men," and by means of their authorized agents to deal directly with the wholesalers and manufacturers. They will have, for instance, a State purchaser, who does the purchasing for all Wheel stores in Missouri, and by the details of the society's workings it is evident they are doing much business. Farmers who are Wheelers are given a card, and the cost mark of goods, and allowed to purchase at a price of ten per cent added to cost.

At this time it is difficult to guess how permanent the insti-

tution may become in the county, but this is demonstrated, that for the few weeks of its existence it has made rapid advances and many accessions to its members.

*Elections.*—The first elections in Morgan County were held at Willis Brown's in Moreau Township; at Joshua McPherson's in (Willow) Mill Creek; at Elias Bocker's, Osage; W. C. Scott's, Buffalo; at Mansfield Hatfield's, Richland; at Littleton Johnson's, Haw Creek.

The judges of elections in the different townships were as follows: Phillip Barger, James Enlow, Buford Allee, for Mill Creek; Thomas Kenedy, Sr., William Donnegan, William Kelsay, for Moreau; William Poor, William Rhea, Warner Houser, for Osage; John R. Huff, William C. Scott, William Janes, for Buffalo; Hugh Morrison, Samuel Kelsay, Woodson Scoggins, for Haw Creek; Mansfield Hatfield, Joseph B. Steele, James McCutchan, for Richland.

Buford Allee was commissioned the first justice of the peace in the county. Other justices appointed at organization were William Kirkpatrick and Benjamin Gist. Robert Wilson was appointed the first county treasurer in August, 1833.

*County Officials.*—The following record includes the list of Morgan County's officials from the earliest date, with the time of election to office:

Circuit judges: David Todd, 1833; Charles H. Allen, 1836; William Scott, 1836; James W. Morrow, 1841; George W. Miller, 1851; Theron M. Rice, 1869; George W. Miller, 1875; Edward L. Edwards, 1879.

Representatives: William Monroe, 1833; John B. Fisher, 1834; Lot Howard, 1836; Hugh Miller, 1838; William Cole, 1840; John Kelsay, 1842; John C. McCoy, 1844; William Baughman, 1846; William Crook, 1848; William Baughman, 1850; S. S. Abney, 1852; William Bradford, 1854; Peter R. Burns, 1856; S. S. Abney, 1858; William Baughman, 1860; B. F. Willson, 1864; Elisha Taylor, 1866; Moses S. Courtright, 1868; John Williams, 1870; William Baughman, 1872; A. B. Brock, 1874; Anderson W. Anthony, 1876; David C. Dale, 1878; Daniel E. Wray, 1880; Orsino A. Williams, 1882; A. B. Brock, 1884; Conway Jones, 1886; William L. Abney, 1888.

Judges of county court: Zacheus German, 1833; Seth Howard, 1833; John B. Fisher, 1833; Phillip Barger, 1834; J. M. Bernard, 1834; William S. Barnett, 1834; John B. Fisher, 1836; Zacheus German, 1836; John Chism, 1838; Phillip Barger, 1838; Francis L. Ross, 1840; Charles M. Brooking, 1842; John Porter, 1842; Buford Allee, 1842; Ezekiel J. Salmon, 1845; John M. Reed, 1845; William K. Brown, 1846; B. F. Willson, 1848; Coleman L. Bridges, 1849; Martin H. Parks, 1850; William K. Brown, 1853; John Porter, 1855; John Sims, 1855; James W. McCoy, 1856; Hugh Kelsay, 1856; W. H. Brown, 1858; C. O. Rice, 1860; Hiram Madole, 1860; B. F. Willson, 1862; John Sims, 1862; Jacob Cline, 1862; Hugh Kelsay, 1862; Perry Ross, 1864; Samuel M. Willson, 1865; I. Luckenbill, 1865; W. V. Banks, 1866; Peter Haase, 1866; John H. Papen, 1868; George H. Stover, 1870; John Bohling, 1870; E. D. Bailey, 1870; Samuel H. Legg, 1872; Joseph N. Martin, 1873; Thomas B. Clark, 1874; J. M. Salmon, 1876; H. P. Bond, 1876; D. M. English, 1876; B. G. Bowling, 1878; Henry Gehrs, 1880; John H. Webster, 1880; John H. Alfter, 1882; E. F. Gunn, 1882; John W. Comp, 1882; I. H. Earnest, 1884; Henry Wagenknecht, 1886; T. L. Callison, 1886; George W. Sanford, 1888.

Probate judges: James P. Ross, 1847; Ezekiel J. Salmon, 1849; John A. S. Tutt, 1853; William C. Sevier, 1858; Andrew Masters, 1862; William C. Reed, 1865; John C. McCoy, 1867; James V. Allee, 1872; John C. Todd, 1875; James H. Thruston, 1881.

Circuit and county clerks: Thomas G. Davis, 1833; Thomas Monroe, 1842; Calvin H. Huff, 1854; W. W. Salmon (appointed), 1861; Peter R. Burns (appointed), 1862; W. A. Mills, 1866; W. H. H. McCarty, 1870; John Briscoe, 1874; Caleb Gumm, 1882; Joel D. Hubbard, 1886.

The circuit clerk's office was severed from the county clerk's office in 1874. James McNair was elected in 1874, and is still in office.

County treasurers: Robert Wilson, 1833; Levi Blackwell, 1836; Hugh Galbraith, 1838; William Boggs, 1843; L. E. Williamson, 1845; John J. McClellan, 1856; L. E. Williamson, 1858; John J. McClellan, 1858; William P. Cooksey, 1860;

William C. Reed, 1863; B. R. Williams, 1866; James A. Spurlock, 1870; Peter G. Woods, 1872; J. S. Thruston, 1882; Peter G. Woods, 1886.

Sheriffs and collectors: Joseph M. Bernard (refused to act), 1833; William B. Anthony, 1833; Alfred McCulchan, 1834; Robert Wilson, 1836; Archibald Woods, 1837; Waid Howard, 1839; Green L. Donehit, 1840; William J. Tutt, 1843; William J. Davis, 1849; Peter R. Burns, 1852; William H. Goddard, 1856; James C. Puckett, 1860; W. A. Mills, 1862; B. S. Walker, 1862; George W. Painter, 1866; B. F. Lutman, 1868; John Briscoe, 1870; Anton E. Ehlers, 1875; William H. Goddard, 1875; Charles B. Howard, 1880; William H. Kavanaugh, 1884; Robert E. Dornan, 1888.

(Ephraim Wilson waited upon the first court that met in the year 1833, but his appointment as sheriff, if such it was, went no farther.)

County attorneys: James P. Ross, 1838; John A. S. Tutt, 1849; John H. Stover, 1867; Anderson W. Anthony, 1870; Daniel E. Wray, 1874; R. F. Walker, 1876; Asa L. Ross, 1882.

Assessors: Joseph McPherson, 1833; Joseph B. Steele, 1834; James M. Scoggins, 1835; John Taylor, 1836; George Campbell, 1837; John D. Campbell, 1841; George Campbell, 1842; George W. Martin, 1844; John D. Campbell, 1844; George Campbell, 1847; Peter R. Burns, 1851; William Pennebaker, 1853; James C. Puckett, 1857; John Porter, James C. Puckett, W. W. Crook, Jackson Monhollon, 1858; John Grills, John Sims, Peter Taylor, James Dornan, 1859; James Dornan, 1860; W. A. Mills, 1863; James S. Campbell, 1864; W. H. W. Argenbright, 1866; Anton E. Ehlers, 1868; J. S. Campbell, 1873; Charles B. Howard, 1876; John S. Madole, 1878; John J. Carpenter, 1880; James F. Yancy, 1882; James A. Hughes, 1884; Green B. Snorgrass, 1888.

Surveyors: Howard Chism, 1833; Hugh Brown, 1833; William Boggs, 1839; D. W. German, 1859; James P. Hook, 1866; John H. Burnam, 1868; Thomas R. Humes, 1872; George P. Clark, 1884; David W. Eaton, 1888.

Coroners: W. J. Tutt, 1856; John Henderson, 1860; Reuben Cline, 1863; Samuel Tillett, 1866; Daniel Burns, 1868; O. A.



Williams, 1876; W. L. Hatler, 1884; G. M. Gunn, 1886; T. R. Bridges, 1888.

Public administrators: John Sims, 1880; William Wendleton, 1884; Turner D. O'Bryan, 1888.

Commissioners of schools: William C. Sevier, 1858; Samuel R. Woods, 1860; Thomas Turnbull, 1864; Samuel R. Lutman, 1870; T. B. Reese, 1872; William D. Morris, 1874; H. A. Blake, 1876; J. F. Morris, 1878; A. L. Ross, 1883; J. A. Blevins, 1885; Samuel Daniels, 1886; George W. Hannum, 1887.

*Electoral Vote.*—The electoral vote of Morgan County for the year 1876 was: Democratic, 1,038 votes; Republican, 748.

1880: Democratic, 950; Republican, 798; Greenback, 57.

1884: Democratic, 1,104; Republican, 1,014; Greenback, 2.

1888: Democratic, 1,362; Republican, 1,260; Prohibition, 8; Labor Union, 2.

*Election 1888.*—The following table is the vote on presidential electors:

TOWNSHIPS.	Democratic.	Republican.	Scattering.	Total.
Richland.....	123	244	29	396
Buffalo.....	151	113	..	264
Mill Creek .....	216	204	5	425
Moreau .....	494	324	10	829
Haw Creek.....	158	290	11	619
Osage.....	210	85	2	297
Total in county .....	1,352	1,260	57	2,670

*County Officers.*—The present county officials are Hon. E. L. Edwards, circuit judge; Henry Wagenknecht, county judge. Associates: T. L. Callison, First District, and G. W. Sanford, Second District. Probate judge, J. S. Thruston; county clerk, Joel D. Hubbard; circuit clerk, James McNair; sheriff and collector, R. E. Dornan; school commissioner, G. W. Hannum; assessor, G. B. Snorgrass; county surveyor, D. W. Eaton; public administrator, T. D. O'Bryan.

*Railroads.*—The first railroad built within the lines of Morgan was the main line of the Missouri Pacific Railway. It enters the county at the extreme northeast corner of Mill Creek Township, and then bearing north passes out of the county, and again enters it and crosses the northwest corner of Richland

Township. It thus cuts off a small angle at the extreme northeast and the northwest corners of the county. It was built to Syracuse in 1857-58. At this point it terminated for nearly two years. This gave a tremendous impetus to the place, which subsided when the line was finished on west. The distance of the line in Morgan County is 7.9 miles.

The station of Syracuse is the only one it has in the county.

*Boonville & Versailles Railroad.*—In the *ante-bellum* days, with the first impetus to railroad building in this part of the country, a road was chartered under the name of the Osage Valley & Southern Kansas Railroad, commencing at Boonville, and running through Southwest Missouri into Kansas being the route intended. The survey and location between Boonville and Versailles were made. It was graded and ties hauled along the line in 1861. Then the war stopped everything, and it was left until 1872, when it was again worked upon. The high waters washed away everything movable, and again the work lay idle until 1879, when it was taken up and completed. The county had already donated \$100,000, and for years it looked as if it was that much money thrown away.

The project was revived as the Boonville, St. Louis & Southern Railway, again commencing at Boonville, and coming to Versailles. It is now the Boonville & Versailles Branch road. The new projectors asked the county to increase their first donation. After much trouble it was added to \$30,000, thus making the county railroad indebtedness, with the interest, \$135,000. The county was given stock equal to its subscription. It is simply a branch road of the Missouri Pacific from Tipton to Versailles. The road was completed from Tipton to Versailles June 2, 1881, the day of the arrival of the first regular train. The people had made preparations, and a grand celebration and banquet were held for the great crowd of people in attendance.

Regular trips are made each way every day, except Sunday, a mixed train leaving Tipton about noon, and coming to Versailles and returning. Even in its uncompleted condition it is a paying franchise. It has hauled enough ties and mules out of Versailles to have made it a lucrative road if it had had no other traffic.

*St. Louis, Kansas City & Colorado Railroad.*—The east and

west line of the St. Louis, Kansas City & Colorado Railroad, from St. Louis to Kansas City and Fort Scott, is located through the county, and it is built and operated a distance of sixty-five miles out from St. Louis. The completion through the county is of vast importance to the people, and the universal hope is that this will soon be accomplished.

*Iona Lodge No. 381, A. F. & A. M.*, is the Masonic Hall and school-house, two miles north of Barnett. The Masonic society joined with the school district and put up the building, adding the second story, which is their hall. The society was chartered in 1869, the charter members being G. W. Colvin, A. M. H. Bills, William Simpson, R. M. Hargett, H. B. Groff, J. B. Coleman, Edward Saunders and Ferdinand Rauschelbach. The first officers were William Simpson, W. M.; Joseph Colton, S. D.; G. W. Colvin, J. D.; E. B. Brock, secretary; Edward Saunders, tyler. The present officers are A. P. France, W. M.; S. R. English, S. W.; Joseph Stiffler, J. W.; T. G. Price, secretary; E. Saunders, tyler.

*County Finances.*—Except a railroad indebtedness of \$135,000 of six per cent railroad bonds, Morgan County is free of debt. The rate of taxes and the low assessments of all property in the county are powerful facts to attract that class of immigrants who are wanted to make this their permanent home. On \$100 of assessment the taxes are: State tax, forty cents; county tax, fifty cents; railroad tax, forty cents, or a total, outside of school tax, of \$1.30. There are few counties in the United States that can make a more favorable showing than this. The municipality of Morgan has reached that propitious condition of an efficient and cheap government. To be free from debt as a corporate body and as a people is the proud boast and glory of Morgan County. The questions of high and low taxes are now closely looked into by the modern home seekers. There was a time when the new arrival in a county was shown the splendid public building and improvements, and these were supposed to be the strong attraction. It is no longer so; the intelligent investigator looks first to the rate of taxes. These kind of men will be favorably impressed with the financial condition of Morgan County.

*Cyclones.*—In 1872 a terrible and fatal wind storm swept through the county from the northwest to the southeast. It entered the county at or near Syracuse and passed southeast near Barnett. At this point the tracks of this and the storm of 1880 crossed. In the storm of 1872 Mr. Blosser and child were killed outright and his wife was seriously wounded, and all the other members of the family were severely hurt; Avery Fisher and family were all injured, and another Mrs. Blosser badly wounded. Mr. Brander and family were also wounded. The houses of these families were wrecked and considerable property destroyed.

April 18, 1880, what is supposed to have been the great Marshfield cyclone struck this county with terrible effect. About half-past 5 o'clock Sunday afternoon was the hour of its appearance in the southwest part of the county. It could be tracked first about two miles south of the Osage River. If it was the Marshfield storm, it had jumped a long distance to that point, and passing up a ravine rose again and crossed the river, and struck the earth near Mill Creek, in this county, nearly at the range line between 18 and 19, and going in a northeast direction to Amos Richards, killed one child outright and badly wounded another; thence to Leon Meyers, wounded Mrs. Meyers and destroyed the house; then to John Rasterfor's. The house was carried away to the floor, and the people blown two hundred yards, but no one badly hurt. At Hugh Combs' the mother and children crawled beneath the house floor, and here, too, the house was torn to fragments and carried away except the floor; then the storm struck a house occupied by a man named Polley. Two girls were near the house which was destroyed; Michael H. Stover's house was also destroyed and the logs piled about the family, who huddled in the middle of the room, and fastened them in, but hurt no one. Mr. Stover described the logs as gently floating in the air about him, and says he sat in his chair and pushed many of them into positions when they settled. Mr. Madole's large family of small children were at home alone. In their fright they ran under the bed. The house and contents were destroyed, everything except the bed and children, none of whom were injured. Reuben Routen was killed. John Hunter's house was destroyed, and his two sons, Shores P. and Daniel,

killed—one outright, and the other lingered in great agony until the following Friday. Barnett lay exactly in the destroyer's path, and was totally destroyed, the merchant A. Y. Campbell, Harry McKinley, northeast of Barnett, and Mrs. C. Green and two children being killed, and nearly every other person in the place wounded. At what was known as the coal mine Hiram Peterhoff had his leg broken. A blacksmith named McLean was wounded, torn and bruised almost out of human shape, but he recovered. One man had reached the gatepost within a few feet of his door, and was found dead, clinging to the post. The force had whipped him about and broken nearly all his bones. Some ten or twelve of the wounded had been carried to Dr. Hargett's, whose house was just outside of the storm line, where they were attended and cared for. The charity of the good people of the county was appealed to in this calamity, and not in vain.

