

HISTORY OF RANDOLPH COUNTY.

BY W. R. SAMUEL.

The first settlement made in Randolph County was in the year 1817. Principally by emigrants from Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina.

They were generally poor in this world's goods; but, with stout hearts and willing hands. And, by the exercise of frugality and economy, soon gained a competency. They not only raised and killed (for wild game of many kinds, such as deer, elk, bear, turkey, squirrel and quail, were in great abundance, and so was honey,) what they eat, but also the industrious wives and daughters of these Western Pioneers made all the material and manufactured with their busy hands, not only the every-day, but the Sunday suits, also. Industry was not the only quality possessed by the first settlers of Randolph. Honesty and fair dealing characterized their every transaction. There was but little use for law or law-makers; but if a wayward offender did commit any dishonorable act, he was brought quickly to summary justice, and the frowns of the whole settlement rested upon him ever afterward, until he proved himself a changed man. And the only way he could ever regain any standing in the community, was by proving a reformation in his future conduct in life. And it took quite a long probation before his title to respectability was established. And unless such an offender did attempt a reformation, and by his actions and dealings prove to the community that his object was to do right in the future of his life, the indignation of his neighbors (for all the County were neighbors then, although the area of the County extended from the Howard County line on the South to the Iowa State line on the North, a distance of more than 100 miles,) rested so heavily upon him, and was so plainly to be seen by him, that he was compelled to seek some other locality, in which to practice his deception and rascality.

I have been informed, however, by some of these now gray-headed old men, who were then young, vigorous, strong and active, that but a very few indeed of the first settlement of Randolph County were men of bad character, or that had to be watched in any of their dealings. They were most generally honorable, high-minded, generous, whole-souled men and women, and were ever ready and willing to perform acts of kindness and charity, when deserving and necessary.

These first settlers were noted for hospitality and sociability. In those days, however, there were no fairs, circuses, nor railroad excursions to bring the people together, but then they had house-raising, log-rolling, corn-shuckings, and quillings, that brought the people together for many miles, when they not only greatly assisted a neighbor in his work, but enjoyed themselves very much in partaking of the bountiful repast, furnished by the hostess, consisting most generally of venison, turkey, bear, honey, milk and corn dodgers, with now and then coffee and hot biscuit, and with dancing, and talking over the events of the day, the arrival of new-comers, and the prospect of an Indian raid.

It was customary in those days for every male over eighteen years of age to have a good trusty rifle and plenty of ammunition. Shot-guns were unknown, also revolvers. These hardy men most generally took their firearms with them wherever they went, not for the purpose though, be it remembered, to shoot one another, as is often done now-a-days, (it was a very rare occurrence in those times,) but to defend themselves against the wild, untutored red man, who then had their wigwags so close to their borders, and occasionally made unexpected raids into the white settlements to take vengeance upon the innocent and peaceful citizen, for some outrage often committed upon the poor Indian by some of the few bad white men, that then had their homes somewhere in these western wilds.

From an acquaintance with the Indians that lived in the northwestern portion of the State of Missouri, when the Platte purchase was first being occupied, I am satisfied that most of the cruelty and butchery committed by the savages, in those days, were occasioned by the fact that bad white men, either instigated them, or had committed great outrages upon the Indians when they had the advantage of them. And, they being savages, and perhaps knowing no better, would take vengeance upon the first pale-face man, woman or child that happened in their pathway. But it is true, no doubt, also, that these red men of the forest took great delight in shedding blood, and gloried in taking the scalp of the white man; and for even a fancied wrong, conjured up by the brain of some would-be chieftain, they would raise the war-whoop, and sally forth, seeking whom they might devour. Hence, when in the year 1829, these first settlers of Randolph County, together with others that had then made the good old County their future home, heard by a messenger, fresh from the scene of the conflict, his fiery charger foaming, being driven by the whip and spur to his utmost speed, (no telegraph or railroad then to carry the news as by lightning,) that the Indians on the northern borders had raised the war club, and were marching rapidly to the settlements, murdering indiscriminately men, women and children, that were then scattered along in isolated settlements from the Iowa line down to what is now the boundary line of Randolph County. The news was carried from cabin to cabin by swift and trusty messengers. It was

appalling, it is true, and no doubt carried great consternation to some. But action was quickly taken, and preparation made to send the women and children down to the big settlement in Howard County, under charge of the old and feeble men, not able for military duty, where they knew they would be well protected, and cared for cheerfully, heartily and generously, and a company of about seventy men, comprising nearly all the able-bodied adult men in the County. Robt. Sconce, a highly respected citizen, who many years afterwards died in the County, was elected Captain, and marched at once to the field of battle. In the meantime a regiment was organized in Howard County, under command of Colonel, now General John B. Clark, who is still living, and an honored citizen yet of Howard County. The Indians were driven without much trouble north of the State Boundary. Before the expiration of these troubles, two other companies, under command of Captain Abraham Goodring, who was also in the war of 1812, and still a highly respected citizen of the County, and Captain Robert Boucher, who died several years ago in this County, who died as he had lived, greatly respected. This small war was one of the incidents, as it is said, leading to the famous Black Hawk war. Among the survivors of the troublesome times, now citizens of Randolph County, and all being highly esteemed and good citizens, I can call to mind the following: I wish I knew them all. Joseph M. Hammitt, Thomas J. Samuel, Dr. William Fort, Abraham Goodring and James Holman.

The next war that called for the patriotism of Randolphians was in 1846, when the general government called for volunteers to defend the country's honor from insult by the Mexican Government. A company of about one hundred men was raised in a very short time, with Hancock Jackson as Captain, who is still living at Salem, Oregon. He was a man of genial disposition, very popular, and was often honored with public trust. He was also the first Sheriff Randolph County ever had. This company left Huntsville upon their unknown destination, on the first Monday in August, 1846, and after spending several weeks at Fort Leavenworth, and making preparations for the long and wearisome journey, struck out on the desert plains for Santa Fe, New Mexico. They fought no hard battles, but had hard marches, and hard fare, and very often some noble man was buried on the sandy plains, with only a rough blanket for his winding sheet, and no coffin, and many found graves upon the barren hills, around Santa Fe, Zosa, and Bent's Fork. The survivors returned home in November, 1847, and were received with great joy, and were given a grand old-fashioned barbecue, which they enjoyed very highly.

Of those living of this volunteer company, I can call to mind only the following: Hancock Jackson, Captain, Salem, Oregon; William R. Samuel, 2d Lieutenant, Huntsville, Mo.; Wilson Fletcher, 1st Sergeant, Gainsville, Texas; Thomas L. Gorham, 1st Corporal, Fort Shaw, Montana; Walker Holman, Bagler, Unionville, Putnam County; Ellis R. Wilson, Woodville, Macon County, Mo.; William G. Riley, Jacksonville, Randolph County, Mo.; Granville H. Wilson, Rennick, Randolph County, Mo.; Howard H. Richardson, Rennick, Randolph County, Mo.; Henry C. Johnson, Redding Home, Randolph County, Mo.; Edward Parcells, Kirkville, Adair County, Mo.; Perry McFee, Gainsville, Texas; Lewis K. Collier, Roanoke, Howard County, Mo.; William Embree, Roanoke, Howard County, Mo.; Robert C. Read, California; William T. Read, California; Ambrose Bradgion, Linn County, Mo.; King Collett, Kirkville, Mo.; J. M. Latta, Terre Haute, Indiana; Phillip Baxter, Chillicothe, Mo.

In the late unhappy conflict, Randolph furnished quite a number of men for both armies.

The following were amongst the first settlers of the County, as far as I can ascertain:—

William Holman, Joseph Holman, Sr., Jos. Holman, Jr., Iverson Sears, John Sears, Hardy Sears, Asa Kerby, David R. Denny, Younger Rowland, John Rowland, Archie Rowland, Sam. Humphreys, Wright Hill, Rev. Jas. Barnes, Uriah Davis, Abm. Gross, Isiah Humphreys, Rev. S. C. Davis, James Davis, John Viley, Jacob Medley, Thos. Mayo, Sr., Charles Mathis, Tillman Bell, James Beattie, Charles Fennell, Val Mayo, Chas. Baker, Sr., Jos. M. Baker, Chas. Baker, Jr., Dr. W. Fort, Jer. Summers, John Wellden, Wm. Elliott, Neal Murphy, Wm. Cross, Nat. Hunt, Blandly Smith, Geo. Burekhardt, John D. Reed, Capt. Robert Sconce, Jas. Goodring, Elijah Hammett, Jno. J. Turner, Joseph Wilcox, Jas. Cochran, Thos. Gorham, Sr., T. R. C. Gorham, Daniel Hunt, Wm. Goggin, Reub. Samuel, Thos. J. Samuel, John Head, Robt. Boucher, Jos. M. Hammett, Dr. W. B. McLean, Chas. McLean, F. K. Collins, Paul Christian, Sr., Jos. Cockrill, Robert W. Wells.

These are only a few of the names of the settlers before the organization of the County, but having no means of getting a full list, have to be content with giving such as reported by some of the pioneers. Randolph County was organized in 1829, and the first County Court was held 27th February, at the house of Blandly Smith, about one mile from where the Court House

*still living.

now stands, James Head, Wm. Fort, and Jos. M. Baker, judges. Amongst other proceedings had, the Court made the following appointments (to wit), Thomas J. Gorham, Surveyor; Terry Bradley, Assessor; and Jacob Medley, Collector. The Collector was required to give bonds in the sum of \$600. The present collector's bond is \$130,000. The first settlement of the County was made and approved the following November, in which, he reported \$283.60 collected, and \$1.25 delinquent, and was allowed for his services \$20.20. They also appointed Nathan Hunt (after whom and his brother, Daniel Hunt, the town of Huntsville was named), Constable of Salt Spring Township; Nathaniel Floyd, Constable of Prairie Township; John McCully, Constable of Silver Creek Township; and Abraham Gooding, Constable of Sugar Creek Township. He was afterward elected Constable of the same Township for nearly forty years, I believe, without ever suffering a defeat, and is still living in Randolph County. The Court also recommended to the Governor the following persons as Justices of the Peace, who were all commissioned and qualified:—

For Salt Spring Township, Blandin Smith, James Wells and Archibald Shoemaker. They were all afterwards County Judges, and are all now deceased, all however living to good old ages. Blandin Smith served for many years as Justice of the Peace, and was quite eccentric, but was a great stickler for justice, and was upright and honorable in all his dealings, and wanted every one else to be so. Whenever a man was brought before him, or had a case in his Court, and he became satisfied that he was attempting to defraud, or take advantage of any technicality of the law, or evade the payment of his just debts, Uncle Blandly, as he was familiarly called, would show him no quarter; and many funny anecdotes are told, in regard to his rulings and decisions. Among the many it is told of him, and vouched for by living witnesses at the present day: that a tailor sued a dandy for the making of a coat. The plea was put up by the defendant that the coat did not fit, and the cloth was spoiled; consequently he would not pay for it. The tailor proved the making of the coat, and the price charged was customary and usual. The defendant had several witnesses ready to prove that the coat did not fit, and was ruined. But Blandly did not wish nor would he hear any evidence in regard to the matter, but had the coat sent for, requested the defendant to put it on, which he did; and after a careful examination of the man with his new coat on, Blandly pronounced that it fit as well as some and not as well as others, but upon the whole he thought it would answer his purpose very well. Therefore, he gave judgment for the plaintiff for amount claimed and costs. The defendant and his attorney, of course, were very indignant at this summary way of dealing, and asked for an appeal; but Uncle Blandly informed them that he granted no appeal in such plain cases, and would not yield. Consequently the defendant had to foot the bill. Many cases of a similar import are told of this old gentleman. He aimed to decide cases by justice and hard common sense, and as it is said, made them pretty correct.

For Sugar Creek Township, John Puler and Elisha McDaniel.

For Silver Creek, Thos. Bradley, John Viley and John Dysart. John Viley was afterwards County Judge, and is still living, a highly esteemed citizen of this County.

Prairie, Charles McLean.

These four Townships were all into which the County was then divided.

The first Circuit Court ever held in the County was at the house of William Goggin, which was situated just outside of the limits of the town of Huntsville, and had been designated as the temporary seat of justice by the County Court. The Hon. David Todd, of Boone County, was the Presiding Judge, — a very excellent man and sound lawyer. Robert Wilson was appointed Clerk of the Court, as he had been of the County Court.

The following lawyers were in attendance, all afterward being honored with various offices, unless it was Samuel Moore. He either died soon after that, or moved away. Robert W. Wells, Attorney General of the State; John F. Byland, John E. Clark (still living), in Howard Co., Mo., as popular and seemingly as full of vigor and life as many half his age; Joseph Davis, Thos. Reynolds (afterwards Governor), and Samuel Moore.

The following grand jury was empanelled:—

George Burckhardt, Foreman; Peter Culp, Ambrose Medley, William Baker, Lawrence Evans, Terry Bradley, Edwin T. Hickman, Francis K. Collins (still a respectable citizen of Randolph), Levi Moore, Jeremiah Summers, Robert Boucher, Richard Blue, Henry Martin, Thos. Kimbraugh, Moses Kimbraugh, Jas. Davis, Jno. Bagby, Jno. Dunn, William Upton (afterwards Sheriff), Robert Dysart, Jno. Martin, William Pattin. Isaac Harris is still a good citizen of the County, and was in the war of 1812. This grand jury were all men of stern integrity, and I apprehend a better one could not now be selected in any county in the State. They closed their labors on the 2d day, having found two indictments—one against Jno. Moore for assault and battery against Thomas's wife, and one against Jno. Cooley for resisting process.

On the 11th March, 1830, the following Indians were arrested and held

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in custody, until a grand jury could pass upon charges preferred against them for murder. Big Neck, or Great Walker, Walking Cloud, or Pumpkin, the chief; the Brave Snake, the Young Knight, and One that don't Care. On the 13th March following, the grand jury that had been sworn to investigate the case, reported that after examining all the witnesses, and maturely considering the charges for which the Iowa Indians are now in confinement, we find them not guilty, and they are at once discharged. Thus showing that even a wild savage would not be punished for alleged outrages unless the proof was ample. Justice and right seemed to be the guiding star for these first settlers of Randolph, in all their transactions. The following named, substantial and worthy citizens, composed this second Grand Jury, to wit:—

John Dysart, Foreman; James Davis, John Owens, David Turner (still living and highly esteemed), William Mathis, Thomas Prather, William Kerby, Jacob Epperly, Nicholas Tuttle, Robert Elliott, Geo. W. Greene, Thorett Rose, Elisha McDaniel, John D. Reed, John Gross, James Cooley, John McCully, Dr. Wm. Fort, Nathaniel Floyd, David Floyd.

The first Court House built was in 1832, William Lindsey being the superintendent, and Henry B. Owen, who is still living in Randolph an honorable and respected citizen, was the contractor. The building was of brick, two stories high, and not very commodious; \$2,400 was the amount appropriated for building same. A jail was built same year by Benjamin Hannah, being a double log structure, two stories high, and costing \$900. Both these old relics have been demolished, and new and more commodious buildings have taken their places.

From the organization of the County up to the year 1840, the following well-known and highly esteemed citizens filled the office of County Judges (three of whom are still living), to wit:—

Dr. Wm. Fort and Jno. Viley, still making Randolph their home; and Wm. Upton, who resides on the South side of the Missouri river; William Fort; James Head; Jos. M. Baker; James Wells; Jno. Viley; Blandin Smith; Jno. Dysart; Archibald Shoemaker; Francis Patton; David R. Denny; Terry Bradley; Jno. J. Allin; William Upton.

General Robert Wilson, was clerk up to the year 18— when he was succeeded by Reuben Samuel, and he by John J. Allin, and he by W. R. Samuel, and he by J. C. Shaifer, and he by Charles Allin, the present incumbent. Reuben Samuel held the office until his death, and so did John J. Allin. These last were all elected to the office. Terry Bradley, Joseph Allin, and James D. Head, held the office for a short time, by appointment. The following persons have held the office of Circuit Clerk by election since the formation of the County; General Robert Wilson, until he declined being a candidate; Reuben Samuel, to his death, John J. Allin, also to his death, W. R. Samuel, until he declined to run for it, Captain W. T. Austin and Charles H. Hance, the present incumbent.

Randolph has had the following Sheriffs: Hancock Jackson,* William Upton,* Henry Austin, Benjamin Dameron, Greenup Wilcox, Thomas J. Samuel,* Caswell Wisdom, G. W. Dameron, John B. Taylor,* John H. Austin,* Charles F. Mayo,* William F. Elliott,* William H. Williams.*

Most held the office for four years, and some longer. No public officer in Randolph County, has ever been a defaulter, which is a great deal to say for the sagacity of the people in electing honest men to office.

The early settlers had no such conveniences as mills and stores nearer than fifty miles, having to go to old Franklin, on the Missouri River, to make all purchases of dry goods and groceries, up to 1823. And then for a number of years, they did all trading at Fayette, a distance of about thirty miles from the settlements in the north-east part of the County. From Captain Abraham Gosching, I learn that up to the year 1827, the Indians passed through the neighborhood twice every year, but never interrupted any one or committed any depredations worthy of note.

That economy characterized the administration of Justice even up to 1830. It was only necessary to give one item of expenditure, which is shown by an order of the County Court, on the 1st of February, 1830, which was to pay William Goggin \$24, for use of house for Court House one year. The elections in Randolph County from 1836 to 1856, were hotly contested, and created great excitement. And party lines were closely drawn. The Whigs and Democrats being pretty near the same. Sometimes one succeeding and then the other. Notwithstanding the great excitement and warm discussion preceding an election, after it was over, it took but a very little to calm the troubled waves, and allay all bitter feelings that had been engendered by the contest; and the same friendship and kindly greetings were extended by members of one party to the members of the other, as between one of the same faith.

In these early times, the good people had no school-houses nor churches, but had preaching occasionally at their private houses, by ministers of different denominations, and some few neighborhoods had private schools at the house of some settler who happened to have room enough. Up to 1830, the County did not fill up very rapidly, but after that time, up to the commencement of the late rebellion, emigrants began to come in from the different States in the Union. Mostly, however, from the Southern States.

The population in 1830, being only.....	2,942
In 1840 it was.....	7,198
" 1860 ".....	11,407
" 1870 ".....	15,908
The population is now supposed to be.....	25,000

Since the close of the war, the emigration from the Northern States has predominated, and the class of the emigrants has been good, and to-day, the population of Randolph County will compare favorably, in point of intelligence, industry and sociability, with any other County in the State of Missouri. The contrast, however, in Randolph County, both in regard to its territory and the number of its inhabitants, now and fifty years ago, is great and reversed exactly. Then its territory was large enough for several such counties, and its inhabitants scarcely enough to make a small town.

* Still living.

But now, when its territory has been cut down, to twenty-four square miles, its population is getting quite formidable. But with these reflections and incidents of the past, I will now attempt a short description of the County as now presented to view, and in doing so, will repeat some things that I have before written for publication in Campbell's Gazetteer, of Missouri, and in newspapers.

Randolph County is situated in the north-east central part of the State; bounded north by Macon; east, by Monroe and Audrain; south by Boone and Howard, and west by Chariton County. By which latter name it was called up to 1828. It contains 307,677 acres. The grand divide between the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, passes in a northern direction through the eastern part of the County, leaving more than one-fourth on the east, drained by the streams of the Mississippi, while west, the streams flow into the Missouri.

The slopes east of this divide and near the prairie, are gentle, but as the streams enlarge, the hills get larger. The slopes adjacent to Flat Creek, are very gentle, but near the Monticau and Perch, it is very broken. Near Silver Creek, the country is quite hilly, and between the Chariton and Sweet Spring, and also between Dark and East Fork of the Chariton, it is rolling and undulating.

The slopes adjacent to Dark and Muncas creeks, are gentle, becoming more hilly near the middle fork of the Chariton, and still more so near the east fork of the same. In the northern part of the County, between the east and middle forks, the country is undulating. Near the east fork, Walnut and Sugar Creek, in the northern part of the County, it is quite hilly. The prairie east of the grand divide, with the timber skirting it, composes about one-third of the County, and is finely adapted to farming, stock raising and general agricultural pursuits. The western part of the County is interspersed with prairies of superior fertility, and the timber lands contiguous, are generally of superior productive qualities. The timber is composed of Elm, Cotton-wood, Shell-bark, Hickory, Linden and Barr, Swamp, White, Red, and Black Oak, and Pine, Sycamore, Birch, Hackberry and White Maple. There are some large tracts of very rich land. The bottoms specially are very productive. The bottoms of the east Middle Forks and Sweet Spring Creeks, are very flat, but have generally been sufficiently drained to be cultivated. Taken as a whole, the County, for agricultural pursuits, ranks second with any in the State, and, for timothy and blue grass, is not surpassed by any.

The agricultural productions are principally corn, wheat, rye, oats, sorghum potatoes, timothy and tobacco. The yield of the last staple, the present year, will, no doubt, reach 6,000,000 pounds, and the quality is far superior to that of any former year. The yield of corn, also, the present year, it is said, by competent judges, will be fifty bushels to the acre. Some crops going as high as eighty, to over one hundred bushels.

The minerals are coal, fire and potter's clay, and some coppers.

The coal especially is abundant, and it is seen outcropping in various localities, and it is now being successively mined at Huntsville, Renick and Higbee. The shipments of coal from the Huntsville mines in 1873, was as follows: 1971 cars of 250 bushels each, making 404,050 bushels, and this only includes the coal shipped from Huntsville depot, and has no reference to the quantity sold from banks, by wagon loads, nor that taken from mine No. 1, for engines. I have no statement of the amount shipped in 1874, or of the amount shipped the present year. But they are shipping from these mines at present, all that can be taken out. It will thus be seen, what an important item of commerce is there dug from the bowels of the earth ready for use. The employment it gives to labor, and the revenue it gives to the County, is no insignificant matter, and has not yet been fully appreciated. The coal strata at each of the points mentioned are four feet in thickness, and seem to be inexhaustible; from inspection, it seems that the coal bed at Huntsville, extends along the line of the St. Louis, Kansas City and N. Railway, near four miles east, and sixteen miles west. How far north and south of the road it is not known.

MANUFACTURING INTERESTS.

Aside from the County flouring and saw mills, consists of one woolen mill, wagon and tobacco factories, and the splendid machine shops of the St. Louis, Kansas City and N. R. Co. located at Moberly, and are noticed under the different Towns.

WEALTH.

The valuation of the County for 1874 was \$5,250,000. Taxation, \$1.50 per \$100. Bonded debt, \$45,000. Sugar Creek Township bonded debt, \$65,000.

RAILROADS.

The St. Louis, Kansas City and N. Railway runs through the County from north to south and east to west, a distance of 44 miles. At the time it was built, the County and individual subscriptions amounted to \$175,000, all paid within four years from the time of making the subscription.

The M. K. & T. R. R., a distance of twenty-two miles, its track running east and southwest, through Monticau, Sugar Creek and Union Township, and the bonded debt of Sugar Creek Township being incurred in aid of that road, no other Township taking any stock, and there was very little, if any, private stock taken in the County. All the Townships in the County have railroad facilities except Silver Creek, Chariton and Salt River. No Townships in the County were more prompt in paying their railroad taxes, however, and none made any less fuss about doing so. And, although they have been indirectly benefited, yet they have not been so materially and largely benefited as those who are nearer these great arteries of trade. Consequently, the balance of the County ought to, and I hope do, feel under lasting obligations to these sections; and when an opportunity offers to repay the debt of gratitude, ought to do so, liberally and cheerfully.

No County in the great State of Missouri, I apprehend, has greater railroad facilities than Randolph County, that owes nothing for them. All the Counties within my knowledge, that have railroads, to any extent, are deeply in debt for them, they having adopted the unwise policy, when making subscriptions, to pay in bonds, running from ten to thirty years, bearing

heavy interest, whereas Randolph, in voting the subscription, voted also to pay, by direct taxation in four years, and without interest. Hence, from these considerations, together with the fact that our other advantages are equal to any other County, Randolph is the most desirable for the honest emigrant from any portion of the globe to make his future home. The honest, industrious toiler seeking a home is given a hearty welcome. And lands can be bought on as reasonable terms as in many Counties, not so highly favored, and that are at the same time groaning under a debt, that will be a burden upon the descendants of those who contracted them for generations, and will be a legacy not bringing pleasant reflections by any means.

TOWNS.

Huntsville, the County seat, near the centre of the County, was first settled in the year 1823, by Daniel Hunt, Nathan Hunt, William Goggins and Blandin Smith. The town was named after the Hunts. The County seat was permanently established at this place in the year 1829, and being very near the centre of the County, it is not likely ever to be changed. It has always been a good trading point up to the year 1865. But its growth was very slow at that time, containing, perhaps, not more than 800 or 1,000 inhabitants. But it seems that since that time, being stimulated by its young and vigorous rival, Moberly, its growth has been more vigorous and permanent; and with the enlargement of its boundaries, and the opening up of new enterprises, at the present time the population will reach from 2,000 to 2,500. The town is pleasantly situated, built in a tasteful and substantial manner, surrounded by a good country, and its inhabitants for peace and quietness, and good morals will compare favorably with the best western towns. It has two good churches—Methodist and Christian—and Mount Pleasant College, the chapel of which is used by the Baptists for church purposes, they having sold their church property in the place and given the proceeds for the benefit of the college for that privilege. It has a woolen mill, a steam flouring mill, of small capacity, and a steam saw mill; numerous dry-goods and grocery stores, a wagon and plow manufactory, three large tobacco factories, a good public school, and also, as before stated, Mount Pleasant College is located here, being the pride not only of the Town, but of the County also. It ranks high as an institution of learning, and is receiving an increasing patronage from different parts of the State, and also a few from adjoining States. It was built by the liberality of the people of the Town and County, without regard to sect or denomination and was placed under the patronage and control of the Mount Pleasant Association of United Baptists, with the distinct understanding and agreement that they were to endow it with not less than \$25,000 when the institution was entirely free from debt. Neither condition has ever been complied with, and the institution has been compelled to sustain itself. And not only that, but has frequently to call upon the liberality of the people of the town to make needed improvements, and carry the debt resting upon it. Taking everything into consideration, no school in the State has gained (and deservedly, too,) so high a reputation for thorough instruction as Mount Pleasant College. And with President Terrill at its head, and the able assistants he now has, it can, with confidence, be asserted, that it will continue to give general satisfaction to all who patronize it.

The projectors and main supporters and workers in building the College were:—B. N. Tracy, W. A. Hall, Geo. H. Burkhardt, N. B. Coates, Dr. J. H. Miller, I. C. Shuffer, William D. Malone, Dr. W. H. Taylor, W. R. Samuel, Rev. Benj. Terrill, Caswell Wisdom and Henry Austin, E. K. Collins, W. T. Rutherford, and others whose names are not recollected. Huntsville needs and is a point where various manufacturing establishments could do well. A prominent English writer asserts, that coal constitutes the principal article of commercial importance, in England and that prosperity always follows where its greatest abundance lies undeveloped. And, if this assertion is true, then Huntsville ought to be alive with all kinds of machinery, and property ought to attend all its inhabitants. For coal in great abundance, and easily worked, underlies the town and surrounding country, and timber and water are easily obtained.

Huntsville also has a Savings Bank managed by prudent men, as well as men of financial ability, and none need fear of its collapse.

BRECKENRIDGE,

Nine miles northwest of Huntsville, has one store, a Baptist Church, a large tobacco factory, and is surrounded by a rich farming country.

CAIRO,

On the St. Louis, Kansas City & N. R. R., six miles north of Moberly, contains one Union Church, two stores, good school, lumber yard, blacksmith shop, drug store, contains about 100 inhabitants, and is surrounded by a splendid farming and stock raising country.

CLIFTON HILL.

On the St. Louis K. C. & N. R. R., seven miles west of Huntsville, has two stores, drug store, a Baptist Church, two large tobacco factories, surrounded by excellent timber and fine farms, and enterprising, successful farmers; population, 100.

FORT HENRY,

Four miles northwest of Huntsville, has a blacksmith shop, a neat and commodious Methodist Church; and in a good neighborhood, with rich land and green pastures, surrounding it, that are more enticing than the town.

HIGBEE,

A new town on the M. K. & T. R. R. nine miles southwest of Moberly, a considerable trading point, and plenty of room to grow; has a country surrounding it susceptible of great improvement.

JACKSONVILLE,

On the St. Louis, K. C. & N. R. R., fifteen miles northeast of Huntsville, has several good stores; two neat and substantial churches, one belonging to the Christian, and the other a Union Church. It is a place of considerable business, and next to Renick is the great tie and hoop-pole market of the County. The country surrounding it is good. Population, 200.

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LEVICK'S MILL,

A post office, twelve miles northeast of Moberly. Rich lands lie in its vicinity, and good, honest, plain farmers, who used to be famous for voting the Whig ticket without scratching, and gloried in being called Henry Clay Whigs.

MILTON,

Fourteen miles east of Huntsville, a dry goods store, shoe shop, and blacksmith and wagon shop, and a good church house belonging to the M. E. Church. Good grass land and finely timbered.

MOUNT AIRY,

Seven miles southwest of Huntsville, in a rich agricultural country. Has two tobacco factories, a dry goods store, blacksmith shop, and a Union Church building.

ROLLING HOME,

A Post-office, fifteen miles northwest of Huntsville, kept by H. W. Pipes, the bachelor, that is known all over the County as the man who don't want to marry.

THOMASVILLE,

Located nine miles west of Huntsville. Has one store, a blacksmith shop, and a Baptist Church, right amidst the heavy tobacco granaries of the County.

RENICK, (RANDOLPH.)

On the St. Louis, K. C. & N. R. R. six miles south of Moberly, situated on a beautiful prairie, near skirts of timber; was first settled in 1856; has two churches, one owned by the Christian Church, and one owned by Baptists and Methodists. The best public school building in the County; eight stores; one plow and one wagon factory, a good tobacco factory, and a splendid flouring mill; does an immense tie trade; ships a great deal of stock, and is, no doubt the third business point in the County. Prairie Township, in which Renick is located, always has been the battle ground in all political contests, and generally the way the Prairie would go the County would go. They have a great pride in supporting men who are or have been residents of that Township, provided always that they are men of the right stamp. If they are not, they need expect no support from that chivalrous people. The population of Renick is about 400.

MOBERLY.

This young giant is situated at the junction of the main line of the St. Louis, K. C. & N. R. R., with the Northern division, and the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway, 141 miles from St. Louis, and 62 miles from Hannibal, and seven miles east of Huntsville. And, at the close of the war, contained but one citizen, viz.: Patrick Lynch, who held the Post during the entire war, and is yet a respectable citizen of the queen city of the Prairie. The growth of Moberly since the war, however, has been marvellous in the extreme. It grew for several years, as if by magic, and prices of property and town lots especially went up to fabulous sums. Many of the buildings were substantial and imposing. As a natural consequence, such rapid growth and high prices, and flush times, unbalanced the reason, and dethroned the judgment of many of its citizens, and speculation seized every one. They paid high prices, and held for higher still, built many fine buildings, with the expectation of realizing a fortune by renting. Such a storm is generally succeeded by a dreadful calm. Such was the case at Moberly. The money panic came. The general depression in all the cities of the nation, even those of long standing and great financial ability, felt most keenly the debility; and of course the younger and the feebler were almost crushed. Moberly was not exempt, many of its first and foremost citizens, and those thought even to be wealthy were financially ruined in a very short time, their energies paralyzed, and seemingly no relief. And many had to part with all, give up their cherished hopes of a fortune, and seek some other occupation than that of speculation for a living. But then it seems, in most all undertakings, reverses are needed, in order to final success. A more healthy advance is now being made—wild speculation and fabulous prices are not expected or thought of, and to-day Moberly may be said to

be a prosperous city, with six thousand inhabitants. It was incorporated as a city in 1872, and now has seven or eight churches, including Methodist, North and South, Baptist, Christian, Presbyterian, Episcopal and Catholic. The Baptist Church being the finest structure for church purposes in North Missouri, and several of the others being quite good buildings. Two good public schools, thirty-five stores, two banks, candy factory, brewery, fine flouring mill, tobacco factory, planing mill. Some of the store rooms are models for neatness and finish, and very commodious; and gas works are now being built, which, when completed, will give to Moberly all the advantages of a city indeed. The great feature, however, of this great young city, and the thing that gives stability and life to the place, more, perhaps, than any other, are the large, finely and tastefully built machine shops of the St. Louis, K. C. & N. R. E., being the finest, largest and best shops of the kind in the State. In these shops the finest coaches that travel our western roads are manufactured, and all kinds of work, needed to run a great railroad, is done here. The hands employed at these shops, and the money paid out for work and supplies would of themselves support a considerable town. The future of Moberly as well as Huntsville is bright under prudent management of their finances. Both places have the surroundings and the material to make good business places, as well as pleasant homes. And while a generous rivalry is commendable, strife and animosity between the two places ought to cease. The people of the County are getting heartily tired of the wrangle, and it is doing no good, but much harm to both places.

The survivors of the war of 1812, still living in Randolph County, are: William McCane, Jacksonville; Rev. Samuel C. Davis, Huntsville; Dr. William Fort, Huntsville; Brice Edwards, Huntsville; Rev. Wm. Mansfield, Roanoke; Abraham Gooding, Huntsville; Isaac Harris, Huntsville, Elijah Williams, Moberly; Derritt Bruce, Moberly.

Resources of Randolph County on the 1st of August, 1874:

7,043 Horses	valued at.....	\$254,823
2,907 Mules and Asses	"	117,604
14,834 Neat cattle	"	179,055
14,814 Sheep	"	14,814
20,754 Hogs	"	41,508
Real Estate Land	"	1,997,594
Real Estate Town Lots	"	657,165
Other Personal Property and Money	885,122
Total	\$4,147,685

The amount of money, bonds, bills of exchange, and other securities held by other than banks and bankers, is \$550,327.

The number of organized school districts in the County is seventy-two; having seventy-five good comfortable school-houses, and the cause of education, has been and is receiving great attention.

There are in the County forty churches, scattered in different parts of the County; some of them quite commodious, and most of them neat and comfortable.

In addition to the list of names of the first settlers of Randolph County, given in the early part of this history, we give the following names: Benjamin Hardin, Thomas Sears, Benjamin Cockrill, Terry Bradley, Thomas Bradley, Edmond Chapman, Thomas Owen, John H. Blain, William Smith, Joel Smith, James Barton, May Burton, John Martin, Elijah Burton, Bird Pyle, John Pyle, Z. Walden, Fielding Cockrill, Grundy Cockrill, Clinton Cockrill, Edward Owen, John Owen, James Owen, William Higbee, Thomas Trueman, Nicholas Dyart, John Dyart, R. Dameron, Robert L. Chapman, John A. Pitts. We notice a few of the men of Randolph County who have held important state and national offices. The Hon. Robert Wilson, the first Circuit and County Clerk, who afterwards filled the responsible position of United States Senator, now deceased. Hon. William A. Hall was for many years Judge of this Judicial District, and for two terms during the war a member of Congress from the District of which Randolph forms a part. He is still a worthy citizen of the County, and has retired to his farm.

Captain Hancock Jackson, who was Randolph's first Sheriff, afterwards Lieutenant-Governor of the State, now a highly esteemed citizen of Salem, Oregon, hale, hearty, and vigorous at over eighty years of age. Major Horner, a paymaster in the United States army. No rings were formed to cheat the Government or any one else, of any of the funds entrusted to his care. Now deceased.

The following are the resources of Randolph County for the year A. D. 1875:

Land,	Valuation,	\$2,107,930.
Town Lots,	"	653,927.
Horses,	Number, 7,058,	Value, 267,161.
Mules,	" 3,267,	" 132,540.
Cattle,	" 14,797,	" 181,537.
Sheep,	" 14,130,	" 14,130.
Hogs,	" 14,850,	" 44,550.
Money, Bonds, &c.,		567,622.
Household,		165,795.
Other Property,		84,781.
		\$4,249,983.

The taxes, including State, County, School, Road, and all other taxes, is one dollar and fifty cents on the hundred.

DEATH.

That relentless and ever victorious foe of all animate nature, that comes by night and by day—and often without warning—has come since I have been writing this brief and imperfect history of Randolph County, and taken into its cold and icy arms one of its early settlers and prominent citizens, whom I reported as living where his name is first mentioned. I allude to Thomas I. Samuel, who was born in Henry County, Kentucky, February 3, 1803, and has been a resident of Randolph County since 1827. He was a fair representative of the first settlers of the County, a man of sterling integrity and strict honor in all his dealings. He was three times elected Sheriff of the County, and gave general satisfaction in all his official transactions. Most of his life, however, was spent upon the farm. He was plain and unpretending in his dress and manner, sociable, kind and obliging; could never be led away by new-fangled notions and ideas, but, in most things, preferred to keep the old and beaten track. He took great delight in recounting the adventures of the good old times when this country was almost a wilderness. His old time friends always felt the nearest and dearest to him. He died in the 73d year of his age on the 20th of November, 1875, and up to the date of his last illness, which lasted two months, and was borne without much complaining, he had enjoyed most excellent health, and was the youngest man in his ways and looks, to be really so old, in Randolph County.

To show his strict integrity, (and the kind of integrity it seems to me, which characterized most all of the early and pioneer settlers of the County,) I will relate one circumstance. While he was Sheriff, in 1862, he sold, according to law, a negro woman that had run away from the South. The court did not make any order in regard to the money after paying expenses, and when the raid by the Confederates was made on Huntsville, the papers were lost and destroyed. So, after the war, he corresponded with parties in the South until he found the owner, and sent him the balance of the money. It was his duty to do so, of course, but how many in those degenerate days fail in duty. So many do so, that when it is done, it should receive commendation.

He was not a member of any church, but I firmly believe a Christian. He was in sentiment an old-school Baptist, and always attended preaching when convenient, and took great delight in hearing prominent men of the old school. But he has gone. To many his place can never be supplied on earth. Peace to his ashes, and rest to his soul in heaven, is, no doubt, the earnest wish and prayer of his surviving family and friends.