

HISTORY OF GENTRY COUNTY, MISSOURI.

This territory, or portion of county, now included in the counties of De Kalb, Gentry and Worth, prior to the winter of 1844 and 1845, was unorganized into counties, but was attached to the county of Clinton, for civil and military purposes, and so continued until the session of the General Assembly of the State of 1844 and 1845, when the counties of De Kalb and Gentry were organized, still leaving that portion of said Territory, which now composes the county of Worth, attached to Gentry county for civil and military purposes, which so remained until the General Assembly by an act, approved February 8th, 1851, organized the county of Worth, in pursuance to an amendment to the Constitution of the State, authorizing said district of county to be organized as a county, approved on the 30th day of January, 1851.

Gentry county derived its name from Col. Richard Gentry, who fell in the battle of Ochechobee, in Florida, and as organized, was bounded by the General Assembly at its session in 1844 and 1845 as follows: Beginning at a point where the township line dividing townships 60 and 61, intersects the range line between ranges 29 and 30, thence north with the same, to the township line dividing townships 61 and 62, thence west to the old Western boundary line of the State, thence south with the old boundary line of the State, to the township line dividing townships 60 and 61, thence east to the place of beginning. The old Western boundary of the State, and the Western limits of Gentry county, as set forth in the Act of the Legislature organizing said county, not being at that time definitely defined, and before the region of country known as the "Plate Purchase," which included the counties now of Platte, Buchanan, Andrew, Holt, Alfahick and Nowaday, was annexed to, and made a part of the state complications and misunderstandings, between the citizens and officers of the counties bordering on said boundary line, on the West side of Gentry county, as to the jurisdiction of the courts, the collection of the school and other tax, &c., belonging to said counties on said line, having arisen, and in order to settle all difficulties, and thereby stop all further troubles that might arise as to the matters aforesaid in reference to the Western boundary line of Gentry county, the Legislature of the State, at its session of 1852 and 1853, by an Act approved December 12th, 1853, located and definitely defined the Western boundary of Gentry county as follows: Beginning on the half mile, or open line at the Southwest corner of the Southeast quarter of Section No. 34, in township No. 61, of Range No. 33, thence North on the open line in the center of Sections Nos. thirty-four, twenty seven, twenty-two, fifteen, ten and three in township No. sixty-one, sixty-two, sixty-three and sixty-four, in Range No. thirty-three, to the Northwest corner of the North-east quarter of Section No. three, in township No. sixty-four of Range thirty-three, which is now the legal western boundary line of Gentry county. The county as now bounded being twenty-four miles North and South, and twenty and one-half miles East and West, and containing four hundred and ninety-two square miles.

The face of the county is undulating or rolling, and is pretty well divided between timber and prairie land, the eastern part of the county being well timbered, and of a good quality, while on the western part, it is mostly prairie, interspersed with timber. All kinds of grain, grass, and vegetables are produced with success. The soil is for the most part a black loam, well adapted for the production of corn, wheat, rye, oats, timothy, blue-grass, clover, huckberry, &c., and all kinds of vegetables usually produced in this climate. Fruits, of all kinds, adapted to this climate, such as apples, peaches, cherries, and the smaller fruits are produced with success, and their production has become a source of no small profit to the people of the county, since they have emerged from their original and primitive state as pioneers, and devoted more attention to that branch of industry. The county is well watered, there being three branches of Grand River, running through the county, from the North to the South of the same, till they unite a few miles above, what is known as the Greenwell ford, which is about four miles south-west of Albany, where the main stream is called West Grand River. Said water courses, furnish an abundance of water, and afford fair mill privileges, for the most part of each year. A number of other smaller streams traverse the county from different directions, running into Grand River. The county is remarkably healthy for a western county. The air is grand salubrious and invigorating, as the writer from a thirty years' residence in the county, can truthfully testify.

The county is divided at the present time into eight municipal townships, named as follows: Miller, Athens, Howard, Bogle, Wilson, Higgins, Cooper, and Jackson.

The first settlement made in the county, before it was organized, was in the latter part of the year 1833, or in the spring of 1834, and was North and East of Gentryville, in Miller Township, by Isaac Miller, Tobias Miller, (from whom the township derived its name) David Henderson, Milton Foster, William Martin, Robert Leary, and a few others. In about the year 1835 or 1836, and thereafter, the country settled up more rapidly. It will be impossible to give the names of all the old pioneers, or settlers of the county in this brief history, but the writer will give the names of such as he can now call to mind, and he trusts, that the names of those who have since died, and in doing so, will give them in addition to the names before mentioned, who settled in the county, prior to its organization in the years 1844 and 1845, and in the township of the county as now organized, commencing with Miller township in the southeast part of the county, as follows:

Caleb Sampson, James C. Patton, Booker Smith, Robert Girard, n. Elijah Whitton, Redmond Whitton, Albert G. Whitton, Nathaniel Motherhead, Jacob James, John D. Burton, William Locker, Hugh L. W. Patton, William A. Patton, Isaac A. Patton, James H. Patton, Clayton T. Roberson, Phillip Messinger, Charles Gay, John T. Hunter, Aristippus Brown, George Weese, William Weese, Charles Robinson, Stevenson, Hugh Stevenson, Taylor McCullough, John McCullough, John Potter, John Roberts, Elisha Perkins, Levi Yates, Stephen Low, Martin Low, Paschal O. Roberson, Edwin W. Dunagan, Byron Linville, William McCall, William McKnight, James M. Howell, Charles Pryor, William Newby, Robert Greenwell, Willis Ray, Robert Potes, John Camp, Joseph Ward, William Ward.

In Athens Township as now organized, as follows: Elisha Cameron, Allen S. Meek, Robert Carter, Walter Savage, William Childers, Peter Vesser, Sink Vesser, Jesse Martin, James S. Levechick, Simon Levechick, Stephen Levechick, James Marrs, Jesse Gay, William G. Williams, Henry P. Miller, Miles Orton, Eli Orton, Joseph B. Kingsborough, George Brown, John Brown, William Daily, James Daily, Caleb S. Canaday, John W. Canaday, James E. Canaday, George K. Culp, Benjamin Culp, Gordon Wright, George W. Iresh, Samuel Irvin, Charles M. Claggett, Mason Claggett, Thomas E. Peery, William A. Peery, Andrew J. Bulla, John G. Smith, George W. Smith, Daniel Sanders, John B. Hundley, Jacob Newman, James Thompson, Nathaniel Thompson, Michael Malsberger, Levi Baldock, Daniel Spahnower, John Q. Smith, John Handy, Edward McCurt, William McCurt, George C. Needles, Robert Dubois, William Steel, Benjamin Tweedell, Joseph Tweedell, Joseph Siddons, William Green, James B. Hunter, Eli P. Harden, David O'Brien, Christopher Barkley, William Rice, David Prunty, Zachariah Spriggs, William Ford, Jr. Henry Ward, John Fox, Joseph Fox, William Fox, Charles F. Rind, William Brock, John Kiley, William Crant, Willis B. Sampson, Moses H. Simonds, Warren Lettwich, Hiram Warner, William Glendinning, Samuel McKellin.

In Howard Township as now organized, as follows: Asa Howard, from whom said township derived its name, William Bently, John McGintley, Samuel Howard, John C. Williams, Thomas J. Williams, Elijah Carter, John Glendinning, Sr., John Glendinning, Jr., Richard Glendinning, James M. Marrs, Phelix Blakeley, James Blakeley, Jesse Blakeley, Samuel Colvin, James Ross, Hugh Ross, Archibald Ross, John R. Shaffer, Norman Crane, John W. Cain, Leary Carter, Robert Kier, Abel Yates, Alfred Campbell, William John Wicks.

The townships of Cooper and Jackson being formerly together, as one township, the names are classed together as follows: Manlove Crator, David Crator, Thomas Crator, Joshua Crator, Charles Newell, Richard Roberts, Job Neil, Enoch Miller, John Plaster, John Potter, Thomas Heather, William Prescott, Samuel Summers, James Greenwell, Abraham McLaughlin, Aaron Combs, T. Helton, Zachariah Haddock, Griffith Dickenson, Archibald Dickenson, Bird Bay, Moses Ray, John W. Boner, Israel Cook, Peter Harmon.

Some of the original settlers, resided in that portion of the county which now comprises the county of Worth, and was then attached to Gentry county, as before stated, a portion of whom are given from memory as follows: Richard Cates, Madison Gness, Adam Black, Jefferson Taliaferro, F. W. Seata, Basil M. Lewis, Aaron M. Allen, David Hoblett, W. G. W. Cates, James C. Webb, Alexander Stanner, F. S. Morrison, Asa Ross, David Curtis Freeman, O. Sells, Charles H. Scherer, William Allen, Daniel Cox, John Martin, Joseph Cables, David Curtis, Hanson Cogger, Jordan Cogger.

The first settlers were principally from Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee, and being in very moderate circumstances, selected as their homes, the timbered portion of the country, that being the easiest at that time to cultivate, as but few of them had teams sufficient to put the prairies in cultivation.

There are not comparatively few of the old settlers, or pioneers now living in the county, the greater portion of them having either died or removed. There being at the present time the following, whose names the writer can now call to mind, some of whom will necessarily be omitted, without showing or intending to show any partiality, to-wit: Isaac Miller, Robert Leary, Elisha Cameron, Joseph B. Kingsborough, William Green, Miles Orton, Willis B. Sampson, Brock Smith, Robert Givanden, Edward W. Dunerton, Redmond Whitton, Jacob James, William A. Patton, Clayton T. Roberson, Phillip Messinger, James Arnold, Hugh Stevenson, Allen S. Meek, Simon Levechick, William G. Williams, John C. Williams, Caleb S. Canaday, W. J. Canaday, James L. Canaday, John Wright, Thomas E. Peery, Andrew J. Bulla, John Leary, Joseph B. Kingsborough, Jacob Newman, James Thompson, Nathaniel Thompson, Daniel Spahnower, Benjamin Tweedell, Joseph Tweedell, James B. Hunter, Christopher Barkley, William Rice, Thomas J. Williams, James M. Marrs, Archibald Ross, John R. Shaffer, Samuel McKellin, Francis H. Alexander, George O. Carlock, Samuel Gunter, Aaron Combs, Israel Cook, John W. Boner, John Bryson, David Milligan, Lemuel Watkins.

The pioneers of the county, like those of all other newly settled countries, were subjected to many privations, and endured many hardships, and were deprived of the privileges of schools and churches, nor had they any of the latter-day refinements, incident to older settled countries. Yet, the people were probably more sociable, and a more friendly feeling existed between them at that date than is now, they then going eight, ten or fifteen miles to assist in raising a house or barn, and paying friendly and social visits to each other at a distance of several miles. The principal productions of the county at that time consisted of beeswax and honey, venison, deer-hides, coon skins and hickory nuts.

The two first school-houses built in the county were in about the years 1838 and 1839, the first one being in the neighborhood of John D. Burton's and Jacob Jones', East of Gentryville, the other about one and one-half miles northeast of Gentryville, in the neighborhood of Charles Robertson and James C. Patton, both being in Miller township; they were log-houses, with puncheon floors covered with clapboards, and about twenty feet square, a log left out on one side covered with greased paper to afford light in lieu of window glass. The first teacher who taught school in the county, was John Guthins, who taught in the school-house in the Burton and Jones' neighborhood the first year it was built.

In about the year 1842 or 1843, the first church-house was erected, by the New School Presbyterians. It was built by James C. Patton and others, about four miles East of the town of Gentryville, it being free however to all religious denominations to preach in, who at that time were so few as can be learned, the Presbyterians, (New School), Baptist, Christian and Methodist.

Among the first ministers preaching in the county, before organized, were John Cullen and Hiram Warner, Christian, Timothy Morgan, Presbyterian and Lorenzo D. Waugh, Methodist.

The first mill in the county was, what was known as a horse mill worked by lever power, and erected by Taylor McCulloch, about four miles South of Gentryville, in Miller township, in about the year 1837 or 1838. This mill, a few years afterwards, was bought by Daniel Saunders, and moved to where John Hardin now resides, about two miles south of Albany, and afterwards owned by Levi Baldock, and placed upon the farm now owned by M. M. Embree, one mile south of Albany, where it was standing when the writer came to this county in 1846. The facilities for obtaining bread-stuff, then, were very meager, and attended with many inconveniences. This mill with a few others built afterwards, of a like character, ground very slowly, a whole day probably being consumed in grinding two bushels of corn, and it is said that Levi Baldock had at one house, that some one would flip up the meal as fast as the mill ground it, and look up towards the hopper and for more to be milled.

The settlers in the county then had frequently to grate their meal, of which the writer has very often eaten, and pronounced it excellent bread, especially by using a good quality of native hoggy on the same, which at that time was procured in abundance.

The first water mill erected in the county, was built at Gentryville, in the year 1840, by Charles Gay and John T. Hunter; the place was then called Gay's Mill. The mill-house was built of logs, and was about twenty-four feet square, with one run of stones, used for grinding all kinds of grain; these stones were made in the county out of the native "Nigger Head," or Lost River, or Clinton, or either of them, and were of a fine quality. This mill was washed away in 1844, and was rebuilt in 1844 and 1845, by the same persons, being this time a log building also, but with two runs of stones.

The first post-office located in the county before its organization, was Sandeville, in Athens township, about two miles south of Albany. Daniel Saunders being the post-master. This was about the year 1838. The next one was called Prospect, and was in Miller township about five miles East of Gentryville, in the year 1840, by Charles Gay and John T. Hunter; the place was then called Gay's Mill. The mill-house was built of logs, and was about twenty-four feet square, with one run of stones, used for grinding all kinds of grain; these stones were made in the county out of the native "Nigger Head," or Lost River, or Clinton, or either of them, and were of a fine quality. This mill was washed away in 1844, and was rebuilt in 1844 and 1845, by the same persons, being this time a log building also, but with two runs of stones.

The first justice of the peace in the county, was Ebenezzer H. Wood, at that time of Davies county, A. McClintock, of Clinton county, and Stephen Jones, of Andrew county, a majority of whom, viz.: Ebenezzer H. Wood, and A. McClintock, met at the house of Daniel Saunders, about two miles south of Albany on the 16th day of April, 1845, and after being duly qualified as such, and after due examination of the county, located the seat of justice or county-seat, on the southeast quarter of section No. twenty-four, in township No. sixty-three, of range No. thirty-one, where the county seat still remains. The tract road, by which the county-seat is located, was, at the time the same was located, occupied by William Daily, he holding the same by virtue of a pre-emption claim thereon. Daily quit-claimed his interest in said tract of land to the county, and in August, 1845, Elisha Cameron purchased or entered the land at Plattsburg, for the sum of Two Hundred Dollars, in the name of the county. At the March term of the Circuit Court of the county for the year 1846, Ebenezzer H. Wood and A. McClintock, a majority of the Commissioners to locate the county-seat, made their report to said court, which was by the court approved, and the county-seat permanently located. The county seat was called and named, by the first county court of the county assembled, Athens, deriving its name from a town of that name in Tennessee, given by Michael Malsberger, one of the county judges, and so remained the name of the county-seat until the session of the Legislature of 1856 and 1857, when the name of the town was changed to Albany, by which it is now known.

The first physicians in the county, as now organized, were Dr. — Hood, in Miller township, and Drs. William G. Williams and Cyrus Hubbard, in Athens township.

The first store in the county was started in 1838, by — Stevenson, about three miles northeast of Gentryville, near where Hugh Stevenson now resides in Miller township, and the second, by — Roubadoux, at Gay's Mill, in the year 1840, also in Athens township, where Michael Malsberger formerly resided, some three or four miles south of Albany, by John B. Hundley, about the year 1842, the pioneers previous to that time doing most of their trading and purchasing of goods necessary for their subsistence and the comforts of themselves and families, at Plattsburg, in Clinton county, Liberty, in Clay county, and at Richmond, in Ray county, St. Joseph not then being a town or known as a commercial mart as it is now. It is said that the first blacksmith shop set up in the county was at Gentryville, by John Hunt, though probably Charles and Jesse Gay each had a set of blacksmith tools, and did blacksmithing, prior to that time, for their own accommodation.

The first Justice of the County Court were Michael Malsberger, William Steel and Samuel Collins, who were appointed as such by the Legislature, in organizing the county. They first met at the house of Daniel Sanders, about one and one-half miles south of Albany, on the 5th day of May, 1845, and organized by choosing Michael Malsberger presiding Justice of the Court, and on said day adjourned to meet next day at the house of William Daily, who then resided where Albany is now located. On the first day of the term, George W. Birch was appointed Clerk of the Court, John Burgett was appointed Assessor, John Plasters was appointed County Surveyor, John B. Hundley was appointed County Treasurer, Elisha Cameron was appointed County Seat Commissioner, and Elisha Perkins was appointed Coroner. On the next day, being the 6th day of May, the Court organized the following municipal townships in the county proper, as now organized as follows:

Miller township, with a voting place at Gay's Mill; Athens township, with a voting place at the county-seat; Howard township, with a voting place at Lay Carter's; Bogle township, with a voting place at James Bogle's; and afterwards, on the 7th day of April, 1849, Island Branch township, which included the territory now of Jackson and Cooper townships, with a voting place at Manlove Crator's.

In May, 1845, the County Court ordered the building of a Jail for the county, in Athens, the name of the county-seat at that time, and Elisha Cameron was appointed Commissioner to let and superintend the building of the same, and he not qualifying, afterwards E. H. Wood was appointed in November, 1845, as such Commissioner. The Jail was built in 1846 and 1847, and was a log building about twenty-four feet square, built out of hewn logs, with double walls, a space being left between the walls, and round poles or timbers placed upright between said walls, two stories high, with an entrance to same from the ground to the second story, and a trap-door in the floor of the second story as an entrance to the first story. The cost of building this Jail was about Five Hundred dollars, the exact sum not being fully ascertained from the records, or from other sources. This Jail was burned some time in the year 1850.

After the date last above the county had no Jail till the year 1859, when the county erected a Jail, which was situated on the northeast corner of the Public Square, between the Public Square and the corner of the building of the same at the sum of Twenty Thousand Two Hundred and Thirty dollars. This building was about twenty feet square, the outside being of brick and the inside of timbers two inches thick, and lined thereon with iron bars, crossing each other and spiked to the timbers. The building was two stories high, with an entrance to the same on the second story, and a trap-door in the second floor as an entrance to the lower or first story. But few prisoners committed to this Jail were ever held for trial for offenses with which they were charged, the greater portion of them making their escape before they were brought for trial.

This Jail being insecure, the County Court, in the fall of 1874, erected another Jail in Albany at a cost of about Eleven Thousand Five Hundred dollars, which is now the Jail of the county, the size of the same being about thirty-six feet square, built of brick, two stories high, with a cellar beneath, in which is a hot-air furnace which heats the entire building, the lower story being the Jailor's house, with convenient apartments, and a stairway leading to the prisoner's apartment, which is in the second story, and is constructed with iron-work, placed in a brick wall. The Jail was erected by the Patent of P. J. Panley & Bro., of St. Louis, who were the contractors for building the same.

In the year 1845, the first Court House was built in the county, the same being on Lot No. Four, in Block No. Two, in Albany, where Peery & Bro. are now selling real-estate. It was a hewed-log building, twenty by twenty-four feet, two stories high; the lower story for the Court room, with a Justice's stand and bar at the west end of the same, and brick chimney at the east end, with two fire-places, one in lower story and the other in the upper story. This house, with the lot of which it was built, was afterwards sold by order of the County Court, to Judge Elias Carrot for about the sum of Two Hundred and Seventy-five dollars. After that time till the present Court House was erected, the various Courts were held in different houses in town, sometimes in the house now occupied by R. A. Scarborough, and at other times in a house built on the Public Square for Clerks' offices of the county, in the year 1848, which was afterwards removed.

In the forepart of the year 1853, William M. Aldin, the Commissioner appointed to let and superintend the building of a Court House, let the building of same to George H. Mosley for the sum of Six Thousand dollars. The contract was afterwards sub-let to William A. Patton and Redmond Whitton, who completed the building in the summer of 1855. The Court House is a brick building, sixty feet in length and forty-five feet in width, two stories in height, the first story being fifteen feet high, and the second story ten feet high, with a portico on the south end of the same, twelve feet in width, extending the whole height of the two stories, the Court-room at the time the Court House was built, being on the first or lower floor, forty by forty five feet, with two small rooms at the south end, and hall between. The upper or second story was divided into four different rooms for public hall and grand and petit jurors' rooms.

In the year 1857, the Court House was remodelled so as to make the Court-room in the second story, and two stairways leading to the same from the outside of the main building on the portico, with the offices on the first floor, and connected with the county and circuit clerks' offices in a fire-proof vault constructed, in which to keep the records of the various courts. It is a substantial and commodious building, and suited to all the necessities of the county at present, or will likely require for years to come.

The first Justice of the Peace appointed, after the county was organized, was John Plasters, being on the 24th day of June, 1845, for Athens township. Ebenezzer H. Wood was appointed as the first Attorney for the county, on the 6th day of May, 1845.

The county-seat was surveyed into streets, alleys, blocks and lots, in May, 1845, and the first sale of lots in the county-seat was made by order of the County Court, on the 16th day of June, 1845. The first merchant who was licensed to sell goods in the county, after its organization, was Elijah P. Howell, as shown by the County Records, which was on May 6, 1845. The first marriage solemnized in the county, after its organization, as shown by the records, was between Abram Popples and Barbara Rhudy, performed by William Bently, a Justice of the Peace, and took place on the 31st day of April, 1845. The first Circuit Court held in the county, was at the county-seat in Albany, then Athens, on the 12th day of March, 1846. The Honorable Solomon L. Leonard was the Judge presiding, whose commission was dated June 13, 1845; James M. Howell was Sheriff, and Elijah P. Howell Clerk of said Court. The Sheriff having been appointed by the Governor of the State, and the Clerk appointed by the Judge of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, the county having been attached to said circuit by the Act organizing the county. The Court being at said time legally organized, the Sheriff returned the following-named persons as Grand Jurors for said term, to-wit: Richard Cates, William Glendinning, William Cbeneworth, Elijah Carter, William Green, Isaac N. Varson, Nathaniel Methershead, John Q. Smith, David Buckridge, James C. Patton, Abel Yates, Jefferson Taliaferro, James M. Marrs, John Job, Adam Black, Henry P. Miller, Franklin W. Seata, and John Plasters. Adam Black was appointed foreman. The Grand Jury at said term returned six indictments, all for selling liquor without license. The trial of a case in the county was at said term, the same being Charles Robertson, Road Overseer vs. James C. Patton, on appeal from Justice Court, and was decided in favor of the defendant, Patton.

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There were on the docket, at said term, only seven cases, all civil. The first case tried in the Circuit Court, on indictment, was the case of the State vs. William Waters, at the Spring Term of the Court in April, 1847, for selling liquor without license, by a Jury composed of the following named persons, to-wit:

Levi Yates, Martin Low, C. T. Robinson, Basil W. Lewis, Lewis G. Coram, Warren LeFebvre, Henry Miller, Isaac H. Cahoon, Canaday, Henry Ward, Elias Fellows, and William Henningsen, who found the defendant not guilty.

The first licensed Attorney in the county was Moses H. Simons, who settled in the county before its organization, having been enrolled as an Attorney in Clinton county while the territory of Gentry was attached to said county; the next, being the second Attorney in the county, was Ebenezer H. Wood, who had, previously, been one of the Commissioners appointed to locate the county-seat, and who removed to Athens, then the county-seat, in 1845. The third Attorney in the county was George W. Lewis, who located in the county-seat the last of October, 1846. After that time there were several other Attorneys located in the county-seat, among whom were Robert E. Doberty, Littleberry, Linfenfeler, James Hardy, William M. Albin, and others whose names are not now at hand. M. H. Simons, the first Attorney, raised a company for the Mexican war in the spring of 1847, and started with the same as its Captain, an George K. Culp, First Lieutenant, and Samuel G. McConkey as his Second Lieutenant, for New Mexico, in April, 1847. He died before his company arrived in New Mexico. E. H. Wood died in Albany in August, 1847. George W. Lewis has resided in Albany since he first came to the county, and is still a resident of said town and county. Robert E. Doberty died in a short time after he located.

Hardy went to California about 1851, and William M. Albin, a few years after his location in Albany, removed to St. Joseph, where he now resides.

Quite a number of non-resident Attorneys attended the Courts held in this county after its organization as a county, and for several years thereafter, some of whom are as follows:

I. N. Jones, John Morris and D. W. Price, of Andrew county; John Wilson, Amos Reese, of Platte county; James H. Birch, of Clinton county; Henry M. Vorles and Benjamin F. Loan, of Buchanan county; all of whom were enrolled as Attorneys of the Court, at its Fall Term, 1846.

Sometimes there occurred in the Courts of the county, at its early day, some amusing incidents, the people being principally backwoodsmen, and not accustomed to Court rules, or the order and decorum that should be maintained in the Courts of the State, or which the writer can remember as occurring at the term of the Court held in the spring of the year 1847. The Court opened at the old log Court House, on the northwest corner of the square, Judge Solomon L. Leonard on the Bench, and James M. Howell Sheriff. One of the old pioneers, a coon, deer and bob hunter, came into the Court-room with his home made straw-hat on his head, sauntered along, and talking rather irreverently in a Court-room while a Circuit Court was in session. The Judge ordered the Sheriff to "bring that man, talking so loud, with a straw-hat on, into the bar." The Sheriff brought him in. The old man came in with his hat under his arm, and when the Judge asked him his name, he said, very meekly, "I— I— may I please your Honor, one of the oldest settlers on Grand River?" At this remark, Judge Birch, an Attorney from Plattsbuurg, attending the Court, arose and stated that the old man was one of the early settlers, he being well acquainted with him, and that he really meant no contempt of Court, as he was unaccustomed to the usages and manners in a Court-room.

The Court then released him, telling him to go, but offend no more. The old man went out, nudging some of his old chums, saying, "Didn't I come it over him?" and after he got out of the house he put his hat on and said, "This is my hat, and I will wear it where I d—d please." The people of this county have now learned to not talk very loud, or to wear their hats during the sessions of the Circuit Court.

The first election in the county, after its organization, was on the first Monday in August, 1846, at which time William G. Williams was elected Representative to the General Assembly, Michael Malsberger, John C. Williams and William A. Childers County Court Justices, George W. Birch County Clerk, Elijah P. Howell Circuit Clerk, and James M. Howell Sheriff. The records of the county show that there was a special election held in the county on the 31st day of October, 1846, to fill a vacancy for Representative in Congress, in pursuance to a Proclamation of the Governor of the State, at which election William P. Hall was elected as Congressman from the district, it then being the Fourth Congressional District.

The officers of the county, at the writer can get them from the Records and of his own knowledge, at the present time, not including those appointed at the time it was organized, they having heretofore been given, were as follows:

For County Court Justices, Michael Malsberger, John C. Williams and William A. Childers elected for four years.

In 1849, Joseph Hawkins, was appointed by the Governor to fill a vacancy, occasioned by the resignation of Michael Malsberger.

In 1850 Joseph Hawkins, Phillip Messmer and P. R. Caille were elected for four years. In 1851, James M. Howell, Peter Price and Adam Black were elected for four years. By virtue of an Act of the Legislature of 1851 and 1855, three Justices of the County Court were required to be elected, at the General Election in 1856. One to hold the office for six years, one for four years and the other for two years. At which election Enoch Liggett, Robert Boggs and J. G. Wright were elected.

In 1860, the following names composed the County Court, to-wit: Enoch Liggett, James O. George and Robert Boggs.

In 1862, Enoch Liggett, Jesse Gay and Jacob Jones.

In 1864, Enoch Liggett, Jacob Jones and George W. Needles.

In 1866, George W. Needles, Jacob Jones and John J. Ross.

In 1868, E. J. Brown, John Huggins and John P. Hall.

In 1870, John Huggins, Thomas J. Brown and John P. Hall.

In 1872, Thomas J. Brown, John Hall and John P. Lilley.

In 1874, John Hall, John P. Lilley and Elisha Cameron. Dimmon Dorsey was elected, but died before entering upon the duties of the office, and Cameron was appointed to fill the vacancy.

In 1878, Leola P. Peery, John P. Lilley and Jacob Kesler, Peery and Kesler being elected at the November election, 1876.

In connection with the County Court Justices, the different clerks of the County Court, will be given since the organization of the county to the present time, without giving the various dates of their several elections or appointments or tenure of office, who were as follows, to-wit: George W. Birch, Calvin B. Hartwell, appointed to fill vacancy, A. G. Whitton, James E. Cunningham, William B. Custer, Bart. H. Watkins and John T. Daniel, who is now the Clerk of the Courts, his term expiring in the year 1878. Of the above, Albert G. Whitton held the office two terms, of four years each, beginning in 1850, and W. B. Custer two terms, beginning in the year 1862.

The several Judges of the Circuit Court holding said Court in the county, since its organization are next given, and not having the information at hand to give the dates of their several commissions, or the times they respectively held their said office, the county having been in several judicial circuits by reason of various changes having been made by the Legislature, the names of the same are only given, and in the order in which they held said office, as follows: Solomon L. Leonard, W. B. Almond, Elijah H. Norton, James McFerran, William Heron, Jonas J. Clark, Isaac C. Parker, Bennett Pike and Samuel A. Richardson, the last named being the present Judge of said Court, who holds the office till the 1st of January, 1881.

The following are the different clerks of the Circuit Court, of the county since its organization, to-wit: Elijha Cameron, George W. Birch, James West, O. George to fill vacancy, A. G. Whitton, Charles G. Constock, James West, and Archibald B. Ross, the present incumbent, who holds the office until January 1st, 1878. Of the above named, A. G. Whitton and A. B. Ross held the office for two terms.

The names of the different sheriffs of the county, in the order in which they were elected, are here given, to-wit: James M. Howell, Elisha Cameron, Geo. W. Birch, Thomas Rice, George W. Birch, William B. Shoemaker, H. M. Rice, Frank Barkley, James B. Scott, Elisha Cameron, and Henton Gibbany, the last named being the present sheriff, having been elected to the second term at the November election in 1876, and will hold the same for two years. Of the above-named, the following have held the office for two terms, to-wit: James M. Howell, Elisha Cameron, Frank Barkley, H. M. Rice, and W. B. Shoemaker; the last named, however, died before his second term expired, and H. M. Rice was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The following are the names of the persons who have been elected and served as Circuit Attorneys in the county, to-wit: Isaac N. Jones, Lawrence Archer, James Craig, Jonathan M. Ross, W. G. Lewis, two terms, Thomas H. Collins, B. K. Davis, and Thomas F.

The Legislature at its session of 1870 and 1871, abolished the office of Circuit Attorney, and substituted in lieu thereof, the office of Prosecuting Attorney in each county. Charles H. S. Goodman was the first elected under the present law, and held the office for two terms. At the election in Nov. 1876, Joseph L. McCullough was elected to said office, for the term of two years. Previous to the years 1870 and 1871, the county Court, under the law as then existed, appointed different times County Attorneys, who were as follows:

The names of whom are as follows: Ebenezer H. Wood, George W. Lewis, William M. Albin, Charles G. Constock, and Isaac P. Caldwell.

The following are the Treasurers of the county given in the order they held said office, to-wit: John B. Huddle, William G. Williams, James C. Carter, Mordecai M. Embree, James W. Owen, Logan H. Peery and Harvey M. Urnor, the last named being the present Treasurer, having been re-elected at the election just passed, and holds the same for a term of two years.

The following are Assessors of the county: John Huggins, Levi Yates, James A. Crawford, A. Garard, Joseph B. Kingsborough, James B. Scott, L. G. Jenkins, E. B. Crissey and Clinton B. Hush, the last named being the present Assessor and elected at the election just passed.

At the session of the Legislature of 1848 and 1849, an Act was passed, establishing a Probate Court, in the county, thereby taking the Probate matters from the County Court, which to that time had jurisdiction of Probate matters. The following are the Judges of said Court, who have held the office from that time to the present, to-wit: George W. Lewis who was elected in August, 1849, for six years, and re-elected in August, 1855, for the term of six years. James M. Howell, elected in August, 1861, for six years, but afterwards resigned, and Charles G. Constock was appointed to fill the vacancy, in May, 1862.

H. M. Rice elected in November, 1862, who held the office till June, 1866, when Isaac P. Caldwell was appointed to fill the vacancy.

Galvin B. Hartwell, elected in November, 1868.

Caleb S. Canady elected in November, 1872, and Joseph B. Kingsborough who was elected at the November election, 1876, just passed, for the term of four years.

The County Surveyors are as follows: John Plasters, Thomas Keith, James L. Hines, A. G. Grant, Pleasant H. B. Moulton and Fred. N. Henton, the present incumbent, and who was re-elected at the election just passed.

The following are the names of the different persons elected to the House of Representatives from the county since its organization, to-wit:

Table listing representatives: William G. Williams (1846-1850), Richard Roberts (1848), Job Neal (1850), Daniel Conway (1852), Nathaniel Mothershead (1854), William M. Albin (1856), James B. Conway (1858), Benjamin Shultz (1860), James R. Conway (1862), David Cranor (1864), Hudson M. Rice (1866), Charles C. Byrne (1868), Phillip M. Adams (1870), Enoch Liggett (1872), James L. McCullough (1874), David Ganaway (1876).

There have only been two State Senators elected from this county, to-wit, Nathaniel Mothershead, who was elected in 1850, to fill the vacancy of Robert M. Stewart, who was elected Governor of the State, and John N. Young, who was elected in the year 1869 for his second year.

Under the present system of collecting Revenue, Robert N. McCammon was the first who was elected to that office, which was in November, 1872, and was re-elected in November, 1874. At the election in November, 1876, Francis M. Seizer was elected for the term of two years.

Elisha Cameron, County-seat Commissioner, made the first sale of lots in Athens, on June 18th, 1848.

The first county road located in the county after its organization, as shown by the records, began at Athens, thence north passing the residence of William Bently and terminating at "Sweens Mill," now known as Denver in Worth county.

There are seven A. F. and A. M. Lodges in the county at the present time, at the following named places: Gentryville, Albany, Lone Star, Alanthus, Mt. Pleasant, Island City and Berlin, and one chapter at Gentryville. There is only one lodge in the county of I. O. O. F. and is at Albany.

The collector of revenues of the county, made his first settlement for the year 1845, on the 10th day of November, 1846, in which he was charged with

Table of revenues: The State and County Revenues on tax book \$312.65, Delinquent list returned \$56.77, Treasurer's Receipts 249.43, Col. Commission 21.59, Total 327.79.

Leaving a balance due the Collector of \$ 15.14

The expenditures of the county for the year ending May the 4th, 1846, as shown by the records of the County Court were \$305.37, and the receipts of the county to that time \$154.51. The total amount of revenue of the county for the year 1875, including state, county, school, road, and bridge taxes, as shown by the collector's books for said year is \$53,059.62, showing a considerable advancement in the revenue of the county, at least, since the year 1845, being just 30 years since its organization.

The county since its organization, has materially advanced in improvements and in wealth, and also in educational and other matters which tend to make a county prosperous and one in which it is desirable to live. The county has not advanced in respect to wealth and improvements as rapidly as some others in the State, for the reason mainly that there is no railroad through the county, or near its border, though the county a few years ago voted the sum of \$150,000 to the Quincy, Missouri and Pacific Railroad, and the same amount to the Chicago and Okla. Railroad. Neither of which, however, have been yet completed to or through the county. The last named road is now completed to Pattonsburg, in Daviess county, about twenty miles from Albany; that being the nearest point to a railroad from Albany. Another thing that considerably retarded the progress and improvement of the county, was the late war and the trouble and excitement growing out of the same, but since the war closed, the county has been gradually settling up with a class of energetic and respectable citizens from other states, and advancing in improvements, wealth and general prosperity.

Instead of a few log school-houses in 1845, there are now seventy-nine good substantial and comfortable school-houses in the county, the whole county, being at the present organized into school districts, and each district having a good school-house, the total value of the same being about \$35,274.

Throughout the county, outside of the town, there has been built a considerable number of neat and commodious church houses, by the different religious denominations, the number of which and the denominational character, cannot now be given.

The different religious denominations in the county, are principally the Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal South, Christian, Baptist and Presbyterian.

The county is now well supplied with mills of a first class, both steam and water, which have superseded the old horse mills of thirty years ago, and afford all the facilities for milling, needed by the people of the county. The county general election just passed, there were about 2,700 voters polled in the county, and on an estimate of six persons to the voter, would make at the present time a population of about sixteen thousand, the census of the county for the year 1876 now being taken, but not yet completed, the exact population of the county cannot now be given, though it will not fall short of the number here given. The population of the county in the year 1870, was eleven thousand six hundred and twenty-five, making an increase for the last six years of about four thousand three hundred and seventy-five.

The first newspaper published in the county, was called the Albany Courier, and was founded at Albany in the year 1857, by J. M. Brakey, who continued its publication for about one year after his first issue, when he was succeeded in its publication by George J. Denton, and Joseph Dehaven, who continued to publish the same, till the summer of 1861, when it was sold by them to a Mr. Fuller, who removed the press, furniture, &c., to Iowa shortly afterwards.

In January, 1864, Charles G. Constock and John A. Stewart, began the publication of a newspaper in Albany, called the Grand River News, which was conducted by them, and others to whom they sold, till the year 1873, as a Republican paper.

The name was changed however previously to 1873, from the Grand River News, to the Gentry County News. In that year Needles & Son purchased the press and furniture, and from that time till the present, have been and are now, publishing a paper in Albany, advocating reform and opposing secret societies under the name of The American Freeman.

In the year 1833, Waldo & Man, founded a democratic paper in Albany, called the Albany Weekly Ledger, which has been conducted by various parties, from that time to the present, and is now owned and conducted by Jesse M. Davis, and is still a democratic paper, and the organ of the party of the county.

In June, 1876, White and Hampton founded a paper at Albany, called the Gentry County Chronicle, and which is still being published by them. It is a Republican paper and the organ of the republican party of the county at this time.

ALBANY.

Albany, the county seat of the county, is located about five miles northeast of the geographical center, and about one mile east of the east fork of West Grand River, on timber land. The streets cross each other at right angles, and about forty feet wide. The public square is located near the center of the town, and is one hundred and ninety eight feet square, upon which the Court House is situated. The population of the town at the present writing, is about twelve hundred. It was incorporated by a special act of the legislature, in the year 1857, and is still governed under its Act of Incorporation.

There are four church-houses in the town. One belonging to the Christian church, a good and commodious frame building, one owned by the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and is a brick building, and being built a number of years ago, and the oldest church house in the town, is not so fine in appearance or commodious as the church could afford, or the necessities of the denomination require. One belonging to the Methodist Episcopal Church, a large and commodious frame building, and one of the best in the town. The other belongs to the Baptist church, and is quite a nice and convenient frame building. The town is organized for school purposes under the law in reference to towns and villages, and has an elegant and commodious school building, situated in the North part of the town, built of brick two stories high, and about fifty feet wide, with two rooms, and hall for stair-way below, and two main rooms, and one recitation room above. The total cost of the building and grounds upon which it is erected was about ten thousand dollars. School is kept in the house from seven to nine months in each year, with four teachers employed, and about two hundred and twenty-five pupils enrolled, as attending in all the departments.

There is one bank, called the "Gentry County Bank," organized under the general laws of the State, with an authorized capital of one hundred thousand dollars, and eighty thousand dollars of the stock subscribed, and twenty per cent paid in. At this time three papers are published in the town. Five dry goods or general stores, five grocery stores, two stove and hardware stores, two harness and saddlery stores, three drug stores, one clothing, boot and shoe store, three jeweler stores, two blacksmith shops, one wagon shop, furniture store and factory, foundry, two carpenter shops, two tailor shops cabinet shop, two steam mills, one saw mill the other a flouring mill. Three hotels, with livery and feed stables attached. One broom factory, and two shoe shops. In town are also four physicians, one dentist and ten lawyers. It is well supplied with living water, and obtained in a reasonable depth in any part. It is remarkably healthy, and is surrounded by a class of intelligent, enterprising and prosperous citizens and farmers.

GENTRYVILLE.

Gentryville as now named, was laid out by Charles Gay and John T. Hunter in August, 1848, and is quite a pleasant and flourishing town, located on the East bank of Grand River, at the point known as "Gay's mill" in the early settlement of the country. The town as located was at first called Columbus, but the name was in the year 1850, changed by the legislature to its present name. It has a population of six hundred, composed of an intelligent and enterprising class of citizens.

It is located in the midst of and surrounded by one of the best farming portions of the county, settled up by an intelligent, industrious and enterprising class of farmers. This town has one Grist mill, with three run of Burrs, one Saw mill, Woolen factory, four General stores, five Drug stores, two Hotels, two Blacksmith shops, two Harness and Saddlery shops, Cabinet shop, Cooper shop, three Wagon shops, two Lawyers, three Physicians, one Church House, owned by the Baptists, but free for all denominations, one very comfortable and convenient frame school building, in which is a school taught for from four to six months in each year, with an average daily attendance of one hundred pupils, employing two teachers.

MT. PLEASANT.

Mt. Pleasant is situated in the west part of the county, about twelve miles from Albany, and is surrounded by a beautiful prairie country, well improved by large farms and fine houses. It is a very prosperous place, containing a population of about 300. It has two Dry Goods stores, one Drug store, Furniture store, two Physicians, Church House, Public School Building, two Hotels, two Blacksmith shops and one Wagon shop.

ALANTHUS.

Alanthus is situated in the northwest part of the county, about fourteen miles from Albany, and has a population of about 200. It has three Dry Goods stores and two Drug stores, a Blacksmith shop, Wagon shop, Church and Public School building.

KING CITY.

King City is situated in the southwest part of the county, about twenty-two miles from Albany, on a beautiful prairie, surrounded by fine farms and enterprising farmers. It was laid out in the year 1869, by John Pittsberger and Joseph N. Taylor, and now has four Stores, three Hotels, one Church, the Presbyterian. Population about 100.

MT. VERNON.

Mt. Vernon is situated in the northeast part of the county, and is about ten miles from Albany. It was laid out in 1856, by John Fletcher, and now has two Stores, Church House, Blacksmith and Wagon shop. Population about 80.

ELENORAH.

Elenorah is situated about six miles north of Albany, and was laid out in the year 1869, by Shield & Matill. It has now two Stores, one Church House, Public School building, Saw mill, and Blacksmith and Wagon shop. Population about 85.

NEW CASTLE.

New Castle is a thriving little village, situated southeast from Albany about eight miles. It was laid out in 1857, by John Givenden, and now has four Stores, two Church Houses, Blacksmith and Wagon shop. Population about 60.

UNION GROVE.

Union Grove is situated in the northwest part of the county, about twelve miles from Albany. It was laid out in 1870, by James Hunt, and has a population of about 50, and has two Stores and a School House.

ISLAND CITY.

Island City is situated about eighteen miles southwest of Albany, and has a population of about 50. It has three Stores, Public School building and Church House.

BERLIN.

Berlin is situated about thirteen miles south of Albany, and has a population of about 20. It has two Stores and a School House.

HAVANA.

Havana is situated in the southeast part of the county, about fifteen miles from Albany, and has a population of about 75, and has five business houses of all kinds, a Water, Flouring and Saw mill and Blacksmith shop.

In writing the foregoing, the writer has labored under many difficulties in getting up facts, dates, etc., to make out a true statement of the matters therein given, and undoubtedly there are various errors on account of many things having transpired prior to the writer's settlement in the county, or his recollection of the same; and the records of the Courts, Officers, etc., being at this early day quite imperfect, and sometimes uncertain, and the recollections of the older settlers, as to dates, etc., being sometimes at fault (though a number of the old settlers have materially aided him in getting up the matter written, for which they have his thanks), the same are given from the best information obtainable within the short space of time allotted for that purpose (the same being but a few weeks), the writer, aiming in all instances to give the facts, dates, etc., as accurately as possible, without any rhetorical flourishes or pretensions of display, but merely a narrative or plain statement of the facts and matters therein intended to be given.