

HISTORY OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI.

JACKSON county was not settled or organized at as early a date as some others adjoining it. The territory embraced within its limits together with that of Cass, Bates and part of Carson was occupied by the Osage Indians. Their title was extinguished by treaty with the government during the summer of 1825. However its first occupancy by white men dates back to the year 1808, when the government purchased from the Indians a tract of land six miles square which was afterward known as the "Six Miles," a name which that territory still continues to bear. This purchase was embraced within the limits of the Missouri River, Fire Prairie and the Little Blue. A Fort was erected upon it during the same year, and a military garrison established, which deriving its name from the surrounding tribes was called "Ft. Osage." The site of this Fort was on a bluff of the Missouri River, and where the town of Sibley now stands. At the beginning of the war with England in 1812 this Fort was evacuated, and again re-occupied after the war until 1822, when it was finally abandoned. During the occupancy of this fort a few white families were encouraged by its officers to settle on the adjacent territory. After the removal of the troops immigration commenced filling up the county with great rapidity. The Indians were removed during the summer of 1825, and in the Autumn of that year all the timbered portion of the county west of the "Little Blue" was partially occupied. The first settlers were principally from other portions of the state, but during the following year large immigration from Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, etc., augmented the population rapidly. During that year an application was prepared to submit to the Legislature for county organization, and the Census of the District was taken. The "Blue county," as it was then called, was attached for civil and military purposes to Lafayette county, and in the year 1826 at a general election, Abraham McClelland of "Six Miles" and Silbom W. Boggs of same place were returned as representatives to the lower and upper branches of the Legislature; the ensuing Assembly passed an act organizing the county which was approved December 15th, 1826, and David Ward and Julius Emmons of Lafayette county, and John Bartleson of Clay county, were appointed commissioners for the purpose of locating the county seat. These gentlemen failed to comply with that provision of the act under which they were appointed requiring them to fix the future capital "within three miles" of the centre of the county. The prevailing opinion at that time, and for many years afterwards in which these worthy commissioners appears to have participated was that the magnificent savannahs which spread out in supernal beauty over that designated "Centre" was utterly useless for any agricultural purpose and would remain unsettled to the end of time, and following the time of settlement which was confined to the "Timber," they located their seat of justice on the 29th day of March, 1827, in southwest quarter of section two, township 49, in range 32, and gave it the name which subsequent history has rendered appropriate of "Independence."

On the 25th of January, 1827, the Legislature appointed Abraham McClelland, Richard Fristoe, and Henry Burris as presiding judges of the county. These officers held their first session and were sworn in on the 21st day of May following. These orders at that session provided for the division of the county into three townships, Fort Osage on the east, Kane on the west and Blue in the centre. The first deriving its name from the Fort referred to, the second from the Kane or Kansas river, and the third from the Blue river, named from the color of its waters. They likewise ordered that a plat of the county seat should be made and presented to the court, which was done and approved on the first day of the following June. At the same session the following named persons were appointed Justices for the new townships, Wm. J. Baugh, Jesse Lewis and Joel P. Walker for Fort Osage; Wm. Yates, Lewis Jones, James Chambers and Wm. Silvers for Blue; Samuel Johnston and Andrew P. Patterson for Kane.

The first session of the circuit court was held at the house of John Young, near here the Rose House now stands, on the 29th day of March, 1827, in Independence, and was presided over by Judge David Todd of Howard county. Its first clerk was Robert Wilson, of Howard county, who was the appointee of the Judge, and accompanied him for that purpose. It appears that this gentleman was so unfavorably impressed with what he regarded the rough exterior and uncultivated manners of the people, and the unfavorable prospects of ultimate civilization and refinement, that he gave up his position in disgust. He was succeeded by Mr. Samuel C. Owens, who served in that capacity for many years.

Subsequent to the survey of the county an act was passed by Congress granting to the state of Missouri a certain amount of land for seminary purposes. A large portion of that land was selected in the vicinity of Independence, and the best lands of the county were thus reserved from settlement and held by the state at \$2.00 per acre. This militated to some extent against its early improvement. There were likewise two townships in the eastern part of the county, 49 & 50 in range 30, which was not opened to purchase by the government for about 15 years after the organization of the county; this likewise retarded its early settlement and improvement.

"Lost townships" have a singular history. They were situated in the southwestern part of the county, known as "High Blue," and were not surveyed or sectionized in the original survey. The office reported to the government that as they were mostly "prairie" he did not think they would pay the expense of bringing them into market, and further that in attempting to run some lines through them he found the presence of some powerful magnet which so influenced his compass as to make its survey impossible. An amusing story is told in this connection by some of the old settlers, from which it appears that the surveyor in knocking around came up one evening to a small distillery on the banks of the "Sni," and being of a familiar turn of mind, he was soon on the most excellent terms with the distiller, and before leaving was so hospitably entertained that he lost his hat and field notes which were discovered by an old sow and effectually demolished. Ashamed of his loss and not wishing to go over the ground again this faithful official made the report as above stated. We can not undertake to decide whether it was the head or the compass of this worthy official which was so seriously disturbed; the result is all we have to deal with, and we know that was to keep this land out of market from 15 to 20 years after the other portions of the county. This however did not entirely prevent its settlement, as it appears that it was finally offered by the government. It was dotted over by finely improved farms, and is now one of the best portions of the county. All the difficulties in the way of settlement being at length removed, the county augmented in wealth and numbers very rapidly, until a new disturbing element made its appearance.

THE MORMON IMBROGLIO.

In the month of June 1831 Joseph Smith, the Mormon high-priest, then in Kirtland, Ohio, had a pretended revelation that the final gathering-place of the "Saints" was to be in Missouri. He set out with a few followers in the same month, reaching Jackson county by the middle of June. Here it

was again revealed to him that this was "Zion which should never be moved," and the whole land was solemnly dedicated to the "Lord and His saints." They began immediately to build, and erected the first big house in Kane township 12 miles west of Independence. Another revelation of August 2d fixed the site of the "Great Temple" three hundred yards west of the court-house in Independence, which was at once dedicated for that purpose. It is a striking fact that the title to this temple lot has never been vested, but remains intact to this day. Owing to frequent accessions the Mormon population increased rapidly, and in the spring of 1833 amounted to about 1500. They had taken virtual possession of Independence, and established a paper there—their organ—under the euphonious title of the "Morning and Evening Star," and were rapidly extending their settlements westward. Up to this time there had been no conflict between the Mormons and early settlers of the county. On the contrary they had been uniformly treated with great kindness and forbearance, but as their numbers and strength increased they became arrogant and insolent, and daily proclaimed to the old settlers that the Lord had given them the whole land of Missouri, and would drive out the other sects before them, as He had driven out the heathen before the children of Israel. These predictions were listened to with vague wonder and astonishment by the simple and honest settlers, but soon their increasing numbers and arrogance began to awaken the most serious fears for the future. Their predictions were interpreted to mean that the "saints" themselves would become the ministers of God's vengeance and smite the unbelievers. Many were incensed against them for their language, and the public mind was greatly inflamed.

In April, 1835, a number of Missionaries assembled together in Independence, and decided that "means of defense ought to be taken," but determined upon nothing. The first June number of the "Morning and Evening Star" contained an intemperate article headed "Free people of color," which excited the wrath of the citizens against them as "Abolitionists." This was answered by a small pamphlet entitled "Beware of false prophets." It soon became apparent that the Mormons would become sufficiently numerous to carry the ensuing election, and this increased all the fears of the old settlers afresh, and without any apparent concert an armed force in Independence tore down the newspaper office, tarred and feathered several of the Saints, whipped two of them slightly, and ordered all to leave the county. The Mormons were completely cowed, and seemed disposed to submit to this condition. In the mean time some of their leaders submitted a memorial to Gov. Dunklin—the presiding officer of the state—for redress, to which that officer made answer "that they had a right to the protection of the law if they saw proper to remain in Missouri." Emboldened by this they refused to submit to the conditions imposed. The people were determined, and assembled in large numbers, burnt ten houses and committed some other acts of hostility. The Mormons armed in turn and fired upon their assailants killing two, and wounding others. The feeling became terribly intensified. The whole people were aroused, and the destruction of the Mormons was imminent when they became panic-stricken, and on the night of the 14th of November suddenly evacuated Jackson, crossing over into Clay county. This expulsion of the Mormons from Jackson county has been the subject of much discussion. That the people were not justified in law is plain, but that they did exactly as the people in nine counties out of ten would have done is equally plain. They seem to have been actuated much more by a fear of what the Mormons would do when they had the power than what they had done, and that those fears were well founded is abundantly proven by subsequent events. The near vicinity of the Mormons became intolerable, and the settlers determined they should leave. They were a moral blot and a constant menace which could not be endured; and that the people were not actuated by any feeling of malice or injustice against them is sufficiently proven by the terms of settlement submitted to a committee of the Mormons by a similar committee authorized to represent the citizens of the county. This was after their expulsion. The conditions proposed were that by a fair and just arbitrament of disinterested persons the full value of their lands and all other property left in Jackson county should be determined and paid together with one hundred per cent. added thereto within thirty days of said award. This most generous offer was declined by the Mormons. Alleging the divine command the Lord had said "Zion should never be moved." And it is said the Saints look back to Jackson county with the same devotion as the Mahomedan to his Mecca, with the same undying love as the Israelite to the holy land of his fathers, and it is one of their traditions that they shall return to "Zion" with songs and everlasting joy when the fullness of time shall come. But certainly this pleasing hope is not indulged by the citizens of Jackson county.

The citizens of Clay county soon became much dissatisfied with their new accession, and a public meeting was called, to which a number of the citizens of Jackson was invited for consultation. On their return from the meeting ten of them embarked on the ferry-boat at Wayne City with their horses. On their arrival at the middle of the stream the boat suddenly went down, and five of those persons, together with the ferryman, were drowned. It was charged against the Mormons—and believed by many—that they had injured the boat by boring holes above the water-line, thus causing it to sink when loaded. On the night of May 7th, 1842, Ex-Governor Lillburn W. Boggs was shot through the window in his own house in Independence. This attempt at murder was committed by O. P. Rockwell, who was sent there by the Mormons for that purpose in revenge for his action while Governor, ordering them to be expelled from the state "even if it was necessary to exterminate them." Governor Boggs recovered from his wound, Rockwell was arrested, but managed to escape punishment through some technicality of law.

THE CIVIL WAR.

It is with great hesitation and reluctance we approach this part of our subject, and were it not that our history would be very incomplete as a catalogue of events and the important lessons taught by them, we would be disposed to take the advice of an intelligent and impartial friend and not "touch it at all." It is always difficult and delicate to deal fairly with such recent events, in which many persons now living took a most active part, and which have not ceased to divide public opinion to this day. And it is believed that when a true history of the war is written, it will appear that in its recklessness of life and wantonness of destruction, and in all its most shameful and revolting crimes perpetrated upon the non-combatant and helpless population of Jackson county it is without a parallel. To the credit of both sides engaged in that unratified conflict, it must be said as a rule, it was confined to the conquest of opposing armies, and the subjection of armed bodies of men. And to this day, whatever may be said about it, it does not appear that those bands of marauders that devastated the border counties of Missouri were acting under the authority of either government or any responsible commander. When we remember that in the conflict arising from civil war it is inevitable that the

"leader" should feel its most destructive effects, and when superadded to this we have a previous feudal condition of hostility and animosity ready at any time to exhibit itself in acts of hostility and reprisals, we can readily understand something of the causes which led to so much violence and passion in Jackson county. It will be remembered that owing to the vacillating and unsettled policy of our government, the territory of Kansas was thrown open as the battling ground between two contending principles, and in the subsequent struggle for its possession the passions of men became terribly heated, which resulted in frequent collisions and loss of life. The hostile feeling thus engendered had not time to cool until the great conflict burst upon the country, and the remembrance of real or fancied wrongs found a new opportunity for revenge. This was exhibited in petty acts of hostility and reprisals until about the 25th day of November, 1861, "Jennison" arrived at Independence with a force of about 500 men. He remained there about five days, and during that time—either by his or pretended authority—65 houses were burnt in the county, several persons—non-combatants—were killed, several thousand head of the finest stock driven off, two hundred and fifty negroes and much other property taken. This was succeeded by frequent raids of a similar character on a smaller scale. Predatory bands of both parties continued to roam the country, and between the "Jayhawkers" of Kansas and the "bush whackers" of Missouri, it was being plundered and desolated by fire and sword. In August, 1863, the notorious guerrilla—Captain Quantrell arrived with a force in Jackson county, and after carrying there for some time and obtaining accessions to his command, passed up through into Kansas, sacked and destroyed the city of Lawrence killing and driving out its inhabitants. This act of wanton destruction increased and intensified the bitterness of the Kansas people, and the worst passions were let loose, reprisals were made, and the whole aspect of the war in the counties lying Missouri and Kansas was being changed from a "war for the Union" or "Secession" to one of border extermination.

GENERAL ORDER No. 11.

On the 25th day of August, 1863, General Ewing issued his celebrated Order No. 11, directing that all persons living in Jackson, Cass and Bates counties, excepting those in Kane township, Jackson county, north of Brush creek, and west of the Big Blue, and those residing within one mile of a military post—should remove within fifteen days. Those establishing their bona fide residence within the district after said ninth of September to be destroyed. It is not our purpose to criticize this order. While it has been condemned on the one hand as the most inhuman and brutal mandate that was ever issued by a military tyrant, it has been justified by many fair minded men as a necessary and merciful act, and required to protect the non-combatants, and their families from destruction.

It is claimed by the defenders of General Ewing that he foresaw much of the hardship and suffering that must arise from the enforcement of this order, but believed it the only means of preserving the people from utter destruction by marauding bands on both sides. Many of the people could not be brought to believe that this sweeping order would be enforced, but it was most fully and rigidly carried out, and the most relentless and inhuman spirit of the war was let loose on both sides, one for the enforcement of a military order, the other for revenge and resistance to its effects. It is useless to attempt to describe the scenes that followed. It is enough to say that the monuments of war's desolation may be seen to this day in many places in the county, in the desolate walls and chimneys of what was once the stately mansions and comfortable homes of a prosperous people. The loss of war like the simon swept over the country, leaving a wide waste of desolation and death which the blessing of peace and the hand of industry has not yet entirely effaced. Many acts of great wrong and injustice were doubtless perpetrated on both sides. Houses were burnt and men murdered or driven from their homes on the charge of feeding or harboring "Bushwhackers" or "Jayhawkers," when it was more frequently the act of coercion than choice. Lawless bands of armed men, in the name of one party or the other, satiated their diabolical hatred and insatiable cupidity by robbing, plundering and depopulating with fire and sword, but enough of this harrowing tale. Jackson county is again on the highway to prosperity. The vestiges of the war are rapidly disappearing. Let the bitterness and the passions engendered by it disappear likewise and forever.

KANSAS CITY.

Up to the time when this golden trade was enriching Independence commenced to seek outlets further west. The rich prairie lands lying between there and Westport had been left open, and considered of no purpose except as a range for cattle, and as grazing grounds for the Mexican traders, but year after year as those lands were fenced and cultivated, compelled these Mexican traders to transfer these vast herds of cattle and mules to better grazing ranges west of the settlements. This proves what slight causes affect the laws of trade and commerce, and was the death-blow to the bright hopes of Independence for the future. The transfer of this trade to Westport made the town of Kansas an important commercial landing upon the Missouri River, and was one of the causes which led to the building of a city at this point. This taken together with the fact that from a very early day, as far back as those of Lewis and Clarke, and the first expeditions of the various trapping companies, it has always been a prominent point for the business of the plains and mountains, and a favorite resort for the old trappers and traders, where they "dickered" and held their councils around their camp fires and under the bluffs of the "Kaw Mouth," long before we can give any dates or figures; and here where Marquette discovered and De Soto explored the Missouri, Kansas City was already a very flourishing Osage Indian village, and the mouth of the Kansas river was called home by the families of the warlike "Kaws." Here it was that Lewis and Clarke tarried and refitted in their famous exploring expedition in 1804, and here it was that John C. Fremont predicted the growth of a great city, and took his long march across the plains, and here the gifted Benton inspired by the same prophetic spirit, which prompted him on another occasion to stretch his arm westward and utter the memorable declaration, "There is the east, there is India." Standing upon a rock two miles below and pointing to the present site of the city he exclaimed, "There, gentlemen, where that rocky bluff meets and turns aside the sweeping current of this mighty river, there where the Missouri after running its southward course for nearly two thousand miles turns eastward to the Mississippi, there

HISTORY OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI.

less than a generation will see the greatest city between St. Louis and the Pacific."

The earliest historical mention of the present site of Kansas City is found in the memoirs of Daniel Boone, Jr., who landed at the great bend of the Missouri somewhere about the month of June, 1787, and spent many years in the vicinity. Following him was Louis Grandlouis, and his family, which made this their home for nearly half a century. Madame Grandlouis was the first white woman to reach the western boundary of Missouri, and as such is entitled to special mention in these annals. The first white man who made the present site of Kansas City his abiding place was Jacques Fennault, better known to the old citizens as "Old Pine." He landed here in the year 1815, spent his days here and died here on Sunday, July, 1871, at the remarkable age of 124 years. Following Old Pine came the first French farmers of Kaw's Mouth, while the fertile valleys of the Big and Little Blue were being invaded by the settlers from the older states, the Proudhomes, the Cousteaus, the Sublettes and the Grinnottes were quietly locating themselves upon the site of the future great city. After them came the Chicks, the Campbells, Ransom, Smart, McLaneis, Jenkins, Lykins, Rice, Seaman, Kiley, Gillip, Honeoy and a chain of others. These formed the nucleus of what is now the City of Kansas. These men came not at first to till the soil, but to trade and barter with the Indians and to outfit expeditions for the upper Missouri. None of these parties effected a settlement upon the present site of Kansas City, but were divided between the Kaw bottoms, west of the new City limits, and on the level ground upon the river just east of the same works.

The principal portion of the land enclosed by the old city limits was originally entered by Gabriel Proudhomme about the year 1830, and all of the principal land entries about the city were made between the year 1831 and 1847. And about that time nearly all the lands of the township were entered save a small tract on the Big Blue then in the possession of the Kaw Indians, a remnant of their old hunting grounds, which was sold in 1855 for the benefit of the Indians, and was mostly purchased by Mrs. Hinkle.

The first incorporation of the town of Kansas was made in 1820. Of the names of those incorporators little is known. This was subsequently declared null and void, as it was discovered that a serious mistake had been made and that it did not describe the property intended. This error does not seem to have been remedied until 1846, when a new survey and incorporation was effected. Previous to this in 1844 the great flood swept away and utterly demolished both "Kaw's Mouth" and the village below it. This inundation was really a blessing in disguise. It drove together and consolidated on the bluff an interest and a community which in after years proved the salvation of Kansas City.

The proprietors of the town were J. C. McCoy, Wm. Gillis, Robert Campbell, H. Jobe, W. B. Evans, Jacob Ragan and E. P. McGee. The company proceeded to sell lots in 1846. The city charter was obtained in March, 1853, and at the election for city officers received 36 votes and D. Benvist Troost, the Democratic candidate 27 votes. The first council was Democratic, and as follows, Jonathan Lykens, Thomas H. West, Wm. G. Barclay, Thompson McDaniels and Wm. J. Payne; and Mr. B. Hedges was elected city marshal. At this time the town embraced a population of about 300, and its progress in business and in the arts, and the discovery and the prevalence of the pestilence, the dread cholera, broke out in 1849 and carried off many of its citizens with fearful rapidity. The place was almost deserted, and the loneliness of desolation brooded over it. And in the year 1851 the whole population was not over 300. Since that time notwithstanding the utter destruction of her trade by the war, the subsequent visit of 1873, and the destruction of her tributary country by the grasshopper visitation of 1874 and 1875, her growth and progress has been at times most marvellous and unequalled in the history of civilization.

TRADE OF KANSAS CITY.

Thos. A. Smart, who is still residing in Kansas city, opened the first trading house in 1839. His stock consisted of a general assortment of groceries and Indian goods. The next year he was followed by Anthony Richards with a similar stock. In short we may mention the names of Smart, Richters, Chick, Canville and Misses Calu and Block as the early traders of Kansas city. Space forbids us to give an elaborate account of the subsequent growth and development of trade to this time. It is sufficient to say that it has constituted a progress that can not find a parallel in American history, and its business to-day is perhaps more extensive than the business of any other place in the world in proportion to its population. Founded as she is upon an unusual number of the elements that enter into the basis of prosperity and communities, her great success is already an accomplished fact, and assures the future of a great metropolis, the seat of a vast industrial population and extensive manufactures.

INDEPENDENCE.

The county seat is a beautiful and attractive town with a population of about 3000. It is built upon an eminence which commands a view of many miles of adjacent country. Its suburbs are dotted with handsome and costly dwellings, finely laid out grounds and beautiful gardens. Its people are generous, cultured and mostly wealthy, distinguished for their industry and self-reliance. Its schools and advantages are equal to any town of its size in the state. In addition to its public school buildings, it has two private seminaries, controlled by first-class professional talent and superior ability as has been already intimated. Independence was located by order of the county court on the 29th day of March, 1827, no improvement having previously been made. Samuel Newton was appointed by the commissioner to survey and lay out the town, and to show the compensation for labor in those days, and the aids deemed necessary. We append the following report. Stakes \$1.00, three days' packing and driving same, \$2.50. Surveying 143 lots at 25 cents, \$35.75, five days laying off town at 75 cents, \$33.75, writing and putting up advertisements \$2.00, 4 quires of paper, \$1.50, 2 sheets of post-paper, 25 cents, three days' crying sales, \$8.00, seven gallons of whiskey, \$3.50. Boy waiting at sales, 25 cents.

The first court-house was a hewed log structure, for which the court appropriated one hundred and seventy-five dollars. This in a few years was replaced by a substantial brick building, and since then has been two new ones erected; the present beautiful edifice about two years since. The first hotel was likewise built of logs, owned and kept by Solomon Flemyer, when it is said good cheer was most generously dispensed to its guests. It was located where the present Nolan House now stands. The first store was established by the celebrated John Anll of Lexington, before the selection of the county seat, and was situated near the East public spring. Louis Franklin built the first brick house, and John Louis the second, the latter of which is still standing and owned at present by Preston Roberts, Esq. The pioneer church was erected by the Cumberland Presbyterians in 1831 on Liberty street, near the present one. The Methodists soon followed with their house of worship on the lot yet occupied by them for church purposes, and in a very few years the different denominations were all pleasantly situated in neat and substantial edifices. In 1827 began the first strike here at an early day and the first marriage was first recorded was Mr. David G. Butterfield to Miss Nancy Graham, February 26th, 1827.

We do not look back many years to the time when Independence was the most important commercial point between St. Louis and the Pacific Ocean. Here was invented the "Prairie Schooner," that "Santa Fe Wagon," which never had its counterpart in any country, and by its ponderous wheels and immense burdens defied a country without roads, and became its own road maker. It is said that there is to-day thousands of miles of good wagon roads stretching to the mountains and beyond on which neither pick nor shovel was ever used, made by those wagons. It was this immense trade with New Mexico, dense and value to the lands of the county. It was there that such men as Waldo, Gregg, Benz, Louis Sublet, Owens, Houk, St. Grain and others made Jackson county the undisputed market of western commerce. To this trade many of the wealthiest men now living in the country and the descendants of others owe their fortunes. In the winter of 1848-49 the California excitement sprang up. The writer of this then living far away in the mines of the All-gheeny remembers well the association of Independence, Mo., conspicuously

above all others as a point of rendezvous and departure for the caravans which from all parts of the land were seeking the new Eldorado, but a change has come over all this busy, bustling scene. The wonderful activity which marked this era in the history of Independence has departed, and it is now a quiet country town, nestled down in its bowers and content with its own history.

EARLY SETTLERS.

The early settlement of all countries is that which gathers about it the deepest interest. We all remember with what charmed eagerness we have gleaned the story and listened to the recital of the early adventure, the cheerfully endured hardships, the wonderful escapes from the dangers of flood and field. The savage wild beast, and the more hostile Indian, which everywhere marked the progress of the undaunted pioneer. We wonder at the invincible spirit of those men which impelled them to abandon the comforts of home and civilization, to seek hardship, danger and death, to devote their lives to a fierce struggle and battle with adversity, not for themselves, but for those who followed them might find a land prepared for civilization, open for the great results which were to succeed their sacrifice to a coming time for such purpose as our great enterprises, and unquestionably raises up men, and they find their greatest happiness in thus fulfilling their destiny.

It is due to those harbingers of civilization, and it is due to those who have succeeded them, that we should place on record something relative to their lives and early struggles in opening up this portion of the state, and laying the foundation which has procured such grand results. And here we can not avoid expressing our regret that time and space will not permit us to give more than a partial outline of character, and a very meagre list of those who should be noticed in this work.

DANIEL MORGAN BOONE.

The name of Boone is historic, and among the first to brave the unknown western wilderness was the subject of our sketch, who in 1787 came to St. Louis when about 18 years old. After remaining there for several years he gradually found his way up the Missouri river, to the mouth of the Kansas, to his noble father, Col. Daniel Boone—then an exile from Kentucky and a sojourner in the wilds of Virginia. He sent messages concerning the goodly land he had discovered in 1793, drawing after him by his influence many of those hardy pioneers whose sons now fill the state. Daniel Boone—the younger—devoted much of his time and energies to inducing emigration from Kentucky. Meeting the caravans of new comers in the wilderness and conducting them through he contributed about as largely to the settlement of Missouri as his father had previously done to Kentucky. He exhibited the same wild daring, love of adventure, and many of the other traits of character possessed by his father, and like him too, hunting, trapping and combating the wild and savage Indian was the pursuit of his life. This singular and wonderful man after a pilgrimage of over three score years along the western line of the state, and the very verge of civilization, laid down his life in the last he loved as well as his bones rest in an unmarked grave near Westport in Jackson county.

LILBURN W. BOGGS.

General Boggs was born in Lexington, Kentucky and emigrated to Missouri at an early day, when quite a young man. We are not informed as to the date of his arrival in Jackson county, but find in "Six Mile" prior to the organization of the county, and in 1829 he was the first Senator elected from that district in connection with La Fayette, and on the organization of the county was appointed its first county clerk, which position he held for some time, and in 1832 was chosen Lieutenant Governor of the state on the same ticket with Governor Dunklin who he succeeded in 1836, and occupied the position until 1840. At the expiration of his term he retired to his home in Independence, and in 1842 he was nominated and elected to the State senate, which position he held until 1846. Immediately after the expiration of his term he emigrated to California, arriving there a short time in advance of the celebrated Fremont expedition. He was there engaged in agricultural pursuits. We are unable to arrive at the date of his death, or age, but it probably occurred about 1858, at the advanced period of 75 years. His was a life attended with many triumphs and much struggling and adversity. We have already referred to his attempted assassination. From the wound then received he lingered on the verge of life for many weeks, and his business ventures were never fortunate. His illness never fully recovered, but his integrity prevented him from availing himself of facilities offered to public men for their enrichment. A man of great purity of life and fine social attainments, his attractive character, without possessing any great brilliancy, placed him in the front rank among men. He died, leaving his posterity that "pearl of great price," an unblemished name.

COL. SAMUEL C. OWENS.

COL. OWENS was one of the first settlers of the county. He was born in Green county, Kentucky, and came to Missouri at an early day, and first settled in Franklin county and subsequently in Jackson county in 1826, and engaged in the business of school-teaching near where Independence now stands. On the organization of the circuit court in Jackson county he received the appointment of its clerk which position he held for many years. During this time he represented his district in the legislature. He afterwards became a partner in the celebrated mercantile firm of Anll and Owens, and in connection with that firm was engaged largely in what was termed the "commerce of the plains." The war with Mexico breaking out while he was engaged in this trade, he was obliged to attach his wagon train to General Doniphan's command, and having arrived within a short distance of Chihuahua, his destination was attacked by the enemy's forces. Hastily organizing a brigade of civilians, traders and their employees, when the command to charge was given dashed impetuously onward in advance of his company, fell mortally wounded and breathed out his life on the battle-field on Christmas day, 1846. Thus fell one of the finest specimens of manhood that ever graced any country. A man of large heart and generous impulses, he was a friend and benefactor of the poor, always ready to assist those in need with his counsel and his money. At the head of every enterprise for the public interests, he was of great advantage to the settlers, and aided largely in the development and progress of every measure conducing to the public welfare.

GENERAL SAMUEL D. LUCAS.

was born and raised in Washington county, Kentucky, and emigrated to Missouri at an early period of his settlement. His first residence in the State was in Franklin, and afterwards Booneville. In the spring of 1827 he was connected with a trading expedition to Santa Fe, of which the celebrated Kit Carson, then a boy of fourteen, was a member. The company consisted of nineteen persons, and were attacked by three hundred Pawnee Indians, and owing to the sickness of the Captain, the command devolved upon Lucas. At the first charge the Indians captured all their animals, but pursuing them with his charge the Indians captured them, and killed several of his assailants. In 1832 he engaged in mercantile pursuits in Lexington, Mo., and afterwards in Independence. In 1841 he was elected clerk of the circuit and county court, and subsequently recorder of deeds, and successively elected to the same office in service, once against the Osage Indians in 1836, and a second time in 1838, he was ordered to march against the Mormons in Caldwell county at the head of twenty-five hundred men to co-operate with an equal force under General Clarke. Before the arrival of this latter force, he was an urbane and courteous gentleman, and a member of the school, an exemplary Christian. He died in Feb. 1868, and left to his family a good name, and to the community the lustre of a good example.

GEORGE M. SATE.

was born in Stafford county, Virginia in January, 1791, and emigrated to Kentucky at the age of twenty-two, and moved to Westport, Jackson county, in 1838, and to Lone Jack in the south-western part of the county in 1840,

and engaged in merchandizing, in which he continued until the commencement of the late civil war. While yet a young man, little past his majority he was elected captain of the militia company, and was promoted to be major, and as such, commanded a battalion in some of the skirmishes with the British on the James and Potomac rivers. A Democrat in politics he was elected to the legislature in 1842, and was again elected to the same body in 1868, and subsequently served for several years as justice of the peace in his township. In 1830 he joined the Christian church, and continued a consistent member until the day of his death, which occurred November 12th, 1868. He was liberal, generous and honorable. In the day when men counted honor for something, he filled the full measure of his day usefully, and his name is held in sacred remembrance by a host of friends.

JOHN R. SWEARINGEN.

was born in southern Kentucky in 1798. He came to Independence in 1825, two years before the organization of the county. He was the first county clerk, which position he continued to fill until the year 1841, and in the year 1847 he was chosen to the office of county and probate clerk, which position he continued to hold by re-election for eighteen years. In this interval he was also a member of the convention which framed the constitution of the state, and for the last three years of his life was post-master of Independence, of which he was the longest resident. He was a man almost universally beloved for his great kindness of heart and broad sympathy, which went out, not in words alone, but in needed aid, to the suffering and gentle ministrations at the bed-side of the sick. The crowning merit of his character was an indefinable integrity which no one impugned, which all acknowledged a memory of cherished value to his surviving relatives. It is said he gained no office in his long career by any sacrifice of principle or unworthy artifice, but as the merited reward of a faithful and honest fulfillment of every public trust.

HON. ALVIN BROOKING.

was born in Scott county, Kentucky, and died at his home in Jackson county, Mo., in 1856, at the age of 61 years. Two of his children yet survive him, Captain H. C. Brooking and Mrs. Serena Pendleton, wife of Logan Pendleton, Esq. He was a man of extraordinary force of character, and more than usual ability; although his educational advantages were but few. A Whig in politics, and in his residence and conduct, which all acknowledged a memory of cherished value to his surviving relatives. It is said he gained no office in his long career by any sacrifice of principle or unworthy artifice, but as the merited reward of a faithful and honest fulfillment of every public trust.

HISTORY OF TOWNSHIPS.

WESTPORT.

The Mexican and Santa Fe trade had enriched Independence, was compelled by the occupation and improvement of the county to seek a place for outfit and pasturage at some more western point. The birth name and subsequent prosperity of Westport was the result of this change of base. Its close proximity to the unoccupied prairie lands of the Shawnee Indians, where the immense Mexican herds could graze themselves fat, preserved this trade for several years and made it the scene of great activity, and the wealth of Sonora, Chihuahua, Mexico and Santa Fe was being poured into her lap. Three or four extensive wagon manufactories were kept constantly employed making and repairing "prairie schooners," and six or seven saddlery establishments, employing a host of workmen, equipping vast herds of Mexican mules for the voyage across the plains. But like many other places which this trade had touched and gilded, the conditions which gave it precedence ceased to exist, and its more fortunate rival and tributary Westport Landing began to assert her natural right, and presented advantages for trading and outfitting which gave her that supremacy and control which has so much contributed to her present prosperity.

Owing to the growth and increase of population of Kansas city and Kansas township, the necessity arose for a new municipal organization, and by order of the court, in May, 1869, the new township of Westport sprang into existence. The town and vicinity are suburban to Kansas city, and connected with it by a horse railroad. Many of the business men of the latter place having their residences and country seats, give it a beauty and finish unequalled by any portion of the county. The township was originally about equally divided between prairie and timber, and is well watered by its numerous springs and tributaries to the Big Blue.

The present population of the town of Westport is about 1200.

FORT OSAGE.

occupies the larger portion of what was known as "Six Mile," in the eastern and northern part of the county. Is a beautiful and fertile region, containing many fine farms, is well watered by its numerous tributaries of the Blue and Prairie creek, and belted with timber along its water-courses. A portion of it presents the appearance of having at one time been an island, or a part of the Missouri river, finding its way through Little Blue, Fire Prairie lakes and the channel of Fire Prairie creek to its mouth. The rocks and cliffs show clearly the action of water, and the substratum is a heavy deposit of river sand, cropping out in many places. Numerous provinces or hills dot its surface. Arising from the surrounding prairie, to an elevation of fifty to one hundred feet, their formation appears to be successive strata of fossiliferous limestone, which cannot fail to become a source of great wealth for building and agricultural purposes. A small town called Sibley, named after George C. Sibley, one of its first settlers, occupies the site of old Fort Osage. Buckner, a new and promising town, is located on the narrow-gauge railroad, near the centre of the township, and named in honor of a man who formerly resided on a hill adjacent to it.

Lake city, a small town and railroad station, is five miles west of Buckner, and derives its name from Fire Prairie lake. Prominent among its early settlers were Samuel and James Johnson, William Silors, Nathaniel Teagous, Lewis Jones, Joseph R. Walker, Joel P. Walker, Ex-Governor Boggs, &c.

KAW TOWNSHIP.

As has been already stated, Kaw township was one of the three original divisions of the county, and derives its name from Kaw river, which touches its western boundary. At the time the county was first occupied, this stream was called Kaw, from the Kaw or E-Kaw Indians, who occupied the country near its mouth. It is now known as the Kaw river. In February, 1836, a portion of it was embraced in the new township of Washington, and subsequently, in May, 1869, the township of Westport was detached from its southern portion. Its rolling and broken surface, its heavy timber and numerous streams and springs, made it an attractive point to the early settler. The first fillers of the soil appear to have been the Johnston family, consisting of John and his three sons, Robert, Samuel and Elliott, with their families, who arrived here in 1825, from Cole county, Mo. Following them in 1828, was James McGee and Wm. Parish, and in 1831, David Bird, Walter Bale, John McCoy and others.

The latter portion of the lands in Kaw were located under the seminary act, and sold at the maximum price of two dollars per acre. It is now densely populated, its farms finely improved, and in a high state of culture,

HISTORY OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI.

presenting the appearance of an old settled county, or the vicinity of a large metropolis.

The township, with its present boundary, was originally all timber. Its surface uneven, rolling and in the bluff of the Missouri river, Blue and Turtle creek, much broken.

The history of Kaw township is closely interwoven with that of Kansas city, which embraces a large portion of its territory.

BLUE TOWNSHIP.

near the centre of which Independence is located, was one of the three original townships, and embraced over one-third of the county. It has since been subdivided by the organization of the new townships. As described, its history is so interwoven with that of Independence and the county, it is unnecessary to repeat it. Its surface is rolling and highly improved, and originally mostly timber. With a large number of fine and never-falling springs, the country is grand and beautiful, dotted over with handsome residences, and the evidences of wealth and taste, and occupying the elevation between the "Blues." It is abundantly watered by their many tributary streams.

The prominent men identified with its early history were Lewis Jones, Gan Johnston, John Davis, Harman Gregg, Edward Millenane, Henry Burris, Richard Fristoe, S. C. Noland, John Fitzhugh, Col. James Lewis and John Swearingen.

"SNI ABAR"

was organized on the fifth day of May, 1834, by order of the county court. It lays south of Fort Osage township, from which it was detached. The name originally given to this new township was "Sni Abar", which was by order of court, in June, 1845, changed to its present designation. It is nearly equally divided between prairie and timber. Is well watered by the Blues, its tributaries and numerous springs. It was early settled. Is finely improved, and has within its limits some of the best farms in the county. Its most singular name was derived from a mistake made by a Frenchman named Abar who was exploring the river at an early day. Arriving at the mouth of the creek he supposed it was a "snee", and thinking it would bring him back into the river again, concluded to take advantage of its sluggish current and ascended it for some distance before his mistake was discovered, from thence it obtained its name of Sni Abar.

Blue Spring, situated within its limit, was at one time a point of some importance. As early as 1824 it was a stopping and rendezvoning point for the Santa Fe traders and continued so for ten years. It is one of the tributaries of the Blue; hence its name. There are three other small towns, all having some importance as trading points within its limits, Pink Hill, Oak Grove and Stony Point, and it is one of the most thickly settled portions of the county. Its population is orderly, peaceful and religious. It is well supplied with school-houses, and has ten churches, representing the different leading denominations. Its first prominent settlers were, Judge Stanley, Frank Smith, Joseph Gibson, John W. Burris, William J. Baugh, &c.

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

was originally part of Sni Abar, and detached by order of court, May 5, 1837. It lies south of Sni Abar and east of Prairie. The larger portion of the township is timber. Well watered with springs and small streams, it is one of the best improved portions of the county, containing many fine farms and handsome and costly dwellings. It was settled at an early date, principally by emigration from North Carolina. Much attention is paid to the cultivation of tobacco, and it is noted for the quantity and fine quality of this product. Its other staples are corn and stock, many of its farmers being largely engaged in growing and feeding for the market. "Lone Jack," in this township, is a small town and trading point of some importance, named after a "Black Jack" tree which stood alone in the centre of the prairie. The first settlement was made in 1829 by Daniel Graham, William Crawford, Charles Hoppen (Sr. and Jr.), Isaac Dunneway, Squire Bridges, Warren Reavis, and others.

BROOKING TOWNSHIP.

The youngest child of the family commenced its history in the month of March, 1872, and was named in honor of Judge Brooking, already referred to, who was one of its earliest settlers. The causes which led to this new organization were the dread of heavy taxation arising from a proposed issue of township railroad bonds, which produced a unanimous petition from that portion of Blue and Washington, now comprising its territory for separation. The surface of this township is rolling, and was originally mostly timber. Its large number of never-falling springs and tributaries to the Big Blue make it perhaps the best watered portion of the county. It was one of the most early settled portions of the county, and presents the appearance which

years of industry and culture invariably produce. Baytown, a small village, is its voting place, and the seat of its Masonic Hall. Its education and religious culture are stimulated by the number of school-houses and churches found within its limits.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

was originally the south end of Blue and Kane townships, and was organized by order of the county court, February 9th, 1836. It is situated on the south-east part of the county, bordering on the Kansas line. The land is mostly prairie, of superior fertility, belted with timber on the small streams forming the head waters of the "Big Blue river." It was settled at an early date and derived much wealth from the Santa Fe trade, which at one time made a portion of it a feeding and outfitting point. "New Santa Fe," its principal town, situated immediately on the Kansas state line, was the outgrowth of this trade.

"Hickman's Mills" is an important trading point for a large scope of country, a land of exceeding loveliness, which surrounds it, and is remarkable for the many miles of stone fence, built with the smoothness of a wall, which lines its roadsides. The different agricultural products are raised here in great abundance, and many of its farmers are paying much attention to the breeding and growth of stock.

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP.

By order of the county court, dated June, 1860, Van Buren township was divided, and the new township of Prairie was organized. It lies west of Van Buren, and south of Blue and Sni Abar; and, as its name indicates, is principally prairie land. A large portion of its territory is embraced in what is known as the "lost townships," already referred to; hence its settlement is of but recent date, being mostly taken up since the war. Notwithstanding this delay, it probably surpasses any portion of the country in its finely improved farms, the beauty of its landscape, and the immense fertility of its soil. Its products are principally corn, hogs and cattle. Its people are intelligent and enterprising, and have developed their new country with wonderful rapidity. Lee's Summit, a handsome prairie town, with a population of about twelve hundred, is situated on the Atlantic and Pacific R. R., is a very important point of shipment for the surrounding country. Greenwood, on the same R. R., five miles south of Lee's Summit, is a small town of some importance as a trading point.

A PORTION OF OUR PATRONS.

TOWNSHIP 49-RANGE 29.

NAME.	POST-OFFICE.	RESIDENCE.	BUSINESS.	NATIVITY.	When Came to Co.	NAME.	POST-OFFICE.	RESIDENCE.	BUSINESS.	NATIVITY.	When Came to Co.
Bryant, John L.	Mecklin	Mecklin	Farmer	Kentucky	1860	Habrigh, Benj. Z. T.	Pink Hill	Sec. 30	Farmer	Virginia	1855
Blucher, J.	"	Sec. 4	"	"	1865	Starnes, John W.	Mecklin	Mecklin	Physician and Surgeon	Kentucky	1865
Hudwall, C. D.	"	" 4	"	Virginia	1860	Sams, William	Oak Grove	Sec. 4	Farmer	"	1874

TOWNSHIP 49-RANGE 30.

NAME.	POST-OFFICE.	RESIDENCE.	BUSINESS.	NATIVITY.	When Came to Co.	NAME.	POST-OFFICE.	RESIDENCE.	BUSINESS.	NATIVITY.	When Came to Co.
Herrington, M. M.	Pink-Hill	Sec. 23	Farmer	Kentucky	1868	Wood, J. D.	Pink-Hill	Pink-Hill	Physician and Surgeon	Missouri	1866
Hall, M. L.	"	" 13	"	"	1856	Williams, A. G.	Lake City	Sec. 17	Judge of County Court	Kentucky	1852
Mitchell, B. F.	"	" 1	"	"	1858						

TOWNSHIP 47-RANGE 30.

NAME.	POST-OFFICE.	RESIDENCE.	BUSINESS.	NATIVITY.	When Came to Co.	NAME.	POST-OFFICE.	RESIDENCE.	BUSINESS.	NATIVITY.	When Came to Co.
Browning, W. T.	Lees Summit	Sec. 7	Farmer and Dealer in	Kentucky	1874	Kennedy, Washington	Pleasant Hill	Sec. 28	Farmer & Br'der fine Stock	Kentucky	1857
Dealy, William	Pleasant Hill, Cass Co. Mo.	" 3	" " Stock Grower	Missouri	1822	Powers, James	"	" 35	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Canada West	1859
Derbin, Joseph L.	"	" 29	"	Iowa	1865	Rheem, Clark	Lone Jack	" 25	" " " "	Ohio	1866
Fisher, W. T.	"	" 33	" and Stock Dealer	Kentucky	1874	Rheem, Charles	"	" 25	" " " "	"	1866
Hays, Sterling	"	" 35	"	Tennessee	1853	Rheem, George	"	" 36	Feeder and Trader	"	1866
Haynes, W. J.	"	" 19	School Teacher	N. Carolina	1871	Sheppard, A. S.	Pleasant Hill	" 9	" and School Teacher	W. Virginia	1865
Gibbons, W. H.	"	" 8	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Virginia	1853	Thompson, Wm.	Lone Jack	" 11	"	"	1862
Ingrum, G. W.	Lone Jack	" 10	" " Tobacco Raiser	Missouri	1852	Williams, Thos. D.	"	" 36	Farmer and Stock Raiser	Ohio	1868
Jackson, J. A.	"	" 9	"	"	1836						

TOWNSHIP 47-RANGE 29.

NAME.	POST-OFFICE.	RESIDENCE.	BUSINESS.	NATIVITY.	When Came to Co.	NAME.	POST-OFFICE.	RESIDENCE.	BUSINESS.	NATIVITY.	When Came to Co.
Hurst, J. D.	Lone Jack	Sec. 31	Farmer	Kentucky		Pilcher, Josiah H.	Lone Jack	Sec. 32	Farmer	N. Carolina	1839

TOWNSHIP 48-RANGE 30.

NAME.	POST-OFFICE.	RESIDENCE.	BUSINESS.	NATIVITY.	When Came to Co.	NAME.	POST-OFFICE.	RESIDENCE.	BUSINESS.	NATIVITY.	When Came to Co.
Allen, H. C.	Lone Jack	Sec. 34	Farmer & Tobacco Grower	Tennessee	1847	Jackson, J. B.	Lone Jack	Sec. 34	Farmer	Virginia	1831
Broadbuss, T. C.	Stony Point	" 16	" and Stock Raiser	Kentucky	1868	Hoger, S.	Stony Point	" 23	Physician and Surgeon	Ohio	1875
Broadbuss, D. R.	"	" 21	"	"	1854	Nott, Benjamin	"	" 9	Farmer	Ireland	1864
Bailey, O. P. W.	Lees Summit	" 37	" and Stock Raiser	"	1852	O'Brien, John	"	" 2	Farmer & Tobacco Grower	Virginia	1855
Cannon, J. H.	Stony Point	Stony Point	Merchant and Stock dealer	Virginia	1871	Selvey, M. N.	Lees Summit	" 29	" " " "	Tennessee	1826
Corn, Martin	Lone Jack	Sec. 25	Farmer	"	1833	Stokes, L. P.	"	" 29	" " " "	Missouri	1861
Gregg, Jacob	Stony Point	" 9	Retired Merchant	Tennessee	1855	Stokes, J. A.	"	" 29	" and Carpenter	N. Carolina	1869
Higbee, J. H.	Lees Summit	" 17	Farmer, Carpenter and	Kentucky	1855	Williams, A. G.	"	" 29	Farmer	Missouri	1840
Hudson, J. W.	Oak Grove	" 1	"	Missouri	1848	Wood, Thos. B.	Oak Grove	" 23	Farmer and Stock Raiser	"	1850
Hiehl, A. B.	Stony Point	" 14	"	Kentucky	1873	Montgall, W. H.	Blue Springs	" 7	" " " "	Virginia	1831
Johnson, Wm. J.	Oak Grove	" 11	"	"		Harris, F. S.	Stony Point	" 27	" " " "	"	