

HISTORY OF LINN COUNTY, MISSOURI.

BY GEO. W. EASLEY.



The history of Linn County properly begins with the organization of the County, by the act of General Assembly of Missouri, approved January the 6th, 1837. (Session Act 1836-7, 2d Ed. p. 52).

An account of the Louisiana purchase—the wisdom of which time has so well vindicated—belongs more properly to the history of the great Mississippi valley.

The French and Spanish dominion here, and the territorial government of Missouri must be left to the historian of the State.

Steam and keel boats having found their way up the channel of the Missouri river, brought in their wake commerce and the conventionalities of civilized society. The older settlers of Boone, Howard and Chariton Counties, many of whom had come from the States of Kentucky and Tennessee, and had sought in Missouri, that freedom of thought and action that can be so well enjoyed in a frontier life, away from the conventional restraints of society, did not hear with pleasure the shrill whistle of the steamboat, and did not hail with delight the great influx of population from all parts that was hastened by the improved and convenient mode of travel by steam upon the great rivers. These first settlers cared more for the hum of the wild honey-bee than for the busy turmoil and bustle of trade.

They began to look forward to the time when they could with safety move further North to the grounds they had for several years been over in small parties hunting bee-trees and game along the timber that skirted the water courses. So that when the expedition sent out by Governor Miller in 1832, under Gen. Richard Gentry, against the Sac, Fox and Winnebago Indians, demonstrated the fact that those tribes could no longer be a dangerous foe to settlers in this part of the county, the more venturesome and restless spirits of the river counties began to move northward. Gen. Gentry's expedition moved towards the northeast, its objective point being the mouth of the Des Moines river. So that this section of the State was by that expedition freed, comparatively, from the movements of hostile bands of Indians, and the capture and surrender of "Black Hawk" to the U. S. officers at Prairie du Chien, in August, 1833, put the Indian troubles entirely at rest, and permanent settlements were made all over northeast Missouri.

The first permanent settlements were made in Linn County in 1832. Among the first to locate were John Yount, James M. Pendleton and William Bowyer. They all settled in the timber along the east side of Locust Creek; John Yount on the place, afterwards sold to David Prewitt, and now occupied and owned by Robert Glenn.

William Bowyer selected his home near the crossing of Locust Creek, at what is now known as the Bowyer bridge. Here he kept a ferry, and as soon as the population increased he built a horse mill. The farm that is now occupied by Lewis and Thomas B. Bowyer is the one first settled by their father, William Bowyer.

Thomas B. Bowyer is said to be the first white person born within the borders of Linn County. James M. Pendleton settled south of Yount and Bowyer, the exact point I cannot ascertain; but it was near the old fish trap that used to be on Locust, just east of the present farm of R. E. Tower. Pendleton did not remain there long, but the next season opened "a clearing" in what is still known as the "old Pendleton place," near the farm of Durham Becket, Esq.

Among some of the more prominent men who settled in this County before its organization in 1836, were Judge James A. Clark, who now resides in Chariton County; Col. A.-W. Flournoy, now a resident of one of the western territories and a Judge of a Court there; Capt. Jeremiah Phillips; E. T. Dennison, now deceased, the father of Charles and George Dennison, who reside in Sullivan County; William Bowyer, Robert Warren, James Howell, John J. Flood, father of Thomas H. Flood, of Linneus, Mo.; Irvin Ogan, Thos. Botts, Willis Parks, Meredith Brown, Mordecai Lane, Sampson Wyatt, Wharton R. Barton, John Kemper, Thomas Barbee, John Minnis, Thomas Russell and David Mullins. These were all Democrats, except David Mullins, who at one time had the distinction of being the only Whig in the County.

The territory now comprised within the County of Linn was originally part of the county of St. Charles, and was next embraced within the limits of Howard County, which was organized by an act of the territorial legislature of Missouri, approved January 23d, 1816. It so remained until the 16th day of November, 1820, when the County of Chariton was organized by the State legislature. There was a provision in the act organizing Chariton County that "all that section of the country north of the County of Chariton to the northern boundary of the State which lies between the range line dividing ranges thirteen and fourteen and the range line dividing ranges twenty-one and twenty-two be and the same is hereby annexed to the County of Chariton, for all civil, military and judicial purposes." This act extended Chariton County over the present Counties of Linn and Sullivan and the greater part of Putnam. For over fifteen years this County was a part of the territory of Chariton; and on the 6th day of January 1837, Linn County was formed as a separate County, having the following boundaries: Beginning at the southeast corner of township fifty-seven, range eighteen, thence west with said township line to the range line dividing ranges twenty-one and twenty-two; thence north with said range line to the township line dividing townships sixty and sixty-one; thence east with said township line to the range line dividing ranges seventeen and eighteen; thence south with said range line to the place of beginning.

By an act of the General Assembly, approved January 14th, 1837, (See Sess. Act 1836-7, 2d Ed. p. 55), the County line dividing the Counties of Livingston and Linn was so changed as to continue up Grand river from where the range line dividing ranges twenty-one and twenty-two crosses said river, to the section line dividing range twenty-two into equal parts, thence north with said section to the township line dividing township fifty-nine and sixty.

The Counties of Macon, Livingston and Linn were created by the same organic act. Livingston County was named "in honor of Edward Livingston, Macon, 'in honor of Nathaniel Macon of North Carolina,' and Linn, 'in honor of the honorable Lewis F. Linn,'" who was a senator from Missouri, serving as the colleague of Thomas H. Benton, from 1833 to 1843.

That Lewis Field Linn did not win the senatorial laurels that crowned Benton, Clay, Webster and Calhoun, is not because of his want of real merit, but because he failed only in equalling them in oratory.

He is remembered as a kind and courteous gentleman, refined, intelligent, industrious and thoroughly devoted to the accomplishment of practical good for the people of his State.

All that part of the territory of Chariton County not embraced within the limits of Linn County, was attached to Linn County "for all civil and military purposes, until otherwise provided by law."

John Riley, Ransom Price and Levi Blankenship, of Chariton County, were named in the organic act as "Commissioners to select a seat of justice for said County."

The act also directed that the courts of the County should be held at the house of Silas Fore, until the County court should fix on a temporary seat of justice for the county.

William Bowyer, James Howell and Robert Warren were appointed justices of the County court by the Governor of the State; and the first term of the County court was held by Judge Bowyer and Judge Howell at the house of Silas A. Fore on the first Monday in February, 1837.

The court appointed James A. Clark, afterwards Judge of the Circuit Court of this Circuit, Clerk pro tem. for the term. They divided the County into three municipal townships.

All that part of the County lying west of Locust Creek was named Parson Creek Township; that part lying between Locust Creek and the main branch of Yellow Creek was named Locust Creek Township; the remainder was named Yellow Creek Township. An election for Justices of the Peace was ordered to be held in the several townships, on the 8th day of April, 1837.

The voting precinct for Parson Creek Township was established at the house of Irvin Ogan, Esq., that for Locust Creek Township at "Barbee's Store" which was at what is now known as the "Kentucky Russell" farm; that for Yellow Creek Township at the house of Sampson Wyatt, Esq., near what has since been known as Wyandotte, north of the present town of St. Catharine. The Court adjourned to meet at the house of E. T. Dennison, which was on the farm now owned and occupied by W. H. Garrett, Esq., but at the next meeting changed to "Barbee's Store." Thomas Russell, the father of David Russell, lately deceased, and grandfather of Thomas H. Flood, Esq., and usually called "Virginia Russell" to distinguish him from another Thomas Russell who was from Kentucky, and David Mullins were elected Justices of the Peace at the first election for Locust Creek Township; Irvin Ogan for Parson Creek, and Mordecai Lane for Yellow Creek Township.

James Howell was chosen as President of the County Court. John J. Flood was the first assessor, and his pay for making the assessment of the County was twenty-eight dollars and seventy-five cents.

John W. Minnis was the first Sheriff. The total amount of County revenue collected by him the first year was one hundred and forty-eight dollars and ninety-nine cents, which fully met the County expenditures.

Thomas Barbee was the first Treasurer of the County. The first Circuit Court, was held at the house of Thomas Barbee on the 11th day of December, 1837.

Hon. Thomas Reynolds was then Judge. The following persons were summoned and served as grand jurors: Augustus W. Flournoy, Foreman; John M. Ogan, W. Tyre, Kinith Bagwell, Jeremiah Hooker, Samuel S. Masses, Alexander Ogan, Bowling R. Ashbrook, K. Ashbrook, William Cornett, Abraham Venable, George Taylor, Isaac Taylor, John Becket, John Cherry, Uriah Head, Renssion J. Tisdale, Littrel B. Cornett and William P. Southland.

They were in session but one day and found no indictments. There was but one suit brought to that term of the court, which was an action for trespass on the case for slanderous words spoken, brought by Thomas Stanley against Thomas Botts for having said that Stanley burnt the house of Joshua Botts. The case was tried at the August term, 1838, before Judge Reynolds and a jury of the following named persons: John Ogan, James C. Slack, Johnson McConen, R. J. Tisdale, Preston O'Neal, James M. Warren, Jeremiah Phillips, Jefferson Hancock, William Smith, William Clarkson, Wharton R. Barton and John Neal. There was a plea of not guilty, and a plea of the truth of the words in justification. A verdict and judgment was rendered in favor of the plaintiff for six hundred dollars damages. Jo. Davis was the attorney for the plaintiff and James A. Clark for the defendant. The pleadings were drawn under the common law system, and are a curiosity in the way of verbose literature—the penmanship and orthography are however better specimens than the bar of to-day produce.

The Eleventh Judicial Circuit having been organized in February, 1839, Gov. Boggs commissioned Hon. Thomas C. Burch Judge, and James A. Clark Circuit Attorney. Judge Clark was appointed Judge of this Circuit in December, 1839, and held the position continuously until ousted by the ordinance of the "Gambie Convention" of 1861.

THE COUNTY SEAT.

There seems to have been some irregularity in the location of the permanent seat of Justice for the County. We have seen that the organic act of the

County names three commissioners to locate the seat of justice. These commissioners named by the legislature do not seem to have ever undertaken the duties of their appointment. On the 5th of February, 1838, the County Court appointed David Duncanson and Doctor Thompson, of Livingston County and James Stater, of Chariton County, such commissioners. They seem to have made a report at April term, 1839, of the Circuit Court, which was disapproved by Judge Burch, but for what reason cannot be ascertained. Thompson and Duncanson, however, selected the present site of the original town of Linneus, which was donated to the County of Linn by Col. John Holland to be used as a permanent seat of justice for the said County of Linn.

The original name of the County seat was Linnville, but for some reason I cannot ascertain the name was changed to Linneus. At least that was the name intended to be given it. The new name was selected by John U. Parsons, Esq., who was a man of liberal education and a good lawyer. His purpose was to have the town named in honor of the great botanist; but in writing the name on the records the clerks spelled it "Linneus;" and while Mr. Parsons lived he hung tenaciously to the spelling of the name as the botanist did, and he so taught it in the schools under his control. He drafted the act of the legislature approved December 19th, 1840, curing the legal defects in location of the County seat. In that act the name is spelled Linneus.

The name of the town is also spelled "Linneus" in an act of the legislature approved November 23, 1857. The question of the proper orthography in this matter died with Mr. Parsons, and custom and convenience has triumphed over literary accuracy, and the town is and must be Linneus.

The period of which we are now writing—the years 1837-8—was before the communication of news and intelligence by telegraph, and when parties who journeyed as far east as New York engaged for a season's work in the going and return. The daily newspaper was almost unknown upon this continent. The masses of the people derived the most part of their political information from the speeches of their public men in the political campaigns. There was that want of interest that is now usually awakened in national questions, because the events would most usually have transpired before a people upon the borders of civilization, like Missouri then was, could be fully advised of their import and importance. It is not strange, then, that the frontiersmen of that day should find other questions than national politics to divide upon. In Linn County this division was purely a local one, and the first general election held in the County on the 6th day of August, 1838, the division of the people was into two factions, which have ever since been known as THE BOWYER AND DENNISON PARTIES, and of these parties the "Bowyer Party" was led by Judge William Bowyer, who was one of the first County Judges; the other by E. T. Dennison, who had been appointed the County Clerk. Dennison was a "yankee" from the State of Vermont, and had a good common-school education, and was certainly a man of more attainments than the most of those with whom he came in contact. Among the people of Linn County of that day:

"A little learning was a dangerous thing."

and Dennison was disposed to air all of his accomplishments in scholarship; in fact he provoked the ire of part, at least, of the people by what they termed his big-headed meddlesome ways. He did realize that the people of a frontier, more than all others, require their scholars to

"Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring."

Mr. Benton with his courtly manners could win both their love and admiration, because he was but seldom thrown with them, and when he was, his magnificent presence and royal bearing made him a hero among them—he struck them with awe. But the ordinary man, no matter how well he could appear and write, when thrown in daily contact with them, had to share the fate of many great men and things at the hands of iconoclastic acquaintance and familiarity.

Certainly something in the conduct of Dennison provoked the hatred of Judge Bowyer and others, and they were plain-spoken men in those days, and did not hesitate to give free expression to their thoughts. A party had "come west" to do as they did out west, and one day when quite a number had met at "Webster's Grocery," which stood on the block where W. S. McClanahan, Esq., now lives, resented their taunts and proposed a fight. Dennison was a larger and more athletic man than Bowyer, whose friends would not allow him to fight Dennison, and Hugh Goodman, who was then quite a young man, and a strong friend of Judge Bowyer's, "took the fight off his hands," an arrangement which Dennison assented to.

They fought "a fair fist fight," and to this day it is undetermined who gained the victory. If you inquire of those who belonged to the "Bowyer party," they insist that Goodman was the victor, while Dennison's friends claim it just as strongly for him.

This fight produced a division among the people of the County, which lasted and controlled, in a great measure, the elections held in the County up to the year 1844, when, to use the expression of "one of the boys," the "Whigs sorter set up for themselves."

What few Whigs there were in the County at that time seem to have held the balance of power of 1838, and to have worked for the purpose of electing Meredith Brown as one of the County Judges. The following table shows the result of the first general election held in the County, so far as can be found in the County Clerk's office:

HISTORY OF LINN COUNTY, MISSOURI.

ELECTION OF 1838.

REPRESENTATIVE	Locust Creek.	Benton.	Yellow Creek.	Person Creek.	Total.	Majority.
James A. Clark.....	35	15	21	3	74	5
Thomas Barbee.....	47	1	3	18	69	
SHERIFF.						
John Minnis.....	36	16	23	8	83	19
Jeremiah Phillips.....	48	1	1	14	64	
CO. & CLERK.						
E. T. Dennison.....	36	16	20	5	77	10
E. Kemper.....	49	1	1	16	67	
CO. COURT JUDGE.						
Robert Warten.....	61	16	23	11	111	46
Wm. Gibson.....	30	16	19	...	65	
Meredith Brown.....	56	2	15	18	91	26
Alex. Ogan.....	49	3	3	22	77	12
W. P. Southerland.....	35	6	6	16	63	
James Boyle.....	6	...	5	...	11	
ASSESSOR.						
Abram Venable.....	66	16	23	22	127	96
Wm. Head.....	...	11	11	
Wm. Clarkson.....	31	31	

All the votes cast for State Senator, were cast for Daniel Ashby, except the vote of Preston Mullins, who had his vote recorded for Brummett.

There is related of this election, the following incident: Judge Clark and Capt. Barbee had been over the county except Yellow Creek Township, in the good old-fashioned way on horse-back, calling wherever they could hear of a gathering, a house-raising, or a quilting, or anything of the kind, and were on their way to Yellow Creek, where it was thought Capt. Barbee was going to get a good vote. On the way there, as they rode in company of each other, Clark conceded to Barbee his election, and talked in a down-hearted way about the people being incapable of self-government, and that he was in favor of having a King, as a republican form of government was a failure.

When they came to make their speeches next day, Capt. Barbee could not forego the opportunity to speak of the matter and inform his audience of what a dangerous man his opponent was, that he was in favor of a monarchy, &c.

This Judge Clark instantly denied, and challenged the Capt. to prove it. This, of course, he could not do, except by his own evidence, which Clark stubbornly disputed.

The charge was so unreasonable, that many of his auditors thought that Barbee was undertaking to gain an undue advantage of Clark, and voted against Barbee solely on that account.

To this incident Judge Clark really owed his election and his subsequent preferment. Because while serving his term in the Legislature, he defended Gov. Boggs' course in the "Mormon war," which the judge had taken part in under command of his brother, Gen. Jno. B. Clark. Being a participant, he spoke as an eye-witness, and did Gov. Boggs good service, which the Governor repaid by appointing him Judge when the 11th Judicial Circuit was organized.

TOWNS IN LINN COUNTY.

BROOKFIELD.

BROOKFIELD, was laid out by Josiah Hunt, Land commissioner of Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad Company July 20th, 1859. Filed and recorded July 23d, 1859. It is now the largest town in the county situated on the H. & St. J. R. R. one hundred and four miles from Hannibal, and thirty-four miles from Macon city, and is growing rapidly. It has about sixty stores and shops, and a population of about 3,000. The round house and repair shops of the railroad are located here, and it has also, one flouring-mill, one hub and spoke factory, five churches—Catholic, Congregational, Presbyterian, Universalist and Methodist; aggregate cost about \$13,000; the best public school in the county; one school of the convent of the Sacred Heart, two newspapers, *The Brookfield Chronicle*, published by the Brookfield Chronicle Printing Company, edited by Geo. N. Elliott, and the *Gazette*, published by W. D. Crandall. The Brookfield Hotel at this place will compare favorably with any of its class in the State. The Clark Hotel is a fine brick, built at a cost of \$40,000, which is one of the best in North Missouri. This is one of the most thriving towns in the State, having an enterprising and intelligent population and possessing a good business location.

BROWNING.

BROWNING was laid out by Wm. R. Robinson and wife, Jno. C. Stone and wife, Benj. F. Stone and wife, Francis E. Stone and wife, Benj. Mairs, Thos. H. Arnold and wife, Jno. Arnold and wife, November 15th, 1872. Filed and recorded November 20th, 1872. It is located on the county line between Linn and Sullivan counties, thirteen miles north of Linneus, on the B. & S. W. R. R. It is a new town, and promises to be of rapid growth, and an important business point. It has one flouring mill, three or four stores and shops; population about 400.

BUCKLIN.

Bucklin was laid out by James H. and Mary Jane Watson, October, 1854. Filed and recorded, January 1st, 1855. Located on the H. and St. J. R. R., thirteen miles east of Brookfield, and is a thriving town of 700 or 800 population, twelve or fifteen stores and shops, two churches, Baptist and Methodist.

ENTERPRISE.

Enterprise was laid out by A. D. Christy and wife, May 2d, 1859. Filed and recorded May 4th, 1859. Situated fourteen miles northeast of Linneus, is surrounded by a fine farming country, especially adapted to fruit culture. Population about 200.

FOUNTAIN GROVE.

Fountain Grove was laid out by F. R. Green and wife and Thos. McMullin and wife. Filed and recorded March 20th, 1871. Is in the extreme southwest part of the county, on the Brunswick, Chillicothe and Omaha Railroad, thirteen miles southeast of Chillicothe, and twenty-five miles from Brunswick.

GRANTSVILLE.

Grantsville was laid out by E. C. Hutchinson and wife and Wm. M. Moore, January 9th, 1866, Filed and recorded, February 12th, 1866. A post-office eight miles north-east of Linneus, has four or five stores and shops, and about 100 inhabitants.

LACLEDE.

Laclede was laid out by Jacob E. Worlow and wife, August 20th, 1853. Filed and recorded August 20th, 1853. The junction of the Burlington and Southwestern Railroad with the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, 109 miles west of Hannibal, and is an important town. It has three churches, M. E. Church, Congregational and Colored Baptist, a fine graded school, with brick building, and a number of business houses, shops, hotels, &c. Population about 800.

LINNEUS.

Linneus was laid out by Linn County, December 2d, 1839, as the county-seat of Linn County, on the Burlington and Southwestern Railroad, six miles north of Laclede. It was settled in 1840, incorporated as a town March 2d, 1856, and as a city March 7th, 1863. It is situated on high rolling ground, is well laid out and beautifully shaded with forest trees, and has three churches, Methodist Church South, Baptist and Christian. The M. E. Church Society and Presbyterians worship at the M. E. Church South, and the colored Baptists at the school-house for colored children. One of the best graded schools of the county is taught here in a commodious, well-finished building. There are excellent flouring and planing mills, one furniture factory, and two newspapers, the *Linneus Bulletin*, published by Brawner & Tyler, and edited by T. E. Brawner and J. B. Wilcox, and *Linn County Centennial*, published by W. A. Morton. There are about thirty stores and shops, one bank, two hotels and other places of business. Population about 2,000. It is a splendid location for manufactories of almost all kinds, and no place can be more desirable for residence than the city of Linneus.

MEADVILLE.

Meadville was laid out by John Bots and the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad Company, January 21st, 1860. Filed and recorded February 27th, 1860. On the H. and St. J. R. R., seven miles west of Laclede, and was formerly known as Bottsville. It has one church, M. E. Church, one flouring mill, about twenty stores and shops, and a population of about 400.

NORTH SALEM.

North Salem was laid out by John R. Baker and wife, April 23d, 1858. Filed October 15th, 1858. Located fifteen miles north of Bucklin, has two stores.

ST. CATHARINE.

St. Catharine was laid out by W. H. Elliott and wife, Caleb S. Farmer and wife, April 23d, 1856. Filed and recorded April 30th, 1856. Located on the H. and St. J. R. R., four miles east of Brookfield, has a fine flouring mill, also a woolen mill and about ten stores and shops. Population about 300.

PURDIN.

Purdin was laid out by Peter Bond and wife and Charles B. Purdin and wife, May 28th, 1873. Filed and recorded May 28th, 1873. A station on the Burlington and Southwestern Railroad.

SCHOOLS.

There are one hundred and eight public schools in the County, endowed with a permanent school fund of fifty-two thousand eight hundred and forty-three and $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars, the proceeds of the township school lands and swamp lands. The county is custodian of this fund; it is loaned out at 10 per cent interest, payable annually. The interest, together with the amount annually received from the State school fund, aggregates nine thousand one hundred and eighty-four dollars. This amount is distributed among the schools in the county in proportion to the number of school children in each district, being about one and $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars per child. The schools in the county in most districts are kept up during six months in the year. Many of the school buildings are new and substantial structures, and attest the very general interest manifested by the people in the cause of education.

LIST OF COUNTY OFFICIALS FROM THE ORGANIZATION OF LINN COUNTY.

In many cases it was impossible to determine the time served by officials with any degree of accuracy; hence the date of service has been dropped from all names.

They appear in the order in which they served.

JUDICIAL.

CIRCUIT JUDGES.

Thos. Reynolds,
Jas. A. Clark,
Jacob Smith,
H. A. De Bolt,
G. D. Burgess, present incumbent.

CIRCUIT CLERKS AND RECORDERS.

E. T. Dennison,
John J. Flood,
W. R. Barton,
Jeremiah Phillips,
G. W. Thompson.

In 1870 the offices of circuit clerk and recorder were divided, and F. W. Powers, present incumbent, was elected circuit clerk, and Thos. Kille was elected recorder, and was succeeded in 1874 by W. W. Perry, present incumbent.

COUNTY COURT JUDGES.

James Howell,
Wm. Bowyer,
Robt. Warren,
Meredith Brown,
Alex. Ogan,

S. J. Phillips,
Wm. M. Maxwell,
P. W. Banning,
J. C. Moore,
J. A. Maddox,

Thos. Barbee,
John J. Flood,
C. C. P. Hill,
Thos. M. Rooker,
Wm. Bowyer,
Lot Lantz,
Wm. B. Woodruff,
John Bots,
Jas. C. Moon,
H. Wilkeson,
Daniel Beals,

Jas. M. Bryan,
John Bots,
H. E. Bigger,
W. B. Brinkley,
C. Boardman,
O. P. Louthan,
Daniel Beals,
T. R. L. Hardin,
L. Torrance,
G. W. Minor.

Linn County having adopted the township organization act in the spring of 1872, the first court under that system was held July the 15th, 1872, and was composed of the following:

R. J. Wheeler, Bucklin Township, Chairman.
Jeremiah Phillips, Locust " "
Wm. D. Southerland, Grantsville " "
Alf. Williams, Jefferson " "
W. H. Hale, Brookfield " "
W. D. Crandall " "
J. R. Greenhalgh, Yellow Creek " "
J. W. Huffaker, Baker " "
G. W. Minor, North Salem " "
F. Kinman, Enterprise " "
S. Hale, Benton " "
Alex. Sayers, Jackson " "
C. J. Fore, Clay " "

The legislature by act approved March 19th, 1873, made the County Court to consist of five judges, instead of as above.

The first court held under this system was held June 2d, 1873.

JUDGES.

Beverly Neece, county at large.
John W. Southerland, District No. 1.
John M. Pfatt, " " 2.
G. N. Blossom, " " 3.
Noah Caton, " " 4.

There has been no change up to this time except in Districts No. 1 and 4. In No. 1, J. W. Southerland having died, Alex. Purdin was appointed to fill his unexpired term, when J. T. Fleming, the present incumbent, was elected. In No. 4, when Noah Caton's term expired, Prosley Moore, present incumbent, was elected.

ASSESSORS.

John J. Flood,	Wm. Banning, District No. 1.	1859.
Wm. Clarkson,	J. M. Hamilton, " " 2.	
B. Neece,	W. L. Howell, " " 3.	
T. K. Neal,	P. W. Christy, " " 4.	
Wm. Clarkson,	Wm. L. Howell,	
Wm. Purdin,	J. M. Hamilton,	
Jacob E. Quick,	Wm. L. Howell,	
Wm. H. Hamilton,	F. Lewis,	
J. M. Hamilton,	C. G. Bigger,	
Wm. Banning, District No. 1.	Thos. Carter,	
Jas. D. Shifflet, " " 2.	John Carter,	
J. C. Connelly, " " 3.	G. W. Martin,	
Jas. L. Phillips, " " 4.	W. J. Porter,	

In 1872 township organization act was adopted; since then there have been township assessors.

COUNTY SURVEYORS.

John D. Grant,	J. L. Holland,
R. W. Foster,	C. G. Bigger,
Wm. G. Saunders,	M. L. Weeks,
J. P. Withrow,	J. P. Withrow, present
Wm. S. McClanahan,	incumbent.

COUNTY CLERKS.

E. Kemper,	W. S. McClanahan,
T. T. Woodruff,	G. W. Martin, present incumbent.

SHERIFFS.

J. W. Minnis,	Thos. M. Rooker,
Jeremiah Phillips,	Joel H. Wilkerson,
W. R. Barton,	Jas. A. Neal,
John G. Flournoy,	Marion Cave,
Beverly Neece,	E. C. Brott,
Peter Ford,	Elis Chessround, pres. incum.

TREASURERS.

Thos. Barbee,	Edward Hoyle,
Jeremiah Phillips,	A. W. Mullins,
David Prewitt,	Marion Cave,
Edward Hoyle,	A. W. Mullins,
John G. Flournoy,	H. C. Clarkson,
Thos. H. Flood,	Milton Goldman,
Geo. Wm. Sandusky,	John C. Phillips, present
Wm. H. Brownlee,	incumbent.

With a list of the officials we close the history of the county, hoping that whatever of error or omission may be, it will be overlooked in consideration of a sincere desire to present the facts, and the difficulty of obtaining them.