

HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MISSOURI.

BY JOHN N. BOYD, ESQ.

The history of Livingston County would be incomplete without a retrospective glance at the early condition of the vast territory lying west of the Mississippi river, once the Spanish province of Louisiana, of which, what is now Livingston County, Missouri, was a part. Prior to 1800, the province of Louisiana belonged to Spain, but the Spanish government, about that year, by a secret treaty, ceded the territory to France, without reserving to the United States the right of deposit at New Orleans and the free navigation of the Mississippi river, a right guaranteed to the States by treaty with Spain in 1795. This perfidious act of Spain was not known in the United States until 1802, and when it became known created great excitement in this country, because the right to navigate the Mississippi river and to trade at New Orleans were indispensable to the prosperity of the great west. The proclamation of Morales, the Spanish Intendant at New Orleans, closing the great artery of commerce and denying the United States the right of deposit at New Orleans, intensified the excitement, and a war with France and Spain seemed imminent. Thomas Jefferson was then the President, and he appointed James Monroe, ex-Governor of Virginia, Minister Plenipotentiary to France with instructions to act in concert with Robert R. Livingston, Minister then at the ground, in the purchase of the territory of New Orleans and in securing the freedom of the Mississippi river. Napoleon at this time was quarrelling with England and contemplated the invasion and conquest of that island. He wanted money for the purpose of enabling him to rival his great prototype, Julius Caesar, in conquering England. When Mr. Monroe reached Paris on the 12th of April, 1803, having only in view the purchase of the town of New Orleans and negotiations for the freedom of the Mississippi river, his surprise and astonishment can well be imagined, when he asked for a town, a province was offered. When he asked for the free use of a river, the river itself, with all its tributaries, and all the vast country drained by them, were tendered for fifty million francs. Mr. Monroe lost no time in consummating a treaty which promised so much to the United States. The price finally agreed upon was \$11,250,000, which included the extinguishment of certain claims against France by American citizens. The treaty was concluded on the 30th day of April, 1803, and four days later it was signed by both parties. Thus the province of Louisiana became a part of the territory of the United States. Formal possession was taken of the province, at New Orleans, on the 20th of the following December. Monette, in an account of the ceremonies connected with the eventful day, after speaking of the state parade, the delivering of the keys of the city, emblematic of the formal delivery of the province, and the address of Governor Claiborne to the people of Louisiana, says: "The tri-colored flag of France slowly descended, meeting the rising flag of the United States at half mast. After a pause of a few minutes, the flag of France descended to the ground, and the Stars and Stripes rose to the summit of the flag staff, saluted by the joyful response of the American people." John Quincy Adams, in referring to the acquisition of the vast territory of the province of Louisiana, says: "Its accomplishment must ever remain as the great and imperishable memorial of the administration of Jefferson." The first action of the government of the United States, affecting the province of Louisiana, after taking formal possession of it, was the passage of an act of Congress subdividing it into two territories, namely, the territory of Orleans and the district of Louisiana. The former comprised that section of the province east of the Mississippi river lying south of the Mississippi territory, and also that portion west of the Mississippi river and south of the southern line of Arkansas; the latter comprised what is now the states of Arkansas and Missouri, and all the residue of the province lying west of the Mississippi river. The district of Louisiana, during its first territorial year, was placed under the control of the Governor and Judges of the Indiana territory. On the 3d of March, 1805, Congress changed the name from the "District of Louisiana" to the "Territory of Louisiana," and vested the executive power in a resident governor, and the legislative power in the governor and three judges.

During this organization of the territory, it was subdivided into six districts or counties, viz., St. Charles, Cape Girardeau, New Madrid, St. Genevieve, St. Louis and Arkansas.

TERRITORY OF MISSOURI.

An act of Congress, passed June 4th, 1812, changed the name of the territory of Louisiana, designating it the territory of Missouri. The legislative portion was enlarged, and vested in a general assembly which consisted of a legislative council, appointed by the President of the United States, and a house of representatives elected by the people. The first general assembly of the territory of Missouri met in St. Louis on the 7th of December, 1812. At this session the boundaries of the six original counties above named were more clearly defined. St. Charles county was made to comprise that portion of the territory lying west of the Mississippi river and north of the Missouri river. The year of 1812 seems to have prevented a rapid settlement of the territory, as no other sub-divisions were made until 1816, when Howard county was formed out of portions of St. Charles and St. Louis counties.

STATE OF MISSOURI.

Missouri was admitted into the Union March 19th, 1820, and afterwards, by an act of the first legislature, approved November 16th, 1820, the county of Charlton was formed out of the territory of Howard county. The territory of Charlton embraced what are now the counties of Carroll, Livingston, Grundy, and Mercer, and in 1821 the entire population of Charlton county, including the territory attached to it, was only 1,420, and the total vote of the state at the election of a congressman in August, 1822, was only 9,914.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY.

The boundaries of Livingston county were fixed by an act of the general assembly, approved January 6th, 1837, and the county was formed from portions of the territory of Carroll and Charlton counties. By the same act establishing the boundaries, the county was named Livingston in honor of Edward Livingston, Secretary of State under President Jackson, and E. V. Warren, Samuel Williams and George W. Folger, of Carroll county, were appointed commissioners to select the seat of justice for this county, which was to be within three miles of the centre of the county, and until otherwise provided the courts were to be held at the house of Joseph Cox. All territory lying north of this county was attached to it for civil and military purposes, until otherwise provided by law. The commissioners selected the county seat, and the government granted the site to Wm. S. Pearl, as commissioner of the seat of justice. He and his successors sat at public sale, under orders of the county court, the lots to the grantors of the present owners.

On August 7th, 1837, John Graves was appointed by the county court trustee to lay off and sell the lots in Chillicothe, and on the same day the court ordered that the town be called Chillicothe. No reason is assigned for the name, although it is probable the town was named after Chillicothe, Ohio, then a flourishing city of that state.

SOME OF THE PIONEERS, AND INCIDENTS OF THEIR LIVES.

It is a difficult task, after the lapse of 44 years since the first settlers came to the county, to obtain the names of all of them; but it is believed the following list embraces nearly all of those who formed the vanguard of civilization in this part of the country—who with brave hearts and strong hands pushed back toward the west the savage hordes that once roamed over these beautiful prairies.

In 1828, a French trading post was established at the mouth of Locust creek in the south-eastern part of the county, but the occupants were so annoyed by depredations from roving bands of the Iowa, Sac, Fox and Kickapoo tribes of

Indians, that the post was abandoned until 1833, when the Indian title to the land was extinguished. There was an Indian village near where Collier's mill now stands.

This county was settled by hardy and resolute emigrants from the older counties, as well as from Kentucky, Tennessee and other states. On the night of November 12th, 1833, memorable to the early settlers of Missouri as "the time when the stars fell," Eliza Hereford pitched her tent on Medicine creek, eight miles east of where Chillicothe now stands. On the same night the Austins, Bryans, Blands, Lees and McCroskies camped on Shoal creek, in the south-west part of the county.

The first mill (horse power) was built by Brannock Wilkerson, four miles north of Chillicothe. Samuel Todd soon afterwards built a "horse mill" where Henry Mellen now lives, near Utica. He afterwards put up a water mill where Utica now is.

John Austin built the first cabin where Utica now stands. Samuel, Joseph and William Todd, lived on the ridge west of Utica. Further west, near Mooreville, lived Gilbert Woolley, William and Thomas Reynolds, and Thomas Fields. Spence H. Gregory and Nathan Gregory came here from North Carolina at an early day and settled first near Collier's mill, on Medicine creek. Eliza Hereford and Caleb A. Gibbons first settled near Chillicothe.

Boderic Matson and William Mead came from New York in 1835 or 1836, and about the same time came Judge Stone and George Stone from Ohio. All these settled near Utica. Abe Bland and Permont Lee (his uncle) were among the very first settlers in the county. A brother of the celebrated Kit Carson was also a first settler. The "Bland neighborhood," southwest of Utica, was the strongest settlement in the county for many years.

John Stucky, Elijah Compton and Wesley Scott, were early settlers in Grand river township. Thomas Stanley entered the land where Bedford now stands, and lived in a hollow sycamore tree, and there read Shakespeare by the light of a sycamore ball floating in a saucer of coon grease. A Frenchman named William LeBaron entered the lands immediately surrounding Bedford in 1838. He died in St. Louis while absent to purchase machinery for a water mill at that place. Spencer A. Alexander, Zante McKinney (father of James McKinney) were among the early settlers in that part of the county.

George and John Munro came from Cooper county in 1838, and settled at the "Munro place," two miles west of Bedford. Dr. Wolfkill and Henry Duncan came the next year and settled in the same neighborhood. John Custer, also a pioneer, was for twenty years pilot and engineer of Herri-ford's ferry, six miles south-east of Chillicothe. John Silver and John and Cyrus Ballew were early in Grand river township. John Ballew did the preaching, as a Methodist, for that section of country.

The following anecdote is illustrative of the sort of piety prevailing among the backwoods preachers of that day:

John Ballew was returning home from meeting one Sunday in company with the presiding elder and other brethren. When, near the road, coming through the grass, he saw one of his colored men, (who is now well known as "Doctor" Arthur Ballew,) carrying a gun on his shoulder.

"Why, Arthur," exclaimed the preacher, "how often have I reproved and punished you for hunting on Sunday?" Just then Arthur emerged from the tall grass dragging a dead deer behind him, which the preacher had not before discovered.

"Well, I declare," said the pious man, "if you haven't killed a deer! You're a bully boy. Bring him on home and we'll have a slice of him for dinner."

Thomas Jones, father of Joe and Fred Jones, settled near Bedford at an early day. It is related that Thomas Jones and John Custer once had a terrible fight to settle the question as to which should ride and which hang on to a horse's tail while swimming across Grand river. Custer came out second best and had to take the tail hold.

About forty years ago Mr. Eliza Hereford, while riding through the woods near the mouth of Medicine creek, encountered a panther; not having a gun or other weapon, he coolly dismounted from his horse, got a heavy club and attacked the savage beast. After a fierce combat, Mr. Hereford killed the panther and throwing it across his horse, bore it home in triumph.

The first settlers in the northeast part of the county appeared in 1837-38 and 39, and settled in Medicine township. Wm. J. Wallace was the first man who made any improvement in that township. In the spring of 1837 he built a cabin and enclosed ten acres on the place now known as the young James Lightner farm. He gave his place to his widowed sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Yates, and married Mary Jane Burch of Charlton county and moved on the place he still lives on.

In the fall of 1839 Samuel Hunt settled on the place known as the Lynn Grove farm, now occupied by John W. Donovan. In 1842 a Mr. Wark settled on the farm now owned by Wm. L. Manning. In 1840 John Perkins settled on the Lightner farm. The Douglass brothers, David White, Robert Phillips (who was the first justice of the peace in Medicine township), James White, John Brown, and Chapman Lightner and James Lightner, both of whom were soldiers in the Mexican war, all settled in that township before 1844.

The first child born in Medicine township was a son of John and Susanna Perkins. This event occurred in 1840. In 1844 Dawson Crews and Margaret Ann Yates started the marriage business in that part of the county. In 1840 Nathan Winters, an old soldier of seven campaigns, preached the first sermon at the house of Wm. J. Wallace. The first school was taught by John Perkins at his own house in 1845. In 1849 the first school-house was built in that settlement. John J. Jordan settled there in 1842; he was the second justice of the peace, and tells the following anecdote showing how zealous and resolute were the young lovers of that day: A young couple started to go to Squire Jordan's to get married. When they reached Medicine creek it was too high to ford; accordingly a young man who accompanied them, swam across and went for the justice and brought him to the opposite shore. Being unable to swim, he tried to persuade the young couple to wait a few days until they could cross to his house, but they peremptorily declined, and joining hands, demanded that the ceremony proceed then and there. In a loud, almost screaming voice, the squire pronounced them husband and wife, whereupon, the bridegroom expressed his thanks for the extra trouble of the justice, and doubling the usual fee of the times for such services, threw across the creek two cow skins—one being that of the justice and the other of the bride.

The first person to die in Medicine township was a son of Fleming Work, in 1845. Seven years afterwards Mrs. Elizabeth Yates was the second person to die there. Medicine creek was so called from the circumstance of a doctor losing his pig-bills in it while crossing.

In February, 1838, Francis Preston, father of Thomas A. Preston, settled in what is now Cream Ridge township, about eight miles north of Chillicothe. Chillicothe then consisted of a log court-house located about where Gale's livery stable is, and a hewed log store-house, where Gilmer's book store is, kept by Hiram Taylor. Isaiah Austin, in 1839, was the next man to settle in that township. Gabriel May, father of James May, and Solomon R. Hooker, settled in the same locality about 1840. Joseph Cox built a little corn mill on Medicine creek, near where Slagle's bridge is. Joseph Slagle, Esq., is an old surviving settler of that part of the county. He held the office of justice of the peace for many years. The first marriage ceremony in Cream Ridge township took place at the house of Francis Preston, when his daughter Margaret was married to George P. Pullin, and the first death, that of an old colored woman named Sookie, belonging to Mr. Preston. A Rev. Aldridge, a Methodist circuit rider, preached the first sermon in that section at the house of Mr. Preston; and David Wright taught the first school in that neighborhood. For

the first year or two the people went sixty miles to Saine county to get their grain ground; and afterwards, during the Mormon war, the few mills in the country were kept busy grinding corn for the militia, and those left at home were compelled to crush corn in stone mortars.

Jesse Nave established a rancho at Spring Hill, Jackson township, at an early day, and exchanged "firewater" with the Indians for their furs and wampum. Levi F. Goben settled in that township in 1833, and still lives an honored citizen—one of the few remaining who have lived to see the wilderness blossom as a rose. About the same time the Blacks, Liggets, Leepers, Davis, Martins, Drydens, Samuel Thompson and others, settled on Indian creek in the same township. David Girdner, father of Charles G. James M., and David Girdner, Jr., settled a few miles north of Chillicothe in 1834. He killed many deer within the present limits of the city. John Graves, Jonathan Smith, Benjamin Hargrave, John Simpson, Caleb Gibbons, Lewis M. Clark, Johnson Lucas, James and William Hutchinson were among the first to settle in the vicinity of Chillicothe.

In 1836, Caleb S. Stone, David M. Hickman, and David S. Lamme, of Boone county, entered about 1,500 acres of land lying immediately south of Chillicothe. November 24th, 1836, they laid off and platted a town on the north side of Grand River, three miles south of Chillicothe. The plat embraced about twenty-five acres, and the town was named Jamestown—now known as "Jintown." This was before the county was organized, and the object of the pioneers was to make it the seat of justice of the then projected new county, but the fates decreed against their project. A few lots were sold and a rude store-house was erected; but the progress of "Jintown" has not been so marked as to be worthy of further mention.

PIONEER PREACHERS.

Probably the first public religious service was held in the summer or fall of 1834, in a grove south of what is now known as the Comstock place, southwest of Utica. Robinson Smith, Daniel Patton, Wiley and William Clarke, Cumberland Presbyterians, from Clay county, conducted the meeting. In 1838, the next preaching in that settlement was by Rev. Aldridge, a Methodist, who organized a little church at the McCroskie school-house, near where Andrew Bryan now lives. The school-house was built by John Austin and Isaac McCroskie in 1836. It stood near where the Bryan school-house now stands. The first preachers in this county were happy if they possessed a Mackinaw blanket, a coonskin cap, and buckskin breeches. They bowed their heads and returned thanks to the Lord for the bountiful supply of "hog and hominy" everywhere set before them on the rude tables of the pioneers. They were missionaries, whose single purpose was to spread the gospel in the western wilds. Scarcely were the cabins built and settlements formed when the preachers came with civilizing and humanizing influences. They were often employed to teach the children the rudiments of an English education, and though they would not compare in point of qualifications with modern teachers of science and religion, yet the present generation owes them a debt of gratitude for the good they did in their simple and honest way.

THE MORMON WAR.

In 1838 the settlers of Daviess county were driven from their homes by the Mormons, and many of them took refuge in this county. Col. Jennings raised a squad of militia and attacked the "Saints" at Horn's mill, on Shoal creek near the south-west corner of the county, killing about thirty of them. Several of the militia were wounded. Adam Black, who still lives in the county, went to Jefferson City with a petition to the governor asking for the removal of the Mormons. Gov. Boggs called out the state militia under the command of Gen. John B. Clark and Gen. Lucas, and the removal of the Mormons prevented further violence.

THE HEATHERLY WAR.

Some adventurers, named Heatherly, who lived on Upper Medicine creek, had opened a trade with the Indians and gave rise to what was known as the Heatherly war in 1836. The Heatherlys, who were a bad lot, spread an alarm among the settlers that the Indians, then on a peaceable hunting excursion, intended to massacre all the whites. Great excitement prevailed—troops came from Clay, Ray and other counties, and in two or three weeks it was ascertained to be a false alarm. During the excitement the Heatherlys murdered Dunbar and another man, and fled to settlements nearer the Missouri river, where they were arrested, indicted, and tried in Carroll county for murder, and some of them sent to the penitentiary.

THE MEXICAN WAR.

In 1846 a company was raised in this county by Wm. Y. Slack, for the Mexican war. The following are the names of the officers and privates so far as can be ascertained:

OFFICERS.

Wm. Y. Slack, Captain; Zedrick Halcomb, 1st Lieutenant; Dr. Tucker, 2d Lieutenant; Mansfield, 1st Lieutenant; J. H. B. Manning, Orderly Sergeant; Wm. Stone, Sergeant; John Clark, Sergeant; James Anderson, Corporal; Port Mansur, Corporal.

PRIVATES.

Joe Biglow, Hardin Manning, Sam. Thompson, Thomas Williams, Wm. Brown, John Mansfield, John Stone, Wm. Todd, John Butcher, Hugh White, Wm. Givens, in 1836. The Heatherlys, who were a bad lot, spread an alarm among the settlers that the Indians, then on a peaceable hunting excursion, intended to massacre all the whites. Great excitement prevailed—troops came from Clay, Ray and other counties, and in two or three weeks it was ascertained to be a false alarm. During the excitement the Heatherlys murdered Dunbar and another man, and fled to settlements nearer the Missouri river, where they were arrested, indicted, and tried in Carroll county for murder, and some of them sent to the penitentiary.

Besides the above there were others in the company whose names are not recollected. Lieutenant Mansfield was killed while in battle, and a number of others died while in the campaign, from wounds and sickness. But few are yet living. The company marched across the plains to Santa Fe under Col. Doniphan, and from thence a portion of them were sent on a successful expedition into Chihuahua to co-operate with Gen. Taylor. John Hudgins, Warren M. Hudgins, John Knox and others went from the county in other commands.

THE WAR OF THE REBELLION.

The breaking out of the civil war in 1861 produced great excitement among the people of this county. A large majority of the people, owing to the fact that they were born, raised and educated in slave states, sympathized with the cause espoused by the southern section of the country. Notwithstanding this, there was no organized Confederate army in this county during the war. About 300 men left the county, singly and in squads, and joined Price's army. Many of them soon afterwards returned and remained at home quiet citizens, while others continued in the armies of the south until they were killed, or disabled, or discharged at the close of hostilities. The county contributed several hundred men to the Union forces, and it was at all times during the war within the Union lines. Occasional outrages, incident to war, were perpetrated; but now the people are all living together as friends and neighbors—brethren of a common heritage. All asperity of feeling engendered during the war has disappeared, and a permanent reconciliation is established.

THE COURTS.

The first county court held in this county was at the house of Joseph Cox, about five miles north of Chillicothe. Joseph Cox, Wm. Martin and Reuben McCroskie were the first county judges; Thomas R. Bryan was the first clerk

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of the county and circuit courts, and also the first recorder of deeds in this county; W. O. Jennings was the first sheriff. The first session of the county court was begun on the 6th of April, 1837. About the first business done by the county court was to divide the county into townships, which were named Shosh Creek township, Indian Creek township, Medicine Creek township, and Grand River township; and all territory north of the county and east of the east fork of Grand river, extending to the north line of the state, was called Muddy Creek township; and all west of the east fork was called Sugar Creek township. On the 27th of May, 1837, elections were held in the several townships, and two justices of the peace were elected in each.

Afterwards two townships were formed, called Washington and Jefferson, and the name of Shosh Creek township was changed to Monroe, and the name of Sugar Creek to Madison, and Indian Creek to Jackson. In 1839 a township was formed, called Franklin, and another called Morgan, and still another named Marion; Monroe township was divided, and one portion was called Greene, in honor of Gen. Greene of the Revolutionary war.

On September 4th, 1837, the county court passed an order for the erection of a court house in the town of Chillicothe. The following is a verbatim description of the plan and specifications of the first court-house in this county as the same appear of record: "To be 18 feet from out to out; to be raised in cabin form; to be floored with loose plank or puncheons; to be covered with clapboards; joists to be 7 feet from center to center; with a good chimney, with back and jacks as usual to chimneys, and to be well chinked and daubed; not to cost more than \$50, and to be placed on lot five in block eleven."

The first term of the county court held in Chillicothe began on May 7th, 1838, and it appears from the record of that term that laborers for the county were allowed \$1.25 per day. Nathan H. Gregory was allowed \$15 for four days work in surveying and platting the town. In August, 1838, an order was made to build a court-house to cost not exceeding \$5,000. The contractor had two years in which to complete the building. Soon after this order was made certain citizens remonstrated, on the ground that to build a \$5,000 court-house would bankrupt the county; but the order, after giving the subject a very mature deliberation, decided to go on with the work, and a two-story brick court-house was erected in the public square, where it stood until 1864, when it was condemned by the county court as unsafe, and the material was sold. Since then the courts have been held in rented rooms. In 1870 a two-story brick building was erected on lot 1, of block 30, at a cost of about \$8,000, which was designed for the offices, and is now occupied by the officials in charge of the county records.

The first circuit court for the trial of civil and criminal cases ever held in Livingston county, convened at the house of Ray Cox on Monday, the third day of July, 1837. Hon. Austin A. King, of Joseph County, was the judge; Wm. O. Jennings, Sheriff; Thos. R. Bryan, clerk; Wm. B. Leeper, deputy clerk, and Thos. E. Birch, circuit attorney. The first cause tried was an appeal case, and was entitled Samuel Ashley, appellant, vs. Joseph Wolfcastle, appellee. It was tried by a jury which rendered a verdict in favor of the plaintiff, and assessed his damages in the sum of \$14.12. There was no grand jury empaneled at the first term, nor were any criminal cases tried. The term of the court lasted two days, and six civil cases were tried. The first grand jury was empaneled at the November term, 1837, and on the first day of the term came into court and reported that they had no business to transact, and were discharged. This term of the court only lasted one day. The first indictments were found at the July term, 1838; one was for perjury and the other for selling liquor after nine o'clock on the Sabbath. At a subsequent term the accused pleaded guilty to the latter offense, and was fined one dollar. At the April term, 1839, thirty-two persons were indicted for betting, among them the sheriff of the county!

Mr. Cox, at whose log cabin the first two terms of the circuit court were held, boarded the court, jury, litigants, lawyers and witnesses without charge, setting long tables in the shade of trees near his cabin laden with corn pone, butter and venison cooked in every style known to the pioneers. The clerk of the court at that day had no bound volumes in which to record the proceedings, but they were kept on loose slips of paper, which, it is said, he carried in his hat! They were afterwards transcribed into bound volumes.

Up to January 1st, 1867, the county court had jurisdiction in all matters of probate. At its session of 1866 an act was passed by the legislature establishing a probate court in this county separate and distinct from the county court, to be composed of one judge, to be styled "Judge of Probate," and to hold his office for four years. At the next general election succeeding the passage of this act, held in November, 1867, Carlile Curtis was chosen judge, and remained in office during one term. In the fall of 1870 Samuel W. McDowell was elected as his successor, and he was sworn in on Jan. 1st, 1871, and was re-elected in the fall of 1874, and is still the incumbent of the office.

A court of common pleas was established for this county by act of legislature in 1868. E. J. Marsh, present postmaster at Chillicothe, was appointed by the governor to be the judge. At the general election of 1870, Frank Blinn was elected, and served until the office was abolished in 1872. Numerous anecdotes might be related of the early establishment of civil law—how the irrepressible Sam Thompson, first constable of Jackson township, thought it necessary to actually seize a calf in order to make a good and lawful levy, and for that purpose chased it through brush and briars, over logs and stumps until he caught it by the tail. How a certain justice of the peace issued a writ for the arrest of a dog charged with stealing meat. Many years ago a homicide occurred at Spring Hill, Jackson township. The person charged with the crime was arrested, taken before a justice of peace, a jury of twelve men was empaneled, the man was tried, found guilty, sentenced by the sapient justice to be hung, and was hung until he was dead! In early times "law day" at the justice of the peace was considered an important occasion. The whole neighborhood would meet there, and such a day would rarely pass off without half a dozen fist fights, and sometimes the "Squire," who, though, a conservator of the peace, would adjourn his court to witness the fights.

The Iowa tribe of Indians used to have a village near the old Craig farm above Honey creek. They and the Shawnees hunted in this county after the year 1835. Wolves, panthers, black bears, lynxes and wild cats abounded here in great numbers until after the "Platte purchase" in 1836. At the numerous deer licks the ground was covered with buffalo bones, and elk were plenty, especially among the mounds in the southern portion of the county. A natural curiosity at an early day in the settlement of the county was an oil spring on the place where John Ryan now lives.

GRAND RIVER.

A steamboat called "Bedford" ascended this river soon after a few settlements had been formed; but when 12 miles south-east of Chillicothe it was stranded on a log and went to pieces. The village of Bedford, located where the accident occurred, derived its name from the boat.

In 1840, a small steamboat, called the "Lake of the Woods," ascended Grand river, during high water, as far as the forks of the river, three miles west of Chillicothe. This boat was loaded with wheat by Asa T. Kirtley, William Mead and James Campbell, shipped to St. Louis and sold for 50 cents per bushel. Early in 1857, another boat named "Bedford" came up to the same point, and a grand ball was given in the cabin, at which were present a large number of the belles and beaux of Chillicothe and Utica. Two or three years later another boat came up, but its name is not now remembered. Prior to the building of the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad, the people of this county traded at Brunswick, on the Missouri river. Goods were hauled back and forth, by the usual freight rate was 50 cents a hundred pounds. The distance is 40 miles. The year 1858 was remarkable for the amount of rain fall. Grand river was then higher than it has ever been known to be. There was a general overflow of the river in 1837, 1844, 1851, 1858 and 1865, five times, each seven years apart. Since 1865 the overflows have been rather more frequent. On account of the wet weather the water in the groups were a total failure in 1858, and the bulk of the freight shipped from this county when the H. and St. Joe R. R. opened in the spring of 1859, was hauled from the vast number of cattle that starved to death during the winter of 1858-59.

RAIL ROADS.

The Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad was completed in this county in February, 1859. John Graves, of this county, was a stockholder in the company,

and did much by his energy to secure the early completion and location of the road through Chillicothe.

The Chillicothe and Brunswick railroad was built in 1869-70, and the extension of that road, under the name of the St. Louis, C. B. and O. railroad, was completed to Painsburg, Davies county, its present terminus, in 1871. In 1869 a railroad was graded between Chillicothe and Trenton by the Chillicothe and Des Moines City railroad company, but nothing has since been done towards completing the road.

BANKS.

In 1858 a branch of the Bank of the state of Missouri was established in Chillicothe, with James B. Leeper as President and Jas. A. Shirley, Cashier. It ceased to exist in 1866, and was succeeded by the Peoples' Saving Bank, which was incorporated November 26th, 1866, and was organized with James McFerran as President, Sidney McWilliams, Cashier, and Spence H. Gregory, Preston H. Minor, Edward Goddell, John D. Sherman, James McFerran, James A. Shirley and Sidney McWilliams as Directors. Sidney McWilliams is now its President, W. B. Leach, Cashier, and Reuben Hawkins, Assistant Cashier.

The Chillicothe Savings Association was incorporated Nov. 15th, 1865, with Jas. B. Leeper, President; Greenup Bird, Cashier, and G. Bird, Jas. B. Bell, C. V. Mead, F. P. Hearn, and D. W. C. Edgerton as Directors. It began with a paid up capital of \$5,000, and has gradually increased its stock until it now has a paid up capital of \$28,000. Its present officers are John T. Johnston, President; J. W. Fisher, Vice President; W. E. Gunby, Cashier, and these, with A. McVey and Henry Bushnell, constitute the present Board of Directors.

TOWNS.

UTICA.

The plat of Utica was filed for record April 27th, 1837, by Roderick Matson, who gave the town the name of his native place in New York. Next to "Jintown," Utica is the oldest town in the county. It was settled by intelligent and enterprising people who sought to make it the county seat. Its growth has been gradual and unmarked by any historical events worthy of mention. In 1870 its population was 698. It has always ranked second among the towns of the county in population and commercial importance. In 1867 a two-story brick school-house was erected, and in 1870 boring for coal was prosecuted until a depth of about 300 feet was reached. The strata of coal found were deemed too thin to be profitably mined.

ASTORIA.

April 12th, 1837, a town was laid out and platted on the west bank of Grand River in the extreme south-east part of the county, and called Astoria. No buildings were ever erected, and in 1868 the site was changed to the mouth of Locust Creek, where a town was laid out and called Grandville; but the grandeur of the villa is not yet visible—except on paper.

CHILICOTHE.

The original survey of Chillicothe was filed for record August 31st, 1837, and a re-survey of the same was filed August 5th, 1859. At various times since, third additions have been made to it, until it now covers an area of about 700 acres. It was selected as the county seat by commissioners as heretofore stated, and continued to increase in population in due proportion with the county. Prior to the completion of the H. & St. Joe R. R. in 1859, the houses, with but few exceptions, were cheap frames, without any pretence of architectural beauty or design. The building material was hewed and sawed from the oak and walnut timber surrounding the place. Timber originally covered the site. Railroad communication with the east and west gave an impetus to the town, and soon the old-style business houses were moved back to the rear of the lots on which they stood and became ware-rooms for the two and three-story brick houses that took their places. From 1861 to 1865, owing to the war, but little progress was made in building, although there was a large mercantile business done—the trade of the town extending northward 65 miles to the State of Iowa. From 1865 to 1870 the town improved greatly. Many new and handsome business and residence houses were built, and speculation in town lots was carried to a high pitch. The inflated currency of the times inflated prices, and hundreds who bought lots then would be glad now to get half the number of dollars for them. From 1870 to the spring of 1877, the only building done worthy of note was the erection, in 1875, of the city school-house—a beautiful three-story edifice, costing, including ground, furnaces, etc., \$85,000. During the year 1877, a greater number of buildings were erected, and improved than during all the six preceding years. The town was incorporated as a city by an act of the General Assembly, approved March 1st, 1855. In 1869, a two-story brick edifice was erected for the purposes of a city hall and offices, at a cost of about \$20,000; but in March 1866 it was destroyed by fire, and with it all of the city records. During the remaining months of that year a much handsomer, more imposing and convenient building was erected in its place. The population of the city in 1876 was 3,499. The first church erected in the city was by the Methodists. It stood on the east side of block 21, just north of the corner drug store of Currin & Wilson. It was burned many years ago. The next one built was the brick, (now called Well's Hall), by the Baptists. The Christian church was next erected, and then the Presbyterian.

BEDFORD.

The next oldest town is Bedford, which was platted in April 1840. It has always been a good trading point for the people in the south-eastern part of the county; the chief product of the surrounding country being tobacco. Large ware-houses for its storage have been erected there. Its population is about 300.

SPRING HILL.

As before mentioned, Spring Hill was one of the first points settled in the county. It was laid out as a village, May 1st, 1848, and for ten or twelve years a considerable mercantile business was carried on at that place. It once had a tannery—the only one ever established in the county.

DAWN.

Dawn was laid out and platted April 1st, 1853. It has always been a good business point, and maintained several stores and shops. It has also a grist and saw mill.

MOORESVILLE.

This village sprung up immediately after the completion of the H. & St. Joe R. R., and was platted April 26th, 1860. Several years ago a steam flouring mill was built there. Large quantities of grain and stock are annually shipped from that point.

WHEELING.

Wheeling was platted June 1st, 1866. It was so named by Mr. Nay, one of its proprietors, who came there from West Virginia about the close of the war.

FARMERSVILLE.

This village was laid out January 10th, 1870.

AVALON.

Avalon was platted November 11th, 1870. It is the seat of Avalon Academy, which is owned and conducted by the United Brethren church.

SAMPSELL.

This place was named for J. B. F. Samsell, who was a clerk in the employ of the company that built the railroad through the place. It was platted August 25th, 1871.

Besides at the above named towns, there are post offices in the county at Asper, Shosh Creek, Cream Ridge, Gordonsville and Muddy Lane.

COUNTY OFFICERS.

Circuit Court Officials.

Austin A. King	from	1837 to 1839
Thomas C. Birch	do	1839 to 1839

James A. Clark	from	1839 to 1854
James McFerran	do	1859 to 1869
Jonas J. Clark	do	1864 to 1875
Elbridge J. Broadbent	do	1875 to present

Circuit Clerks.

Thomas R. Bryan	do	1837 to 1857
Wm. O. Jennings	do	1857 to 1861
James Leeper	do	1861 to 1863
Richard F. Dunn	do	1863 to 1867
Z. N. Goldsby	do	1867 to 1870
C. R. Berry	do	1870 to 1875
Richard F. Dunn (appointed) from	do	1875 to present
James Wright (elected)	do	1875 to present

Sheriffs.

Wm. O. Jennings (appointed) from	do	1837 to 1839
Hiram Constock (elected)	do	1839 to 1842
Jasper N. Bell	from	1842 to 1846
James Leeper	do	1846 to 1850
Wm. O. Jennings	do	1850 to 1854
J. J. Dryden (died) do	do	1854 to 1856
Lewis M. Clark (filled vacancy) from	do	1856 to 1856
Frederick Lyday	do	1856 to 1860
Samuel L. Harris	do	1860 resigned 1861
R. B. Williams (cornerer) from	do	1861 to 1863
Edward Goddell	do	1863 to 1865
Garrison Hacker	do	1864 to 1868
John M. Toppass	do	1868 to 1870
R. M. Graham	do	1870 to 1872
Samuel L. Harris	do (two terms)	1872 to 1876
M. H. Smith	do	1876 to present

COUNTY COURT OFFICIALS.

The first County Court Judges were appointed by Governor L. Boggs, February 4th, 1837, and the court organized April 6th, 1837, at the house of Jo. Cox, in Medicine Creek Township. Judges, Wm. Martin, President; Joseph Cox and Reuben McCroskie, Justices; Thos. R. Bryan, Clerk, and Wm. O. Jennings, Sheriff.

Wm. P. Thompson, David M. Dinkerson and Gilbert Woolsey were commissioned County Judges Oct. 5, 1838.

James A. Davis was commissioned Judge, Nov. 17th, 1840, and James Conner, May 10th, 1841.

E. T. Norman	was elected Judge August 1st, 1842.
Wm. Hudgins	" " " " " 1844.
Abel Cox	" Clerk of County Court August 1st, 1844.
Joseph Slagle	" " " " " 1846.
John Stone	" Judge, August 1st, 1846.
Franklin Archer	was also elected Judge in 1846, but it appears from the record, he served only at one meeting of the court.

George Pace and William Hutchinson were elected Judges on August 1st, 1850.

Thomas Hutchinson was elected Judge in 1853.

Amos Bardoll was elected Clerk of the County Court in 1856.

James A. Davis again became Judge by election in 1860. Abel Cox was also elected in 1860.

John Stone was elected Judge the second time in 1862.

S. B. Moss was elected Judge in 1865 for six years, and S. B. DeLand for two years.

Anthony Rogers was appointed Judge in 1865 by the Governor, under the existing ordinance.

B. J. Wiley was elected County Clerk in 1865. He soon after resigned and Z. N. Goldsby was appointed to fill the unexpired term.

Carlile Curtis was elected Judge of the County Court and Judge of Probate, in 1866.

Nathaniel Matson was elected Judge in 1866.

S. W. McDowell was elected President of the County court, and Judge of Probate in 1870, and Wm. H. Gunn was, the same year, elected Clerk.

Under a law giving each township a representative, the following named gentlemen served from July, 1875 to May, 1878, as County Supervisors, viz: Wm. B. Davis, Cream Ridge Township; James M. Davis, Greene and Wm. B. Davis, Fairview Township; John L. Barry, F. A. Smith, S. A. Alexander, George Fenstermaker, U. B. Kent, John H. Ware, James W. Glenn, Jacob Iberg and H. J. Hammons. This body was styled the 12-headed court. The law creating it became very unpopular, and was repealed by the next legislature.

Robert B. Williams was elected Judge for the County at large in 1873, and James Graham for the 1st district, Adam Black for the 2d district, Jacob Iberg for the 3d district, and F. A. Smith for the 4th district.

R. B. McCully was elected for the 4th district in 1874, and J. R. Middleton was, in the same year, elected County Clerk.

Archibald Thompson was elected Judge in the 2d district in April, 1876.

Jacob R. Houx was appointed Judge by the Governor August 1st, 1877.

The Court is at present composed of Robert B. Williams, President; Archibald Thompson and J. R. Houx. John R. Middleton is the Clerk.

TREASURERS.

James C. Minter was elected Treasurer and ex-officio Collector in 1872; re-elected in 1874, and again elected in 1876, and is, consequently, enjoying his third term.

RECORDERS.

Prior to January 1st, 1869, the Circuit Clerk was Recorder of Deeds. In 1868 Wm. C. Wood was elected Recorder, and held the office until January 1st, 1871, when B. B. Smith succeeded him. Mr. Smith was re-elected in 1874 for four years.

The first deed of conveyance was recorded April 11, 1837, and is without any form of acknowledgment.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY.

Prior to January 1st, 1873, the state was represented in criminal prosecutions in this county by a Circuit Attorney elected by the counties composing the judicial district. The following named gentlemen have filled the office in the order in which their names occur, to wit: Amos Rees, B. F. Stringfellow, Wesley Halliburton (two terms), R. D. Morrison, John Griffin, Wm. G. Lewis, and Thos. Collins. Wm. N. Norville was elected in 1868 and served until January 1st, 1873. Thomas J. Dent was elected Prosecuting Attorney for the county in 1874, and served two years. He was followed by Charles H. Mansur who was first elected in the fall of 1874, and re-elected in 1876, and is the present Prosecuting attorney.

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT.

The law creating this office went into effect in 1868, when J. D. Roberts was elected. He was succeeded by Thos. Hayden who resigned during his second term, and A. D. Fulkerson was appointed by the County Court to fill the unexpired term. In 1874 G. A. Chapman was elected, and in 1876 Henry O'Neil, the present Superintendent, was elected.

REPRESENTATIVES.

The following named persons represented the County in the legislature, viz. 11th General Assembly 1839-9 Charles H. Ashley.

12th	do	1842	Wm. Y. Slack.
13th	do	1844	Novazembla Johnson.
14th	do	1846	Jasper N. Bell.
15th	do	1848	T. J. Kirk.
16th	do	1850	Wm. F. Perry.
17th	do	1852	do
18th	do	1854	George Munro.
19th	do	1856	do
20th	do	1858	do
21st	do	1860	A. J. Austin.

HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MISSOURI.

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ABSTRACT OF THE CENSUS OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY—TAKEN IN 1876.

MUNICIPAL TOWNSHIPS	LIVE STOCK.										PRODUCTS.									
	White Males.	White Females.	White Persons between 16 and 48.	Colored Males.	Colored Females.	Horses.	Mules.	Jacks.	Jennets.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Hogs.	Bushels of Wheat.	Bushels of Corn.	Bushels of Oats.	Bushels of Rye.	Pounds of Tobacco.	Pounds of Wool.	Total Population.	
GRAND RIVER.....	636	627	411	50	58	679	107	1		1897	1196	2164	1015	220,040	42,253	1545	703,783	4505	1374	
FAIR VIEW.....	646	574	304			546	107	1		1231	485	2244	4587	134,095	15,769	1533	216,040	2444	1223	
BLUE MOUND.....	635	571	371	4	4	658	79			1849	879	3741	12,638	233,470	29,912	8302	860,89	2270	1214	
MONROE.....	462	406	281	4	4	508	110	4	2	1321	1263	2839	8937	113,473	4,329	4469	650	782	884	
WHEELING.....	362	317	167	13	9	373	19			1028	768	792	8039	96,330	32,266	772	12,800	3976	701	
RICH HILL.....	526	406	335	10	13	666	153	3	6	1910	985	2841	20,771	174,735	12,475	2791	98,980	4550	994	
CHILLICOTHE.....	2224	2114	1290	170	292	1031	135	4	5	2552	895	3383	26,660	225,110	12,420	2445	189,760	1815	4901	
GREENE.....	451	418	253	55	68	332	74	3	2	774	119	979	2857	40,573	2,243	2767	22,730	340	994	
MOORESVILLE.....	492	439	297	25	47	404	178	8	6	1057	1610	1696	7408	109,030	9,261	3539	20,215	4406	1005	
MEDICINE.....	343	279	195			407	57			1203	470	1674	1062	130,425	18,004	1371	8,871	1227	622	
CREAM RIDGE.....	572	541	262	1	1	476	186	2	1	1481	664	1570	9934	143,753	24,829	2720	41,710	1332	1122	
SAMPLE.....	545	553	370	10	10	491	163	4		1152	1011	1943	15,841	60,090	769	3005	14,750	2784	1118	
JACKSON.....	994	900	548	12	16	1104	337	3	8	2866	1924	6202	11,462	200,945	7,164	6348	50,600	4524	1922	
TOTALS.....	8888	8483	5054	454	512	7676	1705	23	30	20,321	12,269	32,068	131,211	1,921,991	211,645	41,200	1,471,998	34,935	18,074	

There were 3,474 gallons of Wine and 3,935 gallons of Sorghum Molasses manufactured in the County in 1876.

22d	do	1862	John T. Gudge.
23d	do	1861	Jas. W. McMillen.
24th	do	1866	Samuel B. De Land.
25th	do	1868	Robert S. Moore.
26th	do	1870	do
27th	do	1872	James E. Cadle.
28th	do	1874	Harvey C. Ireland.
29th	do	1876	do

A. J. Austin was killed in the Confederate service at the battle of Springfield, while a member of the Legislature from this county. John T. Gudge was elected in 1861 a member of the Provisional Legislature.

NEWSPAPERS.

The first newspaper published in this county was called the "Grand River Chronicle." It was established by James Darlington, now deceased, in 1844, and was published until 1866, when its material was sold to the late Col. J. F. Asper, who established the Chillicothe Spectator. The Chillicothe Constitution, which paper is still published, was established in the year 1860 by Dr. A. S. Hughes, who is now living, we believe, on the Pacific coast. In 1869, the Spectator was changed to the Chillicothe Tribune, which is still published. In 1870 a newspaper was established by Sawyer & Boyd, and called the Chillicothe Journal. After being published eighteen months, it was sold and removed

from the county. From 1864 to 1870, a religious paper called the Pioneer, was published in Chillicothe by Elder D. T. Wright, of the Christian church. The Times was published at Utica previous to the civil war, but of its history we are not advised. The Herald now being published at Utica, and The Crisis, recently started in Chillicothe, complete the mention of newspapers published in this county.

The population of this county in 1840 was 1,325; in 1850, 4,247; in 1860, 7,417; in 1870, 16,730, of whom 15,744 were white and 986 colored; 8,793 male, and 7,937 female; 15,376 native, (6,567 born in Missouri), and 1,354 foreign. The population of the county is now fully 20,000. There are 7,076 school children between the ages of 5 and 21. Number of school districts outside of Chillicothe, 91, all provided with good houses and supplied with furniture and apparatus. The county has a permanent school fund of \$122,664. The valuation of real estate is \$2,894,379; of personalty \$1,069,655.

For four or five years after the close of the civil war, there was a great influx of people into this county, mostly from the Northern and Middle States. The towns and county were greatly improved, and a new impetus was given to all kinds of trade and industry. Many new farms were enclosed, new houses built, improved modes of farming and improved breeds of stock were introduced. And the county made wonderful strides onward and upward until at this time its people are among the wealthiest and most prosperous in North Missouri.

The first levy of taxes for county purposes was made in 1837, and was \$2 on

\$100 valuation. Wm. O. Jennings, the sheriff, was appointed collector and treasurer, and he was required to give bonds in the sum of \$3,000. The present county collector and treasurer is bound in the sum of \$150,000, a sum fifty times greater than that required of the first custodian of the county funds.

COUNTY BONDED AND FLOATING DEBT.

C. & B. Railroad Bonds outstanding May 1st 1876.....	\$138,800 00
By amount redeemed and canceled during year ending April 30, 1877.....	31,700 00
Balance due May 1st, 1877.....	\$107,100 00
Mooreville Bridge Bonds outstanding.....	7,600 00
Bridge, Pauper and County Fund Notes due School Fund.....	8,610 00
Outstanding and unpaid Bridge, Pauper and County Fund Warrants.....	2,958 88
Total County indebtedness.....	\$126,268 88

We now close the history of the county, hoping that whatever of error or omission may be found will be overlooked in view of the difficulty of obtaining what is here presented and in consideration of the sincere desire on the part of the writer to present as complete and reliable a sketch as possible.