

**History of  
McDonald County.  
Missouri**

by  
**Judge J. A. Sturges**  
1897

## PREFACE

In presenting this little volume to the public, I do so with the hope that it will impart much interesting and valuable information that could be collected and preserved alone by the historian. The work was begun more than three years ago and the task, though arduous, has been a pleasant one. One who has not experienced it would not imagine the time and labor required, and the difficulties one encounters in preparing even a small book like this.

The archives of the county have been searched and carefully compared, newspaper files for many years back have been gone over, and persons from all parts of the county have been interviewed and their statements compared. The traditionary matters are not the statements of one or two alone, but usually the corroboration of many. In fact no pains have been spared to make it reliable. Perhaps much of interest has been omitted, but it would be impossible to procure or publish all.

There may be an occasional mistake, a few grammatical and typographical errors such as are liable to occur in all printed matter, but any intelligent reader will readily understand the meaning and overlook the defects.

The price of the book (\$2.00) may seem large for such a small book, but the sale is necessarily limited, and those now contracted will bring a very small return for the time, labor and cash expended. The somewhat irregular arrangement is caused by delay in procuring the matter. This is especially true of the bibliographies.

I wish to tender my thanks to the newspapers for their favorable notices, the many old citizens for the information they have freely given, and to those who have rendered substantial aid by subscribing for the book and taking biographical space. Trusting the work may meet with general approval, and that those who purchase or read it will ever remember me kindly, it is submitted for your perusal.

J. A. Sturges.

Pineville, Mo., Nov. 1, 1897.

[Woodcut images of J. A. Sturges and Claudia A. Sturges appeared on the following two pages. Claudia A. Sturges was credited as "Compositor of This Book."]

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*Using the sources we could find, we have patched together this almost 99.9% complete copy for your research needs and browsing pleasure.*

*When our sources were missing parts of pages or were otherwise illegible, we have inserted a placeholder such as: [...????...]*

*For researcher's convenience, we have sorted the Biographical listings of Chapter 13 into alphabetical order. It was not so in the original book.*

*At the current time, we have not reproduced the book with page numbers matching exactly to the original book. Perhaps if a complete copy is ever found, we will reformat this reproduction to exactly mirror the original.*

*We hope you enjoy this previously long-lost piece of our history!*

## **SKETCH OF MY LIFE.**

I was born in McCoupin county, Illinois, August 26, 1850. My father, now of Moline, Kansas, was a native of Connecticut, but when he was an infant his parents moved to Ohio. My mother, Nancy Ann Sturges, was a daughter of Richard and Celia Chapman, who emigrated from North Carolina to Ill. in 1818. When I was about seven years old my father bought land in Montgomery county and improved a farm, and that was my home until 1875. We had about 400 acres in cultivation, and I know what farm life is. After securing a fair education, I read law with R. McWilliams, at Litchfield, Ill., and was admitted by the Supreme Court of that state in January, 1876. the following spring I located at Litchfield where I remained one year. I won my first case in the circuit court, also in the supreme court, for which I received a fee of \$100.

In 1877 I went to Kansas, where I lived four years. While there I procured the incorporation and drafted the first ordinances of the City of Pittsburg, and served as City Attorney one year. I came to McDonald county Dec. 10, 1881, and have tried to farm, taught school, practiced law and published a newspaper ever since. Was a Republican until 1882, when I allied myself with the Democratic party, which I supported until 1894, except the county ticket in 1890. In 1891 I returned to the Republican party. Was presiding judge of this county from 1887-90.

February 17, 1876, I was married to Miss Inez E. Cheney of Litchfield, Ill., who was born in Vermont, but came with her parents, Zerra and Mary Jane Cheney, to Illinois when a small child. We have three boys - Harry, Isaac, and Albert, dead, and two girls - Claudia and Josephine, and one boy - Daniel Richard (Dick), living.

# HISTORY OF MC DONALD COUNTY

## Chapter 1

### LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

McDonald County is situated in the extreme southwest corner of the state, having the Indian territory for its western boundary and Arkansas for its southern. Newton county lies north, and Barry, east. In addition to the magnetic variation, the west line of the state bears west which makes the county three-fourths of a mile wider at the south side than the north. The south line bears north of east, making the county narrower at the east side than at the west. The actual dimensions of the county within a few rods from north to south are, at the west end 18 ½ miles; at the east end 17 ¼ miles. From east to west, on the north line it is 30 ¾ miles, and 30 miles on the south. It therefore contains about 550 square miles. The general altitude above the sea level is about 1100 feet. The surveys of the county show that from the water level in the streams to the summit of the highest hills is 365 feet. This elevation is reached either by gradual ascent from the mouth to the source of the water courses, or by an abrupt rise, in places being almost perpendicular.

It has been quite a difficult task to ascertain the origin of the name, but all the old settlers state that the county was named after an officer in the Revolutionary War. Dr. Duval and W. C. Price think he was one of Marion's men.

The surface of the county is quite diversified. In the northwest corner, or nearly so, a point of Swors Prairie projects into this county, there being perhaps 300 acres of prairie land this side of the Newton county line. There is, also, a small body of prairie land near the northeast corner of the county, called Mitchells prairie, from a family of that name who settled there in the early days. White Rock prairie is a small body of prairie land from the white chalky appearance of the stone which is found there in large quantities. In the southwest part of the county, the Cowskin prairie extends some five miles square, and contains some very fine farms.

Between the various valleys and streams are uplands covered with all varieties of timber grown in this part of the state. These uplands are, usually, comparatively level, and are called Flat Woods. This name was applied by the southern people who settled here in the early days, and signifies "barrens." Until within the last few years they were supposed to be worthless but are now being rapidly put into cultivation, and have proved to be quite productive. Many of the best farms in the county are now on this "barren" land. Along the valleys pertaining to all the streams the bottom lands are generally fertile, and produce all kinds of crops in abundance. The soil in all parts of the county is much more productive than it appears to be to one who is not acquainted with it. Clover grows rankly on the hill sides and uplands that appear to be covered with nothing but gravel. Blue grass does quite well when it is once set, but it is difficult to get it started. Orchard and other grasses where tried, have generally proven a success, but up to the present writing the experiments have not been very extensive. Fruit trees grow rapidly and come early into bearing, while small fruits of almost every variety scarcely ever fail, and are of the finest quality and flavor.

Between the valleys and water courses and the uplands, are usually ranges of hills. They are generally steep, high and often rise in perpendicular cliffs. These abrupt hills and hollows are called brakes, and are generally worthless except for the timber and for range, or pasture. These brakes are not confined to any locality, but are contiguous to all the streams. The largest bluffs are found along the river where in places they rise perpendicularly several hundred feet, and form some of the grandest scenery in the Great Southwest. Along the southern border of the county the surface is generally broken, and in the southeast part the hills rise almost to the magnitude of mountains. The valleys and coves in this broken part of the county are, however, exceptionally rich, and contain many fine farms and prosperous inhabitants.

## WATER COURSES

Beginning in the northwest part of the county, the stream of note is Buffalo creek, which enters the county on the north line above five and one-half miles from the northwest corner and bears south and west, passing into the Indian Territory near Tiff City. It is a beautiful stream of water fed by springs, and along its bottoms are some of the richest farms in the county. It was named many years before a white man ever thought of settling on its banks. I have not been able to learn his name nor the date in which he made his journey, but have been reliably informed that the name Buffalo, was given this creek by the first Catholic Missionary that ever visited the Indians of this part of America. During his journey considerable heavy rain fell and the creek, as well as the river rose until it was past fording, and the party was obliged to go into camp between the two streams until the water ran down. While thus delayed a buffalo cow was killed by one of the party and the robe, or skin, was preserved. From this event the missionary gave the name Buffalo to the creek and Cow Skin to the river. A very pretty origin for the names of two of the most noted streams in our county.

Next south of this is Patterson creek, named from John Patterson, an old bachelor who settled on the creek about the year 1833. The creek rises about two miles west of the town of Anderson and runs principally west, passing into the Territory about a mile south of Tiff City.

South Indian creek takes its source at a large spring in the town of Rocky Comfort and runs south of west for some ten or twelve miles where it connects with the main creek which has its source in Newton county, and enters McDonald county about twelve miles from the northeast corner. The main creek flows south and west from where it enters this county, and empties into Elk river just above the old town site of Rutledge. This is one of the most beautiful of streams; throughout its entire length the rich bottom lands, fine farms, herds of all kinds of stock and comfortable, home-like houses and barns, impress one with the belief that he is in one of the favored spots of the earth. Many years ago, in the earliest settlement of this part of Missouri there was an Indian camp on this creek just about where it now crosses the north line of this county. The name was given it from this Indian camp.

East of this, and still in the northern part of the county are the North and South Elk Horn. These two streams each rise from springs and are fed by the same means. The Valleys are narrow but very productive, and many nice farms are found along these two streams.

Many of the older inhabitants do not remember the origin of the name, but I have been able to glean the information that it was formerly the grazing and stamping ground for herds of elk, and the name was given on account of finding horns and these animals along the two streams. Mr. John Roseberry, now deceased, more than sixty years ago found an immense set of elk horns at that vicinity. He was a large, tall man, but the horns were so large that when the tips were placed on the ground he could stand straight under the crown. This may seem somewhat incredible, but it is vouched for by so many reputable citizens that it is given as an absolute fact.

In connection with this part of the county we have gleaned the following little romance which we give as a beautiful illustration of the dusky heroes and lovers of long ago. Perhaps it will be of sufficient interest to pardon the digression.

## THE STORY

Long before there were any white settlers in any of the south western counties of Missouri a band of Indians used to make their animal hunting expeditions through this country. One of their regular camps was on Indian creek near the north line of this county. From this camp they would scour the country for miles around in search of game. Among this tribe was a young warrior who had long, in vain, sought to gain the love of a dusky maid who proved adverse to all his entreaties. One evening after his proffered love had again been rejected, in his loneliness and despair, he went out in the stillness of the night and, gazing on the stars that twinkled so brightly, as if in mockery of his anguish, he breathed a prayer to the Great Spirit to make him worthy of the maiden and to enable him to gain her love. At length, worn out by his melancholy vigils, he wrapped himself in his robes and laid down to pursue in his troubled dreams the thoughts that would not leave his mind either awake or asleep.

The next morning he started out on his usual hunting trip, and during the day visited the locality where a herd of elk were known to use. Being unsuccessful in his search for game, he wandered around until late in the afternoon, tired and thirsty, he concluded to go to the big spring at the head of North Elk Horn, and spend the night there along. As he came near the place he heard the scream of a woman and angry snort of an elk. Rushing down the hill at lightning speed, he saw a large male elk just as it struck the maid and heard a stifled groan as she rolled on the ground and was trampled beneath the feet of the enraged animal. One twang of his bow sent an arrow on its death-dealing mission; an instant his hunting knife gleamed in the sun, then sank deep in the side of the animal, which rolled over and died. The warrior gathered the insensible form of the girl in his arms, and as he looked in her face beheld the object of his affections. He carried her to the spring, bathed her in the cold water and in a few moments she revived. Her injuries were not serious, and for many long and happy years that elk's horn stood over the door of their wigwam, the grandest of all his trophies. Ever after that spring was called the Elk's Horn, and the name was eventually extended to the two beautiful streams.

Kings creek rises south of the center of Richwood township and runs principally south and empties into Big Sugar creek in center township 2 miles below Powell. It was named from John B. King the first settler. He was a lawyer, saw mill man and figured quite prominently in the Pine War which occurred in the early settlement of the county.

Mike creek rises in Richwood township near the Barry county line, and runs south and west emptying into Big Sugar creek about one mile above the mouth of Kings creek.

The name was given from the first settler on that stream, Philip Michael, who located on the farm now owned by Henry Green Fox, in the year 1857.

Big Sugar creek has its source in Benton Co., Ark., and enters this county in Mountain township near the southeast corner, runs north and principally west to the town of Pineville where it unites with Little Sugar and forms Elk or Cowskin river. Little Sugar rises in Benton county, Ark., enters this county at Caverna in White Rock township, and runs west and north until it makes the connection above mentioned.

The two streams derive their names from the quantities of sugar maples that formerly grew in great numbers along their bottoms. There used to be a number of sugar tree orchards on these two creeks, and the early settlers were abundantly supplied with maple syrup and sugar.

Little Missouri is the name of the stream that has its source in White Rock township, runs nearly west and empties into Little Sugar creek.

Mill creek lies in the southern part of Pineville township and connects with the river just above the town of Noel. It derives its name from a saw mill erected near its mouth by Moses Martin about 1835. It was operated by horse power, and afterward a pair of corn burrs were added. South and southwest of this is Butler creek which empties into the river just below the town of Noel. The upper part of this stream is called Deer creek; so called from the numerous herds of deer found there in early days. Butler creek was named from Chas. Butler who settled at the place now owned by Chas. Heath about the year 1840.

Elk River, also called Cowskin, is formed, as stated, by the junction of the two Sugar creeks at the town of Pineville, and flows principally west, meandering north and south at various parts. From Rutledge it flows nearly south about three miles, then bears north until it crosses the state line and enters the Territory about two miles north of the parallel which it starts; thence westwardly until it empties into Grand river in the Indian Territory. This stream was declared navigable by act of Congress many years ago, but it has never been practical for that purpose, there being too many narrow and shallow places. The valley or bottom is from one-half to two miles wide and the soil is very rich. Many large and productive farms are along its banks and the owners are counted way up in the thousands in wealth.

Honey creek rises in Arkansas, runs across the corner of the county, passing through Southwest City and into the Territory.

There are various other small streams and valleys along which are found many productive farms, but the above are the principal water courses worthy of note.

These streams are all fed by springs, and the water is usually cold. One peculiarity of the smaller water-

courses is that they become "lost" or run under ground much of the way. At one point the water will be running like a mill race, perhaps fifty yards below the bed will be perfectly dry, then again the water comes to the surface going with a rush until it again rises and so on until it reaches a larger body.

## Chapter 2

### EARLY SETTLEMENT

The early settlers of McDonald County, like those of all other localities, located along the creeks and river bottoms. Here were abundant springs of pure, cold water, the streams were alive with fish and an abundance of game ranged near these water courses. The soil was extremely fertile, producing almost miraculous crops of all grains and vegetables, while the uplands called "barrens" or "flat woods," were considered almost worthless for agricultural purposes.

Filled with a restless desire for pioneer life, the inhabitants of other states began to settle in these lonely valleys soon after the state was admitted into the Union. Here, in the solitude of the forests, with only the breeze whistling in the trees, the rippling of the water of the cries of wild animals and birds to wake the stillness, these men made their homes. Here many, many miles from any town or post office they reared their families, and here some of them have long ago found their narrow homes. The first settlement within the present boundary of this county of which we have been able to learn was Valentine, commonly called Telty, Miller, and wife Katy (Workman) and only son, Levi, who settled in Elk river bottom on what is now known as the Peck farm, in Elk River township, in 1827. He brought a copper still with him from North Carolina and for awhile manufactured whiskey. He also ran a set of burrs for grinding [corn?]. His machinery was operated by water power. In a few years his temporary cabin was replaced by a more comfortable log house which, though sadly dilapidated, is still standing. Some fifteen years afterward they buried their only son on the bank of the river, and in a few days departed for California where the old people died.

About 1830 a family by the name of Friend is said to have settled on what is now the Langly farm on Elk river.

Abram, Elisha and Jacob Testerman, came in 1833, and settled on Elk River. Four years later (1837) Abram Testerman and Margery Buzzard were married and settled on Indian creek about one fourth of a mile below where the town of Lanagan is now located. This is said to be the first marriage in this county.

During the early thirties R. Lauderdale, P. Williams, Blevina Mathews and a few other families, in all about forty persons, settled in this county. Lauderdale afterwards settled on Indian creek on the place now occupied by Bob Lauderdale. Some of the others settled on Indian creek and the rest in the vicinity of the present site of Pineville.

Among the other early settlers in this part of the county were Hugh L. Testerman, who came here in September, 1839 and is still living a quarter of a mile east of Pineville on the farm he has owned for more than half a century. A family by the name of Nicely settled on the river below Pineville about 1840, two Noel families and George Mosier, near the same time. About this time it appears that Augustus Friend owned the Marshall farm, which he sold to Jacob Wallace in 1842. Mrs. Wallace afterwards sold to Marshall.

Hamilton Moffett and family, also his two married sons, Elma [Elam] and William, with their families settled on Indian Creek and near the mouth of Elk Horn in 1840. Elma Moffett, father of J. H. Moff- who now resides in Pineville, settled the place known as the old Moffett farm at the mouth of South Elk Horn. It is now owned by Elihu Hendry. Prior to their advent into this county, Jonathan Blair a Presbyterian minister had settled a short distance below the Elam Moffett place, and also owned the present site of McNatt's mills. He operated a small mill at that point in the latter part of the 30's and early 40's. John and Jim Mayfield and Bill Cleveland lived on Indian Creek near Erie prior to 1839. Sometime in the 30's John Hearrell lived on Big Sugar creek six miles northeast of Pineville. Dr. Clark Wallace is also among the settlers prior to 1840,

and Joel Meador, who still lives on Indian creek.

Among the others who located in this county prior to 1840 are found the names of James W. Tatum, Eligah Witten, and Pleasant Smith. Mr. Tatum still lives on Beaver valley one half mile above the town of Anderson.

The above comprises the principal part of those who came to this county prior to 1840-2, and settled within the present limits of Anderson, Erie, Elk River and Pineville townships. I have had to rely wholly on the memory of the older settlers for this information, which is substantially correct, although the names of a few may have been overlooked or forgotten.

The early settlements in the other parts of the county will be given by the municipal townships.

## Chapter 3

### COUNTY ORGANIZATION

Prior to 1833 Crawford county embraced all of Southwest Missouri. In that year Green county was organized and for two years Springfield was the county's [.....????] area of McDonald County.

[????] Barry county was established which [...????...] of the territory, which is now Barry, McDonald, Newton, Jasper, Lawrence, Barton, Dade and part of Cedar counties. After considerable strife over the location of the county seat, the town of Mount Pleasant was established and the county seat located there. It was about one and one-half miles west of the present site of Pierce City. In connection with this place we give the following interesting reminiscence which was published in the Newton County News in July 1896:

“Away back in the thirties Newton, as well as a number of other counties, was a part of Barry county and the county seat of Barry was Mt. Pleasant and was located about one and one-half miles west of Pierce City. The court house was built of logs. A fine spring was one of the attractions of this county seat. Barry county then embraced the large territory of what is now Barry, Lawrence, Newton and McDonald counties, and a part or all of Jasper county. Capt. Ritchey, of Ritchey was born in that county seat and his father, the late Judge Ritchey, was elected constable the same day on the Democratic ticket. Newton county was cut off from Barry in 1837 and since that time McDonald county has been formed from part of Newton. The farm on which Mt. Pleasant was located was settled by an old gentleman known as Uncle Sampson Lanna [Lahna?]. After Barry county had been divided up into other counties Mt. Pleasant was no more a county seat, and a man by the name of Wilds purchased the farm in 1870 and intended to build a castle above the spring, but through some misfortune he committed suicide and the castle was never built. Nothing remains now of the once county seat except the spring which continues to furnish its pure beverage as when in days of yore the county officers quenched their thirst at its fountain. The train passes just by the old county seat spot now, but nothing can be seen but a big field of waving corn and shocks of wheat.”

The first session of the county court was held at Mount Pleasant, February 16, 1835, and Barry county was divided into townships. Nearly all of the present limits of this county, also the southwest part of Newton county was designated as Elk River township. It was bounded as follows: Commencing at the southwest corner of the State thence north on the line between Missouri and the Indian Territory to the divide between Lost creek and Elk River, thence east on said divide to the line between Ranges 30 and 31 thence south to the State line, thence west on Arkansas line to the corner stone between Missouri and Arkansas. The remainder of this county, a strip eight and one-half miles wide off the east end, was included in Indian creek township which also embraced a considerable part of the present limits of Barry county. Thus we see that Elk River township has the distinction, by several years, of being the oldest township in the county. This section of country, however, remained but a short time subject to the jurisdiction of Barry county. By an act of the State Legislature, December 31, 1838, Newton county was established, and McDonald became a part of that county. The boundary of Newton county extended two and one-half miles further east than our present line between this county and Barry, that is to the southwest corner of section 26. T. 21R. 29 thence north, instead of the center of section 33 as it is now. The north line was fixed on the section lines running due west to the Nation line from the intersection of the four corners of section 13, 14, 23, 24T.28, R.29, making the new

county about 46 miles from north to south and about 33 miles from east to west.

Pursuant to the report of the commissioners and the order of the county court, the town of Neosho was laid out in November, 1839 and the county seat established in that place. For the next decade this was a part of Newton county.

An act was passed March 3, 1849, providing for the establishment of McDonald county, and the organization was completed under that act, but was attached to Newton county for the purpose of electing a representative until 1857.

Considerable trouble was experienced in establishing the county seat, a more extended account of which will be given in the history of the towns. The commissioners to select a county seat were James Mayfield, Oliver Hickox and Joseph Pearson, of Newton county. They met at the house of J. C. McKay, which stood near the confluence of the two Sugar creeks, and his residence was designated as temporary court house. An election was called which resulted in the selection of Rutledge as the county seat where it remained until permanently located at Pineville in 1857. During this contention between the two rival towns two sets of officers were claiming title and rival courts were carried on, one at Pineville, the other at Rutledge. The first election resulted in the selection of Murphy Brown of Rocky Comfort, John Oliver and Abram Testerman as county judges, Burton McGhee, clerk, A. A. Hensley, sheriff and Tillotson Pearson treasurer. These officers organized court at Rutledge in 1849 but Brown refused to take part in the transactions being of the opinion that the court should be held at Pineville. J. K. Mosier, William Duval, Jr., and Benjamin Cooper organized court at Pineville, which was then called Maryville. John B. King served as clerk, A. D. Flinn, sheriff and collector, and J. J. Hackney, treasurer. Court was held at J. C. McKay's residence, above mentioned. Little but trouble and confusion resulted from these rival courts and officers and many of the people refused to pay taxes until the dispute was finally settled a few years later. The transactions of the Pineville court were generally ignored, but according to the statement of some of the old residents, a few of the warrants were paid several years later. The circuit courts were held regularly at Rutledge.

The first set of county judges were succeeded by A. Z. Holcomb and William Moffett, Testerman succeeding himself. Moffett served two terms. Joshua Wimpey, also, served as judge about this time, but I have not been able to get the names of any others.

McDonald county was attached to Newton county for legislative purposes until 1856. In that year an election was held and Thomas Jones was elected as the first member of the House of Representatives from McDonald county. Burton McGhee was his opponent in the race. Jones died at Jefferson City the next year and Smith Elkins was elected to fill the vacancy.

In 1856 Smith Elkins was a candidate for reelection, his competitors for legislative honors being Dr. William C. Duval, Claudius B. Walker and Moses Pollard. The first three were Democrats and Pollard a Know Nothing. Dr. Duval was elected by a majority of 145, his opponent being James A. Scott. The doctor threw all of his influence while in the legislature against secession until May 10, 1861, when he followed the majority of his party in casting their lot with the Southern Confederacy. He attended the legislature in their assembly at Neosho and took part in the proceedings, but was never connected with the Southern army except as a surgeon.

Burton McGhee served as clerk until 1854 when he was succeeded by A. A. Hensley, who was reelected in 1858 and held the office until the county government was suspended by the Civil War. Hensley was sheriff and collector between 1849 and 1854. W. C. Price served one or two terms, about this time, and Demps Lauderdale occupied the office when the war broke out. He became a Captain in the Confederate army and died during the war of consumption. Joseph Hackney, Sr., was treasurer at Pineville, and Tillotson Pearson, at Rutledge. J. P. LaMance held the office one or two terms before the war.

From the entries made immediately after the war, and from the statements of the older inhabitants, it appears that the county was divided into seven municipal townships, as follows: Buffalo, Cooper, Elk River, Pineville, Richwood, Rutledge, White Rock. It's not possible to get the metes and bounds of the old divisions, but from the best information Buffalo was located somewhat as at present occupying the northwest corner of the county, Cooper embraced the southwest corner. Elk River and Rutledge covered substantially the present limits of Elk River, McMillan and Prairie; Pineville, the central part, Richwood, the northwest, and White Rock was practically as at present.

This closes the history of our county up to the beginning of the Civil War, and contains as complete a list of the county officers and the leading events as it is possible to obtain. In 1863 the court house was burnt and nearly all the records destroyed, so that the chief source of information is that derived from the old settlers who located here years before the war, and on whose memory those old days and scenes of long ago are indelibly impressed. In a few years more those old residents will have passed away and their descendants will turn with pride to the works of history that have collated and preserved for all future times these interesting reminiscences of men and times long past.

The people who had located here were generally from the south, more being from Tennessee than any other state, and had brought with them the manners and customs peculiar to those localities. They lived in primitive style, compared to the present, and were nearly self-sustaining. A cook stove was a rare exception, nearly every one cooking by the fire place and oven. This, by the way, was not so inconvenient as might be imagined. Many a delicious "pone", rare venison saddle and luscious gobbler has been cooked in this way, and the smell that ascended to heaven was enough to tempt the appetites of the gods.

A sewing machine had never been heard of, while the clank of the loom and humming of the wheel furnished music almost as sweet, and more homelike than our present organs and pianos. The old fashioned linchpin wagons, with the box shaped like a canoe, many with wooden spindle, could be heard for miles as they groaned and screamed over the rocky roads. They raised their own cotton and wool, spun and wove it in the cloth and made their own garments. The latter was the women's work. Of course, every family cultivated enough tobacco for home consumption. Wheat and corn were produced and, as we have seen, there were a number of mills to do the grinding. Distilleries were quite numerous and manufactured the pure and unadulterated corn juice at twenty-five cents a gallon. The good people, both saints and sinners, could take their corn to the still and lay in a good supply of cash. One didn't have to get "sick" and tell a lie and sign his name to it, then get a doctor to tell one and sign his name to it in order to get a drink of a decoction miscalled whiskey. No, he just followed the injunction of St. Paul, and took a little for his stomach's sake, and his oft infirmities, and of a quality that would have met the approval of that learned apostle. In this new country subject to chills and malaria, and the scarcity of doctors and drugs, no doubt this pure liquor drove disease and death from many a home.

Hogs and cattle could be raised with very little feed, the former being frequently butchered directly from the mast, while deer, turkey and other game were found in abundance. As to shoes, every neighborhood had a tannery and every man was a shoemaker. One man told me that his father said his store bill before the war did not average more than five dollars a year. His family was quite large, and they lived comfortably. Instead of doing without, they simply produced what was required. It is by no means intended to convey the idea that all the people were poor or lived so plainly. Many families were quite aristocratic, had well furnished houses, and gold watches and jewelry were worn quite extensively. Several parties owned slaves and carried on quite extensive plantations. Almost any McDonald county farmer, along in the fifties could raise a hundred dollars any day, and real estate mortgages were unknown. People were honest in their dealings and paid their debts, and the latch string to every cabin hung on the outside. People were hospitable, extremely so. Partly because it was born and bred in them, partly because, being isolated, and the settlements scarce and far between, it was regarded as a treat to have a neighbor or stranger stop to dinner or over night. The familiar "Halloa, stranger, git down an' hitch yer hoss, and come in 'n stay all night. The old woman 'I have supper drecky. Boys, take the critter and feed it," has greeted the ears of many a weary traveler, and he would rest as secure as tho' guarded by a regiment of soldiers. Those are days to be remembered with pleasure; a bright period in the history of our county.

But the questions is asked, how did they make any money? As before stated, there were but few families in the county, and their farms were very productive. The range was exceedingly fine, and all kinds of stock could be raised with little or no outlay. A farmer could gather up his hogs and cattle in the spring after the grass was good, and drive them to St. Louis. There was range all the way and it mattered little that it took a long time to make the journey. What his produce brought was clear profit. He frequently returned with several hundred dollars. Horses were raised and taken directly to the southern market where they would bring from \$75 to \$100. Thus an industrious man could soon acquire quite a snug sum of money.

## Chapter 4

### ORGANIZATION AFTER THE WAR

From 1861 to 1865 no elections were held in McDonald county. In 1864 the vote for this county was cast at Newtonia. Burton McGhee was elected member of the legislature and 26 votes were cast for Fletcher for governor. Soon after the war the county government was again resumed, the officers being appointed by the governor. Benjamin F. Hopkins, Enoch G. Williams and Isaac A. Harmon were appointed judges, John V. Hargrove, sheriff; J. P. LaMance, treasurer. The first meeting of this court was November 6, 1866. On the next day, November 7, Henry H. Fox was appointed assessor of the county, and Hugh L. Testerman, coroner. On Nov. 8, Daniel Harmon was appointed public administrator; A. W. Chenoweth, county treasurer; Abner M. Tatum school commissioner; John M. Boyd, road commissioner. At this term of court, the following Justices of the peace were appointed: E. G. Williams, Pineville township; D. C. Hopkins, Elk River township; T. R. Hopkins and Thomas Davenport, White Rock township. In December following D. C. Fox was appointed Justice of the peace for Buffalo township, David Davenport, for White Rock, Jehu Jones for Rutledge township. In February 1866 Ransom Plumlee was appointed justice for Richwood township, and John F. Lewis for Elk Horn. I. N. Williams was appointed treasurer. At this time the county court had jurisdiction of probate matters and the principal part of the records of the court pertain to affairs of administration, appointments of officers and locating roads.

At this time the office of public administrator was certainly a lucrative one as the records show that in 1866 he had charge of the following estates: Samuel R. Cotter, John Stearns, James Williams, Benjamin Gooden, George W. Martin, Anderson Carter, Tierney J. Cook, G. C. Culp, Solomon Lankford, David Brock, William Burgess, Basil Lewis, Nathaniel Meador, Samuel B. Keeler, John D. Hendry, William G. Morris, Martin Stafford, Harrison Ray, Robert Walker, Hugh Carroll, Alfred Martin, Mrs. Delilah McGhee, D. Y. Lauderdale, Joseph Morrow, Jacob Carter, James T. Davenport, G. W. Nutting, W. Hamblin, John M. Harmon, Wilson Gonce, S. H. Carroll, J. B. King, Smith Elkins, Thomas Woolsey, H. Carroll, Moses Pendergraft, J. T. Haskins, R. F. Walker, Samuel B. Keele, Sr., James N. Appleby, John H. Hastings, John D. Henry, Francis A. Carter, J. W. Cole, J. Wimpey, William Skinner, Matilda Mitchell, John Hevalison, Carroll Kirk, U. S. Young, Sr., and Samuel Brown. It appears from the records that Benjamin [Ross?] was public administrator previous to the appointment of Daniel Harmon, but how or when he became possessed of that office there is no record to show.

*[Much of the following two paragraphs have been lost.....]*

In the records of the county court, [.....] 1866 is the following order: Ordered by the [...] that municipal townships of this county be [...] as follows: All territory including [...] 29 and 30 shall constitute a municipal [.....] be known as Fox township. Also, all [...] in ranges 30 and 34 which shall [.....] Elk township.

The next order following establish..[.....] places in each of the three townships [.....] at the residence of H. H. Fox, in [.....] Pineville, in Pineville Township and at the residence of B. F. Hopkins in Elk township. It was also ordered that each justice of the peace be furnished with a copy of the order giving metes and bounds of their respective townships. Why this arrangement was effected and what disposition was made of the various Justice of the peace does not appear. It evidently did not give satisfaction as in the following August and November various changes were made and several precincts established, a more full account of which will be given in the chapter on townships.

Among the interesting orders made about this time were those to cancel notes given for loans of the various public funds. One signed by A. S. McGhee, dated September, 1854, for \$185.98; One signed by T. A. B. Pearson and Joseph Pearson May 17, 1854 for \$100; one by M. A. Laughlin, Aug. 11, 1857 for \$50. These notes were cancelled by reason of their being void by limitation.

Warrants were drawn on the county treasurer in 1866-7 to pay for wolf scalps, at the rate of one dollar each scalp, to Gilbert Bolen, E. F. Burns, Eleven Caulk, William Mooney, Isaac Martin and Wyatt Edmonds. The party producing the scalp was required to prove that the wolf had been killed within the borders of the county, to entitle him to the bounty.

## ALLOTING JUSTICES

There are numerous orders on record during this time making the appointment for allotting justices for the various townships. As this practice has long since become obsolete, it will likely be an item of interest as well as curiosity to know what an allotting of justice was. Under the road laws in those days an overseer was appointed by the county court for a certain road or, in more thickly settled counties, for a road district. This county being very sparsely settled, the overseers were appointed for a certain road designated in the order of appointment. In each township one of the justices of the peace was appointed by the county court to allot, or parcel out, the road hands in his township and designate under what road overseer they should work. This was called the allotting justice. He also had jurisdiction over cases where parties failed or refused to work their time.

## Chapter 5

### TOWNSHIPS

Anderson township was established by order of the county court at the March term 1896. The voting place was established at the town of Anderson, from which the township derived its name. The K. C. P. & G. R. R. enters this township near the northeast corner, runs entirely through and passes out on the south line a little west of the center. Beaver valley also enters near the northeast corner and empties into Indian creek just below the town of Anderson. The above-named stream meanders through the southern part of the township. The first settlement was mentioned in the chapter on Early Settlement. The principal place is Anderson, a nice little town, and one of the best trading points in the county. On Indian creek and the adjacent valleys are many fine farms and prosperous families. The township was taken from Buffalo, McMillin, Pineville and Erie townships and contains about 35 sections of land.

Buffalo township lies in the northwest corner of the county. It derives its name from Buffalo creek which runs through it, centering some four miles from the northeast corner and bearing southwesterly passes the south line some two miles from the southwest corner. This township seems to have been organized before the war, but the boundary was not as at present. The county court records also show that the township was organized May 3, 1871. This was evidently but a re-arrangement of the township with regard to the voting precinct, which for a short time included all the western portion of the county embraced in ranges 33 & 34. There was a voting place on Beeman valley before the war. The present voting place is at May.

The early settlements in this township were confined to Buffalo creek including Sugar Fork, and Beeman hollow. Campbell Price, father to our "Uncle Billy," came to this county about the year 1836. He left Tennessee in 1829. Stopped in Arkansas one year, then moved to Spring river where he remained a few years, then settled on Buffalo creek. Daniel McRae came about the same time. James Woldon settled on Sugar Fork about 1837. James Beeman settled on the old Owens farms, at the mouth of Beeman hollow between 1837 and 1840. The Dobbsses, Benegee Brown, James Crabtree, Richard and Simeon Price, George Nutting, M. Burns, Henry Barlow and a few other families were located here prior to or just after 1840.

Hart and May are the two post offices and trading points, each having a small country store. Formerly all the settlements were along the bottoms and valleys. On Buffalo are some very fine farms, those of W. C. Price, R. Harrington, H. D. Roark, Martha Owens and Samuel Ledford being among the best. W. C. Roark, deceased, settled in Roark valley along in the fifties and made a good farm, where he reared a highly respected family. In late years the Flat Woods are being put into cultivation, and are proving quite productive.

Center township was named from the central location it occupies on the east side of the county. It was organized pursuant to an order of the county court, May 9, 1872. Big Sugar creek, Mikes creek, Trent creek and Little Missouri are the principal streams. The voting place is at Powell, which is, also, the principal trading point.

This township was established, with several others, May 9, 1872. There had been a voting place in that part of the county for many years before that time. Once it was at the residence of Henry H. Fox, and at another time at a log school house near Powell; also at Yonce's store. This part of the county was known as Cooper township for a while, then was designated Fox township.

The early settlers began to locate here about the time settlements were made in other parts of the county. M. A. Laughlin, J. S. Laughlin, Jubal Duwees, Billy Offield and Whittenburg settled on Big Sugar about 1834. Phillip Michael from whom that stream is named, settled on Mike creek in the early thirties. John Stafford, father of Claib Stafford, came from Tennessee in 1836, and settled on Mike creek. He afterward improved the place where J. H. Cowan now lives, where he died about 1856. Of four children but one, Claib, now lives in this county; he still occupies part of the old homestead. Thomas Ethridge lived on Mike creek when Stafford came here in 1836. Snyder lived where Powell now is. John Trent settled on Trent creek about this time, and the families of J. Dotson, Billy Carnott and Barney Bixbey located about this time or soon after. John Puckett and son Jim came soon afterward. The Coopers came in the early forties and put up a mill at Powell on the place now owned by Mac Harper. L. Sherlock ran a distillery near there about 1838 and later.

This township is five miles north and south by seven and one-half miles east and west, and contains 37 1-2 sections of land. The valleys are extremely fertile and contain many productive farms. The uplands are considerably broken but of late years are being put into cultivation and produce small grains, grass and fruits abundantly.

Cyclone Township was established by order of the county court at the June term 1896. It was named from Cyclone post office, at which the voting place was established. Big Sugar creek is the only stream of any importance in this township. J. A. Foster has a small stock of goods at this place and a grist and saw mill is in operation. There were but few settlements made in the present limits of this township in the early days, most of them being above or below. A man by the name of Tyner is said to have located on the farm now owned by John Millison, in the early thirties. John Heraldson settled just north of the Billy Warren farm about 1838, and Levi Click, on the Barney Turner place in 1840. John Ferguson is said to have settled on Big Sugar prior to 1840, John Stafford, who formerly lived in Center, and a few other families lived here when the war broke out. They, however, left the county during that troublesome period and, a number of the old settlers say, that John C. Hampton was the only man living within the present limits of this township when the war closed.

The surface of this township is similar to Center, many productive farms being found in the valleys and creek bottoms. It is six miles east and west, and five miles north and south, containing thirty sections of land.

Samuel Claiborn, who formerly lived on the Ab Johnson farm, was a prominent character of this vicinity for several years before the war. His true name was Sams, but many years before, he had killed a man in Tennessee, and changed his name to conceal his identity. He moved from here to Hickory county where he died at the advanced age of 98 years.

Erie Township was established June 9, 1872. The name is derived from the village of Erie, for many years the principal trading place and only post office in the township. The voting place is at this village. Indian Springs is in the northeast, and Donohue (now called Goodman) is in the northwest part. Indian creek runs almost diagonally through the township from northeast to southwest. Some of the best farms in the county are in this locality and the McNatt Mills, now operated by F. A. Sears, is noted throughout this part of the state as one of the oldest and best milling properties in the southwest.

In addition to the names of early settlers mentioned in Chapter II, the following have been secured: Ira Yates settled on the place now owned by Mr. Dalton some time in the thirties. John Mayfield informs me that his father located in this county in 1840, instead of prior to that time as elsewhere stated. He came from Monroe county, Kentucky, and settled on the place which Mr. Mayfield now owns. A man named Kell had settled on the place now owned by George Allman before the Mayfields came. About the same time Harris lived on the John Harmon place at Erie and a family named Antney, on the Ebbinghaus farm. The Lees came about the same time and settled where John Boyd lives. Dan Harmon says that William Cleveland, a half blood Indian was the first settler on Indian creek. He owned a place where Erie now is which he sold to Mark Harmon, who came to this county from Green county Tennessee several years before the war. He, also, informs me that the first school ever taught in Erie township was in a little log house at the mouth of Elk Horn. Moses

Pollard was the teacher, having been employed by Mark Harmon, Jonathan Blair also, was the owner of a Negro woman.

Elk Horn township lies in congressional township 23, and includes part of ranges 30 and 31. It was established practically as at present, by order of the county court, May 9, 1872. The name was derived from the two creeks in its western part. Bethpage is the principal trading point, post office and voting place. Besides the two Elk Horn valleys, there are extensive Flat Woods in this township and a large percent of its territory is in improved farms. The land is generally productive and it has appearance of being one of the prosperous sections of the county. According to the order of the court, it is six miles from east to west and seven from north to south, containing forty two sections.

This part of the county was mostly overlooked by the first settlers, there being no large streams as in most of the other townships. There were a few however, who came here in an early day. In 1847 there is said to have been but one house between where McNatt's mill now is and Mitchell's prairie. This was Bullard's, a family of that name having settled on the flat woods prior to that time. Mitchell lived on Mitchell's prairie some time in the early forties, and it may be earlier. The Brocks came in an early day, and there was a small German settlement near the Barringer place along in the forties.

Elk River township lies south of the river in range 33, extending to the Arkansas line. In 1835, when this was a part of Barry county Elk River township comprised the southwest corner. Though changed several times, and given other names, this township dates back to the organization of the county. In its present form it was established in the reorganization in 1872. It has the distinction of being the place where the first settlement was made in the county, (1828). This is the first that can be designated, but down near the river near where the John Marshall farm now is, there is an old grave yard, grown up with brush and briars until it is almost impossible to get to it, and in such a secluded place that hundreds of our people do not know it is there. In this abandoned burial place are a number of tomb stones, all made out of native limestone, large, broad stones, nicely dressed. The lettering is almost defaced by time, but one, at least, indicates a death in 1807. Whether a settlement was made there prior to that time I have not been able to ascertain.

Noel is the principal town and is one of the most important railroad points in the county. Elk River, Butler and Mill creeks, are the streams, and some of the finest farms in the county are on the river bottom. The voting place for many years was at the Marshall school house, but in 1896 it was moved to Noel.

McMillin township was named from John McMillin, who lived just above the present site of Coy. It was created by order of the county court, May 9, 1872. Patterson and Buffalo creeks are the principal streams which flow through it while the river forms the southern boundary. The voting place is at McMillin school house. Tiff City is the principal town.

The settlement of this township dates back to between 1835 and 1840. Abner Sherman, a native of Ohio, located in 1842. David Cummings came out as Missionary for the Indians when they were removed to the Territory, and settled the farm just above where Tiff City now stands. Uncle Andy Smith was a local preacher in 1842, and lived on the place where C. L. Moore and his wife were killed in 1894. Eleven Caulk was among the first settlers on Patterson Creek and owned slaves. Finley Lane settled here in 1845. The Ollivers, James Bly, Allen Williams, and several other families settled along the creek in the early forties. W. B. Mitchell came from Tennessee in 1852; Bradford Seabourn in 1858. One of the first establishments of this township was a distillery. Alfred Oliver erected one near where Mathew Kincannon now lives, way back in the early days. The building was of logs and was three and a half stories high. It had an immense brick chimney some sixteen feet square. William Houghton, who afterwards owned the Langley farm on the river, ran a distillery at Enterprise. He also raised horses for the southern market. He would trade twenty gallons of whiskey for a pony mare which he would keep for breeding. It is said he raised fine horses and made quite a fortune. James Bly operated the distillery afterwards. He owned several slaves. Of course it was against the law to sell liquor to Indians then, as it is now, but a profitable business was carried on with them. When a pony or other article, or money was to be exchanged, the property was left at a convenient place where it was taken care of by the distiller. The Indian would then make a search in the woods and "find" a lot of whiskey. It was a remarkable coincidence that the value of the property and that of the liquor found was about the same.

Hugh Dunagee ran a tan yard near where the Morrison school house now is. M. Sliger, also, ran a tan yard at the McMillin place. He sold to John McMillin who continued the business until after the war. David Harlin, a part Cherokee, settled the Keenan Farm along in the thirties. Mathew Kincannon came out from Tennessee when the Indians were removed, and settled on what is now the Hafford farm. John Walker, in those early days, settled where Henry Manning now lives. A free Negro called Free Lewis settled the Morrison farm, where Charley Keenan now lives.

Mountain Township derives its name from the broken and hilly surface of the country, the hills in places assuming almost the proportion of mountains. Big Sugar Creek is the principal stream.

It was established as a separate township by order of the county court, May 9, 1872. The voting place is at Schell's mill, and the post office there is called Mountain. This is the principal trading point in the township, and considerable business is done there.

The first settler of which an account could be obtained came in about 1840 or 1841. John Rose, James Boles and a man by the name of Clemons came at that time. Along in the early forties Charley Boles and a family named Moore came. Clemons had a corn cracker at the mouth of Otter creek. In 1847 Henry Schell bought the mill and located there. His son Henry now owns the land. Mrs. Elizabeth Schell, widow of the elder Henry, is now 78 years old, and has a pretty vivid memory of the early days. Her father, Jacob Yocum, settled in Stone county in 1825. For a number of years he paid the Indians an annual rental of thirty bushels of corn for the privilege of living among them. he kept a small farm, and hunted and trapped during the fur season. Ruben Burnett now owns the place settled by James Boles. John Carter owned a Negro couple who had three or four children. Henry Schell brought a Negro boy to this county with him. He afterwards sold him for \$400 and deeded his land with the money. On the Berry Moore place is an old orchard that was bearing fruit before the war. Many of the trees were still bearing good fruit a couple of years ago. Phillip Schell states that the people of that township held an election to express their opinion in regard to secession. He states that all except a man named James Guess voted against going with the Confederacy. Guess voted for secession, and went south soon after the war broke out. He soon repudiated his action and went North at the first favorable opportunity. The balance of the citizens of this township, after the war came up, allied themselves with Confederacy. This township is nearly five and one-half miles square. It contains nearly twenty-five full sections, five half sections on the east side, and five fractional half sections on the Arkansas line.

Pineville township is one of the original divisions having been established when the county was first organized. Pineville, the county seat, is the principal town, while Lanagan, the railroad station, is not far behind in business importance. The two Sugar creeks and Elk river are the principal streams but there are numerous valleys that contain many productive farms. The history of its first settlement is more fully treated in the early settlement of the county and in the sketch of the town, and in the chapter on County Organization. Until 1896 it contained much more than at present, but in that year considerable was taken off to form Anderson township, and several sections off the east end to form Cyclone township. This leaves Pineville near the north line instead of practically in the center as before.

This being the county seat and most of the roads in the county leading to it, the people of this township experienced more of the ravages of war than any other portion of the county, detachments from both the Northern and Southern army alternately passing through.

Prairie township occupies the southwest corner of the county. It is named from Cowskin prairie which extends over the greater portion of its surface. Southwest City is the principal town, not only of this township, but of the entire county. Saratoga Springs is a small village near the east side. Honey creek, which runs through the southwest corner is the only stream of any consequence. This township contains quite a body of prairie land and is the most productive of any portion of the county of the same size. The large fields of wheat, corn and other crops that can be seen at a single stretch over the prairie forms a striking contrast to the usual monotony of the timbered regions.

Until a few years ago the voting place was at a school house on the prairie not far from J. P. Barnwell's, but Southwest City being the trading point for nearly all the people of the township, they petitioned the county court to change it to that place, which was accordingly done.

This part of the county was quite thinly settled until some time in the fifties, when considerable land was

entered. A few families settled on Honey creek prior to that time. In June, 1842, Burton McGhee located where Southwest City now is and established a trading point there. About the time the Indians were removed to the Territory, settlements were started at various points along the state line some two or three of which were within the present limits of this township. After McGhee put up his store people settled near there, and Southwest soon became a point of considerable importance. W. Gonce, Jesse Ware, J. P. Maddox, S. J. Hess and Mark Howard located there a few years later. The two Fields families, R. Caldwell, H. Remington, H. D. Budd and John McGhee are mentioned among the early settlers. Robert Shields, a native of Pennsylvania, but later from East Tennessee, came to this county in 1846 and settled on the farm on which his son George R. still lives. S. Briedlove, R. F. Cleveland, B. S. Ervin and John Hays all had entered land in the fifties. There were a few settled on the river between 1837 and 1840, but their names have not been ascertained. Richwood Township is situated in the northeast corner of the county, and is five and one-half miles from north to south. It was established as a separate township by order of the county court May 9, 1872. The principal town is Rocky Comfort, a nice little village near the northeast corner. One fork of Indian creek takes its rise at a spring in this town and meanders through the north and west part of the township. Mike creek and Kings creek, also rise in this township. The southern part is somewhat broken and hilly, but most of its surface is comparatively level. Although it was not settled to any great extent as early as some other parts of the county, it is now thickly populated and much of it is in a high state of cultivation. The soil is generally productive, especially for small grains, fruit and meadows. There are more orchards here than in any other part of the county except where the Ozark Orchard Company have invested in the last two years.

There appears to have been a few people in this part of the county along in the thirties. A. J. Duncan settled in 1836. There were a few Indians in the neighborhood as late as 1840. The Lambersons, Christians, T. F. Tomlinson, and a few other families whose names could not be ascertained, were here about the latter forties and early fifties. John Davidson settled in this county in 1853. Mrs. Ford, mother of John A. Ford, located near Rocky Comfort in 1843. Isaac Plumlee settled in this township in 1853.

White Rock Township was in existence soon after the organization of the county, and the voting place about where it is now. There was a church where Jane now is and one of the first free schools in the county was established there. Milo Martin taught a subscription school there in 1853, having the whole township in which to work, and secured thirty scholars. He organized the school district that fall.

William A. Davenport settled in this township in 1836, on the farm now occupied by Joah Brown. His father, Martin Davenport, came the next year. William DeHaven lived on the Bookout place about that time. There were a few other families whose names have not been learned which came about the same time. William K. Young came to this county in 1848, and he says there were a number of families here then and several more came soon after. When he came a man named Bramlet lived on the Bookout farm, and Jacob Roe lived across the creek from Elijah Evan's place. Dr. Davenport came in 1853; he practiced medicine here for twenty years. Along in the fifties, J. H. Slinkard, J. W. Brown, Gilbert White, John Coffee, Morgan and several others settled in this locality. Little Sugar creek and Little Missouri are the principal streams; Jane and Caverna are the two villages. The township is six miles square, except the fractional sections on the state line. The surface is generally broken, but the soil is extremely rich and the farms all productive.

## Chapter 6

### TOWNS AND VILLAGES

#### Anderson — Beaver Springs

This thriving town is located on the Kansas City Pittsburg & Gulf railroad six miles northwest of Pineville, and is one of the leading business points in the county. For many years Beaver Springs, just above the present town site, has been a noted resort of the county for meetings and picnics. The water of the spring flows out

from beneath a high stone bluff in a clear, cold stream of the finest quality and in great abundance. A nice grove in the valley near the spring added to the attraction and made it one of the loveliest places for many miles around. Many years before the war the Beaver Springs Missionary Baptist Association built a log church at this place. During the war it was burnt down. Another log church was built about 1867. This served as a place of worship until about the year 1884 when the present frame structure was erected. Robert Anderson located there in 1887 and started a little country store and the post office was established that year, named Anderson. S. T. Bennett ran a saw mill here about the same time. When the railroad was built and a station established the place at once sprang into importance. The town of Anderson was surveyed and platted by M. E. Meador, April 8, 1891. In the following August, S. T. Bennett had Bennett's Addition to the town of Anderson laid off. Several good business houses and neat residences have been built and a vast amount of trade has been attracted to the town by the enterprise of its people.

#### Buffalo City

John and William Pogue dug a well on their father's farm on Buffalo creek, the place now owned by Royal Harrington, and had a town surveyed and platted in August, 1881. There never was any foundation for the pretention of medical properties for this water and no one ever put any faith in the town or its founders. A little stock of goods was kept there a short time, but the land was again fenced into the farm after a couple of years and Buffalo City put back into cultivation.

#### Bannock

This was formerly a small village on Buffalo creek some mile or two above the state line. Jim and Lee Skinner built a mill here some years before the war which was burnt during that unpleasant period. Hiram Young rebuilt it and for some time had an upright saw for the purpose of making lumber. In late years W. G. Smith kept a stock of general merchandise and George Hurley had a drug store. The old mill was replaced several years ago by one with good sets of corn and wheat burrs and did quite an extensive business until the roller process came into general use. The mill is still operated, but all other business has long since been abandoned or moved away. Bill Roberts, who once kept a store there gave it the name, but I have not been able to find any one who knows from what it is derived.

#### Caverna

Caverna is located near the Arkansas line on Little Sugar creek, and has a water mill and store. This has been a mill site for the last fifty years or more. The water power is fine and capable of running more than ten times the machinery it now operates. Should a rail road ever be built through that part of the county it is liable to become a flourishing little town. The post office was established here about 1867. There are numerous caves in this vicinity, some quite extensive, and the name was derived from them.

#### Coy

Coy is now a post office and small trading point on Patterson creek just below the widow McMillin farm. Along about 1883 Sterling Mitchell, son of W. B. Mitchell went to Texas and there married a young lady of considerable fortune. Young Mitchell, with his new bride, came back to McDonald county when he conceived the idea of building a mill and laying out a town at the upper end of his father's farm. He soon had the enterprise under headway and the mill was soon running. Mitchell, however, soon sold out and went back to Texas. The mill changed hands a few times, when it was purchased by T. H. Wimpey and George McCoy, who operated it successfully for several years, doing a general merchant and custom business and running a saw mill in connection. T. H. Wimpey, Frank Beeman, Howard Langley and W. G. Smith were among those who kept stores there. In 1896 the mill was moved to Tiff City, but a saw mill was soon located on the old site. The store for the past year or two has been run by John and Dallas Seabourn and Wm. Cunningham.

McCoy sold his interest in the mill a few years ago and has been farming since.

### Crystal Springs

About the time of the excitement over Medical Water, an effort was made to build up a health resort at Crystal spring about two miles north of Pineville. J. P. LaMance was one of the leading men in the enterprise. A company was formed and an assessment was made in August 1881 for the purpose of building a hotel. Nothing was done beyond the erection of one or two small buildings, and the project was soon abandoned.

### Cyclone

Cyclone is the name given to a small trading point on Big Sugar creek about eight miles above Pineville. It has a water mill and a general store. J. A. Foster keeps the store and has charge of the post office which was established in 1883.

### Donohue — Goodman

When the rail road was built through this country in 1890, a small station was established in the northwest part of Erie township. This went under the name of Erie Station, and New Erie, but was finally named Wade, in honor of W. H. Wade, then member of Congress from this district. It was not a very desirable location and, beyond a few small dwellings and two or three little business houses, never made much growth. When the railroad passed into the Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf Company, the town of Donohue was laid out and a good depot built there. It is quite a point for shipping timber for the lead and coal mines.

### Elk Mills

In ante bellum days Elk Mills promised to be the leading town of the county. Situated on the Elk River near the Nation line, surrounded by the broad river bottom farms and in close proximity to the fertile valleys of Patterson and Buffalo creeks with the rich prairies within a couple of miles, its inhabitants might well look forward to a bright future. Besides, the water facilities here are most excellent and easily utilized. As long ago as the early 50's there was a good grist mill here, and in 1856 there was a hotel, kept by L. Richtus. Aron Scritchfield was black smith. W. H. Sorrels kept a drug store and E. S. Lindsey, W. N. Manger and Jameson and Manter each kept stocks of general merchandise. Several other families, among whom was Dr. Trader, lived there. The mill was burnt during the war, and the town gradually fell into decay, until now there are but a few old ruins left to mark the spot where it once stood.

### Enterprise

This town was located on the farm now occupied by the widow Kennan on Patterson creek. It sprung up when the Indians were first removed to the Indian Territory and up to the war was a trading point of considerable importance. Jim Bly kept a store and the post office. William Bly, who married a Cherokee built the mill there which afterwards belonged to Caulk. A part Cherokee named David Harlin, at one time owned the distillery. He sat out twenty-five acres in peach trees for the purpose of raising fruit to make peach brandy. Samuel Lane, of Roan county Tennessee, was the blacksmith until 1846, when he died. There were thirty or forty houses in the village, and about two hundred inhabitants.

### Erie

The first post office was established at Erie in 1851, at the residence of John M. Harmon. It remained there until Mr. Harmon's death in 1862. The office was discontinued until 1868 when it was re-established. This

same year the town of Erie was laid off at the instance of Dan Harmon, he being the owner of the land. Since that time it has been a small trading point, there being usually one or two stores. The best business house ever built there was a one story brick put up by Dan Harmon about 1890 or 1891. It was burnt with the entire contents, a stock of general merchandise owned by Charlie Harmon, on the night of March 12, 1895. This proved a severe loss to the worthy young man, who was at the time dangerously ill with pneumonia, and the place has never regained its former business prosperity. This village is situated in a fertile part of the county, which is inhabited by an intelligent, thrifty and agreeable set of people.

#### Gates - May

This was a post office at the forks of Buffalo creek and Sugar Fork, established a few years after the first settlement in that vicinity. It was on the route from Neosho to Maysville. Richard Price was post master for several years before the war. Along in the eighties, while W. T. Child held the position, he resigned, and the office was discontinued for a while. Dr. Maynard located there, put up a small store and the office was revived under the name of May. Gates was so called from General Gates, and May from the first syllable of the doctor's name, or that of his daughter May.

#### Hart

Prior to 1840, the northwest part of Buffalo township was very sparsely settled. The road from Seneca to Southwest City left the state line near the Newton County line and swung out into the Nation for some three or four miles. The Flat Woods between Buffalo creek and the state line was almost an unbroken forest. In 1883 Phillip Rinehart interested the neighbors in cutting a road straight through thus enabling travelers to cut off the bend into the Nation. The post offices for the community were Seneca or Tiff City, each about seven miles distant. The writer presented a petition to the county court to establish the public road as made by Mr. Rinehart and the same year made application to establish post office on the route. This application was endorsed by W. T. Child, P. M. at Gates, and in a short time an order was received to select as short and convenient a name as possible. Mr. or Mrs. Child suggested Hart, the last syllable of Mr. Rinehart's name, and in a few weeks were getting our mail daily almost at our doors. Mr. Rinehart served for some time, then the office was moved from his house to Chandler's Mill. Tom Cummings built the house now occupied by William Spraggins and for a while the office was kept at his house. About 1885, C. Tucker bought out Cummings, and put up a neat store building and a nice stock of goods. He soon built up a good trade and for a few years did well. Since that time Hart has been a considerable trading point as well as post office.

#### Indian Springs

Among the traditions of the Indians who formerly inhabited this section of country, was one of the healing qualities of the springs near Indian creek. The first white men to visit the country were told of them, but the Indians could never be induced to reveal their location. The older settlers who claim to be posted in the lore of the community, say that a man named Friend, one of the first settlers on Indian creek, made a search for the springs and found the famous Four Great Medical Springs. One of his family being severely afflicted with rheumatism the water was used and a cure speedily effected. Mrs. Carroll used the water about 1840, and a most remarkable cure was the result. There being but few people in the country, and the means of spreading new meager, the medicinal properties seem to have been forgotten and the use of the water discontinued until 1880. About this time J. J. McNatt and a few others took an interest in the springs and arrangements were made to more thoroughly test the medicinal properties of the water. The result proving satisfactory, a village was laid out July 7, 1881. R. W. Williams, Robert Anderson and John Barlow were the trustees, and T. J. Golden, treasurer. In seven days two hundred lots were sold and twenty buildings erected. The town enjoyed a lively boom, people flocking in from all directions. The growth was so rapid that in August of the same year, McNatt laid out an addition to the town, Williams & Tennison another; Williams & McNatt a third, and in March, 1882, Boyden a fourth. When at its best the population was estimated at near 2000. The four

springs were nicely improved with walls fencing, pipes, etc., bath houses built, substantial business houses erected, and the little city had every appearance of permanence. A handsome City Park was reserved, a rostrum and band stand erected, and here for several years were held picnics, public meetings, celebrations, etc., where large crowds always assembled to enjoy the hospitality of the people of the famous Indian Medical Springs.

Among the prominent men whose names appear in connection with the place at that time were: W. E. Smith, Scott Ferris, W. J. Adkins, J. B. Barlow, P. M. Fink, L. C. Brown, Edward Bogard and James C. Cole, city attorney.

One part of the city was named College Hill and on this was built a handsome two-story school house 36 X 56 feet being for many years the best school building in the county. A handsome hotel called the Planter's was built there, and for some time did a good business. It is the largest and best arranged hotel building ever erected in McDonald county.

But the fates were against Indian Springs and the boom soon bursted. The town gradually fell into decay. Many buildings were moved away; some were destroyed by fire, while others were left vacant until destroyed by the ravages of time.

In 1887 Dr. J. C. Petit, of Joplin rented the hotel and undertook to established a printing office and infirmary. He advertised quite extensively, and for a while there was hopes of reviving the fortunes of the town. But this enterprise failed, and now but little is left of the once famous town. P. M. Fink has a neat stock of general merchandise and also runs the hotel. Robert Duffield has a small general stock.

The following taken from the history of McDonald county published in 1888, is a beautiful description of the lake and its surroundings. The steam boat has since been sold and the grand excursions numbered with the pleasures that went with the passing of the city:

“At the foot of the hill some 100 yards from the town is Lake McNatt, a beautiful body of Water, formed by the dam across Indian creek, and is about three miles in length by half a mile wide, its waters as clear as crystal and varying in depth from five to fifteen feet, its banks diversified with beautiful valleys, wooded hills and rocky cliffs, whose tops, in places, project for many feet over the water and are reflected in its clear depths. On this lake has been built a beautiful little side-wheel steam boat capable of seating about seventy-five persons, and nothing is more enjoyable than a ride around the lake on this boat, giving one a fine view of the wooded hills and rocky cliffs on one side, and the fertile valleys and cultivated fields on the other, and at the foot of the lake the mill, with its whirr and bustle and busy scenes of active life, reminding us that we are not wholly segregated from the great work-day world about us. Nowhere in all the great Southwest can there be found within the same radius a more beautiful or picturesque region than that immediately surround this place.”

### Lanagan

In 1886 Dr. Fausett in the employment of a Pennsylvania Oil company bored down to a depth of 844 feet where he struck a strong vein of white sulphur water which flows with great force. It is located on a high bank of Indian creek and is surrounded by various other springs. The oil project was abandoned, but M. R. DeGroff, I. D. Galbraith, T. C. Lanagan and others purchased the land and, when the railroad was built, conceived the idea of building a town. It was called Sulphur Well City. But little was done with it until the railroad, or Ozark Orchard Company secured the most of the land when a depot was built and the place named Lanagan. The well has been sealed up, all but a small stream and the water conducted to a tank and fountain near the depot. This fountain is quite a novel sight and is admired by the many hundreds of people who stop at this station on their way up and down the road. This artesian well flows with sufficient force and volume to supply a good big town, while its medical qualities are nowhere surpassed in the Great Southwest. A beautiful park with numerous sprays and fountains and lakes could easily be made here supplied by this “natural water works” and Lanagan be made one of the most attractive of health resorts.

At present it is a prosperous little village with three stores, two hotels, a new church and school house, and is doing a large timber business. C. Lewis & Son for several years have kept a large stock of goods here, run a saw mill and done perhaps the largest business of any one firm in the country.

## Noel

For many years T. A. Marshall kept a store on his farm in Elk River township, but when the railroad was built the town of Noel was platted and he moved his business to that place. There has never been any effort to boom this town, but it has had a steady and permanent growth. One of the best business houses in the county is at Noel. It is a substantial one story stone containing four large rooms. Two are occupied by Marshall, Tatum & Co., one by Dr. Beeson's drug store, and others by Charles Gratz, hardware. There are several other small stores in town. C. E. Davis has just completed a handsome hotel building. The O'Jo Club House which stands on the promontory between Butler creek and the river is a handsome place. The grain elevator draws much important business and, in connection with the stockyards, makes Noel the most important shipping point in the country for grain and live stock.

This town is noted for the beauty of its location, the style and neatness of its dwellings and its water facilities for fishing, bathing, and boating.

## Pineville

On the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1847, the present site of Pineville was surveyed for Samuel Burke, who then owned the land. Nine blocks were laid out, the center one being reserved for a public square. On this the first court house was built a few years later. The new town was named Maryville, in honor of Mrs. Mary Mosier, wife of J. K. Mosier.

At this time Newton county embraced all of the territory now included in McDonald county and the records of the location of Maryville are on file in that county. Incident to the contest over the county seat that came up soon afterward; it also partly owing to the fact that the pine forests reached almost to the borders of the town, and considerable pine lumber was sawed there, the name was changed to Pineville, a few years after its first survey. Another reason given for the change of name is that there was another Maryville in this state.

When the act of March 3, 1849, passed the legislature providing for the organization of McDonald county, the commissioners were appointed and ordered to meet at Pineville. But the little town of Rutledge became a contestant for the county seat, and a county seat war was at once precipitated. After a three days election Rutledge won by a small majority, and that place became the seat of justice until it was finally relocated at Pineville in 1857. J. K. Mosier and John B. King were among the leading spirits in favor of Pineville, and Joseph Pearson and Burton McGhee, in favor of Rutledge.

The contest spread from the rival towns until it became a struggle between the two ends of the county. During this time considerable ill feelings were engendered, and several fist and skull fights occurred between members of the two factions. Propositions were bandied back and forth to meet at the ford of the river and "fight the battle of Beuna Vista" over again, and let the result settle the matter. But this was done rather in a spirit of humor or bravado.

In the History of this county published in 1888 is the following account: "The row over the county seat in 1849 resulted in the murder of Colpin Goss by Simon Cockerill, David Finch, by Hamp Walters and in old man Finch stabbing Walters at the same time, from the effects of which he died some time later."

Dr. W. C. Duval, then a practicing physician at Rutledge and an eye witness of the killing of Copeland, not Coplin, Goss says it was done in a drunken row, and that both parties were west end men. Several parties were drunk and were urging Goss onto Cockerill. The Dr. got between them and for some time kept them apart, but his efforts to make peace between the two parties was thwarted by some one catching him from behind and pulling him out of the way. All the same instant Goss was pushed onto Cockerill, who at once fired his pistol, the ball passing through Goss' heart. The Dr. also states that the Finch and Walters murders arose from a similar spree.

The west end of the county contained the largest population, consequently were able to out vote the east end, but in 1857, an act of the legislature was procured providing for the location of the county seat within a certain distance of the center of the county.

This left Rutledge out of consideration, and Pineville, being the only point available, was selected as the

permanent county seat. At this time the name Maryville was changed to Pineville. The town was located in the northwest quarter of section 34, township 22, range 32, J. K. Mosier donated seventeen and one-half acres, Henry Miller twenty acres, John B. King fifteen acres, and A. A. Hensley ten acres. The commissioners who relocated the county seat were Lyman Beeman, Moses Shelton and William McClure. They performed this important piece of business the first Monday in January, 1858.

The records of their transaction, and all subsequent conveyances, were destroyed during the Civil War, and a suit to establish the title to those lands was afterwards instituted in the circuit court, and a decree rendered to that effect.

That the people of the new county seat had confidence in its future is evidenced by the price of the lots which were sold March 22, 1857. William Southward purchased Lot 1, Block 42, for \$100.25. Thomas H. Howeth purchased Lot 1, Block 49 for \$101. Willis R. Cox purchased Lot 3, Block 40 for \$100.10. D. T. Lauderdale and I. I. Hackney purchased Lot 4 Block 42 for \$100. Richard Kelley purchased Lot 4, Block 32 for \$100. Thomas P. Bradley purchased Lot 2, Block 23 for \$50. Various other lots were purchased at the same sale, the lowest price being two lots for \$45. One-fourth of the money was paid in cash.

About the month of August, 1858, Thomas H. Howeth assigned his interest in Lot 1, Block 49 to W. C. Duval, and in January 1859 J. P. LaMance bought the interest of William Southward to Lot 1, Block 42. Smith Elkins was the first County Seat Commissioner for the sale of lots. He was succeeded by G. C. Culp. It appears that all the lots were sold except the court house square and half the jail lot.

The first buildings erected at this place were of logs, John Starns having built the first house in what is now the southwest part of town. A log house was soon after put up just back of where Walter's store now is. It was used for a saloon. The old Pineville hotel, which was torn down in 1894, was built a few years before the war. Among the few Ante-Bellum houses that are still standing are: The brick hotel now occupied by John Ware. It was then known as the Russell House and was operated by Colonel Russell; the dwelling now owned by Joseph W. Kelley, which was then occupied by Dr. A. W. Chenoweth; the residence now owned by J. H. Moffett, and the house now owned by Mrs. Bradley. In 1858 Claudius B. Walker built a two-story frame hotel near where the south end of Farmer & Son's store now is. This was burnt by bushwhackers during the war.

Among the business men in Pineville prior to 1861 were J. C. Baber, who located here in 1858. From that time to 1891 he was one of the leading men of the town and county. J. P. LaMance was then a merchant doing business at the northwest corner of the square Noel & Chenoweth's hardware now is. Samuel Carroll had a grocery store on the lots now occupied by J. K. Maxfield's building. Samuel K. Cotter was doing business where Farmer's store now is. David Payne and John Goodrich were the lawyers. W. C. Duval and A. W. Chenoweth were the doctors.

The first court house was a one-story frame, built on the spot now occupied by Bradley's livery stable. This was used until the brick court house was completed on the site of the present one, about the beginning of the war. The old court house was on the same plan as the present one, but was three stories, the upper one having been built by the Free Masons. It is said, however, that it was never occupied by them. In August or September, 1863 a raid was made on the town by a band of bushwhackers and the court house with all the records there, was set fire to and burnt.

A few of the papers and records had been carried away by A. A. Hensley, the clerk, but the larger portion had been stored away in the attic. M. N. LaMance, who witnessed the burning, states that he saw the records fall from the attic into the fire below.

During the war the town suffered to some extent from the passages incident to the conflict, but since that time it has built up slowly but gradually and at the present time has a number of good residences and substantial brick business houses.

In November, 1872, two-thirds of the taxpayers petitioned the county court to incorporate the town, which was accordingly done, and R. L. Hargrove, J. C. Baber, Z. Smith, J. P. LaMance and Isam Williams were appointed a board of trustees. The organization proved ineffective and too expensive for so small a place and was soon abandoned. It was again incorporated in 1895. A. C. Walters, J. H. Moffett, A. K. Maxfield, Dr. J. C. Farmer, M. N. LaMance, being appointed trustees: A. V. Manning City Attorney. The organization is still in force.

Pineville has not suffered much loss by fire, except during the war. However, March 19, 1879, a fire broke out in Farmer & Chenoweth's drug store that destroyed all the business houses on the west side of the square north of where LaMance's brick now stands. Besides Farmer & Chenoweth's store, Warmack's grocery store and the News printing office were burnt. The origin of the fire is not definitely known, but it was supposed to have been the work of an incendiary, instigated by a spirit of revenge against Dr. Chenoweth on account of his persistent fight against the liquor traffic.

There was no church building at Pineville in the earlier days, but the Methodist held services in a store building on Main street somewhere in the vicinity of the site of the Pineville, or Wilson, hotel. This old building has long since been torn down or otherwise destroyed. In 1896, when the present handsome structure was erected, and the old one torn down and the lumber used in building a neat Parsonage.

The present Baptist church, which is a neat and commodious building, was erected in 1888.

The first public school at this place was established a few years before the war. A frame school house was built in the northeast part of town near where Julian Lamb or Mrs. Morrison now lives. School was held for a while in the old frame court house, but whether before or after the war I have not been able to ascertain. The old brick school house was built sometime in the seventies. The present two-story brick was erected in 1894, at a cost of \$2,500.

### Powell

Powell has been a central point for that part of the county since the first settlement. A small grist mill and a distillery were the first enterprises started, which were operated until about 1861. Since the war there has been a store most of the time. The post office was established a few years after the war. G. W. Howard now keeps the store, and there are one or two blacksmith shops.

### Rocky Comfort

Rocky Comfort is a nice little town in the northeast corner of the county, and has a population of between 200 and 300 people. It can boast of as fine a set of citizens as can be found in the great Southwest. They have a handsome school house, good churches, and almost all branches of business are represented. It is located in the heart of a rich agricultural country which is settled by a thrifty class of people.

The first part of the name was given from the ground being originally covered with rocks on the hillsides, while the beautiful valley with the spring of cold water suggested the name of Comfort. The euphony of the name can not be fully realized until one has seen the place and been an eye witness to its appropriateness. There were a few families at this place as early as 1850, and a few houses are still standing that were built before the war. The post office was established in 1865 or 1866. Before that time the people got their mail at Hazle Bottom in Barry county, where a post office was established about 1845.

### Rutledge

The first county seat of McDonald county was at Rutledge on Elk River just below the mouth of Indian creek. It bears the distinction of having beaten Pineville for the county seat in three separate elections. The town dates back to 1849. Dr. Duval located at this place when he first came to the county. Pearson kept a hotel. Wear & Farmer were merchants in the early day, afterward selling to J. P. LaMance. Richard Kelley kept a saloon. There were, perhaps, many good people in the vicinity, but, "The evil that men do live after them." so it seems to be with this little town. It was here that a drunken mob pushed Copeland Goss onto Simon Cockerill, causing him to be shot through the heart. Here Hamp Walters killed Daniel Finch by stabbing him from the rear with a long, murderous bowie knife. It is related that one night A. A. Hensley, Adam Mosier and others, while on a spree, threw down the old log court house. The removal of the county seat left nothing of the town but the name. Since the building of the railroad a switch has been placed there and one or two small stores have been in operation most of the time. The place is now called Madge.

### Saratoga Springs

In one of the abrupt hollows, or brakes, that make down from the level lands near the edge of Cow Skin Prairie, in Prairie township, is one of the finest springs of water in this famous country of springs. It flows boldly from the side of the bluff some thirty or forty feet above the bottom of the hill in a stream some three or four inches in diameter. At the top of the hill, some two hundred yards away, on a nice, level tract of land, part timber and part prairie, was laid out the town of Saratoga Springs. The original town was surveyed in October, 1880, for Bullock, Wisdom & Cox. Bullock & Wisdom's first addition, Bullock & Whitney's second addition, Colvin & Baker's addition were all laid out in November, 1881.

This was one of the Medical Springs towns and for a year or two promised to be a place of some importance. It had the prettiest location and most abundant water supply of all the medical towns. Several good business houses and many neat dwellings were erected. A good school was maintained, and a newspaper flourished in its palmiest days. But the pride of her glory has long since departed; the bloom of her beauty faded slowly away, and there is now only a few families, a post office and a couple of small stores remaining of the once promising little city.

### Silver Springs

William and Arzelia C. Harness conceived an idea that an immense fortune was flowing away through the waters of a spring on section 6, township 22, range 29, and, in anticipation of the vast treasures of the white metal they expected to gather from the adventure, in August 1881, had the town of Silver Springs surveyed. But the seasons came and went. William's beard grew grizzled, and the cheeks of the fair Arzelia lost the pink tint of youth, but adversity flapped her wings over the enterprise, and their bright dreams of stocking legs filled with the shining metal vanished for aye — and the water still trickles through the gravel as of yore.

### Simcoe

This is a post office and country store on the line between Elk Horn and Richwood townships about half-way between Bethpage and Rocky Comfort. A co-operative store was run here for a while but eventually passed into the hands of private persons. The neighboring farmers who had banked their savings in the enterprise, for a while basked in the sunlight of their day-visions when they were to be bloated bond holders and sport gold-headed canes. But the weird sighing of the wind through the bare shelves and the rattle of mice in the empty sugar barrels awoke them from their bright dreams, and a melancholy search was made in the recesses of their jeans for about \$2000 to settle the liabilities.

### Splitlog and the Rail Road

McDonald county is not wholly devoid of financial enterprises and the town of Splitlog was the product of a scheme that at the time produced great excitement in our usually quiet community.

About 1880 Dr. Benna [Berna?], an old California prospector, entered forty acres of land and began prospecting for gold and silver. He was without means, consequently his work progressed slowly. The Dr. in some respects, was a peculiar individual and there is little doubt that he honestly believed there were bodies of the precious metals, could he only find them. He continued his work as best he could for upwards of five years. In the summer of 1886 he succeeded in getting M. W. Clay of Newton county and Smith Nichols of Seneca, interested in the project and they took leases and at once began prospecting. They were apparently more successful than the doctor had been, for they soon took out dirt that on being sent to Chicago made a very encouraging assay. Nichols soon disposed on his interest and Mathias Splitlog a very wealthy Indian was induced to take hold of the enterprise. He put down a number of shafts, built a fine hotel and two or three business houses. The assays continued to be favorable and the excitement spread. The Neosho Silver Mining Company, The Philadelphia Company, and the St. Louis Company took leases or purchased lands. It

is claimed that the Philadelphia company paid \$15,000 for the south half of section 9, township 23, range 33, a particularly barren and worthless tract of land.

Confident of ultimate success, and that the city which bore his name would soon be the center of a rich mining district, Splitlog conceived the idea of building a railroad to his mines. A company was formed, a charter procured and the road built and equipped from Joplin to Splitlog, the old Indian furnishing most of the money. In the mean time he had sold a tract of land near Wyandott, Kansas, for \$170,000, and most of this he had invested in his "great project."

By this time it had been fully demonstrated that the mines were worthless; the rich quartz was just common McDonald county rock, and a poor quality at that. Splitlog's bank account was about NONEST and the great balloon instead of busting all at once had received a puncture and was dying with a gradual "squizzle."

But there was too much money invested in the rail road to let it be abandoned. Eastern men were induced to take hold of it, and work was begun to extend it both north and south. For a while it was under the management of H. W. Bush, afterwards of John B. Stevenson. The route was changed and Splitlog left a couple of miles off the road. Finally the K. C. P. & G. Co. bought it, and for some years it has been in operation from Kansas City to Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Last year it was pushed on through a portion of the Indian Territory, and is now completed to Port Arthur, on the Gulf of Mexico. The little road began by Mathias Splitlog has grown to be one of the most important north and south roads in the United States. He died at his home in the Indian Territory, about two miles below Tiff City, in January, 1897. A post office and small store, with a few families is all there is left of this once promising town.

Mention of this place was overlooked in writing up Buffalo township.

### Southwest City

This is the largest and most important town in McDonald county, and contains many substantial business houses, neat and handsome dwellings, and has a population of some 1,200 people. It is located near the southwest corner of the state, the name being derived from the location. After talking with a number of the old citizens of that place and looking over the situation I have concluded that the following account taken from the history of this county published in 1888 is as correct as it is possible to get:

"The town now known as Southwest City is admirably located on the border of the Indian Territory, and within 6600 feet of the corner stone of Arkansas, Missouri and the Indian country. Within the town, and about it on the north, west, and east, crystal springs pour from the hill-sides, while Honey Creek, which runs through the center, is itself a spring stream. North is the celebrated Cow Skin Prairie and the great fields of the Cherokees. Westward is the Indian paradise, and south and southwest is the great pine and hard wood region of the Grand Neosho. Within the last few years social conditions have entirely changed so that now the cattlemen enter town in peace and leave in peace. Even the Indians have realized the change, and conform to it with ease and dignity, giving to the new city some of the old sweetness of the former settlement of Honey Creek.

"J. P. LaMance and Burton McGhee were the first settlers of Southwest City in 1842. In the spring of 1843, Mr. LaMance and his wife moved one-half mile out to Case's Spring, and took possession of one of Case's log huts; thence in March, 1843, to the site of what is now Saratoga Springs, where he resided until 1845, when he was appointed government school teacher in the Nation. Burton McGhee opened a tavern there 1842. Adam Cole settled three-fourths of a mile south of McGhee's three or four years later. Case was a horse-trader, who came here to trade with the Indians and found the cabins above named. In one of these cabins Jennie LaMance, who died in her sixteenth year, was born. In 1846 Burton McGhee established his trading house or general store here, and for ten years after that date carried on a large business. In 1856 he sold his stock of goods to J. P. LaMance and returned to his farm on Cow Skin Prairie, where he died.

A part of the McGhee property was sold by the administrator of the estate of J. C. Lamson after the close of the war. In 1870 Mr. Lamson had a town site surveyed here under the name of Southwest City. The LaMance store was continued here until the close of 1861. In 1865 a house was built by Alex Struthers north of what is now the Corum House, and in this building LaMance and Struthers continued business until 1869, when J. Struthers purchased their respective interests. The Barton store was established in 1871. In 1870, when Col.

Shields built his hotel, now the Corum House, John and Alex Struthers' store stood where the Struther's dwelling stood before the fire of 1877. South was Pollard's blacksmith shop, the same which Barton fitted for a store-room. About this time the tobacco warehouse of Col. Condurst on Wet Prairie was confiscated, and much of the lumber brought to the new city and partly used in building the houses just south of the Smith & Seabourn brick block. High Blair lived in a cabin 100 yards west of the same block. A blacksmith shop stood fifty yards north of Honey creek, on the west side of the road."

The first school taught here was by Lee Smith, about 1869 or 1870. It was in a small frame building, lined with brick, which stood a few yards southeast of where Mrs. Fannie Preston's residence now is. The old two-story frame school house was built about 1885. The present, a handsome two-story brick with six rooms was built in 1896, at a cost of \$5,000.

The Methodist, Baptist, Christians and Presbyterians all have neat churches.

During its nearly thirty years existence this little city has had many exciting scenes, the two most noted of which are the fire which occurred Sunday, January 10, 1892, and the bank robbery which took place May 10, 1894. They are graphically described in the Enterprise of January 16, 1892, and May 11, 1894 respectively as follows:

"On Sunday morning last at about 4:30 o'clock a loud explosion, which shook the very earth and made the windows and shutters rattle in every home in Southwest City and which awakened our citizens was but the prelude to the cry of FIRE, FIRE, which resounded through our streets, accompanied by the furious ringing of bells and the cries of people as they frantically rushed from their homes to the scene.

When first discovered smoke was seen issuing from the Masonic Temple over Smith & Seabourn's hardware store, and the light from the flames could be plainly seen playing against the curtained windows.

Mr. Turner, a photographer, who sleeps in his tent-gallery opposite the hardware store on the other side of the street, was awakened by the violent concussion of the shock and a shower of plate glass and other broken matter, against his tent. In less than a half minute he was in the hardware building with a bucket of water he had snatched up. The whole front was blown out which accounted for the previous shower of glass, which awakened him. A place was burning in the back part of the building, apparently half-way across the room between two joists, and the lamp which was suspended had fallen to the floor and broken and the oil was burning, which he promptly put out. But fire was dropping from the ceiling all around and he hurried back to replenish his bucket with water. By the time he got back with the water quite a number had congregated, and the fire by this time was bursting from the windows up stairs and the fire in the interior of the hardware was dropping down steadily, but hesitated when the other explosion occurred — one, two, three times.

"In the mean time Mr. Mastin, who works in the harness-making department, arrived at the back door which was open. He was engaged in trying to get down some harness to carry out when another explosion occurred and he quit precipitately. The fire was then nearly all in front of the hardware and was spreading through the archway which connects the general merchandise room and is at the back of the entrance of Smith Bros. drug store which was located between the two stores. In ten minutes the whole building was in flames up and down stairs and it was with difficulty that parties having offices in the second story of the adjoining building north reached them and saved a few effects for the smoke was stifling. In about half an hour three adjoining bricks were in flames and the flames were still spreading. From this block of bricks the fire, which was intensely hot, spread to Dumont's grocery and Dr. Frank Smith's office. The fire on the north jumped the side street across to the Gorton building, a frame, which contained Murph Harmon's saloon, and all heroic measures failed to keep it from going; awnings were torn away from before the saloon and Sanders & Morrison's store on the north and a line of bucket men stood on the roof of Sanders & Morrison's fire wall, which is a hollow one, and together with a free use of salt the building was saved, although badly damaged.

"Dr. Frank Smith's office was the last building on the southern limits of the burned district to go with the rest. It was a small one-story frame and was partly torn down by the force of men on this side. A line of men with buckets and wet blankets, reinforced by plenty of water, kept watch and fought valiantly from the firewall of Mrs. Dustin's drug store, which is also a blind wall, and the fire was finally got under full control. But forces of workers were busy on the front of the Corum House, opposite the scene of the fire and wet blankets and water did their work well. The front of John Struther's store on the same side of the street as the

Corum House, was subjected to like treatment.

“In the mean time the large frame implement ware-house of Smith & Seabourn’s at the back of the block could not be saved, and out-buildings galore were wiped up in the immediate vicinity, among which was Mrs. Dustin’s barn and contents, D. E. Havens’ ware house, and only by the best of work was Mrs. Dustin’s residence saved.

#### AMONG THE LOSERS

Dr. Frank Smith lost \$60, probably in books, instruments, etc.

Doty & Lee, proprietors of the The Enterprise, lost everything except books. They hold their loss at \$600.

Mrs. Dustin had her stable and contents destroyed and barely saved her residence. Personal loss \$100.

The Dr. B. F. Smith, Sr., estate lost in two frame and one brick buildings burned, probably over \$3,500.

Combs Bros. paint shop, brushes, oils, paints, &c., were entirely consumed by the fire. Loss about \$25.

The Masonic fraternity lost everything, which they valued at \$200, having recently re-fitted and re-furnished their rooms. No insurance.

C. U. DuMont’s grocery lost about \$200, principally contents of his ware room. However he retreated in very good shape considering. No insurance on stock.

In the G. A. R. Hall over D. E. Haven’s store, the belongings of that order, also of the S. of V. and W. R. C. were almost a complete loss. The first lost goods valued at \$125; S. of V., at \$10; W. R. C., \$25.

D. E. Havens who occupied the Dr. Smith brick saved everything but the contents of a warehouse on back, which contained oil and bulk goods. He places his loss at about \$200, a great share of which he attributes to persons of pilfering habits.

Drs. Quarles & Christian’s offices and contents were almost a complete loss. Dr. Quarles, however, saved a couple arm loads of books from his fine library. The loss to him and his office associate is nearly \$1,200. Books, instruments and all went except what they had at their homes on the night in question.

Smith Bros., druggists, lost their entire stock, but they were insured to the amount of \$1,000 on stock. Books, papers, and cash taken from safe after the fire were uninjured. W. F. Smith, the junior member, lost the Gorton building valued at \$400, in which Murph Harmon conducted his saloon. Mr. Harmon is out about \$250, principally in bar fixtures, a great part of his liquor stock being saved. What was saved of his bar fixtures were so badly damaged as to render them almost worthless.

Smith & Seabourn are the heaviest losers by the fire, their loss being estimated at \$20,000. Their brick block comprised four large, handsome business rooms; overhead were the Enterprise office, Drs. Quarles & Christian’s office, Opera house and Masonic hall. Their hardware stock was a total loss, except implements and wagons, etc., which were stored in their warehouse, a part of which were saved. About \$3,000 worth of general merchandise and \$1,000 worth of implements were got beyond the reach of the flames. Papers and safe contents taken out. No insurance.

#### BANK ROBBERY

“About 3,30 o’clock yesterday afternoon seven well armed men rode into town from the south and dismounted in the street, just back of the post office, and tied their horses. Three of them made their way immediately to the bank while the other four took positions, two in the pool hall just north and across the street from the post office, while the other two stood in Dr. Nichol’s yard. The first words heard from them was an order for every body to hunt holes, accompanied by an oath. To give their language more force, they began firing their Winchesters, and kept up a fusilade. The men proceeded to the bank and covered Mr. Ault, the owner of the bank, and Mr. Snyder, an assistant with revolvers. Two of the men immediately crawled through the cashier’s window, while the third held revolvers on Mr. Ault and Mr. Snyder.

After relieving the vault and the cashier’s drawer of the money, they deposited it in a sack, and made for their horses, keeping up a constant firing at every one who dared to show his head. While the three men were in the bank, the four men on the outside were doing deadly execution with their Winchesters.

Ex-State Senator Seabourn and brother Oscar were in front of Mrs. Dustin's hardware store when the shooting began, and as they started for the store door two shots fired simultaneously struck them, and singularly, in very nearly the same place, just above the right hip joint in close proximity to the lower abdomen. The ball that hit J. C. passed through, while the ball that hit Oscar had lodged, and at this writing has not been located. M. V. Hembree, who was in W. L. Barker's saloon, received a ball in the ankle almost severing his leg, and will probably have to be amputated. By this time men had secured guns and returned the fire, and the robbers made retreat as fast as possible. As they passed the street to Broadway and turned south they encountered Simpson Melton, Deputy U. S. Marshal and fired three shots at him, one taking effect in his right leg, making a flesh wound. Melton returned the fire, hitting one of their horses which had to be abandoned in the south part of town.

About 100 shots were fired on Main street, and sounded like war times, and many citizens had very close calls from the robber's guns. They rode good horses and the men were under middle age, and it is reported that one of the men was recognized as one of the parties who was arrested on suspicion as being connected with the Bentonville robbery a few months ago.

Mr. Ault, of the bank, informs us that the robbers secured in the neighborhood of \$3,700. Fortunately for Mr. Ault, his insurance covers nearly, if not all, the loss. After securing the money Mr. Ault and Mr. Snyder were marched with the robbers to their horses, and then ordered to find holes and be quick about it.

The robbers met a warm reception as they turned south on Broadway, as several parties, including City Marshal Carlyle, D. E. Havens, G. W. Smith, E. W. Eslinger, and S. Melton were there with their guns, and were not afraid to use them. It is supposed one of their horses was shot at that time by S. Melton, and another one was shot by J. D. Powell, who put in some good work as they passed his house. Charles Franks and Dick Prater also gave them a dose as they passed the Baptist church.

It is pretty well known that two of the robbers were wounded as they stopped several teams going into town and secured horses, and their wounds were plainly seen. One is shot near the eye and the other in the back or hip, as in changing horses he was not able to handle himself. They took a horse from Shade Johnson, and one from a man by the name of Vaughn and another from Dave Smith, but afterward turned it loose as it could not travel fast enough."

J. C. Seabourn died of his wound a few days later, but his brother Oscar eventually recovered. Hembry's foot was taken off above the ankle.

The robbers went in a southwesterly direction and track of them was finally lost some distance below Grand river. That night they stopped for supper some twelve or fourteen miles below Southwest, where they dressed their wounds. The lady who got their supper stated that six of the seven were wounded. Various parties were suspected and three arrests were made. Dr. Wynn and a man named Sparks were the first two. After investigating the matter, Sparks was discharged, but Wynn was placed in jail until the next term of court. The grand jury failed to find a bill and he was released. James Condry was indicted, but the case was nollied, there being no evidence against him.

In the course of time it was demonstrated to the satisfaction of most of the people of the town that the raid had been made by Bill Doolin and his gang. One of them died of a wound received in this robbery, five were afterwards killed, and the other one is now serving a term in the penitentiary for some crime of a similar kind.

### Twin Springs

In the year 1880-1 there was quite a mania for Medical Springs towns over the Southwest and McDonald county came in for its share. In September 1881 J. P. Madden had a town platted on Lot 2 of the northwest quarter of section 19, township 22, range 32. Quite a number of people settled there and a promising little village was started. The water is very fine and the principal spring flows in a large stream from the side of the hill in quantities sufficient to supply a large town. But water, alone, will not support a town and after an unsuccessful struggle of several years the last business enterprise was abandoned.

At the June term of the county court, 1895, the owner of the land by J. A. Sturges, his attorney, appeared and procured an order vacating the public square, park, streets, and alleys of the town and thus Medical Twin Springs was no more.

### White Rock Sulphur Springs

This little village derives its name from a large White Sulphur spring which furnishes an abundance of fine water which contains healing properties.

It was laid out in 1882 and at present contains three or four business houses all of which enjoy a fair trade. It is rather a pretty place and is surrounded by the most picturesque scenery to be found in the county.

### Bethpage

This is the name of a country store and post office in Elk Horn township that was established some time after the war. For the past several years W. W. Chase and Woolard Brothers have kept stores here.

A few years ago a small mill was in operation but it was afterwards converted into a distillery which is in operation at the present time.

## **Chapter 7**

### CRIMINAL SKETCHES

#### THE CHENOWETH MURDER

On the night of September 12, 1883, Dr. A. W. Chenoweth was shot from ambush just at the brow of the hill on the Neosho road at the north edge of Pineville. The doctor lived about a quarter of a mile from town, and some time after dark got in his buggy and started home. When he reached the point above stated two reports from a shotgun in quick succession rang out on the night air and the doctor fell from his buggy, riddled with buckshot. The team went on home and stopped at the barn.

This, with the reports of the gun, alarmed the family, and his son, Curtie, ran down the road to see what had occurred. Coming upon the dead body of his father in the road he uttered a scream of terror and grief that was heard throughout the little town, and soon the entire population had gathered at the scene of the tragedy. Intense excitement prevailed. One of the most useful, prominent and beloved members of the community had fallen a victim to the cowardly assassin, and the threats and imprecations of a justly indignant people were mingled with the cries of grief from the terrified and almost heart broken wife and children.

The doctor, for years, had been a leading advocate of temperance and a bitter opponent to the illicit traffic in liquor. His antagonism to blind tigers and saloons had incurred the ill will of some of its advocates. This feeling was, also, very likely indulged in by a few of his political and personal enemies. Garland A. Mann for several years had been his open and avowed enemy, and had time and again threatened his life. Mann had kept a saloon in Pineville at different times and had probably sold liquor without license. It was through transactions connected with the saloon and liquor business that the enmity between the two men was first engendered. Besides, Chenoweth was a member of the Pension Board of Examiners and Mann was an applicant for a pension. He claimed that the doctor used his influence to defeat his claim. As time passed on the animosity grew stronger. Mann brooded over his ills, whether real or supposed, until he imagined every transaction of his life that turned out adverse was caused by the connivance of his enemy. This state of mind had so wrought upon Mann, and his threats had become so frequent and bitter that the doctor's friends often warned him of his danger, and when the crime was perpetrated suspicion at once rested on Mann and he was arrested the next day.

The trial which ensued was the most noted that has ever originated in this county. A change of venue was granted to Newton county. The defendant owned a farm on the river, besides some other property which he gave to this lawyers for his defense. Eminent legal talent was employed on both sides. Each side had friends

of influence and the fight was long and bitter. One party was fighting for the life of the defendant, the other contending that the vengeance of the law might be invoked on the murder of their friend. He was first tried in April 1884, the trial lasting until May 5, when the jury, unable to agree, was discharged. He was again tried in August, convicted of murder in the first degree and sentenced to be hung. The case was reversed in the supreme court and remanded for re-trial. The trial was again begun in May 1885. This resulted in a mistrial the jury being unable to agree. The fourth trial was begun August 3, 1885 but on Aug. 6, Mann was killed in jail by a mob, and thus the noted and expensive trial was terminated.

About 1 o'clock that night a mob, variously estimated at from 100 to 150 men surrounded the jail at Neosho where Mann was confined. A deputation of ten or twelve went in and demanded the keys of Sam Cotter, one of the guards, and then of Johnson. They denied having the keys. The door of the jail was then burst in and the door of the cell battered down. Mann was of course unarmed, but it is said that he fought like a savage beast at bay. But the avengers of his victim's blood were at hand and a few pistol shots were fired, then two discharges from a shot gun and the last act in the great tragedy was over. On examination, the doctors found six wounds any one of which would have been fatal.

As to the guilt of Mann, we have never heard even his friends express a doubt. One of the attorneys in the case told the writer that one time Mann prepared a confession of the crime, but it was destroyed by one of his attorneys, who insisted that an acquittal would eventually be secured. No one was ever arrested for the killing of Mann, although an effort was made to discover the parties who constituted the posse. This protracted trial cost over \$10,000 and bad blood was engendered which lasted for several years, though no serious trouble ever grew out of it.

In October, 1884, A. M. Dillon, of Pineville was arrested as an accessory to the killing of Chenoweth, but was tried and acquitted by a jury of his own county, there being no substantial evidence against him.

#### THE JIM WISDOM CASE

One night in December, 1883 there was a dance at a house on the river a few miles above Saratoga. Among others in attendance were James Wisdom, then post master at Saratoga, and William Judy, a young man less than twenty years of age. Wisdom was also deputy Sheriff, and claimed he went to the dance for the purpose of arresting a couple of parties for whom he had a warrant. The evidence adduced at the trial of Wisdom proved that when the dance broke up Wisdom flourished his pistol, abused Judy and swore he would kill him. He wanted to ride on Judy's horse, and the boy insisted on Wisdom taking the horse while he would walk. Wisdom, however, compelled the boy to get on and ride up to a stump and let him get on behind all the time flourishing his pistol and swearing he would kill him. The two rode off in front of the rest of the party Wisdom hold of the bridle reins and still cursing and using his threats. When they reached the forks of the road where the Saratoga road turns up the hill a short distance below where A. J. Avery now lives, the other following on down the river bottom. Wisdom rode a few yards down the river bottom road, shot Judy through the body, threw him off the horse, then turned across to the Saratoga road and went home on the poor boy's horse. Parties who were behind on foot came up a few moments later and found the body lying dead by the road side. Wisdom who was undoubtedly drunk claimed the next morning that he knew nothing about it.

These were squally times in McDonald County. Austin had killed Hearrell in January 1882. At the February term of court Madison Evans was acquitted of the murder of Sheriff Brooks, whom many of the neighbors say he had called out one morning and shot down in cold blood. The following September Dr. A. W. Chenoweth was shot from ambush while returning to his home near Pineville. These crimes and the acquittal of so many defendants exasperated the people and they determined to take the law in their own hands. Wisdom, Garland A. Mann, and other prisoners, who were kept in the Carthage jail, when brought to Pineville for trial had to be heavily guarded, and on different nights were secretly taken out in the woods and concealed until morning. The prisoners and their guards endured much inconvenience and suffering from the cold and exposure, but at that time avoided mob violence.

Wisdom was tried at the April term 1884 of our circuit court, and found guilty of murder in the first degree. The judgment was affirmed on appeal to the supreme court, but the governor of the state commuted his sentence to a life term in the state penitentiary. During his confinement he was sick nearly all of the time, and

after a few years he was pardoned and sent home to die with his family and friends, the prison physicians giving an opinion that he was in the last stages of consumption and could live but a few weeks. He, however, soon regained his health and at last reports was still alive and prosperous.

### THE HEARRELL MURDER

About sundown, January 20, 1882, B. F. Austin shot and killed E. J. Hearrell, at the residence of W. C. Price on Buffalo creek. There had been some dealings, also some trouble between the parties previous to the killing, but nothing of so serious a nature was apprehended.

The Price residence consisted of a double log house with a porch between the two rooms. Price with his family at that time occupied the east room while Austin, his son-in-law, lived in the west room, the house however, stands diagonally fronting southeast. Austin kept a blacksmith shop some sixty yards north of the house.

On the afternoon of the killing, the writer was at the shop and Austin stated to him that he expected Hearrell to sue him on an account and in case he did so wanted his services as attorney to defend the case. About one hour after this conversation took place the killing occurred. Hearrell came to the shop and a dispute arose concerning the account. W. C. Price, Jr., then a little boy, was the only one present. He states that Hearrell threatened Austin's life, unless the balance he claimed was paid. The three got over the fence together, a high, staked and rided rail fence, between the lot and houseyard, and started towards the house. Old Mr. Price was sitting in his room with his back towards the porch door when his son, little Billie bolted in and in a very excited manner exclaimed "Pa, come quick, Mr. Hearrell is going to kill Ben." The old gentleman replied, "Why, I reckon not" and started to rise from his chair. Just then a shot was fired, and when Mr. Price reached the door Hearrell was in the act of falling. Austin being young and active, had run from where they crossed the fence to the house, sixty yards, some distance in advance of Hearrell who was getting old. On reaching the house Austin ran into his room, caught down his rifle and, taking rest on the side of the door, fired the fatal shot. The bullet entered the neck just above the collar bone and severed the main artery. The distance between the two at the time the shot was fired was about thirty feet. Deceased was a large, powerful man and would no doubt have severely beaten Austin, had he overtaken him, but he was wholly unarmed.

The case created great excitement in that vicinity and Austin was severely condemned by the public. But at the following August term of court he was acquitted on the grounds of self defense.

Several years later, 1894, Austin was shot and killed in the Indian Territory, by an Indian named Tom Crawford. Crawford was convicted of manslaughter in the United States court at Fort Scott, Kansas, and served a short term in the penitentiary.

### THE MURDER OF LULA NOEL

One of the most appalling crimes ever committed in McDonald county was the murder of Mary Lula Noel daughter of W. H. and S. E. Noel on the 10 day of December, 1892. She was young, extremely handsome and her lady like manners made her a favorite with all who knew her. On the Wednesday preceding, William Simmons, a young man who lived at Joplin, came down to visit her. He remained there until Saturday. On Friday evening arrangements were made to the effect that next morning Holly's folks were to go over to W. H. Noel's and the two families were to go together to the town of Noel. Holly and his wife were to visit overnight at the home of a relative on Mill creek. Simmons was asked to go with them but declined, saying he would walk over to Lanagan and take the freight train to Joplin. Miss Noel said she would remain with Will (Simmons) until he went away and then go across the river to her father's if the water was not too high, otherwise she would remain on that side with some of the relatives who were quite numerous. The river was then past fording for vehicles, but was being crossed on horse back. About 8 o'clock in the morning Holly and his wife started away leaving Simmons and Miss Noel together at their house. This was the last ever seen of her alive. Instead of returning home on Sunday, Holly and his wife remained at her father's the next few days. Lula had not come home, but no great uneasiness was felt as she was supposed to be at some of the

relatives across the river. On Monday and Tuesday inquiry was made when it was ascertained she was not in the neighborhood. A letter was at once dispatched to an uncle at Webb City, with whom she made her home part of the time, and it was thought probable she had gone there. When the answer came back that she was not there, the anxiety of her parents and family that had been growing deeper all of the time suddenly increased to a frenzy of excitement. Their beautiful daughter and sister was gone, lost; no one knew where, and only those who have experienced the feeling can realize the agony which clung to them day and night.

Her father and Mr. Holly went to Joplin on Friday to see what tidings they could gain. At the trial Holly swore that he saw Simmons and said to him, "Will, your girl's gone." Simmons trembled violently a few seconds and replied, "Is that so?" He asked no questions concerning her and appeared to be desirous of avoiding the conversation. When asked if she came away with him he replied that she did not. They stood in silence a few moments when Simmons remarked, "You don't suppose the fool girl jumped in the river and drowned herself, do you?" They returned home that night and the next day, Saturday December 17, just one week from the day she was last seen, a systematic search was begun. The whole country was aroused and hundreds of people joined to aid in finding the body for it was now the universal opinion that she had been killed. The hills from the Holly house towards Lanagan were gone through for a while in the early morning then the crowd repaired to the river. The deep holes were dragged, giant powder exploded and every spot examined for some distance up and down the stream. Finally about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, in a narrow, swift place in the river at the lower end of a large, deep hole of water, the body was found where some of the clothing had caught in a willow that projected into the water. It was but little more than a quarter of a mile below her father's house and within a few feet of the road along which her parents had passed that fatal Saturday afternoon unconscious of the great tragedy that had been enacted. On examination afterwards conclusive evidence of a violent death were found. A bruise on one temple, one spot on one cheek and three or four on the other, as though a hand had been placed over her mouth to stifle her screams, finger prints on the throat, were all plainly visible. Besides a bruise the size of the palm of one's hand on the back of the head and her neck broken. The lungs were perfectly dry and all evidences of drowning were absent. The evidence was wholly circumstantial but pointed very strongly to the guilt of the defendant.

There were tracks of a man and woman corresponding in size and shape with Simmons and Miss Noel's found leading from the Holly house across the field to near the river bank at the upper end of the big hole of water above mentioned. At the lower end was a ford, and it is the supposition that the two walked down to the river, she intending to wait at the ford and call to her parents as they passed on their way home to take out a horse from the wagon and assist her across.

The finding of her body naturally increased the excitement. A warrant was at once issued for Simmons and he was apprehended in Joplin just as he was preparing to leave. Had he been brought to Pineville at that time it is likely he would have been summarily dealt with, but he waived examination and remained in the jail at Neosho. At the February term of our court 1893 an indictment was returned against him for murder in the first degree. A change of venue was granted to Newton county and the case tried at the following May term. Some seventy witnesses were examined and the case was hotly contested by both sides. The jury were unable to agree and were finally discharged. The trial again came on at the following November term. At this trial the attorneys for the state took the position that there was a probability or, at least, a possibility that the killing was done on a sudden impulse and without deliberation and asked for and was granted an instruction for murder in the second degree as well as in the first degree. The jury returned a verdict for murder in the second degree and assessed the punishment at ten years in the penitentiary. Thus ended another of the most noted criminal cases ever on the docket in our county.

## CANADA BILL

During the summer and fall of 1886, a half-breed Indian from Canada, called "Canada Bill," had been employed by various parties in the Roark neighborhood. He appeared to be a man of vicious habits and of rather inferior mental faculties.

One afternoon in December, 1886, Mrs. Robert Roark, who lived in the Roark valley near the Newton county line, was left alone with her little children. Bill happened to pass by and finding her alone made

indecent proposals which was followed by an assault. A desperate struggle ensued. The fight begun in the house and terminated in the road outside the yard some twenty or thirty yards away. During the fight her little boy some three or four years old, threw an ear of corn and hit his mother's assailant. Perhaps, frightened by her screams for help, or believing assistance was at hand, he suddenly abandoned the assault and fled. Mrs. Roark was bruised in several places where he had struck her and her clothing was badly torn, but she was not seriously injured. She immediately fled to the nearest neighbors and gave the alarm. A posse was soon in pursuit and in a few hours her assailant was captured in the Indian Territory. The Indian policeman arrested him and delivered him to the posse to be brought back to this county for trial. He was taken to the house of P. P. Rinehart to be guarded through the night. Not long after dark a mob surrounded the house and demanded the prisoner. Mr. Rinehart went out and requested them to go away, which they apparently consented to do. Shortly afterwards the prisoner, with several guards, was started off to Pineville. They went on foot across the fields and through the woods. When they reached the foot of the big hill on the Seneca road near Buffalo creek, they halted and built up a fire to keep warm while one of the Lager boys went home to get a team and wagon. After waiting here for some time they started on, and had gone but a short distance when they were suddenly surrounded by a mob which at once took charge of the prisoner. In the mean time, Canada Bill seemed to be aware of the fate that probably awaited him. He had talked over his crime freely and acknowledged his guilt. He signified a desire to plead guilty and said he thought he ought to be sent to the penitentiary, but he did not think he deserved to be lynched. He was taken on down the road to where a clump of eight or ten large trees stood near Sam Owen's field, and hung to the limb of a black oak. In his last moments Canada Bill proved himself worthy of the stoical race to which he belonged. Seeing that his captors were devoid of mercy and protests were in vain, he resigned himself to his doom and met death in a spirit worthy of any hero. The guards who were permitted to witness his execution said that when the rope was placed around his neck and thrown over the limb that he never uttered a groan or moved a muscle, but was drawn up like a log of wood and died as quietly as though he had lain down to a peaceful sleep. He had been guilty of a grievous offense, but grievously did he answer for it. After the inquest the next day the body was placed in a rude coffin and buried near the top of the hill.

A year from the following summer a small cyclone dipped down and tore up the entire grove including the tree to which he was hung.

#### THE MOORE MURDER

On Wednesday night, July 19, 1894, C. L. Moore and his wife, Mary A. Moore, were murdered in cold blood at their residence near Tiff City. The following account taken from the McDonald County Republican of July 27, 1894, is substantially correct:

"The greatest crime that was ever perpetrated in time of peace in McDonald county was committed last Wednesday night by the murder of C. L. Moore and his wife.

"The Moore residence is situated in a narrow valley that makes up from Buffalo creek about a mile and one-half about Tiff City. The valley runs nearly north and south, and the house, a good-sized two story frame, is situated on the west side, fronting about east. The road leading from Buffalo creek to the State Line road on the uplands runs in front of the house about a hundred yards distant. The house sets back a few steps from the front fence. A double porch extends the entire length of the house in front, at the north end of which is a stairway. There are two doors and two windows opening out on the porch. It is about a quarter of a mile from the main road along Buffalo creek bottom. Here these two old people were living alone, their children all being grown and married. Their youngest daughter and husband, George Williams, live about two hundred yards above the Moore residence.

Last Wednesday evening about dark time pistol shots were heard in that vicinity, but as shooting is frequent, no particular attention was paid to it. The next morning a boy who had borrowed the Esquire's buggy the day before returned it about ten o'clock and put it up in the barn. Not seeing anyone, he hollowed. Hearing no response he went in at the gate when he saw Mrs. Moore lying on the porch. He at first supposed she was asleep but on going nearer he discovered a pool of blood. Almost wild with fright he ran and gave the alarm. The news spread like wild-fire and the people for miles around gathered in under the most intense excitement.

Prosecuting Attorney, Hugh Dabbs, and his assistant A. V. Manning had gone to Tiff City that morning and arrived just as the word came. With Dr. A. J. McKinney they went to the scene of the murder, where an examination of the two bodies and of the premises were made. Mr. Moore was found lying in the northwest corner of the north room, his right arm under his head, the left raised as if trying to ward off the blow. There were four bullet holes in his body, as follows: One in right arm near the shoulder, one on the front side of the right shoulder, one on the left side of the head through the temporal bone, the other in the cheek on the right side of the nose. The last two wounds were both fatal. The blood had run in a stream and was clotted all along the floor all the way to the fire place. Mrs. Moore was lying on the porch, across the front door her feet near the foot of the stairs. She was on her face, her head resting on both arms. She had been shot in the upper part of the arm, on the left side of the neck, and in the back part of the head. Dr. McKinney says she was evidently running when the fatal shots were fired.

“Toward the south end of the porch were the chairs where they had been sitting and their pipes from which they had taken their last peaceful smoke, were lying in the window. They had removed their shoes, one pair being found on the porch and the other pair in the house, like they had been removed and put away for the night. Both were in their stocking feet, she with a light summer dress, he having removed his coat and vest, and the top button of his pants unfastened as though preparing to retire. The lamp was still burning. The examination showed that they had been dead about fifteen hours, both bodies being cold and stiff. Two other chairs were sitting on the porch near the two just mentioned indicating there had been two visitors. Five shells of empty cartridges, number 38, were found near the door, and four of the same kind have been found on the premises since. In addition to the seven wounds found in the bodies two bullets had lodged in the floor. It is evident the shots were all fired from the same pistol, as the shells found were all punctured a little to one side of the center and all exactly in the same manner.

“The only conceivable motive to the crime was robbery. Mr. Moore was a man of considerable means, and it was known that he was saving up money to pay off a mortgage on some property he owned in Kansas. The amount, if any, secured is not known, but is probably from two to five hundred dollars was obtained. It was evidently the act of some one who knew the family well and their financial condition. It is also evident Mr. and Mrs. Moore both knew their assailants, for strangers would not take such extreme precaution of shooting so many times to insure instant death.

“Suspicion rests on parties not far away and some clues, which we are not at liberty disclose tend to confirm the suspicion.

“A liberal reward has been offered, and it is more than likely the guilty parties will soon be in the meshes of the law.

“Esq. Moore has long been one of the prominent men of our county and was highly respected by all who knew him. His wife who was part Indian, was an estimable lady. They were about sixty years old and after giving a home to each of their children, were living out their old age in a comfortable home with plenty and to spare.”

In the following September Lafe Hamilton and his brother Tom were arrested with the crime. The preliminary examination was held before Esq. S. W. King at Pineville, lasted three days and resulted in the defendants being held to await the action of the grand jury. They gave bond in a few days and were released.

At the February term of court following these two defendants, with their brother William Hamilton and Andrew Taylor were indicted for the crime. Being unable to furnish bail, they were committed to the Newton county jail where they remained until the August term of court 1896, at which time the case against Taylor was nollied and the Hamiltons were tried. This is one of the most interesting cases ever tried in McDonald county. Hundreds of people came to hear it, and from Tuesday evening until Saturday evening the court house was literally packed full of people eager to catch every word of the evidence. The State was represented by J. D. Edge, prosecuting attorney, Hugh Dabbs and J. W. Brunk of Neosho, and H. C. Pepper and Tom Steel, of Cassville. The defendants were represented by George R. Clay and J. A. Sturges, of Pineville, A. J. Harbison of Neosho, and Cloud & Davies of Pierce City. The introduction of evidence was begun Wednesday evening and the arguments closed late Saturday afternoon. Sunday forenoon the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

Up to the present writing, July 13, 1897, no other parties have been apprehended and it appears that this great crime will ever remain a mystery, and its perpetrators go unpunished.

## THE HANGING OF GRUBB

In June 1885, Dorson B. Anderson a deaf and dumb man, left some point in Lawrence county with a team and wagon and came down into McDonald county, camping out while on his journey. Irwin Grubb accompanied him. They camped one night a few miles above Pineville and several days after the dead, and partially decomposed body of Anderson was found in one of the lonely hollows making out from Dog Hollow.

Traces were found where the body had been dragged for some distance to the place where it was hidden, being covered with leaves and brush. The wagon had been taken to pieces and hidden in the brakes of Sugar Creek. Grubb was soon after apprehended in Lawrence county and brought back to the Pineville jail where he remained until the night of his death. He tried to claim that the killing was an accident, but all the circumstances pointed strongly to his guilt.

One night in November, 1885, a mob made a very sudden and wholly unexpected raid on the jail, and took Grubb out and hung him to the limb of a tree near the spot where Dr. Chenoweth had been murdered, just at the bend of the road east of the school house.

## THE KILLING OF WICK LANE

There has never been a legal execution in McDonald county, but John Abels was convicted of the murder of Wick Lane in 1874, and hung at Carthage, to which place his case had been taken on a change of venue.

Abels was getting along in years and was living with a young woman, supposed to be his wife, though some of the older settlers say there has never been the formality of the marriage rite. He was not only jealous of her, but treated her with extreme cruelty considerable of the time keeping her chained. They were living on Patterson Creek.

In the spring of 1874, she eloped with one Neil Dodson, who had a wife and several children. They went to the Indian Territory. Abels accused Lane of being implicated in the affair. He protested that he knew nothing of it and went with Abels in search of the woman. They went east through some two or three counties, but failed to find any trace of the missing one. On their return, Abels became more suspicious of Lane, and accused him of leading him out of the way in order to give the fleeing parties a better opportunity to escape. They appeared to have stopped near a spring on Granny's Branch not far from where Cyclone now is where the killing was done.

Just how the murder was committed will never be known in all its detail, but the evidence showed it to have been cool, deliberate and cruel. One who examined the body and the ground surrounding says that it is evident that Lane was sitting down against a white oak tree when the first shot was fired, as the bullet had lodged in the tree and the first traces of blood were found at its roots. From there to a spring a few yards distant was a track of blood and indications that the wounded man had crawled from the tree to the water. Here he was found with his face down in the pool as though in the act of quenching his thirst, when the second shot was fired. Either wound would have been fatal.

Abels took his victim's horse and revolver and fled. The dead body was discovered that day or the next and Abel was followed and captured in the Nation. His case was sent on a change of venue to Jasper county where he was convicted and hung. He acknowledged the crime on the day of execution, and said all he regretted was that Sam Lane was present to see him die.

## THE EMMA BROWN CASE

The records of our county would hardly be complete without the sensation of trying a woman for murder. This was furnished by the trial of Emma Brown (Carroll) for poisoning her infant child. This trial was accompanied by two of the most remarkable incidents the writer ever saw or heard of when a woman who attended the trial sympathized with the prosecution and was eager for a verdict of guilty. The other, that Emma's own mother, without reserve, or hesitancy, and apparently without emotion gave at length and in detail the most damaging evidence against her daughter.

In September, 1886, the little baby died under such suspicious circumstances that an inquest was held and the coroner's jury brought in a verdict of death by poisoning. The parents, Charles and Emma Brown, were indicted for murder in the first degree.

The evidence showed that Emma had been wayward. She had met Brown for the first time but a few months before the child was born, and they were married soon after they became acquainted. The birth of the child under these circumstances caused trouble, although Brown it is said had been apprised of the facts before the marriage. The mother sent her little brother to Pineville after laudanum with a precaution to say nothing about it. The bottle was seen under her pillow, and afterwards found empty in the garden. On the other hand, it was shown that she was very fond of the baby and treated it with the affection common to young mothers. Of course the above is but a few of the points brought out in the evidence, and the fact that the child died from the effects of laudanum was not disputed. The defendant displayed remarkable nerve during the trial until her attorneys began addressing the jury when she broke down and wept violently for an hour or more. It was after dark when the jury reported and Deputy Sheriff, James Kenney started with her from the jail to the court house. Just outside of the east gate, they met John A. Ford, the Sheriff, and Kenney remarked that Ford could take her up, while he looked after other business. She caught Ford's arm in both of hers and remarked quite cheerfully, "I've got another beau." They went on up to the court room where she heard the verdict of "not guilty", and the thoughtless, wayward girl went out again into the sunlight of freedom.

She had been tried separately from her husband and the jury thought there was doubt as to whether she or her husband had given the fatal dose. The case against her husband was nollified.

#### DEATH OF LITTLE CLAUDE MORGAN

One of the most distressing affairs ever witnessed in our county occurred at Southwest City the last day of March, 1895. An attempt was made to arrest Jack Carey, a half breed Indian, for disturbing the peace. When ordered to surrender, instead of complying, he presented his Winchester and opened fire on the officers. L. W. Carlyle, city marshal, Cap. Franks, constable, and deputy marshal, George Ratcliff, and Simps Melton constituted the posse trying to make the arrest. They returned the fire, and other parties began shooting at the same time, ostensibly at the officers.

When the shooting began Chas. Morgan, a white man who lived in the Nation, was coming into town from the north, his little girl and little boy, Claude 5 years old, sitting with him in the wagon seat. One of the pistol balls struck the little boy, entering just above the right eye and passing through the father's arm which was around the child. The little fellow died in about an hour and a half.

An inquest was held the following Monday, but it could not be ascertained who fired the fatal shot. Carey was shot in the groin and captured. He was held in the sum of \$1,000 for felonious assault, to which he entered a plea of guilty at the following term of court and was fined \$125.

(There are two cases now pending in court on account of which will be given among the miscellaneous matters.)

## Chapter 8

### COUNTY OFFICERS

As has been stated elsewhere, the first county officers after the close of the war were appointed by the governor or the state. Following is a list of the principal county officers from that date down to the present with the date of the appointment or election of each.

## REPRESENTATIVE

In 1864 an election was held, McDonald county voting at Newtonia. At this election Claudius B. Walker was elected to the legislature. He was again elected in 1866.

John B. Price held the office from 1866 to 1870.

John C. Lamson was elected in 1870 and served one term.

William C. Price was elected in 1872 and again in 1874, serving two terms.

J. J. Brown was elected in 1876 and served one term.

A. W. Chenoweth was elected in 1878 and served one term.

A. J. Phillips was elected in 1880 and served one term.

T. F. Ford was elected in 1882 and served one term.

Thomas Collins was elected in 1884 and served one term.

J. J. McNatt was elected in 1886 and served one term.

M. C. Christian was elected in 1888 and served one term.

James F. Kenney was elected in 1980 and served one term.

Richard J. Balch was elected in 1892 and served one term.

Fred M. Best was elected in 1894 and served one term.

James F. Tandy was elected in 1896, and still holds that position.

## CIRCUIT CLERK AND RECORDER

Rufus L. Hargrove was the first to hold this office when the courts were reorganized at the close of the war. He served during 1865 and 1866.

A. W. Chenoweth filled the office the next four years, 1876 to 1870 inclusive.

R. L. Hargrove was elected in 1870 and served four years.

A. M. Dillin was elected in 1874 and again in 1878, serving eight years.

H. A. F. Cloud was elected in 1882, and re-elected in 1886, serving two terms.

J. W. Shields was elected in 1890 and served four years.

S. G. Sutter was elected in 1894 and is the present incumbent.

## CIRCUIT ATTORNEYS

At the beginning of this period a Circuit Attorney had jurisdiction co-extensive with the circuit court whose duty it was to prosecute all offenders, and, in fact, whose powers and duties were the same as the prosecuting attorney is at present.

George W. Randolph of this county was the first after the war to hold that office for this circuit. He was succeeded in August 1869, by J. L. Page of Jasper county.

Page served until September, 1871, at which time he was succeeded by A. L. Thomas of Carthage.

## COUNTY AND PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

By order of the county court, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1866, J. C. Lamson was appointed attorney for McDonald County. He served until August 10, 1867 when he tendered his resignation which was accepted by the county court. He received \$100 for his services.

By an order of the court, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1867, A. H. Kenney was appointed county attorney for a period of six months from November 4, 1867. His compensation for the term being fixed at the sum of \$100. He served until removed by order of the county court, November 6, 1868.

He was succeeded by Oney Carstarphen in 1869.

## PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

J. L. Smythe was appointed county attorney by the county court May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1871. He was elected prosecuting attorney November 8, 1872.

John L. Barr was elected at the November election 1874. He filled the office until removed Feb. 9, 1876.

Z. T. Murphy was appointed Feb. 9, 1876 and filled the unexpired term of J. L. Barr. He served two years.

John C. Lamson, the present Circuit Judge, was elected at the general election, November 1878 and served two years.

J. W. Brunk was elected November 1880 and held the office one term.

James C. Cole was elected November 1882 and re-elected in 1884, serving four years.

H. C. Pepper was elected to the office at the November election of 1886, and again in 1888, serving two terms.

Hugh Dabbs was elected in 1890 and 1892 holding the office four years.

J. D. Edge was elected in 1894 and held the office one term.

George R. Clay, the present incumbent, was chosen at the general election in November 1896.

## SHERIFF AND COLLECTOR

John V. Hargrove was the first sheriff after the war, having been appointed to that office by the governor in 1866. He served until December 1867.

Samuel Baker, assumed the duties of sheriff and collector January 1867.

James H. Wimpey took charge of the office in March 1869 and held the office for the year 1871-2.

C. L. Fields held the office from 1873 to 1876 inclusive.

J. C. Montgomery was elected in 1876 and served one term.

E. M. Jarrett was elected November 5, 1876 and re-elected in November 1880, serving two full terms.

J. C. Seabourn was elected November 7, 1882 and held the office two terms.

At the election in 1886, John A. Ford was elected to the office of Sheriff and collector, which he held two terms.

W. W. Bacon was elected in 1890 and held the office one term. After the close of this term the two offices were held separately.

J. T. Williams, succeeded Bacon in 1892 and held the office one term.

H. C. Prater was elected in 1884 and held the office one term.

Sheriff: George T. Woolard elected in 1892. John C. Kelley in 1894. R. Jarrett in 1896.

## PROBATE JUDGE

This court was in connection with the county court until the beginning of 1869. On the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1868 an act of the legislature was passed establishing the Probate courts in the various counties of the state. Pursuant to this law the records show that on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1869, the probate court of this county was opened and adjourned until the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in January, the same year. This record is signed by A. H. Kennedy, Probate Judge.

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1869, the record shows a description of the seal of the Probate court for this county. This record is signed, Hiram Baker, Probate Judge. Hiram Baker opened court April 12<sup>th</sup>, of that year and held the office until Feb. 1873. C. P. Bullock succeeded Baker and held the office about one year.

Z. Smith held the office a short time in 1874, when he was succeeded by W. S. Street who was elected at the general election that year.

Judge Street filled the office three years.

Jessee Parish was Judge from January 1<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1878, and W. C. Duval from that time to the end of the year.

These last four, Z. Smith, W. S. Street, Jessee Parish, and W. C. Duval, were at the same time Judges of the county court.

At the November election in 1878, I. N. Shambaugh was elected to the office. He was re-elected in 1882 but served only part of his term. He resigned in 1883 and J. W. Brunk was appointed to fill the office until the next election.

W. E. Smith was first elected in November, 1884, to fill the unexpired two years of Judge Shambaugh's term. He was re-elected in 1886 and again 1890, serving in all ten years.

James M. Elliot, the present incumbent, was elected at the general election in 1894.

## COUNTY JUDGES

The first county court after the war consisted of Benjamin F. Hopkins, Enoch G. Williams and Isaac A. Harmon. The court assembled Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1865, Harmon not being present. The first order made was that appointing Benjamin F. Hopkins, Presiding Judge. Thirty days later, December 6<sup>th</sup>, an order was made appointing Enoch G. Williams Presiding Justice.

There appears to have been an election November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1866, at which Hugh L. Testerman, I. A. Harmon and John Jones were elected county judges. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of December following, Hugh L. Testerman was appointed Presiding Justice.

At the November election in 1868, Joel Meador was elected to succeed H. L. Testerman, I. A. and Jehu Jones being elected for a second term. I. A. Harmon served as Presiding Justice pro tem from Jan. 1, 1869 until May 3, 1869, at which time he was appointed to that position by order of the court.

At the election in 1870 Joel Meador was re-elected, James H. Wimpey and Thomas McDonald succeeding the other two, Wimpey being appointed by the Governor in 1871.

February 15, 1871 James H. Wimpey was appointed Presiding Justice by order of the court. The three served until January 17, 1872, at which time Zach Smith took charge of the office, he having been elected at a special election November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1871. He served until January 23, 1873, Thomas McDonald and John Evans were associates during Smith's term.

At the regular November election, in 1872, George Manning and John Wilson were elected county judges, and the new court organized January 23, 1873, by electing Thomas McDonald Presiding Judge.

W. S. Street was elected judge at the November election in 1874. During the next four years there was but one judge instead of three as there was before and has been since.

Street filled the office three years. Jessee Parish was judge from January 1, to June 1, 1878. W. C. Duval from June 1, 1878 to the end of the year.

I. N. Shambaugh was elected Presiding Judge in 1878 and served four years. He was again elected in 1882 and served until 1883, at which time he resigned.

George R. McMahan was elected Judge of the Eastern District, and J. D. Heron, Judge of the Western District, in 1878. Both were re-elected in 1880 and served a second term.

A. B. Shields was elected Judge of the Western District and Holly Hinton Judge of the Eastern District in 1882. In part of 1883 and in 1884 J. W. Brunk filled the office of Presiding Judge by appointment.

Holly Hinton was elected for a second term in 1884, and J. D. Heron was again elected at the same time. Both served two years more.

H. B. Landers was elected the same year to fill the vacancy in the office of Presiding Judge and served two years.

J. A. Sturges was elected Presiding Judge in 1886, H. J. Laughlin, Judge of the Eastern, and J. W. Nutting, Judge of the Western District. The three Associates were re-elected in '88 and these three composed the court for four years, 1887-91.

John M. Boyd was elected Presiding Judge in 1890 and served four years. John R. Patterson was elected Judge of the Eastern District and John W. Cunningham Judge of the Western District the same year. In 1892 Cunningham was re-elected and C.J. Marrs Judge of the Eastern District. Marrs resigned in the later part of 1893, and John R. Patterson was appointed to fill the vacancy.

J. Turner Horner was elected Presiding Judge in November, 1894 which position he still occupies. J. W. Adkins was elected Judge of the Eastern District and Patrus Testerman Judge of the Western District in 1894.

George W. Mitchell was elected Judge of the Western District and William Newman Judge of the Eastern District in 1896.

## ASSESSOR

November 7, 1865, Henry H. Fox was appointed assessor of McDonald county, by order of the county court. The next record I have been able to find is where the bond of James H. Wimpey, assessor elect, is approved by the court, May 8, 1867. Mr. Wimpey served two years.

William H. Prater held the office for a short time, when he resigned and D. M. Mayhew was appointed to fill his place.

E. F. Burns was elected November 7, 1871 and served two years.

James H. Chapman was elected November 5, 1872, served 6 years.

J. J. Clanton was elected in 1878 and served two years.

H. A. F. Cloud was elected in 1880 and again in 1882.

John H. Chapman was elected in 884 and served two years.

Zach Baker was elected in 1886 and served two years.

John P. Madden was elected in 1888 and again in 1890, serving four years.

W. H. Noel was elected in 1892 and served two years. At the election in November 1894 the result was a tie between him and Walter Hankins. A special election was called at which Noel was successful, thus serving two terms.

Martin L. Marrs was elected in 1896, and is the present incumbent.

## TREASURER

A. W. Chenoweth was appointed county treasurer November 8, 1865. I. N. Williams was appointed February 7, 1866.

John M. Boyd was appointed treasurer December 18, May 11, 1866 and December 18, 1867.

J. C. Farmer was appointed to the office February 8, 1868.

Hugh L. Testerman was appointed December 1, 1870.

J. P. LaMance was elected November 5, 1872 and served two years.

At the general election November 3, 1874, J. C. Baber was elected county treasurer and held the office for ten years without intermission.

At the general election in 1884 A. C. Walters was elected county treasurer and held the office two years.

J. C. Baber was again elected in 1886 and held two terms, his last term expiring December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1891.

M. N. LaMance was elected to the office in 1890 and held the office two terms.

J. C. Farmer was elected in 1894 and held the office one term.

M. N. LaMance was again elected in 1896 and consequently is our present treasurer.

## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR

This office was filled for a time by C. B. Walker, but at what time could not be ascertained. Probably about the breaking out of the war.

Daniel Harmon was the first to hold this office after the war, having been appointed by the county court November 7, 1866. He served four years.

J. C. Lamson held the office from 1870-1872.

John Wilson served in 1872.

H. H. Fox was elected in November, 1872, but the election was contested by J. W. Bedell, and Fox consented that the contest be decided in favor of Bedell, consequently the office was filled by him.

W. W. Chase was elected in 1874. He has been re-elected two or three times, and has also held several terms by his successor failing to qualify, so that the office was filled by him until January 1, 1897.

P. M. Fink of Indian Springs was elected in November, 1896, and is the present incumbent.

## CORONOR

Jacob Caudil was elected to this office in November 1872 and again in 1876.

Thomas Ford in 1880.

H. P. Lamberson in 1884 and again in 1888.

J. M. Long was elected in 1892, but failed to qualify, and J. S. Long was appointed to fill the vacancy. He served to the close of 1894.

W. P. Fox was elected in 1894 and served two years, being the remainder of the term to which J. M. Long was elected.

Daniel Thrasher was elected in 1896 and is now the incumbent of the office.

## SCHOOL COMMISSIONER

Abner W. Tatum was appointed to this office by the county court, May 9, 1866. He served but a short time when J. C. Lamson was appointed. Mr. Lamson served about three years.

About the close of his term John Wilson was appointed and filled the office for some time.

At the election in 1872 J. S. Sterrett was declared to be elected, but the records show that his election was contested by F. M. Seamster and the case determined February 11, 1873. Sterrett in his answer admits the election of Seamster and consents that the commission be issued accordingly.

J. F. Kenney held the office from 1881-3.

A. C. Eliff held the office from 1883-5.

J. H. Wood succeeded Mr. Eliff and held two years.

W. O. Moore was the next incumbent and served two years.

L. A. Henderson was elected in 1889 and held two years.

J. W. Morrow was elected in 1891 and again in 1893 and served four years.

J. W. Smith was elected to the office in 1895, and again in 1897.

## Chapter 9

### ACCIDENTS

To chronicle all the fatal accidents that have happened in this county would require more than the entire contents of this volume. Following are a few of the more striking ones which serve to illustrate how easily the thread of life may be broken by accident or carelessness.

#### JOHN H. HARMON KILLED

John H. Harmon, son of Isaac Harmon, left town today (January 26, 1881) about noon, in a state of intoxication. He was driving his team, which was usually gentle, and was alone in his wagon. It is supposed that the horses became frightened and ran away; at any rate John Mosier found the wagon and team and the dead body of Mr. Harmon in Price's lane near Pineville, about 2 o'clock p.m. Harmon was quite dead and was lying under the wheel of the wagon, the lines were wrapped about the man's legs, and the head was considerably bruised.

John H. Harmon was about 40 years old. He married the daughter of Thomas Gordon, of Benton county, Arkansas, and leaves a wife and several children.

This sad occurrence is another incidence in the long chapter of wrongs caused by whisky, and is all the more frightful from its happening near a town where no whisky is sold as a beverage except in defiance of the laws of the land — Pineville News.

### KILLED BY A FALLING TREE

Otis Sterley, a young man about 20 years of age, was killed at Thomas Looney's, on Little Sugar creek, in the Southeastern part of the county, November 10, 1883, by a falling tree. Young Sterley and Looney were hauling rails, and while Sterley was replacing a rail that had partially fallen from the wagon, a dead tree that was standing near fell on him against the hind wheel of the wagon and bruised him so that he died in about half an hour. — Pineville News.

### DEAD IN A SHAFT

On Friday morning last (May 31, 1884) about 8 o'clock John Devick, who was working in a shaft at Dr. Benna's mines two miles southwest of Twin Springs, died from the effects of foul air. It appears that deceased and Dr. Benna went to the shaft that day previous for the purpose of putting off a blast that had been prepared, and that deceased proposed to go down then, but as they both supposed there was damp in the shaft, concluded to wait until the next morning when it would be cooler and, as they thought, safe. On the morning above stated Mr. Benna let him down in the shaft, which was about 40 feet deep, on a rope attached to a windless, and after reaching the bottom he said the air was bad and he could not stand it, and requested Mr. Benna to pull him out. He then placed one foot in a loop in the rope and took hold with both hands, but when about 6 feet from the bottom, he fell back, and was dead before aid could reach him. — Pineville News.

### FATAL ACCIDENT

Willie Testerman, aged 17 years, son of Marshal Testerman, was killed on the Neosho road about a mile above Pineville, October 18, 1888. He had brought a load of lumber to town for the Baptist church, which was then building and was returning home, riding on the front bolster of the wagon. When near the place above mentioned, the team became frightened and ran away, throwing him off, and the wheels probably passed over him. Beside being badly bruised a blood vessel at the base of the brain was ruptured from the effects of which he died in about an hour. — Pineville News.

### DROWNED WHILE FISHING

Frank Derbin was drowned in Big Sugar creek, some 12 or 15 miles above Pineville, last Saturday while fishing. He, with others, was fishing with a net or seine. They had set their net at the end of a deep pool of water, and Derbin went out on a log that lay in the creek and jumped off into the water and swam under it for some distance as if diving, and when nearing the lower end of the pool, where the water was shallow attempted to raise himself out of the water, but fell back. Some of his associates, seeing there was something wrong with him, caught him and dragged him out on the bank where he died in two or three minutes. The general impression is that he died from congestion caused by being in the water too long, having been in the greater part of the time for three or four hours. He was ordinarily a proficient swimmer. — Pineville News, May 27, 1887.

### KILLED BY LIGHTNING

In the latter part of March, 1890, one of the most distressing cases caused by lightning ever recorded, occurred on the Willow Ray farm on Buffalo Creek. The house occupied by John Wilson and family was struck by lightning between 12 and 1 o'clock. The family were all in bed at the time. The bolt came through the roof down the gable end of the house and struck Mrs. Wilson in the breast, killing her instantly. Their little son, William, was terribly shocked and died the next morning. The baby, which laid next to its mother, was unharmed. Mr. Wilson was shocked so he could not

move, and the bed having been set on fire he was compelled to lay there for a considerable time, the smudging fire gradually eating into his flesh. The only other occupant of the house was Mrs. Wilson's father, a feeble old man who could not get Mr. Wilson off the bed. He finally extinguished the fire, thus saving the life of the helpless man. Mr. Wilson was terribly burnt about the hips and thighs, and for months had to be lifted like a child, but he finally recovered.

#### DEATH OF JOHN STAFFORD

One of the saddest accidents of late years was the accidental killing of John Stafford, son of Claib and Elizabeth Stafford of Cyclone, October 13, 1891. Young Stafford, with his brother Charley and several others, was working on the right of way of the railroad south of the river along John Williams' field.

He and John LaGore were chopping down a tree that stood at the foot of a ledge of rock about four feet high. LaGore was on the lower side while Stafford was on the upper, between the tree and the rock wall. Suddenly, and before it was expected to fall, the tree split up some three feet, the butt flew back and caught him against the solid mass of stone, cutting off the right leg near the upper part of the thigh, and crushing his left leg from the knee to the ankle. As if satisfied with its terrible work the tree then lurched forward and pitched several feet down the hill.

The injured man was taken to the camp near the river where his leg was amputated, but the shock from the injury and the ordeal of having his limb severed was more than human strength could bear, and he died about 2 o'clock the next morning the injury having occurred the previous afternoon. He was a model young man, of steady habits, industrious and quiet and well liked by every one who knew him.

#### DROWNING OF LITTLE CHARLEY CLARK

Another sad case of drowning occurred at the lower end of what is called Big Rock, at the south-east part of Pineville. On the afternoon of April 22, 1890, he dug a can of bait, took his pole and line and went fishing. He was quite a little boy to go out all alone, being only seven the fall before. But, as he and many other boys were in the habit of going no uneasiness was felt until he failed to come home to supper. Dark came on and still he did not appear. The alarm was given and a search for the lost boy was begun. In a short time his can of bait was found on a large slanting rock that reached down to the water, and his pole lying across it. It was evident he had set down on the rock where he lost his balance and slipped into the water. The search for his body continued all through the night, but the water being muddy it was not found until nearly noon the next day. It had floated down a mile or more below town. Jim Brown, the same one who afterwards found the body of Lula Noel, was the first to discover it.

#### A TRIPLE DROWNING

One of the saddest tragedies that is mingled with the warp and woof of the history of our county is the death of three boys by drowning.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1897, John Reece, aged 22, Harvy Reece, aged 19, Frank Reece, aged 9, three brothers and James Moulton, a boy 17 years old, were in a boat fishing in Elk River at the Bartley Bluff, a short distance below the residence of James Langley. They ran the boat to the left bank of the river on the opposite side from the bluff, where the water was comparatively still, and about six feet deep, intending to land. the bow of the boat struck the bank with some force causing it to suddenly start back. The shock threw John Reece, who was standing, off his balance and he pitched head first into the water. As he came up, his brother Harvy and the Moulton boy reached out and caught him. This turned the boat over and threw all four of the boys into the water. The little Reece boy caught to the limb of a tree that hung over the water and clung to it until rescued.

The older of the two Reece boys was a good swimmer and the other could swim some, but the Moulton boy could not swim at all. For some reason the skill of the two was unavailing and the three boys were soon lifeless on the pebbly bottom.

A couple of men were fishing some 150 yards below and heard their cries for help. At first they thought they were hollowing for fun as was usual, but soon distinguished the tone of distress and ran to their assistance. They found the little boy still holding to the limb, and when they asked where the other boys were he said, "There they are on the bottom of the river, drowned." They looked down in the clear water and there beheld the three dead bodies lying where the cruel hand of fate had rung down the curtain on the last tragic scene of their lives.

The parties lived some two miles south of Coy, Jimmie was the son of N. B. Moulton and wife, being her only child. The two Reece boys were the sons of a widow whose husband had met a tragic death a few months before. A tree had blown down near his house, and part of the roots were still clinging to the ground. They were at work on the tree and had sawed the trunk in two, when the stump settled back towards an upright position, catching Mr. Reece, who was standing at its base, under it and crushing him almost beyond recognition.

### BURNED TO DEATH

The first of last week a sad and fatal accident occurred about eight miles northeast of Pineville in which Mrs. Proctor was burnt to death. She was standing with her back to the fire place when her skirts caught fire. Her two little girls ran to her assistance, but besides burning their hands both of them caught fire. A young hired man hearing their screams ran in and seeing the children on fire, tore their clothing off before they were injured. In the meantime Mrs. Proctor ran outdoors, around the house and all over the yard until she dropped from exhaustion and died in a short time. Her clothing was entirely destroyed, and in many places her body was burnt to a crisp. Mr. Proctor was away at the time visiting relatives in Ark. The corpse was kept until he could return and attend the funeral. — McDonald County Republican, January 25, 1895.

### DEATH OF LEE SELLERS

Wednesday afternoon between two and three o'clock Lee Sellers, one of the most prosperous and highly respected citizens of this county met with a tragic death near his home on Indian creek, about one mile east of Anderson. He and one of his sons were out in the hills loading a sawlog. They had placed the rope around it and were rolling it up with the team, when the rope gave way and the log rolled over Mr. Sellers and mashed him so that he died in a short time. The children, some of whom reside in the Territory, have all been notified, and the burial will take place at the Beaver Springs cemetery today. The deceased owned a large farm on Indian creek about a mile east of Anderson and was well fixed for a comfortable life. He leaves a wife and several children. — McDonald County Republican, February 22, 1895.

### JAMES MERANDA SUICIDES

Yesterday afternoon James Meranda, a farmer who has been living near this place for the past twenty years, and for the last two years on Mrs. Chenoweth's place, one mile north of Pineville, committed suicide by shooting himself through the heart with a rifle gun of 44 caliber. Mr. Meranda's wife died over two years ago, and he has been very despondent since, sometimes remarking that he thought of killing himself, but no one had any idea of his doing so. He had been in unusual low spirits for the last four or five days, but went about his work on the farm as usual, plowing until noon yesterday.

Shortly after noon he took his gun and started toward his corn crib, looking back as he walked off. His oldest daughter aged 17 years, thinking from his actions there was something wrong, asked him

where he was going, when he replied that he was going to the crib to shoot a rat. He then sent on and got in the crib and shot himself as above stated. His daughter, as soon as hearing the report of the gun and him halloo, ran to the crib and found her father dying, with a bullet hole in his left breast, and his gun lying on one side of his body and the ramrod on the other, which goes to show that he used the ramrod to push the trigger. Deceased leaves six children — five girls and one boy their ages ranging from 2 to 17 years. — Pineville News, August 4, 1886.

### A DOUBLE SUICIDE

Among the ancient residents of Pineville were George Casbeer and his wife. He was dissipated and they lived very unhappily together. At last, tired of their troubles, they decided to end their lives. She agreed that if he would get the whisky, she would mix the poison, and they would drink their last draught together. The liquor was procured, and on a Sunday evening they filled their goblets to the brim and drank them to the very dregs. They were soon discovered in their agony, and told what they had done and why, but refused to take any antidote. She died the next day and he at night a few hours later.

Thus, in intense agony, ended the short tragedy of their lives. To them, marriage had been a failure, the blossom of love had withered, and death came as a welcome messenger of peace. They left seven children who were taken care of by friends in Illinois. The above statement was furnished by a man who was an eye witness to the scene and heard them give their statements.

## Chapter 10

### SUMMARY JUSTICE

#### THE SLICKERS

In connection with this subject it might be in order to mention the Slickers. In the early settlement of the county a custom was established of laying claim to certain designated tracts of land and holding it against all new comers. A man would pick out his location on some water course, build his cabin and mark out a tract of land corresponding in size with the extent of his enterprise. Some would be satisfied with forty acres, others with eighty or a hundred, while a few ran into the thousands.

When the government survey was made this land was reported vacant. But little of it was in cultivation, and many of the claims were marked only by the blazes on the trees or an occasional stake driven down. New settlers coming in would inquire at the land office and, finding the land vacant, would enter portions of it. These entries were opposed by the claimants and intimidation or open resistance used as occasion might require. As immigrants increased in number and their encroachments grew numerous, the claimants organized, and were called Slickers. It was their province to see that all parties taking or attempting to take land claimed by an older settler were promptly waited on and induced to abandon the enterprise.

This sentiment was quite strong and extended throughout the entire county and embraced all classes of our people. It did not entirely die out until some years after the war. There were a few instances where the party was taken out and whipped, a few were compelled to leave the county, and some who had entered land were forced to deed it to the claimant.

One of the most noted cases was the contest between Mark Harmon and others. Harmon came to this county with considerable money and entered a fine body of land on Indian Creek near the mouth of Elk Horn. Several years previous, Jonathan Blair had located near the present site of McNatt's Mill, and laid claim to a tract extending some two miles up and down the creek bottom. Harmon's entry cut a big slice out of Blair's claim and he was notified of that fact. However he had paid his money and proposed to hold the land. He was remonstrated with in a friendly manner and then threatened, but without effect. At last one day some

thirty or forty men came to his house bringing with them a justice of the peace and the deed and wearing the halter. They told him that as a man they had no objection to him and did not desire to do him harm, but the land must be given up. Mr. Harmon and his wife signed and acknowledged the deed under protest and a few years later went into the U. S. court and had the conveyance set aside and his title re-established.

### THE PINE WAR

This interesting reminiscence has almost passed from the memory of our people and, were it not recorded here, in a few more years would be numbered among the forgotten incidents of long ago. I asked an old gray-haired gentleman about it, and he replied that it happened when he was quite a small boy, and he did not know much about it.

From the best information it has been possible to obtain it occurred in the very early settlement of the county was practically over in 1845. Nearly all the lands in this county were government lands, and there were extensive pine forests in the hills bordering on the two Sugar creeks and extending from Pineville to the east side of the county. There also, considerable pine lands along the river west of Pineville and extending south to the Arkansas line. A number of saw mills were in operation manufacturing this pine timbers. The United States marshals undertook to protect the timber. John B. King who operated a mill on Kings creek, and perhaps others, was arrested. Several were subpoenaed as witnesses. Mark Harmon was one of the leading spirits in favor of the prosecution, and had a few followers but people generally took the side of the mill men.

They gathered together in groups and discussed the matter, held meetings, passed resolutions and organized for the purpose of in every way obstructing and, if occasion should require, resisting the United States marshals. It was carried to such an extent that at Cassville, a marshal was run clear out of the state, seeking refuge at Bentonville, Arkansas. The leader of this resistance, a Cassville lawyer, was sent to jail at St. Louis under a charge of treason, but was eventually released.

Of course the government eventually prevailed, but not until after much of the pine forest had been destroyed.

### ANNOYED BY PETTY THIEVES

For several years after the close of the war the people in various parts of the county were more or less annoyed by petty thieving. It got so bad that it was never safe to turn hogs on the range which to many was the chief source of profit. The masses were generally good and the range so extensive that hogs grew and fattened without other food. When the owners wanted meat they would usually kill direct from the mast, or feed a few weeks to harden the meat. The farmers on the narrow valleys who thus counted on supplying their own families and selling enough to provide other necessaries, when the time came to collect their hogs, were often unable to find more than a few carcasses where they had been shot in the timber and the best parts taken by the thieves. An occasional heifer or a fat cow would "come up missing" in the same mysterious manner. Various prosecutions were instituted against suspected parties but few, if any, convictions were ever had.

The people in the vicinities where these offenses were most common, finding the law did not afford them sufficient protection on account of the failure of the evidence, concluded to take the matter in their own hands. A few of the suspected parties were warned to leave the county. They were generally worthless characters that had temporarily settled in some remote ridge or hollow, and were without visible means of support. Sometimes a bundle of switches would be left with the note of warning. From 1882 to 1884 some three or four parties were whipped and a few others visited by a committee, but the offenders happened to be absent and thus escaped.

In 1883 old man Bird, who had settled on some land near James Tatum's farm in Beaver valley, was taken out one night and severely whipped. Bird claimed the chastisement was administered for settling on the land, but the committee said it was for appropriating his neighbor's swine without authority or due process of law. A man named Martin was subjected to a similar treatment. Also one Joy in the vicinity of Indian Springs was taken out one cold night and thoroughly dressed down. When turned loose he started off on a run and did not

stop until he got to Pools Prairie in Newton county where he crawled into a straw stack and finished the night. The next morning the owner went out to the stack, and seeing a pair of boots sticking out of the straw roused him out and asked if it wasn't a pretty cold berth. Joy replied, "If you'd been where I was last night, you would have thought it pretty d—n hot!" If he kept on at the rate at which he started, it is likely that Mr. Joy fried his pork a few weeks later at the camp fire which he kindled out of the north pole. There was much difference of opinion among the people as to these proceedings and a persistent effort was made to punish the parties who were engaged in these nightly administrations of "justice." Various persons were arrested and in one trial before a justice of the peace the evidence seemed conclusive that two of the parties held loaded pistols on the complainant while others did the whipping. At the discovery of this evidence, J. C. Cole, prosecuting attorney, asked the justice to discharge the jury and hold the defendants to answer for a felony. The justice sustained the motion and put the defendants under bond to await the action of the grand jury. Before that time arrived the complainants had moved away and the prosecutions were dismissed.

While these matters were serious, and it is to be regretted that they, or the circumstances which led to them ever occurred, there were many amusing incidents connected with them. It was during the progress of one of these trials that a witness swore that Mart Epperson was one of the parties that whipped him, giving as his reason for knowing who it was that he saw and identified Epperson at the time. To the surprise and consternation of his friends and attorneys Epperson remarked in a crowd, "That feller swore to a d—n lie, for I had my coat turned wrong side out and a handkerchief over my face, and he couldn't see who it was."

It was about this time that the Law and Order Brotherhood sprang into existence. It is said to have numbered over four hundred members and included many of the best citizens of our county. Its province was to aid in the enforcement of the law and it no doubt did much to put a check to the perpetration of crime in our county.

These comparatively mild applications were followed later by the killing of Garland Mann in the Neosho jail and the hanging of Irwin Grubb and Canada Bill. After these events murders were much less frequent and the petty thieving almost entirely ceased. Prosecution in our courts have been much more effective, convictions having been the rule rather than the exception, as before, and our people almost universally rejoice that there is no necessity for further invoking mob violence.

### BURNING OF THE OLD JAIL

In February, 1888, while old man Bird and a couple of other prisoners were confined in the old jail at Pineville, on a conviction for stealing chickens and geese, it took fire and burnt down. The jail was a log structure with a door on top through which ingress and egress was made. The floor was composed of three layers of hewn logs, the second laid cross-wise of the first and the third across the second, the three layers being about eighteen inches thick. When the fire got started down in the cracks of the floor there was no way to tear it up. The people of Pineville and vicinity turned out almost to a man and worked all day carrying and hauling water trying to save the old building. While they were thus at work the prisoners, who had been removed to the court house stood at the windows and jeered at the men at work trying to extinguish the fire.

Their day of jubilee, however, did not last through the night. Tired and wet and muddy, the men were not in a mood to be ridiculed with impugny, besides it was thought the prisoners had fired the building with hopes of making their escape.

The prisoners were placed in charge of J. F. Fulkerson, constable of the township, to guard through the night. Along in the early part of the night someone called to him to come down stairs, that Kenney, the jailer, wanted to come up. He came down, and the moment he opened the door he was seized by a couple of men. Others went up and got the prisoners who were just getting into bed. They were taken off up the ridge northwest of town a short distance, Fulkerson being taken by the guards along a few yards back of the crowd. He fired his pistol a few times to give the alarm, but the citizens who saw the mob either thought the prisoners were escaping, or did not feel disposed to interfere. Kenney, the Jailer, followed in dead earnest to recover the prisoners, but he missed the way and went the wrong road, running until he was entirely out of breath and exhausted.

The prisoners were very much frightened and thought they were going to be hung. Old man Bird said to

them in a very solemn and impressive voice. "Do you know there is a hell?" One of the mob replied, "Yes, by \_\_\_\_, and we are going to give you a taste of it." When they reached a spot that was convenient and sufficiently secluded, they halted and prepared to administer the whipping. Old man Bird was asked if he had not been whipped once before. He replied that he had for preempting a piece of land. He was then told he could take another for preempting a goose. He was then given a severe whipping, the shreds of his shirt being left on the withes that were used. One of the boys was given a few licks, and the other one excused with a reprimand. They were then turned loose with an injunction to leave the county. Fulkerton was also discharged and sent back to town. The three prisoners found their way to W. R. Barnes' house, where they were supplied with shoes, and went on to A. J. Watkins'. He gave them a firebrand and directed them to a vacant house, but they failed to find it and built up a fire and stayed in the woods all night. They suffered intensely through the night and the next morning they returned to Watkins' nearly frozen, the weather being very cold. They were given breakfast and then went to their homes.

Bird and his family remained in the county for some time swearing eternal vengeance, but no attempt was made to execute their threats. An effort was made by the next grand jury to investigate the matter, but no one knew anything until after the case was barred by limitation.

## Chapter 11

### WAR STORIES

The history of this county during the Civil War is one that is difficult to write, and about which there is much difference of opinion and many conflicting reports. The inhabitants of the county up to that time were principally from the southern states, and a majority considered that their interests were with the southern people. At the same time there was a strong Union element among them who resisted secession until the war was begun, when they cast their fortunes with the Confederacy. There was still another element, largely in the minority in this county that remained loyal to the last. Many of these were from the southern states, and the animosities engendered between them and their old neighbors were bitter to an extreme known only in war times and between citizens of those states. It was a time that truly "tried men's souls." It laid bare to the public gaze the true character of men and revealed them in all their moral corruption or noble humanity as could be done under no other conditions. The results of this ordeal were quite the opposite to what in many cases were expected. Men who had been regarded as timid became the bravest of soldiers. Some who stood well in the community were the first to avail themselves of the opportunity to rob and plunder, while others who were regarded as rather "tough," became prominent in their efforts to restrain violence. Those who entered the regular service, as a rule, became honorable soldiers and conducted themselves in a manner becoming civilized warfare. The deeds of cruelty were generally the work of bands organized either for plunder or revenge.

The acts of heroism, if all recounted, would fill a volume much larger than this. There are many instances where the ties of friendship and love of humanity rose far above the passion and hatred of war. Time and again, both Union and Confederate men and women have taken their lives in their hands as it were, and gone at the dead hour of night for miles over these lonely hills and valleys, to warn men of the opposite side who they knew were at home to visit their families, of approaching danger. Often the warning came in time and the intended victim would vanish in the darkness and adjacent thicket as he heard the clatter of the approaching foe. Sometimes the sound of shots and shrieks of women and children greeted the ears of the messenger before he reached his goal and inscribed on his or her heart the words, "too late."

The military operations of this section of country were so connected with the movements of the opposing armies that it becomes more a matter of general than local history and it is not the province of this book to detail the same. A few incidents of the war which are true beyond a peradventure will be more interesting to our people than an account of the troops.

As an example of the feelings which often existed between Union and Confederates the following is given which was told the writer several years ago by the party himself. A raid was made in this county by a detachment of Kansas troops and among a number of prisoners captured was E. Caulk, since deceased, who lived on Patterson creek near the state line. A good deal of bad work had been done by bushwhackers and feelings ran high. The prisoners were taken to Baxter Springs and kept under close guard waiting to be identified, and their fate determined. When questioned, Mr. Caulk told the officer he was a Confederate but did not belong to the army and was opposed to the action of the bushwhackers. He was trying to stay at home and attend to his own affairs. After a few days confinement, a couple of Union men who were acquainted with him came into camp. When recognized he knew his fate was in their hands but as there had never been any particular friendship between them he was in doubt as to the result. In a short time he was called up before the commander and discharged with a pass home and provisions for the journey. The two men had stated that he was an honest, inoffensive citizen and they were willing to vouch for his good conduct.

#### DEATH OF MAJOR SMITH

A pathetic, but pretty story, is related of the death of Major Smith of the Confederate army. Moses Woodman Smith, a native of Maine, was teaching school at Pineville in 1861. He was boarding at the home of C. B. Walker, a staunch Union man. He and Mr. Walker's daughter, Miss Jennie, now Mrs. Dan Harmon, were engaged to be married. When the war broke out, Mr. Smith raised a company and entered the Confederate service. Soon afterward he was promoted to the rank of Major. The attachment between the two young people, and the ties of friendship between him and her family were not in the least severed by their different views in regard to the war. On many occasions an opportunity was afforded in which one could shield or protect the other, and such chances were never neglected. At one time while he was visiting at the Walker home the Federals made a raid on the town. A brother of the Major's, suspecting he was there called and asked to see him. He begged of Miss Jennie to reveal his hiding place, promising that he only wanted to visit him as a brother, and would not betray her secret. His appeal was denied, and after all danger was over the Major came down from the garret, and in a short time was with his command.

The Walker family finding it unsafe to live here moved to Newtonia where there was a Federal post.

When General Price made his raid through this part of the state, Major Smith had another opportunity to visit his affianced wife, and made the Walker home his headquarters. When the Union forces sent to retake the place were advancing, and the battle of Newtonia began, she begged him not to go into the fight. He promised her he would not, but when he rode out and saw the battle raging, his zeal overcame him, and he was soon in the midst of the contending forces. He was wounded, and when found on the field, was taken to the house of Mr. Weems, an Uncle to Miss Walker. Hearing of his condition, she first obtained the consent of her parents and went to take care of him. One bullet had struck just above the knee injuring the artery. The attending surgeon informed him that a slight aggravation of the wound would sever the artery, and produce death, at the same time stating that amputation of the limb was the only way to save his life. He stated that he would rather take his chances than to lose his limb. Here he was nursed by Jennie, she frequently singing to him his favorite song, "A Soldier of the Legion lay dying." But there was no "Lack of woman's nursing," no "Dearth of woman's tears," for kind hands and tender hearts, all true and loyal to their country, rendered every assistance in their power. Some five or six days afterward the wound sloughed into the artery and he bled to death in a few moments.

#### ESCAPED ON SHELBY'S HORSE

When that gallant Confederate cavalryman, General Shelby, made his raid on Neosho and captured it, a considerable number of prisoners were taken. Among the rest were David and John Harmon. These two men had incurred the enmity of the Confederates by the active part they had taken in the local military affairs. When the town was taken David Harmon dropped his two revolvers in the weeds near the court house, and concealed them.

He was dressed in a loose homespun hunting shirt and trousers, that very much resembled the Confederate

gray. While the Union prisoners were being marched to the court room on the upper floor of the court house, he says one of the guards set his gun down and went for a drink of water. Harmon watched his opportunity and picking up the gun began walking the beat in the place of the guard. A moment later General Shelby and the sheriff of the county rode up, and leaving their horses, started to the court house. The general's horse had been trained to stand without being tied. As the two men passed near Harmon, he had his pulled down, and his head turned to avoid recognition by the sheriff who knew him, and kept leisurely walking his beat. He heard the sheriff remark as they passed by that he wanted to go up stairs and see if any of those Harmons were there, if so, they had lived long enough. They passed into the court house, and Dave walked to where he had dropped his pistols, picked them up, and mounted Shelby's horse. The other guards, having seen the general just pass, supposed he had been sent to take charge of the animal, and made no protest. He rose unconcernedly down the street, past the guards and into the woods, before the ruse was discovered. The horse was a splendid animal and carried him safe from all pursuit into the Federal lines.

His brother, John, was placed with a few other prisoners in the backroom of an old house, the guards remaining in the front room. There was a door to the room in which the prisoners were kept, but it had been locked. In the night, and while the guards engaged in a game of cards in the front room by the light of the fire, Harmon silently unlocked the door with an old key he happened to have in his pocket, and escaped in the darkness of the night. He eluded all the guards and pickets, and before daylight came was several miles away.

### HOW JUDGE NUTTING CAME TO JOIN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY

The following account will not only be of interest as a personal reminiscence, but is a fair example of the way in which many of our citizens came to enter the service of either army.

When the war broke out George Nutting lived on what is now the Royal Harrington farm on Buffalo, which he had owned for several years. Mr. Nutting died in February, 1862, and his wife, step-mother to the Nutting children, in March following. Wash, the oldest son, had enlisted in the Union army, state troops, and M. L. (Bud) was at Neosho suffering from wounds received the previous summer, and J. W., then a boy of fifteen years, was left to look after the farm. His sister Martha (Mrs. D. H. Mathews) had charge of the family of five little children. Their father had been a Union man, but tried to remain neutral.

John had raised a crop that year of twenty-five acres of corn and about the same of oats. The oats were cut and he was binding them while damp early in the morning and late at night. One evening after working until dark he went home, and in a few moments a squad of some fifteen or twenty men rode up and wanted oats for their horses. They went to the field, got what they wanted and the leader gave him a gold dollar. They camped for the night but left before daylight. The next morning while he was out binding oats a company of Federal troops under Lieutenant Brown came along. The Lieut. called Nutting out to the road where the following conversation took place: "Who were those fellows you fed last night?"

"I don't know who they were,"

"Yes you do; don't lie to me."

"I don't know; they had on Federal clothes."

"I know you; what are you?"

"Nothing."

"I'll make something out of you. I say, what are you?"

"If we could have the Union like it was, I'd be for the Union."

At this the Lieutenant drew his pistol, cocked it, and placing the muzzle against the boy's breast, hissed between his teeth, "I say, what are you?"

"I'm Union."

"Go back to your work, and if I catch you a hundred yards off the place, your scalp's mine."

The company rode on, and Nutting returned to his work. It was not long before he heard the rattle of small arms. The two forces had met at the Ford of Buffalo a short distance above where George Keenan now lives, and a sharp engagement took place.

Nutting felt that he might be blamed for any disaster to the Union troops so he ran home, got a shot gun and

pistol which he had kept hidden, and secreted himself on the hill above the house. In about two hours the troops came back. After a short stop at the house, and not finding him, they went on up the creek.

John came down in a few moments and was standing in the hallway when he heard a man coming from the field. As he turned the corner of the house Nutting covered him with his revolver. The fellow threw up his hand and said "Don't shoot, I am a friend." He said he was d—n hungry, and stated that his horse had been killed in the fight and he was going to Jasper county and steal the best horse they had. His name was Yocum, a son of the commander of the Confederate squad. Nutting saddled his horse and left that evening. He was able to slip in home a few times on a few moments visit but in a short time enlisted at Beaver Springs under Major Smith and served in the Confederate army until the close of the war.

#### A SCRAP AT ENTERPRISE

In the late summer or early fall of 1863 a Confederate regiment under Col. Coffee was camped at Enterprise. They were attacked by the First Ark. Cavalry and a pretty hot fight ensued. The Ark. troops had two small field pieces which they brought into play and the Confederates retreated to Scott's mill where the fight ended.

#### REMOVAL OF THE HOPKINS FAMILY

Benjamin Hopkins and family, staunch Union people, lived on what is now known as the Polk farm which is a mile above Tiff City on Buffalo Creek. Matters grew pretty warm for them and they could neither safely remain at home, nor take their effects away.

Early in the spring of 1862 a detachment under Major Hubbard was sent from Neosho to escort them to the Federal lines. They had a couple of six-pounders with them which they brought into use to disperse squads of men who had assembled on the hills with a view to firing on the escort should they collect a sufficient body. Daniel Dobbs, Jim Dobbs, Fayette Price, and perhaps a few others were on the point of the bluff near the old Camp Shed, when a few shots from the cannon were fired at them. Of course they hustled out of range. As they went on up the creek they saw about forty men under Isbell on the hill back of W. C. Price's house. The cannons were turned loose on them and some fifteen or twenty shots were fired. The Confederates dispersed without firing a shot and the escort returned to Neosho unharmed.

#### A FATAL MISTAKE

In the summer of 1862 Major Doubleday with a part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ohio was sent on a scout down Buffalo creek and the west part of this county. They were making prisoners of every man they came to. As they went down Buffalo they captured two Wetherspoon boys who were at work in the field. The scout went on down to the river and came back the next day. John Dobbs and M. L. Nutting had taken to the brush with feelings towards the Union troops but through fear of being taken prisoners or losing their horses. After the troops had gone up the road and, as they supposed were out of the way, they came down to dinner. Hearing the Wetherspoon boys had been released, they started up to their place to see how they had been treated. A short distance above the upper end of the Nutting farm, they were suddenly confronted by a detachment of the troops. Here they made a fatal mistake. Had they surrendered they would have been examined and released in a short time. But they attempted to escape. They ran down the level road some two hundred yards and were leading the troops, but there they left the road and started up the point of the hill. This checked their speed and their pursuers ran up to the foot of the hill and fired. Dobbs fell dead and Nutting received a minnie ball at the left of his back bone and it was cut out in front of his stomach; one ball entered the back part of his hip and was taken out in front, and third gave him a flesh wound in the wrist. In a moment or two the Captain came up and when he looked at him exclaimed: "Why that boy lives back there where I got dinner. They are as fine people as I ever met!" He expressed regret at the wounding of Bud, and spoke in very high terms of the family. Bud was afterwards taken to Neosho where he eventually recovered and is now living near Splitlog.

## DEATH OF TIMOTHY WIMPEY

The Wimpey boys had quite a varied career during the war. Mr. Wimpey lived on Beaver valley near the mouth of the long hollow that runs up to Splitlog. One night the old gentleman and a small boy had gone up the fence a short distance from the house to look after some stock. A band of bushwhackers happened along and took his hat, coat, shoes, and pants, and left the old man to return to the bosom of his family with the cool April breeze chanting requiems through the flapping tail of his nether and only garment.

Two of his sons were conscripted into the Southern Army. One made his escape in a short time, but the other was afterwards killed in a battle down near the Mississippi River.

Tim was but a boy and remained in this county. He had been reported to be in the habit of giving aid and information to the bushwhackers. The following account of his death and the cause given in the report was furnished by C. D. Wimpey, a brother to the deceased.

Tim had been at McRae's helping the women kill hogs. It was along in the evening and he and the women were snowballing, when a party of Indian scouts under Capt. Stevens came along and took him prisoner. They went on down the creek about two miles where they halted and the Captain ordered two Indians to shoot him. He was shot twice in the head and then stabbed.

His brothers, Jim and William, both loyal men, made complaint to General Blunt and the matter was investigated. Capt. Stevens reported that on coming down the creek they had captured Nathaniel McRae, who convinced him that he, McRae, was a good, loyal citizen, but told him that Tim Wimpey was a bad bushwhacker. He said they would find him on down the creek helping some women kill hogs. He was but a boy, but very dangerous.

The reason given for McRae's animosity is that he attempted to steal Wimpey's horse some time before that and Tim would have killed him had his gun not misfired.

## MISCELLANEOUS INCIDENTS

The first Union man killed in the war is said to have been William Hamlin, who was shot by Rice Robinson, in April, 1861. Mark Harmon and Russell Spencer were killed early in 1862 on account of their unswerving loyalty to the government. These were followed later by many murders and depredations committed by the Confederates, generally bands of bushwhackers.

The Union people suffered the most severely during the raid of the Confederates in 1861 and 1862 but were never safe until after the close of war. The number of Union men killed in this county has never been fully ascertained.

Bands of Union scouts were constantly making raids through this county and a spirit of retaliation was often manifested. A number of men were shot down in retaliation for like offenses perpetrated on their friends, and many more killed with arms as bushwhackers. Upwards of forty men of this county were thus killed during the four years of the war. This does not include those killed in battle, or in actual service.

Nearly every man and boy able to carry a gun was in the service on one side or the other. More than a hundred and fifty from this county served in the Confederate army, while a hundred, or more, were enlisted in the United States or State service for the Union.

Among the leading bushwhackers was Bill Hinson, who burnt the court house at Pineville in 1863. He or some of this gang also burnt Hugh L. Testerman's house and the residence of C. B. Walker. He was afterwards shot at Neosho.

On the Union side, Lieut. Christian was a terror to the evil doers. He was possessed of great bravery and his expeditions into this county were very much dreaded by his foes. He was afterwards killed and scalped by the Confederates. Col. Kelso was the most noted Union scout in this section of the state. He made many dangerous and daring expeditions, and became an object of equal dread and hatred to the bushwhackers. He however escaped unharmed and after serving a term in Congress after the close of the war, went to the Rocky Mountains where he made quite a fortune.

A detachment of Price's army were camped near Pineville in October 1861.

Hugh Testerman had quite a lot of apples in his orchard to which the soldiers freely helped themselves.

Mrs. Testerman, his first wife, gathered a lot of the apples and put them away near the house. A few of the soldiers got after these one day, and she promptly ordered them away. One of the refused to obey and was proceeding to help himself when she shot him, inflicting a dangerous wound. The fellow was laid up for some time, but it is believed that he finally got well.

This put a check on the apple stealing, but came very near costing "Uncle Hugh" his life. The comrades of the wounded man seized Mr. Testerman and would have killed him, but the Confederate commander ordered his release and placed a guard to protect his property.

In the early part of the war Col. Shields of Southwest City, recently deceased, was taken prisoner by a company of Kansas troops and was about to be shot when John Martin of Pineville, a Union man, secured his release.

On another occasion J. P. LaMance, who at that time held a commission in the Confederate service was on the point of being executed by some Union troops, when John V. Hargrove interfered and saved his life. As an officer Mr. LaMance had been very lenient towards Union men, and did his utmost to save their lives and property. Afterwards, when the control of this county had shifted to the other side, his kindness was remembered by his old neighbors.

On June 23, 1862, there was a skirmish at Pineville between the Second Wisconsin Cavalry and the Confederates under Major Russell. The latter were defeated, with the loss of several prisoners and considerable property.

At another time the Federal army was advancing down the valley toward Pineville and a detachment was sent in advance down the ridge. They planted four cannon on the point of the hill north of Testerman's house and threw a number of shells over the town and in the bottom. The Confederates had retreated a short time before, and the Union army passed through and went on up Little Sugar.

In August, 1863, there was a sharp engagement in the bottom just across the river from Pineville between Col. Coffee with about 500 Confederates and a portion of the Sixth Mo. Cavalry. Coffee lost quite a number wounded and prisoners and most of his munitions.

Jim Cowan reports a little fight on Granny's Branch in which he was a participant. He was with a company of Union soldiers who were out on a scout. Some three or four were some distance in advance when they were suddenly fired on by fifteen or twenty of the enemy. A running fight ensued, the balance of the party coming up in a short time. Four or five of the Confederates were wounded but no one was hurt on the other side.

M. N. LaMance had a very narrow escape from death at the hands of some Kansas troops. They took him prisoner at his home in Pineville, he being then a mere boy, and had the rope around his neck to hang him. His mother ran into the crowd and begged for his life. For some time she was repelled and every effort but force was used to induce her to leave. At last some one set fire to their house and, pointing to it told her to go and save it. She refused, saying, "No, the house may burn, but I must save my boy." This touched the hard hearts of his would be executioners and they went and extinguished the fire and then released the boy. This was the principal cause of his joining the Southern army which he did soon afterwards.

## A VENDETTA

The following story of vengeance being meted out to the perpetrators of a crime is related as told by one who claims to know the facts and vouches for the truth of the statements.

As has been before related, Mark Harmon was killed by a band of men early in 1862 for being a loyal man. He had been away and was on his way home when he was met by a posse of nineteen men. Knowing that his life had been threatened, he took refuge behind a tree and determined to sell his life as dearly as possible. His enemies without exposing themselves gradually formed a circle around the tree and soon brought him down with their rifles.

His son Dan was in California, but David and John were here in the Southwest. Besides his sons Mr. Harmon had many friends among whom was Col. Kelso, who determined that his murder should not go unavenged. They made inquiry in the neighborhood and ascertained from different women that a band of nineteen men were in the neighborhood that day, a few of whom they knew. Not long afterwards one of these

men was taken prisoner some two or three counties east of here. He would have been summarily dealt with, but Harmon's friends requested that he be delivered to them. They took him off some distance from the camp and told him they would give him one chance for his life.

If he would give the names of all the party that killed Mark Harmon, they would turn him loose and not pursue him until he had an hour's start. If they caught him after that they would kill him. He accepted their terms, gave the names of the other eighteen and made his escape. He went east and joined the Federal army and some time afterwards was shot for insubordination.

A careful and systematic investigation was then made and the truth of his statement was to the guilty parties fully verified. From that day they were a doomed set of men. For three years their pursuers hang on their trail, neither giving nor asking mercy. Before the close of the war seventeen of the band were killed. One man by the name of Adams went to Texas soon after Harmon's death and is said to be the only one of them who escaped. On the other hand it is claimed that there were two living in Texas after the war.

The incidents of the cruel war might be extended indefinitely, but the foregoing are sufficient to give to the rising generation an idea of what our people on both sides did and suffered during the four years of the Great Civil War.

## Chapter 12

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### THE JULY FLOOD

Pineville News, July 19, 1883

Last Saturday was day that will long be remembered by the citizens of the Southwest as the occasion of the heaviest rainfall ever witnessed in this county. The rain here began about daylight Saturday morning and continued during the entire day, occasionally abating only to come again with increased fury, until the whole face of the earth seemed one solid sheet of water. The damage done in McDonald county is almost incalculable. The roads are washed out until in many places it is impossible to pass with wagons, while farmers who live along the various water courses in the county, have suffered, in many instances, irreparable loss, their fences having been washed away and growing crops overflowed and washed up until it is impossible for them to mature into anything like a medium yield.

The Cow Skin river at this place was three feet higher than ever known by the oldest citizens, and some estimates place it five feet higher than in 1872.

Among those who have lost most heavily, commencing at Jasper Brown's saw mill on Big Sugar Creek is the school district in which the mill was located, lost the lumber that it had bought to build a new school house, while many individuals lost small amounts of lumber they had had sawed and left stacked in the yard. The farmers along down the creek lost all their fences that were on the bottoms. I. H. Prater who lives on what is known as the St. John farm says there were 10,000 rails washed away on that farm and fifty acres overflowed. The water rose until it stood three inches deep in Abraham Price's house, and the entire bottom below was submerged. J. H. Hannah's saw mill was washed away, also all his saw logs and a lot of lumber. The Langley boys lost 1,000 bu. of old corn they had penned up near the river. Pleas Manning lost nearly all of his wheat, as did Judge Shambaugh. It is estimated that ten thousand dollars would not repay the damages done on the three farms belonging to Messers Manning, Langley, and Shambaugh.

The damages on Indian and Buffalo creeks were equally as great as that on the other streams mentioned. Taking all together \$150,000 would not more than replace the damage done in the county.

## HIDDEN TREASURES

During the war, Asberry Carter, a single man twenty five or thirty years of age, was one of the residents of Pineville. He was possessed of considerable means, in cash which he kept buried at various places in the vicinity, frequently moving it. J. H. Moffett informs me that he saw one place near where Mr. Foley now lives, where Carter had dug up his money. At another time Mr. Moffett saw where he had dug it up from between two oaks or black jacks on the south side of the river near where Abe Price now lives. It is also reported that it was once buried in what is now Neff's field. The amount is \$2,600, about \$1,900 in gold, the remainder, I believe, all in silver.

One day in 1862 or 1863, Carter went down the river to Thomas Bradley's, who lived about two and one-half miles below Pineville on what is now known as the Bonebrake farm. While there a couple of Indians came along and he and Bradley traded, or talked of trading hats or some other small articles with them. One of the Indians got hold of a handkerchief of Carter's which he did not wish to part with. He snatched it from the Indian's hand whereupon the Indian shot him dead.

As Mr. Carter had never revealed to any one the place where his money was buried, it remains a secret to this day. Some think it is on the bluff east of Mrs. Yonce's residence. Others say it was down the river bottom not far from the grave yard. Others think it is near the schoolhouse. For many years after the war hundreds of searches were made, and every spot that indicated that the soil had been broken was dug up and examined. As late as the summer of 1895 an old gentleman from Kansas thought he had the place located. He was seen day after day near the school house a few yards in front of the dwelling of the writer stepping off the ground first one way and then another, as if carefully measuring the locality. After several days surveying he located the place at the root of a small tree, claiming the money had been hidden in a hollow stump at that point.

Taking a few men into his confidence, he repaired there one night with pick and shovel and made a search. They ascertained the fact that the tree was growing from an old stump that had practically rotted away, but no money was found.

Thus ended the last, as all former searches had ended, in disappointment, and the fortune of Asberry Carter still lies hidden near our little town perhaps within a stone's throw of the home of some family who are suffering for the comforts of life.

## HENRY SCHELL'S MONEY

Henry Schell, father of the several men of that name who now live in this county, was one of the oldest settlers of Mountain township. By his thrift and industry he had not only acquired a good farm, but had considerable money which he kept about the place. When the war came up he kept his money buried as a precaution against robbers which infested the county. The exact amount is not known, but is suspected to be something over \$300. On July 11, 1863, Mr. Schell was killed by some Union scouts who were on a raid in this section of the state. He had never revealed to any one the place where the money was secreted. After the war was over the family felt that they would be safe in possession of it, and began to search for it. Every nook and corner of the premises and buildings was hunted over time and again. The garden was plowed several times and every particle of dirt examined, but years passed by without any return for their labor. Finally some of the money was found in an old stump, the amount not remembered. One day an arrangement had been made for all the interested parties to meet and continue the search. None came but Henry and Jessee Schell, two of the sons. They went to an old stable that was about rotted down and concluded to search there. On digging down by one of the logs they found two hundred and fifty odd dollars. Of the amount found \$112 was in gold, the balance in silver. There is one package of fifty dollars that has never been found. Among the money found in the stable was a 1-frank piece, a 37 ½ cent piece and one counterfeit 50 cent piece. Phillip Schell still has these as keepsakes which he prizes very highly.

## A WOLF STORY

N. C. Stafford and J. H. Cowan, both respectable citizens of Cyclone township, relate quite an interesting adventure with black wolves. When the war ended they, with a few others returned to Sugar creek and all but Stafford went down to Jack Hampton's, he being the only man then left in that vicinity. A turkey hunt had been planned for the night and the party were to meet about dark for the purpose. Stafford, instead of going down to Hampton's, went up to the Stafford premises. He found the timber all on fire and the buildings burning. On his way up he soon heard the sniff of a wolf. Soon another and another, and before he reached where the stables were on fire they were howling within a few yards and becoming more numerous. He went on to where the dwelling was on fire, but the pace grew more numerous and daring, so he made his way a short distance down the hill to an old log building, which had been used as a schoolhouse. He took refuge in this from which he was rescued in a short time by the party who were to meet him at the Stafford place to hunt turkeys.

There was an abundance of game before the war but during that four years in was practically unmolested and increased in great abundance. The woods were full of turkeys and it was an easy matter to find their roosting places and slip up and shoot them in the night. This was the principal way of killing them by some hunters. Such was the plan for the evening in question, and they proceeded in quest of the game. The wolves, however, were turkey hungry too, and followed the party, keeping in the dark so as to be out of danger of their rifles. Plenty of roosts were found and many shots were fired, but in every instance where the turkey fell more than a few yards from the hunters, it was grabbed by a wolf and carried away before they could get to it. Only getting three turkeys during the night out of perhaps as many dozen, the wolves getting the balance. There were a number of dogs along, but after one or two ventures, they could not be driven from the feet of their master.

## ADVENTURE WITH A DEER

N. C. Stafford and J. H. Cowan recount an adventure with a deer that for a time looked quite serious for the parties engaged. They were out hunting and came up with a buck which one of them had wounded where the dogs had caught it in a deep hole in the creek. Mr. Cowan caught it by one horn and pulled it along the drift to the shore where they threw it on its back and prepared to cut its throat. Stafford drew his long hunting knife, but as the cold steel touched the deer's throat it struck Stafford's hand with its hind foot and peeling the skin from his wrist to his knuckles, while the knife whizzed away and stuck in the ground several yards distant. This left them unarmed and they could neither hold on nor let go with safety, but they finally stunned it with rocks so it could be finished with a knife. These two men for some three or four years after the war were engaged in hunting most of the time. A favorite method of killing deer was by "shining their eyes," as it was called. The two would hunt together after night, one carrying a torch while the other carried the gun. The deer would stand and look at the light as though in wonder, while the hunter would take aim between its glistening orbs and bring it down. Besides deer and turkey, they would occasionally get a bear or panther.

## CAPTURING A BEAR

A few years before the war a large black bear on several occasions was seen to take refuge in a cave at the forks of Granny's branch, where is now Joe Mustine's field near Cyclone. Numerous attempts were made to get him out, but without success. One or more parties started to enter the cave and kill or drive him out. But the bear showed fight, and they beat a hasty retreat. Fires were then built in the mouth of the cave to smoke him out. After being satisfied that the bear was overcome with the smoke, they waited until it cleared away when three men with torches started in to search for him. In a few moments they heard a faint cry and one of the three came staggering back with the word that the other two were overcome with "fire damp" and he had just strength to return and give the alarm. Seizing larger torches to drive off the foul air, others rushed to the rescue of their two comrades and brought them out perfectly limber and apparently lifeless. On being returned to the fresh air, however, they soon revived. The dead bear, which weighed about 400 pounds was afterwards taken out, but the meat had spoilt.

## CLAIB STAFFORD'S FIRST BEAR

Mr. Stafford relates the following account of killing his first bear. His father had a corn field and bear were so numerous that they had taken to it and were destroying the corn like a gang of hogs. Claib was quite a small boy, but his father sent him around the field one day to see if all was right, allowing him to take the gun. He heard a noise in the corn near where a large log was lying, at the side of which grew a sapling. He saw something black by this little tree which he thought was a large coon. He put his gun through the fence, took aim at the center of the breast and fired. Being a little uncertain as to his game he started back home, but soon met his father who had heard the gun fire and had started to see what was up. Together they approached the log, and there lay a large bear shot through the heart. The log had concealed the lower part of its body, and its head was hid by the corn and branches of the sapling, exposing only a small part of its breast which he took to be a coon on the side of the little tree.

## ROBBERY OF THE McDONALD COUNTY BANK

Tuesday morning, August 17, 1897, about ten o'clock our usually quiet town was thrown into a fever of excitement by the robbery of the McDonald County Bank.

Mr. Shields was sitting under the awning north of the door, Mr. LaMance just to his left and Mr. Manning was sitting just inside of the door. All three were quietly talking when two men suddenly came around the corner of the building from the north side and told Shields and Manning they wanted the money and wanted it done quick. Mr. Shields began to remonstrate when he was promptly knocked over with a Winchester, and sent on his all-fours after the cash. They were followed into the vault by one of the robbers, a medium-sized man who kept his Winchester presented and with much profanity and threatening urged them to hurry. He produced a sack and compelled them to throw in the money. The other, a large, tall man stood in the door, guarded LaMance and kept watch of the outside movements. He was cautioned by the robber inside to keep his eye on the hardware.

Kin McDonald and Mrs. Plumlee who had just driven up to the hitch rack in a buggy were greeted with the remark, "You just sit still and you shan't be hurt." Of course Kin complied.

LaMance stood twirling a bunch of keys and talking to the man in the door, and at one time the fellow laughed at one of LaMance's droll remarks. He would probably have been thrown off his guard had his demeanor not been observed by the leader inside, who cautioned him to watch more carefully.

They had come into town from the Big Sugar Creek road and hitched their horses at the back of Wear's lot just west of the Baptist church. A small young man, or boy, part Indian was left in the street in front of Col. Hooper's residence. Brit Hooper and Mr. Case who happened to be near were held up by him, and he remarked to Brit that it was no use to get excited in a time like that.

On course it all came like a flash of lightning from a clear sky. The first who saw it thought it some boys scuffling, but as soon as the alarm was given men began to run for guns. But few could be found and most of them were not loaded.

Inside of three minutes they had secured the cash and started for their horses, compelling Shields and Manning to march at a lively trot in front of them thus preventing any shots being fired as they retreated. The robbers rode out as they came in, and a fourth of a mile above Testerman's house they met little Floyd Shields and exchanged horses with him. But one shot was fired, and that was a Winchester shot from one of them fired in the air as they rode off.

They took to the hills about a mile east of town crossed Little Sugar and made for the Indian Territory. Late in the afternoon they were intercepted by a posse as they rode down a gulch into Butler creek bottom. A fight ensued in which two of the robbers were slightly wounded and one horse killed. They abandoned the other horses and took to the brush, the tall man, Whit Tennyson having been separated from the other two by the Shields horse running away with him. Tennyson was captured the next day in the Indian Territory by Joe and Scott Yeargain of Southwest City. He exposed the plot and in a few days the other two were captured at Weir City, Kansas.

The one who stood guard at the horses proved to be Cora Hubbard, a woman in men's attire. She was taken at her father's house in Weir City a few hours after her return. The other one, John Scheets, came in a couple of days later. They were all fully identified and freely acknowledged their guilt. About \$355 of the money was recovered.

Tennyson is a widower 30 years old, Scheets is a young man about twenty-two, and Cora Hubbard is a grass widow twenty-five. Their case is now pending in our circuit court, and it is probable that for this one rash act they will spend a good portion of their lives in the penitentiary.

#### KILLING OF JACK TILLOTSON

On Sunday night, August 30, 1896, a desperate fight took place at the Lumis school house in White Rock township, between Jack Tillotson and Tom Hopper, in which the former was instantly killed and the latter stabbed in several places. The occurrence was especially deplorable from the fact that both were young men, or rather boys, about nineteen years old, and were strangers. They had never spoken to each other except on one occasion they chanced to meet in the road and spoke as they passed.

Rev. James Holloway was holding a series of meetings at the place above named and the two boys were at meeting on the fatal Sunday night. It appears that young Tillotson had taken a girl to church the night before, and on the way home some of the boys hooted at and made fun of them. Among them was one of the Hopper boys, a brother to Tom. On Sunday night the school house was full and perhaps as many outside. Young Hopper was sitting on a rick of wood which was corded up a few yards from the house with a couple of other men. Tillotson approached and in a rude manner asked if he was the fellow that hallooed at him the night before. Hopper replied that he was not. Tillotson said he could whip (applying a very foul name) that hallooed at him. Hopper said he was in a crowd but did not halloa. Tillotson twice more repeated the epithet, when Hopper said "You can't whip me," and struck Tillotson in the face. In the fight Hopper was stabbed in the breast, on both wrists, and had a cut in the thigh some four inches deep. He threw himself back on the wood and while getting up was struck once or twice with a stick of wood. As he was getting up he drew a 44-caliber revolver and fired, the ball passed through Tillotson's body near the heart, killing him instantly.

Hopper was indicted for murder in the second degree the following January, and tried at the August court.

#### MURDER OF GEORGE SMITH

Pineville Democrat, March 19, 1897.

Last Sunday night, March 14, 1897, just as divine services were closed and the congregation dismissed at what is known as Old Bethpage Baptist church, on North Elkhorn creek, and as he was in the act of putting on his overcoat, George W. Smith was coolly and deliberately shot down without warning by one John Arnold, a boy about 19 years old. The shot was fired from the outside, the ball passing through a pane of glass in one of the middle windows on the east side of the church striking its victim in the right temple, passing slightly upward through the right lobe and into the left lobe of the brain, there deflecting and passing into the back of the head where it was found lying in the brain when the autopsy was made after death.

From the time the shot was fired at twenty minutes to nine o'clock Sunday night he lay in a comatose state until death came at twenty minutes past twelve o'clock on Monday. In his critical condition it was impossible to move him to his home, only about one hundred and twenty-five yards from the church, so that he died within a few feet of where he was shot and buried from the church at two o'clock on Tuesday, the whole population of the country turning out to pay its last tribute of respect to one whom all honored and loved.

Young Arnold had been seen at the window and talked with by some of the young men outside and had refused to enter the church with them. The excitement in the church at the time was intense, and after a few minutes parties started out to search for the assassin and Arnold having been seen at the window and then suddenly disappearing suspicion pointed to him. An hour or such a matter after the shooting parties went to the home of Ol Mosier about a mile north of the church, after castor oil and found that Arnold was there and in bed. The Constable and Squire Mosier were notified, a warrant issued, and he was taken into custody by Constable Hines about midnight.

Sheriff Jarrett and Prosecutor Clay were notified as quickly as possible Monday morning, and Mr. Clay being unable to go on account of trying a criminal case here that morning, Sheriff Jarrett and Judge W. E. Smith went as quickly as possible to the scene, arriving there about noon. Arnold was arraigned before Squire Mosier and waived examination and was committed to jail, the Sheriff taking charge of and bringing him to Pineville, himself, prisoner and Judge Smith leaving there about four o'clock and arriving here a little after dark, and the Sheriff landed him in the Neosho jail the next day. Excitement ran quite high in the country where the assassination occurred, and had the people been positive that the right party had been caught it is believed by many that he would have been lynched.

He seemed to take every thing very coolly, and that night while being guarded here made a confession, deliberately acknowledging that he did it, telling all about how he did it, and implicating other parties, saying that he was to have, or had got \$25.00 for it. He said he had nothing in the world against Mr. Smith personally. His confession was reduced to writing and he swore to it. Arnold has lived in that locality most of the time for six or seven years past, and is an orphan. In some ways he may not be over bright, but at the same time he is a cunning, shrewd fellow and by no means unaccountable. He used a 38 caliber five chamber revolver, and the same day had shown it to some of the boys, showing them that he had five cartridges in the revolver and six in his pocket. The shell of the eleventh was picked up about seventy-five yards from the church near a tree the next morning. This shell and the bullet extracted from the brain of Mr. Smith exactly fitted Arnold's revolver.

## TIFF CITY

This enterprising little town was platted by S. L. Hopkins, August 6, 1881. Hopkins platted an addition in 1883, and E. W. DePue laid out another addition in 1886.

The town is situated on Buffalo creek where it crosses the State line. It has a population of about 200 people, and contains several enterprising and well conducted business establishments. It has a good portion of Buffalo and Patterson creek valleys, besides some prairie and extensive flat woods from which to draw its custom in the State, and is adjacent to a fertile tract of country in the Indian Territory.

The name was suggested by the mineral substance of that name which abounds in the vicinity of the spring. The town was incorporated several years ago, but after an experiment of several months the city government was abandoned. During this time a number of men got on a spree and undertook to run the town. They bluffed off two or three of the officers, sending some of them home for repairs. Ed Hopkins, one of the deputies, commanded the peace and was assaulted by the rioters. He drew his pistol and shot John Caulk, one of the, dead. It was in Tiff City that Minnie DePue, a girl in her teens, shot and instantly killed John Lewis, a man of family, in defense of her honor. They used to scrap a little down there, but in recent years the place has become quite peaceable and the moral element prevails.

## Chapter 13

### BIOGRAPHICAL

**A. A. Adams**, familiarly known as Allen, is a son of Jeff and Mary E. Adams, who for many years were familiar citizens of Buffalo township. He was born in Texas, January 17, 1864. In 1867 his parents came to this county and located on the Sugar Fork of Buffalo creek. His mother died in 1888, his father in 1894. He and Miss Ada L. Hayes were united in marriage August 11, 1889. She bore him three children, all of whom are now living. She died November 20, 1894. Mrs. Adams was reared on his father's farm, and attended the district schools what time he could be spared from the farm duties. He followed that occupation until October, 1895, when he bought an interest in the Coy Mills, since which time he has been interested in that business, being now located at Tiff City. He has given his attention to the various details of the business until he has become almost as familiar with the milling business as the farm work. At present he is engaged in running the engine and assistant manager of the business of the firm.

**Andrew D. Anderson**, of McMillin township, son of Robert and Hester Anderson, was born in Barry county, Missouri, September 3, 1840. Five years later his parents moved to this county and settled what is now the Schmidt farm, since which time the subject of this sketch has principally been a resident on this county. He enlisted August 2, 1862, in Co. H. Sixth Kansas Cavalry Volunteers, and served until June 22, 1865. The last ten months of the war he was a prisoner at Tyler, Texas. He was first married December 7, 1865, to Rachel L. Mizer of Tennessee. To them were born seven children after which she died. Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Malinda C. Hamilton, a widow with three children, were married September 28, 1880. To them another seven children were born. He at first joined the Baptist church, but afterwards withdrew and joined the North Methodist of which denomination he was for many years a local preacher. His present widow, after her marriage with Mr. Anderson, also withdrew from the Baptist and joined the church to which he belonged. He was a prosperous farmer and at the time of his death, November 1895, owned a farm of over 200 acres. He lived an exemplary life, highly respected by all who knew him and greatly beloved by his wife and children to whom he had ever been a kind husband and father.

**Robert Anderson** was born in Grayson county, Virginia, February 1, 1831. Here he lived until he was about 18 years old, when he went to Tennessee, and from there to this county in 1861. One of the first scenes he remembered of seeing after reaching this country was the holding of court on a big flat rock at the forks of the two Sugar creeks. He was first married to Nancy Testerman, of Ash county, North Carolina in 1848. After bearing seven children four of whom are still living she died and was buried at Beaver Springs cemetery. He served in the quarter master's department one year under Gen. Price. Mr. Anderson has been appointed post master four different times and served in all about twenty years, holding the position at Erie, Baladan, and Anderson. He established the latter office in 1887, and the town incidentally bears his name. He was justice of the peace four years at Erie and Indian Springs. By occupation he is a merchant and mechanic, having sold goods for upwards of twenty years, and has built 21 houses in this county.

**Zach Baker**, our present efficient county clerk, is one of the most prominent men of McDonald county. He is a son of Judge Hiram Baker, and was born in Wayne county this State in 1846. His parents came to this county in 1853, where the subject of this sketch was principally reared. He received a fair education in the common schools, mostly in Camden county, where they went during a portion of the war. He was especially efficient in figures and penmanship. He was married in 1879, and they have seven children, all living. Mr. Baker or Zach as every body calls him, has been nominated by the Republicans and Independents several times, and came within a few votes of being elected when the opposition had some 300 majority. In 1886 he was elected county assessor, which office he filled with credit, and his work received the approval of the Democratic county officials. In 1894 he was elected to the office which he now holds. By

occupation he is a farmer and knows what hard work is. He is a minister in the Christian church, and seems to be a great favorite with the young couples who are matrimonially inclined.

**A. H. Barlow**, one of the oldest and most respected citizens of this county, was born near Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1818. When he was quite a small boy his parents moved to Tennessee where they died. He came to Neosho in 1841, and has lived in Newton and McDonald counties ever since. He received his education at home, studying at night by light of pine knots. He married Elizabeth Gibson in Tennessee, they had twelve children, four of whom are dead. Of the living, two are in Colorado, two in the Choctaw Nation, one in Kansas, one at Neosho, one at Stella, and one near Miami, I.T. Some years after the death of his first wife he married the widow Michael of Newton county. They have three children all living. One at Anderson, one in Ark. and one in Colorado. Mr. Barlow was originally a Whig, and says he sticks to it yet, but voted for Bryan last fall. He has been a carpenter, cabinet maker and mill wright. During the war he lived on a small farm near Neosho most of the time, but finally went to Neosho and followed the Union army. During the war his house and fences were all burnt, but they caught from the forest fires. He says the Rebels treated him well and he never had an enemy in his life.

**Samuel D. Best** was born January 3, 1829, in Lincoln county, North Carolina. His parents moved to Tennessee when he was but 18 months old, where he was brought up. He was first married in Blunt county, Tenn., in 1851, and has 15 children, 13 of whom are still living. He is now living with his second wife to whom he was married in the north part of this state a few years ago. In early life he attended school at Perryville, Tenn., where he acquired his education. Mr. Best has quite an interesting war record, having served three years under Stanley and Sheridan. He was in many battles, among which were Perryville, Nashville, Murfreesborough and Knoxville. He was First Lieutenant, Co. D., Second Tenn. Cavalry; was wounded near Murfreesborough in March, 1863, and some time later resigned on account of disability. Mr. Best is a farmer by occupation, and owns a comfortable home on the Pineville and Indian Springs Road.

**H. B. Bosserman**, son of Jacob Eve (Hanger) Bosserman, was born in Augusta county, Virginia, January 5, 1841. His parents lived and died in that state. When the war came up, Mr. Bosserman lived where the active scenes of the great conflict was going on. He enlisted in 25<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry and served two months when he was taken prisoner at the battle of Rich Mountain. He was paroled by Gen. McClelland, and exchanged that fall. Those were times when much of the supplies for the people were made at home, and the looms and spinning whells were brought into use. Mr. Bosserman was a very fine mechanic, and the time of his exchange was sick for some time. As soon as his health would permit, he started to join his regiment. But he was well acquainted with them as a workman, and they vouched for his good conduct and loyalty to the Confederacy and he was permitted to remain at home the rest of the war, making spinning wheels, looms, and other necessary articles. In 1869 he and Miss Lucretia M. Ludwick were united in wedlock. They have one child dead, and two living: Eugenia (Hargrove) and Emmett Guy. He left Virginia in 1872, went to Texas, then to Illinois, and came to McDonald county where he is doing a good business.

**L. W. Carlyle**, the subject of this sketch was born in Delaware county, Indiana, October 17, 1850. He remained in that state, attending the district schools during his boyhood until 1870, at which time he came to McDonald county. December 28, 1876, he was united in marriage with Miss Callie C. Stevenson of this county. They have seven children, Flora E., Franklin, John, Vernon, Howard, Lemuel, and Lois.

He has been collector of Southwest City three years, street commissioner five years and city marshal five years, all of which speak of his moral worth and standing among the people. He is a member of the M. E. Church, south, an Odd Fellow and Mason. In politics, he is a Republican, and is counted as one of the leading men of that party. He has never sought or held an office outside of his city, though his name has been mentioned on one or two occasions as a candidate on the county ticket. Should he ever come before the people they can rest assured that an honest and competent man will be asking for their favors.

**J. L. Carnell**, for several years an honored citizen of this county was born in Virginia, March 13, 1833. His wife, Mrs. E. J. Carnell, was born in Kentucky November 23, 1835. They were married in Cass county, Missouri from which place they moved to Texas when went to Barton county, Arkansas and from that place to McDonald county. They had ten children, nine of whom are still living. Among them is the subject of this sketch.

**T. J. Carnell** was born in Benton county, Arkansas, June 4, 1872, and is consequently 25 years of age. He came with his parents to this county in 1889. He attended the district schools in Arkansas, and the public school at Pineville after they came to this county where he acquired a fair business education. On January 16, 1895 he and Miss Florence M. Clemons were united in marriage. Their union has been blessed with one child, Hazle B. now aged two years. Mr. Carnell was reared on a farm which occupation he followed until a couple of years ago, since which time he has been running a saw mill. Being a man of energy and industry he is making a success of his business, and is manufacturing and selling a large amount of lumber. Politically he is a Democrat, having been brought up in that faith, but his adherence to the party would never induce him to forget a personal favor or one who had befriended him.

**Dr. A. U. Chase** of Tiff City is one of our leading physicians who at the age of 30 years, has established a practice that often taxes his strength to the utmost. He has excellent success with his patients, and his agreeable manners, and regard for the feelings of others make him a general favorite with the people. He is a son of John R. and Fannie Chase, of Newton county. He was born in Ray county, this state, August 10, 1867. When he was two years old his parents came to Newton county. He obtained a fair education in the common schools, availing himself of every opportunity to gain knowledge. In 1887 he came to Tiff City and began the study of medicine with Dr. A. J. McKinney, finishing up his course at Marion Sims College of Medicine, St. Louis. He and Miss Mary Keenan, a daughter of the late Peter Keenan of this county were married, in 1891. They have three children. They have an elegant home at Tiff City on a portion of the old Cummings farm, where he and his estimable wife are enjoying the comforts of life and reaping the rewards of a well merited and successful career.

**John B. Christensen.** John Benjamin Christensen was born in Malta Bend, Saline county, Missouri, April 2, 1876. In 1877 his parents moved near Odessa, Missouri where they lived until 1887, when they went to Kansas City which place was John's home until he and his wife came to McDonald county to take up their residence. He received his education in the public schools. From the Westport High School entering the Law Department of the Missouri State University in September, 1893, he graduated from that Institution in June, 1895, at the age of nineteen and as valedictorian of a class in which he was the youngest student. Besides having attained the highest standard of proficiency during the whole course, he had the distinction of writing a prize thesis on a legal subject submitted by the Law Faculty, the Judge of merit being the Chief Justice of the Missouri Supreme Court. He was admitted to the bar before the Supreme Court, June 7, 1895, since which time he has devoted himself to the practice.

Among the young men who have risen to distinction in this county is **George R. Clay**. He was born at Aurora, Ill., July 23, 1870, and came with his parents, M. W. and Nancy L. Clay, to Newton county Missouri in 1880. He attended the country school near his home a few years then went to school near his home a few years then went to school at Fort Scott, Kansas and Kansas City, Mo., until he received a good education. He then entered the law office of Col. Cloud at Pierce City where he read law until admitted to the bar at Neosho in 1892. During the Cherokee payment in 1894 he was in the Indian Territory buying Cherokee warrants for the Grand Forks, South Dakota National Bank. In January, 1895, he located at Pineville to practice his profession, and from the first made a phenomenal success. Though young and inexperienced in the practice, he won nearly all his cases and the first year made more money than any other lawyer ever made in this county in the same time. In 1896 he was nominated by the Democratic party for Prosecuting Attorney, and endorsed by the Populist. In the election which followed he received a majority over his opponent of 556 votes. Since taking charge of the office he has proven a vigorous prosecutor and is administering his office with credit to the party which elected him. Mr. Clay is a man of brilliant intellect and will evidently rise to distinction in his profession.

**Rev. Theodore A. Coffelt, M. D.** is the fifth son of Wyatt Coffelt, who now lives in Bentonville, Ark., aged 85 years. Dr. Coffelt was born on Buffalo, McDonald county Missouri April 10, 1855. He was reared and educated in Benton county Ark., where his father moved to when he was quite young. He studied medicine and attended the Medical Department of the Vanderbilt University at Nashville, Tenn. in 1883-84. He began the practice of medicine in Benton county, Ark., in April 1884. In Oct., 1885, he was married to Miss Mary C. Clayton. Dr. Coffelt graduated at the Missouri Medical College, St. Louis Mo. March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1886. He continued practice in Arkansas until January 1892 when he moved to St. Louis. Here he took a Post Graduate course in diseases of the eye and was appointed as an assistant in the Eye Clinic under Dr. Chas. E. Michel in the Polyclinic and Post Graduate School of Medicine. In April 1893 he was licensed to preach as a local minister in the M. E. Church South, and June 1893 moved to Carthage Mo. where he practiced as a Specialist in eye and ear diseases until Sept. 1895 when he was admitted on trial into South West Mo. Conference held at Webb City Mo., by Bishop Duncan and was appointed to the Pineville Circuit. While at Carthage he was appointed by the Pension Dept. as special examiner for southwest Missouri in eye and ear diseases. He has served this Charge for two years and has been successful in building up the church; has secured 95 into the church, built three good church houses and a beautiful and substantial parsonage during these two years of labor for the church. He has been very successful as a physician and enjoys considerable reputation as an Oculist. As a preacher he is able and earnest, and a great honor to the calling. He has three children two boys and one girl.

**James H. Cowan**, son of David and Matilda Cowan was born in Barton county, Alabama, Dec. 24, 1840. His parents moved to Tenn. and from there to Missouri in 1853, and settled where the subject of this sketch now lives, on Big Sugar creek near Cyclone. He attended school at the Love school house in Elk Horn township. In 1872 he was united in marriage with Miss Hannah Phillips, but she died two weeks later. The next year he married her sister Mary. She lived twelve years and bore five children, three of whom are living — Nancy (Cook), Marcus Andrew, and David C., all in this county. Mr. Cowan is a farmer by occupation, a staunch Republican in politics, and for fifteen years has been a member of the Missionary Baptist Church. He enlisted in Co. M. Sixth Mo. Cavalry September 1, 1861; again in Fifteenth Mo. Cav. Nov. 1, 1863. He served as Corporal for some time, and was elected Lieutenant, but the war closed before his commission came.

**Hugh Dabbs**. With some individuals the Battle of Life seems but a series of brilliant victories, and such has been the career of our former citizen, Hugh Dabbs. While he was born in Madison county, Arkansas, he has lived from early childhood in this county. His father died when Hugh was four years old, and left his wife, Susan Dabbs, with a large family of small children. They lived near Rocky Comfort, and Hugh spent his boyhood days helping to clear out a farm on the flat woods. He was always studious and as soon as he could procure a certificate began teaching school. He saved his money and took a course of study in the academy at Corsicana, Barry county. In 1890 he graduated from the Law department of the State University at Columbia, and began the practice that year at Pineville. He held the highest grade in his class at the University and wrote the Prize Thesis. That fall he was elected prosecuting attorney, which office he held four years. He rapidly rose to distinction in his profession and now, at the age of thirty-two, ranks among the leading lawyers of Newton County. He located at Neosho in 1895, where he has an elegantly furnished office, a fine library, and is doing a large practice.

**C. E. Davis**, son of W. R. and E. E. Davis, was born in the City of Cincinnati in 1870. When he was about seven years of age his parents moved to Joplin, this state, where they resided some ten years. During their residence in Joplin they made several trips back to their native place, and came to this county occasionally. Dr. Davis being in poor health the changes were made in hopes of effecting his recovery. He died in 1882. Clarence attended the public schools at Joplin

where he obtained a good business education. With his mother, he came to McDonald county about ten years ago and settled on a farm near Noel. This he cultivated until the town of Noel began to be a place of note, when he went there and took and has done a business that is surprising for a town no larger than Noel. He, also, has a good livery stable and runs the Noel & Southwest City mail and hack line. In 1890 he was married to Miss Neta Farmer, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Farmer, of Pineville. They have two children.

**Edwin Tyler Doty**, was born in Cayuga county, New York, December 4, 1844. At the age of 15 years he moved to the state of Michigan. When the war broke out he enlisted in Fourth Michigan Infantry and served until his time expired. After the war he entered the college at Ann Arbor, Michigan and graduated in the Medical department in March, 1870. In 1883 he came to Southwest Missouri, residing in McDonald county two years, and in Joplin over seven years. He then located at Anderson, December 1892, and embarked in the drug business in connection with the practice of medicine. During Cleveland's second term Mrs. Doty was postmaster at Anderson, and every doctor enjoys a good practice, has a good trade in the store, and he and his lady stand high in the estimation of the people.

**J. A. Doty.** Joseph A. Doty was born in McDonough County, Illinois, January 10, 1864. His parents moved to Johnson County, Missouri, when he was two years old, but owing to the unsettled condition and lawlessness that existed there after the close of the war, the Doty family moved to Clark County, Iowa. Here young Doty worked on his father's farm and attended school, having to walk a mile and a half to reach the schoolhouse. In 1877 his parents removed to Osborne County, Kansas, where Joseph grew to manhood, and in the year 1883 was wedded to Miss Laura A. Beck. In the fall of 1887 he landed in Southwest City, Missouri, a stranger in a strange land. He soon made acquaintances and friends, and determined to case his lot with the people of McDonald county, and make Southwest City his permanent home.

Just after the election in the fall of 1888 Mr. Doty conceived the idea of establishing a Republican paper in the county and set about to secure a plant. The latter part of December, 1888, a small printing outfit was purchased, and on January 10, 1889, the first issue of the Enterprise was printed. This was the first Republican paper published in the county and, as the party was unorganized, it was predicted by many that the paper would soon suspend as it would not be able to secure the proper support to make it a success. It certainly did look like a rash venture, right in Democracy's stronghold, but under the guiding hand of Mr. Doty the Enterprise continued to grow, and today is one of the leading papers in Southwest Missouri. The success of the paper is due to his able management. He has ever been a faithful exponent of Republican principles, at the same time avoiding offensive matter, so that persons of all parties took pleasure in reading his paper.

Mr. Doty has twice been elected Mayor of Southwest City, and holds that position at the present time. In 1894 he was prominently mentioned for State Senator from the 15<sup>th</sup> District of Missouri.

**C. E. Duval.** Claib E. Duval, son of W. C. Duval of Pineville, was born at Rutledge, the old county seat, December 25, 1858, and has lived here the greater part of his life. He secured a good education in the public schools at Pineville. In 1872 he went into a printing office and learned the trade, and has been in the newspaper business nearly all the time since. One of his first ventures was the Saratoga Eagle, which he published while that town was in its prime. He also set up the forms for the first paper that was printed in Southwest City.

He was publisher of the Pineville News for many years, and which he made one of the best papers in the county. He sold that paper in the fall of 1893, but after trying a couple of other locations, returned in a few months and started the Herald, which he still publishes.

In September, 1987, he entered into a copartnership with P. L. Carnell, and bought the mercantile establishment and good will of A. C. Walters, and they are now one of the leading firms of the county seat.

He and Miss Mary J. Hamilton, who was born and raised in Indiana, were married at Eldorado Springs, Arkansas, February 23, 1882. They have four children - two girls and two boys - Clarice, Claude, Bessie, and Vincil - aged respectively 14, 11, 9 and 6 years.

**Dr. J. E. Edelen.** Johnson E. Edelen, son of Joseph B. and Agnes O. Edelen, was born in Washington City, D. C., November 15, 1848. He attended school at Georgetown college and afterwards graduated at the Cecilian College, Hardin county, Kentucky. He read medicine in his father's office some four years after which he graduated in the medical department of the University at Louisville, Kentucky, at which place his father had located after the war.

In 1871 the doctor went to Fort Smith, Arkansas, where he remained about a year. He then went back to Louisville and remained until after his father's death, and then located a few years at Bardstown, Ky. He then went to Colorado on account of his health, and remained about four years. He came to Pineville in 1886, since which time he has been practicing medicine and operating a drug store. He was married July 20, 1871 to Miss Mattie B. Carroll, of Arkansas, a

grand niece of Charles Carroll of Carrolton who signed the Declaration of Independence. His mother was a niece of the distinguished Rev. Abercombie of Philadelphia. They have two children living, Joseph and Katie. he has twice been elected coroner of this county by a large majority over a popular opponent and filled the office with great credit.

**D. S. Elliff** was born in McDonald county, Missouri, March 11, 1867, and has lived here all of this life. He received a good education in the district schools and when quite a young man taught three terms, but he preferred the life of a farmer and has followed that occupation since. July 9, 1888, he and Miss Nettie B. Elliott, daughter of Judge Elliott of this county, were united in marriage. They have had three children, Inez, Monroe and Goldie. Inez died February 21, 1897, at the age of seven years. When but eighteen years of age Mr. Elliff united when the Baptist church of which he has ever since been a consistent member. He was lecturer of the Farmer's Alliance of this county for two years. He has been a leading member of the Populist party for many years, and his integrity and hard work were rewarded after the campaign of 1896 by the appointment to a lucrative position in the House of Representatives, 39, General Assembly. At the present time he is a member of the Populist Congressional and State Executive Committees.

**J. L. Elliff.** Mr. Elliff was born in Lawrence county this state, May 26, 1855. His parents came to McDonald county in 1866, and Jesse has made this his home ever since. He improved every opportunity to attend school and was granted a certificate and taught his first term in 1874. Mr. Elliff has twice been principal of the Southwest City public schools and is a prominent teacher of the county. He is Sunday School Superintendent and clerk of the Baptist church at Anderson, and is a member of the I. O. O. F. In 1890 he was appointed clerk at the Qua Paw Agency, and served fifteen months after Cleveland's inauguration. He filled the position with honor to himself and with credit to his country and the administration. He stands high with the department and is well versed in Indian affairs. He is an untiring Republican worker and in 1884 was a delegate to the county, congressional and state conventions, and a member of the congressional committee. Mr. Elliff is the owner of a good residence in Anderson, and is a substantial citizen of the county. He is now keeping a hotel at Anderson, and is doing a thriving business as a real estate agent.

**Peter D. Etue,** born in Perth county, Ontario, June 29, 1846. Educated in the common schools until 14 years of age when he entered the office of the Mitchell Advocate to learn the art of printing.

At the age of 16 ran away from home and went to Buffalo, N.Y. where he enlisted in the 14<sup>th</sup> N.Y. Cavalry, serving until April 24, 1866. After a few months at home in Canada, returned to the U.S. and became a citizen at Flint, Michigan in 1868. Removed to St. Louis in 1879, working on the old St. Louis Republican, and various job printing offices until 1871, when he became connected with the Kansas City Times. Established the Kansas City Live-Stock Indicator in 1878, and sold out in 1893. The panic of that year resulted disastrously for him and he lost the accumulation of years. After a residence of over a quarter of a century in K. C. he came to Anderson in September 1896, purchasing the Anderson Messenger, which he renamed the Advocate, and he runs as an independent (not neutral) local journal. In politics he has always affiliated with the Democrats, and was elected member of the Common Council in Kansas City 1878-79 as such. He is an anti-protectionist and a free silver man, also a believer in the Single Tax doctrine.

**M. C. Falkenbury.** Mathew Clark Falkenbury was born in Mercer county, Illinois, on July 19, 1861, and was raised in Washington County, that state, up to the age of 18 years. He acquired an education mostly in common schools and was graduated in the Bachelor of Science degree at the Central Normal College of Danville, Indiana, in 1884, and came west in the same year. In 1888 he founded the Southwest Leader at Southwest City. He was married to Miss Grace McClain of Coffeyville, Kansas, in 1888. His father, Don A. Falkenbury is a native of eastern New York who emigrated to Illinois at an early day and later to Florida. His mother, Miranda E. Miller, was raised at Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Falkenbury is a man of superior ability and publishes a paper of which Southwest City and McDonald County should be proud.

**F. A. Freeze.** Furlon A. Freeze, son of Elbert F. S. and Eliza J. (Hankins) Freeze, was born in Barry County, Mo., January 29, 1870, his parents having come to this state from Tennessee. He was brought up on a farm and attended the district schools during the winters. He went to the Cassville High School four years, Exeter two years, and the Baptist College at Pierce City one year.

In 1888 he began teaching and has followed that work since, except while attending school, which he alternated with teaching as he could secure funds to pay expenses. In 1892 he took a trip through Kansas, Colorado and Texas looking for a more favorable location, but returned to Southwest Missouri after an absence of ten months. In 1896 he edited the Pineville Democrat for 8 months, but sold his interest in the paper and took charge of a school. He was elected constable of Pineville township on the Democratic ticket in 1896. The 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1896, he and Miss Effie Farmer, one of Pineville's most intelligent and popular young ladies, were married. Both are members of the Baptist church. After remaining in this county from 1894 to the spring of 1897, he returned to Barry county where he owns a nice farm and is also following his profession of teacher.

**T. C. Gilbreath**, son of John and Mary Gilbreath, was born in LaPorte county, Indiana in 1846. In 1852 his parents moved to Iowa and from there to Harrison county, Missouri in 1855. When the war broke out they went to Des Moines, Iowa where he attended school. He was married in Newton county, Mo. May 8, 1870, to Miss R. M. Mickens, formerly of Story county, Iowa. They have had six children, five of whom are living. He came to McDonald county in 1893 from Jasper county, where he had lived for several years. He operated a saw mill first on Big Sugar, then near Pineville, where he did a thriving business. He sold his mill and tried farming awhile, but afterwards resumed his former occupation, and is apparently master of the art. In 1896 he was elected justice of the peace of Anderson township which position he fills with credit. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. and Encampment of O. F. Politically he is a Greenbacker.

**Dan Harmon**, son of Mark and Elizabeth Harmon, was born in Green County, Tenn., July 22, 1833. His parents came to McDonald county in 1847, and from that time until the present the Harmons have been among the leading people of this county. Dan remained with his parents five years after their arrival here, during which time he went to school three months, Moses Pollard being the teacher. In 1852 he went to California to seek his fortune in the gold diggings. He drove an ox team and was six months and one day on the road. It is useless to remark that Mr. Harmon did not die on the road, but he passed through the desert where for miles the trail was lined with the carcasses of dead cattle and horses and the bones of many human beings were bleaching in the sun where they had perished from heat and thirst. He remained west of the Rocky mountains thirteen years, returning in 1865. On his return he brought with him \$5,500, and spent \$1,000 on his way home.

In December, 1866, he and Miss Nancy J. Walker, daughter of Hon. Claudius B. Walker of this county, were married. They have had eight children, five of whom are living. Mr. Harmon was public administrator for a few years after the war. He has served as Justice of the Peace and post master. For some years he was in the mercantile business at Erie, where he enjoyed a good trade until burnt out. He owns a fine farm on Indian creek where he lives in good comfortable style, and where he and Mrs. Harmon dispense hospitality to their numerous friends in a truly royal manner.

**J. Turner Horner**, son of Dr. John T. and Mary Horner, was born July 26, 1866, in Webster county, Missouri. When he was but six weeks old his parents moved to Barry county, where Mr. Horner spent his boyhood and youth. He received a good education at Cassville, and began teaching at the age of twenty years. He soon became one of the leading teachers in Barry county, and was several times teacher of some of the best schools in that county, and was principal of the Purdy school in 1889. January 1, 1888 he was united in marriage with Miss Mattie Jessee of Cassville, Missouri. They have three children, two girls and one boy. In 1889 he moved to McDonald county to take charge of the Pineville school of which he was principal that year and the next. He was again elected to the same position for the term of 1896-7, all of which he filled with credit. In the campaign of 1894, he was a contestant before the Republican County Convention for Representative, but on being defeated, was unanimously tendered, the nomination for Presiding Judge of the County court, to which honorable and responsible position he was elected the following November. As an officer he has performed his duty ably and honestly. He now resides at Rocky Comfort where he has a comfortable home and follows his chosen profession, that of teacher. He was elected principal of the Rocky Comfort High School for the school year 1897-98.

**P. A. Horton** was born in Benton county, Arkansas, August 17, 1869. He is a son of Daniel and Sarah (Graham) Horton. His father died a short time before he was born and his mother, who remarried, lived only about a year afterwards. His mother and stepfather moved from Arkansas to Joplin where they remained a short time when they came to McDonald county. Press, as he is usually called, was raised on Indian creek near Erie. In 1890 he and Miss Sarah Bogle were united in marriage; they have three children, all of whom are living. He has spent most of his life on a farm and hopes some day to own a good one of his own. For the past year or more he has been interested in the saw mill business. He belongs to the Democratic party with which he has voted ever since he arrived at his majority, and from which he sees no reason to change.

**Mr. Huckins** was born Aug. 3, 1849, in Iriquois county, Illinois. His youth was spent near Kankakee and Chicago and at Elgin, Illinois. In 1867 he was married to Miss Ann Porter. To them was born a boy, James who is still living. Mrs. Huckins died several years ago. In 1869 he went to White Cloud, Kansas, and for five years traveled over that state as a photographer. He afterwards located at Craig, Missouri, on the Kansas City, Omaha & Council Bluffs rail road, where he carried on a wagon shop. At this place he held the office of city clerk, assessor and collector. In 1879 his establishment was destroyed by the flood. He made a boat in which he rowed out to his shop, secured what tools he could find and then floated down the river to Kansas City. From there he came to Seneca, where he remained two years. In 1881 he located at Tiff City where for the last sixteen years he has kept a wagon shop, been notary public, justice of the peace, post master and local attorney. Although the office is one of considerable importance, he has held it under both Dem. and Rep. administrations, which speaks well for him as a public man. Some years after coming to this county he was united in

marriage with Mrs. Nancy J. Foster, by whom he has three children. He united with the M. E. Church, South, in 1887. In an Off Fellow, Good Templar, and belongs to the Sons of Temperance, of which order he has been State Deputy. He is also a member of the A. O. U. W., Select Knights, and Woodmen of the World.

**Harry S. Jackson**, is a son of S. H. and Mary Jackson, formerly of Tennessee, but now citizens of this county. Harry was born in Neosho, Missouri, June, 1873, consequently is still a young man. He attended the public schools at Neosho until the year 1887, when with his parents he came to McDonald county and located at Caverna. By improving his time in school he secured a good business education, which he has since improved by practical use and by a general course of useful and instructive reading, so that now he is counted as one of the best posted young men of the county. He was put to work in the mill at Caverna some years ago and thoroughly learned the business. He now has charge of the mill and is making a success of the enterprise, which is due to his good management and courteous treatment of all with whom he deals. The probabilities are that in the years to come he will rise to distinction among our people.

**J. A. Jackson.** John Alonzo Jackson, oldest son of Samuel H. and Mary J. Jackson, was born in Neosho, Missouri, March 16, 1870. He received a good education in the common schools of Neosho, where he spent his childhood and youth. He and Miss Ester Page of Neosho were married December 4, 1892. They have one child, Marguiritte, born at Neosho, Nov. 21, 1893. From July, 1889 to May 1892 he was deputy circuit clerk of Newton county. Is a member of the First Congregational church of Neosho. Has never held an office.

Mr. Jackson has always taken an active part in politics, having been secretary of the Newton county executive committee, president of the Republican club of Neosho and chairman of the Republican executive committee of that city. He stumped Newton county in behalf of the Republican party in 1892, 1894 and 1896. He was admitted to the bar in May 1892 and practiced in Neosho until February, 1897, when he located to Pineville. Here is building up a good reputation and with it a good legal business, having proven himself a lawyer of fine abilities.

**Joseph W. Kelley.** The subject of this sketch was born in Kosciusko County, Indiana, three miles south of the city of Warsaw. Like nearly all country boys he had to depend on the district school for an education, going to such school during the winter months only. He lived and worked on the farm until June, 1862, when he went into the United States army, being a member of Co., "K" 74<sup>th</sup> Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He served with his company to the close of the war, participating in the battles of Green River, Mumfordsville Kentucky, Hoovers Gap, Tennessee, Chickamauga, Missionary Ride and the battles and skirmishes of the Great Atlanta campaign, and marched with Sherman to the sea. After the war he went to Iowa, then to the far northwest where he participated in several skirmishes with others fighting hostile Indians. After several years in the mountains and on the plains he returned to Indiana, remaining there for a few years, then back to Iowa, and then to McDonald County, Missouri, in April, 1893. With J. H. Qualls he established the Anderson Messenger in June, 1893, and in November, 1893, disposed of his interest to Mr. Qualls; on December 1<sup>st</sup> of the same year assumed charge of the Pineville Democrat for W. E. Smith and Co., who had just purchased the office.

He remained with Smith and Company for two years and then with F. A. Freeze who had become interested in the office, until August 1896, when he assumed control of the paper by purchase and lease and is still its editor and publisher. Under his management the paper has steadily increased in circulation and influence and is regarded with favor and confidence by its party and adherents as well as the people at large. He is a free silver Democrat at all the time and under all circumstances.

July 2, 1893, he was married to Miss Kate L. Neff of Pineville. To them have been born one daughter Miss Viola, a bright little Miss of three summers. Mr. Kelley came to McDonald County on account of poor health, and the result is that our fine climate and pure water made a comparatively well man of him, and he now thinks this the county of all communities for the poor in health as well as the poor in purse.

**Mrs. Lora S. LaMance.** Lora S. Nichols was born in Wolcottville, Indiana, April 2, 1857. Her father, Nelson Nichols was a native of New York, and her mother, Keziah (Waltman) of Pennsylvania. Lora received a liberal education in the States of Minnesota and Ohio, but was compelled to quit school before graduating on account of ill health. She came to Southwest Missouri in 1878. April 14, 1880, she and M. N. LaMance of Pineville were united in marriage. They have one child, Lora, who is now attending college at Neosho. They have an elegant home, and for many years the beautiful plants and flowers have been an object of attraction to all of our people.

Mrs. LaMance early developed talent as an authoress, but did not begin writing for the press until 1888. Her natural taste for flowers, and the "beautiful in life" inspired her pen and her literary productions soon gained notoriety. Besides fugitive pieces she has written three horticultural books, "House Plants," "Beautiful Home Surroundings," and "Insects." Twenty thousand copies of one of these books were sold in a year's time. She was offered the editorship of two floral journals, one of which is the leading journal of the world. As Mr. LaMance's health was too delicate to make a change to a severer climate, she rejected the offer. She has a letter from the literary editor of the Kansas City Star commending in very high terms an article of hers he chanced to read in an exchange.

She is a constant temperance worker, having taken the lead in that work in this county for several years past. Much of her work has been done through the W. C. T. U., of which she is county president, and her efforts have produced a decided change in public opinion on that question. She is in favor of Women's Suffrage, and is a member of the Congregational Church.

**M. N. LaMance.** Marcus N. LaMance was born at Saratoga, McDonald County, Missouri, October 16, 1844. He has always lived in this county, and most of his life has been a citizen of Pineville. His father, J. P. LaMance, was a merchant at this place for many years, and served as county treasurer one or two terms. Marcus spent his early days in farming and clerking in a store. During the first years of the war he remained at home, and was present when the court house was burnt. At one time he came near being lynched by some Kansas troops, but was saved by the entreaties of his mother. After this he enlisted in the Confederate army and served two years.

In 1878 he began the mercantile business here, which he has followed for nearly twenty years. He has made a success, and now occupies a handsome two story brick, which is filled with a well selected stock of goods. He is now county treasurer, which office he has held one or two previous terms. He was appointed postmaster in 1879 and held the position until after the installment of Harrison in 1889. He is a Mason and a member of the Chapter.

**Hon. John C. Lamson.** Judge Lamson was born in Jefferson county New York, Nov. 29, 1827. His father, Peter Lamson, was a native of Vermont, but moved to New York when a child. When the subject of this sketch was a small child his parents removed to Madison county, Ohio, where they resided three years, then went to LaGrange county Indiana. There John C. Lamson was reared on a farm, securing his education at Oberlin College, from which institution he graduated in 1857. He then entered the law department of the University of New York at Albany, graduating in 1859. During the fall of 1860 he traveled through Texas with a view of locating, but political excitement and animosities prevented. He afterwards traveled through the Central and Western states, and was at Sunrise, Minn., when Fort Sumpter was fired on. Immediately returning to Indiana he enlisted April 19, 1861, in the Federal army, but was not received in the three month's call. He, however, remained at Indianapolis, and as soon as the call was made for 75,000 three-year men he enlisted as a private in Company B, Seventeenth Indiana Infantry. This regiment served on foot until early part of 1863, after which they served as mounted infantry until the close of the war. Mr. Lamson was promoted to the position of first lieutenant in the winter of 1861-62, and was discharged as captain. He participated in the battles of Greenbriar, West Virginia, Shiloh, Stone River, Hoover's Gap, Chickamauga, McMinnville, Farmington, and was almost continuously in the field at the front. Mr. Lamson came to Pineville in the winter of 1865, locating permanently in the spring of 1866, since which time he was actively engaged in practicing his profession, until he took charge of his present office, January 1, 1893. On November 13, 1872, he was united in marriage with Lois A. Santley a daughter of Joseph Santley, of Wellington, Ohio. She was born on the Western Reserve, Ohio, in Loraine County. In 1870 Mr. Lamson was elected to represent McDonald County in the State Legislature, and has served as prosecuting attorney for one or two terms. In November, 1892, he was elected Judge of this Judicial Circuit, which position he still holds. As a judge he has gained a reputation for honesty, fairness and judicial ability, and has the friendship of all the legal fraternity.

**S. T. Lane,** another of the pioneers of this county is the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this sketch. He was born in Green county, this state, October 28, 1843. His birth place is now the historic Springfield battle ground. His parents, Samuel and Francis Marion (Robinson) Lane, came to McDonald county in 1845. He married Miss Isabel C. Kincannon, of Washington county, Arkansas. They have no children. Mr. Lane enlisted for the war in the 1<sup>st</sup> Missouri Confederate Artillery, where he held the position of bugler. He was in the battles at Carthage, Pea Ridge, Prairie Grove, Helena, Jenkins Ferry, and other smaller engagements. He joined the M. E. Church, South, in 1890, his wife having become a member of that church several years before, and both are living consistent Christian lives. He has been a farmer and carpenter by occupation and politically a life-long Democrat. For many years he lived on his farm on Patterson creek, but is now a resident of Tiff City, where he has a comfortable home and, with his estimable lady is enjoying the blessings of life.

**J. P. Madden,** one of the best known citizens of this county, was born in Warrick county Indiana on March 29, 1838. He remained in his native state until in middle life where he held several positions of honor and trust. He was educated at a private school and followed the avocation of teacher for several years. He was Township Trustee, and assessor, also constable and deputy sheriff. In 1875, he moved from Indiana to Kansas and from there came to this county in 1878. Since living here he has worked at a saw mill for some time, then handled timber at Anderson and now keeps a hotel there. He, at present devotes much of his time canvassing for cemetery marble work. He filled the office of county assessor on the Democratic ticket for two terms, 1889-93, and proved to be an honest servant of the people. He first married Miss Mary F. Hedges, of Warrick county Indiana, November 17, 1859. She died April 25, 1887. In 1889 he married Maggie S. Nance, with whom he is now living.

**Martin L. Marrs**, son of Aaron and Emmaline Marrs, was born in Washington county, Arkansas, August 18, 1855. He remained in the land of his birth until some years after he was grown to manhood, coming to this county in 1885. He attended school at Vina Grove Seminary, Arkansas, where he gained an education that renders him fit for the responsible county office which he now fills. On the 7<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1880, he and Miss Elizabeth Bunch, also of Washington county, Arkansas, were married. Their union has been blessed with five children, all of whom are living. Mr. Marrs was nominated on the Democratic ticket in 1896 for county Assessor and was elected by a large majority. With the exception of a short time in the mercantile business at Jane, he has been a life-long farmer, and after his term of office expires he expects to return to his chosen occupation.

For many years, one of the most prominent men in the west part of our county is **Dr. A. J. McKinney**, of Tiff City. He was born in Bradley county, Tennessee, May 19, 1853. With his parents, Adaniram and Sarah McKinney, he moved to Madison county, Missouri, in 1860. His father, who was a soldier in the Southern army, died in 1862. His mother now lives at Tiff City. He received a good education in the public schools of his place, and afterwards graduated from the Missouri Medical College at St. Louis, in 1882. Having studied medicine before entering college, he located at Marquand, in this state where he practiced to years. After graduating, he returned to that place and remained two years more. In 1884 he located at Tiff City, where he soon acquired an extensive and lucrative practice. Being studious and very atten[????] profession, he met with uncommon success. He also established a small drugstore, which he has gradually increased until now he has a large stock of drugs and medicines and also a hardware.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1881 he was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Griffin, of Fredericktown, Missouri. She died January 20, 1884, leaving two children, Ollie and William H. The Dr. was again married June 2, 1885, to Miss Nellie Chase, a daughter of John R. Chase, now of Seneca. He has always been a Democrat, is a member of the I. O. O. F. and of the Baptist church.

**M. E. Meador**, of Anderson, is a son of Martin and Sarah Meador who settled in this county in the early days. He was born in this county February 28, 1859, and has always lived here. He attended the district school at Beaver Springs near where his father lived. In 1880 he was married to Miss Mary Anderson, also of this county. After bearing six children, five of whom are now living, she died May 1, 1896. When the rail road was built through this county it passed over a piece of his land, and with an eye to business, he at once laid it out in town lots. He has ever since been one of the principal men in building up the town of Anderson, and much of its success has been due to his work and influence. Mr. Meador is at present engaged in running a saw mill and livery stable. He is one of the stand-by's in the Republican party, having never wavered from that faith.

**John L. Montgomery** was born on Red River, Texas, June 28, 1848. He is a son of Jos. B. and Martha Montgomery, for many years a prominent family of this county. In 1850 his parents left Texas and located near Fayetteville, Arkansas. In 1863 they came to Missouri, and located in this county in 1868. They had two children, both boys now in business in Rocky Comfort. His wife died July 15, 1890. One of his brothers served in the Union army, and his father commanded a company at the battle of Pea Ridge under Gen. Price. He is a member of the Christian Church, and in politics has always been a staunch Republican. For many years he was in the mercantile business at Rocky Comfort, but a couple of years ago withdrew from that business and now devotes his time to his farm where he has an elegant home.

**A. W. Noel**. The gentleman whose name stands at the head of this sketch was born in this county April 10, 1868. He is a son of C. W. and F. M. Noel of Elk River. He attended the district schools until early manhood when he went to Warrensburg school and, also, took a term in the Business College at Kansas City. Soon after returning from school he secured a position as clerk and book keeper for M. N. LaMance, where he remained some four years. By this time, having saved his earnings, he bought a small stock of hardware and went into business on his own account. In May 1893, he took charge of the post office at Pineville, to which position he had been appointed by President Cleveland. He administered the affairs of the office four years to the credit of himself and the party which he represented. April 18, 1897, he was united in matrimony with Miss Grace Yonce, one of the most worthy and esteemed young ladies of our community.

By natural ability, attention to business and good management, he has built up one of the most lucrative mercantile establishments in the county. Mr. Noel is entitled to much credit for his success in life, having gained it by his own efforts. He is a man of good morals, genteel in his manners and a credit to the community.

**W. H. Noel** was born August 27, 1846, in Casey county Kentucky. His parents, B. S. and Nancy Noel moved to McDonald county, Mo. the same year, consequently the object of this sketch has lived here from infancy. August 1, 1864 he joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cherokee regiment, Confederate Volunteers and served to the close of the war. Was in several skirmishes in Missouri and Arkansas, and in one or two pretty severe engagements. November 20, 1867, he was united in

marriage with Miss Nannie Huffman, of Collins county, Texas. To them have been born ten children, seven of whom are still living. Before their marriage both had united with the Baptist church of which they have been consistant members for some thirty years. Mr. Noel was deputy sheriff five years; 1887-1892. In 1892 he was elected assessor, and re-elected in 1894, being the only Democrat elected on the county ticket that year. He is now (1897) deputy assessor.

**John W. Nutting**, son of George and Margaret Nutting, was born in this county, January 6, 1847. He lived at the home of his parents on Buffalo creek until August, 1862, at which time he enlisted in the Confederate army, Sixteenth Missouri Cavalry, but in a short time they were dismounted and became infantry. He was in the battles at Helena, Pleasant Hill and Saline River, besides numerous minor engagements. His description of their advance on Helena, the attack, repulse and retreat sounds like a romance. He surrendered at the close of the war at Shrevesport, La. In 1868 he was married to Miss Margaret Raba a native of Knox county, Tenn. They have seven children all living. He is a member of the Baptist church, a farmer, and a life-long Democrat. In 1888 he was elected county judge for the western district and re-elected in 1888, serving four years. His ability as an officer is tersely expressed in the appellation given him as "The watch dog of the county treasury."

**R. W. Patterson** was born in Buncomb county, North Carolina, November 29, 1857. His parents came to McDonald county in 1871. On the 31<sup>st</sup> day of March, 1878 he and Miss Sarah E. Click of this county were united in marriage. They have four children, Clara A., Effie, Stella and Alfred. In politics he has always been a Democrat, and for the past twenty-three years has been a member of the Baptist church. He has been engaged in farming most of his life and owns a good farm near Anderson, but the last five or six years has been clerking in a store at that place. He was deputy assessor two years under Chapman and four years under Madden. Was justice of the peace four years 1892-96 and for the last six years has been a notary public. His business qualifications are first class and his genial manners and fair dealings contribute much to the success of the firm with which he is connected.

**Henry C. Pepper** was born in Hart county, Kentucky, August 13, 1851. He grew up on a farm in the state of his birth, where he learned the habits of industry which he still follows closely. He attended Normal school three years at Canmer, Ky., also attended Classical and Military College, Gallatin, Tennessee. He studied law at Cumberland University, Lebanon Tennessee, where he graduated in 1879, receiving the degree of L. L. B.

Having thus made a thorough preparation for entering the battle of life, he started out on that all important struggle. Being without means, he began by teaching school which he followed for some time. After coming west he was in Kansas a short time, then in the North part of this state. He located at Pineville in 1882 or 1883, since which time he has confined himself exclusively to the law practice. Being a strong Democrat and good worker in the ranks of the party, he soon came into prominence. In 1886 he was nominated on that ticket and elected prosecuting attorney. At the end of his first term he was again elected. From the time of taking charge of that office he rapidly rose in the estimation of our people as a man and as a lawyer, and at the close of his second term ranked among the leading lawyers of this judicial circuit. In 1891 he went to Cassville where he is now living. He was soon recognized as the head of the bar in Barry county, and his business extends to all the counties of this judicial circuit, and considerable in other counties, besides an extensive practice in the St. Louis Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. He is always pronounced in upholding right and denouncing wrong, and his influence in our county was such that the entire moral standard was raised. In other words, while public prosecutor he sought the influence of and set to work the better element in each community.

He was married to Miss Adrenna Wilson of Pineville, October 5, 1890. They have two children, Henry W. and Lura D.

**H. C. Prater** was born in Kentucky, February 2<sup>nd</sup> 1851. In 1855 his parents settled in Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup> county, this state, and in 1865 came to McDonald county. In 1870 to 1874 the subject of this sketch spent in California, but with this exception has lived in this county. On the 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1876 he married to Miss Sarah J. Kenney. They have nine children living. He served as Justice of the peace in Pineville township six years, and in 1892 was a candidate for the office of Collector, being defeated by 80 votes. In 1894 the Republicans again nominated him and he was elected by a plurality of 126. Mr. Prater has always borne a reputation as a competent business man, and strictly honest in his transactions. He is a member of the Methodist church. One of the grandest things that he will ever have to think of is that for many years while poor himself and burdened with a large family, he took care of his old father and mother without ever a thought or hope of reward. He has a good farm on Indian creek near Lanagan where he has been living the past four years.

**Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Preston.** Dr. Solomon D. Preston was born October 10, 1853 in Logan County, Kentucky, where his childhood and youth were spent. He was educated at Vanderbilt University where he studied medicine, but was taken down with typhoid fever when he lacked just one term of graduating. In 1880 he left his native state and went to Kansas, and two years later came to this county. He practiced medicine for a few years, but much of his time he operated a drugstore at which business he was very proficient.

Mr. Preston was raised a Republican, but for many years affiliated with the Democratic party. In 1892 he warmly supported its principles to the time of his death. He has been engaged in the newspaper work at various times in this county, and his papers were always noted for the ability and purity of the reading matter. In the spring of 1897, he was taken down with typhoid fever, from which he died on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May. He had a host of friends wherever known, and was the idol of his family to whom he had ever been a kind husband and father. He was a member of the Baptist church, the I. O. O. F., the A. O. U. W. and Woodmen of the World. In each of the last two orders he carried a life insurance of \$2,000, also \$2,000 in the Bay State Insurance Company of Massachusetts.

Mrs. Fannie Preston, widow of the late S. D. Preston was born on Pea Ridge, Arkansas, March 26, 1866. She is a daughter of Dr. W. C. Duval of Pineville, by his former wife, Marye Jane (Boyer). She was brought up from a little child in Pineville, where she attended the public schools, and early in life united with the M. E. Church, south. September 5, 1883, she and Dr. Preston were united in marriage. They have lived at Pineville, Indian Springs and Southwest City in this county, and some 18 months in the Cherokee Nation. To them were born seven children, six of whom - Edith, Susie, Joel, Claiborn, Ruby, Lena, Cecil Rollo are still living. Leo, the youngest child, died June 3, 1897 from the same malady which had taken off his father but a few weeks before.

Mrs. Preston now lives in a comfortable home in Southwest City, by ample means which the foresight and benevolence of her kind companion provided.

**Hon. W. C. Price.** William C. Price was born in Jackson county, Tennessee, March 11, 1821. His father, Campbell Price, was a native of South Carolina, who removed his family to Benton, then Washington County, Ark., in 1829. Thence he removed to Bowers Mill, in what is now Lawrence county Mo., late in 1833. The next year he went to Newton County, coming to McDonald county in 1835. He entered government land and settled on Buffalo creek where the subject of this sketch now resides. It was here that he reared his family and passed the remainder of his days. Hon. William C. Price grew to manhood at the home of his parents, assisting in the work of the farm. He can remember when wild animals were very plentiful in the region of his home, and Indians often hunted up and down the valleys. On February 1, 1844, Mr. Price was united in marriage with Clarinda, a daughter of James F. Beeman, and to them were born twelve children. Politically he is a Democrat, and his party has favored him with several important offices. For four years he served as sheriff of the county, and represented the same in the State Legislature from 1873 to 1877.

For six years he served as superintendent of the United State Flouring Mills in the Seneca Nation, Indian Territory. During the Civil War he sympathized with the South, and served in the Confederate army as a member of Captain Parks' Company H, Second Cherokee Regiment, with which he participated in the battles at Fort Gibson and Armstrong Ford. He was one of the leaders of his party for many years, and several terms. He is now living out his old days in peace and plenty at the old home where he grew to manhood.

**J. H. Qualls.** The subject of this sketch was born in Madison county, Arkansas, March 11, 1860. His parents moved to Christian Co. Mo., during the war, then back to Arkansas. Went to Colorado in 1876 and came to McDonald county in 1879, since which time Mr. Qualls has been a prominent resident. June 20, 1886 he and Miss N. C. Lewis, of this county, were united in marriage. They have three children: Rosa E. eight years of age, Bertie M. five years, Samuel B. one year old. He and his wife united with the Missionary Baptist church about seven years ago. He is now publishing the Tiff City News, a nice, clean paper that is a credit to both Mr. Qualls and the community in which it is located. His first venture in the newspaper business was at Anderson, in 1893, when the Messenger was established. Since that time he has been connected with two other papers. He is a member of the Populist party, and during the campaign of 1894 was chairman of the county central committee of that party.

**G. M. D. Seabourn,** son of Bradford and Catherine (Campbell) Seabourn, was born in Bradley county, East Tennessee, June 3, 1845. He came with his parents to McDonald county in 1858. He was first married in 1862 to Miss Missouri Anderson, sister of A. D. Anderson, late of this county. By her three children have been born. Some years after her death he married Miss Sarah Eden by whom he has four children living. He was never in the regular army, but served for a time in the state militia. He was in the fight at Neosho with General Shelby by whose men he was captured and released on parole. The entire family were strongly Union and had to leave this county in 1862, at which time they went to Lawrence county returning in 1866. His father served over two years in the 6<sup>th</sup> Kansas Cavalry. Mr. Seabourn does not belong to any church, has never held a public office and is a farmer by occupation. He owns a good farm, is in comfortable circumstances, comes of a good family and is highly respected by all who know him.

**F. A. Sears** was born in McHenry county, Illinois, March 12, 1858. He is a son of Charley and Jane Sears. His parents moved to Iowa in 1861, and five years later came to Jasper county, Missouri. Mr. Sears has lived in Missouri and Kansas ever since. He obtained a fair education at the district schools, and when quite a young man began work in a mill. He learned the trade at Lowell, Kansas, and for nearly twenty years has followed that business. In May, 1881, he and Miss

Mary Ann Scholes of Cherokee county, Kansas, were united in marriage. They have four children, two boys and two girls. Ten years ago he came to this county and most of the time has had charge of the McNatt Mills. He is now in the mercantile business with Woolard & Co. at that place, but has leased the Gilbraith Mills at Lanagan where he now lives. Mr. Sears stands well with the people wherever he is known and his reputation for fair dealing is universal all over Southwest Missouri. His business has been such for the past few years that it was much more difficult for him to fill all of his orders than to find sale for his products.

**Judge I. N. Shambaugh.** For nearly twenty years the man whose name stands at the head of this page was an honored and prominent member of our community. Judge Shambaugh was born in Warren county, Virginia, September 29, 1823. In 1841 he moved to DeKalb county Missouri, where he remained until the war came up. [...] He studied law in DeKalb county and began his career there as a practitioner. In 1858 he was elected a member to the State Legislature, and re-elected in 1860, being a member when the question of Secession came up. He met with the General Assembly at Neosho and opposed that measure, but afterwards espoused the cause.

During the Mexican war the Governor of this state issued him a commission as Lieutenant Colonel, but the war closed before he reached the scene of conflict. About the close of the war he went to Nebraska City, Neb., where he practiced law for seven years. While in active practice he had remarkable success and won a brilliant reputation. The close confinement and hard study together with the severe climate were more than he could bear, and his health gave way.

For this reason he came to McDonald county in 1873, and purchased a large farm on Elk River where it crosses the state line. Here he was engaged in farming and stock dealing until his death. As in every other venture which he ever undertook, he made a success of this and was counted one of the wealthiest men in the county. The management of our county officers had been quite improvident, and in some instances there were strong indications of fraud. The county was in debt some \$30,000, and county warrants worth but 25 cents on the dollar. Judge Shambaugh promised the people that if they would elect him Presiding Judge he would get the county out of debt. Accordingly in 1876 he was elected to that office, urated a system of rigid economy and before half of his second term was cut had paid the entire debt and raised the warrants to par. Having accomplished the object for which he was elected, he handed in his resignation. His public life and sterling worth as a private citizen gave him a high place in the estimation of our people, and he could have held any office within their gift, but he preferred the peace and quiet of his farm life. He was married in 1850, and they had three children, all of whom are living in this county. He died in November 1892.

**J. W. Shields**, the genteel cashier of the McDonald County bank, was among the enterprising men of this county. He was born in this county, Nov. 14, 1856. He is the son of George R. Shields formerly of Tennessee, who came to this county schools at Southwest City near which is father resides. He taught school two years, two terms being in Southwest City. He established a mercantile business at Saratoga in 1880. He was at that place seven years, four of which he was postmaster. He then moved his business to Southwest City, where he was also postmaster until Benjamin Harrison appointed his successor. He remained at that place until he took charge of the Circuit Clerk and Records office to which he was elected in 1890. He filled that office with great credit and was a candidate for re-election, but went under with the Republican wave that swept this county in 1894. He at once established the bank which he has made a great success. His extensive improvements have given employment to a number of men. His residence is one of the finest and best arranged in the county. He and Miss Lula Riggs of Saratoga were married Oct. 14, 1880. They have four children living. Mr. and Mrs. Shields are members of the Baptist Church, and he is a great Sunday School worker, and has been clerk of the Shoal Creek Association for the last five years. He owns a fine set of abstracts books and does an extensive Abstract and Real Estate business.

Among the prominent and self made young men of our county is **John W. Smith**, our county school commissioner. He is the son of George W. and Elizabeth Smith and was born in this county September 24, 1866. His parents moved to Granby about 1874 and remained there three years when they returned to this county. John was educated in the district schools, attended a few months at Pleasant Hope and finished his last school days as a student at Warrensburg, Missouri. He has been teaching school for several years and is one of our most accomplished scholars. In the spring of 1895 he was elected county school commissioner, and re-elected in 1897. He is filling the office with credit to himself and satisfaction to the people. He is a member of the Christian church and of the Masonic order.

Mr. Smith has had many disadvantages to overcome, but has triumphed over all and is an example of what perseverance, energy and close application will do for a young man.

**William E. Smith** was born in Lincoln county Kentucky in September 1844, and is a son of John C. Smith of Neosho Missouri. Wm. E. Smith received an education in the common schools of Clay and Marion counties, Ill., his family having settled in the former county in 1849, and in the latter in 1854. He came to Missouri in 1867, and located in

Newton thence in 1868 he removed to Jasper county where he remained engaged in farming and mining until 1872, when he returned to Newton county and continued farming and stock raising until 1879. He then engaged in the mercantile business at Thurman that county of which place he was appointed post master on April 17, 1880, continuing in that office and business until January 1882, when he removed to Indian Springs McDonald county Mo. There he engaged in merchandise and real estate business, and was elected chairman of the town council. In the fall of 1882 was elected justice of the peace which office he resigned Dec. 1884, to take charge of the Probate judge's office to which he had been elected the preceding Nov. to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge I. N. Shambaugh. In Nov. 1886 he was re-elected and in Nov. 1890 he again was re-elected his own successor. In Nov. 1894 he was the Nominee of his party for the same office, but was defeated by the heroic efforts of his enemies and combination of two parties, and on the first day of Jan. 1895 he turned the Probate office over after ten years service. In 1893 he purchased the Pineville News and at once changed the name of the paper to the Pineville Democrat which he published until Jan. 1896, when he sold his interest, since which time he has been engaged in the Hotel and Real Estate business and was commissioned Notary Public by Gov. Stone on Dec. 17. [.....] of Wm. C. Smith on May 11, 1865 and to them was born seven children: those living are Jerusha E A., Richard R., Lodosca L. and Edward C. Mrs. Smith died on June 5, 1879, and on February 22, 1883, Mr. Smith still resides in Pineville and takes a very active part in the politics of the day. He is a member of the Congressional and Senatorial Democrat committees, of which party he is a loyal and able member. He has been a member of our school board much of the time since his residence here, and takes an active part in all public improvements. He is also an Odd Fellow in which order he is serving his second term as Noble Grand. His ten years experience in the Probate office has given him a thorough knowledge of that business and he is doing the most extensive Probate practice of any lawyer in the county.

**Rev. M. L. Stewart.** Marcus L. Stewart, son of Thomas H. and Julia M. Stewart, was born in Lawrence County, Kentucky, September 19, 1862. Two years afterwards his parents moved to Davis County, Missouri, and five years later they moved to Montgomery County, Kansas. Mr. Stewart attended the district schools during boyhood, where he obtained a common school education and then took a short term at the Scarrett College, Neosho. September 21, 1882, he and Miss Segornia Eppard, of this county, were united in marriage, which union has been blessed with seven children, all of whom are living. For several years he was engaged in farming, teaching school thru the winter months.

Mr. Stewart early identified himself with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was ordained a minister of that denomination some five years ago. He has gained a host of friends wherever he has taught or preached, and many of our people, specially the children, will remember him with pleasure. In 1896 he went to Idaho, where he had charge of a circuit for some months, and then returned to this county to finish up his business. He was quite favorably impressed with the people and located there and expects to make his home there. He established and carried to a successful termination the Chautauqua at Southwest City this fall, for which commendable enterprise he will have the lasting praise and esteem of her people.

**Asa Tabler** was born in McDonough County, Illinois in 1849. He was a son of Thomas H. and Louisa Tabler. He grew up to manhood near the place of his birth but, like so many other young men concluded to "go west and grow up with the country." Asa doesn't say whether he had been reading Horace Greely, or just took his advice from his own personal inclination and ideas. Be this as it may he came west and the first point he struck was Fort Smith, Arkansas. He remained there but a short time, then went to Fayetteville, Arkansas, where he remained about a year. He then went to Lynn County, this state where he remained some eight or nine years. After this his thoughts wandered back to Arkansas, and he went back to that state. This time he stopped at Bentonville where he remained a short time, but failed to find a suitable investment for his means. After looking around for some time he located at Southwest City, about 1886, where for the last eleven years he has been one of the leading businessmen of that place. His occupation most of the time has been keeping Hotel and livery stable. His estimable wife is proficient in the former business and they are both of such a friendly disposition that every one is made to feel welcome and fed on the best that can be found in the market.

His livery is one of the best in the county and he has the name of taking the best care of horses put up at his stable. You need never look to see that they are properly fed and watered. He has lately completed a handsome building on Main Street which they expect to occupy when their present lease expires. In 1879 he and Miss Mattie Sharp of Bentonville, Arkansas, were married; they have no children.

**Hon. John F. Tandy.** J. F. Tandy, son of J. P., and Elizabeth (Parnell) Tandy, was born in Carroll county, Kentucky, March 21, 1838. That was also the birth place of his parents. He came with his father to Lewis County, Missouri, in 1850, and has lived in this state ever since. When he was a boy school facilities, as well as lights, were meager, and his education was acquired by 3 months' attendance of the district school, and the balance at home by the light of hickory bark fires. He was married to Miss M. H. Townsend of Knox County, August 20, 1860. She bore him 6 children, 5 of whom are living, then died, November 4, 1891. July 23, 1893, he and Mrs. Susan M. Moore of Osceola, St. Clair

County, were married which union was blessed with one little girl.

Mr. Tandy began his official career in February, 1878, when he was appointed by Governor Phelps, as presiding Judge of the county court of St. Clair County to fill a vacancy. That fall he was elected to that office, thus serving three years. In 1886 he was again elected to that office which he held the ensuing 4 years. Those were stormy times in St. Clair County on account of the attempt to enforce the collection of railroad bonds that had been issued several years before but no road ever built. Judge Tandy believing the bonds were fraudulent, refused to levy a tax for their collection, for which he was incarcerated in the Federal jail at Jefferson City for 7 months, beginning November, 1887. He endured the imprisonment but never made the levy.

He came to McDonald County in Sept. 1893 and owns a good farm on Patterson Creek. In 1894 he was nominated by the Populist for representative, and ran 100 votes ahead of his ticket. In 1896 he was nominated by both Democrats and Populists, and elected by a majority of 621. He is a man of fine appearance, an eloquent speaker and his services to the state legislature have been credible to himself, and for what he considered the best interest of his constituents. He is a minister in the Christian Church to which he devotes much of his time.

**R. E. Vermillion** was born in Lawrence County, Mo., in 1855. His wife, Fannie Mills, was born in the same county in 1859. They were acquainted while children and, in July 1875, when he was twenty and she sixteen years of age, were married. Mr. Vermillion soon afterward entered a drug store, and in the spring of 1878 located at Opolis, Kansas. He was in business there until 1885 at which time he accepted a position in the drug store at Caffee & Co., at Carthage. A year later he was employed by H. Dustin of Southwest City. The same year Mrs. Vermillion opened up a Millinery store there, and for ten years this worthy couple were prominent figures in the business and social circles of that enterprising place. He continued as general manager of the Dustin drug store until October, 1895, when he again went into business of his own. He died January 15, 1896, after a couple days illness from pneumonia complicated with heart trouble to which he had been subject for some years. Mrs. Vermillion is still carrying on her millinery business at Southwest City. They have but one child, Maud, aged thirteen.

**A. C. Walters.** Albert C. Walters, son of John U. and Margaret (Tyler) Walters, was born in Switzerland, September 2, 1844. In 1847 his parents came to this country, first settling at Camden, N.J. The next year they went to the city of Philadelphia where they remained about five years, then went to Burks County, Pennsylvania. Mr. Walters attended school first in Philadelphia and afterwards at the schools near his father's home in Burks County. He enlisted at Reading, Pa., in the fall of 1862 in the 151<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers, and served eleven months, and was in the battle of Gettysburg.

He first came to Polk County, this state, in 1868. The next year he went back east, but soon returned and has been in Southwest Missouri ever since. He and Miss Mary E. Brown, of this county, were married in 1871; they have five children living and two dead.

He came to this county in 1882, and bought an old mill where Bosserman now is. After refitting it he sold it, and in June, 1883, he bought out A. M. Dillon of Pineville. From that time to September, 1897, he was one of the leading merchants of that place. He then sold to Carnell & Duvall. He has been engaged in farming, milling and merchandising, and is a good carpenter. He has not united with any church, but is strictly moral and his influence is for Christianity. He has always been a Democrat, but now is a Prohibitionist. In 1884 he was elected treasurer of this county which position he filled with credit and had the name of keeping a remarkably neat set of books which balanced to a cent on his final settlement.

**James H. Wimpey.** Among the men who figured prominently in the affairs of the county for several years is James H. Wimpey of Anderson, son of Joshua and Nancy (Ragsdale) Wimpey. He was born June 3, 1837, in Hamilton county, Tennessee. When he was about three years old his parents moved to Illinois, and in 1844 settled in what is now McDonald county, where the subject of this sketch was reared. He took advantage of the meager facilities for schools and, by close application, secured a fair education which he has since greatly improved by an extensive course of reading. He and Miss Mary Kinslow were united in marriage in December, 1859. To them have been born four children, two of whom died in infancy. Their son, Joshua L. Wimpey, is now a Justice of the Peace, elected in 1894, and a respected citizen of this county. The daughter, Tennie B., is the wife of Ed Rudisill, a merchant at Anderson.

Being an uncompromising Union man, Mr. Wimpey was compelled to leave this county in the early part of the war, consequently he enlisted, August 2, 1862, in the 6<sup>th</sup> Kansas Cavalry, and served to the end of the war. He participated in several engagements, among which were those at Newtonia, Prairie Grove and Honey Springs.

At the election November, 1866, he was elected assessor of this county, which offices he filled two years. In 1868 he was elected Sheriff and Collector, which he also held two years. In 1871 he was appointed by Gov. Brown to fill a vacancy in the county court. He has since been nominated for various county offices on the Republican ticket but his party having been greatly in the minority, he has each time been defeated. He was a staunch Republican until 1894, since

which time he has been a Populist with strong leanings toward Socialism. In religion he is an Agnostic; by occupation a farmer. Being a man of strong convictions and out spoken in defending what he believes to be right, he made some enemies while in public life but his dealings, whether as an official or in private life, have always been honorable, and his whole life on the side of morality, intelligence and progression.

**T. H. Wimpey.** Almost everybody in the west part of the county knows Tom Wimpey, the genial miller of Tiff City. He was born in McDonald county June 27, 1854, and has spent most of his life in the land of his birth. His father, Joshua Wimpey, died in 1867. His mother Rachel Wimpey, is still living. In 1869 the family moved to Arkansas, but returned to this county after an absence of three years. March 25, 1877, he and Miss Arizona Huthison were united in marriage. They have seven children, all living, Sarah L. who is married to Lafe Hamilton, A. C., Plaudy, Lula, Mattie, Stella and Jessie. He was brought up on a farm, but went into the goods business at Twin Springs when that town first sprung up. He went to Coy about 1882 and dealt in goods a while, then went into the Coy mill. While at this place he was post master some nine or ten years. Last year the mill was moved to Tiff City where it is now in operation. Mr. Wimpey being the miller and general manager. He is a consistant member of the Baptist church.

**William K. Wilson,** son of Levi and Elizabeth Wilson, was born in Jackson County, Tennessee, November 4, 1841. His youth was spent in the land of his birth, on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 1861 he was united in marriage with Miss Lena A. Clark. During the war they were compelled to "refugee" to Kentucky being loyal people. Mr. Wilson joined the First Tenn. mounted infantry in 1864 and served until the close of the war, being most of the time in the mountains of his native state. In 1868 he and his wife both joined the Christian church of which they are still consistant members. In 1871 they moved to Illinois, and in 1877 to this county. He improved a nice place near the Roark school house, and while there served as district clerk several years. He is now making another comfortable home near Coy. They have been blessed with nine children, six of whom are still living, and the entire family are respectable and industrious people.

**Mrs. P. A. T. Yocum.** Sarah Tremble was born at Mattoon, Cole County, Illinois, December 5, 1846. There she remained during her childhood and youth, and was educated in the McFarland Seminary, Matton, which she attended three years. She discovered considerable ability as a writer during her school days, and began writing for the papers when but twelve years of age. During the war she corresponded for the local papers, and since coming west for many years was reporter for the St. Louis Daily papers. She was married in Cole County, Illinois, June 2, 1865 to William M. Yocum also of that county. They have had six children, five of whom are living.l

After her marriage Mrs. Yocum discontinued her literary work for a number of years, taking it up again about 1880. She contributed articles to the Journal of Agriculture, St. Louis, for seven years, at the same time writing for several magazines. Most of her productions have been short stories, but some three years ago she was called on to write a continued story, and her efforts in that line met with such favor that she now has a number which have had assurance of success.

Mrs. Yocum has lived in McDonald County about fifteen years. She is a leading temperance worker, occupes a prominent place in the W. C. T. U., and holds a life membership in the Christian Endeavor, of which she is Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

The End