

HISTORY OF CLARK COUNTY, MISSOURI.

BY HON. P. S. STANLEY.

In writing up a Historical Sketch of Clark County the limited space allowed will not permit a very extended narrative, and forbids a display of the embellishments of rhetorical language, even if we were able to command it. We will, therefore, bring forward in chronological order all the interesting and important facts, incidents and reminiscences, and being part and parcel of the early settlement of this country, giving dates and figures as we gather them from the few now alive of the early pioneers, and from my own personal recollection.

Clark County is in the extreme north-east corner of the State. The waters of the Mississippi wash its eastern shore, and the Des Moines its northern. Lewis County bounds it on the south, Scotland and Knox on the west.

Clark County was named after William Clark, the first Territorial Governor of Missouri, and contains 322,000 acres. Who the first adventurers of the State were will perhaps never be known, but there are evidences of civilization found in the remains of former habitations, near the mouth of Fox River, supposed, however, to be old French traders, from the fact of some metal instruments being found bearing a French manufacturer's name, and dated 1670. Who were these adventurers? Perhaps Marquette and Fulle, or some of its followers.

The first white settlers in Clark (then called Lewis County) were Jacob Weaver and Elizabeth, his wife, and family of five children, from Kentucky, who settled on the Des Moines River in what is now known as Des Moines Township, near the present town of St. Francisville. One Sacket settled at the same date, September, 1829; but, from records, he only made one crop. Jeremiah Wayland, George Heywood and Samuel Bartlett, all from the same neighborhood in Kentucky, followed, in November. There was no road at this date above Tully, Lewis County, and they pushed their way up through the tall grass and brush to Fox River, where the teams mireled, and the women and children got on Sacket's cabin, where some sixteen of them got shelter. "Uncle Jerry Wayland" built his first cabin on the banks of the Des Moines, but in the great flood of 1832 it was swept away. He then built on the second bottom, where he still resides, in the present limits of St. Francisville. George Heywood built one mile from the river, along the bluff, where he resided until his death in 1876. Samuel Bartlett built one mile from the river, on the line of the bluff. Christopher Wolf now lives on that tract, also B. F. Bates. Giles Sullivan, in the spring of 1830, settled two miles above St. Francisville; and the first death that occurred in the little band of hardy pioneers was Mrs. Giles Sullivan, in 1831; and "Uncle Jerry" broke up his wagon bed to make a coffin. The first children born were George Wayland, Elizabeth Bartlett and Martha Heywood. William Bartlett, or "Uncle Jerry," as he is familiarly called, came in the spring of 1830, and ploughed the first corn field on Sacket's land, while he (Sacket) lay in his cabin, shaking with the ague. Landing in Keokuk, he was poled up the Des Moines River by "Uncle Jerry," Samuel Bartlett and Peter Gillis (a grow-up lad) in a pirogue. Bartlett made his claim about four miles from there, where he resided until his death, in 1877. Billy Clark came in 1830, and raised a crop within the present limits of St. Francisville. Clark's marriage to Elizabeth Payne was the first ceremony of that kind, and took place at "Uncle Jerry's" cabin, and, as it afterwards proved to be, by a bogus preacher; accordingly another big dinner was provided by the few settlers, and Squire Robert Sinclair was brought up from Tully to perform the ceremony *coram* to law. Clark charged the Squire to hold himself in readiness to come again in the case of the *afre* woman got skerry. In 1831 Dr. Tribue settled just below Honey Creek, Clay Township, and built a horse-mill, a great convenience, as the settlers had been compelled to go to Palmyra, sixty miles. About the same time Worthington settled on the north side of Sugar Creek, now Clay Township, and Henry Floyd on the bluffs about two miles north of the present site of Waterloo, now Madison Township. The winter 1831-2 is still remembered by these hardy pioneers as the winter of the deep snows. It was impossible for them to reach the nearest mill, sixty miles distant, consequently pounded corn and hominy and venison was their principal diet (wish we could get some of that now.) A Keokuk band of Indians camped in the Des Moines bottom, and they lost nearly all their horses. In 1831 came Thomas C. Rutherford, of Tennessee, bringing his family and several slaves, and settled two miles east of Waterloo; John Smith, Jerry Riley, from Kentucky; William Henshaw and Charlotte's wife, and family; Sullivan; Henry Floyd, and Mrs. Worthington. "General" Harrison, a trapper and interpreter, settled above St. Francisville, on the river. Old man Webb also settled in the bottom, below St. Francisville. These were settlers of 1831. The unprecedented high water of 1831 and 1832, in the winter, and the prospect of trouble with the Indians, checked immigration, and but few were found to cast their future with this little settlement. Among them were William Phelps, now living in Illinois, and McMullen, Indian traders, at Sweet Home; John Billings, John Taylor, Alex. Waggoner. Jack Floyd, a ranger of Macon Co., was killed at the raising of Tribue's mill. Jacob Weaver built the mill on Fox river, three miles below the present site of Waterloo, and afterwards known as "Moore's Mill." "Uncle Jerry Wayland" had always preserved friendly relations with the Indians, who hunted here in the Des Moines bottoms by permission from the settlers. Among them were Keokuk and his brother, Mack-a-ce-ne-ne, who warned him that it was not safe for settlers to remain; that an outbreak was liable to occur at any moment. Mack-a-ce-ne-ne was often fed and lodged at "Uncle Jerry's," and a strong friendship existed between them. The Indian, consenting to join Black Hawk, called upon his white friend, and said he felt convinced they would never meet again. Even the stoicism of his race gave way, and he said, "good bye" with the profoundest emotion. He was killed at the battle of Bad Axe. After the warning, many of the settlers sent their families to Tully, taking care of their crops with their guns beside them, and camping nights in Sam Bartlett's cabin, which was converted into a block-house. July 15th, 1832, a company of rangers, who had enlisted for thirty days, under the command of Capt. Meach, reached the river and built Fort Pike, at the present site of St. Francisville, for better protection of the settlers. Troops remained here until September, under the command of Maj. Thos. W. Conyers. On August 5th Maj. Conyers' command was relieved by two other companies, under Capt. Sinclair Kirtry, of Boone, and Patrick Ewing, of Callaway, Col. Austin A. King marched the detachment to Fort Pike, and conducted those relieved to their homes, Conyers remaining in command of the Fort, John Montgomery, afterward a resident of Clark County, acting as colonel, and Geo. K. Biggs, our present State senator, being in the ranks. Conyers' troops were left at Fort Pike, according to Gen. Geny's report, with about forty barrels of flour, two kegs of bacon, four barrels of whiskey and one hundred bushels of corn. After Black Hawk's defeat, and during his journey to and his imprisonment at Washington, his squaw and son were constant visitors at "Uncle Jerry's" cabin, aiding him in his daily work, digging potatoes, gathering corn, &c. The Indian woman, notwithstanding "Uncle Jerry's" assurances that Black Hawk would return in safety, was full of anxiety for her absent brave; and when he presented himself,

arrayed in a full suit of citizen's clothes, her delight and amazement knew no bounds. Keokuk's band of Indians were generally very friendly with the settlers; their dogs, however, were a great nuisance, as they frequently killed the hogs of the settlers; and sometimes the braves were guilty of petty thefts. On one such occasion (G.D. Rutherford administered to a distinguished warrior a good, wholesome flogging with a stout hickory stick. Keokuk and the whole band resented it, and ordered them to demand satisfaction. They were met by "Uncle Jerry," who persuaded them to wait a day or two and he would go with them, to which they consented. It was arranged by Uncle Jerry and Rutherford that Keokuk and a half-dozen of his braves should be invited to a "talk," and a good dinner and other preparations were made accordingly. Imagine their surprise when Keokuk and forty of his band arrived to dine. The whites, apparently, however, were not disconcerted, and welcomed them all. (The colonel was too old a soldier to be caught napping, and he had his "braves," with their ever-ready rifles, laying around in close proximity.) Such a dinner as was prepared was never before seen in that settlement. Venison, turkey, chicken or hog meat, in great abundance, and the colonel led in a complimentary speech, (through Battise, the interpreter) in which he explained that the whites depended on their hogs for food, not being able to hunt like the "brave men of the forest." Keokuk then harangued his band for an hour, when all was reconciled and the pipe was smoked. After that their dogs hunted with their mouths muzzled with lim-tree bark.

The first store was opened in St. Francisville, by John Stokes, in 1833, his stock consisting of powder, lead, pipes, tobacco and whiskey. His near proximity to the Des Moines River rendered it necessary in extremely cold weather to run a hot poker in the barrel to get a drink. 1833 witnessed a heavy immigration: Phillip Clayton, now where Moses Weaver lives; Daines Phillips, also a large family, settled in the bluffs, two miles from the river; John Montgomery, who was of the Pike County rangers; Joshua Wooden, near Gregory's Landing; Frank Church and B. Rebo, settled on Fox River, above Waterloo; and the noblest Roman of them all, Uncle Julius Wayland, and family, who settled just below what is now Wayland Station. Peter and David Hay settled where the first crossing of Fox River was made by the first settlers. Geo. K. Biggs settled where he now resides.

After Black Hawk's return, a dinner was gotten up at Sam Bartlett's "Nobby Affair," Keokuk, Black Hawk and a few braves only present. To make a table, the door was taken down, and a wagon-bed, bottom-side up, was used. Keokuk concluded it was no place for a healthy man, and thence to Cleveland; and Philip Clay, blacksmith shop and wagon shop; two stores and Post-office, and a large family, settled in the bluffs, two miles from the river; John Montgomery, who was of the Pike County rangers; Joshua Wooden, near Gregory's Landing; Frank Church and B. Rebo, settled on Fox River, above Waterloo; and the noblest Roman of them all, Uncle Julius Wayland, and family, who settled just below what is now Wayland Station. Peter and David Hay settled where the first crossing of Fox River was made by the first settlers. Geo. K. Biggs settled where he now resides.

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After this emigration was rapid. Thomas Hanan built still further west, near Luray, and was soon followed by Joe Wilson, Granville Wilson, John Price, John Smith, Geo. Combs, S. Q. Stark, Ruel Murphy, Wm. Northcraft, and Wm. Dagg. Hanan was known as "Panther Hanan," from killing two or three animals in one day's hunt.

Judge Mardock Cooper, in 1836, came in, a stout and active young man, who considered himself a full match for anything that were "hat," so one day out hunting he jumped up a "bar," nothing daunted, however, he "pitched in," but varmint got both under holts, and but for the timely assistance of his dog, who bravely attacked him in the rear, Mardock would have been badly "chewed" up. Getting loose, he retreated for his nag, without even apologizing for his rascality. The teeth and scratches on his thighs prevented him from having an easy seat, and he required considerable Coopering before he was able to get around in the brush again. A bear was captured near Waterloo, by B. Rebo after that, but they were not numerous or troublesome like the wolves. They were a constant annoyance to settlers, destroying pigs, for which they appeared to have a particular fancy, "or perhaps appetite." An old black female wolf known to most of the settlers between St. Francisville and Keokuk, for her cunning and audacity. She would carry off an eighty pound about with ease, and at one time stuck her nose in Stillwell's cabin door at Keokuk, and would have carried off a little child, but for the arrival of his father. She was finally shot by John, who lay in his hog pen for several hours watching for her. But the greatest dread were the Indians. As a general thing they could find enough to eat. Game was plenty; the woods full of bee trees, and the little patch of cultivated ground would yield in abundance; but their greatest care during 1832 and '33 was to look out for Red-skins. An old settler relates a little incident, showing the watchfulness necessary in those days. On one occasion he heard a strange bell, and was certain the Indians were trying to decoy him, as he knew the sound of every clapper in the county. So taking his rifle he crawled along through the brush and tall grass to make observations, and when he got up near the bell, notwithstanding his shirt was wet with perspiration, he crept cautiously up and discovered an old black horse owned by a son of Daniel Boone, who was making a survey of land for Government on the other side of the river. There are many other reminiscences of the early settlers that would perhaps be read with interest by the present generation. There came to the

cabin of Mrs. Elizabeth Worthington one day in 1833, a "sick Injun," he was suffering from inflammatory rheumatism, so much so that he would take a needle and run it in the calf of his leg up to the eye, saying it would let the disease out. He was allowed the use of an old house and given some blankets, kept in fuel and food until spring, when he died. Joe Worthington and Rob, then striplings of boys, tied some Linn bark around his neck, and with the assistance of a horse snaked his carcass out in the brush, and buried it. Two neighbors, Rebo and Ripper, were both old soldiers. The former under the Emperor Napoleon, and of the Old Guard; the latter in the war of 1812, quite a small man, and a drummer, but good at drawing the "long bow." One day recounting some of his exploits, how he was forced to retreat in the face of a superior foe, but saved his drum, when Rebo said, "Missis Rippe, why you no turn de drum over you, and dey think you one stump?"

In 1834 came R. P. Mitchell, Michael Mitchell, Dr. Fielding Wayland, Uncle Daniel Kapsdell, J. M. Wilson, all from Kentucky. R. P. Mitchell settled where J. McCoy now lives. Dr. Fielding Wayland settled near Wayland Station, from whom it received its name; and in 1835 came George Jordan Howard, J. J. Martin, father of Dr. Martin of Kahoka, John Wade, Wayne Scott, Jas. Scott. These last named settled near Chambersburg, and a host of others. Foremost among the settlers of 1835 came L. B. Mitchell of Tennessee, known as "Old Splitlog," from his being obliged to split his logs to build his cabin. Settled on the bottom four miles from Alexandria. Renowned for his proverbial hospitality. If a settler was in want of a few bushels of corn or a horse to tend his crops, or a yoke or two of oxen to break his ground, why just go to "Old Splitlog." His "latch-string always hung out," and if the young folks wanted a frolic, the old puncheon floor was duly prepared, beds removed out of doors, &c., and under the insipidious music of Ashlar (and I suppose old settlers recollect him), who was "the fiddler of the day, we had a merry time of it. I have a slight recollection of a gathering there in summer-time, and one young gent wore a summer coat; a fair one who was asked who she danced with last, replied; why, with that "feller" with a coat on, and I tell you what I had to get up and dust." "Splitlog" had a penchant for naming his neighbors; thus a poorly old gent, same old Kettle-belly, and another for his politeness, "Smoothing-iron"; while a cross-grained one was dubbed "cat. Then we had Old Dialectic, Old Waxy, Old Blacket, Foxey, Blue Jeans, &c., and one for his hunting proclivity was Ben Harden. Men sometimes would lose their identity, and if a letter came to them addressed in their real name, the Postmaster would be at a loss for the real owner.

The first Church (Baptist), was organized May 7th, 1835, and the house soon after built on the trail of the first settler at the fording of Fox River. The first school-house was erected in St. Francisville in 1834, and is still called District No. 1. Jonathan Clark, and two brothers, John and Bill Hurst, came over from Hancock to kill some bear meat. Bill was a peculiar sort of a fellow, and the owner of a powerful dog; the two known throughout the settlement as "death on Bar." Leaving the thick undergrowth at the mouth of Des Moines River Bill with his dog took the lead through high grass in the direction of St. Francisville. On the sand mound "the dog," to use Clark's expression, "rasseled up something which took to the first tree." John Hurst fled, but having the "ague," he only succeeded in wounding the animal, which proved to be a very large panther. It sprang to the ground, and was quickly grappled by the dog. Bill saw his dog in unsuccessfully close quarters, and to aid him seized the panther by the tail, when the dog let go.

The varmint then turned his attention to Bill, who had "both hands full" in watching his motions. It would lunge forward and pull him after it, then stop and try to turn round to bite him, when Bill would jerk his "c'il hok" in the mane of the varmint, and with the greatest agility the animal would get up and down ever performed on that prairie. In the mean time John was trying to load his gun, but choked the ball. Clark now ran to the timber near by for some weapons while nearly exhausted; he begged not to be left at the junction. The dog by this time, encouraged by his master, or perhaps comprehending the true situation, with a fierce determination entered the ring and got a firm hold of the varmint's nose. The main engagement being transferred from rear to front, John cried out, Now's your time "Bill," go for him. Bill was of the same opinion, so with the bravery of our early settler and a humane feeling to save his dog, released his right hand and drew his knife, and with an exultant cry, as he expressed it, "Cut the d--- thing's bowels out." Bill fell exhausted; after getting his breath and surveying the scene of conflict on which lay the largest varmint ever seen, he raised himself up at full length, and with a jump exclaimed, "Woop-ee, ee ain't I a hus of a feller?"

We now relate a little wolf hunt of 1834, by Col. Mitchell, Col. Montgomery, and J. K. Biggs, our present Senator. Mounting their nags one winter morning with a foot of snow on the ground, they thought it would be an easy matter to run down a wolf or two. Starting out from the Sand-ridge they went but a short distance when a gang were found, and each man picked his wolf. Off they started pell-mell without any arms, but Montgomery's horse-pistol, when the wolves separated, soon Mitchell's horse threw him by falling down, and by the time he was in hunting condition, the game was out of sight, so he gave up the chase. George's wolf struck in the direction of the Mississippi, and as the snow was deep he found little difficulty in keeping up with the varmint. Biggs wore a heavy over-coat with cape, and getting warmed up, he concluded to make short work, and reaching down caught the wolf by the back of the neck, but in the struggle he was pulled from his horse, and then came the tug of battle; his hand with a firm grip on the wolf's neck, and a good hold on Biggs' collar, which he cut as easily as a pair of shears. Uncle George finally succeeded in getting his knee on the wolf's body, and getting his pocket knife open, with the aid of his teeth cut his throat. Montgomery's wolf took to the timber, and after chasing it within sight of Monticello, when it took the back track, and he killed it near the starting point.

Uncle Jerry was the owner of a fast mare that could run ahead of any dog or wolf he ever saw, and with hounds one winter he caught thirty-five wolves, and besides the dogs caught many on their own account. An old pioneer relates the following incident. On his way down to Des Moines he stopped at an Indian Camp near Buena Vista ferry, where one of the squaws was engaged in cooking. There were a few coats under an iron kettle, suspended from sticks driven in the ground. He soon noticed a vibrating motion of the kettle, and a sudden-jumped a soft shell turtle of good size, and made tracks for the river; the old squaw, not to lose her dinner gave chase, and caught the "varmint" by the tail, thrust it back in the vessel, and secured it by placing a stone on the lid, and went on with her cooking. I left without my dinner! A party out surveying, consisting of Captain Conway, Peter Gillis, and Jerry Wayland, stopped at the house of Sacket's for the night. They were welcome, as hospitality and good feeling

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existed among all new settlers. They ate a hearty supper, and slept soundly until morning, when Sacket looked worried. On asking him what the matter was, he replied: "Men, I gave you all I had to eat last night." Near by was a buckwheat patch, and among plenty of domestic chickens in it, they were not long in receiving a meal. The next night they stopped at Giles Sullivan's, hungry and tired enough for supper. They were invited to a kettle hanging over the fire, containing, as they supposed, venison. Sullivan began to laugh, and said, "Boys, that's a panther, how do you like it?" "A panther, dog or jackass," replied Gills, "we can eat it." And so they did, leaving just enough for breakfast next morning.

The first slave was brought in 1829, by Samuel Bartlett, (Aunt Cully), and is now alive. She was born on *Jenny River*, Old Virginia, and was an old woman when she removed to Kentucky about 1810. When she was a slip of a gal she remembers about the big light down to Yorktown, as old Massa was daz. In the spring of 1836, came Joseph McCoy, Sen., as old Massa was daz. In the spring of the present town of Waterloo. At that time the only indication of a town was a little water mill to saw logs, and crack corn, erected by Whiting Johnson, and Col. C. O. Sanford. This same season Capt. Herring Mundy brought from Clarksville, Mo., a flat-boat load of corn, and landed it about five miles east of Waterloo. Shortly afterward Col. Francis Church purchased a few acres of ground, and laid it off into town lots, and named it Waterloo. The County seat was first located two miles west of Kahoka, on the farm afterwards owned by O. F. Ensign. The people remonstrated against that point on the ground that it would never do to have a County seat in the prairie. New Commissioners were appointed, and wood, water and grinding could be obtained on Fox River, so the location was made at Waterloo; besides that it was not fit for farming purposes. Luray, on the M. I. & N. R. R., twenty-four miles west of Alexandria, was laid off in 1837 by G. Combs, and R. Q. Stark, surrounded by a magnificent farming country, with plenty of good timber and water. It contains four stores, two churches (Baptist and Methodist), and one Public School. A brother to Gen. Lee once lived near Luray, where he entered a large body of land, and commenced farming on an extensive scale. He was a high-toned gentleman, and much respected by the settlers, but exceedingly passionate. In an unguarded moment he struck a man in his employ a blow from which he soon died. No prosecution was brought against him, as he made a compromise with the widow by paying her a certain amount of money. He was shot in Virginia, and was shot dead in the streets of Richmond, by a young man whose father Lee had threatened to cow-hide. The first store in the place was opened by Smith Tinsley. Powder, lead, tobacco, pipes, sugar, coffee, and whiskey in those days constituted a full stock. A pair of Buck-horns, with thirty-two points, was over the door on the outside, while on the inside a pair of horns graced the inside door. Book-keeping was in its infancy at that settlement. We now come down to the organization of Clark County, December 16th, 1836, and of the appointment of W. S. Gregory, by the Governor, December 26th, of Sheriff. It will not do to show the quality of the bondsmen required, as they represented them, perhaps one-fourth of the value of the entire County to fill a bond of \$5,000.—W. S. Gregory, Umbleid and Ingelield Gregory, Keson Marshall, G. Colley, John Hill, Geo. Heywood, R. P. Mitchell, Thos. Bayne, Thos. Rutherford, Jno. Bayne, Robt. Sinclair, Augustus C. Bayne. Bond approved April 6th, 1837, by Judge P. H. McBride. Willis Curot appointed County Clerk, March 6th, 1837. Judges of County Court, John Curot, Thos. Williams, and Robt. McKee. Willis Curot appointed County Clerk, 2d Feb'y 1837. Sworn March 20th, 1837. The first Court held in Clark County, dated April 10th, 1837, at the house of John Hill, in Des Moines Township, John Taylor, President. The first license for Grocery was issued to Wm. Bedell, to be kept at his residence, "or at Sweet Home;" as it was the first, some latitude was allowed.

St. Francisville, generally the first in "improvements," came in next, with a license to one Richard Small.

Next in rotation was an order to hold an election at the house of J. Lewellen for Justice of the Peace. Judges of Election—J. Lewellen, Geo. K. Biggs, and J. Higbee, on May 6th, 1837.

One to be held at St. Francisville, of the same date, for the same purpose. Judges—J. Billings, J. Bryant, and Frank J. Levering.

And at Sweet Home, on May 13th, who feeling enterprising, needed two Justices of Peace, to be held at the house of Wm. Phelps; Judges—Dabney Phillips, Wm. Clark, and Wm. Bedell.

Robt. Taylor appointed Assessor. Bond \$200. J. Hill and Alexander Waggoner as securities.

Be it ordered that R. P. Mitchell be recommended to his excellency, the Governor of Missouri, as a suitable person for coroner, and in May 22d he received his appointment.

Alexander Waggoner, who kept a ferry at his place on the Des Moines, free from tax. K. Taylor security for his performance.

License also to Jerry Wayland, at Ft. Pike, for the same purpose. Commissioners appointed to locate a County seat. Stephen Cleaver of Ralls, O. Dickenson of Shelby, and Nicholas T. Noyes of Pike.

SECOND DAY.

Walter Smoot appointed Overseer of Roads from Tully to Ft. Pike, and all within the distance of three miles, to keep it in repair, to the middle of Honey Creek; to be carried down No. 1.

From Honey Creek to Fox River, No. 2, Geo. K. Biggs, Overseer. From Fox River to Wm. Bartlett's, No. 3, Fielding Wayland, Overseer. From Wm. Bartlett's to Ft. Pike, No. 4, Wm. Middleton, Overseer.

Public Bridge (the first in the county), the building ordered to be let to the lowest bidder. R. P. Mitchell, Commissioner.

Now the Court proceeded to an account to allow in favor of John Hill for three days' provisions for the Court, \$10.00. Also, \$3.00 in favor of S. Gregory for services.

Ordered, that the next term of Court be held at the house of Capt. Joseph McCoy. Be it remembered that on the 11th day of May, A. D. 1837, the Court met at J. McCoy's pursuant to agreement. Present, J. Taylor, President, and Robt. McKee.

Now at this day the Court appointed Capt. J. McCoy Treasurer of Clark County, under bond of \$500.00. Robt. McKee and Taylor, securities. Ordered that John A. Lapsley be allowed \$14.00 for trip to Jefferson City and back.

Be it remembered that on the 12th day of June, at the house of Capt. Joseph McCoy, the Clerk of said Court, on motion of John Dedman, issued ferry license to the said John Dedman at the mouth of Des Moines, across the Mississippi River.

Court met July 1st, at Capt. Jos. McCoy's, and ordered that the next term after the 8th of August Court will meet at the County seat at Waterloo.

The first Circuit Court of Clark was held April 6th, 1837, at the house of John Hill, Des Moines Township; Presley McBride, Judge; and following are a list of the Grand Jurors: David Hay, foreman; Thos. Sawyer, Frank J. Levering, Jerry Wayland, Robt. Wyancott, Joseph McCoy, Jerry Lewis, O. F. D. Hampton, J. G. Scott, Richard Lewellen, Jesse McDaniels, Amory Wheeler, Geo. K. Biggs, Barrell Gregory, Jno. Higbee, John Riney, Rice Overstreet, and Fred. Johnson, all good and true men; sworn in and duly charged, retired to their room (out under the tree), and after an hour's talk and no bills found, were duly discharged.

August term, at the house of Capt. McCoy. No bills found. December term, the first true bill found against one J. C. Boone, for larceny and burglary.

The Sheriffalty of Clark has been held by the following officers: H. S. Gregory, Samuel Masgrove, Charles O. Sanford, I. H. Calvert, O. F. Ensign, Morton Higbee, John Schee, George McDaniel, Wm. Buskirk, John Stafford Sams, Sackett, and Saml. Frazer.

REPRESENTATIVES.

Samuel South Democrat.

Table listing names and political affiliations: J. W. S. Mitchell (Whig), A. W. Daggert (Whig), N. L. Lewis (Whig), C. O. Sanford (Democrat), J. P. Lowrie (Democrat), Francis Smith (Whig), J. Cowgill (Whig), N. P. Given (Whig), Erastus Sackett (Republican), O. B. Payne (Whig), Asa Healy (Whig), James Asher (Democrat), N. P. Given (Democrat).

And now comes the declaration of "War" by the County Court of Clark to uphold the peace and dignity of the State, November term, 1839; Whereas, it is on mature consideration ordered by this Court, that Gen. O. H. Allen, of the 14th Division, and 2nd Brigade, Mo. Militia, be and is hereby required to muster the forces at his command, to aid in sustaining the civil authorities of this County in exercising exclusive and unmolested jurisdiction within the boundaries of this County, and especially on the disputed ground above named. It is further ordered that D. W. Major and General Commanding 14th Division of Mo. Militia, be ordered to muster the forces at his command, (or as many as he shall think necessary); also, to aid the authorities of the County in maintaining their jurisdiction over said disputed tract, &c. &c. December term, 2nd, 1839. It is ordered by the Court, that Col. John Dedman, of the 75th Regiment of Mo. Militia, detail so many men as he shall deem necessary to accompany the Sheriff of Clark County to the North-western boundary of said county, in order to enforce the collection of the Taxes in that quarter, and to enforce the civil laws of the State of Missouri. Whereupon Court adjourned. JOHN TAYLOR, P. C.

The troops were mustered and camped near Waterloo, on a small branch of Fox, and it now bears the name of "Soldiers' Run," quite an appropriate name. There was no blood shed in this war, if we recollect right, "but considerable two bit whiskey." A corporal's guard made a descent on Churchville (now Alexandria), for commissary stores, (blankets, sugar, coffee, and whiskey). At that date Indian goods were landed there for distribution. The citizens of that place (six numbers), had timely warning, and a council of war was held, and it was resolved to hold five barrels of whiskey, as it would be three months before the river would break up, and, as the chairman expressed it, "not that he loved his country less, but that he loved the whiskey more," said he, rising in dignity from his chair (or log) will preserve that whiskey at all hazards, and then exclaimed one of immortal memory, and the whiskey will preserve us. A horned ox and a mule both were yoked up to a hand sled, and quietly it was removed into the brush near where the Methodist Church now stands. That corporal's guard went back "sad and sober." A settler on the disputed tract, by the name of McClure, a noted wag, mounted his little pony one day, and galloping by a body of Iowa troops shouted out, look out boys, a thousand *Pades* are crossing the river six miles below. Capt. said a brave, my horse is about to break loose, guess I must go and fix him—and Capt. I done forgot to split any wood for the old woman this morning; must get some or no dinner, (as Capt. boarded there he got off), and Capt. I'm not feeling very well, my bowels are all out of fix; would like to go to the drug store and get something. The command was dwindled down to dozen, and Capt. ordered the corporal and six men to hunt up the missing, at the same time turning to his command, boys guess we had better turn back to the brush, we can see just as well. Right about face, quick-step, march. In justice to the brave boys we will say when they found out "the sell," they all returned "spilling for a fight."

A few of our more considerate men sent a delegation of citizens to the Legislature of Iowa, then located at Burlington, among whom were Dr. A. Wayland, Col. Robt. Mitchell of Clark, and Wm. McDaniel of Marion, and the matter was settled for the time to the satisfaction of both parties, until it could be disposed of by Congress.

Another anecdote of the war (perhaps will not be out of place. Three spies were captured and confined in Col. Dedman's brick smoke house in Waterloo. A class was formed to study the history of the Four Kings, but lacked one, and the sentry on duty, (Smasher Small), would lay down his gun and join the class. In laying in his claim for services, he filed one for "extra duty."

We will pass over the late "unpleasantness," (as the factious historian of Charleston calls it), and only say that the "we us," fought for principle (and a little pay also), but did not leave their homes to bleach on the sunny fields of the South. There was principle enough left to gather them up, per contract, and when they lacked any to make a full and complete skeleton, those of a horse, mule or ox were substituted—so said my informant who was that. Historians are prone to magnify the deeds of their countrymen, and I have been looking around to find some brilliant example, but fail to point to any very eminent Divines, any extraordinary Jurists—neither do I find a single magnificent rascal. Our early pioneers were enterprising, energetic, intelligent, Christian men—and they have left to their descendants not only the fertile field they won, but a rich remembrance of their fortitude.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS.

The staples are Corn, Oats, Timothy, Wheat, Rye, Blue Grass. Clover and timothy hay the pasture sasses the former is taking in strong hold in every part not tilled. Great attention is being paid to raising cattle, hogs, sheep, and wool. Cattle are sold to Illinois feeders, or fattened and sold in Chicago or St. Louis, as our facilities for transportation are such that we have advantage of early market. Lately the people have turned their attention to fruit planting; largely of apple, pears, cherries, grapes, and some fruit generally. Potatoes, beans and buckwheat are grown to considerable extent, but not a staple crop.

MINERAL RESOURCES.

Coal of fair quality has been mined for many years near Athens, and indications of Iron and Galena have been found. Wealth—valuation of the County per census of 1870, \$9,957,601.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

Clark County is undulating prairie, broken and hilly near the creek and river bottom, while the streams are skirted with a heavy growth of oak, black walnut, butternut, hickory, sycamore, ash, elm, hony-locust, and all other wood indigenous to North Missouri. The greater part of the soil is a rich pliable loam, resting on a clayey subsoil, almost every part of it tillable, and the bottom exceedingly rich. Twelve thousand acres of rich bottom land lying between the Des Moines and Fox Rivers, are now protected by a levee costing about \$4.00 per acre, and is perhaps the finest body of corn land in the State of that number of acres. Another rich body of land lays below, subject to overflows, and levees are in process of construction, which will reclaim it for cultivation. These reclaimed lands are the richest in the County. Clark is watered by the Des Moines, North-eastern boundary. Fox, Wyaconda, Fabius, Honey and Sugar Creeks traverse the County, and are tributaries of the Mississippi. Des Moines furnish excellent water power.

SCHOOLS.

The number of Public Schools of Clark County has reached nearly one hundred, and an attendance of three thousand children. The houses in the several districts are mostly new and comfortably seated. Schools on an average over the county are in session more than half the year. Twenty-five thousand dollars annually are expended in Clark County for the services of teachers. This rank among the best counties in the State, perhaps, in regard to the interest manifested in Public Schools. There is one regularly chartered College in this County, located at Alexandria on the Mississippi River—called Alexandria College. It was established July 5th, 1871, by Rev. Thomas J. Musgrove, A. M., who is the entire overseer of all the property appertaining to the College. It consists of two beautiful frame buildings, two stories high, well proportioned, and constructed according to the most approved style of architecture, at a cost of \$80,000. They are situated in the most desirable part of the city, commanding a splendid view of the river, and the magnificent streams that float upon the mighty Father of Waters. The grounds surrounding the College are adorned

with evergreens and well set in grass. Both these buildings were erected and ready for use in fifty-eight days' time; and the College was opened for the reception of pupils on the 11th day of September, 1871, with ample accommodations for 250 students. The College has been in regular session ever since that time, and all the various branches taught in our western institutions, have been successfully taught here for the past seven years. Its founder and owner is President, and is perhaps the only teacher in the State who has invested as much money for the cause of education. The Trustees for this College are: Hon. George K. Biggs, Cortes A. Johnson, C. D. Eberhart, G. W. Hill, and Thomas J. Musgrove. In addition to the regular collegiate course, strictest attention is paid to the primary course. Music has always been taught here as a part of the course, and is considered indispensable. The President has preferred to board a large number of those who come from a distance. During its history quite a number have finished the regular collegiate course, and have obtained the degree of A. B. Several others have taken a select or scientific course, and have received the degree of S. B. Its students are from different States of the Union, but mostly from Missouri. It is not under the management of any religious denomination; yet every good religious, moral and Christian influence is thrown around the institution; and it is the greatest desire of the President of the College that his students may be celebrated for their great zeal for the Master's cause. And for this end every opportunity will be improved to make the pupils both good and great. An effort will soon be made to get some endowment fund for Alexandria College.

RAILROADS.

The Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska Railroad passes from East to West across the County, and has 28 miles of track. The St. Louis, Keokuk & North Western Railroad has 10 miles of track from North to South, giving the County a Southern and Eastern connection. The K. & N. R. R. (Ku Klux) has 25 miles of Railroad surveyed, and road-bed completed in some localities, particularly near St. Francisville, where the Boss shoveller of the period walked his train of earth with shovel on his shoulder, and drew his pay like a "little man," the object to hold the charter.

The Manufacturing Interests consist of Flouring and Saw-mills, one Woolen factory, one Distillery, several Wagon, Buggy, Plow and Furniture manufactories, at Kahoka, Athens, Luray, Fairmont, Alexandria; the latter place where the Machine Shops of the M., I. & N. Railroad are located.

TOWNS AND POST-OFFICES.

Acusto—A Post-office, 13 miles North-west of Kahoka. Alexandria—on the Mississippi, at the mouth of Des Moines River, 204 miles from St. Louis, five miles from Keokuk, and Railway trains can be seen running in three different States. Was first settled in the winter of 1834-35, by the ferryman building a cabin (Kennedy), who remained there a short time. It contains several Churches, good School building, with an excellent Seminary, two Hotels, Printing office, Lumber yard, Wholesale and Retail Stores, and business houses usually found in a place of its size. Population about 1,000.

Anson—A Post-office, 10 miles North-west of Kahoka. Ashton—A Post-office, on the M., I. & N. Railroad, 20 miles West from Alexandria. One Store, and one Blacksmith shop.

Athens, on the Des Moines River, 11 miles North of Kahoka, was laid out in 1844, and is noted for its magnificent water power afforded from the Des Moines, contains one Woolen mill, Flouring and Grist mill, one Wagon shop, three Stores, one Graded School, one Methodist Church. The Confederate troops, under Col. Martin E. Green, attacked this place, August 5th, 1861, and were defeated by Col. Moore and his undisciplined militia, who formed the members of the Thirty-first Regiment. This is believed to be the most Northern engagement of the war, and the same Regiment participated in the most extreme Southern, via Mobile.

Chambersburg—A Post-office, 8 miles North-west from Kahoka. A town was laid off here at an early day.

Clark City—on the M., I. & N. Railroad, 13 miles from Alexandria, was chiefly laid off by Aaron Becktel and Bryant Bartlett, and was once a rival of Kahoka for the County seat. It is most pleasantly situated, and surrounded by a delightful country, and most energetic farmers. The people of this town were aiming to make it an educational center, and an excellent Academy, controlled by the Presbyterians, is located here.

Gem—A Post-office, 7 miles South-east of Kahoka. Kahoka—County seat of Clark County. A thriving incorporated town of 120 inhabitants. It is centrally located upon high rolling prairie land, and noted for its excellent water and pure bracing atmosphere. It is a station on the M., I. & N. Railroad, 15 miles West of Alexandria, and 215 North-west from St. Louis; containing one Flouring mill, one Bank, three Churches, two Carriage shops, a fine Opera House (Sansons'), a first class Hotel (The Kahoka House), Capt. David Morton, Proprietor; a Weekly Newspaper (The Gazette), and about 20 Mercantile houses, and all doing a fair business. Grain, Hay, Cattle and Hogs are exported; Western Union Telegraph, United States Express and Daily Mail.

Neepa—A Post-office, 10 miles South of Kahoka, John Prickett & Bro., do a general Mercantile business at this point.

Pekeville—7 miles North of Kahoka, contains two Stores, Methodist Church, Public School; among the early settlers were Dr. Peake, Judge McKee, Jerry Lewis, John Wade, Dumas, Hill and Graham.

Fairmont—12 miles South-west of Kahoka, contains four Stores, Hotel, Public School, P. O., Church, surrounded by an excellent farming country. Among the early settlers in this vicinity were Micajah and Daniel Weber, Hayley Glascock, Francis and Ralph Smith, and Wm. Kerfoot.

Fremont—A Post-office, 7 miles North-east of Kahoka, and 5 miles from Clark on the M., I. & N. Railroad, its shipping point. Winchester—7 miles from Wayland station, was laid out in 1837; has three Stores, Flouring mill, Baptist and Methodist Church, Public School, Post-office. Population, 250. Among the first settlers were: Keller, Crooks, Lewellen, Lowry, Bennett, Bush, Banks, Wheeler, Reed and Higbee.

Wayland Station—Post-office and station on the M., I. & N. Railroad, 7 1/2 miles West of Alexandria. P. S. Stanley, Agent.

Union—A Post-office, 6 miles South of Kahoka.

St. Marysville—12 miles South of Kahoka; has one Catholic Church, presided over by Father Coyle. A beautiful and well kept Convent is attached to the Chapel.

Des Moines City—on the Mississippi, 6 miles from Alexandria; 1 Store, Grain warehouse, Post Office, one School-house, and is a point of considerable shipment.

Gregory's Landing—on the Mississippi River, 20 miles South-west from Kahoka Post-office and station, on the St. L. & N. W. Railroad, 49 miles North of Hannibal.

CLARK COUNTY.

Table showing population of Clark County in 1840 (2,846), 1850 (5,527), 1860 (11,684), and 1870 (13,667). Total population 13,372, of whom 7,950 are white, 295 colored, 7,050 male, and 6,617 female; 12,851 natives, 5,794 born in Missouri, and 816 foreigners.

VALUATION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR THE YEAR 1876.

Table showing valuation of personal property for 1876: Horses (\$245,274), Mules and Asses (\$45,247), Neat Cattle (\$262,781), Sheep (\$14,600), Hogs (\$61,620), All other Personal Property (\$181,879), Money, Notes and Bonds held by other than Banks (\$124,184), Total Personal Property (\$934,612), Corporate Company (\$7,600), Total Taxable Wealth (\$978,229).

BONDED DEBT.

\$50,000 Alexandria & Bloomfield R. R. | \$5,000 (Vernon Towns' P.) M. & N. R. R. | 75,000 " & Nebraska City R. R. | 200,000 Missouri & Mississippi R. R.