

HISTORY
Of
HOWARD AND COOPER COUNTIES,

MISSOURI

WRITTEN AND COMPILED

FROM THE MOST AUTHENTIC OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE SOURCES

INCLUDING A HISTORY OF ITS

TOWNSHIPS, TOWNS AND VILLAGES

TOGETHER WITH

A CONDENSED HISTORY OF MISSOURI; A RELIABLE AND DETAILED HISTORY OF
HOWARD AND COOPER COUNTIES – ITS PIONEER RECORD, RESOURCES,
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF PROMINENT CITIZENS; GENERAL
AND LOCAL STATISTICS OF GREAT VALUE; INCIDENTS
AND REMINISCENCES

ILLUSTRATED

ST. LOUIS
NATIONAL HISTORICAL COMPANY.

1883

PREFACE

Portions of this book that are highlighted in red are direct quotations from Leven's and Drakes' 1876 History of Cooper County, Missouri. So if you have already read this earlier history, you may wish to jump to the new sections given in this history. Formatting has been changed and page numbering, etc bears no direct correlation to the original manuscript. Finally there are a few pages of long boring tables that I could not bring myself to transcribe. Otherwise, I hope you enjoy this history.

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CHAPTER V

BLACKWATER, CLARK'S FORK AND CLEAR CREEK TOWNSHIPS

Blackwater Township - Boundary – Physical Features – Early Settlers – Clark's Fork Township – Boundary – Physical Features – Early Settlers – Clear Creek Township – Boundary – Physical Features – Early Settlers

BLACKWATER BOUNDARY

This township is a peninsular, being almost entirely surrounded by the Lamine and Blackwater rivers. It is bounded on the north by Lamine township, from which it is separated by the Blackwater river; on the east and south by Pilot Grove and Clear Creek townships, from which it is separated by the Lamine river, and on the west by Saline and Pettis counties.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

Besides the two streams mentioned (Lamine and Blackwater), there are a number of smaller water courses among which is Heath's creek, all of which water the township in many different localities.

The soil is rich and exceedingly productive. The bottom land is low and swampy, and the ridge land fertile and susceptible of early cultivation. In the bottom, corn and timothy are grown in large quantities; on the ridge land, corn, wheat, oats, tobacco, potatoes, and all kinds of garden vegetables are produced in great abundance. The different kinds of wood are ash, beach, black oak, black walnut, cherry, cottonwood, elm, maple, hickory, redbud, sugar tree, white oak, and white walnut.

The minerals which are found in this township, are iron, which appears in large deposits, and lead which crops out on every hillside.

There are, in this township, six salt and a great number of fresh water springs. Salt was successfully manufactured at these springs as early as 1808, and from that time till 1836 the manufacture of it was carried on pretty extensively by Heath, Bailey, Christie, Allison and others.

EARLY SETTLERS

William Christie and John G. Heath temporarily settled in this township in 1808, but only remained long enough to manufacture a small quantity of salt, when they returned down the river. James Broch, the first permanent settler, arrived in 1816; Enoch Hambrich came in 1817; David Shellcraw, in 1818, and planted an acre of cotton which yielded very well. George Chapman, the father of Mrs. Caleb Jones, in 1818; Nathaniel T. Allison, Sr., in 1831; Fleming Marshall and Robert Clark, in 1832; Nathaniel Bridgewater, in 1835, and Edmund M. Cobb and Larkin T. Dix, in 1838.

CLARKS FORK TOWNSHIP – BOUNDARY

Bounded on the north by Boonville township; on the east by Prairie Home and Saline; on the south by Moniteau and Kelly, and on the west by Palestine township.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

The township is water by Clark's Fork, with its tributaries, and the tributaries of the Petite Saline creek. There is possibly more prairie in this township, than in any other township in the county.

EARLY SETTLERS

From the best information that can be obtained, John Glover was the first settler of this township, he having located there in the year 1813. He built a log cabin on the south bank of the Petite Saline Creek, and cleared a few acres of ground near where Rankin's mill now stands, but nothing is known of his history.

The next settlers were Zepheniah Bell and John C. Rochester. The last named gentleman was the grandson of the founder of the City of Rochester, New York, who having lost a princely fortune by having to pay a large security debt, sought seclusion by emigrating to this country and the society of the people, who required nothing, save honesty and industry, to admit a person into their social circles. He married Miss Sally Kelly, a beautiful and accomplished lady, the daughter of James Kelly, who was an honored soldier of the Revolution. He was well educated considering the times and his occupation was that of a farmer. He died in the township many years ago. Mr. Bell was also a farmer, a good citizen, and an honest man. He has been dead many years.

Some of the other old citizens were Joshua H. Berry, William Read, William and Reuben George, Clayton Hurt, Samuel Carpenter, Edward, Andrew and Charles Robertson, James, Robert and John Johnston, Samuel, Robert and William Drinkwater, Gabriel Titsworth, William Shipley, Acrey Hurt, Peter Carpenter, George Crawford, George W. Weight and Martin Jennings.

George Crawford was the first Assessor of Cooper county, which office he filled for many years; he was also a member of the Legislature from this county. Judge George W. Weight was born in Dutchess county, New York, on the 22nd day of February, 1784. When quite young, having been, by the death of his parents, left alone in the world, he emigrated to West Virginia, and from thence to Ross county, Ohio, where he married Miss Elizabeth Williams. In 1820, he with his family moved to Howard County, Missouri. In 1822 he settled in Clark's Fork township, Cooper county, and lived there until his death, which occurred on the 29th day of January, 1857. He taught school in West Virginia, Ohio and Cooper county; he was a good violinist, and in his early days taught dancing school. He was Judge of the County Court and County Surveyor of Cooper county for many years. He also represented the county in the State Legislature.

It will be observed that some of the old settlers mentioned above, really lived in that part of Clark's Fork township, which was lately annexed to Boonville township. The Petite Saline Creek was formerly the dividing line between the townships above mentioned, and but little information, as to the location of the old settlers, in respect to this dividing line could be obtained.

It may be safely stated, that the average farming land within this township is equally as productive as that of any other in the county. There is a little poor land in the township, and the farmers are generally prosperous. There is no town located within its limits.

CLEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP - BOUNDARY

Clear Creek township is bounded on the north by the Lamine river or Blackwater township; on the east by Pilot Grove and Palestine townships, and on the south by Lebanon and Otterville townships.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

The surface of this township is exceedingly rough in the northern and western portions of the same, but in the southern and eastern portions there are some fine farms, embracing some of the richest lands in the county. The township is still well timbered and is penetrated by the Lamine River and numerous smaller streams.

EARLY SETTLEMENT

Among the early settlers of this township, were James Taylor, who had three sons, William, John and James. He emigrated from the State of Georgia to New Madrid, Missouri, where he witnessed the long series of earthquakes which occurred in 1811; from thence he moved to Cooper county, in the year 1817. He had a large plantation, raised and always had on hand large quantities of corn, upon which, when cribbed, he placed a certain price, and would not dispose of it until he could get for it what he demanded. He was a very eccentric, plain, matter of fact kind of man, and was charitable to such as would work, but he had no patience with a lazy, trifling or profligate man. He was also a good Judge of human nature.

At one time when corn was very scarce throughout the county, and very little could be had for love or money, two men came to Mr. Taylor's house asking to purchase some corn, of which he had a large quantity, on credit, as neither of them had any money with which to pay. One was very poorly dressed, with his pants torn off below his knees, and what there was remaining of them, patched all over. The other was almost elegantly dressed. Mr. Taylor sold the poorly dressed man, on credit, all the corn he wished. He told the other one that "he could get no corn there, unless he paid the money for it, and that if he had saved the money which he had squandered for his fine clothes, he would have had sufficient to pay cash for the corn.

He had a large number of negroes, and required them, during the day, to perform a great deal of work. Shovel plows were mostly used in his day, and the wooden mold board just coming into use. It is related, that the shovels of Mr. Taylor's plows had, at one time, worn off very blunt, and he was very averse to buying new ones. So that one negro man plowed once around a field before he discovered that he had lost the dull shovel to his plow, the plow running just as well without as with it. He was a leader in the Baptist church, and was a devoted member, a kind neighbor, and a strictly honest man.

Jordan O'Bryan a son-in-law of James Taylor was also one of the early settlers of this township. He was born in North Carolina, moved to Kentucky when young, and to Cooper county in 1817. As will be seen, he was elected to the State Legislature in 1822, 1826, 1834 and 1840, eight years in all; in 1844 he was elected State Senator for four years. He was a fluent speaker, a man of no ordinary talents, and an uncompromising Whig. In about 1830 he removed to Saline township, where he remained until his death.

Charles R. Berry, the father of Finis E. Berry, Isaac Ellis and Hugh and Alexander Brown, are among the oldest citizens; others of a later date, were Herman Bailey, William Ellis, Samuel Walker, A. S. Walker, H. R. Walker,

Finis E. Berry, James and Samuel Mahan, the Rubeys, Jeremiah, William G., and Martin G. Phillips, Samuel Forbes, Ragan Berry, Hiram Dial, Samuel and Rice Hughes, and Willis Ellis.

Lamine river, the bottom lands of which are very fertile, forms the boundary line between this and Black Water townships. The greater part of the population are Germans, who have proved themselves to be a very industrious and thrifty people. They have mostly settled on the hills which the Americans thought too poor to cultivate, and have made them "blossom as the rose." They have succeeded in raising good 'crops, made good livings, and have been generally prosperous and happy. In the hills they cultivate the grape very successfully, and a large amount of wine is manufactured here every year: The Missouri, Kansas and Texas railroad runs about five miles through this township, furnishing the inhabitants transportation for their surplus productions.

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CHAPTER VI

KELLY TOWNSHIP

Boundary – Physical Features – Early Settlers – Churches – Schools – Mills – The Township Democratic – Bunceton – Its History – Secret Orders

BOUNDARY

This township is bounded on the north by Palestine and Clark's Fork townships, on the east by Moniteau township, on the south by Moniteau county and on the west by Lebanon township.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

The surface of the township, as compared to Lamine, Blackwater, Otterville and Lebanon townships, is quite regular and consists, in the main, of prairie, diversified with timbered portions of small area. Moniteau creek with its many tributaries extends through two-thirds of the township from east to west, and Petite Saline creek, waters a portion of the western part of the same. The township was named in honor of John Kelly, one of its old and most respected pioneers.

EARLY SETTLERS

This township, from the best information which can be obtained, was settled early in the spring of 1818. The first settlers were John Kelly, William Stephens, James D. Campbell, James Kelly, William J. Kelly, Caperton Kelly, William Jennings, General Charles Woods, Philip E. Davis, Rice Challis, Hugh Morris, Jesse White, Hartley White, Jephtha Billingsley, Joshua Dellis, and William Swearingen.

James Kelly, who was one of the first settlers in this township, and the father of the other Kellys mentioned above, was a revolutionary soldier, and died in 1840 at an advanced age. John Kelly, Charles Woods, and James D. Campbell served as soldiers in the war of 1812. The Kellys came from Tennessee, and James D. Campbell from Kentucky.

William Jennings, who was the first preacher in the township, emigrated from Georgia to Cooper county in 1819. He had a large number of slaves, owned a large tract of land and was quite wealthy. He was for many years pastor of "Old Nebo" church, and was an honest man in his dealings with his neighbors.

James D. Campbell was an early justice of the County Court and acted in the capacity of justice of the Peace for many years. He was a prominent politician, always voting the Democratic ticket.

General Charles Woods was for many years the leading Democrat in his neighborhood. He was a man of no ordinary ability, of pleasing address, and a liberal, high-toned gentleman. He died in 1874, at the advanced age of seventy-eight years.

Joseph Reavis settled in this township in the year 1823. He, together with his sons, Lewis, William T., Jackson, and Johnston, for many years carried on the business of manufacturing wagons. They turned out excellent work, and their trade extended for many miles around; their wagons even being purchased by the Santa Fe traders. James L. Collins, who fitted out ten wagons in 1834, for Santa Fe, bought his wagons of Joseph Reavis.

Of the persons mentioned above, all are now numbered with the dead, except Johnston and William T. Reavis, and they were quite young when their father settled in the township.

There was no church within the limits of this township for many years, and the settlers attended the services at Pisgah and "Old Nebo."

The first school within this township of which there is any knowledge, was taught by Joseph S. Anderson, who came there about 1824. He was a young man with more than ordinary education, whose only earthly possessions were a horse, saddle and bridle, and a moderately good suit of clothes. A good school teacher being very much needed, he soon succeeded in making up a large school, and taught with great success until 1828, when he was elected sheriff of Cooper county. In 1830 he was reelected sheriff, and in 1832, he was elected to the Legislature from Cooper county. Previous to his death, he became a large land holder and quite a wealthy man. His residence was on the hill north of Bunceton. The place at which he taught school was near the ground on which Hopewell church is located.

For many years afterwards a school was taught at the same place, by Mr. William Robertson, who was a very successful teacher. He has been for many years a very zealous minister of the Baptist church.

The first mill in this township was built by Robert McCulloch, the father of Judge Robert A McCulloch.

Rice Challis was a prominent Whig, and in respect to his politics stood almost alone in his neighborhood. He was a carpenter by trade, and resided near the present residence of Joseph Reavis. He died a few years ago.

The soil of this township is very productive, and the farmers are generally in good condition, many of them being very wealthy. The Pacific railroad lies a short distance south of the township, and the Osage Valley and

Southern Kansas railroad runs eight miles directly through its center, affording the inhabitants easy facilities for the shipping of their productions.

Corn, grasses and oats are the principal productions, the farmers being principally engaged in raising stock, which affords them lucrative profits. It has, within its limits, several good public schools, which are taught from four to ten months in each year.

Kelly township always was and is now strongly Democratic, never having voted any other ticket from the time it was headed by General Jackson to the present day. This township received its name from John Kelly, the first settler within its limits, and was formed from Moniteau and Palestine townships, in the year 1848.

BUNCETON

Bunceton is situated on sections 4 and 5, township 46, range 17, and on the east side of the Missouri Pacific railroad.

It was laid out in 1868, by Harvey Bunce, Esq., one of the directors (at present) of the Central National bank of Boonville. He laid out ten acres of land lying in Kelly township, and the first building was erected by E. B. Bunce. In 1869, Mr. Thomas J. Parrish added ten acres from Palestine township, making twenty acres in the town site. Lots sold rapidly, and soon after the depot of the Missouri Pacific railroad was located here, with E. B. Bunce as agent. In 1871, the county court set all of the town in Kelly township. The first business house was erected by J. E. Stephens and E. B. Bunce. Sheriff Rogers and J. M. Stephens soon afterwards built several stores, and in 1869 a handsome and commodious depot was erected by the railroad company.

The Bunceton mill (flouring) was built in 1874, by Miller, Rogers & Co., at a cost of \$15,000. It is now in successful operation, having a capacity of about 200 barrels every twenty-four hours.

The town has a population of about 250 persons, and is surrounded by excellent farming lands, and favored with a class of people noted for their wealth and general intelligence.

The business of the town is as follows: Two drug stores, two general stores, four groceries, one millinery store, two blacksmith shops, two physicians, one lumber yard, one livery stable, one carpenter's shop, one public school, and one flouring mill.

The first postmaster was Henry Withers; the present postmaster is G. L. Stephens. There are two churches and two secret orders.

Wallace lodge No. 456, A. F. and A. M., was organized October, 1872, with the following charter members: Wesley J. Wyan, W. M.; William Van Ostern, S. W.; J. W. Rankin, J. W.; Joshua E. Stephens, secretary, and Thomas J. Wallace, treasurer.

Present officers - R. F. Wyan, W. M.; C. P. Tutt, S. W.; Peter Keyser, J. W.; W. B. Kerns, S. D.; O. F. Ewing, J. D.; Thomas J. Wallace, treasurer; N. Phillips, secretary.

The Eastern Star lodge was organized in July, 1875 (Olive Chapter No. 107), by H. G. Reynolds. The officers were: S. H. Stephens, W. P.; A. D. Nelson, W. M.; M. S. Wallace, A. M.; M. E. Stephens, A. C.; Wyan Nelson, treasurer; J. A. Ramsey, secretary. This organization has at this time (1883) no existence.

CHAPTER VII

LAMINE AND MONITEAU TOWNSHIPS

Boundary – Physical Features – Early Settlers – Churches – Schools – Mills

LAMINE TOWNSHIP - BOUNDARY

This township is situated in the northeastern part of Cooper county, and is separated from Howard county by the Missouri river. It is bounded on the north by the Missouri river, on the east by Boonville township, on the south by Pilot Grove and Blackwater townships and on the west by Saline county.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

The surface of the township, is rolling and originally covered with a heavy growth of timber. The soil is comparatively rich, and in some localities is very productive. The most substantial farmers are found in the eastern and southern portions. Three sides of the township are surrounded by water.

EARLY SETTLERS

The township was settled first in 1812, by a few pioneers. The very first settlers were David Jones, a revolutionary soldier, Thomas and James McMahan, Stephen, Samuel and Jesse Turley, Saunders Townsend and some others, who came soon afterwards.

Those who arrived later were John Cramer, Bradford Lawless, John M. David and William Reid, Hezekiah Harris, Elijah Taylor, John, Peter, Samuel and Joseph Fisher, William and Jesse Moon, Rudolph Haupe, Isaac Hedrick, John Smelser, William McDaniel, Wyant Parm, Harmon Smelser, Samuel Larnd, Pethnel Foster, Julius Burton, Ezekiel Williams, and some others at present unknown.

In the year 1812 or 1813 there was a fort, called "Fort McMahan," built somewhere in this township, but the exact location could not be ascertained.

The township is excellent is noted as one of the most wealthy townships in the county. It is bounded on the north by the Missouri river, on the east by the Lamine river, on the south by the Black Water river, and on the west by the Saline county line. It is noted for voting always almost unanimously in one way; it was anti-democratic, until 1864, since which time it has been almost as strongly Democratic as it was Whig in days gone by.

Lead has been found and worked in paying quantities in this township. It has an abundance of timber of the very best quality, and a large quantity of lumber and cordwood is shipped every year by means of the Blackwater and Lamine rivers. These streams abound with fish of very fine quality, and the Boonville market is principally supplied by them.

LAMINE

The first business house was erected in the village of Lamine in 1869 by Samuel Walton; the next house was built by A. J. Fisher. The present store was opened in November, 1871, by Redd & Gibson. J. J. Simms is the blacksmith, and Dr. E. Davidson operates the drug store. Redd & Gibson's store was broken into in February, 1881, the safe blown open and about \$ 700 in money taken. The town contains a Christian and Baptist church. Mr. Redd is the present postmaster.

MONITEAU TOWNSHIP - BOUNDARY

Moniteau township lies in the eastern part of the county, and is bounded as follows: On the north, by Clark's Fork and Prairie Home townships, on the east and south by Moniteau county, and on the west by Kelly township. This township first embraced what is now Prairie Home township, and assumed its present form in 1872.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

The surface is divided into three portions, vis.: A comparatively level portion in the north, being widest at the western side; a timbered, rough country in the centre, and a level district in the south, being the widest at the eastern side. Moniteau creek, from which the township derived its name, passes through the central portion of the same from east to west.

EARLY SETTLERS

About the first settler was one Mr. Shelton, a blacksmith, who settled in 1818, where the town of Pisgah now stands. He could repair guns, as well as do the heavier work demanded of him, and though his tools were rude in structure and few in number, his work is highly spoken of, and drew to his shop, a custom which extended far and near, as he was the only blacksmith in the county, outside of Boonville. Among the early settlers, were Thomas B. Smiley, Seth Joseph, Waid and Stephen Howard, William Coal, James Stinson, Hawking Burress, David Burress, Charles Hickox, Samuel McFarland, Carrol George, James Snodgrass, Martin George, Mathew Burress, Jesse Martin, Alexander Woods, William Landers, Jesse Bowles, James Donelson, William A. Stillson, Samuel Snodgrass, James W. Maxey, Job Martin, James Jones, David Jones, Augustus K. Longan, Patrick Mahan, Valentine Martin, John Jones and John B. Longan.

Thomas B. Smiley was elected to the Legislature from Cooper county in 1820, with Thomas Rogers and William Lillard. He was a man of considerable information, a good historian, and possessed with more than ordinary education. He raised a large family of children, and died about the year 1836. He was honest and industrious, a strong friend to education, and an uncompromising Democrat.

David Jones settled at Pisgah at an early date, but the precise time is not known. Yet it was previous to the year 1820, as his vote was recorded in that year. He, with Archibald Kavanaugh, was elected to the State Legislature in 1828. He was re-elected Representative in 1830, 1832 and 1834; in 1836 he was elected State Senator for four years. He was defeated for this office by Reuben A. Ewing in 1840; but in 1848 he was again elected to the State Senate, this making him a member of the General Assembly during a period of sixteen years. He was a Democrat, a prominent member of the Baptist church, a good citizen, and noted for his hospitality. He died about the year 1859, loved and respected by all who knew him.

Pisgah and Mount Pleasant churches were built by the Baptists at an early day, and were presided over by John B. Longan and Kemp Scott, who were both able preachers.

Augustus K. Longan moved to Cooper county in the year 1818, and was elected to the State Legislature in 1822. He was re-elected in 1844 and 1852, and served in that capacity for six years. He was the father of George Longan, the talented and distinguished minister of the Christian church.

The first school in this township as far as can be ascertained, was taught by James Donelson. He only professed to teach arithmetic as far as the "double rule of three."

The first mill was erected by a man named Howard, at what was afterwards known as "Old Round Hill." Judge C. H. Smith, and an Englishman named Summers, also kept a store at that place.

At a later day Patrick Mahan built a tread mill, which was a great improvement on the old style "Horse Mill." Mr. Richard D. Bousfield kept a store at Pisgah at an early time. He first merchandised at Old Franklin, then at Boonville, and finally at Pisgah. He was still living at an advanced age a few years ago.

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CHAPTER VIII

LEBANON TOWNSHIP

Boundary – Physical Features – Settlement of Lebanon Township – New Lebanon - Early Settlers – Where They Were From – Where They Located

BOUNDARY

Lebanon township is bounded on the north by Clear Creek and Palestine townships, on the east by Kelly township, on the south by Morgan county, and on the west by Otterville township. This township was organized about the year 1826, but afterwards – in fact, a few years ago – all that portion of the same lying west of the Lamine river was formed into a township and called Otterville.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

In the western part of the township the surface is rough and heavily timbered, but fine stretches of prairie and rolling land exist in the southern and eastern part. It is fairly watered.

SETTLEMENT OF LEBANON TOWNSHIP

The following history of the townships of Otterville and Lebanon was written by Mr. Thomas J. Starke, of Otterville, and was read by him on the 4th day of July 1876, at a meeting of the citizens of that town. As it embraces the history of the two townships, we will here insert it in full.

“At the solicitation of a few leading citizens of Otterville, the undersigned has prepared the following brief history of this place and vicinity since its first settlement up to the present time; embracing short biographical sketches of the lives and characters of some of the older citizens, together with facts and incidents of interest which have transpired in this county during the first period of its existence.

“It is not pretended by the author that the production possesses any peculiar merits of its own as affording information, other than of a strictly local character. Nor is it designed otherwise than for the entertainment and amusement of those who are more or less familiar with the history of the people, and incidents pertaining to this immediate neighborhood, and who, with many others of our inhabitants, of a later period, meet with us today, on this joyful and happy occasion—the one hundredth anniversary of the Independence of our common country.

“The writer does not lay claim to entire originality in the production of these brief sketches, although he has been an eye witness to most of the occurrences presented, and personally acquainted with nearly all of the characters mentioned.

“He takes pleasure in acknowledging himself indebted to Messrs. Samuel Wear, George W. Smith, James H. Cline, John W. Parsons, Thomas C. Cranmer; and other old settlers who are here among us today, for much of the subject matter embraced in these pages of local history, and he refers to it for its authenticity.

“While it is apparent to all who may read this manuscript that this is only an obscure and insignificant village, situated in a remote corner of old Cooper, whose very existence is scarcely known beyond our own immediate neighborhood, yet to many of us who meet here today together, some of whom are descending the western slope of human life, Otterville does possess a name and a history, dear to us, though unknown and unnoticed by others.

“In presenting these sketches, it will perhaps be necessary to glance back at the first settlement of New Lebanon, six miles north of Otterville, as this neighborhood was peopled some time anterior to the settlements south and west of the Lamine.

“About the fall of 1819 and the spring of 1820, the following named persons moved to New Lebanon and into that neighborhood embracing a portion of the territory now known as Lebanon township, in Cooper county. This county then extended south to the Osage river, to wit:

“Rev. Finis Ewing, Rev. James L. Wear, John Wear, James H. Wear, who was the father of William G. Wear, of Warsaw, and Samuel Wear, row of Otterville; Alexander Sloan, Robert Kirkpatrick, Colin C. Stoneman, William Stone, Frederick Castell, Reuben A. Erring, James Berry, Thomas Rubey, Elizabeth Steele, sister of Alexander Sloan’s wife, a man named Smiley, Rev. Laird Burns and his father John Burns, John Reed, Silas Thomas, James Taylor, Hugh Wear, who was a brother of James L. and John Wear, James McFarland and Rev. William Kavanaugh.

“The Rev. Finis Ewing was a distinguished minister of the gospel, and one of the original founders of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. He was from Kentucky; was ordained a minister in the year 1803, and in conjunction with Samuel McAdam and Samuel King, founded this church in 1810.

“The cause which give rise to the establishment of this branch of the Presbyterian church was, that the mother church required her ministers to possess a classical education before ordination, which was by the new church not regarded as absolutely indispensable, though its ministers were required to cultivate a knowledge of the elementary branches of the English language.

"At this place these early pioneers pitched their tents, and soon began the erection of a rude building as a sanctuary, which, when completed, they called "New Lebanon," in contradistinction to the house in which they had sung and worshipped in the State from which they had formerly emigrated.

"It was built of hewed logs, and the settlers of this little colony united in the project, each furnishing his proportionate quota of the logs requisite to complete the building.

"These logs were double; that is each log was twenty-four feet in length, being joined in the middle of the house by means of an upright post, into which the ends were mortised, thus making the entire length of the church forty-eight feet, by thirty feet in width.

"This building served as a place of worship for many Years, until about the time of the war, when the new and neat brick church of the present day, was erected on the site of the old one which was torn away.

"The members of this church constituted the prevailing religion of the neighborhood for many years; and most of the characters portrayed herein were connected with this denomination.

"The Rev. James L. Wear, was also for many years a Cumberland Presbyterian preacher. He was a good man, and lived close to New Lebanon, where Frank Asberry now lives. He died at the old mansion about 1868. He was a brother of John Wear, who first lived at New Lebanon at the place now owned by Mr. Majors; and afterwards at Otterville where Mr. Anson Hemenway now lives. The first school taught in Otterville, or in Otterville township, was taught by his son, known by the "sobriquet" of "Long George." They were originally from Kentucky, moved to Howard county in 1817, and afterwards to New Lebanon at the date above indicated.

"Samuel Wear, Sr., and James H. Wear were brothers, and came from Tennessee; the latter being the father of William G., and Samuel Wear, Jr., as before stated, and lived at the place now occupied by William Walker. He was a successful farmer, and died in good circumstances.

"Samuel Wear, Sr., lived where Wesley Cook now lives, and sold a large farm there to Samuel Burke, late of this county.

"Alexander Sloan was from Kentucky, and settled the place now owned by Peter Spillers. He was the father of William Sloan, who died at Otterville several years ago, and also of the Rev. Robert Sloan, who was an eminent minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, and who married a daughter of the Rev. Finis Ewing.

"Robert Kirkpatrick was a Kentuckian, and lived near the New Lebanon graveyard. He died many years ago. He was a Revolutionary soldier, and had a son named David, who was an able minister of the Cumberland church. David met his death by accident; he was thrown from a carriage, severely wounded, and afterwards died from the amputation of his leg.

"Colin C. Stoneman was from Kentucky, and lived at the old cabin still to be seen standing near Andrew Fosters place. He was a practitioner of medicine of the Thomsonian school, and died many years ago.

"William Stone was a Kentuckian, a plain old farmer, and lived on the farm now owned by the Rev. Minor Neale. He was a good man, and died at an advanced age.

"Rev. Frederick Casteel was a minister of the gospel of the Methodist church, and lived near the place now owned by Mrs. Abram Amick.

"Reuben A. Ewing, and his brother Irving Ewing, were Kentuckians, and lived east of Lebanon. The former was a successful farmer, a good man, and died at an advanced age, honored and respected.

"James Berry was also a Kentuckian, and one of the oldest settlers of this new colony. He lived where his son Finis E. Berry, now lives.

"Thomas Rubey was from Kentucky, and lived at Pleasant Green. Henry Small lived at the Vincent Walker place.

"Mr. Smiley was also a Kentuckian, and settled where Mr. Thomas Alexander now lives. Rev. Laird Burns was a Cumberland Presbyterian preacher, and lived where Mr. John P. Downs now lives, in what is known as the Ellis neighborhood.

"John Burns was his brother and lived close to New Lebanon. He was a soldier in the war with Great Britain, was present at the battle of New Orleans, and would often talk with pride about that great event; of the fearful roaring of the cannon, of the sharp whistling of the bullets, and the thrilling echoes of martial music, which stirred the hearts of the soldiers to deeds of valor, and enabled the brave army of General Jackson to achieve the glorious victory which ended the war with Old England.

"Rev. John Reid was also another minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, a Kentuckian; he first lived on Honey creek, and afterwards at so many different places, that for want of space in this brief sketch I dare not under take to enumerate them. Suffice it to say, that he settled more new places in the neighborhood than any half dozen pioneers of the infant colony. He was a very eccentric character in his younger days, would fight at the "drop of a hat," and was never known to meet his match in a hand to hand combat. The writer of this sketch was intimately acquainted with him for many years, during the latter period of his life however, and can truly say he never knew a man of steadier habits, nor one more remarkable for strict rectitude of conduct, or exemplary piety. An anecdote is related of him and the Rev. Finis Ewing, which occurred in his younger days. It was told to me by Mr. Samuel Year.

"Reid was driving a team for some man who was moving to this county with Mr. Ewing, who had ear bells on his six horse team. The young man liked the jingle of these bells so much that he begged Mr. Ewing to allow his teamster to divide with him, in order that he might share the music; but Mr. Ewing could not see it and refused to make the division as requested. Whereupon Reid bought a number of old cosy bells and hung one on each horse in

his team, which soon had the effect of bringing the preacher to terms. He was so much annoyed with the discord produced by these coarse bells, that he soon proposed a compromise by giving Reid his sleigh bells, provided he would stop the cow bell part of the concert.

“Silas Thomas was another Kentuckian, and lived on Honey Creek, near where Lampton’s saw mill stood a few years ago.

“James Taylor, better known as ‘Old Corn Taylor,’ lived in an old log cabin which may be still seen standing a short distance west of the Anthony Walker place. He was another remarkably eccentric character. He had a host of mules and negroes; always rode with a rope bridle, and raised more corn, and kept it longer than any half dozen men in Cooper county. This he hoarded away in pens and cribs with as much care as though every ear had been a silver dollar, in anticipation of a famine, which, for many years he had predicted, but which, happily, never came, though the neighborhood was several times visited with great scarcity of that valuable commodity. Although he was miserly in this respect, yet during these times of scarcity, he would generally unlock his granaries, and, like Joseph of old, deal it out to his starving brethren, whether they were able to pay for it or not; that is, if he thought a man was industrious, he would furnish him with what corn he considered necessary: but tradition informs us that he invariably refused the required boon to a man, who was found, on examination, to wear “patched breeches,” especially if the patch happened to be in a particular locality, which indicated laziness.

“Hugh Wear was from Kentucky, and lived in the Ellis neighborhood. He was the father of the Rev. William Bennett Wear, another Cumberland Presbyterian of considerable distinction. When his father, who was a Revolutionary soldier, enlisted, Hugh, although too young to enter the army, was permitted to accompany his father, and served, during the war, as a soldier, notwithstanding he was under the age prescribed for military duty. This was done to prevent his falling into the hands of the Tories.

“Rev. William Kavanaugh was a Kentuckian, and another Cumberland Presbyterian minister of considerable note. It was said of him, that he could preach louder and longer than any of these old worthies.

“William Bryant was a Kentuckian, and was with General Jackson at the battle of New Orleans. He first settled at New Lebanon, at the place which he afterwards sold to Finis Ewing; the old brick house where Mr. Kemp now lives. He then moved to the farm now occupied by William B. Harlan.

“Samuel Miller was from Kentucky, and settled on the place now owned by Green Walker. He was a farmer, and afterwards moved to Cold Neck.

“There yet remains but one other man to notice who belonged to New Lebanon. He was a member of the numerous family of Smith, whose Christian name I cannot now recall. He settled at a very early period on what is known as the Cedar Bluff, at a nice, cool, clear spring, not far from the place where Mrs. John Wilkerson now lives. Here he erected what was then called a ‘band mill,’ a species of old fashioned horse mill, so common in those days. It was connected with a small distillery at which he manufactured a kind of ‘Aqua mirabilis,’ with which the old folks in those days cheered the drooping spirits in times of great scarcity. But Mr. Smith never ‘ran crooked.’ He paid no license, and sold or gave away his delicious beverage without molestation from revenue agents, just as he deemed fit and convenient. Revenue stamps and revenue agents were unknown then, and good whisky (there was none bad then,) was not only considered harmless, but drinking hot toddies, eggnog and mint juleps was regarded as a respectable, as well as a pleasant and innocent kind of amusement, and quite conducive to health.”

CHAPTER IX

OTTERVILLE TOWNSHIP

Boundary – Physical Features – Settlement of Otterville Township – Clifton – Its History and Incidents – Indian Scare – Otterville – Its History – Lodges – Schools - Churches

Before proceeding with the remainder of Mr. Starke's article, which is a history of Otterville township, we will first give the boundary and physical features of the same.

BOUNDARY

This township is in the southwestern part of the county, and is bounded on the north by Clear Creek township, on the east by Lebanon township, on the south by Morgan county and on the west by Pettis county. Otterville formerly comprised a portion of Lebanon township, but has since been formed into a voting precinct and embraces all that part of Lebanon township west of the Lamine river.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

The township is generally rough and covered with an abundance of timber. The Lamine river, with its effluents, furnishes a reasonable supply of water.

SETTLEMENT OF OTTERVILLE TOWNSHIP

Mr. Starke's history continued;

"Thomas Parsons was born in the State of Virginia in the year 1793; moved to Franklin, the county seat of Simpson county, Kentucky, about the year 1819, emigrated to this county in the fall of 1826, and settled at the place now owned by James H. Cline, northwest of Otterville. About the last of October of that year Parsons sold his pre-emption right to Absalom Cline, the father of James H. Cline. In 1826, at the time Mr. Parsons came to this neighborhood, there were only three families living west of the Lamine in this vicinity. These were James G. Wilkerson, William Reed, and William Sloan.

"Mr. Parsons established the first hatter's shop south of Boonville, and was an excellent workman in that line. He was an honest, upright citizen, lived to a ripe old age, and was gathered to his fathers, honored and respected by all who knew him. At the time of his death, on the 7th day of September 1875, he was the oldest free mason in Cooper county, having belonged to that institution nearly three score years.

"William Reed mentioned above, was, perhaps, the first white man who settled in this neighborhood. He was a Tennessean, and lived near the old camp ground, a little west of what was then known as the camp ground spring, in the old field now owned by George Smith, a short distance southwest of the old graveyard. He was the grandfather of A. M. Reed, now of Otterville. He was remarkable for his strict integrity and exemplary piety.

"James G. Wilkerson was from Kentucky, and settled the farm now owned by George W. Smith, one mile west of Otterville. The old mansion stands, though almost in a complete state of dilapidation, to remind the passer by of the perishable character of all human labor. He sleeps with several other members of his once numerous family, on a gentle eminence a few yards south of the decayed and tottering tenement in which he spent many years of honest toil.

"William Sloan was the son of Alexander, mentioned in the notes pertaining to New Lebanon, was the last of the three mentioned above. He first settled the place where Charles E. Rice now lives, in 1826, but afterwards lived, until his death, at the place now owned by Joseph Minter. He was always remarkable for his scrupulous honesty and piety.

"Elijah Hook was from Tennessee, and settled near where Henry Bender now lives, in 1827. He was a hunter and trapper, and obtained a subsistence for his family after the manner of Nimrod, his ancient predecessor, mentioned in the Bible as 'the mighty hunter.'

"James Brown was a Kentuckian, a farmer, a hard working man, and settled where T. C. Cranmer, lives, in 1827. He also was a 'Nimrod,' and hunted with Daniel Boone.

"James Davis was a Tennessean, and settled the place now known as the McCulloch farm, in 1827 - He was an industrious farmer, and a great rail splitter.

"James Birney was a Kentuckian, and married the daughter of Alexander Sloan, of New Lebanon. He was a farmer, and a man of some note. He settled, in 1827, the farm where John Harlan now lives. He had a grandson, Alexander Birney, who was formerly a lawyer at Otterville.

"Frederick Shurley, the mightiest hunter in all the land round about Otterville, in 1827, settled the place now owned by his son Robert Shurley, southeast of Otterville. He was with General Jackson in the Creek war, and was present at the memorable battle of the Horse Shoe Bend, where the Indians, by the direction of their prophets, had made their last stand. He used to recount, with deep interest, the thrilling incidents connected with this muzzel to

muzzle contest, in which over half a thousand red-skins were sent, by Jackson and Coffee, to their happy hunting grounds.

"Nathan Neal was, a Kentuckian, and settled the old place near the Lamine, two miles north of Otterville, in 1827. He was an orderly, upright and industrious citizen.

"George Cranmer was born in the State of Delaware in 1801, moved to near Paris, Kentucky, while young, and to Boonville, Missouri, in the year 1828. He was a millwright and a very ingenious and skillful mechanic. He settled at Clifton in about 1832, and shortly afterwards he and James H. Glasgow, now living on the Petite Saline Creek, built what was known as Cranmer's, afterwards Corum's mill, precisely where the M. K. & T. railroad now crosses the Lamine. Cranmer named the place Clifton. The principal mechanics who helped to build this mill were Ben Gilbert, Jim Kirkpatrick, Nat Garten, son-in-law of William Steele, Esq., a blacksmith named John Toole, Noah Graham and the renowned 'Bill' Rubey, known to almost all the old settlers south of the Missouri river. Cranmer lived first at the mill, and afterwards at what was long known as the John Caton place, where Thomas C. Cranmer was born in 1836. The old log cabin is still standing, as one of the very few old land marks yet visible, to remind us of the distant past. Cranmer died at Michigan Bluffs, California, in 1853.

"Another man will perhaps be remembered by some of our old citizens. He was crazy, and though harmless, used to wander about to the great terror of the children of those days. His name was John Hatwood.

"Clifton was once a place of memorable notoriety. In those early days it was not unfrequently called the Devil's Half Acre.' There was a grocery kept there, after the people began to manufacture poisoned whisky, which had the effect very often of producing little skirmishes among those who congregated there. It was not uncommon for those fracasos to end in a bloody nose, a black eye, or a broken head. Happily, however, these broils were generally confined to a few notorious outlaws, whom the order loving people would have rejoiced to know had met the fate of the cats of Kilkenny.

"There are many amusing incidents connected with the history of the place, but space forbids allusion to only one or two. A man by the name of Cox, who was a celebrated hunter and trapper in this neighborhood, was known as a dealer in tales, connected with his avocation, of a fabulous and munchausen character. There is a very high bluff just below the old mill; perhaps it is nearly five hundred feet high. During one of his numerous hunting excursions, Matthew met with a large bear, which, being slightly wounded became terribly enraged, and attacked the hunter with his ugly grip before he had time to reload his rifle. This formidable contest between Bruin and Matthew occurred just on the verge of the fearful precipice above described, and every struggle brought them nearer and nearer, until they both took the awful leap, striking and bounding against the projecting crags every few feet, until they reached the bottom of the terrible abyss. You will now naturally say, "Farewell, Matthew!" but strange to relate, he escaped with a few slight scratches. The bear had, fortunately for Matthew, been on the under side every time they struck, till they reached the bottom, when he loosed his hold of the hunter and closed his eyes in death.

"Matthew Cox's tales were generally much like this, almost always terminating favorably to himself, and fatally to his adversaries. This anecdote gave the name of 'Matthew's Bluff,' well known to everybody in this neighborhood.

"Some time during the year 1832, the people of this neighborhood became terribly alarmed by the report that the Osage Indians were about to attack and massacre all the settlers in this vicinity. This report started first, by some means at old Luke William's on Cold Camp Creek. The people became almost wild with excitement. They left their plows in the fields, and fled precipitately in the direction of the other settlements towards Boonville. Some of them took refuge in a fort at Vincent Walker's, some at Sam Forbes', and others at Collin Stoneman's and Finis Ewing's. Hats and caps, shoes and stockings, pillows, baskets and bonnets might have been seen along the old military road to Boonville, lying scattered about in beautiful confusion all that day and the next, until the excitement had ceased. Fortunately the scare did not last long, as it was soon ascertained that the alarm was false, and that the Osage Indians had not only not contemplated a raid on the white settlements, but that they had actually become frightened themselves, and fled south of the Osage river. But the panic was complete and exceedingly frightful while it lasted. A fellow by the name of Mike Chism lived near the Bidstrup Place. Mike had a wife and two children. They were already preparing for flight. Mike's wife was on horseback and had one child in her lap and one behind her, and Mike was on foot.

"At this moment, a horseman came galloping up in great trepidation, and informed the little family that the Indians were coming by the thousands, and that they were already this side of Flat Creek. On receiving this intelligence, Mike, in great terror, said to his wife, 'My God! Sallie, I can't wait for you any longer, and suiting his actions to his words, he took to his scrapers in such hot haste that at the first frantic jump he made, he fell at full length, bleeding and trembling on the rocks. But the poor fellow did not take time to rise to his feet again. He scrambled off on 'all fours' into the brush like some wild animal, leaving his wife and children to take care of themselves as best they could. He evidently acted upon the principle, that 'It is better to be a live coward, than a dead hero.'

"Reuben B. Harris was from Kentucky. He was a country lawyer; had no education, but was a man of good natural ability. He settled the place where Montraville Ross now lives, on Flat Creek. He settled here in 1827. He was also a great hunter.

"Hugh Morrison was a Kentuckian. In 1827 he settled the place where the widow of Henderson Finley now lives.

"John Gabriel was also from Kentucky. Settled at Richland, at a place two and a half miles east of Florence. He moved there at a very early period in 1819 or 1820. He had a still house, made whisky and sold it to the Indians. He was a rough, miserly character, but honest in his dealings. He was murdered for his money, in his horse lot, on his own plantation. He was killed by a negro man belonging to Reuben B. Harris. The negro was condemned and hung at Boonville. Before his execution, this negro confessed that he had killed Gabriel, but declared that he had been employed to commit the murder by Gabriel's own son-in-law, a man named Abner Weaver. This villain escaped punishment for the reason that the negro's testimony was then, by the laws of the United States, excluded as inadmissible. Justice, however, overtook him at last. His crime did not stop at the instigation of Gabriel's murder. He was afterwards found in possession of four stolen horses somewhere in Texas. In endeavoring to make his escape, he was shot from one of these horses, and thus ended his villainy.

"The first church erected in this neighborhood was built by the Cumberland Presbyterians. It was of logs, and stood near the old grave yard. It was built about the year 1835. Here, for many years, this denomination annually held the old fashioned camp-meetings, at which large numbers of the old citizens were wont to congregate, and here many of them would sometimes remain for days, and even weeks, on the ground in camps and tents, engaged in earnest devotion. But this order of things and this manner of worship have long since gone into disuse. Not a hawk's eye could now discern a single mourner's track, and every vestige of the old church and camp have vanished like the mist before the morning sun, and the primitive religious customs have been entirely abandoned.

"In the foregoing sketches I have briefly glanced at the lives and characters of most, in fact, nearly all of the older citizens who figured in the history of New Lebanon settlement, which then comprised our own township, and included the country between the Lamine and Flat Creek. Most of them belonged to a class of men which have passed away.

"It is not my purpose to make individual comparisons between them and those of the present day. It is but justice, however, to say, that with few exceptions, they were men of great moral worth, true and tried patriotism, and scrupulous integrity.

OTTERVILLE

"I come now to take a brief survey of matters connected with a later date. The town of Otterville was first called Elkton. It was laid out by Gideon R. Thompson, in the year 1837. The first house built, stood where Judge Butler's house now stands. The public square occupied the space of ground now lying between Butler's and George W. Smith's, extending east to a line running north and south, near the place where Frank Arni's house formerly stood. William G. Wear entered the forty acres on which Elkton was built, in the year 1836, and sold it to Thompson in 1837. About that time Thompson built the first house as before stated, and he and George Wear built a storehouse directly east of Thompson's dwelling, and little George Wear built a dwelling house on the present site of Colburn's house. James Allcorn built on the north side of the square about the same time. Long George Wear built the first house within the present limits of Otterville proper, where W. G. Wear's house now stands.

"The town of Otterville was regularly laid out by W. G. Wear in 1854, though several houses had been built previous to that time within its present limits.

"There was no post office at Otterville until about 1848. The mail for this neighborhood was supplied from Arator post office kept by General Hogan, where Van Tromp Chilton now lives. W. G. Wear was the first post master. He held the office until 1851, when the writer of these sketches was appointed, who held the office about ten years. The mail route was a special one from Arator, and was carried on horse back. W. R. Butler was the first contractor, and employed James H. Wear, son of W. G. Wear, to carry the mail twice a week. The mail carrier then a small boy now one of the leading merchants of St. Louis, made the trip twice a week, riding a small grey pony called 'Tom,' which had been bought of Tom Milam, who was then a well known character of the neighborhood. About the time the town was first established, several houses were built on or near the public square.

"Among these were the Masonic hall; the dwelling house built by George W. Embree, north of the hall; one by Samuel Wear, now occupied by John D. Strain; one by Harrison Roman, in which he now lives; and about this time Robert M. Taylor built an addition to the 'Taylor House.' The brick storehouse known as the 'Cannon & Zollinger' storehouse was not built until about the year 1886.

"The Masonic Lodge, called Pleasant Grove Lodge No. 142, A. F. & A. M., was established on the 15th day of July, A. D. 1854, A. L. 5854. The dispensation was granted by the M. W. G. DL, of Missouri, L. S. Cornwell, on the 6th day of November, 1854. This dispensation was granted to the following named persons: William E. Combs, Harrison Roman, S. H. Saunders, William Devine, Tarleton T. Cox, Strawther O'Rourke, Moses B. Small, Aaron Hupp, William A. Reed, William R. Butler, Robert M. Taylor and George W. Embree. The charter was granted May 31st, 1855, and signed by L. S. Cornwell, G. M.; Oscar F. Potter, D. G. M.; J. W. Chenoweth, D. G. W.; Henry E. Van Odell, J. G. W. The first officers were as follows : S. H. Saunders, W. M.; Aaron Hupp, S. W.; H Roman, J. W.; R. M. Taylor, Treasurer; W. R. Butler, Secretary, George W. Embree, S. D. Strother O'Rourke, J. W., and R. J. Buchanan, Tyler.

"The Odd Fellows Lodge was established in October, 1856, under the name of Otterville Lodge, No. 102, I. O. O. F.

"The first officers were as follows: W. G. Wear, Noble Grand; H. A. B. Johnston, Vice Grand; Samuel M. Roman, Secretary, and John S. Johnston, Treasurer.

"The present Cumberland Presbyterian church was built by Milton Starke, in the year 1857.

"The old Presbyterian church was built by John D. Strain, in 1866, and is now owned by the Baptists.

"The Methodist and Christian churches were built about the same time in the year 1872. The former was built by M. C. White, and the latter by T. C. Cranmer and T. M. Travillian. They are both neat brick buildings, and ornaments to our village.

"The public school building was erected in 1869, costing \$6,000.

"The Pacific railroad was completed to Otterville from St. Louis in 1860, and this place for a short time became the terminus. Whilst the road remained here, and in fact for a long time previous, Otterville commanded quite a brisk trade, presented a very active and business like appearance, and indeed for a time it flourished like a "green bay tree." But it was not destined to enjoy this prosperity long. The railroad company soon pulled up stakes and transferred the terminus to the then insignificant village of Sedalia, which, at that time, being in its infancy, had scarcely been christened, but, though young, it soon rose like magic, from the bosom of the beautiful prairie, and in a few years Sedalia has become the county seat of one of the richest counties in the State, and a great railroad centre, while truth compels me to say that Otterville has sunk back into its original obscurity.

"The town of Otterville was incorporated by an act of the Legislature of Missouri, on the sixteenth day of February, 1857.

"About the year 1860, for a short period, a considerable wholesale business was done here. Among the wholesale establishments, were the following: W. G. Wear & Son, Cloney, Crawford & Co., from Jefferson City; Clark & Reed; Concannon; the Robert Brothers; Lohman & Co., etc., etc.

"About this time the 'Mansion House' was built by a man named Pork; the 'Embree House' by George W. Embree and Chris Harlan. The latter was quite a large hotel near the depot, and was afterwards moved to Sedalia by George R. Smith, and about the same time several other houses were moved by different parties to that place. There was, after this time, a considerable business done in a retail way around the old public square. Among the most prominent merchants here, were W. G. Wear & Son, and Cannon & Zollinger, who carried on a large and profitable trade for many years.

"But having already extended these notes far beyond what I had at first anticipated, I am admonished to close them rather abruptly, lest they become wearisome. They were prepared at a very short notice, and might have been made much more interesting, had sufficient time been given the writer to arrange them with some regard to order.

"I hope that due allowance will be made by an appreciative public for this defect in this hastily-written memorandum.

"In conclusion, I will take occasion to say, that one hundred years ago, where we meet now to rejoice together, at the happy coming of our first Centennial, this part of Cooper county, nay, even Cooper county itself, was a howling wilderness. The hungry wolf and bear; the elk and the antelope; the wild deer and the buffalo, roamed about undisturbed, save by the feeble arrows of the red man.

"Today, through the little village of Otterville, within a very few yards of this spot, a double band of iron, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, connects San Francisco with the city of New York. Over these lines of metal rails ponderous trains are almost continually passing to and fro, freighted with innumerable articles of commerce; the rich merchandise of the east; the varied productions of the west; the teas and silk of China; the silver of Arizona, and the gold of California."

Otterville contains at this time about four hundred population. It has three general stores, one hardware and grocery store, two drug stores, one confectionery, one furniture store, two blacksmith shops, one saloon, two hotels, four churches, one school.

CHAPTER X

PALESTINE TOWNSHIP

Boundary – Physical Features – Early Settlers – Samuel Peters killed a Hog – Marriages – First Cistern – Education – Dancing School – School Exhibition – Excitement over Examinations

BOUNDARY

Palestine township is bounded on the north by Pilot Grove and Boonville townships, on the east by Clark's Fork township, on the south by Kelly and Lebanon townships, and on the west by Clear Creek and Pilot Grove townships.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

The surface of the township is generally level, with the exception of a strip of rough land extending near the eastern side, and also another strip near the western side. The township is well supplied with timber and water; much of the soil is of excellent quality. The regions of cultivation may be said to exist in a portion along the eastern side, extending north and south, a portion in the centre of the township, and a tract in the southwestern part.

EARLY SETTLERS

William Moore and Joseph Stephens were the first settlers of Palestine township. William Moore emigrated from North Carolina, and settled about eight miles south of Boonville, in the timber close by a good spring, north of and adjoining the farm where Jenus White, Esq., now resides. His family consisted of George W., William H., James, Andrew, John, Thomas, Robert and Joseph H. Moore, and Margaret, Sallie and Mary Moore; seven sons and three daughters. Margaret married Judge Lawrence C. Stephens, in 1818. Sallie married Colonel John H. Hutchison, and Mary married Harvey Bunce. Colonel Hutchison was Sheriff of this county for four years, and Representative for two years. Judge Stephens was Representative for four years, and County Judge for one term, and Harvey Bunce was Sheriff for eight years, representative for two years, and a member of the State Convention in 1865. Only two of the Moore children now living, viz: Joseph H. Moore, and Margaret Stephens, widow of the late Judge L. C. Stephens.

Mrs. Margaret Stephens says that in the fall of 1816, after her father settled in this county, she went to Boonville, with her uncle, a Mr. McFarland and on their arrival, she asked her uncle where Boonville was, thinking she was coming to something of a town. Her uncle pointed to Robadeaux's store, a round log cabin, with the bark on the logs, and said. "There's Boonville." They then alighted from their horses, and after making some purchases, they returned home. That store house was *the only building which she then saw of Boonville*. It is also certain, from other good evidence, that the place on which Boonville now stands, was called "Boonville," before any town was built or located here.

Mrs. Stephens also tells of the first church she attended in the neighborhood, which was held at the house of one of the settlers. Luke Williams, the preacher, was dressed in a complete suit of buckskin, and a great many of his audience were dressed in the same style. She was so dissatisfied with the appearance of the state of things, in this backwoods county that she cried during the whole of the services; but she soon became accustomed to the new order of things, and was well contented. At that meeting grease from the bear meat stored in the loft above the congregation, dripped down and spoiled her nice Sunday shawl, which was a fine one, brought from North Carolina, and which could not be replaced in this backwoods country.

Joseph Stephens, Sr., was the next settler of what is now called Palestine township. He emigrated from Kentucky, and stopped one and one-half years, near Winchester, East Tennessee, in the fall of 1817; he, in company with several others, started for Cooper county and landed at Boonville on the 15th day of November, 1817.

Before they arrived here, they had bought land in what is now Palestine township. They remained at the place called "Boonville," and were piloted to their new home by Maj. Stephen Cole. They crossed the Petite Saline Creek at the McFarland ford, at the place where Rankin's mill is now situated. The only persons at that time, living in that part of the county, were William and Jacob McFarland on the north, and John Glover on the south side of the creek. After crossing the creek they soon entered the Lone Elm prairie, and on the evening of the same day, they arrived at their new home where they camped for the night.

A hunter by the name of Landers, had made his camp in the bottom, near the present residence of Joseph Stephens, Jr., and had an acre of growing corn and 15 hogs, which were purchased by Joseph Stephens, Sr. Mr. Landers then "pulled up stakes" and moved farther west. The next spring James D. Campbell settled on the hill, south of Bunceton, Peter Stephens, one half of a mile north of Old Palestine, and William Stephens and John Kelley three and one-half miles southeast of Joseph Stephens, near the Moniteau creek. These men were the sons and the sons-in-law of Joseph Stephens, Sr., and emigrated to Cooper county with him.

The next year, (1818), Samuel Peters settled about two miles north of Joseph Stephens, at a place now called Petersburg, on the Osage Valley and Southern Kansas railroad. He also had a large family of boys and girls; Samuel and Newton C. Peters were his sons. One of his daughters married Mr. McFarland, one James Hill, who was Sheriff of this county for eight years; one Harvey Harper; one Katie Peters, Thomas Patrick, and afterwards, Samuel Cole; and Sallie, the younger, James Gallagher.

When Samuel Peters raised his dwelling, he invited his neighbors to come and help him, stating that he would, on that occasion, kill a hog and have it for dinner. As this was the first hog ever butchered in this part of the State, and as very few of the settlers had ever tasted pork, it was no little inducement to them to be present and assist in disposing of such rare and delicious food, for the settlers, previous to that time, had subsisted entirely upon wild game. Always on such occasions they had a little "fire water" to give life to the occasion.

In the winter of 1818 Miss Rhoda, the daughter of Jos. Stephens, Sr., was married to Dr. B. W. Levens, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. Luke Williams. On the same evening Miss Elizabeth, the daughter of Samuel Peters, and James Hill were united in marriage by the same minister. The two last mentioned had been engaged for some time, yet did not expect to be married so soon. But Mr. Peters declared that if they intended to marry, they must do so that night or never. So the parson immediately went down to Mr. Peter's house, and in accordance with the statutes in such cases made and provided, pronounced them husband and wife.

Colonel Andrew and Judge John Briscoe settled in the same township in 1818. They were both very prominent men, and prominent leaders in their respective parties, Andrew being a Whig, and John a Democrat.

Some of the other early settlers were Henry, Hiram, Heli and Harden Corum. Mr. Tevis, the father of Capt. Simeon Tevis, Thomas Collins, Jacob Summers, Michael, James and William Son, John and Joseph Cathey. James David, and John H. Hutchison, Nathaniel Leonard, John and Andrew Wallace, Henry Woolery, Holbert and Samuel Cole, James Bridges, James Simms, Russell Smallwood, Thomas Best, Greenberry Allison, William C. Lowery, Anthony F. Read, and others not recollected. No better citizens than those mentioned above ever settled in any community.

Mr. Greenberry Allison dug the first cistern in the county, which proved to be a great success, and caused many of his neighbors to imitate his example, as they had, previous to that time, been compelled to depend for water upon springs and wells, Palestine township, from the beginning, took the lead in education. The first schools were taught by Lawrence C. Stephens Dr. William H. Moore, and a young man from Virginia by the name of William H. Moore, who was considered the best scholar in his day, in this part of the country. The teachers of a later day were Mr. Huff, Green White, Josiah Adams, now residing in California, Missouri, and Philip A. Tutt. The first grammar school was kept by a Mr. Rodgers, at the residence of John Wallace.

The first dancing school was opened in 1832, at the residence of B. W. Levens, about one-quarter of a mile east of the present site of Bunceton, by a gentleman named Gibson. He was a polished gentleman, and an excellent teacher, and was the first to introduce "cotillions," which were, until that time, unknown in this part of the country. Mr. Gibson at that time had two other school; one at Boonville, and the other at Arrow Rock, and he taught, during the week, two days at each place.

The names of a few of the dancers who attended the school at B. W. Levens' residence who are at present remembered, are as follows: Newton C. Peters, David Hutchison, Andrew B. Moore, John M. Briscoe, Mr. Huff, Daniel Ogle, Thomas and Bonaparte Patrick, Thomas and Luther Smith, James Corum, Joseph S. Anderson, Green White, Andrew Collins, and Tobe Briscoe. Misses Margaret and Elizabeth Hutchison, daughters of James Hutchison; Elmira Ann and Sarah Ardell Hutchison, daughters of John H. Hutchison; Zerilda and Emarine Levens, Mary and Patsy Briscoe, Katie and Sallie Peters, Susan and Rhoda Campbell, Parthena Kelly, Jaily Collins, Annie Best, and a Miss Ramsey.

Most of the persons mentioned above have been dead many years. Among the gentlemen, Mr. Huff was alive a few years ago, though he may be dead at this time, as he has not been heard from for some time. So far as is known none of the other gentlemen are alive. Of the ladies, Margaret, Elmira Ann and Sarah Ardell Hutchison, Margaret Stephens, Zerilda Levens, Patsy Briscoe, Katie and Sallie Peters, and Rhoda Campbell, are still alive - the others are all dead. On the first day of January 1845, Henry C. Levens was employed at Lone Elm, John D. Stephens in Palestine district, Joseph L. Stephens in the Harrison district, in the Bunceton neighborhood, and George H. Stephens in the Round Grove district, to teach the respective schools for three months. All these districts are now in school township 47, range 17. These teachers found that the people were not sufficiently aroused on the great importance of giving their children a good education, and for some time had been studying to discover some plan by which to arouse the patrons of the school to a full knowledge of their responsibility.

They knew that the parents could not be forced to perceive the vast importance of education, by merely telling them of its benefits; but that in order to produce this change, inducements must be placed directly before both parents and pupils; something tangible, sufficiently inviting to arouse them from their lethargy. They thought that they must determine upon some plan to create and keep up an excitement, so as to induce the patrons to continue their schools for a longer period than three months, thereby benefiting both teachers and pupils.

They finally agreed upon the plan of offering a banner to the school, which, taking all of the classes into consideration, had made the most progress at the close of the school. The examination for the awarding of the banner was to take place at Old Palestine. On the first day arithmetic, geography and grammar were to be

examined, and on the, second day the four schools were to have a joint exhibition consisting of speeches and dialogues.

The above named teachers, in accordance with an agreement among themselves on the opening day of their schools, placed the whole subject before the scholars, and gave them until the next day to decide whether they were willing to enter the contest or not; and the members of each school unanimously voted in favor of their teacher's proposition.

This produced a greater excitement than was contemplated or wished for by the teachers – **an excitement that was** more difficult to control than to create. All classes of the people took a deep interest in the progress of the schools, and they received frequent visits from trustees, parents and others.

On the days of the examination at Old Palestine, the scholars of the different schools marched in double file to the place of examination, with music and banners, with appropriate mottoes, in advance. The girls of each school were dressed in the same colored dresses, and the boys wore badges of the same color as the dresses of the girls of the school to which they belonged. On each day there was a very large attendance to witness the examination and exhibition.

The excitement became so great that the teachers instructed the Judges not to make any award, particularly, as the scholars of ail four schools had acquitted themselves so well, that it would have been almost impossible to decide between them. After it had become known, that because of the general excellence of the schools, no award would be made, the excitement attending the contest soon quieted down. The examination and exhibition gave universal satisfaction, and although when the schools closed it was spring and the busiest time of the year, all four of the teachers were offered schools again at the same places. After this, schools were well attended and supported in Palestine township, and has continued so even to the present day.

Although the object of these teachers was partly selfish, in that they wished to procure constant employment, they conferred innumerable blessings upon that and following generations, by creating among the settlers a desire to give their children every opportunity of acquiring a good education.

CHAPTER XI

PILOT GROVE TOWNSHIP

Boundary – Physical Features – Early Settlers – Camp-meetings – Schools and Mills – Pilot Grove – Bill Anderson – First Business Houses of Pilot Grove – Newspaper – Secret Orders – Pilot Grove Collegiate Institute – Shipments for 1882 – Incidents of the War

BOUNDARY

Pilot Grove township is bounded on the north by Lamine township, on the east by Boonville and Palestine townships, on the south by Palestine and Clear Creek townships, and on the west by Clear Creek and Blackwater townships.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

This is a very irregular township in shape. In the northwestern and southeastern parts the land is rough, yet admitting of cultivation. The eastern and southwestern portions are comparatively free from roughness and admit of the highest cultivation. The township derived its name from the following fact: When travelers were passing on the route from Boonville to Independence, or in the neighborhood of this route, as it led through the township, they were enabled at once to determine their position by the small grove of trees which was plainly visible for miles around. Very little of the present timber was in existence except as low brush, so that the group of trees standing prominently above all the rest proved a pilot to the traveler in his journey across the then extensive prairie. Hence the name "Pilot Grove."

EARLY SETTLERS

The township was settled about 1820, though the exact time is not known. Among the earliest settlers we may mention the names of John McCutchen, John Houx, Jacob Houx, L. A. Summers, James McElroy, Samuel Roe, Sr., Samuel Woolridge, Enoch Mass, Absalom Meredith, Azariah Bone, who was a Methodist minister; John Rice, a blacksmith; a Mr. Magee, after whom "Magee Grove" was named, and Samuel Gilbert, whose success in after life as a cancer doctor was a surprise to all and a familiar theme of conversation among the old settlers. There were also William and James Taylor, Jr., who were among the pioneers.

CAMP-MEETINGS

This township in early times was celebrated for its camp-meetings, there being two camp grounds within its limits; one held by the Presbyterians and the other by the Methodists. These camp-meetings, which were held by each denomination once a year, were largely attended, many persons coming from great distances. Many camped on the grounds, entertaining "without money and without price" the people who attended, and were particularly hospitable to strangers from abroad. Among the early ministers who attended the meetings at this camp ground were Jesse Green, Azariah Bone, and Samuel Gilbert. The latter afterwards became noted as a cancer doctor, and opened an infirmary in Memphis, Tennessee, and at one time resided in New York.

SCHOOLS AND MILLS

Among the earliest school teachers to exercise his calling in Pilot Grove township was Thomas P. Cropper, who taught in the township in 1828-29, and, being quite an original genius, his name should be preserved.

"The people all declared how much he knew;

'Twas certain he could write and cipher, too.

Lands he could measure, terms and tides presage,

And even the story ran that he could gauge."

The first mill was erected by a man named Hughes. It was a horse mill, and stood on one of the branches of the Petite Saline.

PILOT GROVE

Pilot Grove is located on the northeast quarter of section 5, township 47, range 18, in Pilot Grove township, and is surrounded by a beautiful and most excellent farming country. The farmers are generally thrifty and are year by year bettering their condition and availing themselves of the latest inventions in farming implements and machinery. The town was laid off in 1873 by Samuel Roe, and is situated on the Missouri, Kansas and Texas

railroad, twelve miles southwest of Boonville. As early as 1836, the government located a post-office about one mile from the present town site and called it Pilot Grove, appointing John McCutchen postmaster. He continued to hold the office at his home for many years and was finally succeeded by Samuel Roe, Sr., who now lives in Pilot Grove. Mr. Roe held the office until after the war of 1861, and was succeeded by Mr. E. H. Harris. The present postmaster is Dr. A. H. Thornton.

Pilot Grove, as a post-office and place of rendezvous for the surrounding inhabitants, is one of the oldest in the county, and takes its name from an ancient grove of hickory trees, located upon the high prairie in the immediate vicinity.

BILL ANDERSON

'Twas while he was acting in this capacity, and at his residence, where the neighbors had gathered upon a bright afternoon in the spring of 1874, awaiting the arrival of the mail, that the dreaded "Bill Anderson" suddenly appeared with his guerrilla troupe, and forming the trembling citizens to line, proceeded to divest them of their personal valuables.

Mr. William Mayo, one of the citizens, refused to deliver up his elegant gold watch, and started to flee; passing the house he was joined by Mr. Thomas Brownfield, now of our community, and who had kept concealed. The guerrillas, of course, gave pursuit, and overtaking Mr. Mayo, who had become separated from Mr. Brownfield, they killed him by a pistol shot in the face.

One guerrilla had pursued Mr. Brownfield, who was endeavoring to reach a thicket of brush some rods distant. The guerrilla fired repeatedly upon Mr. Brownfield, wounding him in the hand, when, upon a near approach, Brownfield, who was armed, and a man of nerve, suddenly turned, and covering him with his revolver, compelled the guerrilla to retreat. This act doubtless saved his life, since it enabled him to reach the coveted thicket, from which concealment he defied his foes, who dared not penetrate his retreat, and who, after surrounding the thicket, and being several times fired upon by the desperate man within, sought less dangerous fields of conquest.

The first business house in the town was moved to Pilot Grove from Dr. W. P. Harriman's mill, about the year 186-. It is the building now occupied by Mr. Elks, merchant. The first dwelling house was erected by a Mr. Rayner, who was a harness maker and saddler. Dr. J. W. H. Ross was the first physician in the place. Peter Beach was the first shoemaker. The town is now improving, not only rapidly but substantially. It contains four general stores, one drug store, one hardware store, two tin shops, one furniture store, one saddle and harness shop, two restaurants, two millinery stores, one lumber yard, three blacksmith and wagon shops, two hotels, one barber shop, one shoemaker shop and two livery stables. In the edge of the town there is a good public school, while near the centre of the town is located the Pilot Grove Collegiate Institute, a popular and flourishing school. There are also two secret orders, two churches and a printing office, from which is issued a weekly paper, called the Pilot Grove Bee. The paper was established the first week in September, 1882, by James Burton. It is a seven column folio, and democratic in politics. There is also a commodious depot and two or three grain warehouses.

During the coming fall (1883) it is expected upon the part of the merchants and business men of the town, that a bank will be opened by parties who have the matter under consideration.

Pilot Grove Lodge No. 334, I. O. O. F. Charter members W. B. Jernijan, Preston Phillips, Joseph Murphy, J. W. Nixon, T. D. Smith. The lodge was organized April 9, 1875.

Present officers - I. W. Martin, N. G.; E. C. Moore, V. G.; W. R. Annan, secretary; N. W. Williams, treasurer. The lodge has forty-five members.

Charter members of William D. Muir Lodge No. 277 A. F. and A. M. - C. C. Woods, W. M.; R. W. Masten, S. W.; A. J. Harrison, J. W.; George B. Judy, treasurer; N. T. Allison, secretary; H. Armstrong, S. D.; Charles Long, J. D.; J. H. Younger, tyler, and G. T. Paxton.

Present officers - H. W. Harris, W. M.; J. L. Judd, S. VV.; George Judy, J. W.; N. R. Harris, treasurer; W. F. Johnson, secretary; M. Rust, S. D.; J. I. Barges, J. D.; Charles Long, tyler.

PILOT GROVE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

was founded in 1878, and chartered in 1881. It was under control of N. C. Johnson, who was educated at Fulton, Annapolis naval academy and Chicago college of music. At his death the school fell into the hands of C. B. and W. T. Johnson, the former educated at St. Mary's college and Kentucky military institute (both in Kentucky), the latter educated under tuition of C. B. and C. N. Johnson, and at the Brandenburg seminary, Kentucky, and Shelbina college, Mo.

Growth -1878-79, 68 pupils; from a distance, 15; 1879-80, 90 pupils; from a distance, 23; 1880-81, 101 pupils; from a distance, 35; 1881-82, 107 pupils; from a distance, 36, 1882-83, 123 pupils; from a distance, 58.

Building consists of seven rooms; three large study halls - one for ladies, one for gentlemen, and one for primary pupils; a library well furnished and fitted for reading room, in which are over one thousand books -open every Saturday eight for pupils; three other food-sized rooms, two of which are furnished with beautiful upright grand pianos, metronomes, charts, musical blackboards, etc.

All the rooms throughout the building are furnished to suit purposes for which they are intended.

Geological and zoological cabinets, philosophical apparatus, etc., necessary to illustrate the physical sciences, are supplied to the school.

FACULTY FOR 1883-84

C. B. Johnson and W. F. Johnson, principals; Mrs. B. Johnson, preceptress; Miss Lizzie Pendleton, directress of conservatory of music; principal of primary, to be supplied; voice culture, to be supplied. Chartered in six courses.

SHIPMENTS FOR 1882

The shipments made from this point for 1882, by the railroad, will be found below

Wheat	317 car loads.
Hogs	28 car loads
Cord wood	20 car loads
Oats	8 car loads
Sheep	5 car loads
Cattle	4 car loads
Logs	4 car loads
Mixed stock	2 car loads
Potatoes	1 car load
Emigrant outfits	2 car loads

The above shows an increase of about 125 cars over the preceding year.

INCIDENTS OF THE WAR [Furnished by W. G. Pendleton]

The following narration of the killing during the late war, of citizens of our community, by lawless bands, upon either side is doubtless correct in the main, yet in view of the considerable lapse of time since the occurrence of these events, the fallibility of the human memory, and many other circumstances which would have their effect, it would not be strange should error exist in some of the minute details.

Considered in order of time in which it occurred, I mention first the killing of Joseph Sifers, two miles north of Pilot Grove, which took place about the beginning of the year. He was a Union man, whose house was surrounded at night by unknown men, who demanded of him his fire arms. Purporting to have them hidden upon the outside of his dwelling, he went out intending to discover who they were; when, doubtless, under the belief that his life was in danger, he ran, endeavoring to reach a cornfield adjacent, but in the attempt was shot down by a sentinel of the party. It was never known who perpetrated this outrage.

In the summer of 1864, during a revival meeting in the southern Methodist Episcopal church at Pilot Grove, Capt. Todd, one day during the hour of service, surrounded the building with a company of about sixty savage looking "bushwhackers," who rudely entered the sacred house; stopped the services, and unceremoniously ejected the worshippers. After refreshing themselves with the eatables prepared for the occasion, and selecting such horses as they desired, from the many secured to the trees near by, they departed, taking with them two citizens, Peter Mitzell and Otho Zeller as hostages, as they called them, whose safety would depend upon the good conduct of the citizens, in not pursuing, intercepting or informing on them, there being, at that time, State Militia stationed at various places around.

These two unfortunate men were that night, barbarously butchered some miles east of here, near Lone Elm prairie, and their bodies found a day or two later. Zeller had belonged to the State Militia, which fact, to those who knew the character of the guerrillas, accounts for the reason of his killing. Mitzell was loyal, though a very quiet and inoffensive man; he had, a short time previous, met a squad of guerrillas, and mistaking them for militia, had, doubtless, indiscreetly expressed his sentiments, for which offense, in a time when men were killed for opinion's sake, he paid the forfeit with his life.

The same party of bushwhackers, returning a day or two later, passed through the German settlement three miles west of here, and killed two citizens, John Diehl and Vollmer, who, it seems, unfortunately fell into the same error as Mitzell, of mistaking them for federal troops, a number of them being dressed in blue.

A Mr. Nichols was killed near Bell Air, in this county, during the same summer of 1864. This act was committed by a band of Hall's State militia. Mr. Nichols was a Kentuckian, a conservative Union man, and very quiet and peaceable. The provocation of this crime, if any, was never known.

Thomas Cooper, of this vicinity, was arrested in the fall of 1864, in James Thompson's store, in Boonville by militia, taken to a secluded spot near the fair grounds, and brutally murdered and his body mutilated. Cooper was a southern man, and known to his neighbors as quiet, tolerant and inoffensive.

CHAPTER XII

PRAIRIE HOME TOWNSHIP

Boundary – Physical Features – Early Settlements – Prairie Home – Prairie Home Lodge A. F. and A. M., No. 503 – Prairie Home Institute – Its History

BOUNDARY

Prairie Home township is bounded on the north by Saline township, on the east by Moniteau county, on the south by Moniteau township and on the west by Clark's Fork township. Prairie Home township was taken from the territories of Clark's For, Saline and Moniteau townships, and was organized a few years ago – in 1872.

PHYSICAL FEATURES

This township is generally level and undulating, being mostly prairie. The soil is good and produces well. The northern portions of the township are settled by Germans who are thrifty.

EARLY SETTLERS

The oldest settlers according to the best information that can be obtained, were James McClain, Lacy McClanahan, Adam McClanahan, Jacob Carpenter, Absalom McClanahan, Michael Hornbeck, Samuel Carpenter, William N. McClanahan, William G. McClanahan, and Jeremiah Smith.

It appears that these men were located in this township, previous to 1820, as their votes were recorded in that year. Some of them may not be confined to the limits of the township, but they were not far distant from the line.

The history of this township is so closely connected with that of the three townships mentioned above from which it was taken, that it will not be repeated at this place. For its history, the reader is referred to that of the three above named townships.

PRAIRIE HOME

This little village is located on section 20, township 47, range 15. The first store was erected by James Boswell. John Zimmerman began business in 1874. The first blacksmith was William Dorderman. The present business firms are U. E. & D. L. Davis, hardware merchants; William Stemmons and A. H. Workman, blacksmiths; W. S. Gibson, dentist; A. J. Lacy, S. M. Teel, and J. W. Poindexter, physicians. James W. Jones is the present postmaster, and J. L. Sholl is the proprietor of a drug store and grocery combined.

PRAIRIE HOME LODGE NO. 503, A. F. AND A. M.

Organized July 30, 1881. Number of original members eleven. C. R. Scott, first and present W. M. Hall erected over Prairie Home M. E. church in 1881, and cost \$1,500. Number of present membership twenty-three.

PRAIRIE HOME INSTITUTE

This institution is located about fourteen miles south of Boonville, in Cooper county, on a high, rolling prairie, beautifully variegated and interlined with groves of original timber. It is situated in township No. 47, range No. 15, section No. 20, and is in the centre of almost a circle, the radii of which is fourteen miles from Boonville, Rocheport, Providence, Sandy Hook, California and Bunceton. The enterprise was projected in 1865 by Rev. A. H. Misseldine, and successfully conducted for several years. In 1869 Dr. W. H. Trigg, of Boonville, purchased the institution under mortgage. A few days thereafter it was sold to Wash. A. Johnston, and in the fall of 1869, sold by him to the public school district. Under this management the school was conducted by Professor Edgar Dunnaway and wife; then by Miss Margaret McPhatridge, now Mrs. William H. Ellis, Jr. In May, 1871, in convention, the district empowered Mr. G. G. Wilson to dispose of the building to a teacher who would conduct a boarding school for the education of both sexes. Through Mr. Wilson and the township board, the house was sold to A. Slaughter, then president of the Texas prairie high school, Lafayette county, Missouri.

The institute having been thoroughly repaired and remodeled by Professor Slaughter during the summer of 1871, he formally opened the institute on the 11th of September with the following corps of teachers: Miss Mary Jane Lauderdale, Miss Laura A. Slaughter, Mr. Joel H. Abbott. There was a large attendance of pupils in the various departments, which continued with a constant increase until October 3, 1874, when the institute with its contents was destroyed by fire, without insurance. The loss was quite severe on the principal and his family, but this was partly alleviated by citizens who promptly and liberally contributed in money, and otherwise, to the wants of the family. Dr. William H. Ellis, Dr. J. W. Porter, Wash. A. Johnston, C. M. Cagey, Mike Wells, Henry Wells, W. C. P. Taylor, Colonel

Robert McCulloch, Captain A. Hornbeck, C. R. Scott, Benton Brosius, Robert Brosius, Mrs. Reavis, Mrs. Daniel Hunt, Kelly Ragland, Colonel William Pope, Rev. William M. Tipton, William M. McClanahan, T. J. Ellis, Captain F. A. Rodgers, Mike Keilly and brother, William Kirchman, T. Jerkins, Mason Smith, Rev. G. B. Tutt, Willie L. Stephens, J. E. Taliaferro, James Brosius and Robert Bruce, promptly rallied around the principal in a liberal encouragement and support of a new and superior edifice, while the smoke was still ascending from the old.

A committee, consisting of Wash. A. Johnston and Professor Slaughter, was appointed to make a contract for rebuilding, which was let the 31st of October, 1874.

Notwithstanding the extreme severity of the winter, the building was completed April 1, 1875. Professor Slaughter opened with a good school on the 26th of April, which continued with increasing interest to the commencement exercises, on the 14th of June, 1876, which was witnessed by over two thousand persons. The sixth annual session opened with increasing patronage on the 4th of September, 1876. The institution was regularly chartered under the following regency: Dr. J. W. Porter, president; Wash. A. Johnston, treasurer and secretary; W. C. P. Taylor, Captain A. Hornbeck and Mike Wells. The building was then presented to Professor A. Slaughter, under the condition that he or his family shall maintain a boarding school for the education of both sexes in the sciences, during a period of ten years, after which it shall be theirs *in fee*.

The discipline is that of a well regulated family. Both sexes are boarded and taught in the institution. It is not under the control of any denomination, and all regularly ordained ministers are invited to preach in the "chapel" when not otherwise occupied, provided abuse of faith on tenets of other denominations are not practised. It will be seen the location renders the pupils free from all the temptations, which they have to encounter in the large cities and towns, which is at once apparent to the thoughtful mind.

The session of 1875-76 opened with the following corps of instructors: Professor A. Slaughter, principal; Professor E. R. Taylor, Mrs. Louisa F. Wiatt Miss Annie R. Pettibone, Mrs. Laura W. Slaughter, matron. Since 1876, Professor A. Slaughter has had charge of the institute a portion of the time - up to June, 1880. In 1881 there was no school, but in 1882, and the present year, 1883, Professor W. H. Rea has been the principal, and has managed the school ably and successfully.

The building is capable of accommodating seventy-five pupils as boarders. We can but admire the energy and enterprise which characterized the efforts of all connected with the institution in the past; and with the same application hereafter upon the part of its friends and patrons, the school will have a bright and prosperous future.

CHAPTER XIII

SALINE TOWNSHIP

Boundary – Physical Features – Early Settlements – Church – School – Washington – Houstonville – Men Who were Killed During the War

BOUNDARY

Saline township lies in the northeastern part of Cooper county, bounded on the north by the Missouri river, on the east by Moniteau county, on the south by Prairie Home township, and on the west by Clark's Fork and Boonville townships.

PHYSICAL FEATURE

Lying as it does in close proximity to the Missouri river it is naturally hilly, save where the bottom lands of the Missouri river and Petite Saline creek lie.

EARLY SETTLERS

Saline township was settled as early as 1812, by Joseph Jolly, who had only two children, John and William. He settled in the upper part of what has ever since been known as "Jolly's Bottom," and which received its name from him. He remained in this township until 1826, when he removed to the "Stephen's" neighborhood, in Palestine township. He there set out the first apple orchard in that part of the country, and erected a horse mill which would grind a bushel of corn an hour, and this was considered by the people of that day as a great achievement. He peddled apples, cider and ginger-cakes at all the musters and elections.

William Jolly was a gunsmith, a wheelwright, a blacksmith, a cooper, a miller, a distiller, a preacher, a doctor and a farmer. John Jolly kept a ferry across the Lamine river, on the lower ferry road, which is still known as "Jolly's Ferry." The next settlers of this township were William Lamm, James and John Turner, Joseph Pursley, Levin Cropper, Henry Levens, B. W. Levens, (the grandfather and father of Henry C. Levens, of Boonville,) Josiah Dickson, Charles Force, John Farris, Thomas Farris, Jesse Wood, David Fine, Joshua and Lacy McClanahan, George Dickson, Frederick and James F. Conner, John Calvert, Adam and Absalom McClanahan, Elverton Caldwell, Noding Caldwell, Joseph Westbrook, Alexander Woods, Robert Givens, Leonard Calvert, August McFall, Alexander R. Dickson, William Calvert, Jr., James Farris and Robert Dickson.

At what time these men settled here is not known to the present generation, but they certainly arrived between 1816 and 1820, for they all voted at Boonville at the August election in the latter year.

William Lamm settled in the bottom in 1816, and Henry and B. W. Levens and Levin Cropper came here in 1817 or 1818, as they voted in 1819, and the law required that a person should reside in the county one year before he could vote.

Henry Levens was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1774, married at Hagerstown, Maryland, and emigrated to Washington county, Pennsylvania, where all his children were born. He afterwards emigrated to Randolph county, Ill., and lived there about fifteen years. His wife being dead, and all his children of age, he emigrated with his son, to Cooper county. He died at his old home in Illinois, in 1838. He was a soldier during the whole of the Revolution, and received a pension for same till his death.

Big Lick church, belonging to the Baptist denomination, was built at a very early time, and is now, and has been for many years, in a flourishing condition. John B. Longdon was the first pastor of this church.

The first school in the township was taught John M. Stillman, an eastern man, a place now occupied by the Highland schoolhouse.

The first school recollected by one of the writers, he being one of the pupils, and in his youth having lived in this township, was taught by a man named Rollins. He was a very fair scholar, for the times, and pleased his patrons with the advancement which was made by his scholars.

Just before Christmas in the year 1828, the boys of this school had determined to "turn the teacher out," and force him to treat the scholars, by taking him to the creek and ducking him. This proceeding, though showing little respect for the dignity of the teacher, generally had the desired effect. The fear of it, in this case, had the desired effect, for the teacher, hearing of the plans of the scholars, voluntarily gave them a week's holiday, and on New Year's day treated them to a *keg of whisky*. This, no doubt, will sound strange to most of our citizens at this day, but it is nevertheless true.

It must not be thought from this that that was a terribly demoralized community, for it certainly was not, but on the contrary, one of the most refined in the county. It was customary, at that time, to find whisky in every house, and a man who did not take his dram, was the exception and not the rule. But drunkenness was then considered very disgraceful, and on that account was rarely heard of. People then could drink without taking too much.

It is not to be understood, that even considering the customs of the settlers, at that time, the teacher was justified in treating his pupils to whisky, and the people for suffering it to be done. It was wrong then, and at the present day would not be tolerated in any community.

To the credit of the patrons and teachers of the schools of the past, it may here be said, that there is only one other instance known of a proceeding of this kind being allowed. It was considered at that day that it was not so much the use as the abuse, which made whisky so objectionable and demoralizing. If at that day, a young gentleman, the least bit intoxicated attempted to wait upon a respectable young lady then he was told that his company was not *absolutely required* at that house, and that the sooner he left the better it would be for all concerned. *How is it now?* Our readers live in the present, and are capable of passing judgment upon present customs.

There was a town called "Washington," laid off by B. W. Levens, about one mile below Overton, near the Missouri river, on the farm lately occupied by Timothy Chandler. Several lots were sold, houses built, and for a while considerable business done. But the site of the town has long since disappeared, and the spot on which it was located cannot be designated by any persons living. Indeed, but few in that locality are aware of the fact that such a town was ever located and inhabited.

Another town called "Houstonville," was laid off by B. W. Levens and John Ward at the ferry landing, opposite Rocheport, and some lots were sold, but not much improved. The site of the town has long since disappeared under the encroaching waters of the Missouri river.

Another town, the name of which is now unknown, was located at the "cross road," north of Conner's mill, near the late residence of Judge Jesse Ogden, but was soon abandoned.

Only two of the old pioneers are now living, viz : William Lamm and James F. Conner.

Mr. Lamm was born in Roan county, North Carolina, twelve miles from Saulsberry, and is 81 years of age. His parents removed with him to Tennessee, in 1796, taking him with them. He came to and settled in Saline township in the fall of 1816, and has remained there ever since.

Mr. James F. Conner was a small boy when he, with his parents, settled in Saline township. He is the proprietor of the Conner's mill, situated on the Petite Saline Creek, about nine miles east of Boonville, which was erected by Charles Force, and until it was purchased by, Mr. Conner, who changed it into a steam mill, it was run entirely by water power. This mill was built at a very early day, and has proved of great benefit to the inhabitants of this township, as it gave them a market at home for their surplus products.

This township is one of the best wheat districts in the county, probably not finer wheat being raised in the State. It also produces, with little cultivation, all other kinds of grain, fruits and garden vegetables.

This township, as well as the rest of the county, had its troubles in the late civil war. There were nine Union and three southern men killed within its borders. The southern men who were killed were, Benjamin Hill, William Henshaw and Radford Bass. These men were murdered at or near their homes, about the last of September 1864 by a scouting party of Union soldiers being a part of the command of Colonel Hall, Missouri State militia. They were not belligerents, and the cause of their being slain is unknown.

The Union soldiers who were killed, were slain by "bushwhackers" from Howard and Boone counties, seven of them on the 7th day of October, 1864, and two of them on the 27th day of May, 1865. The following is a list of them Henry Weber, Franz Haffenburg, Jacob Eder, David Huth, Bernhard Deitrick, Gerhardt Blank, Peter Diehl, Jacob Good, Sr., Jerry Good, Jr. There was also a "bushwhacker," whose name is unknown, killed on the 27th day of May, 1865.

This township has always been strongly Democratic in principle since the organization of the county, and still remains the same.

CHAPTER XIV

THE PRESS AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Boonville Herald – The Western Emigrant – Boonville Observer – Missouri Register – The Boonville Agus – The Coon Hunter – Democratic Union – Boonville Bulletin – Tri-Weekly Observer – The Iris – Central Missourian – The Boonville Missourian – The Ladies' Garland – Boonville Patriot – Boonville Advertiser – Boonville Daily Advertiser – Boonville Eagle – Wachter Am Missourier – The Central Missourier – Boonville News – Boonville Weekly Topic – The Pilot Grove Bee – Shave Tail Courier – Public Schools, with Facts and Figures Pertaining thereto

THE PRESS OF COOPER COUNTY

The first newspaper, in Cooper county, was established at Boonville, about the year 1834, and was called the Boonville Herald. It was owned by James O. Middleton, and edited by Benjamin L. Ferry, who was afterwards County Clerk of Cooper County. In the year 1838, Robert Brent bought one-half interest in the paper from James Middleton, and on the 8th day of April in that year, they changed the name of the paper to that of The Western Emigrant. On the 7th day of March 1839, C. W. Todd purchased Brent's interest in the paper, and the paper was edited about one year, by Messrs. Middleton and Todd. On the 30th day of April, 1840, C. W. Todd purchased Middleton's interest in the paper and changed its name to that of the Boonville Observer; C. W. Todd continued as sole proprietor of the paper, until the 3rd day of February, 1842, when he sold one-half interest in it to T. J. Boggs. On the 29th day of March 1843, F. M. Caldwell and J. S. Collins purchased the paper from Todd & Boggs; they continued to edit it in partnership only until June 7th, 1843, when F. M. Caldwell purchased the interest of Collins, and became sole proprietor. Caldwell soon sold one-half interest in the paper to Allen Hammond, and it was edited under the firm name of Caldwell & Hammond, until the 9th day of June 1846, when Caldwell sold out his interest to Allen Hammond, and returned to Virginia, on account of the feeble health of his wife. Hammond continued to edit it alone, until November 7th, 1850, when F. M. Caldwell returned from Virginia and again purchased a half interest in the paper. They continued to edit it in partnership for several years, when they sold the paper to Augustus W. Simpson, who remained publisher of it, until it ceased publication in 1861, on account of the excitement incident to the war. In politics this paper was Whig, until the year 1854, when the Whig party ceased to exist; it then became Democratic, and remained so until it ceased publication.

The next newspaper, established was the Missouri Register, published by William T. Yeoman. The first number of it appeared in July 1839. It was the first Democratic paper published in western Missouri and was established mainly to aid in the campaign of 1840. On the 22d day of April 1841, Yeoman sold one-half interest in the paper to Edgar A. Robinson, and the paper continued to be published by Yeoman and Robinson until the 9th day of August 1843, when Ira Van Nortwick purchased it from them. It was afterwards successively owned by Quisenberry, Price, Ward & Chilton, the last named of whom continued to publish it until the great temperance excitement broke out in 1853. The paper had previous to this time, been taken up almost exclusively by political discussions, but it was then purchased by a man named Bowie, who filled its columns exclusively with discussions in regard to the great question of Temperance, which was then agitating the public mind. Bowie soon sold out the paper to Allen Hammond, and soon after this, the paper ceased publication, for want of patronage.

During the heat of the campaign of 1840, the editors of the *Missouri Register*, Messrs. Ward & Chilton, started a campaign sheet, which advocated the claims of Van Buren for President, as soon as the campaign was over, and Van Buren defeated, the paper ceased publication. The name of this paper was the Boonville *Argus*.

The *Coon Hunter* was published by Ward & Shelton, in 1840. The next paper was the *Democratic Union*, established in the fall of 1844, and run by Blair & Chilton. Following this in succession in 1847, was a whig paper, called the *Boonville Bulletin*, published by Caldwell & Hammond. On the 31st of December, 1850, Messrs. Caldwell & Hammond, proprietors of the Boonville Observer, commenced the publication of a sheet, called the *Tri-Weekly Observer*, which was printed three times a week. It was continued until March 8th, 1851. The *Iris*, a college magazine, was published in 1851. In 1852, the *Central Missourian* was started, but was soon discontinued. It was succeeded by the *Boonville Missourian*, in 1853, which occupied the same office. The paper was edited by A. C. Speer, who was a strong advocate of Whig principles, and also a staunch friend of the temperance cause. The *Ladies' Garland* was started in 1856. The next paper was the *Boonville Patriot*, which was established by a man named John Gill, in the year 1856. It was afterwards sold to F. M. Caldwell, who continued to publish it until the year 1861, when the materials, presses, etc., belonging to the office were seized by General Worthington, in command of some Federal forces at Jefferson City, and taken by him to the latter place. Soon afterwards, Lewis H. Stahl went to Jefferson City, and with the assistance of some of the most influential Federals, succeeded in getting possession of the material belonging to the office, which General Worthington had seized, and brought them back to Boonville. Immediately upon his return, Messrs. Caldwell & Stahl commenced the publication of, the *Boonville Advertiser*, the first number of which appeared on the 15th day of June, 1862. After publishing it for some time, they sold out to Messrs. Drury & Selby, who published the paper for a year or two, when Messrs. F. M. Caldwell & Co., again got possession of it, and continued proprietors of it until April, 1878. The editors of this paper, during this period, have

been J. G. Pangborn, H. A. Hutchison, George W. Frame, Chas. E. Hasbrook, Judge Benjamin Tompkins and S. W. Ravenel.

On the 25th day of October, 1875, the proprietors of the *Boonville Advertiser* commenced the publication of a daily edition of the same, under the name of the *Boonville Daily Advertiser*. The *Daily Advertiser* was discontinued March 7, 1879. Mr. Ravenel took charge of the *Advertiser* in March, 1878, as manager and local editor, and on March 7, 1879, leased the paper, and has since been running it as manager and editor.

The *Boonville Eagle*, a weekly paper, was established in September, 1865, by Milo Blair. On the 28th day of September, 1875, he took Charles H. Allen into partnership with him. In politics it has always been republican.

The *Wachter Am Missouri*, a paper published in the German language, was established in 1867, by L. Joachimi. It was purchased in 1874 by F. W. Ludwig, who changed its name to the *Central Missourier*. Haller is the present proprietor. In politics it is republican.

The *Boonville News* was started October 1, 1880, by A. B. Thornton, who was afterward killed. The paper has been continued by his wife, Mrs. M. O. Thornton, and her daughter. It is politically a greenback paper.

George W. Ferrell started the *Boonville Weekly Topic*, August 18, 1877, and after running it about eight months, F. M. Caldwell became owner. Caldwell published the paper alone till February 8, 1880, when A. B. Thornton purchased an interest. September 18, 1880, Colonel H. A. Hutchison bought Thornton's interest, the paper now being edited by Hutchison, and published by Caldwell & Hutchison - Caldwell as business manager. It is democratic in politics.

The *Pilot Grove Bee* was established in 1882, the first number being issued the first week in September, by James Barton, who is now the editor and proprietor. It is a seven-column folio, and democratic in politics.

In this history of the newspapers of Cooper county, we should not omit from the list the *Shave Tail Courier*, which deserves honorable mention, because it was much esteemed by the old settlers of that day.

At an early day, Napoleon Beatty, quite an original character, lived eighteen miles west of Boonville, in Cooper county, on what was called Shave Tail creek. In that vicinity a store was located, the predominating articles of trade being tobacco and whiskey, the latter the matutinal drink of the old pioneer. Beatty was noted for his bonhomie, and was not only the recognized fiddler of the neighborhood where he resided, but was intensely fond of and well posted in all the rural games and sports of that day. During his early manhood he was

"In wrestling nimble, in running swift;

In shooting steady, in swimming strong.

Well made to strike, to leap, to throw or lift,

And all the sports that shepherds are among."

His fiddle was his inseparable companion, and when spending an evening with friends, he had the happy faculty of discoursing to them the most delightful music, always accompanying his instrument with a unique and improvised song, which was replete with wise and startling hits and felicitous innuendoes, touching the vulnerability of some one or more of his entranced and rustic auditors.

Beatty was the sole editor and proprietor of the *Shave Tail Courier*, which appeared, at regular intervals, in manuscript form. The happenings, the sayings and the doings of the neighborhood were faithfully gathered and garnered by this original chronicler, who read aloud his paper to his admirers, in his own inimitable style. If there occurred a dance in the locality, a record of it was made in the *Courier*. If a quilting party or a shooting match came off, the particulars were given in the *Courier*. If a wedding took place, the event was mentioned in a *recherche* manner in the *Courier*. The bride was the special theme for highest eulogium, and the wedded pair elicited the warmest wishes for their future happiness. In fact, the *Courier*, like the good mirror, reflected not only the redoubtable editor's views of matters and things, but reflected as well, on popular subjects, the will of the people.

The following comprises the list of post-offices in Cooper county:

POST-OFFICES

Bell Air,
Blackwater,
Boonville,
Bunceton,
Clark's Fork,
Clifton City,
Gooch's Mill,
Harriston,
Lamine,

Lone Elm,
New Palestine
Otterville,
Overton,
Pilot Grove,
Pisgah,
Pleasant Green
Prairie Home
Vermont

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The public schools were properly organized after the war of 1861, and have been gradually growing in favor, as their utility has been demonstrated year after year.

There are now (1883) no less than one hundred and two public school buildings in Cooper county, eighty-five of these for white children and sixteen for colored children. These schools are in charge of 100 white teachers and twenty colored teachers. The number of white persons of school age that is to say between six and twenty years - male, 3,256; female, 2,932; total, 6,188. Colored persons - male, 475; female, 454; total, 929; making a grand total of 7,117. The male teachers receive, on an average, about \$40 per month, and the female teachers about \$29 per month. The average number of pupils attending each day during the summer term was twenty-eight, the number attending the winter term was forty-two, the general average was thirty-five. The cost per day for tuition of each pupil is seven cents. The school property in the county is now valued at \$75,000; the rate of tax levy per \$100 is thirty-nine cents.

Paid teachers, \$21,685; for fuel, \$768.63; for repairs and rent, \$1,760.66; incidental expenses, \$849.63; erection of houses and purchase of sites, \$538; past indebtedness paid, \$5,550.33; salary of district clerks, \$557.50; unexpended funds, \$7,958.18; tuition fees received, \$47. In 1881 one teachers' institute was held at Pilot Grove, which continued in session two weeks. This institute was attended by forty teachers.

Township school fund	----- \$25,515 73
County school funds	----- 5,751 86
Other special funds	----- 14,069 42
Total county, township and special funds	--- \$45,337 01

Yearly receipts of flues, etc., \$183, which amount has been transferred to county fund.

The above is a precise and concise statement of the present condition of the public schools and of the funds pertaining thereto.

www.mogenweb.org/cooper