

A
HISTORY
Of
COOPER COUNTY,
Missouri

*From the first visit by White Men, in February, 1804, to
The 5th day of July, 1876*

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INTRODUCTION.

IN compliance with a resolution of Congress, and the Proclamation of the President of the United States, the Committee of Invitation for the Celebration of the "Centennial" 4th day of July, requested us to write a brief historical sketch of Cooper county, Missouri, to which we, with considerable mistrust, as to our ability to meet the expectations of the people, consented, and undertook to perform.

After reading the same on that occasion, the multitude there assembled, unanimously passed a resolution, offered by Maj. Henry M. Clark, Chairman of said Committee, requesting us to complete said history, and have the same published in book or pamphlet form, which has accordingly been done.

This book contains, among other items of interest, viz

1st. The history of the "Boone's Lick Country," from the time it was first visited by white Americans to the organization of Cooper county.

2d. The general history of the county of Cooper from the time of its organization, to the 5th day of July, 1876.

3d. The Political History of the County, containing the names of all of the voters at the first election for delegates to Congress on the ad day of August, 1819, who lived within the present limits of the county ; and, also, the names of the candidates for office at several of the early elections and the number of votes given.

4th. The war history of the county,

Top of Page 8

5th. A short biographical sketch of some of the most prominent early settlers.

6th. A description of the first churches, and schools, ministers of the gospel and school teachers, showing that the first school was taught upon a log in the open air, and the names of -the pupils attending the same.

7th. A list of all of the State and County officers elected and appointed, from the formation of the State and county government to the 4th day of July, 1876; their terms of office, when the same commenced and when expired.

8th. A table showing the progress of schools, the taxable wealth and taxes at different periods and other useful statistics, in regard to the advancement of the county.

9th. A description of each post office in the county, and a separate history of the City of Boonville and the different towns.

10th. A brief history of each township, with the names of a number of its earliest settlers, from the best information which could be obtained from the records, and the recollections of the old citizens still living. A large majority of those mentioned were here and voted at the August election, in 1820, and but few are included, who arrived subsequent to that date. These lists are, we think, in the main correct, but some of the early settlers have, no doubt, been omitted, for the want of proper information. It will be noticed that the histories of some of the townships are more full and complete than others, their citizens having taken more interest in giving the desired information.

We expect our history to be severely criticised by some, but they must bear in mind, that it is a difficult and laborious task to write a detailed history, reaching over a period of sixty-six years, when there are so few of the old settlers now living from whom information could be obtained.

Top of Page 9

Neither could any other history, written previous to this one be found, which could be used as a guide.

We have, merely in a plain old-fashioned style, recorded the facts, as they were learned from others, and from the State and county records. We undertook the task, not because we thought that we could perform it better than any one else, but because we felt that it should be done, and no one else showed a disposition to put his shoulder to the wheel.

For these and other reasons, we have undertaken this responsible duty, hoping that our efforts, in that behalf, may meet the expectations of a generous public; and that the following pages may be the means of perpetuating the memories of at least some of those who braved the dangers of the savage foe, and whose privations and toil were the means of opening to civilization one of the most productive and best counties, upon which the sun has ever shone. Many of them, whose remains are sleeping in the sacred soil of old Cooper have been long since entirely forgotten, and all recognize the fact that this should not be.

We should honor their memories, and imitate their virtues, their moral courage and their heroic bravery. We have few such men among us now. Those glorious days of simplicity have passed away, and only the memory of them remains. We live during the fast age of steamboats, railroads and telegraphs. Whether these things have increased our happiness and prosperity is left to others to determine.

But one thing is certain, and that is, the fact that crime has increased to an alarming extent. The records of our county show that no person was indicted or punished for crime, during the twelve years subsequent to its first settlement. This proves that the first settlers were, with hardly 1n exception, honest men and law abiding citizens.

Top of Page 10

Hoping that our efforts, in this behalf, will be the means of accomplishing some good, we are,

Very Respectfully, Your Obedient Servants,

HENRY C. LEVENS, N. M. DRAKE.

DEDICATION.

To Captain SAMUEL COLE and MRS. JENNIE DAIS, his sister, the only two persons now living in Cooper county, who were among the first company of settlers who put their feet upon its sacred soil-this work is respectfully dedicated. May they live long, and be forever blessed, and may their latter days be as peaceful and happy as their former ones have been honorable and glorious.

Top of Page 11

HISTORY OF BOONE'S LICK COUNTRY,

From the First Visit by White Men to the
Organization of Howard County.

CHAPTER I.

BOUNDARIES of the Boone's Lick Country-Derivation of the Name. - First Visit by White Men. - Second Visit. - Third Visit. - First Salt Manufactured in County. - First regular Settlement in Boone's Lick Country.- First Settlement in Cooper County. - Aspect of the Savages.

All of the present State of Missouri, lying west of Cedar Creek, and north and west of the Osage river, and extending to the territorial line on the west and north, was, for many years, known as the "Boone's Lick Country." The first settlers, who came here, knew it only by that name.

It received its name from a place called "Boone's Lick," in what is now Howard county, situated about eight miles northwest of New Franklin, near the Missouri river. This place was visited by Daniel Boone at a very early time, but the exact date is not known. Here Boone found several large salt springs, and, as such places were always resorted to by deer and other game, he often hunted in the neighborhood.

Although it has always been stated, as a surmise, that Daniel Boone once resided at this Lick, and afterwards, within the present county of Cooper, yet it has been impossible to find anything authentic upon the subject; and, as Samuel Cole, a member of the first white family, which settled in the present limits of Cooper county, says emphatically, that Daniel Boone never lived farther west than St. Charles county, the conclusion is inevitable, that these histories

Top of Page 12

are mistaken, when they make the statement, that he was the first settler in the "Boone's Lick Country."

The first Americans, of whom we have any definite knowledge, who were ever in this portion of the State, were Ira P. Nosh, a deputy United States surveyor, Stephen Hancock, and Stephen Jackson, who came up the Missouri river, in the month of February 1804, and located a claim, on the public lands, in Howard county, nearly opposite the mouth of the Lamine river. They remained there until the month of March, in the same year, employing their time in surveying, hunting and fishing; and in the month of March they returned to their homes, which were situated on the Missouri river, about 25 miles above St. Charles.

While Nash and his companions were in Howard county, they visited "Barclay's and Boone's Licks;" also a trading-post, situated about 2 miles northwest of Old Franklin, kept by a white man by the name of Prewitt. The existence of this trading-post, and the fact that "Barclay's and Boone's Licks" had already received their names, from the white persons who visited them, shows conclusively, that this portion of the country had been explored, even before this, by white Americans. But no history makes mention of this trading-post, or of Prewitt; hence we are unable to determine when he came to the "Boone's Lick Country," how long he remained, and where he went when he left; but he, evidently, left before the year 1808, as, when Benjamin Cooper moved to what is now Howard county, in that year, there was then no settlement in this part of the State.

In July, 1804, Ira P. Nosh, in company with William Nosh, James H. Whitesides, William Clark, and Daniel Hubbard, again came into what is now Howard county, and surveyed a tract of land near the present site of Old

Top of Page 13

Franklin. On this second trip, Ira P. Nosh claimed that, when he came up the river the February before, he had left a compass in a certain hollow tree, and started out with two companions to find it, agreeing to meet the balance of the company the next day at Barclays Lick, which he did accordingly, bringing the compass with him, thus proving beyond a doubt, that he had visited the country before this time.

Lewis and Clarke, on their exploring expedition across the Rocky Mountains, and down the Columbia river to the Pacific ocean, arrived at the mouth of the Bonne Femme, in Howard county, on the 7th day of June 1804, and camped for the night. When they arrived at the mouth of the "Big Moniteau Creek," they found a point of rocks, covered with hieroglyphic paintings, but the large number of rattlesnakes which they found there, prevented a close examination of the place. Continuing their way up the river, they arrived at the mouth of the Lamine river on the 8th of the same month, and on the 9th at Arrow Rock.

When they returned from their journey in 1806, after having successfully accomplished all the objects for which they were sent out, they passed down the Missouri river and camped, on the 18th of September, in Howard county, opposite the mouth of the Lamine river. And, as they journeyed down the river on that day, they must have passed the present site of Boonville early on the morning of the 19th of September 1806.

The next evidence we have, of any white persons being in the "Boone's Lick Country," is the following

In 1807, Nathan and Daniel M. Boone, sons of old Daniel Boone, who lived with their father in what is now St. Charles county, about 25 miles west of the city of St. Charles, on the Femme Osage Creek, came up the Missouri river, and manufactured salt at "Boone's Lick," in Howard

Top of Page 14

county. After they had manufactured a considerable amount, they shipped it down the river to St. Louis where they sold it. It is thought by many that this was the first instance of salt being manufactured in what was at that time a part of the Territory of Louisiana, now the State of Missouri. Though soon after salt was manufactured in large quantities, "salt licks" being discovered in many parts of the State. Although these were the first white persons who remained for any length of time in the "Boone's Lick Country," yet they were not permanent settlers, as they only came up there to make salt and left as soon as they had finished.

William Christie and John G. Heath came up from St. Louis in 1808, and manufactured salt in what is now Black Water Township, Cooper County. The place is known to this day as "Heath's Salt Lick." He for years afterwards, every summer, made salt at the same place, and was known as the "big salt maker." The salt springs are located on "Heath's Creek," which was also named after him.

Previous to the year 1808, every white American who came to the Boone's Lick Country, came with the intention of only remaining there a short time. Three parties had entered it while on exploring and surveying expeditions; two parties had been to its fine salt licks to make salt, and, no doubt, many of the adventurous settlers living in the eastern part of this State, had often on their hunting expeditions, pierced the trackless forests to the "Boone's Lick Country," but, of course, there is no record of these, hence, those expeditions of which there is a record, are placed as being the first to this part of the country, when, in reality, they may not be.

But in 1808, one adventurous spirit, determined to forsake what appeared to him to be the too thickly settled portion of the State, and move farther west to the more pleasant solitudes of the uninhabited forest. In the Spring of that

Top of Page 15

year, Col. Benjamin Cooper and his family, consisting of his wife and five sons, moved to the "Boone's Lick Country," and located in what is now Howard County, about two miles south-west of "Boone's Lick," in the Missouri river bottom. Here he built him a cabin, cleared a piece of ground and commenced arrangements to make a permanent settlement at that place. But he was not permitted to remain long at his new home. Governor Merriwether Lewis, at that time Governor of the Territory, issued an order directing him to return below the mouth of the Gasconade river, as he was so far advanced into the Indian country, and so far away from protection, that in case of an Indian war he would be unable to protect him. So he returned to Loutre Island, about four miles below the mouth of the Gasconade river, where he remained until the year 1810.

But the rich Territory was not destined to be left forever to the reign of wild beasts or still more savage Indians. Aside from the fact that the character of the men of the early days caused them continually to revolt against living in thickly settled communities, yet the Boone's Lick Country, and especially what is now Cooper County, presented advantages, which those seeking a home where they could find the richest of lands and the most healthful of climate, could not and did not fail to perceive. Its fertile soil promised, with little labor, the most abundant harvests, its forests were filled with every variety of game, and its streams with all kinds of fish. Is it a wonder, then, that those seeking homes where these things could be found, should select and settle first the rich lands of Cooper and Howard Counties, risking all the dangers from the Indians who lived in

great numbers close around them? Two years after the settlement of Benjamin Cooper and his removal to Loutre Island, the first lasting settlement was made in the Boone's Lick Country, and this party was but the forerunner

Top of Page 16

of many others who soon followed, and in little more than one-half of a century have thickly settled one of the richest and most attractive parts of the State of Missouri.

On the 20th of February 1810, Col. Benjamin Cooper with several others returned to what is now Howard County. They came up on the north side of the Missouri river from Loutre Island, and all of them, except Hannah Cole and Stephen Cole, settled in Howard county, north of the Missouri river. Hannah Cole and Stephen Cole settled in what is now Cooper county; Stephen Cole, about one and one-half miles east of Boonville, in what is now called the old "Fort Field;" now owned by J. L. Stephens; and Hannah Cole, in what is now East Boonville, on the big bluff overlooking the river at a point of rocks where a lime kiln now stands. Benjamin Cooper settled in Howard county, in the cabin which he had built two years before, and which had not been disturbed -by the Indians, although they occupied all the adjacent country.

When the families of Hannah and Stephen Cole settled in what is now Cooper county, there was no white American living in Missouri west of Franklin county and south of the Missouri river. Those who came with them and settled north of the Missouri river, were their nearest neighbors, but they were most of them two or three miles distance from this side of the river.

The families of the first settlers south of the Missouri river, were composed of the following members: Hannah Cole and her children Jennie, Mattie, Dikie, Nellie, James, Holburt, Stephen, William and Samuel. Stephen Cole and Phoebe, his wife, and their children James, Rhoda, Mark, Nellie and Polly, making seventeen in all, members of the two families who made the first settlement in what is now Cooper county, but what was then an untrodden wilderness. Here they were surrounded on all sides by savages who

Top of Page 17

pretended to be friendly, but who sought every opportunity to steal horses and commit other depredations upon the settlers.

Only four of these children are still alive; they are Dikie, Jennie, Mark and Samuel Cole. Dikie Cole, now Mrs. Dikie Dalias, and Mark Cole, lived in this county for some time, then moved to St. Clair county, where they now reside. Samuel Cole, and Jennie Cole, now Mrs. Jennie Davis, have resided in this county ever since the first settlement by their mother. To Samuel Cole we are indebted for a great deal of the early history of this county, for he was here a long time before any other person now living here, except his sister, came to the county.

When Benjamin Cooper and those who were with him came up the river, there was no road nor anything to guide them through the wilderness. They had to take, as the path in which to travel, any opening which they could find in the thickets which would permit the passage of their wagons and animals. When they arrived at the river, where old Franklin now stands, Hannah and Stephen Cole desiring to cross the river with their families, were compelled to use a large canoe, or "perogue," as it was then called, swimming their horses behind them.

Their only neighbors at that time on this side of the Missouri river, were the Sauk and Fox Indians. The Sauk Indians, under Quashgami, their chief, lived on the Moniteau Creek, in the south part of Cooper county. When the settlers first came here, these Indians professed to be friendly to them, but, as is generally the case with all savages, they stole horses and committed other depredations. During the war of 18 12, these Indians took sides with the British against the

Americans. After the conclusion of the war, the Sauk Indians were ordered off to Grand river, and from thence to Rock river. Their other chiefs during this time were

Top of Page 18

Keokuk and Blundo; the later, one-half French, the others full-blooded Indians.

Samuel Cole states that he often hunted with these chiefs, and found them generally kind and obliging. He was also well acquainted with Blackhawk, who was at that time a common Indian warrior, but who afterwards became a noted chief. The whites at that day, although they well knew the treachery of the Indians, were accustomed to hunt and fish with them; also sometimes to visit them at their villages; yet they always kept on their guard against the wiles savages.

When the settlers first came to this county, wild game of all kinds was very abundant, and was so tame as not to be easily frightened at the approach of white men. This game furnished the settlers with all their meat, and in fact, with all the provisions that they used, for most of the time they had little else than meat. There were large numbers of deer, turkeys, elk and other large animals, and to use the expression of an old settler, "they could be killed as easily as sheep are now killed in our pastures." The settlers spent most of their time in hunting and fishing, as it was no use to plant crops to be destroyed by the wild game. Small game, such as squirrels, rabbits, partridges, &c., swarmed around the homes of the frontiersmen in such numbers, that when they did attempt to raise a crop of any kind, in order to save a part of it, they were forced to kill them in large numbers.

But these inoffensive animals were not the only ones which filled the forests. Such terrible and blood-thirsty wild beasts as the bear and the panther could be seen very often lying in wait for any unwary traveler who ventured near their lairs. Near where the present residence of Washington Adams stands, in the City of Boonville, a panther was one day killed by Samuel Cole which measured eleven feet

Top of Page 19

from the end of its nose to the tip of its tail, and which was thought to have been one of the largest panthers ever killed in the State of Missouri.

Not only were the settlers and their families thus well provided with food by nature, but also their animals were furnished with everything necessary to their well-being. The range was so good during the whole year that their stock lived without being fed at all by their owners. Even when the ground was covered with snow, the animals, taught by instinct, would in a few minutes paw from under the snow enough grass to last them all day. Their only use of corn, of which they planted very little, was to make bread, and bread made of corn was the only kind they ever had.

After the first settlement of what is now Cooper county, the settlers remained here nearly two years without any neighbors nearer than the opposite side of the Missouri river. For nearly two years they encountered alone the dangers of the forest, and lived in peace and quietness, although they at times feared an attack from the Indians who lived south and west of them.

But in the latter part of the year 1811 some more adventurous spirits moved to this side of the river, and began to settle around and near the present site of Boonville. They settled near one another, so that in time of danger they could readily gather at one place. This timely arrival revised the spirits of the settlers, for already could be heard the dim mutterings in the distance, which foreshadowed a long and bloody conflict with the Indians who had been induced by the emissaries of the British government to take sides with that country against the United States of America.

Top of Page 20

HISTORY OF BOONE'S LICK COUNTRY,

CHAPTER II.

Hitherto the life of the settler had been passed in comparative peace and quiet. Supplied by nature with all that he wished to eat or to drink, he had nothing to induce him to labor, except to provide a shelter to cover his family. This completed, he could spend his time in hunting and fishing, and by his pleasant pastime he could provide all the necessaries for those dependent upon him. He had no care about his stock, for in winter, as well as in summer, they were bountifully fed by the grass and other things which grew luxuriantly on every side. And except an occasional encounter with some wild animal, such as a bear or panther, the life of the pioneer was one devoid of incident or excitement.

During the winter of 1811 and the spring of 1812, several families of adventurous frontiersmen came into what is now Cooper county, and settled near the present site of Boonville. The names of those who arrived previous to the commencement of the Indian war, were as follows

Joseph Jolly, Joseph Yarnell, Gilliard Rupe, Muke Box, Delany Bolin, William Savage, John Savage, James Savage, Walter Burress and David Burrss ;and these, together with Captain Stephen Cole and Mrs. Hannah Cole,

Top of Page 21

included all who had moved into the "Boone's Lick Country," south of the Missouri River, and west of the Osage river previous to the summer of 1812.

At this time the settlers became satisfied from reports which reached them from time to time, that the Indians were making preparations to attack the settlements along the Missouri river, and they determined to be ready to receive them properly when they did appear. So they soon commenced the building of a fort.

The first fort in the present limits of Cooper county was built by Stephen Cole, his neighbors assisting, in the year 1812, and was called "Cole's" fort. It was situated in the north part of what is now known as the "Fold fort field," about one and one-half miles east of the City of Boonville, north of the road from Boonville to Rocheport. As soon as it was completed, all the families living around, gathered at the fort for protection from the savages. As their meat consisted entirely of the wild game which they killed, they had to send out parties from day to day to kill it. And it happened that a couple of parties were out hunting when the Indians attacked the fort.

A few months after the fort was built, a band of about four hundred Indians suddenly made their appearance in the neighborhood. When they appeared before the fort, there were two parties out hunting, in one of which were two men by the name of Smith and Savage, who, on their return to the fort, were pursued by the Indians. The savages shot at them several times; in the first fire, Smith was severely wounded, but staggered on to within fifty yards of the fort, where the Indians shot him again, two balls taking effect and hurling him to the ground. As soon as Savage saw him fall, he turned to assist him; but Smith handed him his gun, and told him to save himself, as he knew he was mortally wounded. As the Indians were in close pursuit

Top of Page 22

of them, Savage was forced to leave his unfortunate companion and attempt to make his escape. He reached the fort unhurt, although he had been shot at some twenty-five times. The Indians after having scalped Smith, and barbarously mutilated his body, withdrew to the adjacent woods, and laid siege to the fort.

As the Indians who were in pursuit of Savage came in full view of the fort, several of them could have been killed. Indeed, Samuel Cole, who was in the fort at the time, begged his mother to let him shoot an Indian. But she refused, telling him that as the Indians had as yet shown no disposition to fire upon the fort, the inmates did not wish to arouse their anger by killing any of them ; hoping that before they did attack, those settlers, who were out hunting, would arrive, and they perhaps get a chance to escape. During the following night the remaining settlers, who were outside of the fort, returned.

The next day the settlers captured a French boat which came up the river loaded with powder and balls, to trade with the Indians at Council Chuffs. They crossed their families and all their stock, furniture, &c., over the river in this boat, to Kincaid Fort, or Fort Hempstead, which was located in what is now Howard county, about one mile from the north end of the great iron bridge over the Missouri river at Boonville. It will be seen from this, that these settlers were not only brave men, but fit to lead an army in time of danger, as when they made this retreat, the fort was surrounded by the Indians on all sides except that protected by the river. And yet in the face of all this they saved everything from the fort.

After they had crossed their families, &c., in the captured boat, and taken possession of the twenty-five kegs of powder and five hundred pounds of balls which the boat contained, the settlers let the Frenchmen return down the

Top of Page 23

river with their boat with the admonition, that if they ever came up the river again with supplies for the Indians, they would hang them, as they could not permit their enemies to thus obtain supplies.

Previous to the capture of this boat and the ammunition with which it was loaded, which was sufficient to last the settlers a long time, Joseph Jolly had supplied them with powder, manufacturing it himself, saltpetre being found in a cave near Rocheport.

The first white men killed by the Indians in the "Boone's Lick Country" were Jonathan Todd and Thomas Smith, who, early in the spring of 1812, had started down the river to pick out a piece of land on which to settle. The Indians attacked them not far from the present line between Howard and Boone counties, and after a long struggle in which several Indians were killed, Todd and Smith were slain. The savages after killing them, cut off their heads and cut out their hearts and placed them by the side of the road on poles.

As soon as the news of the killing of Todd and Smith was brought to the fort, a party of men started out to get their bodies. After they had gone several miles, they captured an Indian warrior who seemed to be watching their movements, and started to take him to the fort alive, in order to get information from him. As they returned after finding the bodies of the settlers, when they arrived within two miles of the fort, the Indian prisoners suddenly broke away from them and attempted to escape. The settlers pursued him about one-half of a mile, when they finding that they could not overtake him and capture him alive, they shot him, killing him instantly.

Immediately after the killing of Todd and Smith, the settlers living on both sides of the Missouri river, being desirous of finding out the true state of affairs, sent out

Top of Page 24

James Cole and James Davis on a scouting expedition to see whether or not the Indians were really upon the war path. After looking around for some time, and not being able to hear anything of the plans of the savages, they were preparing to return to the fort, when they discovered a large band of Indians in pursuit of them, and directly between them and the fort, in which were their families and friends, unconscious of their danger.

As, retreat to the fort was cut off, and they could not withstand the attack of the large body of Indians in the open woods, they started for what was then called Johnson's Factory; a trading post kept by a man named Johnson; it was situated on the Moniteau Creek in what is now Moniteau county, about zoo yards from the Missouri river. They reached the Factory that afternoon and the Indians immediately surrounded the place. As Cole and Davis knew that their friends, at the different forts, would fall an easy prey to the savages, if nut warned of their danger in time to prepare for the attack which they seemed certain to make upon the fort, the hardy rangers determined at all hazards to escape and bear the tidings to them. But here the main difficulty presented itself. As long as they remained at the trading post they were safe from the shots of the enemy; but as soon as they left that protection they knew they would be slain.

But knowing the imminent danger of their families and friends, they resolved to make a desperate effort to reach them. So at 12 o'clock that night, they took up a plank from the floor of the "Factory," reached the creek, and finding a canoe, floated down to the river. But just as they reached the river, an unlucky stroke of the paddle against the side of the canoe discovered them to the Indians, who started in pursuit of them in canoes. They pursued the settlers to "Big Lick," now in Cooper County, where, being

Top of Page 25

closely pressed, Cole and Davis turned and each killed an Indian. The Indians then left off pursuit, and the two men reached Cole's Fort in safety, to announce to the settlers, that they were indeed, on the verge of along and bloody war. From there the melancholy tidings were conveyed to the other forts, and filled the hearts of the settlers with dismay, as they considered how few of them there were, to withstand the attacks of the whole of the Indian nations living around them.

In the summer of 1812, while all the settlers living on the south side of the Missouri river, were at Kincaid's Fort, Samuel Cole, Stephen Cole, and Muke Box, started from the fort on a hunting expedition, crossed the river where Boonville now stands, and penetrated the forest to the Petite Saline Creek. After they had hunted and fished for two days, they were preparing to return upon the third, when they heard firing in the direction of the river, where they had left their canoe. They immediately started toward the river, knowing that the shots were fired by Indians as there was not at that time any white persons except themselves, south of the Missouri river. When they arrived at the residence of Delany Bolin, at or near where the present residence of Mrs. Maria Muir stands, they discovered that a band of Indians was in pursuit of them; and the settlers not knowing their number, but supposing them to be very numerous, immediately separated and took to the woods to meet at the place where they had left their canoe.

When they met there they found the canoe gone, the Indians having stole it. As the Indians were still in hot pursuit of them, they lashed three cottonwood logs together, placed their guns, clothing, &c., upon this raft, swam over, pushing it before them and landed in Howard County, about two and one half miles below the City of Boonville.

That evening they reached the fort in safety, and reported

Top of Page 26

their adventure with the Indians, at the same time advising the inmates of the fort to be prepared for an attack at any time.

Next morning the settlers discovered tracks of the Indians near the fort, and found it had been reconnoitered during the night by a band of eight Indians. They immediately sent to Cooper's & McLean's forts for reinforce merits, as there were at that time very few men in the fort, and they supposed that this band of eight was but the scouting party of a large band of Indians. Reinforcements, to the number of 42, soon arrived from the other forts, and they, together with

the men belonging to Kincaid's Fort started in pursuit of the Indians, whom they had by this time discovered to be but a small band.

After pursuing them some distance they surrounded them in a hollow, near Monroe's farm, about four miles west of the present site of New Franklin. The Indians concealed themselves in the brush and thickets and behind the timber, and not being able to see them the firing of the settlers was a great deal at random. The fight continued for a long time; four Indians were killed and the remaining four, though badly wounded escaped. None of the settlers were killed and only one, named Adam Woods, was severely wounded, but he afterwards recovered.

Night coming on they were forced to defer the pursuit of the surviving Indians. The next day not satisfied with their work the day before, the rangers started on the trail of the Indians, which was plainly marked with blood.

They followed it to the river and there found the canoe which the savages two days before had stolen from Samuel Cole and his companions. The sides of the canoe were covered with blood, showing that the Indians had attempted to push it into the river, but, on account of being weakened by loss of blood, could not. After hunting them for some time in vain, the party returned to the fort.

Top of Page 27

In July 1812 some Quapa Indians disguised as Sauks and Foxes, killed a man named Campbell - commonly called "Potter," from his trade, about five miles northwest of Boonville, in Howard county, under the following circumstances: He and a man named Adam McCord, went from Kincaid's Fort to Campbell's home, at the above mentioned place, to tie some flax, which they had been forced to leave longer than they wished, through fear of an attack by the Indians. While they were at work they discovered moccasin tracks around the farm, as though a party of Indians were watching them and seeking a favorable opportunity to slay them. So they started around in order to see whether they had injured anything or not. While they were searching for them, the savages who were concealed in some underbrush, fired upon the party and shot Campbell through the body, killing him almost instantly, but he ran about one hundred yards, climbed a fence, and pitched into the top of a tree which had blown down, and the Indians, though they hunted for his body, never succeeded in finding it. Adam McCord escaped without injury, and going to the fort, reported the death of Campbell, and the circumstances under which he was killed.

Immediately upon his arrival, Col. Benjamin Cooper and Gen. Dodge with a company of about five hundred men, composed of frontiersmen and regular soldiers, started in pursuit of the Indians who numbered one hundred and eighty. The Indians not being able to re-cross the river, threw up breastworks in order to repel the attack of the soldiers. When Cooper and Dodge appeared before the intrenchments, the Indians after some parley, surrendered themselves as prisoners of war.

After the Indians had surrendered, Col. Cooper and Gen. Dodge had their memorable quarrel in regard to the disposal of the prisoners. Col. Cooper insisted that although

Top of Page 28

they had surrendered as prisoners of war, they, as the murderers of Campbell, were not entitled to protection as such prisoners, and that in accordance with a long established custom of the western country, they should all be hung. But Gen. Dodge insisted that as they had surrendered to him, he being the superior officer, they were entitled to his protection. So fiercely did they quarrel, that at one time the two forces, for Cooper commanded the frontiersmen and Dodge the regulars, came very near having a fight in order to settle the controversy. Finally a peaceful

disposition of the matter was made, by Gen. Dodge being permitted to take the prisoners to St. Louis.

Top of Page 29

HISTORY OF BOONE'S LICK COUNTRY

CHAPTER III

Return of the Settlers from the North Side of the River. - Situation of the Settlers for the following Two or Three Years. - Killing of Braxton Cooper, Jr., Joseph Still, Wm. McLane, Sarshell Cooper, Samuel McMahan and a Negro Man. - Building of Hannah Cole's Fort. First School Taught in Cooper County. - Fashions, &c., when First Settlement was made. - Territorial laws extended over the "Boone's Lick Country."

IN the spring of 1813, not having seen any signs of Indians for about three months, and being desirous of raising crops during that year, as they had failed the year before, all of the settlers who had gone to Kincaid's Fort the previous spring, returned to their homes south of the Missouri river. As soon as they arrived they put in their crops of corn, but in order to be advised of the approach of an enemy, they stationed a guard at each corner of the field in which they were at work.

During the following two or three years the settlers were kept continually on the watch against the savages, for every month or two some small band of Indians would suddenly attack and slay some unsuspecting settler who had for the moment forgotten his usual caution, or who feeling secure from attack because the Indians had not appeared for some time, suffered this severe penalty for his negligence. The Indians never after this marched a large band against these settlements, but came in small scouting parties, the members of which had only sufficient courage to shoot down some unsuspecting man, or murder unprotected women and children. They never, except in overwhelming numbers, and

Top of Page 30

then very seldom, made an open attack upon even a lone farmhouse, but stealing up in the darkness of the night they would set fire to the house and slay the inmates as they rushed from their burning dwelling; or as in the case of the killing of Sarshell Cooper, shoot the dreaded enemy of their race, as he sat in the midst of his family.

Is it any wonder, in view of these facts, that when an Indian was captured, 'twas not many minutes before his lifeless body would be hanging from the nearest bough? After all their treachery, woe to the savage who fell into the vengeful hands of the settlers, for they would make short work of him; and they knew they were justified in doing this, for they acted only in self-defense.

During the two or three years following the return of the settlers from Kincaid's Fort, several men were killed by the Indians in the "Boone's Lick Country." The following are the names of all of them of which there is any record; no doubt there may have been some killed whose tragic death has never had a place on the page of history, and which will never be known

Braxton Cooper, Jr., was killed two miles northeast of the present site of New Franklin, in September 1813. The Indians attacked him as he was cutting logs to build a house. As he was well armed and a very courageous man, they had a long struggle before the Indians succeeded in killing him. The broken bushes and marks upon the ground showed that the struggle had been very fierce. The settlers who first arrived to take away the body of Cooper, found an Indian's shirt which had two bullet holes in the breast of it, but whether the Indian died or not they never knew.

They followed the trail of the Indians for a short distance, but soon lost it, and were forced to abandon the pursuit.

Joseph Still was killed on the Chariton river, in October,

Top of Page 31

1813, but the circumstances attending his killing are unknown.

Win. McLane was killed by the Indians in what is now Howard county, near the present site of Fayette, in October, 1813, under the following circumstances: He, Ewing McLane and four other men, went from McLane's Fort to pick out a piece of land on which some one of them expected to settle. When they arrived at a short distance southwest of the present site of Fayette, they were attacked by a band of about one hundred and fifty Indians. As soon as McLane and his companions saw them, they retreated towards the fort, and just as they were ascending a slant from a long, deep ravine leading to the Moniteau Creek, the Indians fired a volley at them. One shot struck William McLane in the back of the head, and he dropped dead from his horse. After satisfying themselves that he was dead, his remaining companions left his body and continued their retreat to the fort, which they reached in safety. The Indians scalped McLane, cut out his heart and literally hacked him to pieces. As soon as possible, a large party of settlers started out to recover his body, and if possible, to avenge his death; but they found that the Indians had retreated, and left no trace of the direction which they had taken. From the cleared place around the body and the beaten appearance of the earth near, it was supposed that the Indians had, in accordance with their custom, danced their "war dance" there to celebrate their victory. After getting the body they returned sorrowfully to the fort.

Of the many murders committed during the war, none excited so much feeling or caused such a cry of vengeance in the hearts of the frontiersman as the tragic death of Captain Sarshell Cooper, who was the acknowledged leader of the settlers north of the Missouri river. On a dark and

Top of Page 32

stormy night on the 14th day of April, 1814, as Captain Cooper was sitting by his fireside with his family, his youngest child upon his lap, the others playing at different games around the room, and his wife sitting by his side sewing, an Indian warrior crept up to the side of his cabin and picked a hole between the logs just sufficient to admit the muzzle of his gun, the noise of his work being drowned by the storm without. He shot Capt. Cooper, who fell from his chair to the floor, among his horror stricken family, a lifeless corpse. His powers and skill were well known to the Indians whom he had often foiled by these means. He was kind and generous to his neighbors, whom he was always ready to assist in any of their undertakings. Therefore his loss was deeply felt by the settlers whose homes he had defended by his powers, and whose prosperity was owing largely to his advice and counsel.

On the 14th day of December, 1814, a man named Samuel McMahan, living in what is now Lamine township of Cooper county, was killed near Boonville, not far from the present residence of Scott Benedict, under the following circumstances: He had been down to the settlement at Boonville to bring his cattle, as he intended to move down the river, and as he was returning home he came upon a band of Indians who were lying in ambush for some men who were cutting down a bee tree not far away. The savages fired upon him, wounding him and killing his horse. He jumped up after his horse fell, and although severely wounded, ran down a ravine leading to the river. The Indians started in pursuit of him, and as he was weak from the loss of blood, they soon overtook him and killed him, sticking three spears into his back. They afterwards cut off his head and scattered his entrails over the ground. The Indians knowing that the vengeance of the settlers would be sudden and terrible, then scattered, and made their way out of the country the best way they could.

Top of Page 33

The next day, for the settlers, not knowing the number of the Indians, waited for reinforcements from the opposite side of the river, a party of men went out to get the body of McMahan. James Cole, the brother of Samuel Cole, carried the body before him on his horse, and David McGee brought the head wrapped in a sheep skin. The settlers buried McMahan under the Linn tree, which formerly stood in the centre ring at the old fair grounds. A child of David Buess, which was burned to death, was also buried under this tree.

A negro man named Joe, belonging to Samuel Brown, of Howard county, was killed by the Indians near Mr. Burkhart's farm, about three quarters of a mile east of Estill Station, on the M. K. and T. Railroad.

The above embraces the name of all of the men of whom we have any record, who were killed in the "Boone's Lick Country" during the Indian war, from 1812 to 1818. The peculiar atrocities attending the killing of most of them, makes the stoutest shudder. But they were so common those days that the settlers did not fear to remain here, although they knew these things might happen to them at any time. Yet they were not daunted by these continued murders, but lived on their lands, making the best defense they could against the Indians.

The next day after the killing of McMahan, all the settlers living near the present site of Boonville, rushed into the house of Hannah Cole, which stood on the Bluff, in what is now "East Boonville," as this place was the most suitable of any near, to defend against an attack of the Indians. All of these men came with their teams, cut down trees, dragged logs to build a fort at that place. They completed the building of the fort in about one week, although all of the men could not work at one time, as it was necessary to station a guard on every side to watch for the approach of the enemy, whom they expected every hour.

Top of Page 34

The fort was built on the edge of the bluff, and as the bluff was very steep at that point, it was well defended on that side from the Indians. Another reason for building it in that place was because the inmates of the fort could obtain a constant supply of good water from the river. They had a long log running out over the edge of the bluff, and a windlass and rope attached to it, so that it was an easy matter to draw up water, even during an attack of the Indians.

As soon as the fort at Hannah Cole's was completed, the old fort at Stephen Cole's, situated on the bluff near the river, one mile below the new fort, was abandoned, and all the families gathered into the new fort, so as to be a protection to each other.

But this precaution proved to be unnecessary, as the killing of McMahan was virtually the end of the war, in this part of the country, and the settlers had no more open fights with the Indians, although small bands of savages occasionally roamed through the country running off stock, and committing other depredations. The Indians had found out that the men who had pierced the wilderness, and brought their families with them, were ready to lay down their lives in defense of them and their homes, and the savages deserted their hunting grounds, and moved farther west.

Major Stephen Cole, the acknowledged leader of the settlers living south of the Missouri river, survived the war, and after making every effort for their defense, his love of wild adventure led him to become a pioneer in the trade with Santa Fe in 1822. He was killed by the Indians during the same year, about sixty miles southwest of Santa Fe, on the Rio Grande river. There was also killed at the same time, Stephen Cole, the brother of Samuel Cole.

The first school in the Boone's Lick Country within the

Top of Page 35

present limits of the county of Cooper, was taught by John Savage, in the year 1813, about one mile east of Boonville, on Lilly's Branch, about one-half of a mile from its mouth. The scholars numbered fifteen children of the settlers living in the neighborhood of Hannah Cole's fort. The names of the scholars who attend the school, were as follows: Benjamin; Delany and William Bolin, Hiram and William Savage, Hess and William Warden, John and William Yarnall, John and William Jolly, Joseph and William Scott, and John and William Rupe. The scholars sat upon one log in the open air, they then having no school house, and the teacher upon another log facing his pupils. The price of tuition was one dollar per month payable in anything which the settlers had that was worth one dollar. The school progressed very finely under the able management of the teacher who appears to have had some experience in teaching. But it continued only for one month, as it was caused to cease through fears of an attack by the Indians, who about this time commenced a series of depredations upon the settlers, which continued until the year 1815, the close of the war. At this school, where all the surroundings were of the most primitive character, and there was nothing except what was furnished by the kind hand of nature, were planted the first seeds of knowledge in the minds of the young settlers. Here they learned the lessons of honesty and integrity, which even at the present day is a distinguishing characteristic of the generation which grew up at that day.

The next school, of which we have any record, was taught by Abiel Leonard, in the Franklin bottom, near the Bonne Femme Creek, Howard County. Teaching was not congenial to his nature, and it is recorded that he said, the happiest day of his life was when his school closed.

Although many of the settlers were religious persons and

Top of Page 36

members of the church, there was no regular preaching in the county until the year 1815, yet occasionally service was held by some wandering missionary in the house of some one of the settlers. But in the year 1815, Luke Williams, who afterwards preached at Concord church, held service at Hannah Cole's Fort. Soon after this, a minister named James Savage preached at the fort. The denomination which he represented - the Baptist - was at that time the prevailing one, although every denomination aided in supporting the ministers who preached at the fort, as no one unaided was able to do so. In those days they worked not so much for the success of the denomination as for the success of the cause.

When the settlers first came to Cooper County, the women all wore calico dresses, and the men homespun suits of clothes. But the clothes which they brought with them soon wore out, and not having any place at which to buy new ones, they were forced to resort to some expedient to supply the place of the clothes which they were compelled to cast off. For the next few years all the cloth's which the settlers had, were made out of knettles.

The low flats along the river, creeks and branches were covered with a thick growth of knettles about three feet high, sometimes standing in patches of twenty acres or more. These were permitted to remain standing until they became decayed in the winter, when they were gathered. They were then broken up, spun into long strings and woven into cloth, from which the garments were made. This would be a very tedious job at the present day, when a ladies dress requires from twenty to thirty yards of cloth, but in those old times five or six yards was as much as was ever put into a dress. Little children usually wore a long leathern shirt over their tow shirt. For several years during the early settlement of this country, the men and women wore garments made out of the same kind of material.

Top of Page 37

The Territorial laws were not extended over this part of the country until the year 1816. Until which time they had no government or laws except such they themselves made for their own

protection, and which, of course, had no effect outside of the boundaries of their narrow Territory. With them, the single distinction was between right and wrong, and they had no medium ground. As the result shows, they really needed no laws or executive officers, for it is a well known fact, that during the early period of this settlement there were no serious crimes committed within its limits. As the men each depended upon the other, and knew that in time of attack by the Indians, their only safety lay in union, each endeavored to preserve the good will of his neighbor, and as the best way to obtain the good wishes and assistance of a man, is to act honestly and friendly with him, each did this, and in this way they needed no law, except their own judgments. During the early period of the colony they never had any occasion to punish any one under their law, which was an unwritten one. Although 'tis true, some few crimes were committed, as the nature of man has not entirely changed since then, yet they were uniformly of such a trivial character, as hardly to be worthy to be classed as crimes.

Another reason of the almost entire freedom from crime; was the certainty of punishment. Then there was no "legal technicalities" by which a prisoner could escape. No sooner was the criminal caught and his guilt established - no matter what his crime - than the law-makers took the matter into their own hands, and hung him to the nearest tree.

The following anecdote is related of Mark Cole, son of Stephen Cole, who is still living in St. Clair County, Missouri. One evening, some young ladies visited his father's family at their fort, and remained until pretty late, when

Top of Page 38

they returned home. The road which led to their homes, passed the place where a man had been lately buried; a pen was built around the grave, and covered with logs like a roof, raised about a foot or two from the ground. As most of the persons in those days were superstitious, Mark determined to frighten the young ladies as they passed the grave. So he got a large sheet, and slipping out of the house, went to the grave, no doubt laughing, as there appeared before him a picture of the terror, that his sudden appearance in his strange costume would cause the young ladies, and took his station upon the top of it to await their arrival. But he had not been there long, when suddenly several deep groans issued, seemingly from the bowels of the earth, and the poles on the top of the grave, began to move about, as though the departed spirit was trying to get out, and wreak vengeance upon the profaner of its solitude. Hearing and seeing these things, Mark "did not stand upon the order of his going," but dropping the sheet, he took to his heels, and never stopped until he reached his home, when he fell unconscious upon the doorstep. He was so badly frightened that he did not fully recover for a month, and even to the present day he will never travel at night alone. The explanation of the noise was very simple, yet the settlers did not let Mark into the secret. One of the men at the fort, who had heard Mark whisper to his brother where he was going, had slipped out of the fort and hastened to the place, just in time to crawl under the poles, and lie down upon the earth, when Mark made his appearance and took his seat.

Top of Page 39

ORGANIZATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

CHAPTER IV.

Howard COUNTY ORGANIZED. - First Court held in New County, and proceedings of same. - Judge Barton and Stephen Cole Fine one Another for Contempt of Court. - Town of Old Franklin laid off, and Land office Established There. - Wm. Gibson appointed Constable, and Resigns. - Samuel Cole's Bull Ride. - Joseph Stephens and Family arrive at Boonville. - Visit of Samuel Cole to their Camp. - Discovery of the body of a British Officer Buried in a Mound.

ON the 23rd day of January, 1816, that portion of the State of Missouri, lying north and west of the Osage river, and west of Cedar creek, and the dividing ridge between the Mississippi and

Missouri rivers, and which formerly had been known as the "Boone's Lick Country," was organized under the territorial laws, and was called "Howard county." Previous to this time, the settlers of this part of the country had made their own laws, and executed them rigorously when occasion demanded, which, it is true, was very seldom. Although the eastern portion of the State, had been, previous to this time, organized into counties; and the territorial laws, by means of the territorial courts, had been extended over them, still the "Boone's Lick Country" had not been sufficiently thickly settled to justify its organization, and the expense of holding terms of court Within its limits.

But even during the war with the Indians, the country adjacent to the forts was settled very rapidly, although few ventured to locate, except near enough to reach the fort at the first approach of danger. So that, at the time of the

Top of Page 40

organization of Howard county, it contained a considerable number of settlers, although they lived in what was then called "neighborhoods," so as to be of protection to one another in times of danger from their savage foes.

The act under which the county was organized, located the "seat of justice" at Hannah Cole's fort.

The first court within the territorial limits of Howard county, was held at Hannah Cole's fort, which was situated in what is now "East Boonville;" on the 8th day of July 1816, and discharged, under the territorial laws, all the duties of the circuit, county and probate courts.

The officers of this court were David Barton, judge; Gray Bravnum, Clerk; John G. Heath, Circuit Attorney; and Nicholas S. Burkhart, Sheriff. The attorneys who attended this court, were Edward Bates, Charles Lucus, Joshua Barton, and Lucius Easton.

The following were the proceedings of this first term of the court

John Muroe was appointed coroner of Howard county, and Benjamin Estill, David Jones, David Kincaid, William Head, and Stephen Cole were appointed commissioners to locate the county seat, - which was first located by the territorial legislature at Hannah Cole's fort.

On the 16th day of June, 1816, the above mentioned commissioners settled upon Old Franklin as the most suitable place for the location of the county seat, and to that place the records, documents, &c., were removed, in the year 1817. The county seat remained at Old Franklin until the year 1823, when it was removed to Fayette.

During this term of the court, Maj. Stephen Cole was fined, by judge Barton, one dollar, for contempt, for misconduct in the presence of the court. Cole objected to paying the fine, but supposing he would be able to retaliate sometime, at last paid it. And his time for retaliation came

Top of Page 41

sooner than lie expected. That afternoon, Cole, who was a justice of the peace, organized his court on a log in front of the fort. As judge Barton was returning from dinner, he stopped in front of Cole and leaned against a tree, watching the proceedings of the justice and smoking his pipe, Cole looked up, and assuming the stern look of insulted dignity, said, ".Judge Barton, I fine you one dollar for contempt of my court, for smoking in its presence." Judge Barton smilingly paid his fine, and went to open his own court, acknowledging that he had been beaten at his own game.

The town of Old Franklin was laid off opposite the present site of Boonville, during the year 1816. It was located on fifty acres of land, donated by different individuals for that purpose. It grew very rapidly, soon became very populous, and commanded a large trade. It was for a time the largest

and most flourishing town in the State, west of St. Louis, and the starting point for all the Santa Fe traders.

But in the year 1826, the waters of the turbulent Missouri river commenced encroaching upon this beautiful and populous city, and despite the utmost endeavors of its citizens, house after house was swept away, until, in a few years afterwards, the current of the river rolled through her streets, and the whole of the city was engulfed in its hungry waters. Within the last few years, a small village still called "Old Franklin," has sprung up just back of the site of the old town, but not a single house or any other mark remains to suggest to the traveler that he stands near the site of a once large city.

The land office for this district of Missouri was located at Old Franklin, in the year 1818, Gen. Thomas A. Smith was appointed receiver, and Charles Carroll, register. The first land sales west of St. Louis took place here during

Top of Page 42

the year 1813. Great crowds attended this sale from all parts of the State, and lands in every part of the district was sold at that time.

Sometime during the year 1817, William Gibson, now living a short distance east of the City of Boonville, was appointed by the Territorial court constable of that part of Howard county lying south of the Missouri river. His jurisdiction extended from the Missouri river, on the north, to the Osage river on the south. Soon after his appointment, there being some trouble down on the Osage, he was sent there with a warrant for the arrest of the man who had caused the trouble. The distance was between sixty and seventy miles. After arresting the man, he returned to Boonville with his prisoner. As he was on his journey back, having an execution against a man who lived on the road, he stopped at his house and proceeded to levy on the feather beds, as nothing in those days was exempt from levy under execution. But, as soon as he made his purpose known, four women, who were the only persons at home, threatened to give him a thrashing, so he was forced to retire as fast as he could, and return the execution unsatisfied. To add to this, the court only allowed him, for his journey of one hundred and forty miles, which occupied four days, the magnificent sum of twenty-five cents. Mr. Gibson thinking the office not quite lucrative enough to justify him in devoting his whole time to its duties, and not wishing to risk his life at the hands of angry women, quietly sent in his resignation, thus furnishing the example of one officer who resigns, although few have the same inducements.

While Samuel Cole was living at his mother's fort in East Boonville, in the year 1817, there was a dance at William Bartlett's hoarding house, on the flat near the ferry landing, at the mouth of Ruppe's Branch. Although Samuel wished

Top of Page 43

very much to attend, his mother refused to permit him, as his wardrobe at that time was entirely too limited to permit him to associate with the "elite." He had no pants, his sole garment consisting of a long tow shirt, which reached entirely to his heels. But Samuel, although always, from his own statement, an obedient son, was not to be deprived of so great a pleasure, by this, to him, very trivial excuse. So he determined to attend that dance, and then make the best arrangement he could to meet the "wrath to come." Not having any horse, he bridled a tame bull, which was at the fort, and thus mounted, rode up to the door of the house in which they were dancing. After looking in for some time, and by his strange looking steed and attire, attracting a large crowd around him, he drove his bull down to the river, and riding in, he slid back over its haunches, and caught hold of its tail. In this way they swam down the river to Hannah Cole's Fort, when he and his strange companion came out of the water and sought their homes. This story has often been published, but never correctly, as all former accounts represented him as

swimming the river to attend a wedding, but our version is correct, as it was obtained directly from Samuel Cole himself.

About the 15th day of November 1817, Joseph Stephens with his large family and several friends, crossed the river where Boonville now stands, and camped near the foot of Main street. The next day after they crossed, Samuel Cole, who was then a boy of sixteen years of age, appeared at their camp and asked Mrs. Stephens if she would like to have some venison. Upon her replying that she would, as she was nearly out of meat, Samuel shouldered his gun and marched off into the woods, telling her to wait a few minutes and he would kill her some. Samuel Cole, at that time, although there was a slight snow on the ground, was bare-footed and bare-headed, his breeches reached only to

Top of Page 44

his knees, the collar of his shirt was open, and he carried an old flint lock rifle. About fifteen minutes after he left the camp, Stephens and his family heard two shots in the direction in which he had gone. Pretty soon Samuel appeared, and told them that he had killed two fine deer, that they must go out and bring them to the camp, as he could not by himself bring in even one of them. So they started out and found the two deer lying on the side of the hill just north of the present residence of William H. Trigg. After they skinned them and cut them up, the party brought them to the camp and presented them to Mrs. Stevens. This shows what little exertion was necessary at that day to obtain meat.

A few days afterwards, Joseph Stephens moved, with his family, to the farm which he had bought about, one-quarter of a mile north of the present site of Bunceton. About Christmas, in the same year, Samuel Cole rode up to Joseph Stephens' camp, and Mrs. Stephens asked him to alight and take dinner. He asked her whether she had any hooley, and she told him she had not. He said he could not eat without honey. And although she insisted that he should remain, he still refused. In the meantime, Larry and Joseph, two of her sons, and a negro man named Basil, came up to the camp carrying their axes, as they had been cutting wood. Samuel turned to them, and told them to go with him and get some honey for dinner. They at first, supposing him to be joking, refused to go. But as he still insisted, they consented. After going some two hundred yards east of the camp, Samuel suddenly stopped, and pointing to a tree, told them to cut it down. The others not seeing anything about the tree that would induce anyone to think that it contained honey, yet willing to accommodate company, cut it down, and it was found filled with nice honey. While they were cutting down this tree, Samuel

Top of Page 45

found another a short distance away; and having cut down this one also, they returned home with six buckets of fine honey, having taken nothing but the clear part. Before he left, Samuel taught them the way in which he found the trees. He told them, that if they would examine the ground around the tree, they would find small pieces of bee bread and occasionally a dead bee. This was an infallible sign of a bee tree. They afterwards, following his direction, searched and found, in a small space, thirteen trees which were filled with honey; and as they had no sugar, this was a great help to them. They sometimes had as much as four hundred pounds of honey on hand at one time.

In the year 1818, Joseph Stevens, who died in 1836, Major Stephen Cole and Wm. Ross, the latter, started west on a hunting and exploring tour, and traveled as far as the present site of Knob Noster. At that time, all the country west of the present boundary line of Cooper county, was a wilderness, no person living in it. About six miles southeast of the present site of Sedalia, in Pettis county, on the farm now owned by a man by the name of Warren, near Flat Creek, they discovered what appeared to be a large, high and peculiarly shaped Indian mound. They examined it pretty closely, and found on one side that the wolves had scratched an opening into it. After enlarging it, so as to admit them, they beheld a remarkable sight. They found themselves

in what resembled a room, about eight feet square, with a ceiling of logs, just high enough to permit a tall man to stand erect. On the side opposite where they had entered, sat an officer dressed in full military uniform, with gold epaulettes upon his shoulders, gold lace fringing every seam of his coat, cocked military hat, knee breeches, lace stockings and morocco slippers. As he sat erect upon a seat hewed out of a log, nothing but the

Top of Page 46

ghastly hue and leathery appearance of his skin would have suggested but that he was alive. By his side stood a heavy gold-headed cane. His features were complete, and his flesh free from decay, though dried to the consistency of leather. The place in which the body was found, was very peculiar. A place about eight feet square and two feet deep had been dug in the earth. The sides had been walled up with sod, until it was high enough for the purpose, reaching several feet above the surface of the ground. The top was then covered with poles, which ran up to a point in the center like the roof of a house. Then the poles and the surrounding walls were covered with sod two or three feet deep, cut from the prairie near by, thus excluding entirely the rain and air. When they left the place, William Ross, being the oldest man of the party, took the cane as a memento, but nothing else was touched.

Who this officer was, from whence he came, what he was doing in this part of the country, what was the cause of his death, and when and by whom he was thus singularly entombed, has not, and perhaps never will be known. But he was supposed, by many, to have been a British officer, who, during the war of 1812, passed around by way of Canada into the Indian country, to incite the Indians against the whites; yet this is only conjecture, though those who discovered his body, account for him in that way.

Soon after this Joseph Stephens, Sr., now living near Petersburg, on the O. V. & S. K. Railroad, in company with James D. Campbell, went into that part of the country bee hunting, and visited the burial place of this officer. They found that part of the roof had fallen in, and that the wolves had eaten all of the flesh off the body, so that nothing but the skeleton and clothes remained. Joseph Stephens took the epaulettes, as a memento, but nothing else was disturbed. As his mother objected to his keeping the

Top of Page 47

epaulettes, he melted them into a large ball, which was worth fifteen or twenty dollars, as it was solid gold. This description of the burial place, &c., was obtained from the last mentioned Joseph Stephens, and is correct, although several different accounts have been published.

The first newspaper published within the present limits of Howard county, was established at Old Franklin, by a gentleman by the name of Nathaniel Patten, in April 1819. This newspaper was called the Missouri Intelligencer.

Top of Page 48

ORGANIZATION OF COOPER COUNTY

CHAPTER V

Cooper County Organized.-Its Boundaries.-Present Counties Included in Cooper at the Time of Its Organization.--Seat of Justice Located at Boonville, and Courts to be Held There. The First Court in New County, and its Proceedings.-Proceedings of the Court at the July and November Terms, 1819, and March Term, 1820.

COOPER COUNTY was organized on the 17th day of December 1818, comprising all that part of what had been Howard county, lying south of the Missouri river.

It was bounded on the north by the Missouri river, on the east and south by the Osage river, and on the west by what was then called the Territorial line.

At the time of its organization, it included the Territory now embraced in the whole of the counties of Cooper, Saline, Lafayette, Jackson, Cass, Henry, Johnson, Pettis, Morgan, Moniteau and Cole; and part of the counties of Bates, St. Clair; Benton, Camden and Miller; eleven whole counties and part of five others.

The act under which Cooper county was organized, located the seat of justice at the town of Boonville. This place was designated as the place for holding court, by the act under which the county was organized, which was adopted by the Legislature, and approved during the year 1818, and entitled an "act establishing a part of Howard county into a separate county, by the name of Cooper." The commissioners to locate the county seat, appointed by the Legislature, were Abel Owens, William Wear, Charles Canals, Luke Williams and Julius Emmons.

Top of Page 49

The first court in the newly organized county of Cooper, was held in the present limits of the City of Boonville, on the first day of March, 1819. It was held at the boarding house of William Bartlett, which was situated on the flat just east of the mouth of Rupe's Branch, near the present site of the - Boonville Furniture Factory. This court, under the Territorial laws of Missouri, exercised the present duties of the County, Probate and Circuit Courts. The duties of these three courts continued to be exercised by this one court until the year 1821, when the duties of the Probate and County, Courts were separated from those of the Circuit Court, and a new court, called the "County Court," was organized.

As it was to be supposed that every one would be interested in reading of the actions of the first court, and to compare the mode of procedure with that of the courts of the present day, it has been thought advisable, as being of great interest to the general reader, to insert, at this place, the full proceedings of this first court held in Cooper county after it was organized.

The following are the full proceedings, as appears from the record of the court

The officers of this first court were, David Todd, Judge; R. P. Clark, Clerk; William McFarland, Sheriff, and John S. Brickey, Prosecuting Attorney.

The grand jury at this term of the court were, Samuel Peters, foreman; Muke Rose, John Savage, James Chambers, Britton Williams, John Roberts, Carroll George, John Davis James Savage, Clayton Hurt, Joseph Smith, William Gibson, Eli N. Henry, Frederick Houx, Thomas Twentyman, William Noland and Delany Bolin; John Cathey, Zepheniah Bell, Henry Guyer, George Cathey, Daniel Dugan and James Campbell, were summoned on the same jury, but did not appear; process was ordered to be issued, for them to show cause why they should not be fined for their non-appearance.

Top of Page 50

The commissions of David Todd, as Judge; of William McFarland as Sheriff, and of John S. Brickey, as Prosecuting Attorney, were recorded by the Clerk.

The above named grand jury, after having been sworn, retired and returned into court, when, having nothing to present, they were discharged.

The next day, March 2nd, 1819, the following proceedings were had by the court

By order of the court, the whole of the county of Cooper was divided into the following five townships: Moreau, Lamine, including all of the present county of Cooper, Arrow Rock, Miami and Tebo.

The following judges of election were appointed, viz

For Moreau Township.-Wm. Wear, John Verian and John Alexander.

For Lamine Township.-James Bruffee, Robert Wallace and Benjamin F. Hickox.

For Arrow Rock Township.-William Lillard, Benjamin Chambers and James Anderson.

For Miami Township. John B. Thomas, Joel Estes and John Evans.

For Tebo Township.-Julius Emmons, Gilliard Ruppe and Abel Owens.

The election, at which the foregoing men were to act as judges, was ordered to be held at the following places in each township: at the house of William Bartlett, in Lamine township; at the house of William Cooper, in Arrow Rock township; at the house of Andrew Rupels, in Miami township; at the house of Palo Whitley, in Moreau township, and at the house of Mathew Coxes, in Tebo township.

The following constables were appointed: of Moreau township, Paul Whitley; of Lamine township, John Potter; of Arrow Rock township, Jacob Ish; of Miami township, Elisha Evans; and of Tebo township, Green Macafferty.

Top of Page 51

Stephen Turley was granted a license to keep a ferry across the Lamine River.

B. W. Levens, Ward and Parker, and George W. Kerr, were granted a license to keep a ferry across the Missouri river, at the present site of Overton.

The following were the rates fixed, by the court, to be charged at B. W. Levens' ferry, viz:

For man and horse, fifty cents; for either, twenty-five cents; for horses and four wheeled wagon, two dollars; for two horses and four wheeled carriage, one dollar; for horned cattle, four cents each; and for meat cattle, two cents each.

William Curtis was appointed under-sheriff of Cooper county.

The first petition for a public road, was presented on this day, by B. W. Levens. It asked for the location of a road leading from Boonville to the mouth of Moniteau Creek. The court appointed Richard Stanford, David Trotter, William George and Benjamin Clark, commissioners, to review the road, as asked for, and report to the court their opinion as to the location, &c., of the same.

Bird Lockhart and George Tompkins, who were appointed to examine as to the qualifications of candidates for the office of county surveyor, having filed their report, the court recommended William Ross to the governor, as a fit subject for said appointment.

The next petition for the location of a public road, was filed by Anderson Reavis on the same day. The road petitioned for, ran from the mouth of the Grand Moniteau to the Boonville and Potosi road. The commissioners appointed to review this road, were Francis Travis, William Lewis and John Savage.

John Potter filed his bond as constable of Lamine township, in the sum of \$1,000 with Asa Morgan and William Ross as his securities,

Top of Page 52

James Bruffee, Benjamin F. Hickox and Robert Wallace were appointed commissioners to superintend the building of the court house.

The court then adjourned until the regular July term.

JULY TERM. 1819.

Monday, July 5th, 1819. The first indictment by the grand jury in Cooper county, was presented on this day. Stanley G. Morgan being then indicted for assault and battery. It then being the law that every offense, however trivial, should be tried by indictment before the Circuit Court.

R. P. Clark, this day, produced his commission as clerk of the Circuit Court of Cooper county; also Peyton R. Hayden was admitted to the bar, as an attorney and counsellor at law.

John Cathey, Henry Guyer, George Cathey and Zepheniah Bell, against whom process was issued at the March term, were each fined one dollar and costs, for contempt of court, for not appearing as grand jurors at the said term, after having been summoned as such.

The first civil suit on record, was an action for debt, brought by George Wilcox against R. P. Clark and Samuel S. Williams, which is entered among the proceedings of this day.

Tuesday, July 6th, 1819. Jesse McFarland appeared before the court, and took the oath of office as county surveyor. William Bartlett was granted a license to keep a tavern near the mouth of Rupe's Branch, in Boonville.

Wednesday, July 7th, 1819, - Stephen Cole appointed deputy county surveyor of Cooper county.

The first account presented against Cooper county was allowed on this day. It was an account of William Bartlett, for six dollars for the rent of his house, it having been

Top of Page 53

used by the court as a court house. On the same day, four men were fined, by a jury of twelve men, five dollars each, for gambling.

Thursday, July 8th, 1819. - Asa Morgan was granted a license to keep a ferry across the Missouri river at Boonville.

November Term, 1819. - Andrew S. McGirk was enrolled as an attorney and counsellor at law. James Williams was granted a license to keep a ferry across the Osage river, on the road from Boonville to Potosi.

March Term, 1820. - The following men were indicted by the grand jury for swearing, viz: Jesse Mann, Isaac Renfro, William Warden, William Bryant, Thomas Brown, Stephen Tate, John S. Moreland and David Fine. These indictments were afterwards dismissed by the court for want of jurisdiction.

On the 6th day of March, 1820, Abiel Leonard produced his license, and was admitted to the bar; also January 23d, 1821, Hamilton R. Gamble was admitted to the bar.

The following is a list of the attorneys who at 'this time were enrolled and practicing in this court

George Tompkins, John S. Brickey, Peyton R. Hayden, Cyrus Edwards, John S. Mitchell, Hamilton R. Gamble, Andrew McGirk, Robert McGavock, Abiel Leonard, John F. Ryland, Armstead A. Grundy, Dabney Carr, William J. Redd and John Payne. Among these we find the names of many who afterwards occupied offices of trust in the State of Missouri. Indeed, all of them are noted as being fine lawyers and honorable men.

The following is a copy of the record of the first verdict rendered by a jury in Cooper county. It is taken from the proceedings of the November term, 1819:

Top of Page 54

HISTORY OF COOPER COUNTY.

UNITED STATES, Plaintiff, VS.

STANLEY G. MORGAN, Defendant.

This day comes as well the defendant, in discharge of his recognizance, as the prosecuting attorney. Whereupon, the said defendant, being arraigned upon the indictment in this cause, plead not guilty, and, for his trial, put himself upon God and his country, and the circuit attorney also. Whereupon came a jury, viz: Wm. Burk, William Black, Gabriel Titsworth, Michael Hornbeck, Nicholas Houx, William Reed, Alexander Dickson, David Reavis, Frederick Houx, David McGee and Samuel Peters, who, being elected, tried and sworn, the truth to say, as and upon the issue joined, upon their oaths do say, that the defendant is guilty of assault and battery, whereof he is indicted. Whereupon it is considered by the court, that the said defendant make by the payment of the sum of five dollars and pay the costs hereof, and may be taken, &c.

There was, as shown by the records, but four peddlers and six merchants within the limits of the county of Cooper, during the year 1819.

The total amount of county revenue, on the tax book for 1819, as charged to William Curtis, sheriff, at the July term of this court, was \$488.34

All these terms of court were held at William Bartlett's boarding house, called on the records, the "Tavern of Boonville."

There is embraced in the foregoing, the full proceedings only of the court held on the first and second days of March, 1819; extracts only being made from the other terms of the court referred to, of those proceedings each day which were supposed would be of most interest to the general reader. The proceedings of the court held March 1st, 1819, cover only seventeen pages of a very small record

Top of Page 55

book, for July term, forty-one pages, and for the November term, thirty-three pages. The proceedings of the Circuit Court, alone, for the April term, 1876, covers eighty four pages of the largest record made, which is equal to about 250 pages of record, such as was used for the first court. When it is taken into consideration, also, that the proceedings of the County and Probate Courts, now separate from the Circuit Court, were included in the record of the Circuit Court for 1819, it can easily be perceived what a vast increase has been made in this part of the business of the county.

Top of Page 56

HISTORY OF COOPER COUNTY

CHAPTER VI

First County Court held in Cooper County, and the Proceedings of same.-First and Second Court Houses Built.-Three Attempts to Remove the County Seat from Boonville, and the Causes.-First Church Built in County.-First Baptism in County, and Involuntary Immersion of Jake Simons.-First Schools Taught in County.-Celebration on July 4th, 1820-The whole Revenue of the County not Sufficient to Support John V. Sharp, a Pauper, &c.

THE first County Court within the county of Cooper, was held on the eighth day of January, 1821, at the house of Robert P. Clark, on the lot where Adam Eckhard now resides, on High street, in the City of Boonville. This court exercised the powers, and performed the duties of the present County and Probate Courts, which had, previous to this time, been under the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court. The County Court continued to perform the duties of both County and Probate Courts, until the year 1847, when, by act of the Legislature, the Probate Court was separated from the County Court, and continues separate to the present time.

James Bruffee, James Miller and Archibald Kavanaugh were the justices of this court, appointed by James McNair, the then Governor of the Territory of Missouri. Robert P. Clark was appointed by the court as its Clerk, and Wm. Curtis, Sheriff.

And on the 9th day of April 1821, Robert P. Clark produced his commission from the Governor as Clerk of the County Court, during life or good behavior. George Crawford

Top of Page 57

was appointed Assessor, and Andrew Briscoe, Collector of Cooper County.

On the same day, the will of Thomas McMahan, deceased, was probated, it being the first will proven before this court and in this county. Also constables were appointed for the different townships in the county, as follows; Boonville township, John Potter; Lamine township, Bryant T. Nolan; Moniteau township, Martin Jennings, and Clear Creek township, James C. Berry.

George C. Hart was appointed commissioner to run dividing line between Cooper and Saline counties; and B. W. Levens, to run dividing line between Cooper and Cole counties.

The first court house was completed at Boonville, in the year 1823. Previous to that time, the court had either been held at the house of the clerk or at one of the boarding houses. But when Messrs. Morgan and Lucus laid out tie town, they donated fifty acres to the county, on condition that the commissioners would locate the county seat at Boonville. As soon as the county seat had been located at Boonville, and part of this land sold by the county, the county court commenced the building of a court house, which was located on the land donated to the county, and in which they could hold court, and also have the offices of the different clerks. It was a small two story brick building, pretty much the style of the present one, although much smaller. It was torn down at the time the present one was built, and some of the brick was used in the construction of the new house.

The present court house, which is situated on the same spot on which the old one was located, was completed in the year 1840. It is a large and commodious two-story brick building, situated on a high piece of ground overlooking the river, from the cupalo of which an excellent view can

Top of Page 58

be had of a part of Cooper and Howard counties. It is built upon the old style, and will very likely have to be soon replaced by a new one.

There have been three several attempts to remove the county seat from Boonville.

The first attempt was made in 1832, the second in 1838, and the third in 1842. The first two attempts were caused by some of the citizens wishing to remove the county seat to a more central portion of the county. But they have, it is unnecessary to relate, been unsuccessful, only resulting in creating an ill-feeling between the different portions of the county, which it took years to remove. The third was caused by the excitement resulting from the fight between the militia and an organization of the settlers, known as the "Fantastic Company," which will be more fully described hereafter.

Previous to the year 1817, there were no regular churches in Cooper County, but services were held, from time to time, either in the houses of the settlers, or whenever convenient, in some school house. But in that year the first church in the county was built. It was called "Concord Church," and was located about six miles south of the City of Boonville, near the present residence of John Crawford. Its denomination was Baptist. The first minister who preached there, was Luke Williams, who was also the first regular preacher located in Cooper county.

It has always been stated and believed by many to be the fact, that Concord church was the first church built in Missouri, outside of St. Louis and St. Genevieve, but of the truth of this the authors are not informed, therefore they cannot vouch for same. But is certain, that there could have been but few churches then built in the State, and it is probable that they were all in those two cities, as no

Top of Page 59

neighborhoods in this part of the State were strong enough to be able to build one.

"Old Nebo Church," located about one-half of a mile north of the present site of Bunceton, near the residence of the late judge L. C. Stephens, at the place where the Dublin school house now stands, was built in 1820. It was built by subscriptions from the settlers; and as there was very little money in circulation in the country, each one contributed his share either in work or materials furnished. William Stevens and Joseph Stevens, Sr., now living near Bunceton, in this county, sawed all the planks for this church; others furnished the shingles and logs; and others still, assisted in putting up the house and other work about it. Its denomination was Baptist. The ministers, who, during the next few years, preached at this church, were Peter Woods, William Jennings, Jacob Chism, Luke Williams and John B. Longan.

This church was very prosperous until about 1826, when there arose a division in it, on account of the difference of sentiment on the question of paying ministers and sending missionaries among the heathen nations. After considerable excitement, and several stormy meetings, the two factions separated. John B. Longan, who was leader of the faction who favored paying the ministers and sending abroad missionaries, drew off a large majority of the members of the congregation, and built a church at Henry Woolery's mill, which was called "New Nebo Church." The opposing faction continued in possession of "Old Nebo Church," and held service regularly in it.

The next churches built, were "Mount Pleasant" and Pisgah, in the south eastern part of the county, and "New Nebo," at Henry Woolery's mill, the particulars of the building of which, is described above. New Nebo church was afterwards moved about one mile west onto the prairie,