

**A**  
**HISTORY**  
Of  
**COOPER COUNTY,**  
Missouri

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

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boat around and made for the Howard shore. At this time some of Shelby's men appeared and commenced firing upon the boat with muskets. But the boat having gotten out of reach of this fire, the confederates brought up some artillery and opened fire upon the boat, two shots striking it before it reached the shore. As soon as Maj. Leonard landed his forces, the artillery was turned upon them, and they were soon forced to retire beyond the reach of the shells.

At the same time, Col. Crittenden, with about one hundred men, was seen steaming up the river in a boat, but on learning the situation of affairs at Boonville, he dropped back down the river, and landed a short distance below, in Howard county.

Gen. Shelby remained in Boonville the balance of the afternoon of that day, and encamped for the night west of the city on the Georgetown road. He came here to obtain supplies, such as

clothing and provisions, which they found in great abundance, and which they took, wherever found. M. J. Werthumer, and Messrs. Lamy & McFadden were the greatest sufferers, each losing about \$4,000 in clothing. The confederate troops did not molest any person during their stay, not a single man was killed or wounded, and they were very polite and gentlemanly to every person.

While the confederates were in Boonville, the federals, under Gen. Brown, were close behind them, and on the 11th day of October, were within eight miles of Boonville, on the Bell Air road. On that day Gen. Brown moved a portion of his troops west to the junction of the Sulphur Springs and the Boonville and Georgetown roads, which is about seven miles southwest of Boonville. But during the night he marched his command back again to the Bell Air road, and camped near Billingsville. The next morning after Gen. Shelby had left, the federals passed through

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Boonville in pursuit, their advance just behind the confederate rear guard. Two of Gen. Shelby's men who had stopped at Mr. Labbo's house, about one and one-half miles west of Boonville to get their breakfast, were killed by some federal scouts as they appeared at the front door, in order to make their escape.

A running fight was kept up at intervals, all along the route from Boonville to Marshall. The fight became pretty spirited between the Sulphur Springs and Dug Ford; and at Dug Ford two federals were killed and fell from their horses into the water. During this long running fight there was quite a number killed on each side, but the number is not known.

At Marshall, a lively battle took place, in which a number were killed and wounded on both sides. But General Shelby succeeded in escaping from his pursuers with the loss of only a small portion of the stores which he had obtained at Boonville.

This raid, of course, produced great excitement, and in the heat of passion, considerable censure was heaped upon the commanding officer, whether justly or unjustly, is left the reader to determine. Gen. Shelby succeeded in getting back to his lines without any great loss, but whether his entire anticipations in regard to obtaining supplies and reinforcements were fully realized, is not known. Major Leonard and Col. Crittenden crossed their commands over the river to Boonville about ten o'clock on the morning of the 12th, and after stopping for dinner, they started in the direction of Marshall. Boonville, then, was once more clear of troops, and the citizens had time to gather together provisions to feed the next lot of hungry soldiers who happened to land there, whether they were federals or confederates. Thus ended the famous "Shelby's Raid," as far as Cooper County was concerned.

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### PRICES RAID INTO COOPER COUNTY

The federal troops, in the fall of 1864, having all abandoned Boonville, three companies of "home guards" were organized for the protection of the city against what were known as the "bushwhackers." One company was commanded by Capt. Horace Shoemaker, another by Capt. Harrison Thompson, and the third by --. The two last mentioned companies were composed of men belonging to both parties, who had joined these companies with the understanding that they would only be required to protect the city against "bushwhackers and plunderers," and would not be compelled, against their wills, to fight against the regular southern troops.

Although there were frequent alarms, the "bushwhackers" never attacked Boonville, but often during the war made raids through the county, in which many citizens were killed. They always took anything they wished, no matter in whose hands it was found. There were also bands of robbers moving continually through the county, who cared nothing for either party, and who robbed and killed without discrimination or regard to party. During the year 1864, many good

citizens belonging to each side, were shot down, first by one party and then by another, and many citizens abandoned their homes, seeking places of more security. The details of these murders and robberies are too disgraceful and sickening to enumerate in this brief history.

On the 11th day of October 1864, scouts brought information that a large hostile force was approaching Boonville. These three companies being under the impression that these were "Anderson's bushwhackers," immediately erected a strong barricade across Fifth Street, at the Thespian Hall, in Boonville. They were strengthened in the belief that these were "bushwhackers," from the fact that

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they had received a dispatch that afternoon from Mexico, Missouri, stating that Gen. Price had been repulsed at Jefferson City, and was retreating by way of Tipton.

So these companies of home guards expecting no quarter from Anderson's men, prepared to sell their lives as dearly as they could, thinking anyway that it would be certain death to fall into the hands of "Bill Anderson." Soon afterwards, Shelby's command entered the town with a dash, killing a German scout near Mrs. Muir's residence, about one mile east of Boonville. The "home guards" fired one round at the advance guard of Shelby's command as they advanced along Vine street near the Baptist church, but their fire injured no one.

But learning that this was but the advance guard of Gen. Price's large army, and that resistance would be useless, the home guards surrendered as prisoners of war. These prisoners were quartered at the court house and closely guarded, but the commissioned officers were paroled. Gen. Shelby, with his command, entered about sundown on the above mentioned day. Gen. Price and his staff made their headquarters at the city hotel on Morgan Street. On Tuesday, the 13th day of October, the prisoners were marched in front of the city hall, ranged in line, and Gen. Price made them a speech, and gave orders for their parole, on the condition, that if they were ever found with arms against the south, they would be shot.

Price had about 20,000 men, many of them late Missouri recruits, without arms. Some of his command were well armed and drilled, but the greater part were very poorly armed. Their general conduct towards the citizens during their stay in Boonville, was good.

On the night of the 13th, while Capt. Shoemaker, who was on parole, was going from Capt. John Porter's house to his residence, on the corner of Central avenue and

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Sixth streets, he was captured by some men, who were afterwards discovered to be Anderson's men, taken to the fair grounds, killed, and his body thrown into the river. Two men, named Neef and Boller, were killed near their homes, about four miles west of Boonville; also a negro man who was concealed in a corn shock on the farm of J. M. Nelson, situated two miles west of Boonville. These were all the persons killed in this part of the country, who were not slain in battle, whose names are now recollected.

Thousands of volunteers in Missouri flocked to the standard of Gen. Price, believing that he would be able to hold the State. The rear-ward of Gen. Price's army, and the advance guard of Gen. Sanborn's command, skirmished, at intervals, from Jefferson City to Boonville. Gen. Sanborn's command consisted of about 4,000 mounted men. The infantry command, under Gen. A. J. Smith, was also in pursuit, but never came within fighting distance of the confederates.

There was considerable skirmishing and some hard fighting, south and southeast of Boonville, during Price's three day's sojourn at that place, in which a number were killed and wounded on

both sides. The Arkansas militia, under the command of Gen. Fagan, who were left to protect the rear of Gen. Price's army, were the greatest sufferers among the confederates.

A dash was made upon Gen. Price's out-posts, by a few companies of federals, who came so near Boonville, that the firing could be heard, and the smoke of the battle seen from the city. Gen. Price's artillery was brought into requisition, and soon compelled the federals to retire. The greater part of Price's regulars was then called out, and a general charge having been made all along the line, the federal army fell back on the road leading from Jefferson City to Georgetown, via. Bell Air, and following that road,

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camped about four miles west of Bell Air, near the farm of A. J. Read.

Price's army left Boonville during the night of the 14th day of October, having remained there three days. His army took all the horses in the northern part, and the federal troops in the southern part of the county. Both parties foraged upon the people of the county for the support of their respective armies, and left the county pretty destitute, especially of horses, hardly a good one being left. This was virtually the end of the war, as far as Cooper county was concerned, no more battles being fought in it between organized armies.

The partisan warfare in Cooper County became pretty bloody during the summer and fall of 1864. The details of these occurrences, the writers must be excused from recording, leaving the task to some future historian, although they believe that they could give the particulars without partiality or prejudice, but others might not so consider them.

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## **HISTORY OF COOPER COUNTY**

### **CHAPTER XII**

*Character, Manners and Customs of the Early Settlers of Cooper County.*

THE people in the early history of Cooper County, were industrious, hardy and honest; a better class of people never emigrated to any country. What they lacked in education, they made up in hard, common sense. Crime was very rare. They were social, clever and honest. Selfish or dishonest persons were not countenanced in society. There were then only two classes of people; the honest and industrious, and the dishonest and lazy. Persons who did not work for a living, were looked upon with suspicion, and always shunned by the better class. The neighbors were always ready to assist one another when needed. They assisted each other in house-raising, log-rolling, (not political,) shuckings and reapings, with the sickle. No person thought of performing such work without calling in his neighbors to help him, and frequently, at the same time, the women would be called in and have a quilting. After the work was completed, all would engage in a lively dance, consisting mostly of Virginia reels.

At that time, people cared very little about accumulating wealth. Their families devoted a portion of their time to social and innocent amusements. They were very jocular, very fond of getting and making jokes on one another, and as to slander, they rarely resorted to it; if they did, they would soon have had no friends or neighbors, and would have been shunned by the good people as vipers.

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If two men had a quarrel, they would meet and fight it out, then make friends and take a drink, thus quickly and easily settling their difficulty. Most persons kept whisky at their homes, and used

it with moderation at public gatherings. Drunkenness was very rare, and was so very disgraceful, that few persons would venture to get drunk a second time.

The slaves were universally well treated, being considered almost as one of the owner's family, the only difference being, that they ate their meals from the kitchen and lived apart from the family. They were allowed to have their own parties and gatherings the same as the whites, and in all things enjoyed life about as much as their owners.

At the time of the organization of the county, the people has great respect for old age, or persons older than themselves, even greater than they have at present, and listened to, and often profited by their advice and counsel. The maxim then was, "Old men for counsel, and young men for war." If an aged person was imposed upon, insulted, injured or assaulted by a young man, there was always some person who was ready to rise up and assist in defending him.

Children had great respect, love and reverence for their parents; and obedience to their slightest commands was considered the first tiling that should be taught them. There was, at that time, a much more strict government over children than there is at present. They were taught habits of industry and economy, and were under the complete control of their parents until they became of age, and seldom left their parents until that time. It was then disgraceful not to follow some useful and honest employment, and children were raised with that idea in view, and given

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to understand that the citizens had no use for a lazy, trifling man.

#### **COURTSHIPS AND WEDDINGS**

Under the old customs governing courtships, and the settlers were pretty strict about matters of this kind, when a young man had "serious intentions" on the subject of marriage, his first action was to ask the privilege of setting up during the night, with the object of his affections, to whisper love into her ear. When this took place, it was generally supposed that the young man meant business. When house room was very scarce, the two young folks, after permission had been granted, as above, often sat up in the same room in which the parents of the young lady slept, such being the necessities of the times.

The people, at that time, universally traveled on horseback, and the gentleman who had been granted the privilege of the company of a young lady, rode with her to church, parties and elsewhere, and during these journeys she was under the young man's charge until they returned home. This custom still prevails, to some extent, but the practice of sitting up all night with a lady has been long since abolished in this county.

The weddings generally took place at one o'clock, P. M., at the residence of the bride's father. After which, dinner was served, and then the dancing and the playing games, such as "Old Sister Phebe," "Come my love and go with me," commenced, and were generally continued until late in the night. After breakfast on the following morning, the company would form into double file on horse back, the bride and groom in advance, the bride on the left and the groom on the right side. Immediately following them came their attendants, then the parents, brothers, sisters, and last of all, the other ladies and gentlemen who were invited guests. In this order they proceeded to the "infare"

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dinner at the residence of the father of the groom. After dinner, playing and dancing would commence, and continue as at the wedding. Thus showing that they considered weddings as one of the few things which being worth doing at all, was worth doing well.

## HOUSEKEEPING.

Young men at that time did not generally venture to marry without having a home to which he could take his young wife. Unlike the young married men of this fast age, he would build and furnish his house in accordance with his means. The young couples would live plainly and economically, and thereby increase in wealth by degrees. They were proud of what they had, because it was their own, what they had obtained by industry and economy, and for which they were not in debt. When by this course of life they had amassed sufficient means, they would build a better and more stylish house, stock their farm better, and purchase more improved farming implements. To be plain and use a common phrase, they would "take things as they could stand them," and never attempt to reach beyond their height. They did not commence at the top of the ladder to ascend, but at the foot, from whence there was some chance to improve their condition.

These were the old fashioned ways, that were good then, are none the less good now because of their age, and should never have been abolished. In the present customs and fashions, people are truly and surely taking a step backwards, which generally leads those, who practice them, to almost certain distress, and, in most cases, to financial ruin. This is the cause of many of the crimes committed in high life, among the "Upper Ten," as they are erroneously called.

A young married couple in our present high and fashionable life are not content to live in such homes, have such

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furniture, and clothe themselves as their means will permit, But they must commence with a fine, costly house, elegantly furnished, with a fine piano and other finery in proportion; but they shortly find themselves at the foot of the ladder, too proud to beg and too lazy to work. What then is the result? Some resort to stealing, robbery, arson or murder, and are sent to the penitentiary or the gallows. While others, in desperation, seek refuge in death, and commit suicide rather than reform. There is no doubt that this fast living produces more crimes, murders and suicides than any other single cause.

Young married people who are much too poor to afford it, yet for the sake of being fashionable, take an expensive bridal tour instead of saving the money which they spend in that way to enable them to commence housekeeping. Such things as these will do for the wealthy, but it is manifest, that the poor cannot afford to "put on such airs." 'Tis an old adage, but nevertheless a true one, that it is "hard for an empty sack to stand upright," and if you continue taking out of the meal tub without putting into it, you must soon come to the bottom.

We would, therefore, earnestly endeavor to impress upon the minds of our young readers, the necessity of following our advice before financial ruin overtakes them, and of commencing at the foot of the ladder, and slowly and carefully ascending, as this is the only safe road to fortune and respectability. It is true, for human nature is a strange compound of good and evil, that many of their old time friends will pass them by unnoticed, but they must have the moral courage to disregard such persons, and to persevere in the course which they have mapped out. They will soon have cause to be thankful that such pretended friends, for they are no other, have withdrawn from their

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society, for they are only parasites, which live by taking from others the life-blood which sustains them.

The solid, sensible, wealthy people will never cast you off for using economy and living within your means, but will give you credit for your financial ability, and your wise and judicious actions will secure their confidence and respect, and they will be only too proud of your society.

## PARTIES

The women, in old times, had "quiltings" and "Cotton pickings," and when the work was completed, the young men of the neighborhood would come in. They then engaged, until late at night, in a jovial dance and the old fashioned plays. Corn-shuckings, log-rollings, house raisings and reapings took place at their proper seasons. People living in a new country are more dependent upon one another than the inhabitants of an old country, and this caused them to be more accommodating and unselfish than they are at the present time.

Corn-shuckings were lively times with the colored men, who would amuse themselves, during their work, by singing "corn songs." They would frequently separate the corn into two piles, and dividing the company into two parties, each party would choose a captain, and have an exciting race. The party which first completed the shucking of their pile, would claim the privilege of carrying the owner around the house on their shoulders, and place him at the head of the supper table.

At all of these frolics they usually had whisky to enliven the occasion, and some of the men would occasionally get quite lively, but very little drunkenness ever occurred. Many married people would engage in the dances, and seem to enjoy themselves as much as the single ones. They had colored musicians who most of the time played upon the violin, making music which was quick and lively.

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Christmas was duly celebrated, the whole week being occupied in such sports as hunting, dancing and playing, at parties given in the neighborhood. The colored people, Christmas week, being a holiday to them, turned themselves loose, and enjoyed themselves as much as their owners.

The people at that day, as at the present, had their fashions. They were different, it is true, but the fashionable class, especially in the towns, adhered as closely to them as they do at the present time. Although pictures and descriptions of the old fashions appear queer and almost laughable to the people of the present day, yet we have often been assured that they were more comfortable and pleasant in every respect than those which curse the country now.

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## HISTORY OF COOPER COUNTY

### CHAPTER XIII

*Different Towns in Cooper County, and Description of Each.*

#### BOONVILLE

BOONVILLE, the county seat of Cooper county, is located on the south bank of the Missouri river, about 230 miles west of St. Louis by water, and 187 miles by rail. It is surrounded by a beautiful and fertile country, inhabited by an intelligent, enterprising and thrifty population, and it has a very good local trade. It is celebrated for its educational advantages, its healthy location and its "vine clad hills." It has a large and commodious public school building and grounds, costing about \$40,000, where the public school has been in successful operation for the last ten years. Also a good colored school, taught in a separate building. It has two male and two female schools where

the higher branches of education are taught with commendable success. There are, besides, a good Catholic school and several other select schools for smaller children. Here children can obtain a good education and moral training without the expense of going away from home.

The Missouri, Kansas & Texas railway crosses the river here, on the great iron bridge, putting the city in direct communication with the lakes at Chicago, and the Gulf of Mexico at Galveston, Texas. And the Osage Valley & Southern Kansas railroad connects Boonville with the Missouri Pacific railroad at Tipton.

This town was laid of by Asa Morgan and Charles Lucus, and the plat filed on the first day of August 1817.

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It was surveyed by William Ross. The first lots were sold in 1819. A donation of fifty acres was made by Morgan and Lucus to Cooper county, was accepted by the commissioners, and the county seat located thereon. The first donation lots were sold in 1821.

### THE EARLY HISTORY OF BOONVILLE

Mrs. Hannah Cole, mother of Capt. Samuel Cole, made the first settlement on a part of the land on which Boonville is located, in the year 1810, and took a pre-emption, which she sold to Bird Lockhart and Henry Carroll, January 25th, 1819, for a trifle. The first settler in the old limits of Boonville was Gilliard Roupe, who built his residence on the lot now owned and occupied by Capt. James Thompson, on the south side of Spring street, near the cement factory. (This information was obtained from Samuel Cole, William Gibson and Judge McFarland.) The stream in the western portion of the "gold town" was called from his name, "Roupe's Branch." The next was a ferry house, built by Roupe, at the mouth of the above branch, where he had a ferry landing. The first ferry was kept by the widow Cole's boys. There were several houses built on the flat below the branch, extending south as far as the corner of Morgan and Second streets, before the town was located.

A Frenchman named Reubadeaux kept the first store in Boonville, in a cabin built of poles. Shortly afterwards a man named Nolin kept a grocery on the flat, at the mouth of the branch; Mrs. Reavis and William Bartlett kept boarding houses in the same locality; and Thomas Rogers built a house on the corner of High and Second streets, and used it as a residence, hotel and store.

This part of the town was mostly built in 1816 and 1817.

From the best evidence that can be had from old citizens, the first houses built after the town was laid off, were two

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brick houses still standing on Morgan street, one east of the jail, and the other east of and near the Central National bank, built by Asa Morgan. Some other old houses, now standing, are Dr. Triggs, on Morgan street, and a log house on the north side of High street, on the corner of Seventh street, occupied by a colored woman by the name of Carter; also a brick house on High street, northeast of court house, built by Hon. R. P. Clark, and now owned by Joseph and William Williams.

The next merchants after Reubedeaux, were Jacob Wyan and Archie Kavanaugh, who had a store and residence, north of the court house square. The other early merchants were McKenzie, Bousfield, Col. Thornton, Mrs. Dobbins, Thomas M. Campbell, and Judge C. H. Smith. The next hotel was built by Justinian Williams afterwards sold to John Dade. It is still standing, and used as



a hotel, Mr. Secongost being the present proprietor. There was also a hotel on the lot north of the jail, now occupied by the residence of C. W. Sombart.

Among the earlier lawyers were, Peyton R. Hayden, Wm. S. Brickey, John B. Clark and Littleberry Hendricks. Robert P. Clark was the first post master. He was also Circuit and County Clerk, County Treasurer, School Commissioner and Executor, Administrator and Guardian of a number of estates; and last, but not least, a delegate to the Barton Convention, in 1820. All these offices he held at the same time, which the records will show, and they would not much more than support himself and family at that time.

Divine service was held then in private and school houses, having no churches. The first church built was the Methodist, about 1831; then the Presbyterian, both of them still standing. The first school house was a brick house, built near the residence of Dr. M. McCoy; and there was

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a populous graveyard near the same place. The remains of most of the dead were removed to other cemeteries. The early school teachers were judge Abiel Leonard, Wm. G. Moore, Dr. Edward Lawton, and others. The ministers were Luke Williams, a Baptist; Justinian Williams, a Methodist; and Chamberlain, a Presbyterian.

James Bruffy was the first blacksmith. He made a cannon of wrought iron for the celebration of the 4th day of July, 1820, which was held in front of the present residence of Jesse Homan, on an old Indian mound still standing in his front yard. Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Homan were present at the time, and from them we have received the full particulars of the celebration, but there is not room enough to insert at this place. They also gave the details of a fight on Christmas day 1819, between the young men of Old Franklin and the Boonville boys. The former crossed the river on the ice for the express purpose as they termed it, "of cleaning out Boonville." The fight was a bloody one and lasted a long time. The old men of Boonville had to come to the rescue of their young men, and the contest for some time remained in doubt; but at last Boonville had to give way to superior numbers, there being but few inhabitants here then. There was no one killed or mortally wounded. But where is old Franklin now? Then the metropolis of Western Missouri. The seat of commerce, wealth, fashion and power, swept away by the turbulent waters of the Missouri river. The only house left is now owned by Mr. Wm. Smith, built in the suburbs of that once populous city. If the present generation were to go over there now, there would be nobody left to tell of the former greatness and grandeur. The most of them have left this world of trouble, strife and turmoil, and gone, it is hoped, to a brighter and better world beyond the vale. Alas, time will tell. It waits for no man. Peace to their

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ashes. But their heroes will live in history and in grateful remembrance as long as time shall last.

The early physicians of Boonville were George C. Hart, N. Hutchison, Parks, McCutchen, Gale, Martin, and others.

Some of the fashions worn by the gentlemen, were high stiff coat collars, padded with buckram, reaching half way up the back of the head, and five or six cravats covering the neck, and tall stove pipe hats, wide at the top tapering downwards. And the ladies wore large leghorn, and long sun bonnets, projecting about ten inches in front of their faces, so that you could not see a lady's face without placing yourself immediately in front of her, securely protecting their delicate faces from sunburn and large tortoise shell combs, making a semi-circle on the back part of the head. They wore very long hair of their own growth, generally reaching half way down from the head to the ground. From five to six yards of calico were sufficient for a dress.

In the winter of 1818, while Dr. Hutchison and Mrs. Kelly (then Miss Lawless) were crossing from Old Franklin to Boonville on foot, when half way across, the ice broke and they both fell in. Another young gentleman close by helped her out, and the Doctor got out himself. Their condition was so perilous that the occurrence still lives in the memory of Mrs. Kelly, the only witness now living to what might have ended seriously.

## MODERN HISTORY OF BOONVILLE

Before the Missouri Pacific railroad was built, Boonville commanded the wholesale trade, and was the principal shipping point of Southwest Missouri, and Northern Arkansas and Boonville is now no doubt, the best point for the location of manufactories in the West, having an abundance of timber suited for making furniture, farming implements,

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and all kinds of machinery, and also bountiful supplies of coal and cement rock of the best quality in the vicinity.

Boonville has a very large furniture factory, not now in operation, sufficient for the employment of fifty hands; also two furniture stores, and a cement factory. It has three potteries making large quantities of stone and earthenware. One of them has been in successful operation for many years. It has a large and extensive tobacco factory, manufacturing the very best chewing and smoking tobacco. These wares and tobacco are sold by wholesale, extending their trade over the west, half way across the continent, and down south into Arkansas and Texas. A woolen factory with an extensive trade; a glass factory, a machine shop, two gun smith shops, three flour mills, a foundry, not now in operation, several shoe shops, and stores, two cigar stores, five clothing stores, three tin stores, two jewelery stores, four drug stores, three breweries, ten dram shops, two dry goods stores, a large number of grocery and staple dry goods stores, four bakeries, six confectioneries, two restaurants, four notion stores, large number of bonnet and dress makers, one marble yard, three lumber yards, six carpenter shops, four brick yards, four wagon and two carriage shops, four plow manufactories, one agricultural stone, about ten blacksmith shops, two abstract of titles; one saw mill, two banks, one National and one State. An excellent steam ferry across the Missouri river at Boonville. About twenty school teachers, about six music teachers, ten physicians, fifteen lawyers, eleven ministers of the gospel. The United States land office for this district of Missouri is located here. The public buildings are the court house, Thespien hall, City hall, a Masonic and Odd Fellows hall, county jail, city calaboose and workhouse. The Thespien is one of the largest and most substantial public buildings

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west of St. Louis. It has eleven churches: Methodist South, Presbyterian, Baptist, German Methodist, Catholic, Lutheran, Episcopal, Methodist colored, and two Baptist colored. The grape is cultivated very extensively. It has about seven wine gardens. Boonville is noted for its graded and macadamized streets, its extensive paved sidewalks, its orchards, gardens, shade trees and beautiful front yards, decorated with flowers and evergreens, and last, but not least, its substantial buildings and its solid wealth. It has never had a mushroom growth, but has slowly and steadily increased in population and wealth, and has never taken a step backwards. She has lavished her money for internal and local improvement, and has always promptly paid her honest debts even before they became due.

Her bonds are now at a premium and her debt is only \$69,000, which was contracted in honesty and good faith, and will be promptly and fully paid. Rate of taxation in 1875 was only \$1.20 on the \$100.

Boonville has at least four citizens, each of whom could pay the whole debt of the City and have plenty left to maintain their families.

But if in the course of human events our city should go down amidst the general crash of financial ruin, we will bury her decently without a stain of dishonor on her children; and if they should inherit no fortune from us, we shall leave them a better inheritance which money cannot purchase-honor and integrity. And if we must, we will go down with our colors flying and these words emblazened thereon.

## MANUFACTORIES

Before closing the history of Boonville, we deem it our duty to say something to her people on the subject of manufactories. We frequently hear our citizens wonder why Boonville does not increase more in population and wealth,

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being the most beautiful and healthy city in the State, or perhaps in the West. And it has the M. K. & T. railway extending from the lakes in the North, to the gulf in the South, and the branch road connecting Boonville with the Missouri Pacific at Tipton; and the Missouri river which will always give cheap transportation to and from Boonville. Then she has coal, timber, and cement rock in the immediate neighborhood of the best quality in great abundance, and an inexhaustible supply of water from the Missouri river, and two small streams on each side of the city. Then, why does not Boonville improve? We answer that it is for the want of manufactories. That before railroads were constructed in our State, Boonville was a great commercial point. Every depot is now a commercial point. You can no longer depend upon commerce to build up this or any other city. The secret now in building a town is to create something for laboring men to do that will pay both the employer and employee. You will thereby have a population, and prosperity in proportion thereto. You must establish and maintain in your city manufactories. That is the only hope for the prosperity of this city or any other. The day is past for building cities by commerce alone. If Boonville had work for 20,000 people, she would have them here in one month, and the whole community would prosper. And bear in mind that it is labor that makes the town and country. But you will answer how are we to do this? Have we not tried and failed more than once? We know that is true, but try again, keep trying, and you will succeed. Don't give up the ship as long as a plank is left. If others succeed why not you? You must start right, and have men of experience, energy and honesty at the head of affairs. The trouble is that you are waiting for capitalists to come and build up your town. Let us tell you that you will wait forever. You must first put

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your own shoulders to the wheel. How can you expect strangers to invest their capital in something that you are afraid of yourselves. Providence is always on the side of those having pluck and energy enough to help themselves.

These remarks will apply to Otterville, Bunceton, Pilot Grove and other towns. If they will follow this advice and Boonville lies still, they will soon find themselves ahead of her. We have tried old fogysm long enough to be fully satisfied with it. Now let us try something else, and if a stranger comes among us to locate, let us take him by the hand and welcome him in his new home, and he will write back to his old home telling his friends what a fine country and clever people he has found, and they will also be induced to cast their lots among us.

## OTTERVILLE

Otterville is located on the Missouri Pacific railroad, in the southwestern part of the county. It has an abundance of timber and water, and would be a good location for manufactories. It was incorporated in 1857. It has a good public school building, in successful operation for ten years; also a good select female school, in a good brick building, belonging to Mrs. A. M. Drennan, proprietress; four churches, a Masonic and Odd Fellows hall, two colored churches, and about

fourteen stores. The houses in the business portion of the town are substantial brick structures; its population is about 800. Lead abounds in large quantities in the vicinity. It is the largest and most important town in the county except Boonville. It is surrounded by a rich and fertile country, and an industrious, thrifty and wealthy population. (See chapter xv.)

#### BUNCETON

Bunceton is located on the Osage Valley & Southern Kansas railroad, fourteen miles south of Boonville. It has one church, a Masonic hall, an excellent flour mill, about

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six stores, two shoe shops, one tailor shop, two drug stores, three physicians and one lawyer. It is surrounded by excellent timber, good coal mines, and cement rock near. It was located in 1869, and has a population of about four hundred. It also has an excellent high school, taught by Prof. Cully, with commendable success.

#### PILOT GROVE

Pilot Grove is situated on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railway, about twelve miles southwest of Boonville, and was located in 1873. It has a rapid growth, and bids fair to make a very important town. It has one church and Odd Fellows hall. It has about six stores, two blacksmith shops, one wagon shop, one drug store. It is located in a thickly populated country. The soil is excellent and the people prosperous. It has a good flour mill near by. Its population is about 250.

PLEASANT GREEN is located on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railway, about eighteen miles from Boonville; has two stores and one drug store. It is in a good timbered country; has one church and school house convenient to the town, and is an important shipping point.

NEW PALESTINE is situated on the Osage Valley & Southern Kansas railroad, about twelve miles south of Boonville. It has one store and one blacksmith shop, and about one hundred inhabitants.

BILLINGSVILLE is a station on the Boonville branch, about six miles south of Boonville, and has one store. It is in a heavily timbered country, and has an abundance of excellent cement rock.

BELL AIR, two and one-half miles west of New Palestine, has one store, a school house and church, a blacksmith shop and post office, and is located in one of the most wealthy and educated portions of the county.

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CLARKS FORK postoffice is situated nine miles southeast of Boonville, and has one elegant mill and one store, surrounded by a good wheat country.

CLEAR CREEK postoffice, sixteen miles southwest of Boonville, has one store, two churches and two school houses.

CONNER'S MILL postoffice, eight miles east of Boonville, is situated in a good wheat growing country.

GOOCHE'S MILL postoffice, twelve miles east of Boonville, has one store and one blacksmith shop. It is celebrated for its salt lick near by, and mostly called Big Lick, which is the place James Cole and James Davis killed two Indians in 1812.

HARRISTON, a station and postoffice on M. K. & T. R. R., fifteen miles southwest of Boonville, was located by Dr. N. W. Harris in 1873; has two stores and one blacksmith shop. It is in a very fertile and beautiful prairie country, and is an important shipping point.

LAMINE postoffice, fourteen miles west of Boonville, has two stores, and is surrounded by a very fertile country settled 64 years ago.

LONE ELM postoffice. has one store and a blacksmith shop. It is located in very fertile prairie land, and the people are in a very prosperous condition.

OVERTON, situated eleven miles east of Boonville, has a post office, several stores and a blacksmith shop. It is situated on the Missouri river opposite Rocheport. It has a ferry across the Missouri river. It is an important shipping point, surrounded by heavily timbered land, soil very rich. Wheat of the very best quality is successfully raised on the hills South of the town.

PRAIRIE HOMES, postoffice, eighteen miles southeast of Boonville, has one store and two schools - one public, and one a private boarding school, kept by Prof. Slaughter. It is also surrounded by a very fine wheat country. Prof.

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Slaughter is one of the most successful teachers in the county.

VERMONT, a station and postoffice on the Osage Valley & Southern Kansas railroad, three miles south of Bunceton, and seventeen miles south of Boonville, has one store and one blacksmith shop. It is located on high prairie, which is not surpassed in fertility and beauty by any portion of the county.

CLIFTON, a station and postoffice on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railway, is located near the Pettis county line, surrounded by a timber and prairie country, has one store and blacksmith shop. It is an important shipping point.

PISGAH is located in the southeast part of Cooper County, about seventeen miles from Boonville. It is the oldest town in the county except Boonville; located about 1830. The Hon. David Jones being the first settler. It has two churches, the Christian and Baptist. It has two or three stores and blacksmith shops, two physicians and ape lawyer. It has heavy timber on the south, and beautiful and fertile prairies on the north. It and its vicinity has long been noted for the intelligence and refinement of its inhabitants, and its early, moral and religious training. There, in early days, at the Pisgah church, the gospel was preached by such good old Christians, as the Revs. John B. Longden, Kemp, Scott, and others, who have long since been gathered to their fathers, but their words of wisdom and religious influence are not lost. It is there where Richard D. Bousfield, an English gentleman, one of the oldest and most successful merchants in Central Missouri, resided, having followed that business in Old Franklin, Boonville and Pisgah, in a very early day. He has long since retired on a princely fortune, honored and respected by all who know him.

### **OLD PALESTINE**

OLD PALESTINE was laid off by Michael Son in the year

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1833 - It was located about one mile west of New Palestine, and twelve miles southwest of Boonville. It was for many years the voting precinct of Palestine Township, and always voted the Whig ticket.

Michael Son built the first house in Old Palestine, and in it kept what was then called a "grocery." Judge John Briscoe and his son Wm. M. built the second house which was used as a storehouse. Michael Son, Isaac Lionberger, Ward and Parsons, Dr. Samuel J. Tutt and T. P., and Jas. Bell were the earliest merchants of this town. At this place James Taliaferro had a saddle shop, and Jacob Schutler, Taylor, Hammer and some others had blacksmith shops. Alexander Evans, Judge J. Hazell, and Sebrom, who were mechanics, were among the very early settlers. J. Lawrence Stephens, R. J. Parrish and Chas. F. Moore were among the last merchants. Old Palestine was indeed, for many years a good business place.

At this place in the early history of the county, the political conventions and meetings of the county were frequently held; also justice's court, and company, regimental, general and drill musters. The sporting classes of the community had at different times during the year horse and foot races.

The citizens at that day were very lively, gave much of their time to enjoyment and had their jokes and their fun. They were generally accustomed to meet at Old Palestine on Saturday, and after their week's work was completed, and had a good time generally. They would sometimes settle disputes by going in on their "muscle," and after the fight had been finished, the two contestants would make friends.

Two of the best fighters of the neighborhood, were "Bill" Hedrick and Joseph Wrench. They "locked horns" at last. "Bill" was a large, tall, rawboned man, and Wrench was low and heavy set. Wrench got the

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better of the fight, which was terrible while it lasted. The best citizens of the neighborhood were in sympathy with Wrench, for he was a very quiet, peaceable man, and would fight only in self-defense; but Hedrick was inclined to be overbearing in his conduct towards others, in other respects, a jolly, clever fellow.

One day while Hedrick was sitting on his horse in Old Palestine, a number of those with whom he had fought, clubbed together and gathered around him with the intention of giving him a good thrashing, and became quite noisy in their threatenings against him. He remained quiet until they had somewhat subsided, when he remarked "Gentlemen, are you going to whip me?" "Yes, we are," they answered. "Well," said he, "if that is the case, I'll not remain to see it; so I bid you good bye!" He then put spurs to his horse, pulled off his hat, waved it in defiance, and galloped away.

Another anecdote: A. and B. were about to fight. A. was making for B., and B. was backing all the time, keeping out of striking distance, yet appearing greatly excited. At this time his friends came up, and said, "Go it, B., pitch into him, B., and we will back you!" B then remarked, "I'm not afraid of any man, if I am, -- me." This caused a general laugh from the crowd, and broke up the fight.

A drill muster which lasted for three days took place at Old Palestine some time during the year 1841. On the first day, one of the officers imbibed pretty freely, and commenced cutting up and quarreling with some of the citizens. Some of those who had gathered to see the muster concluded that he would be a good subject out of whom to have some fun. So they organized a mock court, making Dr. William Moore, judge, and another one of the citizens, constable.

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The officer, who by this time had become pretty tight, was arrested by the pretended constable, with what appeared to be a regular writ, on a charge of attempting to kill some of the citizens. He thinking all this a terrible reality, engaged one of the bystanders to defend him, and tremblingly asked his lawyer if he thought he could save him. The attorney replied, that it was a hard case,

and that he feared that nothing could save him, as the evidence against him was so strong, although he promised to use his best efforts in his defense.

The "Prosecuting Attorney" commenced the testimony for the State, and the "Judge" asked the first witness if he thought the accused had any intention of killing any person, and casually remarked: "If that was the case, he would have him hung before night. This remark caused the prisoner to turn pale, and tremble with fear. After the taking of the testimony was concluded, the attorney for the State made his speech, asking in it, that the prisoner be hung without delay, as they had clearly proved that he was guilty as charged. While the defendant's attorney was speaking, strongly pleading for his client's life, some one, under the guise of friendship, whispered to the prisoner, that the only way to save his life, was to jump out of the back window and make for the woods. He accordingly, while, as he supposed, the attention of the audience was directed towards his attorney, jumped out of the window, mounted his horse which happened to be standing near by, and galloped away as fast as his horse could go, with the crowd shouting after him. Along the road, on his way home, he was seen passing several houses under whip.

Although he was afterwards told that all that had passed was intended as a joke, it had so much the appearance of reality that he could not be persuaded that it was a joke, and never returned to that part of the country again.

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Another anecdote will suffice for Old Palestine. There came to this place a fast young man from some of the Eastern States, whom we will call "Curtis W." One day he had a fight at that place with another young man; got the better of him, and then said: "Gentlemen, I have fought over fourteen States, and this is the first man I ever whipped." Many other like occurrences which took place at this famous old town might be related, but no more space can be spared from the general history for that purpose.

Old Palestine was laid off on a high, beautiful prairie, almost surrounded by timber, and its location is considered very healthy. D. E. Putnam, Alexander Evans, Darius Day, Daniel Hickerson, Lovel Patterson, and two other families are all that are left in this once populous village, D. E. Putnam being the mayor, and Daniel Hickerson city clerk.

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## **HISTORY OF COOPER COUNTY**

### **CHAPTER XIV**

*Early History of the Different Townships in Cooper County, which could not be included in the General History of the County.*

#### **BLACK WATER TOWNSHIP**

This township is a peninsular, being almost entirely surrounded by the Lamine and Blackwater rivers. 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. There are four public schools for white, and one for colored children, supported by the inhabitants of this township.

There are two churches in this township; one a Cumberland Presbyterian church, established in 1850; and the other a Baptist church, established in 1853

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There is at this time no store or mill in the township, although both are much needed by the citizens. There are two warehouses, from which the surplus productions of the township are shipped.

There is one physician, Dr. Thomas E. Staples, and three ministers of the gospel, viz: N. T. Allison, Jr., Baptist, Robert Crockett, Cumberland Presbyterian, and C. Q; Shouse, Christian.

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; Fleeting Marshall and Robert Clark, in 1832; Nathaniel Bridgewater, in 1835, and Edmund M. Cobb and Larkin T. Dix, in 1838.

The above information was obtained from N. T. Allison, Sr., and his son, the Rev. N. T. Allison, Jr., for which we are grateful.

### **BOONVILLE TOWNSHIP**

As an extensive history of the City of Boonville has already been given, it is exceedingly difficult to give a separate history of the township without a repetition of some thing which has appeared in the history of the city. The first settlers of the township were Stephen and Hannah Cole, who settled there in the year 1810.

The settlers who arrived previous to the year 1815, were Giliad Rupe, Muke Box, Delany Bowlin, William Savage, James Savage, John Savage, and Walter Burress; and in 1815, Umphrey and William Gibson.

Those who settled in this township between the years

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1815 and 1820, were William McFarland, John S. and Jesse McFarland, George, Samuel and Alexander McFarland, William Mitchell, James Bruffee, Robert P. Clark, Joseph and William Dillard, Littleberry Hendricks, Wm. Bartlett, Jesse Ashcraft, Russell Edgar, John M. Bartlett, Abram Gibson, Thomas Twentyman, James Dillard, Jacob Newman, William Potter, Frederick Hour, William Poston, George Potter, Benj. L. Clark, John J. Clark, Kyra Dunn, K. McKenzie, Marcus Williams, James, Robert and Alexander Givens, Jacob Chism, John B. Lucus, Charles B. Mitchell, Nicholas McCarty, Lewis Edgar, John B. Seat, Jacob McFarland, James McCarty, William Ross, Abiel Leonard, Joseph W. Bernard, James McFarland, Ephraim Ellison, John Roberts, Thomas Mitchell, Reuben George, Fleming G. Mitchell, Jesse Thomas, Asa Morgan, Peter B. Harris, James Chambers, Benj. F. Hickox, William H. Curtis, William W. Adams, John D. Thomas, William Lillard, James H. Anderson, Peyton R. Hayden, John S. Brickey, Peyton Thomas, David Adams, Luke Williams, John Potter, Andrew Reavis, David Reavis, Jonathan



Reavis, Jesse Homan, John H. Moore, Green B. Seat, W. D. Wilson, Thomas Rogers, Mrs. Mary Reavis, William Chambers, James Chambers and Justinian Williams.

There were, no doubt, many others not mentioned above, who resided in this township between the above years, but their names are unknown, and perhaps some few of those mentioned above resided in some other township. The above list was taken from the poll books of the township for 1820, and of course those who lived there at that time, but did not record their votes, are not included in the same.

From the best information that can be obtained, all the persons mentioned in the foregoing list of early settlers are dead, except William Gibson, John S. and Jesse McFarland, Lewis Edgar, Jonathan Reavis and Jessie Homan.

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Mr. John Kelly and Mrs. Tibitha Kelly were there frequently between 1818 and 1820. They then resided in Old Franklin, but are now living in Boonville. Of the ladies now living who resided in Boonville township previous 1820, are Mrs. Jesse Homan, Mrs. Frederick Hour, Miss Mary Reavis, Mrs. B. F. Hickox, Mrs. Jennie Wadley and Mrs. Dikie Dallas, the two last mentioned being the sisters of Samuel Cole.

Wm. McFarland, the first Sheriff of Cooper County, was born in Buncombe County, North Carolina, in the year 1778. He emigrated to St. Genevieve, from St. Francis County, Missouri, in 1811, and from thence to Cooper County, and on the 16th day of October 1816, he settled on the north side of the Petite Saline Creek, where Joseph Byler now resides. He had two neighbors living on the south side of the creek whose names were John Glover and Warden. He had no other neighbors nearer than the immediate neighborhood of Boonville. He was in 1818 or 1819 a member of the Territorial Legislature from the southern district of Howard county, which included that part of the county lying south of the Missouri river. He was a farmer, a man of great energy, an affectionate husband and father and a good neighbor. He died in the year 1834.

Benjamin F. Hickox was born in the State of New York, and emigrated to this country at an early day. He was elected a member of the Legislature from Cooper county in 1822, 1824 and 1838, and County Court justice from Sept. 24, 1844, to Nov. 2, 1846. He was also one of the Commissioners to superintend the building of the first court house at Boonville. He was a successful farmer, an affectionate husband and father, an honest, upright man, an excellent neighbor, and very charitable to the poor, never turning them away from his door without relieving their wants. He died about twenty years ago, beloved and respected by all who knew him.

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Luke Williams, a Baptist preacher, was a farmer, and resided about five miles west of Boonville. He is celebrated as being the first preacher in Cooper County, having located there several years before the county was organized.

Justinian Williams was born in Bath County, Virginia, and while young emigrated to Kentucky and there married. He then moved to Howard County, Missouri, from thence to Cooper County, and settled at Boonville in the year 1818. In this year he located the first Methodist church in Cooper County. He was a cabinet maker by trade, and followed that business for several years, preaching and organizing churches at intervals. He was also the local preacher at Boonville for several years. In the year 1834 he built a steam boat called the "Far West," about two miles above the mouth of the Bonne Femme Creek, in Howard county, and was the commander of the same for some time. During that year he emigrated to Tennessee, where he died.

Marcus Williams, the first mayor of the City of Boonville, was born in Bath County, Virginia, and when young moved to Kentucky; from thence to Boonville, Cooper county, Missouri. He was a

brick mason by trade, and manufactured the first bricks ever made in Cooper county, having opened a lime kiln in the western part of Boonville. At the "Vollrath" Place in 1840, he made the first stoneware ever manufactured in western Missouri. He emigrated to California at the time of the gold excitement in 1849, and settled at San Jose, where he died about the year 1860.

This township at the time of its first settlement was partly prairie, in the west and southwest, but after the lapse of many years, the prairie became timbered land. Great fears were entertained by the early settlers about the scarcity of timber, but it is believed that there is at the present

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time, more timber in the county than there was fifty years ago.

This was the first township of the county which was settled, and for many years few ventured outside, or at most, far from its boundaries. The early settlers believed that the prairie land was only suited for grazing and not fit for cultivation. In the year 1830, a few persons ventured to cultivate prairie land, and finding it so productive, many other farmers settled on the prairies, and at this time nearly all of the prairie land is under fence, and is covered with the most valuable farms in the county.

Persons in the early history of the township settled near the river, that affording the only means by which they could ship their surplus productions to market. But the building of railroads has revolutionized everything. Land near the river has become less valuable, and that on the prairies, which a few years ago was considered almost worthless, has now become more valuable. Timbered land is still preferred by many farmers, for the reason that it is much better for the growing of wheat, and equally as good, if not better, for other productions.

The soil of this township is very productive, and is especially excellent for growing fruit. It has also large quantities of coal of a good quality, which could be shipped at large profit.

#### **CLARKS FORK TOWNSHIP**

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 round log cabin on the south bank of the Petite Saline Creek, and cleared a few acres of ground near where Rankin's mill note 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

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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

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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; therefore the writers in placing those above mentioned in this township, were compelled mainly to rely upon their own knowledge, which may, in some cases, prove to be inaccurate.

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

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 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 soave

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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 from the abstract, 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

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William Ellis, Samuel Walker, A. S. Walker, H. R. Walker, Finis E. Berry, James and Samuel Mahan, the Rubens, 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.

#### **KELLY TOWNSHIP**

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, Gen. 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.

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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.

Gen. 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 78 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.

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

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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 short time ago.

The land of this township is at least three-fourths prairie, which is under fence and in a high state of cultivation. The soil 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

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it was headed by Gen. 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.

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 soil of this township is excellent, and the inhabitants are in a prosperous condition. It 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 Black Water

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and Lamine rivers. These streams abound with fish of very fine quality, and the Boonville market is principally supplied by them.

### MONITEAU TOWNSHIP

This township takes its name from Moniteau Creek, which runs through the entire length of the township. Moniteau township has always, since its organization, voted the Democratic ticket.

It was first settled in 1818. It is uncertain who was the very first settler. But 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,

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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 is still living at an advanced age.

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## HISTORY OF COOPER COUNTY

### CHAPTER XV

*Early History of the Different Townships, &c., Continued.*

#### OTTERVILLE AND 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. By his kindness, and at the request of many of the leading citizens of the above mentioned townships, the whole of the history, as read by Mr. Starke, is here inserted

-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 to-day, 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

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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, Jas. Berry, Thomas Rubey, Elizabeth Steele, sister of Alexander

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Sloan's wife, a man named Smiley, Rev. Laird Burns and his father John Burns, John Reed, Silas Thomas, Jas. 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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 Wm. 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

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I have thus briefly glanced at the early settlement in the vicinity of New Lebanon, and come now to treat of the colony which was planted south and west of the Lamine, and which was peopled at a subsequent period, known as Otterville township, and which will perhaps embrace a portion of the adjoining territory, included within the limits of Morgan and Penic counties.

"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.

[www.mogenweb.org/cooper](http://www.mogenweb.org/cooper)