

**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*

BY HENRY C. LEVENS AND NATHANIEL M. DRAKE

ST. LOUIS  
PERRIN & SMITH. STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS. 701 WASHINGTON AVENUE  
*1876*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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"Frederick Shurley, the mightiest hunter in all the land round about Otterville, in 1827, settled the place now owned by his son Robert Shurley, southeast of Otterville. He was with General Jackson in the Creek war, and was present at the memorable battle of the Horse Shoe Bend, where the Indians, by the direction of their prophets, had made their last stand. He used to recount, with deep interest, the thrilling incidents connected with this muzzle to muzzle contest, in which over half a thousand red-skins were sent, by Jackson and Coffee, to their happy hunting grounds.

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

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

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

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

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

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had, fortunately for Matthew, been on the under side every time they struck, till they reached the bottom, when he loosed his hold of the hunter and closed his eyes in death.

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

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

"At this moment, a horseman came galloping up in great trepidation, and informed the little family that the Indians

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

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

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

"John Gabriel was also from Kentucky. Settled at Richland, at a place two and a half miles east of Florence. He moved there at a very early period in 1819 or 1820. He had a still house, made whisky and sold it to the Indians. He was a rough, miserly character, but honest in his dealings. He was murdered for his money, in his horse lot, on his own plantation. He was killed by a negro man belonging to Reuben B. Harris. The negro was condemned and hung at Boonville. Before his execution, this negro confessed that he had killed Gabriel, but declared that he had been employed to commit the murder by Gabriel's own son-in-law, a man named Abner Weaver. This villain escaped punishment for the reason that the negro's testimony was then, by the laws of the United States, excluded as inadmissible. Justice, however, overtook him at last.

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His crime did not stop at the instigation of Gabriel's murder. He was afterwards found in possession of four stolen horses somewhere in Texas. In endeavoring to make his escape, he was shot from one of these horses, and thus ended his villainy.

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

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

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

"I come now to take a brief survey of matters connected with a later date. The town of Otterville was first called Elkton. It was laid out by Gideon R. Thompson, in the year 1837. The first house built, stood where Judge

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Butler's house now stands. The public square Occupied the space of ground now lying between Butler's and George W. Smith's, extending east to a line running north and south, near the place where Frank Arni's house formerly stood. William G. Wear entered the forty acres on which Elkton was built, in the year 1836, and sold it to Thompson in 1837. About that time Thompson built the first house as before stated, and he and George Wear built a storehouse directly east of Thompson's dwelling, and little George Wear built a dwelling house on the present site of Colburn's house. James Allcorn built on the north side of the square about the same time. Long George Wear built the first house within the present limits of Otterville proper, where W. G. Wear's house now stands.

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

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

"Among these were the Masonic hall; the dwelling house

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The Pacific railroad was completed to Otterville from St. Louis in 1860, and this place for a short time became the terminus. Whilst the road remained here, and in fact for a long time previous, Otterville commanded quite a brisk trade, presented a very active and business like appearance, and indeed for a time it flourished like a "green bay tree." But it was not destined to enjoy this prosperity long. The railroad company soon pulled up stakes and transferred the terminus to the

then insignificant village of Sedalia, which, at that time, being in its infancy, had scarcely been christened, but, though young, it soon rose like magic, from the bosom of the beautiful prairie, and in a few years Sedalia has become the county seat of one of the richest counties in the State, and a great railroad centre, while truth compels me to say that Otterville has sunk back into its original obscurity.

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

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

"About this time the 'Mansion House' was built by a man named Pork; the 'Embree House' by George W.

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

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

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

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

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

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the teas and silk of China ; the silver of Arizona, and the gold of California.

"Let us, therefore, rejoice and be merry, for we have abundant reason for these manifestations of joy."

[Signed.]            THOMAS J. STARKE.

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## HISTORY OF COOPER COUNTY.

### CHAPTER XVI

*Early history of the Different Townships, &c, Continued,*

#### PALESTINE TOWNSHIP

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

Mrs. Margaret Stephens says that in the fall of 1816, after her father settled in this county, she went to Boonville, with her uncle, a Mr. McFarland and on their arrival, she asked her uncle where Boonville was, thinking she was coming to something of a town. Her uncle pointed to

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Robadeaux's store, a round log cabin, with the bark on the logs, and said. "There's Boonville." They then alighted from their horses, and after making some purchases, they returned home. That store house was the only building which she then saw of Boonville. It is also certain, from other good evidence, that the place on which Boonville now stands, was called "Boonville," before any town was built or located here.

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

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

Before they arrived here, they had bought land in what is now Palestine township. They remained at the place called "Boonville," and were piloted to their new home by Maj. Stephen Cole. They crossed the Petite Saline Creek at the McFarland ford, at the place where Rankin's mill is now situated. The only persons at that time, living in that part of the county, were William and Jacob McFarland

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on the north, and John Glover on the south side of the creek. After crossing the creek they soon entered the Lone Elm prairie, and on the evening of the same day, they arrived at their new home where they camped for the night.

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

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

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

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on such occasions they had a little "fire water" to give life to the occasion.

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

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

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

Mr. Greenberry Allison dug the first cistern in the county, which proved to be a great success, and caused many of his neighbors to imitate his example, as they had, previous to that time, been compelled to depend for water upon springs and wells,

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Palestine township, from the beginning, took the lead in education. The first schools were taught by Lawrence C. Stephens Dr. William H. Moore, and a young man from Virginia by the name of



William H. Moore, who was considered the best scholar in his day, in this part of the country. The teachers of a later day were Mr. Huff, Green White, Josiah Adams, now residing in California, Missouri, and Philip A. Tutt. The first grammar school was kept by a Mr. Rodgers, at the residence of John Wallace.

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

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

Most of the persons mentioned above have been dead many years. Among the gentlemen, Mr. Huff was alive a few years ago, though he may be dead at this time, as he

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has not been heard from for some time. So far as is known none of the other gentlemen are alive. Of the ladies, Margaret, Elmira Ann and Sarah Ardell Hutchison, Margaret Stephens, Zerilda Levens, Patsy Briscoe, Katie and Sallie Peters, and Rhoda Campbell, are still alive - the others are all dead.

On the first day of January 1845, Henry C. Levens was employed at Lone Elm, John D. Stephens in Palestine district, Joseph L. Stephens in the Harrison district, in the Bunceton neighborhood, and George H. Stephens in the Round Grove district, to teach the respective schools for three months. All these districts are now in school township 47, range 17. These teachers found that the people were not sufficiently aroused on the great importance of giving their children a good education, and for some time had been studying to discover some plan by which to arouse the patrons of the school to a full knowledge of their responsibility.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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After this, schools were well attended and supported in Palestine township, and has continued so even to the present day.

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

#### **PRAIRIE HOME TOWNSHIP**

This is a small township lately organized and taken from the territories of Clark's Fork, Saline and Moniteau townships. It is mostly prairie, and the land is generally very fertile. The oldest settlers according to the best information that can be obtained, were James McClain, Lacy McClanahan, Adam McClanahan, Jacob Carpenter, Absalom McClanahan, Michael Hornbeck, Samuel Carpenter, Wm. N. McClanahan, Wm. G. McClanahan, and Jeremiah Smith.

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

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

#### **PILOT GROVE - POSTOFFICE, TOWNSHIP AND TOWN**

The town of Pilot Grove is situated on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway, about twelve miles southwest of Boonville. It was located in 1873. It has had a very rapid growth and bids fair to make a very important town. It is located in a thickly settled country. The soil of the

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surrounding country is excellent, and the inhabitants prosperous.

### TOWNSHIP

Among the earliest settlers of the township were Manty Hatfield, John Miller, the father of judge George W. Miller, Samuel Roe, Sr., John McCutchen, the father of Judge John M. McCutchen, William Taylor, James Taylor, Jr., John, George, Nicholas and Mathias Houx.

This township in early times was celebrated for its camp meeting grounds, there being two within its limits; one held by the Presbyterians, and the other by the Methodists. These camp meetings which were held by each denomination once a year, were largely attended, many persons coming from great distances. Many camped on the grounds, entertaining "without money and without price" the people who attended, and were particularly hospitable to strangers from abroad.

For a more full history of this part of the county, the reader is referred to the following letters of Mr. William G. Pendleton, a young gentleman living in Pilot Grove township, viz:

PILOT GROVE, MO., July 14, 1876. Messrs. N. C. Levens, & N. M. Drake, Boonville.

Gentlemen. letter of late date, to Mr. E. H. Harris, has been placed in my hands by that gentleman, with the request that I respond to the same. This I shall proceed to do to the best of my ability, assuring you that the following information is at least authentic.

As you are probably already aware, Pilot Grove, as a postoffice and place of rendezvous, for the surrounding inhabitants, is one of the oldest in the county, and takes its name from an ancient grove of Hickory trees, located upon the high prairie in the immediate vicinity. In early days before well defined trails had been marked out, this grove

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served as a "pilot" to persons traveling from Boonville and Old Franklin to points in the southwest. The name "Pilot Grove" came thus to be applied to the postoffice established near by, and kept by Samuel Roe, Sr.

This gentleman, now the patriarch of our community, aged ninety years, continued to fill the position of post master until the close of the war of the Rebellion. 'Twas while he was acting in this capacity, and at his residence, where the neighbors had gathered upon a bright afternoon in the spring of 1874, awaiting the arrival of the mail, that the dreaded "Bill Anderson" suddenly appeared with his guerrilla troupe, and forming the trembling citizens to line, proceeded to divest them of their personal valuables.

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

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

After the war this postoffice several times changed hands, and was once removed several miles from its ancient locality, still, however, retaining its old name.

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Upon the construction of the M. K. & T. railroad through our community, in 1873, a depot was located near the ancient site of Pilot Grove, upon the land of Samuel Roe, Sr. This gentleman's son and business agent, Mr. J. W. Roe, superintended the laying off of a town and disposal of lots, which were at once in demand. The place was christened "Pilot Grove," and from the alacrity with which tradesmen and mechanics moved in, was seen the appreciation the people had of the brief prospects of the future village. Thinking men clearly saw that Pilot Grove occupied a position which would insure to enterprising tradesmen and mechanics a permanent and profitable business.

The village is located on the M. K. & T. railroad, eleven miles southwest of Boonville, in the township of Pilot Grove, one of the best in the county. Its situation is elevated and very healthful, surrounded on every hand by a beautiful and fertile stretch of country, having an extensive prairie on the east and south, and timber on the north and west.

The timber in the immediate vicinity is young, though vigorous and of valuable varieties, such as black and white oak, walnut, hickory, elm, with a small percentage of ash, wild cherry, &c.

The farm products embrace the varieties of grains and grasses, as corn, wheat, oats, timothy, blue grass and clover, with the character of live stock, which such a combination of crops would suggest; especially large numbers of prime cattle and hogs are annually produced and marketed from this vicinity.

Good brick-clay is to be found adjacent to the town. The nearest worked mines are two coal mines; one three miles north, the other one mile south, and the Collin's lead mines eight miles north. Fine indications of lead in paying quantities are found several miles west.

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The town of Pilot Grove has at present three dry goods and grocery stores, one well appointed drug store, three blacksmith and wagon maker shops, one gunsmith shop, one tin shop, one saddler shop, one shoe shop, one millinery establishment, and one barber shop, two agricultural depots and one lumber yard; there are also two public schools near this town.

Of dwelling houses there are twenty-three, with the usual number of out buildings; one private and no public school, one church of the Methodist Episcopal South denomination, established many years ago. A Cumberland Presbyterian, a Baptist and a northern Methodist Episcopal church within convenient distance. A good flouring and saw mill one mile south.

The professional men living here are Dr. J. W. H. Ross, M. D., and Dr. Blevens, present pastor of the Methodist church. The number of inhabitants is computed at about 150; and it is believed that the books of the M. K. & T. freight office at this place, will show in the amount of freight shipped from and received at this point, more business done than at any other town in the county except Boonville. This town was surveyed in July 1873, by Surveyor W. W. Trent, of Boonville.

The town is accessible from all directions by good roads, and it is the outlet of all the produce of its surrounding territory, and also of a large district lying west and northwest which is attracted here by a good road, opened for them by the enterprise of our citizens.

Your most obedient servant,

W. G. PENDLETON

PILOT GROVE, MO., August 7th, 1876• Messrs. H. C. Levens & N. M. Drake;

Gentlemen. - The following narration of the killing during

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

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

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

These two unfortunate men were that night, barbarously butchered some miles east of here, near Lone Elm prairie,

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

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

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

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

These gentlemen are the only cases of which I can learn.

Yours very truly,

W. G. PENDLETON.

#### SALINE TOWNSHIP

Saline township was settled as early as 1812, by Joseph Jolly, who had only two children, John and William.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It must not be thought from this that that was a terribly demoralized community, for it certainly was not, but on the

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

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

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

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

Another town called "Houstonville," was laid off by B. W. Levens and John Ward at the ferry landing, opposite

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Rocheport, and some lots were sold, but not much improved. The site of the town has long since disappeared under the encroaching waters of the Missouri river.

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

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

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

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

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

This township, as well as the rest of the county, had its troubles in the late civil war. There were nine Union and three southern men killed within its borders. The southern men who were killed were, Benjamin Hill, William Henshaw and Radford Bass. These men were murdered at or near their homes, about the last of September 1864 by a scouting party of Union soldiers being a part of the command

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of Col. Hall, Missouri State militia. They were not belligerents, and the cause of their being slain is unknown.

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

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

For this information the authors are under obligations to Dr. T. H. Winterbower and David Schilb.

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## **HISTORY OF COOPER COUNTY**

### **CHAPTER XVII**

*Biographies of some of the Old Citizens, which were not placed in the History of the Township in which they lived.*

ROBERT P. CLARK, JOSEPH STEPHENS, SR., JOHN MILLER

Robert P. Clark was born in Bedford county, Virginia, in the year 1791, and whilst yet a youth, emigrated with his father and family to Clark county, Kentucky. He was there placed as an apprentice in the clerk's office, with his uncle, David Bullock, and after serving the usual time and passing the customary examination, he was appointed to the clerkship of Estill county, Kentucky. He held this position until about the year 1816, when he resigned, and with his father and other members of the family, emigrated to Howard county, Missouri, where he arrived in the year 1817. The next year he moved to the present site of Boonville.



On the first day of March 1819, he was appointed clerk of the Circuit Court of Cooper county, by Hon. David Todd, judge of said court. In May 1820, he was elected a member of the "Missouri State Convention," which framed the first constitution for the State, and which was presided over by Hon. David Barton.

He held the offices of clerk of the Circuit and County Courts, and also postmaster of Boonville, from the formation of the county until the year 1835, when he resigned the office of postmaster. During this year the clerks of the different courts having become elective, he was a candidate

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for, and was elected to the office of clerk of the Circuit Court, which office he continued to hold until his death. He also held the offices of County Treasurer and Commissioner of School Lands until the year 1832.

He was called by the old settlers, on account of his intimate knowledge of the statute laws applying to the county, and of his being general adviser in matters of this nature, -The Father of the county."

He first with his family, resided in a log cabin, containing only one room, which stood southwest of the present residence of Capt. James Thompson, and was a very unpretending round log affair. In these more refined days it would seem impossible for a family like his, with the late judge Abiel Leonard, Peyton R. Hayden, Charles French, and John S. Brickey, then constituting the bar of Boonville, as his boarders, to live in a house having only one room, but such were the necessities of the times, and every thing flourished.

He built a house on High street, on the lot where Adam Eckhard now resides, and moved there in the fall of 1820. In this house the first County Court was held, on the 8th day of January 1821. He afterwards built a large two story brick house on the corner of High and Sixth streets, now owned by Joseph and William Williams. It is still standing, and was, at the time it was built, considered a very fine and elegant structure.

Joseph Stephens, Sr., was born in Wythe County, Virginia, in 1763, and was there married to Miss Rhoda Cole, the sister of Maj. Stephen Cole, and in 1801 emigrated to Wayne county, Kentucky, where he remained until the year 1815. In the last mentioned year he moved to Tennessee, and from thence, in November 1817, to Cooper County, Missouri. The company of which he was a member

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came overland in wagons, and crossed the Mississippi river above Alton, and the Missouri river at Boonville. He settled about fourteen miles southwest of Boonville, his house being located in the bottom, one-quarter of a mile north of the present site of Bunceton, a few yards west of the railroad leading from Boonville to Tipton. He and his family lived during the first winter in a half face camp. All his children came with him except Mary Weatherford, who remained in Kentucky. He was married twice. The names of the children of his first wife were William, Peter, Lawrence C., Joseph and James Madison - five sons, and Nancy, Nelly, Mary, Johanna, Frances, Rhoda and Zilpha - seven daughters; there were also three other children who died when infants, whose names are not known. Nancy married Thomas B. Smiley; Nelly, James D. Campbell; Mary, Archibald Weatherford; Johanna, John Kelly; Rhoda, B. W. Levens, and Zilpha, Pemberton Cason.

Joseph Stephens' first wife died in 1822, and in 1824 he married Miss Catherine Dickson; this union was blessed with four sons: John D., George D., Andrew J., and Thomas H. B., and five daughters: Margaret, Alpha, Harriet, Isabella and Lee Ann, making in all twenty-four children of which he was the father.

Of the children of Joseph Stephens who emigrated to Cooper County with him, Joseph, James M., Nelly and Zilpha are still alive. Joseph Stephens was the first settler in that part of the county. At the time of his settlement, his nearest neighbor being seven miles distant. He was a very prosperous farmer, and' an excellent manager in business affairs, never went in debt, and advised his children to follow his example. He was economical and saving, and just in all his dealings with others. He was a generous, good neighbor, a man of good moral character,

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and of unquestioned veracity, and his word was considered as good as his bond or his oath.

He gave all his sons a tract of land, and his daughters a negro slave, and to each of his children he also gave a horse, saddle and bridle, a cow and calf, a sow and pigs, a flock of sheep, and a bed and bedding. He then warned them to take care of and add to this property, as it was all he ever intended to give them.

His precepts and example are not lost, but live in the hearts of his descendants and neighbors to this day.

He died in May 1836, at the age of 73 years. He was always a strong Jackson man, and took considerable interest in politics, but never would become a candidate for or accept any office.

John Miller, the father of judge George W. Miller, was born in South Carolina, and raised in McLanburg, North Carolina. When he was 20 years old, he moved to Knox County, Tennessee, where he married and resided for a few years. About the year 1805, he emigrated to Christian county, Kentucky; and in 1818, he came to Missouri, then a territory, and settled near Glasgow, in Howard County. He was elected from that county to the House of Representatives in 1822 and 1824. The other members of the Legislature from that county in 1822, were Alfred Bayse, the father of judge George W. Miller's wife, Nicholas S. Burkhart, Ignatius P. Owings, and Stephen Trigg; and in 1824, Alfred Bayse, William J. Redd, William Ward, and Edward V. Warren. He always said that he would keep out of politics if he remained in Howard County, although it might keep him poor all his life.

He moved to Cooper County in the fall of the year 1825, and settled within the present limits of Pilot Grove township. In the previous spring he had sent his son, George W., accompanied by a hand, to make a crop at his future

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home, and as young George was an industrious boy, loving work so well that he could lie down and sleep by it, of course they must have succeeded well with their undertaking.

But history will show that Mr. Miller did not keep out of politics as he had intended, when he moved from Howard county, as he was elected to the State Senate in 1828, on the Jackson ticket, and re-elected to the same office in 1832, having served in that capacity for eight years. In 1836 he was selected to carry the returns of the presidential election of this State, for that year, to Washington City. In 1838 he was again elected to the House of Representatives. He was also appointed Indian agent at Omaha by president Polk.

The father of John Miller was of Scotch-Irish decent, and came from Ireland to this country a short time before the Revolution. He was a soldier in the war of the Revolution during the whole time it continued, until he was killed in the battle of Utau Springs. He belonged to a company of cavalry, and fell by the side of his friend and comrade in arms, Mr. Johnston, the great grandfather of James H. Johnston, the present Prosecuting Attorney of Cooper county, who gave the following account of his death

"As the battle was about being closed, Mr. Miller was heard to shout, 'They are fleeing,' and at that instant he was shot from his horse.

This happened about four months before the birth of John Miller, and about one month after his birth the Tories set fire to the house in which his widowed mother resided, and burned it to the ground. As it was then winter, and the weather very cold, Mrs. Miller became sick from the exposure, and died in a few days, leaving John and his three little brothers in destitute circumstances, and without any known relatives in the United States.

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Mr. Johnston, who was with their father when he was killed, took charge of the little orphans, and, in due time, they were bound out, and raised separate from each other. John Miller survived all his brothers and died in this county at the advanced age of eighty-five years, honored and respected by his countrymen, with the consolation that the world had been bettered by his having lived in it. He was an earnest, zealous member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. In politics he was always a Democrat.

Peyton R. Hayden was born in Bourbon County, Kentucky, on the 22d day of February, 1796, and came to Old Franklin, Howard county, Missouri, in 1817, and there married in December, 1819, Miss Maria Adams, daughter of the Hon. John Adams, sister of Judge Washington, and Mr. Andrew Adams, of Boonville, and the niece of judge John Boyle, of Kentucky, and then settled with his family the same month in the village of Boonville, where he remained up to the time of his death, which took place on the 26th day of December, 1855. He was the first attorney admitted to the Boonville bar - in March 1819. He first taught school in Howard County for twelve months, for a livelihood, being a poor young man who had cast his lot among strangers in what was then almost a wilderness, and there was not then sufficient practice to support one lawyer. He practiced law in all the courts in western Missouri, and in the State Supreme Court with Hamilton R. Gamble, Edward Bates, Charles R. French, Abiel Leonard, John F. Ryland and others, who afterwards became eminent. He was a leading and successful lawyer, having accumulated considerable property. He was noted for his zeal in advocating the cause of his client, and for his great energy and untiring industry. He was a man of affable manners, kind hearted and charitable, and always took undisguised pleasure to aid by counsel and advice, the efforts of the

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young members of the bar, struggling for practice. Judge Washington Adams and Emmett R. Hayden his son, were law students under his teaching who became eminent in their profession, both of whom are yet practicing law in Boonville.

His younger son, Henry C. Hayden, studied law under judge Washington Adams, and practiced the same successfully in Calloway county, Missouri, until 1870, and then removed to Saint Louis and engaged in the practice in partnership with the Hon. John B. Henderson, until the 1st of August, 1873, when he died at Long Branch where he had gone to spend the summer with his family. Peyton R. Hayden was a Whig in politics, but never made a political speech nor was he ever an aspirant for office. He was a kind and indulgent father, a good neighbor and citizen, and died honored and respected by all who knew him. His funeral was attended and his memory honored by all the citizens.

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## **HISTORY OF COOPER COUNTY**

### **CHAPTER XVIII**

*Celebration of July Fourth, 1876, at Boonville, and Synopsis of the Exercises which took place on that Day---Poem of H. A. Hutchison, read at Boonville, July Fourth, 1876.*

SINCE the "late war," Cooper county has gradually increased in population and wealth. The bitter feelings engendered during the war are slowly dying away; and it can with truth be said, that there is no county in the United States, where life, limb and property are better protected than in Cooper county. The people are generally intelligent, moral, hospitable, kind hearted and enterprising.

Perhaps there is no better climate in the west, east of the Rocky Mountains, than this part of Central Missouri, and it is not like other parts of the west, subject to severe storms.

As this history is intended to close on the one hundredth anniversary of our National Independence, it is only necessary, in conclusion, to give a description of how THE 4TH DAY OF JULY, 1876, was celebrated by the citizens of Cooper county, and a synopsis of the exercises which took place at Boonville on that day.

The celebration at Boonville commenced on the evening of the 3rd day of July, with the firing of cannons and a grand illumination of the principal streets, and a very long torchlight procession. Main street was in a perfect blaze of light, with gas jets, candles and lanterns, and every business

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house was decorated with flags and banners having appropriate mottoes; in fact, with hardly an exception, the people participated in the grand display.

The streets were crowded with people during the whole of the evening, and it was frequently remarked, "Where did so many people come from?" A great many attended from different parts of this and surrounding counties, Howard County being especially well represented in the procession. The procession was considered a great success, even beyond the most sanguine expectations of the committee of arrangements.

It could perhaps be here remarked, that the celebration at Boonville of the "nation's birthday," was not, in proportion to its population, excelled in any respect by that of any other city or town in the United States. The property holders and occupiers seemed to strive with one another as to whose premises should make the best appearance both in the illumination and the display of flags, lanterns, &c. The citizens were very quiet, and made no boast of what they intended to do, but when the signal was given for "lighting up," they astonished every body else, and even themselves. It will not be undertaken to give an adequate description of the display on this occasion, for it would have to be seen to be appreciated.

On the evening of the 3d, the procession was formed by judge T. M. Rice, Chief Marshal, with Col. Robert McCulloch and Capt. George Meller, Assistant Marshals. In front was a large wagon, containing thirteen young ladies, who represented the thirteen original States of the Union. Then followed twelve men dressed in Continental uniform, who represented Washington, Jefferson, Lafayette, John Adams, Alexander Hamilton and others, among the most prominent men who took part in the Revolutionary struggle. Then came men bearing flags and torches, in all forming a

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procession more than one-half of a mile long. Twelve men on horseback dressed in Indian costume, rode several times pell-mell through the streets, yelling and giving the Indian warhoop. This was a ludicrous, attractive and prominent feature of the procession. Three bands of music marched at different places in the procession; the Boonville Silver Cornet, the Clark's Fork and the Pilot Grove bands. After the procession had marched and counter marched through the principal streets of the town, it halted at the Thespian hall, where the assembled multitude was

entertained by an address prepared for the occasion, and delivered by Mr. Malcolm McMillan, of Boonville; and last, as the closing exercise of this the first day of the great celebration, the crowd witnessed several of the best tableaux ever seen in Boonville, the principal characters of which were the young ladies who represented the thirteen States. It was past eleven o'clock before the exercises of the evening were concluded, and the people dispersed to seek rest, to prepare for the duties and pleasures of the following day, for the greatest efforts had been expended to make that the "crowning glory" of the celebration.

The morning of the 4th was dark and gloomy; rain fell in torrents, and the heavy boom of the "artillery of heaven," drowned that of the "feeble sons of earth." But this day had been set aside by the people for enjoyment, and early crowds of people thronged the principal thoroughfares of the town, seeking the place where the closing exercises of the celebration were to take place. At 4 o'clock in the morning all the bells in the city were rung, and thirty-eight shots were fired by the cannon, one for each of the present States of the Union..

As the morning was very disagreeable, although the rain had ceased falling about eight o'clock, the procession was not formed until about 11 o'clock, when it proceeded to

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Lilly's Grove, about one-half of a mile east of Boonville, there to listen to the reading of the Declaration of Independence, and to the speeches and addresses prepared for the occasion.

After an appropriate prayer by Rev. -- Curtis, of the Episcopal Church at Boonville, the Declaration of Independence was read by Prof. J. P. Metzger. He was followed by Col. H. A. Hutchison, who read an excellent and appropriate poem written expressly for the occasion, and which will be found in full at the close of this chapter.

Col. William Preston Johnson, of Virginia, was then introduced and delivered a most eloquent speech, which was received with loud cheers by the assembled crowd.

Then Mr. G. Reiche delivered an address in German; he was followed by Mr. John Cosgrove, who delivered the "Oration of the Day."

After this, Mr. N. M. Drake read a sketch of the history of Cooper County, which had been prepared for the occasion in accordance with the request of the Committee of Arrangements.

It was then, on motion of Major H. M. Clark, Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, unanimously resolved by the assembled multitude, that Messrs. H. C. Levens and N. M. Drake, by whom the above mentioned sketch was written, be granted further time to prepare a complete history of Cooper county, and that they be requested to have the same published in book or pamphlet form. At the close of each of the above exercises an appropriate chorus was sung, by a choir composed of 100 voices; also frequently during the afternoon, the dull boom of the cannon was heard, seemingly to remind the forgetful of our citizens that that was indeed the "Centennial Fourth."

On the night of the 4th, the citizens were called together to witness the display of fireworks, which had been prepared

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at great expense. And it is not exaggeration to say, that this was the finest display which has ever taken place in Central Missouri. At ten o'clock the last "bouquet of flowers" was fired into the air, and the heavy boom of the cannon notified the assembled multitude that the great celebration of the 4th day of July was over, and the people retired to their homes satisfied with the success of their endeavors to make memorable, the birthday of three millions of "Sons of Liberty."

At the request of many of the citizens of this county, the poem which was composed by Col. H. A. Hutchison, of Boonville, and read by him at the celebration on the 4th day of July, 1876, is here appended in full.

JULY FOURTH, 1876

BY H. D. Hutchison

THE goddess of liberty, sent from above,  
On mission of mercy, on errand of love,  
Rejected of empire, discarded by throne, T  
Through kingdoms and monarchies wandered alone,  
Till taking her flight to a land o'er the sea,  
She found there a people who sighed to be free.

She breathed on the hearts of our patriot sires,  
And kindled within them those burning desires  
Which ne'er would be quenched or would slumber again,  
Until the fair goddess triumphant would reign.  
Sustaining the weak and inflaming the cold  
She strengthened the doubtful and cheered on the bold,  
And giving our banner the stripe and the star,  
She bade them go forth in her service to war!

The mother and sister, and fond hearted wife,  
Restrained not their dear one from joining the strife;  
The maiden surpressing a sorrowful sigh,  
Her lover sent forth with a "cheerful good bye,"  
And though they were few and their enemies strong,  
Yet striking for freedom, and maddened by wrong,

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They struggled and suffered thro' dark weary years  
Of want and privation, of hopes and of fears,  
Till tyranny fled and oppression was past,  
And victory perched on our banner at last.

That banner unfurled to the sun and the breeze,  
As proudly it floats o'er the land and the seas,  
The beautiful emblem of freedom and right,  
Today we will hail with a shout of delight!  
And let the grim cannon be brought forth once more  
Not death from its red mouth in anger to pour,  
But only to blend the deep tones of its voice  
With shouts of the people who meet to rejoice  
O'er this the return of the glorious day,  
On which, just a century now passed away,  
Our patriot fathers proclaimed them prepared  
To die, or sustain Independence declared!

From England and Scotia and Erin so fair,  
From Germany's shore, from the Alps bold and bare,  
From sunny Italia and beautiful France,  
From Spain whose fair daughters win hearts with a glance,

From regions of snow and from tropical isle,  
Where summer time reigns with perpetual smile,  
Our country's adopted, from all o'er the earth,  
To-day will rejoice with her children by birth;  
And though they oft dream of the fatherland yet,  
Sometimes it may be with a sigh of regret,  
Beneath our proud flag to the breezes unfurled,  
They'd stand by our country against the whole world!  
Tho' memory brings up, in dreadful review,  
The armies of gray and the legions of blue,  
The heroes who once met in hostile array,  
Will mingle together as brothers to-day ;  
And if the invader should come to oar shore,  
I know they would rush to the battle once more,  
Each veteran's heart to our whole country true,  
Though one wore the gray and another the blue!

Vow let the wild tones of the jubilant bells,  
Be mingled with music, as sweetly it swells!  
And may the soft winds, as they wander afar,  
Breathe gently to-day, on each stripe sad each star,

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And bear the glad tidings all over our lands,  
There's union of HEARTS, there is joining of hands,  
In north and in south, in the weal and the east.  
Where gather the people, at church or at feast,  
On liberty's altar their garlands to cast,  
And cover with roses the thorns of the past.

May heaven protect, as in days that are gone,  
The old ship of state riding gallantly on,  
And be we united, whatever befall -  
OUR COUNTRY! OUR COUNTRY! the watchword of all.

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## **HISTORY OF COOPER COUNTY**

### **CHAPTER XIX**

#### **PRESENT CONDITION OF COOPER COUNTY**

*Present Boundaries of Cooper County.-Population of the County at Each Census.-Character of the Soil.-Chief Finds of Wood, Grain, &c., Produced.-Woodlands Settled First.-Present Condition of the Schools and Churches of the County.-Men Hung in County, &c., &c.*

COOPER COUNTY as it now exists, is bounded as follows On the north by the Missouri river, on the east by Moniteau county; on the south by Moniteau and Morgan counties, and on the west by Pettis and Saline counties, and contains 567 square miles, or 355,172 acres of land.

Since its first settlement it has increased very rapidly in population and wealth. Although during the first few years after the Coles arrived, they lived here almost alone, their only neighbors being the Indians, on the south side of the Missouri river, and the Whites, in what is now Howard County. Yet about the close of the war of 1812, settlers commenced arriving very fast, for by this

time, reports of the rich and almost unsettled country lying south of the Missouri river, had reached the thickly settled portions of the United States, in the north and east. The flattering reports of the fertility of the soil and the healthfulness of the climate, caused many persons to leave a home where they were from year to year, barely obtaining the necessities of life, and seek a country which promised abundant harvest with little labor.

The population of Cooper county in 1820 was 6,959; in 1830 was 6,904; in 1840 was 10,484; in 1850 was 12,950; in 1860 was

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17,356 and in 1870 was 20,692. In taking the census of 1870, twelve square miles of the county were omitted by mistake, so that, had the census for that year been taken correctly, the inhabitants of the county would have been found to number at least 23,000. It contains by estimation on the 4th day of July 1876, 25,006 inhabitants.

The reason of the seemingly small increase of population, between the dates of taking the census for the first few times, is explained by the fact that every year or two some new county was cut off from Cooper, thus taking away some part of her territory and population. So that, in fact, from the time of the taking of one census to that of another, the increase must have been very great, as notwithstanding the fact, that large portions of the county were detached from it, each census shows an increase in population over the preceding one.

Some of the main advantages which Cooper county holds out to the persons seeking homes, are the excellence of its educational institutions, the fertility of its soil, the healthfulness of its climate, the splendid facilities which it offers for the erection of manufactories, and the fact, that being crossed by three railroads through its central portion, and skirted on the north by the Missouri river, the products of the county can be placed upon the markets with small cost to the producer.

The soil of most parts of the county is well adapted to the cultivation of almost every kind of grain, as also tobacco and everything of that kind which any country with this climate could produce. Of all the counties of Missouri, and Missouri is noted for having as rich soil as can be found anywhere, Cooper stands in the front rank as to quality and quantity of grain, &c., raised, as also for having the greatest amount of soil adapted to cultivation, for there is hardly any part of its soil but what can be cultivated with advantage.

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The face of the country is divided between prairie and woodland, about one-half prairie, balance woodland. The southern portion of the county is mostly prairie, and as it nears the Missouri river, the country gradually rises into heavily wooded hills.

The western portion of the county is drained by the Lamine and Blackwater rivers; the central portion by the Petite Saline creek and its numerous tributaries, and the southeastern part by the Moniteau creek. There are many mineral and fresh water springs in the county. Among the former, the most noted are the Choteau Springs, situated about ten miles west of Boonville. Although there are no improvements there, yet they are resorted to by many persons, for the water of these springs are noted for their fine medicinal qualities.

The chief kinds, of wood which grow in Cooper county, are walnut, hickory, oak of all kinds, ash, cottonwood, redbud, and many others.

The soil of the county is generally very fertile, being well adapted to agricultural pursuits. Nearly every species of grain can be raised here with profit, as has been abundantly proven in the past.



The bottom lands are well adapted to the cultivation of corn and hemp; the uplands to the cultivation of corn, wheat, oats, rye, &c. Peaches, apples, and all kinds of small fruits grow in the greatest abundance. Grapes are cultivated extensively, especially around Boonville, and a great deal of excellent wine is manufactured here every year. It is estimated that at least three-fourths of Cooper county is under cultivation.

Coal is found in the county in the greatest abundance. Also lead and iron, which appear in heavy deposits in the northwestern portion.

The wealth of the county, as appears from the census of 1870, was about \$10,000,000.

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There are three railroads running through the county; one a branch road, called the Osage Valley and Southern Kansas railroad, connecting Boonville with the Pacific Railroad at Tipton; the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railroad, running diagonally across the county from Boonville to the Pettis county line; and on the south, the Pacific railroad runs about six miles through the county, making in all, fifty-four miles of railroad within the limits of Cooper county.

The exports of the county are corn, wheat, oats, flour, tobacco, stoneware, wine and woolen goods, which are produced here in the greatest abundance.

From 1820 to 1830 the population of the county increased very rapidly, consisting mostly of settlers from Kentucky and Tennessee, also from Pennsylvania and New York; from 1830 to 1840, mostly from Virginia and North Carolina; since which time the emigration has mainly come from the eastern and northeastern states. From the time of the first settlement until 1830, the cultivated lands were confined exclusively to the timbered parts of the county, the settlers not deeming prairie lands fit for cultivation. Another reason for not settling the prairie was on account of the lack of water, it then being considered necessary to settle by the side of a spring cisterns, ponds, and even wells not having been much used. When the people commenced making ponds and cisterns, the prairies settled very rapidly, thus proving that they were better civiliziers than even steamboats or railroads.

Education in Cooper county is now in a very flourishing condition, there being in the county about 102 schools, 90 white, and 12 colored, which are taught from four to ten months in every year. Education is more generally diffused among the masses, and receives more attention in this county than in most any county in the State.

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The churches throughout the county are very numerous, have their pulpits filled with able ministers, and are well attended by the greatest part of its citizens. The prevailing denominations are the Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Christians and Episcopalians.

There have only been two men hung in Cooper county by a due process of law, which speaks well for her good morals. They were both negroes; one named Luke, and the other Jack. Luke was hung in 1826, at Boonville, for killing his master, named Harris, who lived in what is now Lamine township; Jack was hung about the year 1830, for killing a man named Gabriel, who kept a distillery on Haw Creek, about six miles from Florence, which is now Morgan county, but was then in Cooper county

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