

The Central Missouri Republican

Thursday, June 1, 1916

A CENTURY AGO

In the early spring of 1810, Colonel Benjamin Cooper and several others returned to the Boone's Lick Country"-the salt spring country of Central Missouri-from Loutre Island. All of the party save Hannah Cole and Stephen Cole settled on the south side of the river in what is now Howard County, at the site of Old Franklin. But Hannah and Stephen Cole settled on the north side and named their settlement Boonville, in honor of Daniel Boone, the greatest frontiersman of his day.

Stephen Cole settled on the old Stephens property about a half a mile east of Boonville about opposite the Training School and Hannah Cole on the big bluff that overlooks the river near where the Lohse lime kiln now stands. Hannah Cole is said to have chosen this spot for a home because of the beauty of the view, which the bluffs at this side of the river afford of the level stretch of fertile bottom land in Howard County.

Daniel Boone is reported to have been as far up the river as Boonville, but Samuel Cole denied this, saying that in 1807, Nathan and Daniel M. Boone, sons of the great pioneer, who came to the salt licks in Howard County, were the first white men to use them.

The first settler in the limits of Old Boonville was Gillard Roup, who built a residence on what is now Spring street, and which was afterwards owned by Captain James Thomson, the father of Mrs. W. Speed Stephens. Roup's Branch flows into the Missouri near the Missouri River Sand & Gravel Company's works.

A. Robidoux, an Indian trader from St. Louis, was the next settler. He was followed by a man by the name of Nolin who opened a trading store at the mouth of Roup's Branch. His stock consisted largely of whiskey and tobacco.

The town was laid out by Charles Lucas and Asa Morgan and the surveying was done by William Ross. The plat was filed in August 1817 and the first lots sold in 1819. Morgan and Lucas donated 50 acres to the county in consideration of the fact that the county seat be located upon it. Asa Morgan's house still stands on Morgan street, east of the Central National Bank.

Samuel Cole, the son of Mrs. Hannah Cole, died near Bell Air not many years ago. He was quite a sportsman in his day. He hunted with the Indians of this neighborhood and was quite a favorite with Blackhawk, who at this time was one of the leading young warriors of the Sioux tribe, and who afterwards became a noted chief.