

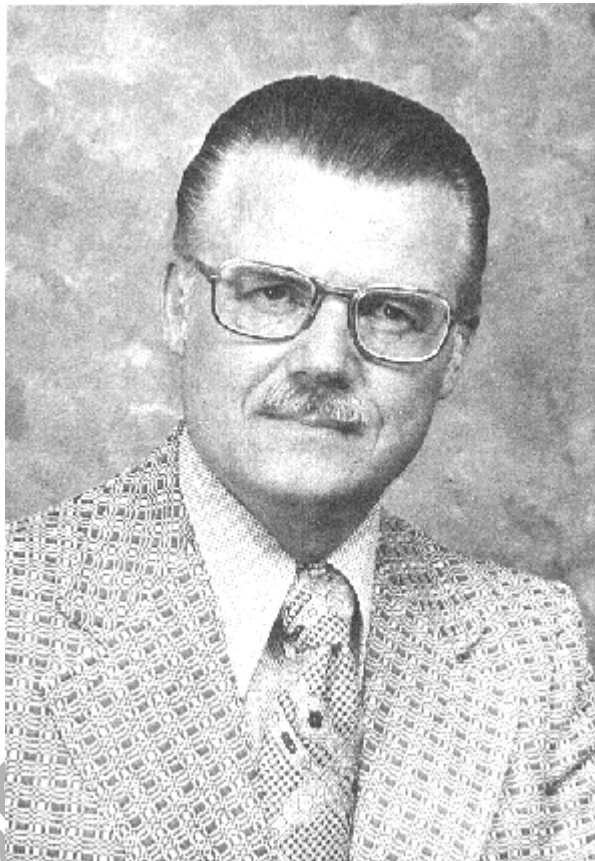
History of New Lebanon Cooper County Missouri

By
Eugene Allen Cordry

This is the preface to the "History of New Lebanon Cooper County Missouri" (page 13-14) that was published by Eugene Allen Cordry as a bicentennial treat in 1976. In it, he declares his purpose, methodology and technique. We, who research Cooper County genealogy, salute you, Mr. Cordry.

-Gary Harvey

We also wish to thank Gary Harvey who endless dedication and work led to make this historical information available to you. It may be the tasks of some to record history as it as happened; and this was the task of Mr. Cordry. Likewise, it is the tasks of others to disseminate history; and this was the task of Mr. Harvey.



EUGENE ALLEN CORDRY

ABBREVIATIONS AND REFERENCES

Abbreviations used in this book are:

b = born	bur = buried	c = circa (about)
cem.= Cemetery	ch: = children	CP = Cumberland Presbyterian
d=died	dis-dismissed	m=married
q.v.=which see	r=resides or resided	ret=returned

Publications referred to are:

- HCLD = History of Cooper County, Missouri by Henry C. Levens and Nathaniel M. Drake, 1876
HHCC = History of Howard and Cooper Counties, Missouri by National Historical Company, 1883.
HCCJ = History of Cooper County Missouri by W. F. Johnson, 1919.
HEJM = History of Cooper County Missouri by E. J. Melton, 1937.
DVKM = Descendants of Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri Pioneers by Eugene Allen Cordry, 1973.
HCPC = History of The Cumberland Presbyterian Church by B. W. McDonold, 1888.
LTFE = The Life and Times of Rev. Finis Ewing by F.R. Crossit, 1853.
Judge Ewing = Aunt Peggy: Being a Memoir of Mrs. Margaret Davidson Ewing, Wife of the Late Rev. Finis Ewing by One of her Sons, 1876. (Reprinted by VKM Publishing Co., 1975.)

Judge Ewing = Historical Memoirs: A Brief History of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Missouri by Judge R. C. Ewing, 1874.
1877 = Illustrated Atlas Map of Cooper County Missouri, 1877. (Reprinted on reduced format by VKM Publishing Co., 1975.)
1897 = Illustrated Historical Atlas of Cooper County, Missouri, 1897.
1915 = Standard Atlas of Cooper County Missouri, 1915.

History of New Lebanon Cooper County Missouri

Preface

Frankly I never expected to be writing another preface. After putting the finishing touches to Descendants of Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri Pioneers about three years ago, I fully intended to hang up my "bookmaking" shoes; it was too much work. And so Why are you reading this? I can only say that my long time, one might even say life time, interest in the history of the people of Cooper County Missouri conquered my reluctance to put forth the effort to preserve yet a bit more of their fast disappearing heritage.

That New Lebanon, in particular, deserved to have its history recorded had been apparent to me for many years. Not only was it among the earliest settlements in the state but, as the site of the first seminary west of the Mississippi River, its influence was widespread. New Lebanon was also the site of the second post office in Cooper County at the time that the county included within its boundaries many other counties. Many persons (and/or their children) associated with the early history of New Lebanon moved on to found new communities and settle new land. These people were truly of pioneer stock. Their forefathers were in the vanguard of those who pioneered in Kentucky and Tennessee. And they or their descendants remained at the forefront of those who continued 'westering'.

One cannot delve into the history of an area without sooner or later recognizing the inherent importance of cemeteries as a source of basic information. I had been copying various cemeteries in Cooper County (and elsewhere) for a long time and hence was delighted when an organization was formed to undertake a more formal attempt to record burials in the county. This small group of dedicated workers was incorporated as the Cooper County Historical Cemetery Association in 1967 and it was my pleasure to have served them as president in 1971-72. Without their enthusiasm I might not have gathered the verve to begin this present work. In any event it was at the February 28, 1974 meeting of the Association that I suggested that the Association undertake some project in honor of the Bicentennial Celebration and further that this project might well be a history of New Lebanon. This was approved and I was made chairman of the project. Within a couple months, however, it became apparent that what I thought was desirable to include and elaborate upon in this history was beyond the manpower and financial capabilities of the Association. Hence it was that at the April 1974 meeting this history became my sole responsibility in all respects. However, the Association has continued to give their moral support to this endeavor for which I am grateful. In particular, I should mention William Roy Mitzel, chairman of the board of directors of the Association, whose interest in this project never flagged.

Initially, of course, I had a great deal of historical information pertinent to New Lebanon already in my files. Nevertheless I pursued and found what became a 'mound' of data; so much in fact that, very reluctantly, I had of necessity to exclude some significant information. Even so, the casual reader may find herein more than he really wants to know about the history of New Lebanon.

Any history is a selection of facts. The historian then takes the data he has selected, and organizes them according to his purpose. My prime purpose has been to preserve and to disseminate and, secondarily, to analyze or interpret. Following through on what I viewed as my major mandate, I have devoted much space to verbatim copies of many of the one-of-a-kind original records which I had at my disposal. I did not wish to solely preserve herein well masticated "facts" which left the reader as baffled as to what actually occurred as the modern day TV viewer is as to what the Prime Minister really said after his words have been digested and regurgitated by some commentator. Be that as it may, you will find on these pages large amounts of original data which individually, and in sum, offer a valid glimpse at life in New Lebanon throughout the last 160 years. I realize that such a presentation does not read as easily as a smooth flowing narrative; indeed, some might prefer to call this work a "source book" rather than a history. If so, so be it.

You will find that this history does not strictly confine itself to New Lebanon alone. Facets of the history of other parts of Cooper County, as well as other counties are recorded. Such miscellany derives from the fact that I have chosen to touch upon the early affairs of the McGee Presbytery and of the New Lebanon Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church whose influence was widespread, and because I have followed the lives of some New Lebanon pioneers and their families to their conclusion in other geographic locations. This history is generally arranged into four sections, each in more or less chronological order: the church, the school, the community, and the cemetery.

History of New Lebanon Cooper County Missouri



EARLY SETTLEMENT OF SOUTHWESTERN COOPER COUNTY

New Lebanon is located a little south of the center of southwestern four townships and ranges of Cooper County, Missouri. This area encompasses some 156 square miles and is essentially bordered on the north by Pilot Grove, on the east by Bunceton, on the south by Otterville, and on the west by Clifton City. New Lebanon lies well up on the ridge which separates the drainage area of the Lamine River to the west from that of the Petite Saline Creek to the east. The area has an interesting geologic and anthropologic history, none of which shall be considered here. It must suffice to say this ground was once the hunting terrain of the Indians and wildlife abounded.

As a consequence of the historic 1803 treaty with France, the youthful United States gained control over an indeed rich domain; although its wealth was to be a potential, rather than an immediate, harvest. Above all, the land itself was to prove the most valuable part of the purchase. But to reap the riches, people were required. In 1803 the Kentucky-Tennessee frontier settlements were a scant twenty years old; and little was known of the territory west of the Mississippi River. Within the succeeding decade, however, the first settlers had begun to follow the explorers, traders, trappers, and salt-gatherers into what is now central Missouri.

The War of 1812 interrupted the flow of pioneers since the Indians aligned themselves with the British and terrorized the fledgling farmers on this fringe of civilization. After the war ended the flood of would-be settlers made it appear that the whole of Kentucky had been afflicted with some

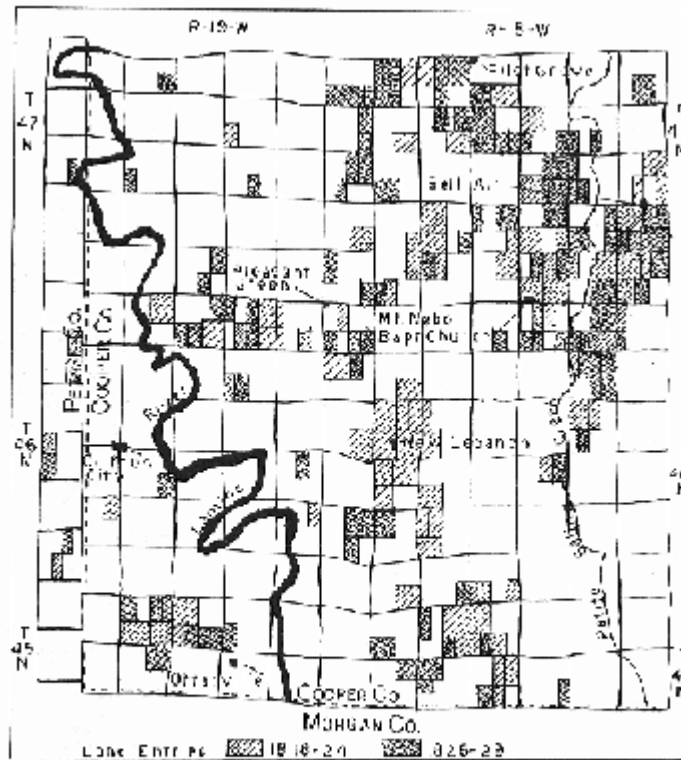
lemming-like disease and was moving willy-nilly into the uncharted 'waters' of the west. Of course there was nothing unwilling about this movement; to the contrary, the inducement was overwhelming: a chance to duplicate what they or their fathers had done previously: Enter cheap land and watch its value grow with the passage of time.

Cooper County, effectively organized out of Howard County on February 1, 1819] was originally bounded on the north by the Missouri River, on the south and east by the Osage River, and on the west by what was then the territorial line (one tier of counties further east than the present Missouri-Kansas line). By 1833 Cooper County had assumed its present boundaries. After various other counties had been formed from its original territories. Settlers had moved early into what now constitutes the limits of Cooper County; and, in 1818, into the area being considered by this history, i.e. the above mentioned 156 square miles.

Land entries were first filed in this southwestern quarter of the county in 1818. The adjoining map (page 18) depicts the overall status of land ownership for two periods: 1818-1824 and 1825-1829. Readily apparent is the fact that topography was the most significant factor influencing the location of entries. The pioneers stayed out of the lowlands. And for good reasons: the river bottoms were thickly covered with brush and timber; were subject to flooding; and were unhealthy (mosquitoes equaled "chills and fever" although they didn't actually connect the two until later). There were virtually no early entries in the Lamine River bottom and even by 1830 the great majority of the much smaller Petite Saline Creek bottom was still vacant. Exceptions to this generalization occurred where an entry was made with the intention of setting up a mill to be powered by water.

The names of the earliest land owners in southwestern Cooper County warrant being set down as a group. Many of those listed on the adjoining chart will be mentioned in greater detail elsewhere. One point should be kept in mind while reading this list: the fact that a man owned land here does not necessarily mean that he lived on that land. In most instances he did so but not always. Sometimes he might physically settle several years after he had made the entry. It should also be noted that much of the land taken up in the period 1825-29 was acquired by persons (or their children) already there who were increasing their holdings. In other words, relatively few new additions were made to the population of the area by way of more immigrants in that five year time span.

LAND ENTRY MAP FOR SOUTHWESTERN COOPER COUNTY



AN HISTORICAL MAP OF THE TERRITORIES OF MISSOURI
 This map depicts the settlement of the land in southwestern Cooper County, Missouri, for two successive periods: 1818-24 and 1825-29. Persons with an asterisk (*) after their name are also listed in the 1830 Census For Cooper County.

This map depicts the settlement of the land in southwestern Cooper County for two successive periods: 1818-24 and 1825-29. In general, the early settlers stayed out of the river and creek bottoms.

LIST OF PERSONS FILING LAND ENTRIES IN SOUTHWESTERN COOPER COUNTY IN THE INTERVALS 1818-24 and 1825-29

Persons with an asterisk (*) after their name are also listed in the 1830 Census For Cooper County

Persons Filing Entries In The Interval 1818-1824

- James Berry*
- Andrew Briscoe*
- William Bryant*
- Laird Burns*
- Shadrach Casteel*
- John Chilcoat*
- Hannah Cole*
- Holbert Cole*
- Mark Cole
- Samuel Cole*
- Thomas Collins*
- William J. Collins*
- Henry Corum*
- John Corum
- John Dunlop
- Michael Dunn*
- Isaac Ellis*
- Robert Ellison (Allison)*
- Finis Ewing*
- Reuben A. Ewing*
- Urban Ewing

Samuel Forbes*
Meredith Helm
Jacob Houx*
James S. Hutchison*
John Jones
Robert Kirkpatrick*
William C. Lowrey*
James Mahan*
Edmund Manion
John McCutcheon*
William McCutcheon
James McFarland, Sr.*
William B. McFarland*
John Miller*
Samuel Miller*
William A. Miller*
William Moore*
Robert Morrow
W. Nolan
Jordan O. Bryan
Benjamin Randall
Thomas Ruby*
Alexander Sloan*
William Sloan
Henry Small*
Thomas Smiley*
Daniel Smith*
Joseph Smith*
Thomas B. Smith
Robert Steele
Joseph Stephens*
James Taylor, Sr.*
Anthony S. Walker
Andrew Wallace*
Josiah Wallace*
Hugh Wear*
James L. Wear*
John Wear*
James H. Wear*
Samuel Weir*
B.C. Wells
James G. Wilkerson*
Henry Woolery*

Persons Filing Entries In The Interval 1825-1829
(Without Duplicating Any Of The Above Names)

Jonathan Barker*
Jesse C. Berkley
Charles R. Berry*
Azariah Bone*
John Briscoe*
William Briscoe*
Willis Brockman
Alexander Brown*
Peter B. Cockrell*
H. Conn
John Cordry*
Hely Corum*
Richard Cummings*
James Davis*
Stephen Dial

John Ellis*
 Willis P. Ellis*
 Carroll George*
 Samuel Gilbert*
 Stephen K. Hancock
 John Houx*
 Rice Hughes
 Samuel Hughes, Jr.*
 Nathaniel Leonard, Jr.*
 Isaac Masten (Martin)*
 James C. McCutcheon*
 John G. Mellon
 Absalom Meredith
 Thomas Moseley
 Mann Page
 William Reed*
 Samuel Roe*
 Henry Ruby*
 James Smiley
 James D. Smith*
 William Steele*
 Jacob B. Stephens, Jr.*
 William Stone*
 Jacob Thomas*
 H. B. Walker
 Henry R. Walker*
 Samuel Walker*
 Winston Walker*
 George Wear*
 Benjamin Weeden, Jr.*
 Joseph Woolery*
 Stephen Woolery*

To augment and substantiate the data derived from the land records, the 1830 census for Cooper County was compared against the list of original land owners. The names with an asterisk (*) beside them are those which also appear on the 1830 census. Those without an asterisk had, before 1830, either died (such as Urben Ewing and Meredith Helm), or moved away (such as Robert Morrow and Edmund Manion), or were living in another household (only heads of households were listed in the 1830 census), or perhaps never actually took up residence in the county. According to the land records, the earliest entries were made by Anthony Smith Walker (in sec. 3, T-46-N R-19-W) and John McCutcheon (in sec. 5, T-47-N R-18-W). (For details of all these land entries, see DVKM.) By analyzing this list of settlers, two factors become readily apparent: the pioneers moved as extended-family groups; or as religious groups. Of course, these factors may be viewed as one, rather than two, as, in the main, members of the same family were likely to have the same religious convictions. Generally speaking, southwestern Cooper County was settled by Baptists and Cumberland Presbyterians with a sprinkling of Methodists. The two earliest churches were: the New Lebanon Cumberland Presbyterian Church; and the Mt. Nebo Baptist Church (now located in the southwestern corner of sec. 27, T-47-N R-18-W or about three miles northeast of New Lebanon). Both of these churches were organized in 1820. There is no record of a comparably early Methodist church; however, we do find that Shadrach Casteel, an itinerant Methodist preacher, entered land about three miles southeast of New Lebanon in 1822, and that Azariah Bone, another Methodist preacher, filed on land just west of present-day Pilot Grove in 1826-27, indications of the Methodist presence. (Azariah Bone appears in the 1830 Cooper Co. Mo. census, in the 1840 Pettis Co. Mo. census, and in the 1850 Fannin Co. Tex. census). A Methodist church was organized at Pleasant Green, about three miles northwest of New Lebanon in 1825. Charter members included Winston Walker (who entered 80 acres in sec. 34, T-47-N R-19-W) and his son Samuel Walker (who entered 80 acres in sec. 36, of the same township; Samuel Walker later made additional entries totaling 120 acres, see DVKM). Samuel Forbes and Peter B. Cockrell were two other charter members of the Pleasant Green Methodist Church who entered land in that area in the 1820s (see DVKM).

The genealogical investigation of these early settlers adds substance to their skeletal appearance as a name on a page and many relationships will be given henceforth. But as an example of what is meant, consider this list: Alexander Sloan, Jr., Samuel Miller, Robert Sloan, James Deane McCutcheon, James C. Burney, William Sloan, Benjamin Cooper, William C. Reed, and William Bryant. Now assuming that you knew nothing else, they immediately jump into better focus when the fact has been ascertained that they all were either brothers or brothers-in-law.

With this brief outline of the early settlement of southwestern Cooper County, we will now turn to the history of New Lebanon. But because events in New Lebanon affected other areas and because the records concerning New Lebanon include data on people and happenings elsewhere, considerable historical information extraneous to that of the village itself will be found below. Also it should be noted that "New Lebanon" has been known by four different names: Green Grove (1820); Ewingsville (1821-18457); Fair Point (18457-18807); and New Lebanon (18807-1976); however, in this history, the name New Lebanon is applied throughout.

www.mogenweb.org/cooper