

## Atlas Plat Map, 1878

### History Of Shelby County, Missouri

Soon after the purchase of Louisiana from the French by the United States, which occurred in 1803, the county of St. Charles was organized, embracing within its boundaries all the country between the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, and extending northward indefinitely. So that we observe that was at one time a component part of perhaps the largest county ever organized in this country. This vast territorial county boundary was first lessened by the organization of Howard in 1816, and then in 1818 its limits were further diminished by the organization of Lincoln, Pike, and Montgomery Counties, leaving Shelby within the limits of Pike. In 1820 Pike was reduced to its present limits by the organization of Ralls, still leaving the territory afterward made into Shelby, within the borders of the new county, and it so remained, so far as we are able to learn, until in 1835, when it was organized into a separate county.

We know that some of our respected old citizens hold to the belief that Shelby was once a part of Marion, but this view, however, cannot be a correct one, for in 1820 Marion County was taken from Ralls by legislative act, and its boundary lines fixed. The western boundary of Marion was fixed where it remains today, on the range line between Ranges 8 and 9, and in 1831 Monroe County was organized from Ralls, with its northern boundary line fixed within two miles of where it remains today, still leaving all the territory between Monroe, Marion, and the Iowa line unorganized; so we conclude that Shelby was until its organization as a distinct and separate county, a part of Ralls. Under the old territorial organization, citizens of unorganized territory may have been required to pay taxes at the nearest county seat; of this we cannot speak authoritatively, because the records and books at our command furnish us no certain information on this subject.

In the early organization of this State into counties, the object of the legislature seems to have been to make as many counties as the population of the territory would permit. And this may have been the reason for restricting Marion to its present limits. Be this as it may, however, we cannot agree that Shelby was ever a part of Marion after the organization of Marion into a county.

Many of the early settlers of Shelby stopped in Marion, and rested from their westward march, before pressing on to the wide prairie then embraced in the territorial domain, some for a greater and some for a less period of time. Major Obadiah Dickerson was perhaps the first permanent settler in the territory afterwards organized into Shelby County. In 1830 he settled on Salt River on the farm now owned by James Foley, coming from Palmyra in Marion County, which village he founded some ten years before. He was originally from Kentucky, and came to Missouri in about 1816 or 1817, landing at Louisiana in Pike County, where he assisted in the organization of this now populous and wealthy county, and in the founding of what is now the flourishing city of Louisiana. The first Circuit Court ever held in Pike was at the house of this old pioneer in April, 1819.

In the city of Louisiana, Major Dickerson lost his wife, and being moved by that laudable ambition that led so many others to follow the sun as it journeyed to the west, in 1820 he came to the spot where Palmyra, in Marion County, now stands. Here, he and Samuel K. Caldwell bought lands and laid out and founded this now flourishing city of Palmyra.

He was once post-master at Palmyra and we have an old legend handed down, to this effect, that when the Major went from home on a hunting or fishing excursion, (of both which he was very fond,) he took the office in his hat, and in his travels would deliver the mail at the cabins and tents of his neighbor's thus making the post office at Palmyra what it never has since been, a general distributing office.

Here he resided until the spring of 1830, when he removed to the place above named on Salt River, and was a member of the Missouri Legislature in 1835 when Shelby County was organized.

In the act organizing the County, Joseph Hardy, of Ralls; A. Lay, of Lewis; and Elias Kincheloe, of Marion County, were appointed to select and locate the County Seat. This duty these commissioners soon performed, and fixed the capitol of the County where it yet remains, on parts of Sections 20 and 29, Township 58, Range 10, for which services they each received twelve dollars. The site for the County Seat was donated by Major Dickerson, A. Vandiver, Samuel J. Parker, and Lewis H. Gillaspay, and is within one and a half miles of the geographical centre of the County.

The town was at once laid off into blocks, lots, streets, and alleys, and a sale of town lots took place March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1836.

In 1835, Daniel Dunkin, who was then Governor of Missouri, appointed as Justices of the County Court James Foley, Thomas Clemmons, and Dr. A. E. Wood. He also appointed Thomas J. Bounds Clerk and John M. Milton Sheriff, who failed to qualify by giving bond, and Robert Duncan was afterwards appointed, all of who have long since passed away, leaving a respectable lineage to enjoy the fruit of the good seed sown by a noble ancestry. Dr. A. E. Wood was the brother of Fernando and Benjamin Wood, of New York, and was the recipient of a visit in these early times, from his brother "Ben," who was so disgusted with the flies, (green-heads) and ticks, that he soon returned home satisfied with frontier life.

The first term of the County Court was held at the house of Wm. B. Broughton, at Oak Dale, where Mr. Broughton in the winter of 1833 and 1834 had opened a stock of goods, and the Post Office Department had also established here a Post Office, with Mr. Broughton as master. Up to the establishment of this office at Oak Dale, the citizens of this district were compelled to go to Palmyra for all mail matter, a distance of twenty-five to thirty miles.

The first business this county transacted was to appoint Wm. B. Broughton Treasurer of the County, and Russell W. Moss, Assessor, and at its first session divided the county into two municipal townships, calling one North River, and the other Black Creek.

### **Pioneers**

Among the earliest settlers of Shelby County in territorial times and before its organization as a county we mention the following: Lewis H. Gillaspay, Nicholas Watkins, Julius C. Gatriel, John McAfee, Wm. J. Holliday, Russell W. Moss, and Charles Christian, who still live, and have well nigh served out their "three-score and ten," and James Y. Anderson, James Blackford, Henry Saunders, C. A. Saunders, Samuel Buckner, George Eaton, Thomas Holman, Levi Dyer, Wm. B. Broughton, Anthony Blackford, Isaac Blackford, Hill Shaw, Henry Musgrove, Henry B. Musgrove, John Eaton, Angus McDonald Holliday, George Parker, A. Vandiver, Robert Duncan, Thomas Clemmons, Thomas J. Bounds, Samuel Bell, Elijah Pepper, James Swartz, George Anderson, Major Obadiah Dickerson, James Foley, Peter Roff, Elisha K. Eaton, Robert Joiner, William Moore, John Ralls, Bryant Cochran, Peter Stice, Peter Looney, Oliver J. Latimer, Josiah Abbott, George W. Gentry, John Sparrow, Samuel S. Matson, Dr. A. E. Wood, Alex Gillaspay, and Ezekiel Kennedy, all of whom have gone "to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns."

And among those soon added to the above list, who have passed "through the valley and shadow of death," we name Wm. H. Davidson, John W. Long, John G. Gillis, James L. Peak, Stephen Miller, Joseph L. West, Samuel M. Hewitt, Joseph Ennis, Abraham Matlock, William S. Chinn, James B. Marmaduke, A. B. Glasscock, Thomas O. Eskridge, Dr. James Riggs, Alex Buford, John Jacobs, John Dunn, Elijah Pollard, Josiah Bethards, Henry Louthan, Perry B. Moore, and Hiram Rookwood.

Some of those who took their abode in the county in about 1835, 1836, and 1837 are yet living in the county are: William Conner, William Gooch, Gilbert H. Edmonds, Elias Kincheloe, John J. Foster, Samuel B. Hardy, S. W. Miller, Charles N. Holliman, Addison Lair, Robert Lair, Kemp M. Glasscock, Benjamin F. Foreman, Sylvanus J. Bragg, James R. Barr, Lacy Morris, and Joseph Moss.

The current expenses of local government in these early times amounted to nothing, as compared with the present. County expenditures in 1835 and 1836 were not much in excess of five

hundred dollars. In February, and on the 4<sup>th</sup> day thereof, 1837, the County Court made an order appropriating four thousand dollars to build a court house, which was erected by Charles Smith and Wait Barton, and now stands in the centre of the Public Square in Shelbyville, as a relic of the past, appealing with the reverberations of nearly half a century to the pride of our people to keep step with the progress of the age and erect another.

Our early officers made short work of official business, if we judge from the brevity of the records. The order appropriating this money to erect a court house does not take more space on the records than an order now opening court occupies.

If the court now makes an order appropriating one hundred dollars to build a bridge across some ravine, and will take the pains to get some lawyer to write it up for the clerk, he can string out a sufficient number of "whereases" and "aforesaid" to spread over forty pages of record that is not less than fourteen by twenty inches. The first term of Circuit Court was held at the house of W. B. Broughton, at Oak Dale, commencing on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1835, with Priestly H. McBride presiding. A grand jury was empaneled, sworn, charged, and discharged. The names of the first grand jury were as follows: William Moore, George Parker, George W. Gentry, William S. Chinn, Peter Stice, Bryant Cochrum, Joseph L. West, Elisha K. Eaton, Silas Boyce, James Blackford, Samuel Bell, Albert G. Smith, Josiah Bethards, Cyrus A. Sanders, Hill Shaw, John Thomas, Robert Reed, Russell W. Moss, Henry Musgrove, and Ezekiel Kennedy, twenty in number. This jury found nothing to do, came into court and reported the fact and were discharged.

The July term, 1836, was held at the same place, Judge Ezra Hunt, (the father-in-law of Hon. David P. Dyer,) presiding. The jury empaneled at this term found no business, and such was the condition of society in those days that for about eight successive terms of the Circuit Court, "no business" was the unanimous report of these conservators of the peace. But finally things took a change, and in 1839 two friends whose names we shall not call, bet a coon skin or something of less value, on the result of a dog fight, and at the next term the grand jury had work to do, and the prosecuting attorney supposed he had struck a "bonanza."

Among the names of attorneys who made semi-annual visits to the county in those early days, we notice J. Quinn Thornton, John Heard, A. B. Chambers, S. W. B. Carnegie, Thomas L. Anderson, who now resides in Palmyra; Uriel Wright, who died in Richmond soon after the close of the late war; Edwin G. Pratt, lately deceased; Samuel T. Glover, who now stands in the front ranks of the St. Louis Bar; Wm. J. Howell, yet living in Paris, Monroe County; John I. Campbell, who died several years ago in Hannibal, Missouri; William Porter, James R. Abernathy, Phil. Williams, and W. K. Vanarsdall.

Among the attorneys who have at one time or another made Shelby their home, we call to mind the names of A. W. Slayback, who was the father of Hon. A. W. Slayback, a rising young lawyer of St. Louis; Col. Henry S. Lipscomb, now of St. Louis; John McAfee, now of Quincy, Illinois; J. M. Irwin, Fleming Turner, George W. Hillias, \_\_\_\_\_ Hall, \_\_\_\_\_ Robinson, Edward McKendree Bound, J. W. Roundy, Alexander M. York, John C. Logie, J. F. Benjamin, who was three times sent to Congress from this district, and died in Washington recently; E. P. Burlingame, M. J. Manville, E. D. Tingle, and J. R. McLeod. The resident attorneys now are B. F. Dobyns, P. B. Dunn, W. O. L. Jewett, C. M. King, R. P. Giles, J. W. Shafer, C. S. Brown, and J. C. Hale.

Shelby County was originally peopled by emigrants from Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland, and Tennessee, who underwent many hardships in opening up a new world. They were a hardy, healthy people, and were afflicted with no disease except chills and fever until the doctors came. In 1832, there were two or three cases of cholera in the county and it prevailed to an alarming extent in Palmyra and Marion County.

Some of our early settlers seem to have possessed a peculiar notion about farming. For here were then all the prairie lands that heart could wish, and much more easily put in cultivation than the timber lands, and we find that some of the oldest farms in the county were hewn out of the timber. We have surmised that a reason for this was that perhaps in those days there were not enough oxen in the

county to turn over the sod of the prairie land. The sod of the prairies in those days was very tough, and yielded to the plow only when drawn by six to eight yoke of cattle. Although our forefathers endured these many toils and difficulties, from all we can learn and know of them, we conclude they enjoyed it notwithstanding. Wild game was plentiful and the range for their stock was inexhaustible.

The settlement and development of Shelby County was very much retarded by eastern capitalists in an early day. These capitalists and speculators entered at government prices large tracts of our best lands, and held them at too high a price to sell to the actual settler. And in many instances they would not sell in small tracts, or, in other words, would sell none, unless they could dispose of all their possessions.

This condition of things of course forced many to go further in search of lands where the quantity and prices were suited to their feeble means.

This state of affairs was finally much changed, and these lands to a very great extent have been sold to persons who have improved them. So that now the county is pretty well settled, and eastern land owners are in a manner bought out.

### **Physical Geography**

Shelby is bounded on the east by Marion, on the north by Lewis and Knox, on the west by Macon, and on the south by Monroe County.

It extends east and west from the east line of Range No. 9, to the west line of Range No. 12, a distance of twenty-four miles, and north and south, from two miles south of the north line of Township No. 56, to the north line of Township No. 59, a distance of twenty miles, with a corner of four miles, by six added at the southwest corner of the county, and contains about 322,560 acres, quite two-thirds of which was originally prairie lands.

Nearly all these prairie lands are now enclosed and in a state of cultivation, together with a goodly portion of the timber lands. Shelby possesses some as fine farms as any county in the west, and per chance some as thrifty, expert farmers as are found anywhere. The soil is uniform in quality, and although not quite so rich and loamy as some other spots in Missouri, it is unsurpassed for the production of the general agricultural and horticultural classes. And we venture the assertion that no county can be found better adapted to stock raising than Shelby.

Bluegrass, orchard grass, timothy, and clover growing abundantly, gives Shelby an advantage over any district we now call to mind for stock growing purposes. Indeed, bluegrass is indigenous, and has literally taken the soil, so that the bluegrass region of Kentucky does not surpass us in the verdure and bountifulness of pasture lands.

Our chief crops are corn and hay. Yet wheat, oats, rye, and tobacco are cultivated to some extent. Our timber is composed of White, Black, and Spanish Oak, Walnut, Maple, and in the bottoms and lowlands, we have what is called Water Oak. We also have a reasonable supply of Hickory, which, with the almost inexhaustible supply of Pin Oak poles, goes to make our fires.

Our prairies are sufficiently undulating to furnish drainage, and although several years ago we were the recipients of a large amount of what the legislature was pleased to denominate swamp lands, our people have never been put to any great trouble in draining their farms.

Shelby County is watered by Otter Creek, Crooked Creek, Black Creek, North River, Tiger Fork, South Fabius, and North Fork of Salt River. The last stream enters the county near the northwest corner thereof, and meanders diagonally through it, winding out a distance of nearly one hundred miles.

This is the largest stream in the County, and is only navigable at one season of the year, and then only in the imagination of the defeated politicians.

North River, Tiger Fork and South Fabius are in the northern portion of the county; Black Creek and Salt River supply the central portion, and Crooked and Otter Creeks the southwestern. There are also branches and tributaries to all these streams, the names of which we can not enumerate.

Living water, as pure as that which gushed from the rock smitten by Moses, can be found by

digging only a sort depth in many places in the county. Our people, however, are largely supplied from cisterns, the clay beneath the soil being of such a compact nature as to hold water as though it was made by "Him who doeth all things well," just for that purpose.

In many portions of our county the finest and best quality of limestone abound, and geologists say we are underlaid with superior coal. For building purposes our rock can not be excelled, and as for quantity, it is simply abundant.

So we conclude that, taken all in all, no county in the State presents a finer view or brighter prospect to the eye and mind of the agriculturist than Shelby.

In 1839 Shelby County sent a volunteer company to what was known as the "Mormon War," under the command of Capt. S. S. Matson. This soldiery only went, however, on their way to battle, as far as Keytesville, in Chariton County, when orders came to halt. The forces were soon after disbanded, and our volunteers returned home, happier and in better condition perhaps than if they had met the "Josephites" in mortal combat.

Next came the Iowa War. This difficulty grew out of a dispute between Iowa and Missouri in reference to the State line. Citizens all along the border of each State organized into bands, and for a time a bloody conflict seemed inevitable. Wisdom and conciliation happily prevailed, the differences were peaceably adjusted, and the calamities of interstate strife and bloodshed averted. Shelby sent a company of infantry in this case to assist their brethren of the border in repelling any supposed invasion of their rights. So Shelby's soldiers in this instance, as before, "marched up the hill, and then marched down again."

But finally a war came, (a war of extermination, and yet a bloodless one), that caused our predecessors much trouble and annoyance. About 1841, the chinch-bug made its appearance, and through a term of successive years made havoc of the crops. These were afflictions, the like of which have only been endured by the citizens of a neighboring State, when recently suffering under the visitation of myriads from the grasshopper kingdom.

The braves of those days resisted this visitation manfully, and resorted to every means known to civilized warfare to drive this enemy from our borders, and finally succeeded in utterly routing and putting to flight the multitudinous pests, so that for several years past we only see an occasional bug. As soon as the first settlers of Shelby could get log cabins and houses erected in which their families were sheltered from the storms and wintry blasts, they commenced providing for the education of their children. Log school houses, with stick and mud chimneys, were built, with fireplaces sometimes filling one end of the house, and furnished always with benches, split or hewn out of the hardest wood to be found. These early, uncomfortable and poorly furnished houses served a great purpose, however. For they were the cornerstone and foundation of our educational fabric, without which free government can not exist. Although these facilities for education were miserably poor, these log cabins and hard benches have sent up great men, who perfected and gave to us a system of Public Schools, to the fountains of which the poorest and most destitute may come and drink freely. May these influences continue to grow, onward and upward, until the accomplishments and bounties of education shall brighten the countenance and illumine the mind of every son and daughter of Missouri! In the early times the country was so sparsely settled that the districts were necessarily large, or embraced a large scope of territory, and some of the little fellows were compelled to walk three, four, and some perhaps five miles to school. The first one of these huts, (we can not conveniently find any other descriptive word), was erected in what is now Jackson Township near the farm of William H. Eakle, in the autumn of 1833, and the second was built the following year, just south of the great bridge that spans Salt River and adjoining country, near the road leading from Shelbyville to Shelbina.

Then others followed, as the county was settled, until School Houses now number about seventy-five, and cost perhaps sixty-five thousand dollars, which are generally comfortably arranged and furnished with the latest improvements in school room furniture and apparatus, and accommodate nearly five thousand pupils. The exact number of children between the ages of six and twenty years, as

shown by the enumeration for 1877, is as follows: White, four thousand three hundred and fifty-one; Colored, two hundred and seventy-seven.

These children are educated, and these schools supported from a State, county, and township fund, amounting to something over fifty thousand dollars, and, by direct taxation.

This public fund, (the interest of which is only used), was derived from the sale of every sixteenth section, donated by the United States Government to the State of Missouri, and by the State to the County; from the sale of swamp lands, and by fines, penalties, etc. Besides these public schools, we have a number of private schools in the county, the chief of which are, "Shelbina Collegiate Institute,;" and "Shelby High School."

In an early day, the "Embassadors of Christ," catching the inspiration of the great commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," came bearing the banner of the *Cross*, and with heavenly unctioned Tongues, proclaimed the "glad tidings of great joy." These missionaries, all of whom perhaps are now gone across the beautiful river, were men of great hearts and noble works, and to their efforts in part, we are justly indebted for the high eminence we have attained in civilization and Christian progress. And although we are not writing an essay upon the causes that impelled us to the altitudes we now maintain, we can not refrain from remarking in this connection, that we owe it all to the influences shed abroad in the human heart by the approach of the Gospel of Truth.

The early preachers of Shelby County, as well as the pioneer preachers in all early settlements, although not missionaries in a heathen land, underwent many hardships, and passed through many trials that put their faith to a severe test.

The first church building ever erected in the county was built in Shelbyville in about the year 1845, under the Auspices of the Methodists. Since then the Redeemer's cause has so spread, and the good work so progressed, that we now have within our boundary lines no less than about thirty of these Temples of God looking heavenward, from off whose altars the exhalations of love and obedience continually ascend. These church houses cost perhaps an average of eight hundred dollars, and are owned by Presbyterians, (Old School and Cumberland,) Methodist, (M. E., Evangelical and M. E. South,) Baptists, Christians, German Lutheran, and Roman Catholic.

### **Political**

In the early days of this county, the admirers of Henry Clay and Daniel Webster seem to have predominated, and the county officers were usually what were called Whigs. The Whig majority was small, however, and occasionally a Democrat could find enough personal friends among the Whigs to elect him to office, until finally the followers of "Old Hickory" took the county, and consequently all the offices.

In 1855 an ominous star burst upon the political horizon, and many Democrats thought their sun had set. Go where you would the question, "Have you seen Sam?" was timidly whispered in your ears, and Know-Nothingism for the first time appeared to absorb both political parties. But in 1856 the Democracy was triumphant, and the tender plant so generously nurtured perished away, and the little darling of the Whigs was gently laid in the tomb.

The Democrats maintained the ascendancy then until our "cruel war" broke their strength. For a period of about nine years, (during and after the war,) the Republican Party was in power.

Our county produced no very great military heroes during the war, but our people suffered largely, from roving bands of armed men, first upon one side, and then upon the other. Consequently unexampled and wide spread excitement pervaded in the county during four long and weary years, and our people were continually kept in the midst of threatened perils and impending danger. No bloody battles were fought in our borders, but many scenes were enacted, the memory whereof is too vivid in the minds of us all to require a recital here. Serious divisions existed among our people, and bad passions were aroused that we are glad to note have all passed away. The wrongs committed then, are

forgiven and forgotten, and our people have turned their backs upon the past with the determination to look alone to the future. The county now is Democratic on a strict party vote by about 600 to 800.

### Population

Our population has increased rapidly since the war, and according to the census of 1876, we possessed a total population of 13,244 persons. Of this number, 12,876 are white, and 868 are colored.

Of the white population 5919 are females, and 6456 are males, and of the colored, 443 are females, and 424 are males.

At the election in 1870 we cast about 2500 votes, quite an increase over the vote of 1835, which only footed up all told, 45 votes.

### Wealth

Our assessment valuation for the year 1876 was as follows:

Real Estate.....	\$2,334,815.00
Personal Property.....	<u>1,055,808.00</u>

Making a Grand Total..... 3,290,713.00

And our records show the following statistics that go to make this sum total, from which we extract items of Horses 6150; Mules 1880; Jacks 22; Jennetts 45; Cattle 17,635; Sheep 16,713; Hogs 30,213; Corn (product of 1876) 788,865 bushels; Oats 55,876 bushels; Tobacco 527,190 pounds; Wool 40,208 pounds; Hay 21,638 bales; and Sorghum Molasses 17,618 gallons. Many who ought to be competent judges, put the yield of 1877, in Corn and Hay, at about double what the above figures show for the year previous.

The Revenue collected for the year 1876, (that of 1877 is now being collected), amounted in round numbers to \$21,706.85, and the expenditures for same year were \$19,657.38.

### Indebtedness

Shelby County is perhaps in better condition financially than any of her sister counties. Instead of a great, huge debt weighing us down and imposing burdens that oppress our people like some terrible nightmare, we are in comparatively easy circumstances; our bonded indebtedness amounting only to the sum of \$8355.45. This sum when compared with three to eight hundred thousand dollars liabilities, the ponderous inimbus that hangs like a death pall over some of our neighbors' heads, is as nothing.

### Manufactories

The facilities for manufacturing establishments in Shelby are quite good but these interests, for some cause to us unknown, have not flourished as in other localities. We have about one hundred of the various kinds of manufacturing establishments, consisting of saw, flouring and grist mills, wagon and plow factories, etc., etc., but their operations are not as extensive as we would like.

### Our Towns

The first of these we shall mention is New York (where the present North Shelby School sits.)

This beautiful embryo city was laid off in 1835 by William Muldrow and others, on Sections 1, 2, 12, and 13 in Township 58, Range 11, and was perhaps as magnificent a city as man ever beheld on paper.

We are not certain, but we do not think this city ever possessed an actual settler, until some farmer drove down Broadway with a prairie plow. We have heard, however, that many corner lots and stately sites were sold to eastern people. New York, in Shelby County, was a failure as to population.

**Shelbyville:** is centrally located, has a population of 597, according to the last census, and is

now incorporated under the new law, making it a city of the fourth class. Contains four church buildings: Presbyterian, (Old School), Methodist E. Church, Methodist E. Church South, and Baptist; one Seminary, under the management of the Methodist E. Church South; one graded public school for colored children; one bank, (the Shelby County Savings Bank), with a capital stock of one hundred thousand dollars, with John T. Cooper, President, and Dr. Phil. Dimmitt, Cashier; a saw mill; four blacksmith shops; five dry-goods stores; three hardware stores; two drug stores; and one newspaper, *The Shelby County Herald*.

W. L. Willard is the proprietor and editor, and makes a handsome, readable country newspaper. The *Herald* is Republican in politics, though not stubbornly so, and with this exception, we put the *Herald* down as a first class sheet. It is in its eighth year, and is quite liberally patronized. The *Herald* also has a Job office, at which very skillful work is put up.

**Bethel:** is situated five miles north of Shelbyville, and is on both sides the stream, called North River. It was settled in 1845 by Germans from Pennsylvania, under the leadership of one Dr. William Keil, who lately died in Oregon. Bethel is quite a flourishing little town, with a population of perhaps 200. Its people are characterized by thrift and industry, farming extensively, manufacturing, and merchandising.

Dr. Keil, after locating and settling the colony at Bethel, went himself to Oregon and founded another colony, where he remained until his death. Bethel contains one church building, three stores, one mill, boot and shoe and blacksmith shops, etc, etc. A colony of these people has gone to a settlement in Adair County, this State, and named the new colony Nineveh. Some, who still remain in Bethel, have seceded from the colony, and do for themselves on their own responsibility.

**Shelbina:** the largest town in the county, is situated on the Hannibal and St. Joe Railroad, eight miles south of Shelbyville. This town was founded in 1857 by the Railroad Company, and has grown very rapidly since the close of the war. It is forty-seven miles west of Hannibal, the eastern terminus of the railroad. It has a population of about thirteen hundred, and is surrounded by a beautiful farming country. Its inhabitants are of a very enterprising character, never letting the outlay of money prevent them from taking such steps as will beautify their young city and advance their material interests, and now boasts five churches. The denominations owing these places of worship are the Methodist E. Church; Methodist E. Church South; Presbyterian; Baptist; and Christian. Its schools are "Shelbina Collegiate Institute," a graded public school, and a school for colored children. It is the principal shipping point for Shelby and the Northern portion of Monroe County, and is therefore destined to control to a certain extent the commercial business of the county. It possesses about twenty stores, a brick flouring mill, a large leaf tobacco warehouse, one bank, with a capital stock of one hundred thousand dollars, with Daniel Taylor as President, and William A. Reid Cashier, one wagon and plow factory, a nursery, and one newspaper, the "*Shelbina Democrat*."

The *Democrat* is owned and published by E. D. Hoselton, and is quite ably managed. Mr. Hoselton is a practical printer himself, and gives much attention to the make up of his paper.

The color of the *Democrat's* politics is "Democratic at all times and under all circumstances." It possesses a Job Office in connection with the paper, that turns off some handsome work. This paper is liberally supported, and is in the eleventh year of its age.

**Hunnell:** is on the Hannibal and St. Joe Railroad, in the southeastern corner of Shelby County, ten miles east of Shelbina. This town is located in a good farming district, and is quite a shipping point. Its citizens are thrifty and enterprising, always having an eye to business.

This town was located in 1857 by the railroad company, and was named for one of the company's original incorporators. It has a population of 405 persons, according to the census of 1876.

We can count here about a dozen stores, a flouring mill, a large grain warehouse, an excellent graded public school, and two churches: Methodist E. Church South, and Roman Catholic.

**Clarence:** is another town in our county founded by the Hannibal and St. Joe Railroad Company, and is twelve miles west of Shelbina. This is a flourishing town, in a very fertile portion of



our county, and bids fair to rival any of the other towns in point of trade.

Clarence has live merchants, and does a mammoth business for its size and population, which was according to census of 1876, only 532. This town boasts better roads leading in and out, and for miles away, than another town in the county. This city, (for we must so recognize it, as it has a Mayor and City Council), has two churches: Presbyterian and Methodist E. Church South, one graded public school, about a dozen stores, a flouring mill, and one tobacco warehouse.

These towns are all on the upward tendency as to internal improvements. Brick buildings of commodious dimensions have gone up in all of them recently, and everything in and around them indicates industry, energy, and prosperity. Besides these towns, we have the villages of Lakenan on the railroad, five miles east of Shelbina, and Walkersville on the north fork of Salt River, three miles northwest of Shelbina, with one church: Baptist, one saw and grist mill, carding machine, etc., and a population of about 50, and in addition, we have the following post offices scattered around at different points in the county, for the accommodation of our people:

- Cherry Box: fifteen miles northwest of Shelbyville
- Hagers Grove: ten miles west of Shelbyville
- Leonard: ten miles northwest of Shelbyville
- Moulton: sixteen miles northwest of Shelbyville
- Lentner: fives miles west of Shelbina
- Nelsonville: twenty miles northeast of Shelbyville
- West Springfield: fifteen miles northeast of Shelbyville

We had hoped to give this history an official register, but we can not do so in the time we have in which to prepare it, and must therefore content ourselves with giving the names of the different gentlemen who have filled the office of Sheriff and Collector:

Robert Duncan.....	1835 to 1840
Russell W. Moss.....	1840 to 1844
Gilbert H. Edmonds.....	1844 to 1846
J. M. Ennis.....	1846 to 1850
G. H. Edmonds.....	1850 to 1854
Jacob Vandiver.....	1854 to 1856
J. M. Ennis.....	1856 to 1860
John Dickerson.....	1860 to 1861
Jos. H. Forman.....	1861 to 1866
J. M. Collier.....	1866 to 1870
Samuel F. Dunn.....	1870 to 1872
John Dickerson.....	1872 to 1876
F. M. Harrison.....	Present Incumbent

All these are living in Shelby County today, except Duncan and Vandiver, who are dead, and our readers can see that in the forty-second year of our history, only ten of our citizens have filled the most important county office in the give of the people. It does not look much toward rotation in office, but it speaks well for the honesty and integrity of the office holders of this county.

### Conclusion

In concluding this imperfect history of Shelby County, we desire to say, that many incidents connected with the early settlements have been omitted because of the vagueness and uncertainty of our records. And we desire also to say that for a great portion of what we have written, we are indebted

to some of our older citizens, the records furnishing no clue to such facts as we have been able to obtain from them in many instances. Perfect accuracy is of course impossible, but we have taken some care, and therefore trust we have committed no errors of very great importance.

And let us also remark before we conclude, that whilst our county offers perhaps as inviting a field for the pursuits of labor as any of our neighbor counties, much depends upon the conduct of our people in the future. A laudable solicitude for continued prosperity should rest in every heart, and be all pervading among our people as the light that breaks with the opening morn. The strongest of all human inducements appeal to the people of every grade and condition to bend their united energies toward this great purpose. The farmer, who forces the bosom of the earth to yield its annual products for the support of men and nations; the mechanic who increases the value of things by his skillful industry; *all of every avocation are equally interested in united and combined effort to push us on to greater attainments.*

We are citizens by birth or choice of the same county of our State, and this county ought to concentrate our affections. We have the same religion, the same habits, and with slight shades of difference, the same political principles. We therefore have a common cause and common interest in our future growth and prosperity. These considerations, however powerfully they address themselves to our minds, are greatly outweighed by the holy ardor and ambition engendered by the reflection that our sister counties all around us are sparing no means, and making every effort to help them on to greatness and grandeur. A noble zeal and desire to keep pace with our neighbors in the great race for prosperity, should stimulate us to redouble our labors. So, my fellow citizens of Shelby County, we can not afford to lie supinely down, or sit idly by and see our industrial interests blighted and the further development of the county retarded.

By so doing, we would affix a stigma upon our history that all time may not efface, and cause the blush of shame to mantle the sainted cheeks of our ancestral fathers.

Hence, we look down the stream of time, and not in the very far off future, we behold thousands of happy, contented, and prosperous people residing Shelby County, enjoying all the rich legacies and blessings that the energy and industry of the nineteenth century may hand down to them. We see the zephyrs of the morning, wafting to them glories we know not of, and the very atmosphere redolent with the perfume of ages.

Shelby County! The home of our adoption! Shelby County! *Around the mention of whose name cluster memories that awaken responses in eternity!!*

Shelby County!! *The burial ground of our father, and the final resting place of the remains of our two little children, whose lovely innocence was as fresh as the kiss of the morning dew!!*

Shelby County!! The sacred spot of all on Earth to us!! When we contemplate your rising and rapidly developing glories, and behold the proud destiny opening before you, you appear like a rich bride, reclining on the lap of our majestic prairies, among your sister counties, the most beautiful of them all!!