

The Shelby County Herald
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Hagers Grove Vicinity In Clay Township
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Like a twice told tale, yet one ever of interest to the listeners, is the history of first settlements, whether later to be of national, state, county, or township importance, for all first settlers suffered the same hardships amid the same privations found in a new, undeveloped country. But since the time of Abraham, when the Lord told him to "Get thee up and out to the land which I will give unto thee" has the intrepid adventurer fared forth to blaze a trail, build a road to anew, and a new habitation.

So Shelby County, named for Gen. Joe Shelby, was organized the year 1833, that is, it was in that year the first settlers came here, tho the winter of 1834-1835 really saw the completion of its survey. A Mr. Lair telling later all work was halted in November '33 by the falling of the stars which so frightened the settlers. The years '33-'35 also made memorable by the terrible scourge of Asiatic cholera in Marion County, around Palmyra and that town, small then, was a closer trading point. And two deaths from the plague are recorded in the then newly laid out county. A young William P. Matson was in Palmyra when deaths began, so he started for the open county, getting as far as the home of Angus McDonald Holliday on Black Creek, which was too high to ford, and here he remained for the night, during which time he took violently ill, dying the next A. M. At his burial his host also took ill, dying soon, thus the new settlers were in a state of fear and unrest for some time. As like all new countries, there were few doctors, no serums, no quarantines to prevent a plague, once starting among the settlers taking a heavy toll.

Clay Township

Clay Township, named for Henry Clay, was organized about 1845, and yet contains only the two voting precincts, Clarence, a town of something like 1400 inhabitants, and Hagers Grove, a small village in section 15-58-12 on Salt (Oahaha) River.

The site was purchased by John Hager of William P. Norton of Ralls County and was later called Hagers Grove. History states a blacksmith shop was the first building. Later, in the spring of 1857, William P. Casey, Dr. Pile and Joseph and William Walker from Iowa bought a steam sawmill and put it in operation here. Later, Thomas T. Blackburn established a small grocery store, consisting of a barrel of whiskey, some crackers and cheese, and a few staples, the building a log house.

Dr. Pile and William Walker dying in August, 1859, G. L. and B. F. Smith bought the store, adding somewhat to the stock, opened a business in a two-story frame house, recently occupied by the late Dr. Pile. Having a progressive spirit, the new store management procured the county surveyor, one Ed Grey, to lay the village out in lots, and we wonder if now, seventy-six years later and the hamlet still barely existing, would they feel their dream of success in organizing a sizable town a failure? Later, in 1859, a post office was established with B. F. Smith as postmaster, the same individual of who we elsewhere read that when traveling about he would place his post office contents, letters, in his hat and would, when meeting individuals, ask were any of them theirs? The first crude attempt at rural delivery, and anyone going to the office asking for mail during his absence was just "out of luck." We wonder how many people today, if forced to go to the local office for mail, would find it out somewhere in the postmaster's hat.

The store continued under the same management until 1861 {1861} when Morris Osborne bought the interest of G. L. Smith. Thus Osborne and B. F. Smith continued to operate until the troublesome times incident to the Civil War, when in 1863 {1863} the store was closed, the goods being sold at auction.

In 1888 L. E. Irwin and John Patton opened another store and there has always been one of some size there except perhaps immediately following a fire, of which there were several during these years.

The Shelby County history of 1884 gives it a dozen houses, two general stores, a drug store, a blacksmith shop, a mill, and a post office. The writer can well remember when we yet had all those industries, but owing to better roads, autos, and change in living and trading, we have just one small store, no mill, no drug store, no post office, because rural routes now come out from Clarence and Shelbyville, delivering the mail at the boxes adjacent to the individual homes, while there still remain the blacksmith shop and eleven houses, besides the church building.



MRS. GORDON HARVEY

The Early Settlers

It was invariably the custom of early settlers to find sites for their homes in timberland and near streams and the reasons are obvious, for timber furnished logs for houses, wood for fuel, and rails for fences, while water was a necessity, besides affording members of the finny tribe easily procured and the forests abounded in squirrels, rabbits, wild turkeys, pheasants, and ducks and geese by the quantity in their season, also the deer, antelope and bison, but also inhabitants of a dangerous nature, as the bear, the wolf, the bobcat, and panther, whose cry as a child in distress, was told to children with perhaps a grain of truth in it, also the deadly rattler as well as mosquitoes, which took their yearly toll in yellow fever, malaria, and typhoid, all enemies of the hardy settler, and the years it has taken to drain the swamps and make the country safe for man and his descendants.

But, at that, how easily were the food questions settled then when a normal season and the delicious dinners the pioneer could have independent of the corner grocery, for shouldering his musket and going a short way into the forest, could easily bring home venison for steaks, all kinds of wild berries sweetened with "nectar of the gods," honey; while the virgin soil with little stirring would yield all manner of vegetables as well as rye, wheat, and corn for bread the "staff of life." Really makes one hungry in retrospect.

As the Indians had by this time been driven west, just once does the history report laughable

incidents concerning them, but as other writers no doubt will tell of it, will leave to your imagination if they fail to do so.

When people speak of "the good old days" we have little desire, however, to have lived them, preferring rather a more modern mode of life, tho we do know there were more love, forbearance, and gratitude for companionship than now. The writer remembers before the day of telephones, radios, automobiles and such, people lived a different life, one in which we had time to stop and take stock of time and conditions, time to dream, time to talk, time to visit the sick or unfortunate, time to spend the day often with our friends, but now one grand great rush as fittingly expressed by the song "I Don't Know Where I Am Going, But Don't You Want To Go Along?" typical of today and aptly expressed. A mad rush, and what do we accomplish in a lasting way? So we do envy our ancestors for their leisure, when the flowing river, the shining stars, the giant trees, the birds, were all an open book telling of the Creator, God, who said, "Let there be light," also who divided the waters and the land, making a habitation, beautiful, after which when all else was complete, made man just a little lower than the angels, in His own image, to have dominion over the fowls of the air, the beasts of the field, and the inhabitants of the deep. The continuing of the sawmill and the addition of a grinder made a source of business in the village, while even yet the writer was a small girl remembering it being run successfully by the Edward brothers, Herschel and Clem, also a George Sutton, but the building was finally torn down, machinery removed, and now, with the possible exception of a few large rocks, no sign that such ever existed. How we loved to see the stream of white creamy meal poured into waiting customers' sacks and also watch what precision the huge logs were carried on bearings to meet the onrush of the greedy saw, whose short teeth cut deep into the timber, bringing out a beautiful white plank in its virgin purity.

The Molasses Mill

A "sweet" place to go when "the frost was on the pumpkin and the fodder in the shock" was the molasses mill, owned and operated by James Mabury who, with his family, lived in the comfortable home they owned and had built, which was later owned by Earl Rose. Later, molasses mills were run by Arthur Winget, now of Macon, and Lum Linson at different locations. The latter gentleman was also a blacksmith and he and invalid wife lived at the Grove for several years, Mr. Linson being lovingly remembered by all for his devotion and thoughtfulness to the wife, now gone on before.

Rarely were the inhabitants without a blacksmith. Messrs. Ritter, Brocksmith, Hunsaker, Howerton, Poague, and the present owner Ira Gingrich, among those we remember as having had a shop here tho in various places in the village, and well do we remember at one time, while we were a child, the shop was located further east under a large overspreading elm upon whose swaying branches the golden oriole yearly swung their nest, a perfection of art in itself, while the warble of the brilliant owner gave joy to our childish heart. The present owner had the misfortune to lose his shop and all equipment less than two years ago by fire, making it a great hardship, but he has again rebuilt and eager for work, but the advent of the motor vehicles and tractors has super ceded the horse and wagon to such a degree there is now little work for the blacksmith as garages and mechanics are the necessity of today. Another of time's changes.

Stores

J. G. Roy bought our store from Judge Hunolt, which had been managed by Ed Neff, but it was formerly owned and operated by a Mr. Hancock, who lost it by fire but rebuilt again. Mr. Roy added both to building and stock of goods from time to time, having a large general store at the time of his death.

The eldest son, W. E. Roy, had gone into partnership with him and continued the business until the burning of the store building in 1918. A stock of groceries placed in the lower room of the former I.

O. O. F. building has been run by Messrs. Walker, Ashby, Schwada, Hooper, and the present incumbents, Raymond Thomas and father. There has been just one store at a time for years now. The store was owned and run by Sam Patton after his services in the Confederate army until he sold to Si Dorrell of Macon County, who later sold the stock at auction while the building was bought by Bud Harland, who decided on making a dwelling of it and it later was torn down. A story tho is remembered of a former owner before Mr. Patton, a Mr. Crowley. Seems a lady customer brought in some eggs and wished to purchase some "calico." She priced it and thinking it too high in proportion to the price received from the sale of eggs, thus reminding the bearer the difference between what we sell and what we buy is yet too great, as it was then, and when she said to Mr. Crowley it was too high he placed it upon a shelf and made the remark that "it was a d—n sight higher now." At one time there was a one-story building where the I. O. O. F. building now stands, run and operated by Daughtery and Price, but it burned, leaving Father Roy the only store keeper there for years.

Fire

There have been five fires in Hagers Grove history in the memory of the writer. First, a large frame building tho old and occupied by a Mr. Krone and family, burned a number of years ago. A house later built on the same site and later owned by Steve Rose burned about two years ago. And the building that stood where the I. O. O. F. hall now stands was also burned, as later the Roy store, supposed to have been fired by burglars as it appeared much of the large stock such as flour and men's work clothes were missing and at a time when everything was high in price. The Ira Gingrich blacksmith shop was the last fire at the Grove. And such a dreaded thing to see and so destructive, and yet staggering to think how much of the country's wealth and such a large number of buildings have gone up in flames.

Hagers Grove Band

About the year 1884 a band was organized at the Grove and flourished for several years under the very capable instruction of a Mr. Ritter, of a family the very name of which means music, a Shelbyville resident of which the later musical residents are descendants. Then too a Mr. Krone, a former army man and splendid musician, had charge. The band was in great demand, called to play at celebrations, picnics, and other public gatherings held at surrounding towns. The Edwards, the Gosneys, the Maburys, George Price, Father Roy and the older sons, Edward and Frank, were among the players and they were considered a first-class set of musicians.

Doctors

A Dr. Payne was often spoken of as living here, but he and family moved into Clarence when Dr. Sanders, then a young man, took up the practice of medicine.

Dr. W. S. Sanders had been here some years before our arrival having a large country practice which kept him busy much of the time day and night. It was a standing joke with all who knew him that it was a characteristic of the doctor to storm and declare often that he was tired, he wouldn't go a step, while all the time would be getting ready quickly as possible. His team also would be ready and ere long the faithful one would be going under whip and leash if he knew the case warranted such haste—and when does one call a doctor that they, the ones needing him, do not think they do want him right now? A man of high principle and ardent advocate of education, a man generous to a degree, his deeds of mercy, his skill as a practitioner have lived long after him. Living just over the fence from him for years during our most impressionable age we learned to reverence him and to hold him in highest respect. The doctor also had a well developed sense of humor, for at the time of the burning of his office, he spoke to his wife about his "sheepskin" burning, referring to his diploma, but she being all upset over the fire said, "Oh, no, it was saved," meaning a sheep pelt he had in an easy chair on the

porch of his office, which statement caused him much mirth. About the year 1906 he removed to Clarence at which place he died several years later, a son, Rollie, having preceded him, leaving a widow and one son, Sam Sanders of Shelbyville, a constant school companion of ours and one whom we are always pleased to see.

Dr. F. K. Roy bought the practice and residence, also office of Dr. Sanders, he and wife living here for several years, when they too removed to Clarence. During his residence here he had a splendid practice and phenomenal success, aided and assisted by his faithful wife, a son being born to them just previous to their change of location.

Dr. Stark, a bachelor, came later, practicing for a time, when he too left, since which time there has been no resident physician. When roads are good, not so hard to obtain medical service but otherwise often a very serious question. With the passing of the country doctor the villages and outlying districts have lost one of their most needed requisites.

Lodges

In 1890 the I. O. O. F. lodge was organized here, Pinkney Hopper, George Brewington, Wm. Hall, Charley Hill, and J. G. Roy, charter members. Those mentioned took charge with such energy and enthusiasm that before many years a large membership was enrolled and today from Dr. William Byars of California to parts allaround could be found men who at one time had membership here. Father Roy always entered anything he saw fit to give his time to with that whole-hearted desire to see the lodge a success that we well remember his entertaining many men high in the work of Odd Fellowship in the home. Thus from a very small person, drinking in the advantages derived from membership in such an order, that it was small wonder that we so eagerly embraced an opportunity to become a member of the Rebekah degree when years later an organization was effected here and which was greatly enjoyed for several years, but like the subordinate lodge here, the removal of many of its most substantial members has so weakened it that it as a Rebekah lodge, has long ceased to function, while we are made to know that the fate of our dear brother lodge hangs in the balance. At one time there was also a strong M. W. A. organization here but it too has long ago consolidated with the Clarence lodge.

Later, the I. O. O. F. charter was surrendered, the remnant of the membership consolidating with Clarence Odd Fellow lodge, where they have a reasonably strong membership.

The Drainage Ditch

Messrs. L. D. Breedlove, F. P. Waters, and Henry Funk, newly arrived from Illinois people, who had bought large holdings of land in the northwest part of the county, conceived the idea of a drainage ditch, a corporation for which was organized in the spring of 1911, composed of Funk, Breedlove, Waters and W. E. Roy. In March, 1912, the contract was let and by Sept. 1st the huge machine was ready to begin excavation, at which time a Good-Feelers picnic was held on the Funk farm, attended by thousands of people, eager to see the great dipper scoop out the first load of dirt, which cut the ditch, measuring ten feet at the bottom and thirty feet at the top, starting at the Funk place and terminating just below Snowder bridge, cutting a ditch twelve miles in length, those further on refusing to contribute funds for its continuance. It has washed on either side until now requires a one hundred foot bridge to span it. Following the ditch's completion much timber was removed and corn planted to its very edge. For a time it was a great success, but now in times of extreme wet weather it even fails to carry away the excess amount of water pouring in from the higher ground. Am sure anyone coming here after an absence of years would be slow to recognize any of the territory just west of here as there are now two bridges and in rainy seasons two rivers and the horseshoe lake, upon which hours of pleasure were had in winter skating and a thing of rare beauty in summer, being covered with blooming pond lilies, is no more as the ditch went directly through it.

Now of later years the mouth of the ditch having long been closed for lack of interest to keep it

cleared of sand that it now spreads out like the old river bed and the project which many enthusiastically embraced and that cost a mint of money to make, for lack of being continued on further until could have had a clear sweep, thus forcing a regular channel at its end, has become a menace and the taxes have caused many land owners along its course to lose their holdings. But all will join in agreeing could it have been financed to have been taken to a larger river for emptying, all would have been decidedly different.

The Mail

For long the mail was delivered at the post office here twice weekly, then every other day, a carrier coming from Novelty, going thru Clarence, returning over the same route the day following, also carrying mail for Cherry Box. Later, every day service was had, a carrier coming from Leonard, going thru to Clarence, the Novelty route discontinued, the Cherry Box mail being brought here and taken thru. As a political job, first one and then another of residents had charge of the post office but for the greater part of the time of our remembrance was located in the front of Father Roy's store, he being the postmaster, and how eagerly patrons waited for the coming of Uncle Sam's man with his precious burden. The rural men have hard trips, but no comparison to carriers at that time, among whom we remember Messrs. Steward, Earp, Gillaspay, and many others.

In 1911 the post office was taken from here, since which time we have had rural route service, the carrier coming from Clarence. Before the cutting of the drainage ditch the old stream, Salt River, became very high following hard rains, causing a deep overflow between where the old bridge was, about a half-quarter mile south of the present site and where the house on the corner stood. Often the horses to the wagons would be forced to swim and we remember with what eagerness all would await the mail's coming at that time. Many times almost the entire population watched at the water's edge, for going as they did in a hack, they carried passengers and oftentimes how frightened they would be and how worried the onlookers. Sometimes when too high, a skiff would be sent over to the bridge to bring mail and passengers and tho many perilous times, know of no fatalities.

And what we would now call our "out-door sport" when every man, woman, and child and every dog would gather at the edge of the water, watching with baited breath for the boat or hack to make a safe landing.

Our Church

Tho the present building was here it has been somewhat remodeled and trees now fill the yard that then was bare with the exception of three large oaks, one on one side and the two remaining on the other side of the path thru the yard, and we are sure the sky never looked bluer or the moon more beautiful than when a child we walked by Mother Roy's side, thinking how swiftly the moon traveled thru the sky, just one of childhood's beliefs. Wonderful preachers have filled the pulpit here, Rev. Browning, Rev. Dorsey, and others at which time we had such patriarchal men as Messrs. Chenoweth, Perry, Creekmur, Peoples, and Byars. Such a hushed, solemn atmosphere as the house of worship held at that time, the men seated on one side of the building, the women on the other, while with what reverence the sacrament was blessed, then too had no musical instrument. An elder would read a line of song, then the congregation sing it and on thru its completion. There was no place in religion for the young people. They there, as elsewhere where older people were gathered, were to be seen and not heard. The congregation must have lost interest with the removal of some of its leaders for it was long we had services of no kind. Thru God's grace Rev. F. M. Branic, then a pupil of Leonard Academy, a struggling young preacher, in January of 1890 held a six weeks meeting, resulting in some 76 additions, money being raised to buy an organ, a church bell, and remodeling the building, and a spiritual uplifting of the neighborhood in general. The gratitude felt this struggling man of God was expressed in helping him in various ways, yet the membership will always hold this sainted man in the reverence he

so richly deserves. Since then there have been Sunday school and preaching most of the time, and we hope never to see the day when it will revert to its former state since the phenomenal revival. More wonderful messengers of God's word have been here, such as the Lowes, Crow, Hanna, Mauck, Shoemaker, and many others all having left the imprint of their Christian spirit upon this people. Messrs. Frank Alexander, Cass Stover, Henry Glahn, and Father Roy were among those who served faithfully on the church board, which at the present time consists of Wm. Gosney, J. S. Hopper, Robert Vickers, Frank VanHouten, Willie Jones, and Harry Glahn.

Modes Of Travel Then and Now

Former residents were pleased to own a buggy or carriage in which to ride, many yet going in the lumber wagon with chairs for seats. The quiet of the Sunday morning service was unbroken then by the noises now made by the numberless autos passing to and fro, whose destination is often far from the house of God, to say nothing of the drum of the huge motors propelling the huge birds of man's device that soar so majestically in the air.

A former resident of this vicinity returning would find the woodman with his ax makes much difference in the landscape, for the pasture just east of the church is now practically clear of trees and the pasture south of that, where the ball games were played when we were a child, has for years been in cultivation, all making the locality look differently, the roads have never been changed, still the road to the north, also the one east going down a slope, then crossing a small bridge, then up the hill, a winding road, which we used to wonder why was not straight.

Amusements

No, we didn't go into Clarence of a Saturday night to hear the big band play. In summer, many of the women and children with the ever present dogs, would take a walk, going down to the bridge, crossing, then coming on up the riffle just below the mill, crossing on the stepping stones, loitering on the way to talk, while the children gathered the bright pebbles, a wild flower, or played along the way, returning home filled with the blessing that a close touch with nature can alone give one. In the winter we had skating and coasting down the hill, the boat rides, the fishing, and not to forget to mention the trips to the woods to gather the berries and nuts. As we grew older, there were socials and entertainments at school. At no time in our youth did we have the dissatisfaction that today we are sorry to hear the young people express if for even a short while they are left to their own resources for entertainment.

Older Residents Of Hagers Grove and Vicinity

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Anthony, who for years lived on and owned the home where a granddaughter, Mrs. Ad Rose, and family now reside. An industrious, hard-working people, social to a last degree, a place the writer loved to visit, and grew up with the youngest children, Belle and Rose, who are now Mesdames George Brown and Elmore Glenn, also a son, George, now deceased, as well as Julia and Emma, wives of R. Vickers and Alex, an older son. A daughter of this couple, Mrs. Reta Williams, lives in Texas.

Ann Priest was born in Ralls County Jan. 6, 1837, and for almost a century her life has been a link in the history of this section of Missouri, passing to the Great Beyond just two weeks after passing her 95th birthday. She was first married to Onward Hutchison. Of four children born to them, two are living: W. D. of Vandalia, MO, and Mrs. Mary Engle of Shelbyville, MO. The father and husband died in 1884. Later, the subject of this sketch was married to T. B. Crawford, who died ten years previous to her death. To this union eight children were born, four now living, namely: Mrs. Cora Legare of California, Mrs. Sallie Duncan of Shelby County, Mrs. Mabel Wright of Leonard, and Mrs. Chas. Crawford of Clarence. A woman of sterling worth, one who retained her mental facilities until the last,

remarkable in many ways, and for a number of years a successive recipient of the five dollars annually given to the oldest resident of the county. A son, Orien P. of California, and Mrs. Fannie Armstrong of Shelbyville, with whom the mother made her home for several years and who was always goodness itself to the aged mother, have died since the mother's passing. Mr. and Mrs. Crawford were residents of this vicinity for a number of years, living on the farm north of here for more than fifty years. Mrs. Crawford was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church, of which her father was a minister.

John Copenhaver, a prosperous farmer and father of a large family of boys and girls; a great politician, who frequently changed his political views; a great arguer; a man whose home was always an open house and a number of grandchildren also called it home. He was married twice. His last wife was Mrs. Hatfield and to this union five children were born, all of whom live in Shelby County: Elmer, Ferdinand, Richard, and Mesdames Cleve Haves and Albert McAfee, who have lived to call the memory of their parents blessed, Mrs. Maria Schwada, now owner of the home place southeast of here.

Luther Copenhaver, a resident of Virginia, married a Miss Pitzer, also of the east, but they had lived here for many years previous to their deaths. A jovial, fine Christian character, a friend to all, a farmer and blacksmith, also a man who delighted to have an audience to hear of incidents he liked well to relate. A son, James, lives on the home place, while Mrs. Milby Edwards and Mrs. Homer Killinger live near, a son, Willard, living near Holliday, Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. Copenhaver were members of Morris Chapel Church and are buried in the Patton graveyard. A number of children preceded them in death.

Logan Daniel came to his farm he purchased from Harrison Daugherty about fifty years ago. His wife, Anna Bunn, daughter of Ben Bunn, a former resident and big land holder in this part of Shelby County, going on to Clarence later in life. Two sons, Harry of Illinois and Walter of Cherry Box vicinity, each have families growing up. These generous, friendly folk, took a small child, a baby girl just a few weeks of age, raising her, giving her an unusually good musical education, and she is now the wife of Kenneth Jones, a county school superintendent of Grundy County, Iowa. They also took another young woman, Lula Walker, into the family, of whom they were ever fond until her death several years after her marriage to Ira Gingrich. Mrs. Daniel, a member of the local church, died in 1918.

Aunt Bettie Daugherty and husband, Harrison Daugherty, came here soon after the Civil War, the latter a federal soldier at the time. Mrs. Daugherty was born in Oregon, her mother dying when she was two weeks old. She was reared by Mr. and Mrs. Harland, parents of "Bud" and L. L. Harland, late residents of Shelby County. Mr. Daugherty died at the Grove about thirty years ago and the wife, "Aunt Bettie," as she was lovingly known, lived on at the old home until a short while before her death, when she went to live with the only living child, Mrs. Cora Jones. Two daughters and a son, Frank, died earlier, leaving families. A woman of outstanding character, who served her Master by always being found in His house, thus a living example to younger people. She passed on to her reward in the fall of '33, having passed her 93rd birthday, leaving a vacancy in home and church that will take long to fill.

Michael Daugherty, who was a brother of Harrison Daugherty, also a Civil War veteran, lived in and near the Grove most of his married life. Tho his wife, Miss Addie _____, and he have been dead a number of years, their memory is still green in the hearts of their children: Miss Lillie Daugherty; a younger son, Jimmie, a World War Veteran, and Albert and family now living in the west. The subject of this sketch is remembered for his kindly ways and his success as a bee raiser.

Two other families, pioneers of Clay, were the Edwards brothers, Elsea and Noah. Their farms joined and are now owned by Mrs. Chas. Lee and Mrs. Lizzie Hawkins. The former and wife had no children, but the latter couple had four sons: Edward, Herschel, Clem, and "Wink"; a daughter, Opie, who with her parents, have been dead for years. Edward also is dead, we think. Herschel, whose first wife was Miss Laura Daugherty, now lives in the west, a prospector, while Clem, who married Miss Lee Gosney, lives near Kansas City. Know nothing of younger son's whereabouts. The Edwards family were noted for their frugality, their cleanliness, which makes such people the salt of the earth.

James W. Gosney, a native of Maryland, born Sept. 29, 1830. In 1850 he journeyed to the Pacific coast, staying three years. Later returning to Marion County, Missouri. Feb. 13, 1855 he was married to Miss Alice J., a daughter of Thomas and Mary Hager of Ralls County, presumably of the Hagers who first owned the present site of Hagers Grove. History states he and wife lived for twenty-seven years on the farm they improved and owned, and now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. John Moffett, and Miss Laura Moffett. Ten children were born of this union: Mrs. Belle Mabury of Vinita, Oklahoma, W. F. of near here, John S. of Clarence, Mrs. Nannie McNeal of Montana, Mrs. Melissa Hopper of Texas, while Thomas D. is deceased, whose widow today (May 30, 1935) lies a corpse at the home of son, Noble, and wife, and who before her marriage was Miss Lucy Snyder. James M., Robert M., and Lillie Irene are also dead, tho another daughter, Lee, who, as before stated, married Clem Edwards, lives in Kansas City. A staunch Democrat, the subject of this sketch and family later moved to Clarence to spend their last days.

Harry F. Glahn, also a veteran of the Civil War at its close, married Miss Lizzie Price, and to this union a large family was born. A farmer by profession; his home and surroundings were noted for their well-kept appearance at all times. A prominent member of the G. A. R. and fond of relating reminiscences connected with the Civil War. He and wife members of Hagers Grove Christian Church and an entrusting board member. Mrs. Dora Forman, now of Leonard, Chas. and Harvey of California, Julius and Russell of Novelty, and another son, George, also survive their parents, while three sons died in infancy. A son, Daniel Webster, and a daughter, Mrs. Rosa Clare, also are dead, all lying in the cemetery here awaiting the resurrection morn. The Glahn home was noted for its hospitality, a place the young people delighted to visit.

William Glahn, a brother of H. T., also lived near here. He married Miss Louisa Evans and they had four children. All the entire family deceased, excepting a daughter, Mattie, in the west. The eldest daughter, Carrie, married W. T. Gosney, the youngest daughter, Anna, wife of Frank Forman, now also deceased, and Solomon, who left two sons, Harry and Kenneth. These people were very prosperous and their beautiful country home was admired by all.

The Hawkins family tho they have been gone from Clay Township so long ago that their living here is only a memory to older, a sketch of these fine people is needful to make the history more complete. A son, James William Hawkins, was born in Clay Township in 1855 of Kentucky ancestors; other brothers and sisters being: Fanny B. Creekmure of Arizona, John F. of Phoenix, Arizona, Eugene T. of California, Wallace B. of Colorado, Lulu A. Farmer and Leslie B. of east of Shelbyville, also Mrs. Frank Alexander, deceased, but have no knowledge of how many are yet living. A sister died a number of years ago. The mother lived a widow for ten years, dying in 1887. James Hawkins was a progressive farmer, specializing in fine sheep, hogs, and cattle. Was married in 1880 to Miss Bertha Shofstall, three children being born to them. An I. O. O. F. member; a Democrat, and a member of the Baptist Church. A fine individual, as were the other members of this excellent family. For years he lived in Leonard. His first wife dying, he later married a Mrs. Clark, who now, as his widow, still resides there, as Mr. Hawkins died several years ago. The Hawkins family lived on this farm, which was later bought by Chas. Reinheimer, a fine, progressive farmer of the day, who married Mrs. Emma Hirrlinger Neuschafer, and were pillars of Morris Chapel Church for years. Two daughters, Mrs. Elizabeth Priest of near Shelbyville and Mrs. Florence Burnett of Colorado, yet live to tell and keep ever in mind the excellence of these parents, now gone, but previous to their death they sold the farm to John Neuschafer of Santa Ana, California, but who with his wife, formerly Miss Mabel Bigelow, lived on it or several years previous and the writer and husband leasing it, have lived here now nearly fifteen years. Mr. And Mrs. Reinheimer moved into Shelbyville where they lived until their deaths.

A short sketch of the life of Wm. A. Hirrlinger, we feel is in order, tho most of his useful life apparently was spent in Shelbyville and vicinity, tho know he must have at one time lived in Clay Township. Then, too, a word necessary in regard to his children, most of whom were residents there at some time during their lives. Of German descent, to born in Ohio in 1846, then coming to Missouri six

years later. Received his education at Shelbyville and became a cabinetmaker, so it was thru such knowledge that he built the first church at Hagers Grove, generously donating the work, later being buried in the cemetery here. Then, after years, relatives exhumed the bodies of him and a young daughter, who had burned to death by falling into a vat of molasses in the making, a church and cemetery later being built Chapel. A successful farmer; also saw military service. His wife was Miss Magdalena Doerr who was also a native of Germany. Mr. Hirrlinger died in 1871, his wife following in the year 1887. The children are: William A., Magdalena, wife of Stephen H. Hancock, who at one time kept store at Hagers Grove; Eliza, wife of John VanHouten and whose descendants are James of Macon County, Ralph of Jefferson Township, Mrs. Clara Husher of Kansas, and Mrs. Kate Stauffer, deceased, formerly of Arizona; Cora, wife of L. L. Wheeler of Clarence, and a sketch of this individual follows: He was born at Lentner in 1860, so younger than many of whom we have written. His father, John Anderson Wheeler, served during the Civil War with the Confederate leader, Porter. Following the war, the father lived for several years in Monroe County, moving later back to Shelby County, living on a farm near Bacon Chapel, where his widow and children resided long after his death. The son, Lanius L. Wheeler, obtained his education in the district schools, also assisting the father on the farm, and a farmer he also became, tho for a number of years mined gold in the West. As stated before, Mr. Wheeler was married to Miss Cora Allen Hirrlinger in the year 1883, seven children being born to them: Mrs. Beulah Jordan of Kansas, Eliza, a wife of Peter Neuschafer of Center, Missouri; three sons, Vincil O'Bryan, Virgil L. and John Leland, and two dead. A man still interested in cause of nation, state, and county, an ardent Democrat, and he and wife devout members of the Southern M. E. Church; a member of the W. W. A. Mr Wheeler and family lived out east of the Grove, and a consistent worker in the Morris Chapel Church; his prayers yet noted for their purity of expression and eloquent in their appeal to the Giver of all good. While still young and vigorous, he bought the prairie land, then unfenced, that is now widely known as the Wheeler farm, and for years labored unceasingly, bringing the raw land into cultivation and rearing a house and buildings adequate for his needs, and successfully ran the place for years. Now a resident of Clarence. A pleasure to meet and talk of times now different, while the dear wife stays quietly at home, seeking in all ways to make it a haven and blessed retreat for the mate and children, who have every reason to bless the name of these fine people.

Another sister of James W. Hawkins was Mrs. Frank Alexander, who with her husband and children owned the farm where Tom Wilson and family now live. Mrs. Alexander died young, leaving two children, a son, Bowles Alexander, who married Miss Lizzie Bodwell and lives at LaPlata, and Mrs. Bertha Waite, who with her husband, Ed Waite, live in their beautiful country home near Cherry Box. Later, Mr. Alexander married Miss Barbara Price, who since her husband's death a number of years ago, has lived with both Mrs. Waite and the step-son, she having had no children. The husband and father, Frank Alexander, known and respected by all for his splendid Christian character, for years an officer and regular attendant at Hagers Grove Church. A man fine in every way; an energetic farmer, honest in all dealings. Died several years ago and was laid beside the first wife in the cemetery joining the building where he so loved to worship.

Judge Joseph Hunolt had a great part to play in the earlier Clay Township history of fifty years ago. Of German descent. A money maker and great financier, he soon had cattle on "a thousand hills," and a large land holder, all procured by his thrift and integrity, a friend to all and an aid to the unfortunate ever, was it small wonder he was so greatly mourned when he met so untimely an end. A great feeder and shipper, who yearly numbered his herds of cattle and droves of swine by the hundred, making a market for the surplus feed and stock of the county, a loss that never has been filled, tho for years the youngest son, Antone, was like him, in that he also was a veteran feeder and stock man, tho as times became more changed, harder to continue doing those things. The Judge had a brother, Christopher, who lived in an adjoining farm for years, but connected himself with the banking institution in Clarence and later moved there. A son, Chris Hunolt, married Miss Emma Humphrey and both now deceased. A daughter, Mrs. Anna Worland, still resides, a widow, on the old Worland home

place; Salome, the youngest child, married Neely Hornback and she and family have lived in Colorado for years. We remember Mrs. Asenith, wife of the Judge, as one of the most outstanding women for goodness, grace, and charm that we ever knew.

W. Hudson: Tho a resident of Taylor Township, a word in passing to the above gentleman, also a veteran feeder and shipper, who numbered his herds by the dozens, would drive droves of hogs to the Grove when muddy weather, leave them until the next A.M. and continue on to town. Another market outlet for what the farmer had to sell, and since the passing of this class of feeders, of which Andrew J. Hilton was also one, the country has had a loss that later methods have failed to entirely replace.

Henry Hardcastle and family leased and lived upon the old "Cap Rollins" farm for several years, and tho no pioneer in Clay, he was a pioneer in the bringing of Hereford cattle to this county. Arriving here in 1882, he brought 100 head of the best money could buy of that breed, giving an average of \$70.00 per head per cow, while the sire, a direct importation from England, cost \$500.00. But conditions were far from good and many died, making the venture a decided loss to him, but an asset to the vicinity. Later, Mr. Hardcastle and his most estimable family moved to Moberly, Missouri.

Isaac VanHouten and wife and a single brother, John VanHouten, came to Clay in an early day with their parents, the former living for years upon the farm originally selected by his parents and where a grandson, Frank VanHouten now lives. These were eastern people of worth, talent, and culture bringing those dominant characteristics into a new country at a time they were so needed. Several children died in infancy and the son, Charles, married Miss Cora Daugherty, died early in life, leaving three sons, Frank, Courtney, and Edward, while the daughter, Elizabeth, married Elmer Hopper, now residing in Clarence, he a more than usual successful undertaker and furniture dealer, aided now by the son, Lewis, who tho young takes an active part in the business. A daughter, Mr. Helen Arnold, and family reside in Macon city. John VanHouten, the younger brother, married Miss Louisa Hirrlinger. James and family of Macon County, Ralph and family of Clarence vicinity, Mrs. Clara Husher and family of Kansas, and the eldest daughter, Mrs. Kate Stauffer, deceased, lived for a number of years in Arizona. People also noted for their thrift, their enthusiastic response to the good everywhere as they found it and their heritage is great.

Joseph Harvey and wife came to Clay Township from Joliet, Illinois soon after the close of the Civil War, buying the farm now owned by Harlan Foster, from a Mr. Clark, father of the numerous descendants of that name of this county. Mr. Harvey was a farmer, and a justice of the peace at one time. His first wife died in 1882, and he again married. A son, Edward, the writer's husband, was by his first wife; James, Albert, Fred, Mrs. Elmer Norris, and Mrs. Mac Glahn, children by the latter marriage; children by both wives also dead. Mr. Harvey, a "down East Yankee," could tell many interesting stories of his youth. The first wife, Miss Naomi Turner, an English girl who had come to America with her widowed mother.

Mrs. Ellen Humphrey was a widow living just east of the Grove when the writer first knew of them. She was the daughter, we think, of the store keeper Crawley, of whom we write elsewhere. She owned a farm west of here, now occupied by John McNeill and family. Mrs. Humphrey was a very industrious woman, one whose house was always immaculate. Several children died early. John of St. Joseph died several years after the death of two sisters, Mrs. Lula Gosney and Mrs. Chris Hunolt of Kansas City. A daughter, Mrs. Mary Dock, resides in Kansas, and a son, Perry, who went west a number of years ago, reported as dead also.

"Virginia" Jones and family came to Clay Township from below Clarence about fifty years ago, having also lived in Lewis County, coming there from Virginia, hence the nickname. The parents and sons, Charles, Joe, James, and Floyd are all buried here, while a daughter, Mrs. Griffith, is buried in Shelbyville. A daughter, Mrs. Vic Hall, lives in Bethel; another, Mrs. Maggie Massie, lives west of here on the old Massie place, the only child, Mrs. Salome Oliver, and family living with her. Judge Jones, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Jones, also near here; another son, Leland, in the west; Aubrey in Hannibal, and Kenneth in Iowa. George Jones of the Grove, another son of the subject of this

sketch.

Mr. and Mrs. Green Mabury came to the Grove after their family were almost grown, moving from the farm now owned by the H. H. Rathjen family. A large family of children scattered, like most other such ones. James and Charles in Vena, Oklahoma, John at Cherry Box, a number dead including Mrs. Matt Price and Mrs. Nancy Voiles, Witheral, whose sons, Ed and Harve, and daughter, Mrs. Stella Banta, also live near Cherry Box; a daughter, Nora, elsewhere. These older people, as we knew them, were honesty itself. A story is told that one night Mr. Mabury heard a noise and went down to the barn and found a man in his granary; said he felt so ashamed, he turned and slipped to the house. This couple were unique as the only ones buried here in a double casket as both died so near the same time.

Uncle Lacy Morris-and such cherished memories does that name bring to the minds of older residents-came from Bacon Chapel neighborhood and settled on the farm land now owned by W. F. Gosney. Finding no place of worship, he at once set to work to organize a church, and with the generous response of Mr. Will Hirrlinger, a carpenter, a building was erected east of here which later was moved and was then known as Morris Chapel. Later a fine new country church was erected on that spot. An entire book could do little justice to the memory of such a man as Mr. Morris, a Christian in every sense of the word, and how blessed a vicinity is in the wealth of such a character.

John Prange, a native of Germany, was born in 1834, coming to America early in the 60's, where he married Miss Catherine Hyman, coming on to the Lutheran colony of this county, he and family being among its first settlers. Mr. Prange at once began buying land, as he by thrift, frugality, and the good German management characteristic of them was a successful farmer and stock raiser, had amassed quite a fortune and the large farm north of Hagers Grove, now spoken of as the Waters farm, was the home place, where a fine large home stands yet today. He also built other splendid homes around on other land holdings he had. One is known as the Breedlove farm. After many years of labor and the family grown, Mr. Prange and wife returned to Pennsylvania, where he died in 1909, the wife joining him in death in 1911, just two years later, and had returned to this county previous to this. The children were all pupils of Hagers Grove school. A Republican in political faith and a Dunkard religiously. The six children, all of whom are living except the son Chris, are: Harry H., Mrs. Margaret Gable, Mrs. Belle Echnacht, Mrs. Anna Gingrich, and Mrs. Mary Wilt.

Mrs. Sarah Stewart Price and husband came to Missouri in 1860 and after the latter's death, the widow still toiled to keep the home together for the seven children, who are John and George, deceased, and William, we think still living in California. Miss Mary Price also there, while Mrs. Barbara Alexander, widow of the late Frank Alexander, lives with the step-son, Bowles Alexander of Atlanta, Missouri; Mrs. Nancy Patton and family of California; Mrs. Lizzie Glahn, deceased. Mrs. Price last lived where Mr. And Mrs. Frank Simpson now live. An outstanding Christian character. She and husband were buried in the cemetery here.

Man's quest for gold all down thru the ages has caused him to suffer hunger from lack of food, and cold thru trudging half-clad thru snow and mountain fastnesses, the burning of desert sands, pestilence, Indians, thirst, and distance. None of these kept him from rushing out wherever the magic metal may be found, so when the famous discovery of the precious ore was made in 1848, it was well in the following year before the general rush to California began in earnest, as prospectors from everywhere stampeded to be first to get there and many are the harrowing tales of those who perished en route or after obtaining a pittance, failed to return home to enjoy the fruits of their adventure, but Johnathan Peoples, then a young single man, was more successful and after several years of doing reasonably well at mining, he returned to Shelby County and soon married Miss Maria Patton, sister of Cap. Sam Patton, and had come from Ireland when younger. While the subject of this sketch was born in Tennessee, he came to Missouri in 1832. Mr. and Mrs. Peoples were fine Christian people, who prospered, as they had a good farm of 200 acres and good buildings of all kinds. Having no children of their own, they raised Estella M. cooper, who when grown, married Alex Anthony, eldest son of Mr. And Mrs. Jacob Anthony, an industrious, honest farmer, who had always lived near the Peoples.

Samuel S. Patton came with his parents, Matthew and Elizabeth (Simpson) Patton to Shelby County from Cork, Ireland in 1841, the son Samuel being nine years of age at that time. Robert Graham, grandfather of the later Grahams and a brother-in-law of Matthew Patton, had been here for several years and finding it a land, as thot, literally "flowing with milk and honey," he having done so well since coming, he kept insisting they also come. After landing on the eastern coast, after the voyage was over they came by boat to Hannibal, where procuring wagons and teams of oxen they began their slow trek to Shelbyville, and how slow he found it, is characteristically told in the following story. Mr. Patton had been a breeder and raiser of fine fast horses in his native country, so the journey with oxen was made seemingly doubly slow. Upon reaching Shelbyville a Mr. Dimmitt, we believe, asked the traveler if he were moving, tired as they were, and the question again bringing to his mind the incomparable difference in swiftness of his former fast horses and the cumbersome oxen before him, that, quite disgusted, he replied, in his Irish brogue, "Yes, moving, but 'domn' slow". The son, Samuel, grew in the ways of the new country, farming, and stock raising, living at the home where his father had taken up a tract of Government land, now in the Copenhaver school district. The house was between where Judge Jones now lives and the old house up higher on the hill. They of course suffered many of the hardships incident to settlers in a new country, for their water supply was that which they hauled from the river, quite a distance away, with a cart, and while one of these trips was being made, their house caught fire and for lack of water with which to extinguish it, the house quickly burned. Then the added burden of rebuilding. Mr. Patton was married to Miss Sara A. Peoples of Tennessee in October, 1858, she being a cousin of Jonathan Peoples, who had married a sister of Mr. Patton two years previous. The old frame house just east of Hagers Grove, standing back from the road on a hill, he had built just previous to his marriage, which yet stands, tho doors gone and frame less windows make one think of a very aged, sightless person, and one thinks of the stories it could tell of harrowing incidents during and after the Civil War, and the joys and sorrows those old walls have witnessed. Going to war in August of '64, he enlisted in the Southern army under Gen. Porter, soon being made a captain of a company, serving thru a number of engagements in northeast Missouri. After the war, he again resumed farming. Later he decided to also start a store, building a large frame house in the Grove, directly across from the store building, and it is a fair state of preservation and owned and occupied by Geo. Koftan and family. In 1869 he was appointed postmaster and later, justice of the peace. A large stock of merchandise, he had a fine trade, besides the almost 400 acres of good land, much of which was in cultivation. Mrs. Patton died in July, 1882, leaving him with five children: Matthew, now deceased, Timothy H., Simpson S., Mrs. Dollie Jones, and Mrs. Lee Bachstien. In January, 1884, he was married to Miss Mary Stout, a fine young woman, an English woman, who had made her home with his sister, a Mrs. Chick, for a number of years, and who now in her later years is being tenderly cared for by the kind step-daughter, Mrs. Jones, who now lives in Clarence, as does her brother, "Simon" as he is always called. Timothy and Mrs. Bachstien live in Fresno, California. Two children were born of this later marriage: Mrs. Anna Gaines, deceased, and Mrs. Rachel Hall of Montana. Several years later, Mr. Patton was gathered to his fathers and the body was laid to rest in the Patton cemetery that was started on the old home place, as many of the pioneers did at that time, and where his parents, others of the family, his first wife and children, lie awaiting the resurrection, on a high hill and kept in fair condition. Many others besides the immediate Patton families are also buried there. A man around whose successful life much of the history of Hagers Grove revolves, and a book could be written of the good deeds and generosity of the Patton family. Another one the salt of the earth.

James Richison came with his mother to this state from Worchester County, MD, in the year 1845, making the trip in wagons, and settled on a farm near Oak Dale, later to a farm north of Lentner, where he grew to manhood. He married Miss Eliza Patton, sister of S. S. Patton, October 16, 1862. They bought 80 acres of land from a Mr. McCrosky, three miles southeast of Hagers Grove, later buying 65 more from John Copenhaver, this being his home all his married life and where he died in April of 1921 at the age of 80 years. A son, John, who never married, and a daughter, Mrs. Nannie

Glahn, and her family yet reside there, the faithful wife a member of Hagers Grove Christian Church, dying a number of years ago. A son, Matthew, who married Miss Orva Eldred; a daughter, Mrs. Maria Schwada, widow of John Schwada; and a daughter, Mrs. Elzena Jarrell, who is also dead, were the several children of this excellent couple. Mr. Richison, a man of sterling worth, honest to a degree, a hard working man, who provided his family the comforts of life by the sweat of his brow, and who with the slow-going ox teams plowed the first furrow around the section of land later known as the German settlement, and many other acres for owners, as well as his own, and much of the land he then plowed so slowly and laboriously is now run over so quickly with the tractors and modern equipment, and the more expensive, a far less yield as when the soil was new and free from the numerous pests of today. And farm prices then were low, unbelievably so, and one wonders how they had money for necessities, when it told a team of oxen was sold that brought \$10.00

Samuel Roberts, a bachelor and Confederate Veteran of the Civil War lived in this vicinity for a number of years, boarding much of the time with the Widow Price. A cleanly and very fastidious gentleman and a truly pioneer fence builder, as his labor and oversight made many acres of ground fenced, both before and too when barbed wire was first being used (bob-wire) as we remember some saying. A man of integrity and easily provided for his material wants by the labor of his hands until failing eyesight eventually caused total blindness, forcing him to spend his later days at the Confederate Home in Boonville, Missouri, where he died several years ago.

James G. Roy was born in Marion County March 10, 1847, son of James W. Roy and Nancy S. (Keller) Roy, who came there from Virginia in 1930. A miller by occupation, and died in Marion County on a farm in 1853, his wife dying soon after, both being buried in Marion County. Two surviving children, the subject of this sketch and William K. Roy, father of the writer. They and the former's wife, then Miss Pauline Bright, attended and graduated in the old Palmyra Seminary or Bethel College, during the troublesome times of the Civil War and they told many trying, pitiful experiences of it. And too it was a strong Southern sympathizing town, it was all thru the war made an encampment of the Union soldiers, and how quiet they had to be: never once say anything about the Southern cause they so loved, but most terrible of all was the heartless Palmyra massacre when ten of its leading citizens were taken out in wagons that contained the boxes or coffins in which their bodies were to be placed after being shot in retaliation for the disappearance of a union man, who disappeared and of whom the innocent victims knew nothing. An uneraseable blot upon the Civil War activities in Missouri. Being married in 1887, he ran various mercantile establishments in Palmyra for a while, also had a nursery, then later a partner in the lumbar business in Clarence, Shelby County; prior to that, in business in Cameron a short while and at that time an infant daughter, Anise Roy, 18 months of age, died and was taken to Palmyra for burial. From Clarence he came to a farm he had bought of Judge Hunolt and now occupied by Jimmie Daugherty and sister, Miss Lillie. After five years of farming he traded the farm to Judge Hunolt again on the store building and contents and took possession first of the year, 1882, where he continued in business until his death in 1908. The eldest son, W. E. Roy, had married Miss Louisa Schwada and lived at the Grove at the time, a partner with his father. He continued on with the business until the store was destroyed by fire in 1918, after which Ed and family moved to Clarence, and in business there for several years. A second son, Frank Keller Roy had attended Leonard Academy, as had the brother Edward, then he also went to Shelbyville, then taught several successful terms of rural schools, when thru the kindly persuasion of the friend and family physician, Dr. Sanders, he took up the study of medicine, after his graduation buying out Dr. Sanders, who then moved to Clarence, where he later died, as did his wife several years later. After several years of successful country practice, Dr. Roy also went to Clarence, he having married Miss Florence Wood, they having the one son, Frank, the wife dying soon after. The mother, Mrs. J. G. Roy, lived with him and infant son until the doctor married Miss Pearl Keller, also of Palmyra, and they still reside in Clarence. A younger son, Ellis, of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Roy, also decided to become a medical doctor after he too had graduated and taught school for a time. Near the close of his year as an intern at Kansas

City he married Miss Blanche Eberhard of Clarence in 1908, and they have made that place their home. After several years of successful practice as an M. D., he decided to quit and go into the mercantile business with his wife's people, F. M. Eberhard and Company, with which firm he is still affiliated.

Father Roy, as the writer always calls him, was a Mason and I. O. O. F. and his lodges meant much to him. A methodist for years, then later a member of the Hagers Grove Christian Church, a pillar of the church, a man of sterling worth, of honesty of character, and charitable to a degree, and as such took the writer when a small child of 3 into the home and after the mother's death a year later, kept us permanently, so only a very small child when moving to the Grove, which has always been home to us, thus making every stone and tree sacred to us. After the death of our father, William K. Roy, in St. Joe in 1884, they were in every way our parents and we are grateful for the lessons of thrift, honesty, and love for the right taught us, as well as many other splendid attributes these excellent people championed. William K. Roy, later a graduate of Notre Dame College after finishing at Palmyra College, married Miss Emma Frances Reed of Decatur, Illinois in the early 70's, a daughter of Dr. Reed, a former plantation owner of the south. The daughter had never combed her own hair or dressed herself until her marriage. The hardships incident to the war, after such a life free from care and labor were too hard for the dear mother and she died in 1881. An infant daughter died at birth, so the writer is the sole representative of this couple, who started life with such unusual educations and earlier prospects of success.

Another widow, Mrs. Margaret Stiles, lived on a farm north and east of the Grove for years, during which time the children, seven in number, grew up, going to the Grove school that was on their farm at that time. A splendid Christian woman, a member and regular attendant of Morris chapel Methodist church. After the sons, Len, Harry, Albert, Hugh, and Cal were grown and two daughters moved to Clarence, Mrs. Ruby Long, wife of Milo Long, and Mrs. Margaret Thompson, wife of Dr. Thompson, both prominent farmers of that vicinity. Several years ago, Mrs. Stiles died, being buried beside her husband in the Hagers Grove cemetery.

John and Clara (Neaman) Schwada, natives of Germany, located in Indiana for a while, later coming to Clay Township in 1864. For many years he was a successful farmer and stock raiser, also rearing a family of nine children, who have every cause to call the memory of their parents blessed. The living ones are: Henry, Mrs. Flora Mitts, Mrs. Mary Long, Mrs. Louise Roy, Frank, and William, all of Clarence and vicinity, the son Leslie and family of Shelbina vicinity. An older daughter, Mrs. Emma Wilkey, died many years ago in Arizona, and John, Jr. is also deceased. Mr. Schwada and his wife, Mrs. Maria Richison Schwada and family had a large farm just east of here where the widow still resides. In later years, no longer able to actively run so large a farm, Mr. and Mrs. Schwada built a neat home near their beloved church, Ebenezer Evangelical Church, he donating the ground for the site. After several years residence there, they sold it to the son Frank, and they moved to Clarence, where after several years of retirement the wife passed on and was followed by the lonely mate in a few years. The eldest son, Henry, having bought the original home place, still resides there.

The history of Hagers Grove Church and community would indeed be incomplete without a sketch of Lewis Cass Stover. Born in Hannibal, Missouri in 1848, son of Jacob and Polly (Baker) Stover, was left an orphan at an early age and upon his own resources. He went to school in his native town as long as possible, then procured work on a farm, thus fitting himself in a measure for the vocation he loved and followed the many useful years of a long life. In 1882 he married Miss Kittie Arnett, daughter of Macajah Arnett and Judith (Francis) Arnett, pioneer settlers of Shelby County. They were the parents of four children: a small child, a daughter dying earlier in life, a daughter Mildred, grown at the time of her death, and five years ago Mrs. Neva Willey also died, leaving just the one daughter, Miss Syble of Clarence, but who lived on the home place in the Brewington neighborhood for years, tenderly caring for both parents until their deaths a few years ago. And that these splendid people were fine Christian characters as can of no one else more truly be said, a pillar in the church he loved so long to attend, a fine character.

We have no dates but wish to write a sketch of Richard Vickers, a Canadian by birth, who came to Shelby County when a young man at the invitation of Benj. F. Bunn, a former resident of that country, and finding conditions good here, wrote this younger man to come as Mr. Bunn, of whom we have previously written, came to be a large land holder and a moneyed man, as did his friend, Mr. Vickers, who bought a piece of land north of the Grove and adding to this year by year, also came in possession of a large tract which he generously apportioned and divided among his children while he was still living, thus enjoying with them anew the fruits of his long years of labor and honest endeavor. His first marriage was to Miss Julia Anthony, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Anthony. In a couple of years she and an infant son died. After being a widower for some time, he married a sister of his former wife, Miss Emma Anthony, and to this union were born: Robert, Frederick, and Floyd, Mrs. Ad Rose, Mrs. Frank VanHouten, all of the vicinity, Mrs. Ella Mae Koftan in the Grove, and Mrs. Jessie _____ and family near Hannibal. His second wife died when the youngest child was quite small, but he continued on the farm until all were married, when he married a later wife of his friend, Mr. Bunn, who had then been dead for some time. For several years he and wife lived in Clarence, when his health began to fail him, and after several years of illness he died in the fall of 1932 and was buried in the cemetery at the Grove, beside the wives who had earlier preceded him. Mr. Vickers was a quiet, unassuming, courteous gentleman, was a Republican politically, and a loyal member of Evans Chapel M. E. Church, and in his going the community lost a citizen of sterling worth and impeachable character.

The last in regard to people whom we have known as individuals whom we have known as individuals who in some way made history in Clay Township and among them is Gilliam Hopper, whose father was a pioneer, and he himself a progressive man, who owned and operated the first binder used in the community, the first grain being wheat, cut for the VanHoutens. We have also heard the family had the first surrey in which to ride. The gentleman himself later moved to Clarence, dying at his home last year at the advanced age of 95. A Civil War veteran, a man of the old school.

We have tried in every way to make this history of Clay Township around Hagers Grove authentic, reliable, and kindly toward all and hope any mistakes will be pardoned and readers will ever remember we have done the best we knew. We have derived much pleasure from being permitted to write in our humble way of the community and people we have know, as well as of those living here earlier. All down thru the years have struggles been necessary for a livelihood, and always the buying of goods at the seller's price and paying with products raised, that the farmer then takes what the buyer is willing to give, an all too unfair deal to have to make. In closing we wish to thank Mrs. Mary Patton, Mrs. Nannie Glahn, and Mrs. Mary Engle for dates and sketches, and also Ed Glahn who loaned us the Monroe-Shelby History containing so many historical facts. And tho his father, Christian Glahn lived over the line in Black Creek Township, it will be of interest to say he raised the largest yield of corn to the acre ever reported, as in 1875 a contest was on, a premium being given by the management of the Shelby County Fair Association. Three entries were made: Messrs. Wm. Ridge, I. M. Bonta, and C. P. Glahn, and the latter, as stated, won the \$20 given, as his yield was 129 ½ bushels, 28 bushels ahead of his nearest opponent. And how we should like to see a yield in comparison this year, 1935, since the corn is all gone and late in season, with poor prospects of any at all.

The Herald

We find in looking thru the files of the Shelby County history that one paper only, the Shelbina Democrat, is a senior to the Shelby County Herald and that by only two years, it also being most familiar to us as well, also a weekly visitor in the home, but Shelbyville being the county seat, more was heard about it in the home than Shelbina, then too, more home news has always been in it, so it is only natural it would be a favorite with readers thru this part of the county. Remember when a great stack of copies would each week come to the Grove for distribution, a paper the same in type and form as now, has always had the same style of dress, despite the change in the clothes of its feminine readers.

Remember well studying out the large letters of its name, one at a time laboriously, really learning our letters that way, and as now has it been a paper always advocating the right, the clean, just such a publication as one loves to have in the home. Well remember when Mrs. Kate Stauffer, nee VanHouten, wrote the items from this vicinity, later Dr. F. K. Roy, while yet a teacher at home, sent them in to be followed years after by Mrs. Walter McCue, who at that time lived on their farm west of here. For some time no one represented our vicinity, when your humble scribe began the work, could hardly say how many years ago. Needless to say it has accorded us much pleasure to have a part, tho so small, in the making of so successful a paper and appreciate the opportunity very much, also the kindly words of appreciation given us by the readers.

Our Heavenly Father, creator of all and giver of all good, we thank thee for these fine pioneers who blazed the trail, and thru trials only the first settlers knew, made it possible for us to have the many blessings we enjoy today. And, Father, help us anew as we view the heavens, your handiwork, to know thee, the Holy One. Help us to see thee in the beauty of the flowers, in the green of the fields, in the heart of the little child. And, Father, hasten the day when all men will name Thy name and in fear and love serve thee. Then, and then only, will the sword be ground into pruning shears, and the lamb shall lie down with the lion; then, too, everything that maketh a lie will be destroyed as will Satan, who will then be burned. Oh! God help each one to live better, for thus as the individual, so will be the nation, so help those in authority that they may have a vision of the Christ who gave His life for us that we may have life and have it more abundantly, and may they too know if they would serve thee they must heed the cry of the widow and orphan, the oppressed. Father, may we realize our present struggle is one caused largely by our transgressions, that as the Children of Israel, are we chastened to be brought back again to they fold where only will men find peace, love, and security here, and life everlasting in the world of joy beyond, promised to those who fear Him, love Him, and acknowledge Thee before men. All of these things do we ask in the name of the Christ who loved our infirmities even unto the cross that we might have salvation. Amen.