

SHELBY CO., MO. HISTORY WRITTEN BY SHELBY COUNTIANS

This book is a compilation of articles written about Shelby Co., MO .

Jessie May (Taylor) Greenwell wrote the history of the Shelby County Historical Society in 1964

Joan (Greenwell) Bierly, daughter of Jessie May Greenwell wrote the history from 1964 to 1998.

Page 1-45

William J Holliday wrote "Historical Sketches of Shelby County", these were published in 1871 in the SHELBY COUNTY HERALD. These articles begin in 1833 with the earliest history of the county and continue until 1871.

Page 45-67

Virginia Crooks wrote in 1935 "Shelby County to observe Centennial in August", published in the HANNIBAL EVENING POST 16 July 1935. This article mentions men who reached national fame from Shelby Co., MO, such as

William Keil, founder of Bethel;

Wm F Theihoff, C B & G railway manager of all railway east of Mississippi;

Edwin B Parker, helped organize the War Industry Board during WW1.

Frederick J Haskin owned the largest free information bureau in the US.

Dr Roy Gillaspie Blakey famous economist.

Wilbur Zeigler of Royal Baking Powder fame.

John Van Diver patented the first horse drawn corn planter in US.

Dr W B Caldwell inventor of Syrup of Pepsin.

Fred & George Naeter newspaper publishers.

Wm Fletcher McMurray, Methodist Bishop.

Roger Shale,"million dollar trust buster" worked with US attorney General.

Dr. J D Smith, president American Peace Society in Japan.

Clay Martin, traffic manager Grand Trunk Canadian railroad.

Early families history from past to present, Broughton, Saunders, Parker, Eaton, Watkins, Blackford, Moss, Dr Wood, Oak Dale history, old homes.

Church histories, school histories, town histories.

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Nicholas Watkins history 1833-1835

Page 70-96

Eugene Maupin "History of Western Shelby" Clay and Jefferson township History.

A program given by Jessie May Greenwell in 1964

SHELBY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It is with great pleasure that I am able to tell you about the Shelby County Historical Society.

In doing some research on the Missouri State Historical Society, no one was more surprised than I when I ran upon this very choice bit of information—a Shelby County “FIRST”. In 1868, Mr. W.O.L. Jewett opened a law office in Shelbina. In 1872, Mr. Jewett became associated with Samuel A. Rawlings, one of the proprietors of the ‘Shelbina Democrat’. Mr. Rawlings was engaged in a political campaign at the time, and Mr. Jewett filled his place on the editorial staff and helped to conduct the publication in conjunction with Mr. Hoselton. Mr. Rawlings died in 1875, and Mr. Jewett assisted in editing the paper until May, 1881, at which time he bought a half interest in it. He was elected Shelby County Prosecuting Attorney in 1876. In 1886, he was chosen a member of the House of Representatives and was a leading State citizen. In 1904, Governor Folk appointed him a member of the Board of Visitors to the State University. In 1892, he was made President of the Missouri Press Association, and for five years served as Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the National Editorial Association. In the Missouri Press Association, he secured the passage of a resolution providing for the origin of The Missouri State Historical Society, with headquarters at Columbia, and in 1906 was its President. He is also called the “Father of the School of Journalism” at Missouri University, because he got the Missouri Press Association to adopt a resolution favoring the establishment of the Chair of Journalism in that institution. I am sure Mr. Jewett looked down on us with smiling approval when we organized the Shelby County Historical Society.

We owe our Society in a great part to one person, Ola B. Hammond Wilson, a resident of Shelbyville, and a native of Shelbina, and a graduate of SHS. She talked, wrote, and thought "Shelby County Historical Society" for two years before she finally got a group to meet with her in Shelbyville at the Court House on August 14, 1963, to discuss organizing a County Society. She was elected temporary Chairman, and it was agreed to hold a Founder's meeting on August 22, 1963. A committee to draft the Constitution and By Laws was appointed. The dues were set at \$1.00 yearly. Those present at the organizational meeting were few, but ambitious, namely: Mr. & Mrs. Bragg Pickett, Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Hewitt, Mrs. Emmett Goe, Mrs. Merrill Bower, Mrs. Welch Greenwell, A. Loy Jones, Mrs. Tom Bierly, Will Davis., Katherine Drain, and Ola B. Wilson.

At Charter night, or Founder's night which was August 22, forty members were present and recognized as Charter Members. They met in the Court House in Shelbyville, and elected the following officers: Loy Jones, President-- Katherine Drain, 1st Vice President--Ronald Spilker, 2nd Vice President--Alice Priest, Secretary--Ola B. Wilson, Treasurer, and Joan Bierly, Historian. Directors were Alverda Ridgway, Lucille Bower, and True Dickerson.

By September 25, 1963, our membership totaled 140, and the first dinner was held at the Masonic Temple in Shelbina, at which time, Dr. Richard S. Brownlee, Director of the Missouri Historical Society was the featured speaker. Much praise was given to our Society for its rapid growth. Next on the agenda were papers prepared and read by Ola B. Wilson concerning Shelby County "Firsts", history of the Bethel Colony by Marion Taylor Gonnerman, history of John Forbes Benjamin by Betty Lou Crist, and the Civil War in Shelby County by Gladys Powers. These proved to be most enjoyable and enlightening reports on early Shelby County, and much enthusiasm was shown by those present.

Since that time, we have had various programs and attendance has been good. In the Court House on the first floor are papers, pictures, books and mementos belonging to the museum. We presently have the old sheriff's office on the second floor for the museum, and have bought some show cases and tables, so we now have a place to preserve our material. We have great dreams of a house or building for our future museum, but time and money will be the prime factor in seeing this dream fulfilled. In the meantime, let save all we can, and help keep Shelby County history alive.

THE SHELBY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1964 - 1998

JOAN GREENWELL BIERLY

Shortly after the formation of our Shelby County Historical Society, several worthwhile projects were proposed and it was decided to catalog all the county's cemeteries. This was an awesome undertaking as there were numerous burial grounds on family farms. Township committees were soon appointed and volunteers began the task--tromping through brush, briars and weeds, fighting mosquitoes and various other insects along with poison ivy, in search of long forgotten and neglected burial sites. Cooperation was excellent and soon many lists had been compiled, and the survey branched to several adjoining cemeteries. Next came the tedious task of recording the lists. Card files were made and put on file at the Shelbina Carnegie Library. These records have proven to be invaluable, especially to those conducting genealogical research, and are constantly updated.

Not sitting back and resting on our laurels, the society next began the Rural School History Survey. This project received good publicity, and soon many residents came forward with pictures and bits and pieces of information concerning the one room schools of which there had been many, but which by now were few. This proved to be a most rewarding experience, and many school records and pictures are on file at the Shelbina Carnegie Library.

Histories of all the county's churches were also undertaken, as many of the earlier, smaller ones had suffered declining membership and been closed. These too are important records, and are on file there, as well as a list of all Shelby County Servicemen who served in various branches of the Civil War, Mexican War, Spanish American War, WW1, WW11, and the Korean & Vietnam conflicts.

These surveys were all very meaningful, and each one tells its own story which will preserve the history of the county, and provide a written testimony of life in the "good old days" when modes of transportation were slow and unsure, and each small community had to provide its own school, church, source of supplies and entertainment.

During the ensuing years a number of important historical sites and events were commemorated beginning in July 1967 with the placing of a marker on the site of Shelby County's first seat of government at the former home of W. B. Broughton at Oakdale.

Also the "Lone House" was recognized as it at one time had the distinction of being the only house on the road from Palmyra to Kirksville.

A log cabin in the Emden vicinity was donated by Mr. & Mrs. Lester Ritchie, and after some restoration, a Dedication ceremony was held there.

We were able to secure the Walkersville Mill stones and had them moved from the site of the river to the Shelbina Carnegie Library park.

In 1971 Roy Neff was honored by the Society for his contribution and tireless effort in preserving the histories of the cemeteries, schools and churches.

The Bethel Colony Foundation was formed in 1972, and many of our members were instrumental in this formation and assisted in numerous ways. This was also true in our Nation's Bicentennial Year of 1976, when Shelby County's Centennial farms were recognized.

Our dreams of a building for the museum came to fulfillment sooner than anticipated--not by choice, but because we were informed by the Shelby County Court that they needed the space in the Court House. We were not only low in funds, but no suitable building was available, and so it was necessary to temporarily store our treasured pieces of history in an empty building in Shelbyville. In 1981, the Ray Bedwell building in Shelbina became available and despite protests from some of the members, this building was purchased for \$4600, and the headquarters were moved from Shelbyville to Shelbina. As there were not sufficient funds in our treasury, it was necessary to borrow most of the money.

In the summer of 1980, through the summers to 1985, Historical Exhibits were held at North Shelby High School. There were numerous exhibits each year, and much interest was generated by the public in various articles and crafts of our past history. Several members also took exhibits to neighboring counties for similar exhibits.

Two of our greatest accomplishments were the reprinting of the 1884 'History Of Monroe and Shelby County' -- and the new history we had printed from 1911 - 1972. The latter required many, many, hours of labor by a group of dedicated individuals and is certainly an invaluable contribution.

Although attempts to save the old railroad depot in Shelbina were futile, we were given the sign, the long wooden bench, and five stock shares by the Burlington-Northern Railroad.

In 1991, Dr. Virginia Norris (our long time County Extension Agent, and strong supporter of all our worthwhile projects) donated the Rookwood School House. This old one room school was still intact and in good condition and will serve as a shining example of this bygone era.

My one regret in bringing this history up to date is that it was necessary to omit many names of those who have given so unselfishly of time and money for fear of unconsciously omitting someone. Only named were those who donated land or buildings. Much has been accomplished in these intervening years by a number of dedicated people who certainly deserve a lot of credit.

The Shelbina Home Economics Club gave the Museum a shot in the arm when, in the summer of 1997 it organized its members into shifts and kept the doors open to the public on each Friday afternoon June, July and August. Hopefully this will become an annual occasion and those interested in viewing the many articles on display will take advantage of this opportunity. The Museum is open any time by appointment, and groups are encouraged to visit. **WE ALWAYS WELCOME NEW MEMBERS, NEW IDEAS, AND DONATIONS OF OLD ARTICLES.**

HISTORIC SKETCHES OF SHELBY COUNTY

By William J. Holliday

On the 7th day of May, 1833, I settled in what is now known as Black Creek township, in Shelby county. The *NAME* of the township at that time was not the same as at present, but belonged to Marion county. I found only twenty-six families in what is now known as Shelby county. And as many would like to know the names of the early settlers, I will give them: Henry Saunders, who lived near the present site of the village of Lakenan; Samuel Buckner, lived northwest of the same point; Thomas Holman occupied the farm now owned by H. B. Musgrove; Levi Dyer, lived on Congress lands, west of Black Creek, in Township 57, Range 9; Russell W. Ross, on the same farm on which he now resides; William B. Broughton, on the farm now owned by his son, W. C. Broughton; John Thomas, on the farm upon which Miller's mill now stands, in township 57, range 9; A McD. Holliday, on the farm now owned by Reason Baker; George Parker, on the farm owned by R. Douglass; A. Vandiver, on the farm recently sold by C. Carlile to Mr. Irwin; R. Duncan lived on a part of what is now R. W. Moss's Farm; Thomas Clemmons, on the farm at present owned by Rosanna Utz; Thomas J. Bounds, lived west of Salt River, on what is now known as the Dr. Wood farm; Cyrus A. Saunders lived on the place now occupied by Henry Dill; Samuel Bell lived where his widow now lives; Elijah Pepper, on the premises now owned by Mr. L. Jordan; James Swartz lived where Mr. Nesbit now lives;

the writer of these sketches lived on a portion of what is now Dr. L. Franklin's farm; George Eaton, on the same place he now occupies; John Eaton on the farm which now belongs to Mrs. Hale; George and James Anderson lived on the premises now belonging to George W. Anderson; Major O. Dickerson resided on the farm now occupied by A. Connelly; Peter Roff lived on the place now occupied by his widow; Nicholas Watkins, on what is known as the James Butterworth farm; King Eaton lived on the premises now owned by the heirs of Samuel C. Smith; and James Blackford still lives on his original premises.

Of the first settlers above named, only six are still living, viz.: James Anderson, W. J. Holliday, James Blackford, Nicholas Watkins, Cyrus H. Saunders, and George Eaton.

In the month of August, of that year, R. T. Holliday, Deputy U. S. Surveyor, began a survey, for the government, of Ranges 11, 12, and 13, beginning at the northeast corner of Section 36, Township 59, Range 11. He surveyed and sectionized said Ranges, northward, to Township 58, north of the Base line and fifth Principal Meridian, which work he completed in the winter of 1834-5.

In June, 1833, Wm. P. Matson, a stepson of Major Dickerson, was in Palmyra, when the cholera broke out. He started for his home, and came to the house of A. McD. Holliday, on Black Creek, which stream was so high as to make it dangerous fording. He remained all night, and was taken down with the cholera and died the next morning. At his burial, Holliday was taken with the same malady and died the next day. These deaths were all that happened in this county from cholera, although it raged to a

fearful extent in Palmyra where we obtained all our groceries, etc.

Our post-office was also there, but we made as few visits as possible to that place from this settlement. We had our grain ground at Gatewood's mill, about three miles north of Palmyra, and also Hickman's mill near Florida, Monroe county.

In the winter of 1833-4, William B. Broughton brought some merchandise and opened a store in his own house, and sent on a petition to the Post-office Department for a post-office, which was granted, and the office was named Oak Dale.

On the first Monday in August, 1834, a general election was held, and Major Obediah Dickerson, and S. W. B. Carnagy were elected to represent Marion county in the State Legislature to meet at Jefferson City, on the fourth Monday in November following. These two gentlemen were both Whigs. The Democratic candidates were John McAfee and John Anderson. Mr. Carnagy was a lawyer, and a resident of Palmyra. Major Dickerson was a farmer, and lived on the bluff northwest of the ford, where the road from Shelbyville to Shelbina now crosses Salt River.

In February, 1835, the county of Shelby was organized, with boundaries as follows: Beginning at the southeast corner of Section 36, Township 57, Range 9; thence north to the northeast corner of Section 1, Township 59, Range 9, thence west to the northwest corner of Section , Township 57, Range 12; thence south to the southwest corner of Section 31, Township 57, Range 12; thence east to the place of beginning.

The officers of the new county were appointed by the Governor of the State, and were as follows: Justices of the County Court, James Foley, Thomas Clemmons, and Dr. E. A Wood. Clerk of the Circuit Court, Thomas

J. Bounds. Clerk of the County Court, Thomas J. Bounds. Sheriff, Robert Duncan. The county seat was established at Oak Dale, and the offices kept in the house where Mr. William C. Broughton now lives.

The first County Court convened in the Spring of 1835, and appointed Mr. W. B. Broughton, County Treasurer, and R. W. Moss, Assessor. The Court also divided the county into two municipal townships by a line described as follows: Beginning on the Divide between Black Creek, and North River, where the Marion county line crosses said Divide; thence northwest to the county line. All of the county north of said Divide to constitute the township of North River, and all south, the township of Black Creek.

When the new county was organized, the Legislature appointed Joseph Hardy, of Ralls county, A. Lay, of Lewis county, and Elias Kincheloe, of Marion county, as commissioners to select the permanent Seat of Justice for the county of Shelby, which duty they performed by locating the same on Sections 20 and 29, in Township 58 of Range 10, the land being donated for the purpose to the county, by O. Dickerson, A. Vandiver, L. H. Gillispie, and S. J. Parker, and was within one and a half miles from the geographical centre of the county. The County Court then appointed Thomas J. Bounds, commissioner of the Seat of Justice, who laid off the entire tract donated, into streets, alleys, blocks, and lots 126 x 66 feet; the alleys 18 feet wide, running north and south. The streets on each side of the public square were 80 feet wide, and all others 60 feet wide. In pursuance of an order of the court, the first sale of lots was made on the 31st day of March, 1836. The conditions of sale were as follows: One-third of the amount for which the lots sold should be paid in cash; one-third in one

year, and one-third in two years. The purchaser to give bonds with security, and the Commissioner to issue a certificate of purchase. At the sale the lots brought from \$3 to \$120. Mr. Abraham Vandiver bought lots 5 and 6, in block 8, and immediately began building the house in which Mr. F. Boetcher now resides, for a hotel, at which place the Court ordered the election to be held for Black Creek township, at the general election on the first Monday in August, 1836; and for North River township, at the house of Mr. Alexander Buford.

About this time Mr. Peter Stice commenced building a mill on North River, where the town of Bethel now stands, but it never done much grinding.

At the election held on the first Monday in August, 1836, T. J. Bounds was elected Clerk of both the Circuit and County Courts, Wm. J. Holliday, Representative to the legislature, Robert Duncan, Sheriff, Thomas Holman Assessor, and Thomas H. Clements, Anthony Blackford, and Wm. S. Chinn, Justices of the County Court.

On the 3d day of August, 1836, the first court was held in Shelbyville, at the house of A. Vandiver.

I think it was in the winter of 1834-5 that John Winnegan, a small man, and who lived near where the road that leads from Bethel to Newark crosses Tiger Fork, killed two panthers of enormous size near his house. The neighbors called them Tigers, and named the stream that empties into North River at the farm of D. E. Triplett, Esq., "The Tiger fork of North River." All large streams in the county were named by trappers, Salt River, from Salt Springs in Ralls county, North River was originally called "North Two River." Black Creek was first styled "Jake Creek," by the surveyors.

HISTORIC SKETCHES OF SHELBY COUNTY

By William J. Holliday

II

The small streams were named in honor of the men who first settled the country near or contiguous to them; as, Pollard's Branch, from Elijah Pollard, whose widow still lives where he died. Hawkin's Branch, from William Hawkins a brother of James C. Hawkins, who built a house not far from where Wm. Hatfield now lives. Perry's Branch, from A. B. Perry, who owned a farm near the head of said branch.

The Branch on which Mr. S. W. Miller has his mill and store was named Clear Creek, from the fact of its being fed by springs, and the water being beautifully clear. Beal's Branch, named for Samuel Beal, ^(BELL) who settled on the Branch where Mrs. Fanny Beal now lives, in 1832. Parker's Branch, in honor of George Parker, who settled where Mr. Rankin Douglas now lives. Holman's Branch was so called in honor of Mr. Holman, who first settled on the farm now occupied by H. B. Musgrove.

In 1835 the building of a court house was ordered by the County Court. The stone, brick work, and plastering was let in one contract, and the wood work in another. Charles H. Smith was the lowest bidder for the brick work, etc., and Wade Burton for the wood work, glass, etc. They completed their jobs according to contract, and the first court was held in the building on the 21st day of November, 1836.

The first Circuit Court in Shelby county was held at the house of Wm. B. Broughton, on the 26th day of November, 1835; P. H. McBride, Judge, and R. Duncan, Sheriff. The Grand Jury was composed of the following

gentlemen: Wm. Moore, Foreman; Geo. Parker, Geo. W. Gentry, Wm. S. Chinn, Peter Stice, Bryant Cockrum, Joseph West, Elisha K. Eaton, Silas Boyce, James Blackford, Samuel Bell, Albert C. Smith, Josiah Bethard, Cyrus A. Saunders, Hill Shaw, John Thomas, Robert Reed, Russell W. Moss, Henry Musgrove, and Ezekiel Kennedy, twenty in all, who stated to the Court that there was no business before them. They were then discharged, and the Court adjourned. The expenses of the Court were: Wm. B. Broughton, \$1.00; Robert Duncan, Sheriff, 50 cents; Thomas J. Bounds, Clerk, \$3.37½; Total of \$16.87½.

The Grand Jury received nothing for their services.

At that time there was no water in Shelbyville, and the supply was hauled from Black Creek. This unpleasant way of getting water was a source of much annoyance that measures were taken to have a public well dug; and to this end a subscription was raised by the citizens, and an appropriation made by the County Court, which amounted in the aggregate to \$250. Ezekiel Kennedy was appointed a special commissioner to let the contract for sinking the well. A Vandiver undertook the work on the spot selected, which was about 140 feet northwest of the court house. He hauled the rock for a wall, and dug down 100 feet when he found water; but it being of weak strength, the contractor intended to dig to a greater depth; but on the night following the discovery of water a heavy rain set in, which caused a caving in of the well, and the labor was thus entirely lost. However, the people again subscribed, and the court made another appropriation for the same purpose. A "wise" man was consulted as to the best spot, whereon to commence the digging. Acting under his

advice, a new well was dug on the east side of lot 6, of block 9, on the line between the sidewalk and the street. The work was commenced and carried forward with energy, and the rock for walling was on the ground. At the depth of 100 feet water was struck but the quantity was so great, and flowed with so much force that the workmen had barely time to escape with their lives, leaving their implements behind. The water raised in the well so fast that to build a wall was impossible, and it was determined to throw the rock in loose until a foundation was formed whereon to build a wall, which was done, and the wall commenced twenty-six feet from the bottom and finished to the surface. All congratulated themselves upon having an abundance of the necessary fluid, which was of a superior quality; and the indications were sufficient to justify the hopes, but alas for human expectations! The stream formed a channel around the pile of rocks at the bottom, and the water disappeared, leaving the well entirely dry.

The citizens, although sorely disappointed, were not disheartened. They again raised funds and, under the supervision of a committee of citizens, employed a company of Norwegians, who had just arrived, to remove the rock from the well. The work was pushed forward rapidly; the rock was all taken out, yet, no water was found, although the committee were satisfied that it was not far away. The earth, in three fourths of a circle was removed, thus leaving a portion of the circle untouched as a dam to keep the water out until a wall could be built to hold the water. The wall was built a good distance upward, and the earth on the unwallied portion of the well was thrown out when, to the satisfaction of all, the water flowed in copiously. Attempts were then made to complete the wall. Two men laid the rock at the bottom, and a number assisted at the top. A frame was improvised for the occasion, upon which a long rope and pulley were fastened,

with a horse at one end of the rope and a whiskey barrel at the other. By driving the horse near the frame, the barrel, which was filled with rock, would descend to the bottom, where it would be emptied and filled with water, and by starting the horse on a trot down the street, the barrel would ascend. In this manner the work progressed and the wall continued thirty feet upward from the bottom. We were WELL paid for our trouble for we had plenty of splendid living water for a long time after. However, the constant action of the water upon the earth behind the rocks soon caused a caving in of the entire wall. Dirt was then hauled and the hole was filled up.

Some years afterward, when the town had increased in size it was decided to repair the old well. Accordingly Messrs. McAffee and Dickerson were placed in charge of the job, who removed all the rock and debris and placed a curbing of wood in the well. The former great quantity of water, however, had disappeared, and this last enterprise of the citizens did not prove remunerative; besides, the citizens had provided cisterns for their own use; and thus the old well, being almost unused, got out of repair and was finally filled up.

About this time John Payton, who lived on what is called Payton's Branch, came to town to do some hauling. His wife and brother-in-law were with him, and while returning home and in Salt River Bottom, Mr. Payton and his brother-in-law commenced running their horses; and the former, supposing that his horse would take a certain path on one side of a tree (there being a path on either side) he leaned to one side to avoid getting knocked off; unfortunately the horse took the opposite path so

suddenly that Mr. Payton had not time to recover himself, and he was dashed against the tree and instantly killed.

The Legislature, at the session of 1836-7, attached to Shelby county, for civil and military purposes all of ranges 11 and 12 of township 68, and established a state road from Paris, Monroe County, through Shelbyville to the mouth of the Des Moines river. The only roads running north previously were what were called the Back Roads. One called the Callaway trail, did not cross Black Creek, but came on the Divide between Black Creek and North River; the other, called the Bonnet trail, crossed Salt River above Walkersville, and Black Creek southwest of Shelbyville, and came up to the bluff into the arm of prairie on which the town now stands, bearing northeast across the Divide and joining the Callaway trail south of the North River timber, thence up to the head waters of the Fabius and to the Des Moines, where every Fall hundreds of barrels of honey was gathered and hauled into the settlements south of Shelby county.

The Callaway trail left the Divide on the farm now owned by Mr. John T. Tingle, and crossed the brance northwest of his house, about three-fourths of a mile, where there was plenty of water, and the bee hunters made a general camping place; that Branch was known as "Camp Branch" by the bee hunters and the first settlers.

THE HERALD--July 19, 1871

HISTORIC SKETCHES OF SHELBY COUNTY

By William J. Holliday

III

The brick of which the court house was constructed was made on the premises now owned by Mr. Josiah Bethard. The lumber was sawed at Lyell's mill on North River, in Marion county, near where Ebenezer Church now stands.

About this time a party of men were engaged in raising a log house on the farm now owned by Thos. F. Parker, and while raising a heavy log, it slipped and fell upon London, a black man, who was owned by Capt. James Shaw, and instantly killed him. Accidents of this kind were not unfrequent in the early days of Missouri.

The first mill was built about the year 1835, by Julius A. Jackson, on the farm now owned by Dr. Lemuel Franklin. It was a saw and grist mill combined, and was of great value to the people. It was destroyed by fire eight or ten years afterward.

I think it was in the Fall of 1838 that a County Fair was instituted, and a number of farmers contested for the premiums offered. I remember that Col. Wm. Lewis, Judge Wm. Gooch, and Charles H. Smith, each set up claims for the premium to be awarded to the person raising the largest quantity of corn on an acre of ground. These gentlemen gathered over ninety-five bushels, but I have forgotten who carried off the prize. Other farmers raised wheat that produced over fifty bushels per acre.

A circumstance occurred in the early settling of the county, which has been the subject of much merriment since, and goes to prove the truth of the Scripture, saying, "Behold how great a flame a little fire kindleth." A party of Indians, while on their way from Iowa to the Southwest country, whither they had been removed by order of the Government, passed through this county, and a few stragglers visited a settlement west of Salt River to get some pumpkins. The whites construed their actions as warlike, and, becoming alarmed, removed their families into a house selected on account of its Fort-like appearance. They then sent an express to Shelbyville to give the alarm; and one Peake, a resident of that town, mounted his horse and galloped to Palmyra the same night and spread the terrible news of massacres and scalping. A company of mounted men was organized at that place and started for the scene of the action. On reaching Shelbyville they halted to get something to drink, which terminated in a big fight in town. The row was finally quieted and the company marched off after the Indians, in a northerly direction, and on reaching Payton's Branch camped for the night. In the morning it was ascertained that the red men had progressed two days' journey from Shelbyville, and that the alarm was ill-founded. So the Palmyra Cavalry returned home, giving Shelbyville a wide berth. Thus ended that war.

Anthony Blackford, Nehemiah Redding & Co., built a saw mill on Salt River, near Coats' Ford, on the site selected by Silas Boyce. John Gay, of Marion county, was the mill wright.

Mr. Williams, of Marion county, entered the eighty acre tract on which the mill at Walkersville now stands, and contemplated the erection

of a mill on the place, but died before the work was accomplished. The land was sold by his administrator, and David O. Walker and George W. Barker purchased it and built the mill and started the town of Walkersville, which was thus named in honor of Mr. Walker.

In the Fall of 1835, a company under the direction of William Muldrow, entered about one-third of the land in the county and laid off the town of New York, on Sections 1, 2, 12, and 13, in Township 58, Range 11. This town was well laid out in streets, lots, and blocks, and was a good-looking town on paper, but no houses were ever built.

One of the Norwegians who lived on the head-waters of North River, came into Shelbyville, and on attempting to return home lost his way. His family becoming alarmed at his continued absence, a number of citizens turned out in search of him, and after hunting about a day and a half, found him wandering about on the prairie. He was taken home and cared for. His name was Peter Galena.

The few families of Indians who were in the practice of coming into the county on hunting excursions every fall, soon ceased coming and I have seen none here since.

In the spring of 1837, the entire county was settled, though very sparsely, except in the northwest portion, which was not yet in the market.

Crops were excellent during the early days. Wheat was very fine, and a certain crop, and would yield fifty bushels to the acre. Corn and oats did very well, while hemp was also a good and valuable crop. No bugs or flies disturbed any kind of grain, as is the case in these later days. Stock flourished well on the prairies from early spring until June, at

which time the people would burn off a large tract of grass, which was dry, and the cattle for miles around would congregate and feed upon the young and tender grass. It was a common saying with the people that "a late burn was better to keep the cattle together than a fence with stakes and riders."

Deer, turkeys, geese, swans, cranes and ducks were very plentiful, but rabbits, pheasants and quails were very scarce, and hardly ever seen. There were no poke or Jamestown weeds, or pursley, clover, blue grass, or timothy growing in the county, when I came here. Neither were there any fruit tree or locust trees, but nearly every immigrant brought a supply with him.

In 1837 the eastern part of the county was getting well settled, and as I recollect the names of the male inhabitants of township 57, range 9, I will give them as recollected:

The two Mr. Heckmans, Peter Pinkston, Gabriel Davis, Randolph Howe, Kennedy Mays, George P. Mays, Harvey Edson, Samuel B. Hardy, Samuel Blackburn, George Barker, Wm. B. Broughton, Russell W. Moss, Fontleroy Dye, Ramey Dye, Elijah Moore, John Thomas, Henry Saunders, Cyrus A. Saunders, Hill Shaw, Robert Duncan, Thomas J. Bounds, Joseph Holman, Joel Musgrove, Thomas H. Clements, David Smallwood, Richard Gaterell, Josiah Abbot, Julius C. Gaterell, Mrs. Desire Gooch, and others.

In township 58, range 9, was Kindred Felts, Stephen Gupton, Mrs. Temper-Gupton, William Montgomery, Edward Wilson, Henry Lowthan, Robert Lair, Addison Lair, Robert Joyner, Anthony Minter, Alexander Buford, Charles N. Hollyman, Elisha Baldwin, Solomon W. Miller, Mrs. Caroline Looney,

Oliver Lattimore, George W. Gentry; and others.

In township 59, range 9: Caleb Adduddell, Benjamin Jones, Mrs. Morgan Thomas, P. Lear, John Cadle, William White, Kemp M. Glasscock, Benjamin P. Glasscock, Daniel Wold, Benjamin Talbot, Thomas G. Turner, Perry Forsythe, Sylvester J. Bragg, and Mr. Whiteclock, and others.

In township 57, range 10: Samuel Buckner, Anthony Blackford, James Blackford, Dr. Wood, Isaac Blackford, George Eaton, Jefferson Gash, Col. Wm. Lewis, John Eaton, Charles Smith, Samuel J. Smith, Maj. Obediah Dickerson, George Anderson, Peter Roff, Samuel C. Smith, and others.

In township 58, range 10: Albert G. Smith, Samuel ^{BELL} Beal, Elijah Pepper, Jas. Swartz, Mrs. Elizabeth CreeL, Lewis H. Gillaspie, Alexander Gillaspie, Abraham Vandiver, Montellion H. Smith, Joseph West, Major H. Jones, John Easton, Ezekiel Kennady, James C. Hawkins, Dr. Hawkins, Elijah Owens, E. L. Holliday, Mrs. Nancy Holliday, John Lemley, Josiah Bethard, and Thomas Davis, and others.

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