

Historical Society News

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By R. T. Neff

This article is a continuation of Eugene Maupin's written history of some of the early settlers on Lower Otter and Crooked Creek. The first store in West Shelby, etc.

In preceding articles, I have mentioned some of the first very early settlers on Otter and Crooked Creek, east of the present Clarence road. Others came to the township about the same time, and soon there was a string of cabins along the two creeks, extending from the Macon line to Monroe County.

Many of these early settlers were from Kentucky and Virginia, but Levi Bishop, who settled on Otter Creek, southeast of the Donaldson-Kyle settlement, was from Pennsylvania. He came to the county in 1838. He had a son, Jesse, and a daughter, Frances. Bishop was a very successful farmer and took a leading part in the affairs of the county. He died in 1868.

On the headwaters of little Otter Creek lived Sam Smock, who came from Kentucky to Missouri about 1840. His hewed log house stood for many years on his 160 acre farm which he had by patent from the government. Smock lived to be an old man and was greatly respected by his neighbors.

North of Woodlawn, some two and a half miles, was the home of Joel Million. Like many other Kentuckians, he was greatly interested in fine stock, especially horses. He was very successful along this line, and much of the brood stock of the farmers of that day traced its ancestry back to animals brought to Shelby by Joel Million. (Note here that the old Million Cemetery has 10 people buried in it. It is located an eighth mile east to corner and one-sixteenth mile north of the Earnest Shoemeyer corner. Joel could be buried here as we have one named listed as follows: MILLION, First name gone, 78 years. Another name that could be his wife reads MILLION, MARY, born 1798, died 1863.)

Not far from the Million farm and near the present site of Maud was the home of William Dry of Madison County, Ky. He came to Jefferson township in 1835.

Another settler of the township was Col. Wm. Martin. He was a veteran of the Mexican War and came to this county at its close. He took up a farm on the south border of the county, northwest of Woodlawn. He had three sons, William, James and John, and a daughter, Molly. All of the family are dead, and the farm, has long ago passed into other hands.

On the north side of Otter Creek and

southwest of the first Stalcup school-house was the home of John Maupin, who came from Marion County in 1840. He was a blacksmith by trade and had a shop at his home. During the war, his home was burned by Federal troops because of his southern sympathies. His son, John Upton Maupin, was in Price's Confederate Army. He was shot at Hunnewell as he was returning home from the war.

Just before the Civil War, a New Yorker by the name of John Miller bought a farm on Otter Creek about a mile east of Union. He was a shoemaker and a very industrious man. He built a large basement under his house and during the war, he would often hide his horses in this basement to prevent their seizure by Southern soldiers or by the guerillas who were constantly passing along the Shelbyville-Centerville road which ran not far from Miller's home. Four years was a long time to hide horses in a basement and at last the saddle horses were discovered and taken by a group of guerillas on their way to fight the bloody battle at Centralia. (Note here that I have already told about the battle of Centralia and how our Shelby County boys were killed-52 of them. All but three that could not be identified were buried in a trench, taken up seven years later by the Federal Government and buried in the National Cemetery at Jefferson City.

Squire Barton came to Shelby County from Monroe in the early 50's and settled on the edge of the prairie, southeast of the present Enterprise. He had a rather large family and some of his sons served in the Confederate Army. Barton came to Missouri before it was a state. There were but a handful of settlers in Marion County. When that county became too crowded for him, he moved on to Monroe closing his eventful life in Shelby in 1868. (Note: There were two Bartons, one was called Squire and the other one was called Esquire.)

Crooked Creek was more sparsely settled in the early days on account of the fact that this creek was farther from the source of supply and was farther from the old Centerville-Hannibal road over which most of the necessities of pioneer life came. Besides the Stalcups, named in an earlier article, some of the early settlers were Henry Shoemaker, Henry Kidwell, John Dungan, Edward Tansil, Daniel Thrasher, William Bush, William Sherman, Enoch K. Miller and John Maupin.

More next week.

Historical Society News

The first store in west Shelby and how a long drought was broken as written by Eugene Maupin in 1927 when editor of the Clarence Independent newspaper. Continued from last week's article.

Wm. Sherman was, perhaps, the earliest settler on lower Crooked Creek. He came from Virginia and the location of his home was near Oak Ridge Church. The date of his settlement on Crooked Creek was 1836. He had been here but a short time when he conceived the idea of establishing a store where the scattered settlers could buy what they might need without making the long trip to Hannibal. With two yoke of oxen, he drove to that river point and loaded his wagon with flour, sugar, coffee, salt, soda, cotton goods in bolts and yarn for knitting. These supplies were stored in a little log hut built near Sherman's house—the first store in western Shelby County, established over 20 years before Clarence was established.

Some years later a man by the name of John Bush built a house not far from Crooked Creek on the farm now owned by Enoch Maupin. He also undertook to supply the settlers with a much sought commodity of that day—whiskey. The liquor was brought from Hannibal in barrels and soon the Bush homestead was a great gathering place for the sons of old Kentucky and Virginia who had grown tired of creek water as a beverage. Bush was a rolling stone and soon moved on to another location. E. K. Miller took over his first location. Miller was from Marion County. As he farmed his frontier farm, he studied such books as he could get hold of, educating himself for a greater work in the new land. Later he taught in the old Stalcup school and in the school located at Bacon Chapel. Entering the ministry, he became one of the most noted preachers of the M.E. church south, holding some of the best pulpits in the North Missouri and California conferences. He died at the beginning of the twentieth century at Palmyra. He is buried at that place.

When the first settlers came to the county, their work was to erect a crude shelter for the family. Often the head of the family came to Shelby a year ahead of the rest of his folks and with the help

of some of the other settlers, had a cabin built before the wife and children came. Most of the settlements were made in the timber, and it was necessary to clear all of the ground cultivated. This was the next work at hand. The fences were built of rails and it took many weary hours to make enough to fence several lots and a small cornfield. (Note: This item was mentioned briefly in last week's article).

The need of pure water soon made wells a necessity. Hence, great cisterns were dug near the house and walled with sandrock. Sometimes a well would be dug deep enough for living water. These were usually 30 feet deep and many of these old wells are in existence to this day. (Note: We filled in one of these wells several years ago, walled with stone. It caved it). As mentioned before, doctors were few and far between. The first pioneers of west Shelby were 35 miles from the nearest one. Home remedies were kept on hands and calomel, quinine, camphor, laudanum and paregoric were the mainstays of pioneer mother's medicine cabinet. In spite of the large families of those days, infant mortality ran high and hundreds of little forgotten graves dot the old cemeteries, the last resting place of little victims of croup, pneumonia, diphtheria, fever and flux. Because we all remember a few of these early pioneers who had lived to a ripe old age, we have gotten the impression that they were long lived folks. Such is not the case. Their lives were hard and the constant exposure sapped their naturally strong physiques. Men and women were old at 50 or 60, an age now considered the prime of life. They did their work well, so well in fact, that much of the best we have today traces back to the work that was done or planned by this race of pioneers. (Note: Little does the average citizen of today give a thought to his early ancestors. Ever stop to think why or how you happen to be here today? Very few do, and care less. Can we blame it on the people, or is it the economy, or the struggle for existence that causes the change? Wish someone would answer this question, or at least make a stab at it.)

More next week on Maupin's articles.

Historical Society

By R. T. Neff

This article is a continuation of Eugene Maupin's history of western Shelby County when he was editor of the Clarence Independent Newspaper in 1927. Early settlers in eastern Clay and the Bacon Chapel settlement.

The early settlers of the western states always located their homes along the streams, and Shelby County was no exception to the rule. Even as the Donaldson-Kyle party was locating on Otter Creek and the Stalcups were establishing their first cabin on Crooked Creek, the first settlers of Clay came into the township along the banks of Salt River. Due north of Lentner and along the dividing line between Clay and Salt River townships, these first settlements were made. It must have been about 1834-1835 when the Taylors, Lewis, John Wailes and Stanford Drain, and probably other families first located in the Bacon Chapel neighborhood. A few years later they were joined by the Moores, Carrolls, Duncans and the Barr families. Of these early settlers, Major Taylor and John Lewis were the only two that were over the line in Clay township. The families continued to come in and four years later found Isaac Tobin and James Parker settled near Major Taylor. Further up the river was a Kentuckian by the name of Nelson. Note here that the old map of Shelby County shows that these early settlers had farms of 10 to 20 acres and that there were over 20 farms on a section of land (64.0 acres in a section). Nearly all of these places are gone now. How they managed to raise the large families on this small acreage is still a mystery.

The Bacon Chapel settlement has a unique history. This little community established a solidarity of association that exists to the present day. Nowhere in the county can one find so many names representing the families of those first inhabitants of that part of the county. In every direction, from the hill upon which Bacon Chapel stands, one finds the descendants of those pioneers who built this community out of this wilderness. The reason for this could be the fact that the Bacon Chapel settlers had barely gotten their cabin homes erected until they established a school and a church.

In 1837 a congregation was formed at the home of John B. Lewis. It was composed of John Lewis and his wife, Charlotte, Chas. Christine and wife, Mary, Wailes and Stanford Drain, Mrs. Peggy Moore and David and William Wood. This was the genesis of Bacon Chapel church. Seven years later the congregation had grown in numbers until a church building was necessary. Near the present site of Bacon Chapel stood a little log cabin that had been built by George Bacon (some say a son of George Bacon). This building was used as a church building by the small Methodist congregation until 1845 when a new building was erected. The land for the new church and for the adjoining cemetery was given by Bacon, then a resident of Hannibal. In this cemetery rests the ashes of those who first settled in Clay township, organized the first church in western Shelby County and in all probability the first school. School was taught in this first little cabin and the date of the first school must have been about 1840.

The first school house in Jefferson township was built five or six years later and was located on the dividing line between the timber and the prairies, about a mile southeast of the present Stalcup school. This first Stalcup school was built of sod with the exception of the rear wall which was of logs. The chimney had a base of sand rock upon which was erected a structure of mud and wood. The seats were merely split logs and were to the child who attempted to slip

sideways along the bench to whisper to his neighbor. Children came for miles to attend this school. They way lay through wild and unsettled places. The road was marked for them by a furrow plowed with a prairie plow and yoke or two of oxen. Each child was armed with a stout stick for snakes of all kinds infested the high grass. They was constant danger from them.

More next week.

by R. T. Neff

This article is a continuation of Eugene Maupin's articles published in the Clarence Independent in 1927, listed as Early Settlers in Eastern Clay-The Bacon Chapel Settlement and the First School in Western Shelby.

The years rolled on and the Civil War came. The old school yard became a battle ground between the children whose sympathies were for the different sides. About a mile from the school house two forks of Crooked Creek unite and back in the sixties, this was an important water hole. In those days of few wells, stock in dry weather was driven for miles to drink of this unfailing supply. And this body of water was the swimming hole for the boys of the old school. Here was the sight of the hardest battle ever fought in Jefferson Township during the whole war. It was a few weeks after Grant, Buell, Johnston and Beuregard had fought the terrific two-day battle at Shiloh or Pittsburg Landing and the boys of the school were wildly excited over the scraps of news from this battle, the results of which were just sifting back to Northeast Missouri. Both Confederates and Federals claimed the victory and the youthful sympathizers of both sides were able to claim the victory also. Result--bloody noses and black eyes at the swimming hole at the forks of Crooked Creek. And ever afterwards this body of water has gone by the name of "The Shiloh."

Before the war ended, the school was closed, never to open again. A new school house was built after the war, its site being a few rods east of the present building. This second building was the voting precinct of the township for many years, and here were held the exciting elections of post-war days. The site of the old pioneer school building is on the farm now owned by J. C. Noel (1927) and can be located only by a few scattered sandrock and some fragments of slate.

Of the teachers of this early school we have but a few records. One of them was Margaret Maupin, whose home was in North Monroe County, and who afterwards, married her cousin John Maupin, one of the early settlers of the township. E. K. Miller, afterwards one of the leading ministers of the Missouri Methodist Conference, taught here as well as in the old Bacon Chapel school. As the school was in existence some ten years, there must have been several teachers, but their names we have never been able to learn. Few of the pupils who attended the short terms, taught in this old school, 75 years ago, are now alive, and in a few more years, the very existence of this first school in Western Shelby County will have been forgotten. (Note here--that it has been 50 years since this article was written by Maupin) And to think we waited 50 years after

Maupin had a hard time collecting material for his article. That is why we have had a hard time trying to get the history of the cemeteries, schools and churches as well as a list of Civil War Soldiers. Most of the earliest settlers had died and were buried in family cemeteries mostly on the farm they lived on. Our records show mostly their children as early settlers, as they were buried in established cemeteries, since churches were established, first thing, and nearly every church had a cemetery, we find these children buried here, like Bacon and Union, etc.

Historical Society

By R. T. Neff

The building of the railroad was the making of western Shelby. Before that time this part of the county was a frontier outpost and the inhabitants seldom voted in the elections or were consulted in regard to the business of the county. In politics, west Shelby leaned toward the Whig party. Perhaps the reason for this was the fact that many of the early settlers were from Kentucky where Henry Clay, the great Whig leader, was considered a superman. However, as the war days approached and the issues of those days began to be hotly discussed, the Democrats polled a larger majority with each biennial election.

Strangely enough the first Democratic leader from Clay township was William Richard Strachan, who was elected to the legislature by an overwhelming majority in 1858. Later he became a bitter opponent of secession and served as provost marshal of northwest Missouri in the Union army. By the time the war ended, his name was anathema to the party whom he led to victory a few short years before. Note here that Strachan lost his reputation in the Palmyra Massacre, which has been given in previous articles.

McAfee became one of the leaders in the Missouri house and was elected speaker. Later he became a noted secessionist and was expelled from his position on that account. At the time of the 1860 election, the Democrats were in complete control in west Shelby. The Whig party had disappeared and the Republican party had not risen to take its place. Only 90 votes were cast for Lincoln in the entire county and not more than a dozen of these were cast in Clay, Taylor and Jefferson. The division in these townships was between the Beckenridge and Douglas Democrats, the pro-slavery and the anti-slavery wings of the party.

The coming of the railroad brought a great increase in the population. It also gave a great amount of work to the settlers here. The railroad camps were fine markets for the produce of the pioneer farms and the residents of this territory were not slow to take advantage of this opportunity. Many of the railroad builders were from Ireland and the farmers of this section were astounded at the amount of potatoes consumed by the brawny sons of Erin. The ties for the road were purchased from those settlers living along the right-of-way. We have before us the day book of one of the founders of west Shelby, giving the tally of ties furnished by him for the new railroad and a list of supplies furnished by him to several

different foremen of the working crews.

It might be worth while to stop here and give a short sketch of this old pioneer who helped make west Shelby. Mason Wheeler was born in Mason County, Kentucky, and came to Missouri as a young man. He first settled in Marion County but soon came to Shelby and located on a farm west of Walkersville, not far from the Bacon Chapel settlement. This was about 1836. We fix this early date because Wheeler was one of the charter members of the Bacon Chapel class, (his name being unintentionally omitted in our earlier article). Later Mr. Wheeler moved back to the Hagers Grove community where he lived for some time. However, in his later days, he once again returned to the Bacon Chapel neighborhood, locating on a farm one-half mile north of the church. He died at this home at a ripe old age, honored and loved by all who knew him. He was a great leader in the church and took an active part in the laying out of the new county roads and in all of the activities which came about in the building of a new county. He left a family of two girls and several boys. Maria married Bennet Hayden who lost his life after the battle of Kirksville, when 18 of Col. Porter's men were shot at the order of the victorious Federal commander. (Note here that the 18 were classed as oath breakers as has already been stated in The Civil War articles). Another son, Henry, joined the Confederate army and served throughout the war.

The Wheeler family was but one of the many families of west Shelby broken up by the terrible days of the Civil War. Our part of the county had barely tasted of the prosperity incident to the building of the Hannibal and St. Joe, when they were brought to the war period and the days of anxiety and grief. They had this advantage, the county was still sparsely settled, their towns were small, and their property of little value, that they did not attract the raiders of both armies as did their older and sister counties to the east and to the south.

With the exception of one little skirmish on Mad Creek in Jefferson township, not a battle was fought on their soil. On the other hand, the young men of the families went out to war, some on one side, some on the other. Many of them never returned. Older citizens were shot down by marauders from first one party and then from the other. The bitterness engendered by those days lasted for two generations. (Note again, as stated in previous articles on the Civil War, this was bushwhacking country).

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Historical Society News

by R. T. Neff

This article is a continuation of Eugene Maupin's article on "When Shelby County was Young." This article is also about other early settlers of the community, another early store, and the first college in the west part of the county.

We have now come to the time when the settlers were coming nearer and nearer to Clarence. On three sides, they were encroaching on the Clarence prairie and several of their early thoroughfares passed near the spot where Clarence is now located.

We have spoken of most of the early families south and southeast of Clarence, as well as of the first settlers in the Bacon Chapel neighborhood. Before taking up the history of Clarence itself, it is necessary to speak of one or two more of the early pioneers of western Shelby, all of them being closely connected with the development of Clarence.

John Tobin, who made his home on the south side of Salt River, just north and a little south of Lentner, was one of these men. His farm was mostly in the river bottom. East of Tobin was another of these pioneers who had much to do with the development of the western part of the county.

Nicholas Watkins of Maryland, a harness maker and saddler, came to Shelby County when there were but four or five inhabitants. He settled about ten miles east of Clarence. After the county was formed and the seat of government established at Oak Dale, Watkins joined with Jas. Hagin, John Kyle and Jas. Donaldson in a petition to have the county seat moved nearer the center of the county. In this they were successful and Shelbyville was chosen.

Watkin's son, James A. Watkins, was one of the early businessmen of Clarence. Another early settler of the northeastern Clarence territory was Sam Patton, who came to the county in 1811. He was a soldier in the southern army and one of the early merchants of Hagers Grove. Another Maryland man who was one of the first to make a home in the Clarence community, was Benjamin Melson. He came to the county in 1837.

I am going to make some comments on these early settlers. Our cemetery records do not show where John Tobin is buried. We do have James N. Tobin, born in 1814, and Isaac Tobin, born in 1790, both buried in Bacon Chapel Cemetery. Again, Nicholas Watkins, born in 1809, died July 25, 1880, buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery. I might add another old settler, and that is Peter Roff, 1803-1868. He and "Nick" were neighbors and is buried in the old Roff Cemetery, south of the brick house, now owned by Simpsons. This has the largest stone marker in the county for family cemeteries, but is flat on the ground now. This place is about 4½ miles northwest of Shelbina. Samuel Patton was born in Ireland, June 22, 1832, and is buried in the Patton Cemetery, several miles southeast of Hagers Grove. You can read more about Patton in the Monroe-Shelby History on page 1074. He was a captain in the Civil War on the southern side. He is listed as a retail merchant, farmer and stock raiser at Hagers Grove. He died August 3, 1888. Our notation on Ben Melson is MELSON GRAVE, N.E. Clarence 3 to 4 miles to the Howard Barr farm. Rock at head and foot, is the only marker. Information is Wess Wheeler. Ben's wife is buried in the Clarence Cemetery. Listed as Mary J. Melson, November 6, 1825 - April 17, 1899. Wife of B. N. Melson.

About a half mile southeast of the site of Clarence, Ben Fowler built a two-room box house out of oak lumber. Even the roof was of that material.

The exact date of Fowler's settlement near Clarence is unknown, but it preceded the founding of Clarence by several years. Fowler hauled the lumber from Centerville. A Dr. Hann had built a dam across Salt River at that place and had erected a saw mill there. The saw was known as an up and down sash saw and the parts were freighted from Hannibal with two yoke of oxen. A man named Spires was the sawyer. When the railroad was built, Fowler sold his homestead and moved back to Clarence. There were but four or five houses in the town when he located there.

More next week on this same subject.

Historical Society News

by R. T. Neff

This article is a continuation of Eugene Maupin's history of Western Shelby County, More Early Settlers, An Early Store and the First College.

On Long Branch, northeast of Clarence, was the location of the home of Sam Houston. Houston was probably the first man to actually attempt to turn the first prairie to other purposes than pasture. He had a great prairie breaking plow made at Warren in Marion County and, with it, he commenced the subjection of some of the acres of prairie hitherto untouched by a plow. The prairie breaker caused quite a stir among the pioneer men and many of them came to watch it at work. The plow had two wheels and the beam rested on the axle and was thus prevented from running too deep. The beam had a lever to raise and lower it and was swung between two uprights which were, in turn, fastened to the axle. This crude plow was the forerunner of the sulky plows of a later day. Note: Is there a plow of this description in existence, and could one be obtained for the Historical Museum?

John Hawkins came to the west part of the county about 1838 and located on a homestead north of Clarence on the north side of Ten Mile Creek and on the edge of the prairie between that creek and Salt River. Soon after his arrival in this county he put up a store for the convenience of his neighbors. This store, like the one on Crooked Creek antedated the founding of Clarence by many years. Some of the older citizens can still remember the old store and its location. Note: Can anyone tell us where it was located? Hawkins and two boys, William and Boles Hawkins, they married sisters, the daughter of John Dawson of Ralls County. Most of the settlers in Northern Clay township came from Ralls county. They came by way of Monroe County, and they usually went back to Florida from Shelby County to get their supplies. Thus during the early settlement of the county, there were three distinct groups of settlers in the county. The inhabitants of the eastern part of the county were practically all from Marion County, and they used Palmyra as their base of supplies. Settlers in Clay and Taylor were in most cases from Ralls or Monroe County and they usually went back to Florida on Salt River for such things as they could not produce in their frontier homes. Down in the southwestern part of the county, were many settlers who had come into the county by the way of Boone Licks and Centerville and they went to the latter place for their store goods. In the preceding articles we have

spoken about some of the first schools in this part of the county and before taking up the history of Clarence itself, it might be well to tell of the first college in our community. Four or five years before the coming of the railroad, Professor William Corbin came to this part of the country and bought a small tract of land southwest of Clarence on the headwaters of Crooked Creek. Here he erected a small college building, a dwelling house and a dormitory for the students. These later came from all parts of the country, and it is said that there were as high as fifty students enrolled at one time. Dr. Corbin was an Episcopalian and, although a courtly and lovable character, he ruled with a mailed hand.

But while Dr. Corbin's pupils feared him, they also respected and loved him, possibly not fully realizing the latter passion until their alma mater had been left some years behind them. The following interesting story, illustrative of the affection of his former pupils for Dr. Corbin is told. The Dr. had planned a trip to Europe, many years after he had left the school room, and was in the ticket office of a big ocean liner company, in New York City, arranging for his passage. The president of the company happened to be in the office and he recognized his old schoolmaster and

made himself known. After learning of the doctor's plans for his trip, he insisted on him dining with him at his club. When they returned to the office the president handed the doctor an envelope containing a round trip ticket, guaranteeing the best service the company could furnish with his compliments. Dr. Corbin hesitated to accept so large a gift but his former pupil replied, "I am still heavily in your debt, Doctor. If I have amounted to anything in life it is due to your discipline and ability to make me learn against my will."

With the coming of the railroad and the starting of Clarence the college began to decay. Pele Hall, one of the house men of the doctor, left him, and removed to the new town. Finally Dr. Corbin gave up the school and returned to Palmyra, and later removed to another state. Some of the old college buildings remained standing on the farm now owned by G. T. Guman, for many years, the last one being torn down in 1926.

With the building of the railroad and the founding of Clarence, a new period of history commences in our part of Shelby—the period of the Civil War and the days of reconstruction. In an early issue we hope to present our readers a sketch of the history of Clarence, in those days of long ago. More history will follow next week.

Eugene Maupins' History of Western Shelby County

Eugene Maupin wrote the History of Western Shelby County when he was editor of the Clarence Independent in 1927. This history has never been published in any history and refers to the time about 1830-1840. Since the history of eastern Shelby is the 1884 edition, it might be well for your history "buffs" to keep these articles in scrap books any way. Unless Mrs. Timbrook can furnish us with more articles we have run out of material and there will be very few articles left to publish. This article will deal with War on the Horizon, Cutting Down Secession Flags, and a Battle in Jefferson Township.

When the election of 1861 had made it plain that war was coming on the horizon, sentiment in Shelby County began to crystalize into the two great divisions, the Unionists and the Secessionists. As Missouri was on the border of the states, so Shelby was on the border of the counties divided by the great issue. To the north of Shelby the counties were declaring themselves for the Union. On the east, Marion was openly for the Southern cause and secession. Monroe on the south was also a southern stronghold. Shelby's representatives in the legislature, McAfee was strong for withdrawal from the Union and was zealous in his support of Gov. Jackson in his measures against the Federal government.

In the spring of 1861, following the firing upon Ft. Sumpter, the southern sympathizers of the county gathered at Shelbyville to raise a secession flag and hear some of their leaders speak on the question confronting the state and the county. Among the southerners, who were present that day from West Shelby, were: Hon. John McAfee, J. M. Donaldson, Wm. Baker, Pete Ridings, Elijah Chinn, Elias Barton, B. Pollard, Sam Patton, and others whose names we

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have not learned. One of the speakers of the day, Jas. S. Green of Lewis county, was bitter in his denunciation of the Union men of the county and one of his remarks that day was long remembered and bore bitter fruit in the days to come. He said, "If you win the day we will leave the state; If we lose we will also have to leave."

Southern sympathizers came back to west Shelby filled with enthusiasm for the cause and proceeded to have local meetings with the avowed purpose of unifying this section against the Federal Government. Up in Taylor township, a secession flag was raised in the yard of Wm. Baker, one of the violent southern men of that part of the county. Later in the year the 16th Illinois regiment was encamped at Macon City and detachments were sent out to rid the surrounding country of the secession flag poles. The one at the Baker home was chopped down and no resistance was made by the Southern folks. Over in Macon county, the Federals found a pole and flag near old Bloomington. They questioned one of the boys, whose curiosity had drawn them to the scene, as to who was responsible for the erection of the flag. "It was raised by the brawn and sinew of Macon county," replied the boy, whose father was already in Price's Southern army. "Then the brawn and sinew of Macon county can cut it down," returned the officer and the young southerner was given an axe and put to work. As the work proceeded it became evident that the flag would fall towards the south and the officer in command, feeling that that

would be a bad omen, commanded the youngster to climb the pole and swing it to the North. But the Southern blood rebelled at such an order. "I may represent the brawn and sinew of the county", he retorted, "but I'm no darned squirrel." The pole was pushed to the north by soldiers and the incident was ended.

But now the war was on in earnest and soldiers began to pass and repass thru Clarence

on the trains. They came out from Macon and arrested McAfee, keeping him a prisoner for some days. Southern success at Bull Run brought the war spirit of the young southerners to the boiling point and dozens of them began to leave their Shelby homes for the Southern army. Some 75 men from Taylor, Clay and Jefferson found their way to Price's army, and to Greene's State Guards. Few of these men ever returned to Shelby County.

Eugene Maupins History

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This article is a continuation of Eugene Maupin's history of Western Shelby County when he was editor of the *Clarence Independent* in 1927. Remember it has been nearly 50 years since he published these articles and not many people can remember that far back. That is why we are publishing this history again. In the last article I stated that not many of the soldiers that enlisted in the army returned to Shelby County. What should have been said was that many of them were never back in Shelby until after the end of the war. On the other hand, the native sons who enlisted in the Union army were stationed nearer home, and in many cases, saw active service here.

While several bodies of armed troops, both Confederate and Union, crossed west Shelby at different times during the war period, only one clash occurred in the limits of the three townships. Early in 1862, a body of Confederate irregulars came up from Monroe County and entered Jefferson township with the avowed purpose of gathering up some horses from the Unionists of that section. Notice of their action was sent to Macon City and a detachment of Black Hawk cavalry was sent to check their advance. The Union horse surprised the Confederates, encamped on Mad creek in the extreme southwestern part of the county. A skirmish ensued. From their position in the brushy bottom of the creek, the southerners poured a hot but ineffectual fire into the deploying cavalymen. The former were poorly armed and their shotguns were badly outranged by the army carbines of the Unionists. After a volley or two, which did but little execution, the Confederates scattered, took to their horses and fled toward the vastness of the Monroe County hills near Florida. One killed three wounded.

By this time this part of Missouri was well under the control of Federal forces, and with the exception of a guerilla raid, now and then, West Shelby

was never entered by a Confederate force during the remainder of the war. In fact, the net was drawn so tight about this section of the county that the young southerners found it impossible to reach the southern army, and those who left their homes to enter the war were forced, in most cases, to join the guerillas or with the irregular forces that continued to make raids into north Missouri in an effort to tear up the Hannibal & St. Jo railroad and check the troop movements in that manner.

It might be well to note here that I have already described the guerilla tactics in this part of the state. The tearing up of Salt River bridge, how Grant was sent to protect this property. The shooting of Lasley, Ridgeway and Price. Our articles of the finding of the graves of Price and Ridgeway in the old Cox Cemetery. Lasley's grave has never been found, the shootout at Hunnewell. The attempt to move good Kentucky bred horses to Illinois etc. Remember soldiers, or those posing as soldiers, lived off of the community. Regardless of politics they took what they wanted from the people, until they, the people, went to hiding their stock, and foodstuffs out in the brush, as well as any valuables they had. Does anyone ever remember hearing of valuables such as money and silverware that has never been recovered? It seems when we call for information of any kind, no one ever responds to tell us anything. All this

history is out there with you people. All we can do is collect it like Gene Maupin did when he wrote his history 50 years ago. He had the advantage of interviewing some "ole timers" that

remembered some of the things he has talked about. Remember, I have made the remark numerous times that we have waited 50 years too long to get this history.

shelby historical society

R. T. Neff

Historical Society News

Eugene Maupin's articles on history of western Shelby County was published in 1927 when he was editor of the Clarence Independent. The 1884 edition of the Monroe-Shelby history gives mostly the history of eastern Shelby County. You history buffs better be saving these articles for no one knows anything about them and can't remember when they were published back in 1927. With this article there will be another one and that will be the last of the historical articles by Maupin.

This article can be called "The Founding of Clarence: its History and Development."

Clarence, the principal town of western Shelby, is only about a mile and a half from the Macon County line. Before the building of the Hannibal and St. Joe Railroad, the site of Clarence was a swampy waste where water stood far into the summer months. A man by the name of Fleming Turner had first owned the land, but sold it without occupying it to the John Duff Company, the contracting company, which was building the railroad through this section. John Duff laid out the town, October 20, 1857, and named it after one of his sons.

The only building in the town when it was laid out was the small frame depot, built in August 1857. It was about the center of the new town plot and a little west of the present depot. The first station agent was William Strachan, mentioned before as a member of the Missouri Legislature, and later Provost Marshall of Northeast Missouri. He owned a farm about three miles northeast of Clarence. Note here, it might be interesting for people living in this section to look up on your farm deeds and see who owns this place now. All owners names are on these deeds. Wilson Hamilton built a small shop a little north of the depot, but the first store was built by C. R. Watson, on the south side of the railroad in 1858. It was located where the Shelby County State

Bank now stands.

That same year, a post office was established with C. R. Watson as the first postmaster.

The first home built in Clarence was that of James M. Matteson, located some two blocks north of the depot on the southwest corner of Willow and Center Streets. Matteson died of wounds received during the Civil War, but his family lived in this first home for many years. The first house built south of the tracks is still standing (1930). It was located on Elm Street and was built in 1867. It was first occupied by Henry Lowery and wife, who, with his cousin, P. P. Burkholder, came from Michigan to engage in the grocery business. Later, C. Z. Eberhard and wife came out from Michigan to Clarence to join Burkholder in the mercantile business. The one established in Clarence lasted for years.

On July 17, 1859, the Clarence Presbyterian Church was organized by Rev. J. R. Winters. The next pastor was Rev. A. Steed who served from 1862 until 1872. The first church was built in 1860 on the northwest corner of Beech and Grand streets. It was a union church and the land was granted for the purpose by the Hannibal and St. Joe Land Company. This church building, with alterations, still stands, (1827). The first school was also established in 1860, in a one story frame building, located where the North Missouri Lumber Company is now located. The first public school was built of brick, unusual in the days of 1865. It was far out toward the present number 36 highway and has long since been torn down. The present school buildings are located on lands given to the city by Dr. Moulton Hoyt under a will dated June 5, 1877. He also left an endowment fund to the Clarence schools.

The second and last article on the founding of Clarence will be given next week. After that, will be Maupin Genealogy.

Wolves Make History

Shelby County Historical Society by R.T. Neff

It is surprising what our early pioneers had to go thru with in order to protect themselves from the wild animals that roamed the wilderness at that time. Sometimes, I hear of some good stories that I think you History Buffs might be interested in reading, so here goes for two of them. The first story was told by Cod Lancaster, now deceased, about his grandfather, James Barker. It seems that it took three days to make the trip corn ground. On one of these trips James Barker did not get home on time, being held up by high water. A number of slaves set out to meet the wagon. As it

turned out they were attacked by packs of wolves, and their only protection was in using lighted lanterns to keep them away. They finally arrived home, but it was a close shave.

Here are excerpts from a letter furnished by Mrs. James Timbrook, a daughter of Eugene Maupin, as told by R.T. Donaldson of Route 1, Savannah, Mo. written to Eugene Maupin, dated Jan. 1926. I'll have to admit that I have never heard of a Wolf Pen until reading this story. Here it is; Stalcup School House is located on what we called Wolf Pen Branch. Some 3

or 4 hundred yards west of this school house the wolf pen was built in a clump of small trees in the bend of the branch.

This thick woods was noted for deer and wolves. Often the hunters would bring in a deer and when night came, and darkness set in, the wolves would take the trail of the hunters, and trail them to their homes. There was a lot of howling around the yard fences. The dogs kept the wolves back, but sometimes the wolves would chase the dogs back under the buildings, and the men would have to get up and fire a few shots into the wolf pack which would retreat to the Wolf Pen Branch and other hiding places in the thick forest and high blue stem grass.

Some of the old settlers including J.W. Kyle; J. Dawson and J.M. Donaldson built wolf pens out of round logs the pens were 10 feet square. Poles were laid close together, in the bottom of the pen, and split logs were laid close together on top and heavy weight poles fastened down at each end. There was a trap door make in the center with a spring pole to keep the door in place so the bait could

swing 5 or 6 feet above the trap door to decoy the wolves to the trap. They would take a fresh deer, hide of some fresh meat and tie it to a rope, then one of these men would get on a horse and take a circuit around the trap and drag hide or meat on the ground a mile or two from the trap then return to the trap and secure the bait above the trap door. When a pack of wolves would scent this trail they would follow to the pen. They would mount on top of the pen to get the fresh meat and as fast as one of the wolves would step on the trap door, it would drop and let the wolf fall into the pen, then the door would spring back into place.

One morning my father and the rest that were interested in the wolf pen went to the trap. I rode behind father. When we got close, the howling of the wolves made me lose my bravery and I wished I was back home. There were three big black wolves in the pen. Now you have the story of R.T. Donaldson as he relates it. At that time he was only a kid, but his memory seems to be good. Can you make a Wolf Pen from his description?

Historical Society News

R. T. Neff

The first birth in the little town was that of Nannie Hall, a daughter of Wm. H. Halls, known as Pele Halls. He was mentioned before as having come to the county with Prof. Corbin, who was mentioned before as the founder of Corbin College. Little Miss Halls was born December 17, 1862. She was the wife of Garde James, formerly of Clarence. Note Here: You can read much more in the 1884 edition of the old county history, if you have one.

Our records show that the Bush kid was buried in the Old Clarence Cemetery. Not Maplewood, but "Gardie" James is buried in the Maplewood Cemetery, but we have no record of his wife, as mentioned as being Nannie Halls. "Gardie" is the tombstone reading. Maupin lists him as being "Garde."

We have several old soldiers listed in the Old Clarence Cemetery. "Log Slaughter" as listed in the history, was a soldier. See page 851. Some stones used as markers, are deteriorated that they cannot be read.

As you know, Clarence has two cemeteries. Both are north of the railroad track. The first cemetery was laid out north of town during the Civil War. In its bounds lie the ashes of several soldiers of that war and many of the founders of the town. The first burial there was in 1863, that of a child of David Bush. Note again, this is in the Old Clarence Cemetery.

The first marriage in the town is of unusual interest because of its tragic ending. Wm. B. Sweitzer, the first merchant of Clarence, was married to Mary E. Galbreath, the first teacher,

December 9, 1862. In the fall of 1864, Mr. Sweitzer was killed by a band of robbers. Sweitzer was the custodian of quite a sum of money collected by the citizens of Clarence to hire substitutes to serve in the army. Sweitzer had sent the money to Shelbyville the previous day, but the bandits, not knowing this, demanded it. When he told them that it was no longer in his keeping, they fired upon him killing him almost instantly. This was the first tragedy of the new town. The old house where he was killed is still standing (1930) and the front door shows the mark of the robbers bullets.

The sick of the town were first cared for by Drs. Lyle and I. N. Hill, who did not live in the town, but in neighboring localities. A Dr. Lodge was the first resident physician.

There were but one hundred inhabitants when the war broke out and the poor little town offered little to draw the warring armies to it. Bill Anderson raided through it when on his Shelby County raid. He found little plunder and did not stay long. Soldiers came through on the trains but seldom disembarked to

patrol the surrounding country. Not until 1877 did Clarence have any growth. By that date, the surrounding prairies were settled up.

Quite a boom developed and the better buildings were erected and all sorts of mercantile firms established. The first incorporation as June 4, 1866, the corporate limites being one mile square with the depot as the center. The first mayor was Geo. W. Chinn, afterwards, Shelby's representative in the legislature.

Among the early citizens, whose names will always be associated with the founders of the town were Cyrus S. Brown, C. M. Shackelford, Joseph Skates, Wm. Cleary, Pele Halls, Geo. Hodge, W. O. Huston, Asa Culver, Wm. Davis, James Pollard, Stephen Whithy, Dr. E. Magoon, W. N. Doyle, J. T. Herron, Judge Geo. Palmer, A. Langenback, W. R. Griswold, J. W. Jacobs, Wm. T. Carothers, Reuben Shanks, A. Clark, W. Lostutter, the Dales, Farrells, Chinns, and numerous other families whose names are not now available.

History Along The Santa Fe Trail

Shelby County Historical Society by R.T. Neff

In the early days, people made history by doing things, without the aid of modern equipment. They used what was at hand, and didn't think anything about it. Historically speaking, this is a new country. Now-a-days people "break their necks" trying to record the history of our ancestors or early pioneers, as we call them, like the settling of Western Shelby County, or the early settlement of Bethel, Mo. We seem to be unaware of the pathy we show in preserving the Historical items that our early settlers used in their everyday living. We have no museum to preserve anything in this county. True the Historical Society has a couple of rooms in the courthouse that has a few relics stored away, but it is under lock and key most of the time. We have collected the history of 150 rural schools. We have also framed what pictures we could find of these old schools, and they are boxed up and stored in this museum, with no place to be shown. When they are on exhibit, they attract a lot of attention as most of the older generation went to these schools, and their pictures are in some of them. Today's kids know nothing of these schools and there is not a single rural school in existence today. Most

of them went out or ceased to exist in 1947, the date of the reorganization of schools.

In the early days people traveled by stage coach, when they were going long distances. They stayed at hotels, inns along the side of the highways they traveled. One near us is the old Virginia House at North Fork today, and old Clinton in early days. Located about 5 miles south of Lakenan, Mo. and another place is the old Log Cabin located about 3 miles east of the Deer Creek cemetery, east of old Clinton. These were on the Centerville Trail from Hannibal to Moberly, Mo. Sometimes we call it the Santa Fee Trail, whether this is correct, we do not know.

Both of these places are in existence today, but the old Virginia House is in very bad condition. The roof is partly gone, and we had a hard time trying to get a picture suitable for the paper.

Black Locust sprouts are so thick that they blanket the house today. We tried taking some pictures, lately, but have had to use pictures taken several years ago, by Miss Smithy, county historian for Monroe. Mrs. Maude Power, from Hunnewell, sends us an interesting clipping, of the Virginia

House, and we thought you "History Buffs" might be interested in reading it. We have no idea as to when it was written but do know it was dated Feb. 12. What year, we don't know. Here is some of the article. "Standing sentinel, guarding a ghost town it overlooks, beside a stage trail that leads west thru Shelby County is an old Inn owned years ago by the family of an early sweetheart of Abraham Lincoln."

"The two story frame building has withstood the ravages of weather and storms for more than 100 years. It was popular in its day as a hostelry or Inn for old Clinton during the pre-Civil War days. It furnished food and shelter for the stage coach passengers and freight drivers. It was located on the old Centerville Trail from Hannibal to Moberly, as already mentioned in the articles on History of Western Shelby County, and somewhat like the "Lonehouse" in the history of Eastern Shelby County in the travels of passengers from Hannibal to Kirksville, Mo. Clinton, in those early days was a thriving town on the banks of Salt River. It had a population of several hundred people, there were many holders, and tobacco was the chief money crop. Old Clinton was one

of the largest towns in Shelby County until it was by-passed by the railroads, both north and south". (Note here--Shelby county was carved out of Monroe Co.)

"A memorial was written by a Mrs. Laura B. Williams Hall of Weston, Mo. a niece of Mary W. Owens Vineyard, former sweetheart of Abraham Lincoln, it is recorded that Mrs. Vineyard and her husband Jesse Vineyard came to Clinton before the Civil War. Several years later, Mrs. Vineyard's brother-in-law, Albert G. Williams, ran a hotel there, known at the Virginia House, identified as being the building still standing."

"Nathaniel Owens, father of Mary Owens Vineyard and wealthy Kentucky slave owner, believed that the time would soon come when the slaves would be freed, so he decided that he would settle his entire family on the rich farm lands of the Middle West. The Owens family traveled from Kentucky and established their new home at Clinton. More of this article will given next week. Note here--It is reported that Mr. and Mrs. Tom Spader used to live in this house and operated the North Fork Store across the road. They also lived in Shelby, Mo.

Help Needed on Borderline Cemeteries

R.T. Neff

From time to time I have written about "Borderline Cemeteries." We haven't got all of them yet, but are still working on them. We call them "borderline cemeteries because they are on or just over the county lines, and a lot of old pioneers are buried in them, even though they lived in the adjoining county. Along the Shelby-Monroe county line we have such cemeteries as Greenwood, Crooked Creek (White and Black), Spencer Chapel, Indian Creek and Duncan's Chapel. These are the larger cemeteries. There are numerous small cemeteries, such as the Worland-Jarboe west of North Fork, the old North Fork cemetery, Hawkins-Magruder-Greenwell-Threlkeld on the Henry Wilt farm, the Lasley-Gillispie cemetery can be considered extinct as all stones are flat on ground, in pasture and not fenced. It is south of North Fork to the "Hog Farm Entrance," on the east side of the road in pasture with no fence around it. Buried here are Wm. M. Lasley, died 1853 and 31 years old. He was the father of Henry Lasley and great-grandfather of Roy, Russell, Kenneth and Roland Lasley, all deceased now, who lived in Shelbina. Mary Jane Fuqua, was 25 years old when she died in 1857. Wife of C.C. Fuqua and M.D. an interesting epitaph is on her stone: "Affliction, have for years I bore Physicians were in vain At Length, God pleased to give me ease

And free me from my pain."

Gertrude Gillispie-15 years, died in 1859, daughter of A & L.

Virginia Emma Gillispie-19 years, died in 1859, James Gillispie, 31 years, 1862.

Lucinda Gillispie, 65 years died in 1869, probably the mother of Angel.

Frank Threlkeld used to live in this section of Monroe county and knew of the above places, so we had no trouble in finding these old cemeteries. Frank also took pictures of the old tavern, we wrote about, but there were so many black locust sprouts

that the house was barely visible. We had to use an older picture to put in the paper.

As stated before the old Hawkins-Magruder-Greenwell-Threlkeld cemetery is on the old Henry Wilt place, south of the new brick house about 2 miles; in pasture and a clump of trees. Here you will find the names on stones that are flat on the ground.

James Greenwell, son of G.W. & S.E., age two years and died in 1867.

Stephen Greenwell, five months, died in 1870, son of G.W. & S.E. Greenwell.

Teresa Ida Greenwell, 5 years, died in 1879, daughter of G.W. & S.E. Greenwell.

Albert T. Hawkins, age two years, died in 1858, son of M. & R. Hawkins.

Henry H. Hawkins, 1 year, died in 1840, son of W.H. & Rachel.

Rachel Hawkins, 61 years, died in 1890, wife of W.H. Hawkins.

Hiram Magruder, one year, died in 1855, parents T & B Magruder.

Infant Magruder died in 1857, son of T & B Magruder.

Jemima Magruder, 81 years, died in 1863, she was born in 1781, wife of Nathaniel.

Jemima A. Magruder, 5 years, died in 1857.

Shelby Magruder, 1 year, died in 1867, son of T. & B. Magruder.

Nancy (Magruder) Threlkeld, no dates, but she was the great-grandmother of Frank Threlkeld, presently of Shelbina. She married Hiram Threlkeld. Note here, there are no dates for Hiram and his wife. It is supposed that he died in May, 1888. An effort has been made to get these dates. Can someone help us out on this? if so, notify Frank Threlkeld of Shelbina or the Library where all records are kept. Richard Threlkeld, died in 1867, was 2

years old, and the son of J.R. & M.J.

There are records for numerous small cemeteries along the Monroe County line, that are in the library. Indian Creek has over 500 people buried there, which makes too many to print here. There are about 45 in Duncan's Bridge or Chapel, which we don't have as yet. On the Marion county border we have Calvary and Woods as well as Andrew Chapel. Asbury, Fairview and others at Steffenville we do not have as yet. Waiting to contact someone that knows the cemeteries. In Lewis County, at Newark, and in Knox County, Carouthers on the line is the same. Macon County, we are not familiar with the border cemeteries so far. Miss Gladys Powers will write the Historical News from here out, as she is the county historian and the logical one to take over. I find that I am too old to try and type and make too many mistakes.

Eugene Maupins' History of Western Shelby County

Eugene Maupin wrote the History of Western Shelby County when he was editor of the Clarence Independent in 1927. This history has never been published in any history and refers to the time about 1830-1840. Since the history of eastern Shelby is the 1884 edition, it might be well for you history "Bufs" to keep these articles, in "scrap books" anyway. Unless Mrs. Timbrook can furnish us with more articles we have run out of material, and there will be very few articles left to publish. This article will deal with War on the Horizon, Cutting Down Secession Flags, and a Battle in Jefferson Township.

When the election of 1861 had made it plain that war was looming on the horizon, sentiment in Shelby County began to crystalize into the two great divisions, the Unionists and the Secessionists. As Missouri was on the border of the states, so Shelby was on the border of the counties divided by the great issue. To the north of Shelby the counties were declaring themselves for the Union. On the east, Marion was openly for the Southern cause and secession. Monroe on the south was also a southern stronghold. Shelby's representatives in the legislature, McAfee was strong for withdrawal from the Union and was zealous in his support of Gov. Jackson in his measures against the Federal government.

In the spring of 1861, following the firing upon Ft. Sumpter, the southern sympathizers of the county gathered at Shelbyville to raise a secession flag and hear some of their leaders speak on the question confronting the state and the county. Among the southerners, who were present that day from West Shelby, were: Hon. John McAfee, J. M. Donaldson, Wm. Baker, Pete Ridings, Elijah Chinn, Elias Barton, B. Pollard, Sam Patton, and others whose names we

have not learned. One of the speakers of the day, Jas. S. Green of Lewis county, was bitter in his denunciation of the Union men of the county, and one of his remarks that day was long remembered and bore bitter fruit in the days to come. He said, "If you win the day we will leave the state; If we lose we will also have to leave."

Southern sympathizers came back to west Shelby filled with enthusiasm for the cause and proceeded to have local meetings with the avowed purpose of unifying this section against the Federal Government. Up in Taylor township, a secession flag was raised in the yard of Wm. Baker, one of the violent southern men of that part of the county. Later in the year the 16th Illinois regiment was encamped at Macon City and detachments were sent out to rid the surrounding country of the secession flag poles. The one at the Baker home was chopped down and no resistance was made by the Southern folks. Over in Macon county, the Federals found a pole and flag near old Bloomington. They questioned one of the boys, whose curiosity had drawn them to the scene, as to who was responsible for the erection of

the flag. "It was raised by the brawn and sinew of Macon county," replied the boy, whose father was already in Price's Southern army. "Then the brawn and sinew of Macon county can cut it down," returned the officer and the young southerner was given an axe and put to work. As the work proceeded it became evident that the flag would fall towards the south and the officer in command, feeling that that

would be a bad omen, commanded the youngster to climb the pole and swing it to the North. But the Southern blood rebelled at such an order. "I may represent the brawn and sinew of the county", he retorted, "but I'm no darned squirrel." The pole was pushed to the north by soldiers and the incident was ended.

But now the war was on in earnest and soldiers began to pass and repass thru Clarence

on the trains. They came from Macon and arrested McAfee, keeping him a prisoner some days. Southern success at Bull Run brought the war of the young southerners to a boiling point and dozens of them began to leave their homes for the Southern army. Some 75 men from Taylor and Jefferson found their way to Price's army, and to the State Guards. Few of them ever returned to Shelby County.