

History of Shelby County.

BY N. WATKINS.

(Continued.)

MR. EDITOR:—In my first letter to you, attempting a history of Shelby county, I left off at the winter of 1834.

During the session of the Legislature in this year, (1834,) Major Dickerson represented Marion county. He came home during the holidays, he and Abraham Vandiver went to Florida, in Monroe county, and bought the land where Shelbyville now stands, the south half of section twenty, township fifty-eight, range ten. In February 1835, he succeeded in getting the Legislature to pass an act organizing Shelby county. The first county officers, including three commissioners to locate the county seat, were appointed. Col. Elias Kincheloe, who then lived in Marion county, was one of these commissioners, Judge Hardy of Balls, another, and a gentleman from Lewis county, whose name I have forgotten, the other one. James Folay, Dr. Wood and Judge Clemens composed the first county court, with Thomas J. Rounds as clerk, and Robert Duncan Sheriff. The act of the Legislature allowed the commissioners to locate the county seat anywhere within three miles of the center of the county. The county was then eighteen miles North and South and twenty from East to West. The commission met on the 20th of Oct., 1835, at Lewis Gillispes' house one half mile East of Shelbyville. They fixed the location and drove the stake near where Mr. Copenhagen's Hotel

now stands. Great excitement prevailed among the people about the location of the county seat. Wm. Muldrow, Dr. Ely and John McKee had laid off a large city about a mile North of Shelbyville, with streets, alleys and grand avenues, which they called New York. S. W. B. Carnegie was their surveyor, and their city was all laid off before the commissioners met to make the selection and locate the capitol of the county.

One of the best acts of Mr. Kincheloe's life was exhibited on the day the stake was driven. The commissioners had agreed to let no one know where they intended to locate the county seat until they drove the stake. But it leaked out by some means, and much excitement and anxiety were perplexing the minds of the people. The Col. learned this and determined to face the opposition, and when the commissioners came out of the house he announced the result to the people, who cheered him loudly.

The first circuit court was held the fourth Monday in November, 1835, at Oak Dale, Judge Hunt presiding. He disapproved of Major Dickerson's title to the land where Shelbyville now stands, and, I, on behalf of Maj. Dickerson, rode to Florida and back in one day and got the title fixed up by a proper acknowledgement to the deed. Dickerson and Vandiver gave fifty acres for the county seat, and Lewis Gillaspay and Samuel Parker ten each. This brings us down to the end of the year 1835.

Since my last, the politics of the country have been in such a fix, I concluded I would wait a while. In my next I shall give you what I remember of the year 1836.

Historical Society News

History of Western Shelby

by R. T. Neff

There will be several articles on the history of western Shelby County furnished by Mrs. Jim Timbrook, Lentner. She is the daughter of Eugene N. Maupin who was owner and editor of the Shelby County Independent, published at Clarence in 1927. While editor, he wrote a number of articles on Shelby County History. Where he got his information, I don't know. This history relates to early Shelby County and is not in any of the early histories. Most of the history we have had refers to the early settlers in the eastern part of the county.

Anyway, it is interesting and important enough to be republished for the history "buffs" who read these articles. You see, it has been 48 years since these articles were published and not many of us remember when they were printed. Not many people paid any attention to how this country was settled. We have found a few of them that are buried in the early family cemeteries. Some of them that are mentioned in these articles, we have no record of. We find some graves were marked with tombstones, some were not. People had very little money to spend on tombstones in an early day and as these early settlers were buried in family plots, we find that most of them have been destroyed by now. Remember, these articles were written in 1927, so make allowances for all dates listed. Add 48 years to all of them. Mrs. Timbrook gets full credit for clipping these articles as well as giving "Gene" full credit for writing them. Some of these articles are too long to be put in one article, so they will be continued

from one week to another. The first article starts out:

When Shelby County Was Young

by Eugene Maupin

The First White Men in Western Shelby County, Their Explorations and Route, What They Found Here.

In 1817, just a hundred and ten (158 now) the first white man set foot in Shelby County. At least we have no record of any previous exploration and it is very doubtful if a white man had ever been within the boundaries of the county, previous to the coming of the exploring party of which we will speak in the following paragraphs. It is barely possible that some wandering French trapper might have followed Salt River into what is now Shelby County, but if such were the case, there is no record of the fact.

Under the flag of France, then Spain, then France again, Shelby passed into the possession of the United States before it ever had been visited by members of the white race. After the War of 1812, sturdy American settlers began to leave Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee and the Carolinas to make new homes in the vast unoccupied territory lying west of the Mississippi. Up the Mississippi and the Missouri, the natural water paths to the new country traveled these explorers, adventurers and settlers eager to examine these virgin prairies and forests with the intention of taking over a new empire from the wilderness.

Early in 1817, five of these red-blooded pioneers set out from

Bourbon County, Ky. to the Boone Lick settlement on the Missouri. They were Edward Whaley, Aaron Forman, Aaron Forman Jr., Joseph Forman and David Adams. Whaley, the leader of the expedition, Forman Sr. and David Adams were men past middle age, the other two members being much younger. Crossing the Mississippi at St. Louis, they proceeded up the Missouri to the Boone Lick settlement which they found too crowded for them. When the party left Bourbon County, friends and relatives were making preparations to remove to Missouri and settle what is now Marion County. The Whaley party conceived the plan of crossing over land from the Missouri to the Mississippi, cutting across the angle between the two rivers.

Continued next week.

Western Shelby History

This is a continuation of last week's article.

WHEN SHELBY CO. WAS YOUNG THE FIRST WHITE MEN IN WESTERN SHELBY COUNTY, THEIR EXPLORATIONS & ROUTE.

What they found here.

They planned to strike Salt River somewhere along its upper course and follow it to the Mississippi. With this idea in mind, Whaley and his companions made their way up Grand River until they were about due west of Shelby County. At this point, they turned east and continued in an easterly direction, bearing somewhat to the northeast.

The writer's family were neighbors of the Whaley family in Marion County for many years and from Captain Franklin Whaley, son of this early explorer, we have the story of this first expedition across Shelby County. And these details are meager in the extreme. Whaley visited Shelby County many times in later life, but changes made by the hand of man had made the course of his exploration party unrecognizable. But this much he knew. During their eastward march, they had kept to the heads of the small streams running to the south. They did not venture far out on the several prairies they had noticed, but skirted the edges of the timber. As best as one can find out at this late date, these first white men entered Shelby County somewhere between Clarence and the road that runs east and west two miles south of town. Their course must have been about parallel to the Burlington Railroad, but south of it from a mile to two miles. Capt. Whaley said that all of the streams crossed were small ones, hence the explorers must have been traversing the country lying near the head waters of the several forks of Crooked Creek. This route would have led them near the present site of Lentner, and from that place, eastward and the party may have borne to the

northward but not to any great extent, for when they finally struck Salt River, they found the course of that stream to be from the south to the north.

Crossing Salt River, Whaley and his four companions proceeded eastward until they arrived at the present location of Palmyra where they camped at the now famous spring. From there they proceeded to the Bay Charles and to the Mississippi. Their journey was over. They had completed the first overland journey from the Missouri to the Mississippi through land never before explored by men of the white race.

One would give much today to see a film of this journey which is of so much historical interest to the folks of this county. A hundred and ten years (158) have passed since Capt. Whaley and his four companions crossed the country lying south of Clarence and what a change has been made in that time. One can imagine the party standing in the middle of what is now the state road running north and south through Clarence. To the north of them lay acres of prairie, the tall grass, high as a man's head or even higher, waving in the summer winds where now there are fertile farms, buildings and the city of Clarence itself. South and east lay the virgin forests that grew along Otter and the branches of Crooked Creek. Not a house or a fence to be seen in any direction. No cars or trucks or teams passed by on their way, to or from town as they pass in steady streams at present. A hundred and ten years (158) seems like a long time and yet it is but a few years more than the ordinary life time. Changes that have been made in Western Shelby in that time have been wonderful. Could Capt. Whaley stand at the side of the state road today and see the great changes that have taken place since his memorable trip, he would be amazed beyond words. This article is continued next week.

Settling Shelby County

This article is a continuation of the history of western Shelby County, written in 1927 by Eugene Maupin, editor of the Shelby County Independent. I suggest that you save these articles for your scrap book, if you are history minded.

We spoke in the preceding article of the Indian occupants of our county. From Capt. Whaley we learn that there were Indians here at the time of his march in 1817. He says that they were friendly in the extreme but he does not say as to their tribe nor whether they had camps here or were hunting parties. He mentioned also the abundance of game that was to be found all the way up from the Grand River to the Mississippi.

The party carried a small amount of supplies with them and lived on the game they found along their path. Whaley spoke of deer, small black bears and turkeys, but made no mention of buffaloes. If the latter animals were in the country at the time, they were never within the vision of the explorers or Whaley would have been certain to have spoken of such game.

"All we know is that they lived here and left relics of their occupations found to this day. On Salt River, especially near Hagers Grove, on Otter Creek and Crooked Creek, innumerable flint weapons and tools have been found. (Note: See the various Indian collections of

shelby historical society

R. T. Neff

people, that have been collected over the county; also the Indian Spear dug up by Fletcher Thomas, on the Moss place east of Shelbyville. This spear evidently had killed a person as Thomas found the grave. We framed this spear and it is on exhibit in the county courthouse museum, Shelbyville, Mo.) There is evidence of former campgrounds and of battles fought in those far-off days before the dawn of written history. What tribes may have lived here, we do not know. That the Indian nation may have made Shelby is not a matter of records, only legends tells that it was a territory hunted over and fought over by the Pottawatomies, the Omahas, the Sac and Fox and the Missouri.

Such is the story of the first white men in the country. In some later issue we will tell of the first settlers in Shelby and of further explorations in Clay and Jefferson Townships. The second article is headed, "When Shelby County was Young. The First Inhabitants: Relics of their Occupancy: Their Final Departure. His second article was printed Tuesday, Feb. 1, 1927. Continue:

"We sometimes speak of old buildings, of old worn out land as if our history ran back for thousands of years as does the history of Europe. Certainly our country is old as far as geology is concerned but our written history extends back but a little over a century and the first white men came to less than a hundred years ago. (add on 48 years). Beyond that time we do not know, nor will we ever know, the history of these prairies and hills now dotted with homes and divided into fields of grain and grass.

"Of the life, customs and history of the red man who roamed over this part of the county, we have only legends and traditions.

"When one thinks of the age of his farm his thoughts go back to the time when the land was first taken up by the government and it is hard to picture it as being occupied by Indians years and years before."

Continued next week.

Don't forget, if you qualified for a Centennial Farm and are interested in pictures taken the night of the Centennial dinner, see Miss Gladys Powers, at the Carnegie Library and put in your order.

advertising pays

The First Shelby Countians

A continuation of the article by Eugene Maupin:

**When Shelby County was Young,
The First Inhabitants,
Relics of Their Occupancy,
Their Final Departure**

Written in 1927.

As you plow along through some field, your plow turns up a flint arrowhead discharged by its red owner no one knows how many years before. Would it be too great a strain on your imagination to close your eyes and think back until the field of corn and the shimmering wheat disappears from your mind's eye and in their places appear the tall waving prairie grass extending like a sea to the cool timber beyond? Can you picture an Indian brave creeping cautiously from cover until he is within striking distance of a grazing deer? He raised his bow and now the arrow speeds on its way toward its living victim. But some little noise or motion has frightened the deer and it bounds away before the fatal arrow finds its mark. Now see the disappointed hunter rise and seek the valued arrow chipped with so much toil and trouble from the hard flint stone. But the grass and the mold hide it well from his eagle eye and it lays there through the long years until your plow brings it to light again.

How long it has been buried in the earth no one can tell. Year after year the grasses have died and rotted over its resting place. Year after year the leaves

have turned brown in autumn, have fallen and drifted over it. Winter snows and summer rains have rotted the grass and the leaves year after year to make the fertile soil that now produces your fine corn crops. All this time the flint arrow lies there, the sole connecting link between yourself and this early owner or sojourner on your farm.

Historical Society News

by R. T. Neff

Perhaps some little Indian boy wandered away from a nearby encampment carrying the arrow in his hand. Perhaps he dropped it there while he played some little game of his own and could never find it again. Or again, one warrior may have chased another across the very fields you have plowed, sown and reaped so often. The arrow may have been discharged in mortal strife and failed to reach its mark. Or, perhaps it did and the body of some long forgotten brave has mingled with the soil that is now your most fertile soil. (Note: See reference to Fletcher Thomas's find on the Moss Farm, east of Shelbyville, Mo. Carter Blanton wrote an article about it and published it in the paper. The arrow and story is framed

and on the west side of the museum case.)

Be that as it may, those times are long gone, and as mentioned before, we shall never know just what happened here 500 or even 100 years ago. What little we know about the Indians in west Shelby can be told in a few sentences. From the early records of Marion and Ralls counties, of which counties our county was once a part, we learn that when the white men first came to the county there were no Indians located in the bounds of this county. But even after the first settlers began to creep into eastern Shelby from Marion and to drift into west Shelby from the south, Indians came, camped and hunted on Salt River, especially on that part of the river extending from Hagers Grove to the road running north from Lentner.

In 1836, a band of Pottawatomies were ordered from Iowa to the unoccupied lands of the southwest and their course led them through west central Shelby. Their appearance in the county caused much alarm among the settlers and the preparation made to protect the settlements were known as the "Pottawatomie War." (Note: See Shelby County History about the Indian scare). This band of Indians came through Clay and Jefferson, but at that time, there was but one or two settlers in the two townships and the Indians did not molest them.

To be continued from here.

Dickerson Recorded as First Shelby County Settler

R.T. Neff

This is a continuation of Article #2 by Eugene Maupin, when Shelby County was Young about the first inhabitants. Relics of their Occupancy. Their final departure. Written for the Clarence Independent, of which he was Editor in 1927.

Three years later, another group of the same tribe came to the county from the northwest and camped on the old grounds near Hagers Grove. They were a part of a hunting party and again there was no trouble with the white settlers.

The last group of Indians to pass through the county was in 1856, or about that time. This last party was of the Omaha tribe and the story goes that they were on their return trip from Washington where they had gone to meet the "Great White Father." They camped for a few days on the old Shelbyville Centerville road through Jefferson township. Here, tradition has it, their aged chief Wyamosa died and was buried by the roadside and a rock filled grave

is still pointed out as the last resting place of the old chieftain. Note: Where is this grave and whose place is it on? We would like to know.

They passed the first inhabitants of our county. In an early issue we will take up the coming of the first white men to our part of the state. Note: We start with Maupin's article #3 on the second expedition through west Shelby. First settlers in this section.

Thirteen years passed by before white men again set foot in Shelby County. At the time of the Whaley expedition, Marion county had but three or four settlers and these were huddled along the Mississippi river near the present site of Hannibal. All western Marion was a wilderness. It took a decade for this latter country to become settled thickly enough as to induce backwoodsmen, looking for elbow room, to cross over the line into our county.

Tradition has it that back in 1830 or 1831 a man by the name of Norton built a cabin on Blackcreek and remained there a few months but there is not certainty of this. Note: See your Shelby County History for more details on this subject. The first settler in the county, as far as

the records go, was Major Obadiah Dickerson, who came from Marion county late in 1831 and built a cabin. It was built of hewed logs and the cracks were filled with mud. Later were filled

with split poles and then daubed with mud. The two windows were holes cut in the log wall, deer hides served as coverings. The floors were of split punchions and the chimney was of mud and wood with a base of rock. Fortunately, for the historian of those days, a description of this cabin has been preserved to this day, as you have it here. Dickerson's place is now the George Campbell place first house north of the Salt River Bridge on Hwy. 15. Dickerson and his wife are buried in the white oak grove north of the house. The graves are marked with river rock.

The historians of Shelby county have but little to say of the history of west Shelby county. Either they were unable to get the source material concerning the early days of Jefferson, Clay and Lentner townships or they were content to chronicle the meager records to be found at the county seat. Western Shelby was not surveyed by the

government and laid open to homesteading until late in the forties and as a consequence there are no official records of this part of the county until about 1845. As a matter of fact, settlers had been in these townships for ten years preceding that date and it is this forgotten period of our history that we wish to cover as thoroughly as possible.

Another mistake of our county historians is this: they assume that the emigration into the county was from the east to the west and that the western part of the county, naturally, did not have any settlers until the eastern part had been occupied for

some years. The truth of the matter is that all of the early occupants of western Shelby were from the south and came into the county from Monroe and from the Missouri river settlements by way of Boone's Lick and old Centerville. To be continued next week.

Historical Society News

When Shelby County Was Young The First Inhabitants Relics of their Occupancy Their Final Departure

This article was written for the Clarence Independent of which he was editor in 1927.

Three years later, another group of the same tribe came into the county from the northwest and camped on the old grounds near Hagers Grove. They were a part of a hunting party and again there was no trouble with the white settlers.

The last group of Indians to pass through the county was in 1856, or about that time. This last party was of the Omaha tribe and the story goes that they were on their return trip from Washington where they had gone to meet the "Great White Father." They camped for a few days on the old Shelbyville-Centerville road through Jefferson township. Here, tradition has it, their aged chief, Wyamos, died and was buried by the road and a rockfilled grave is still pointed out as the last resting place of the old chieftain. Note: Where is this grave and on whose place is it now? We would like to know.

So passed the first inhabitants of our county. In an early issue, we will take up the coming of the first white men to our part of the state. Note: We start with Maupin's article 3 on the second expedition through west Shelby and first settlers in this section.

Thirteen years passed by before white men again set foot in Shelby County. At the time of the Whaley expedition, Marion County had but three or four settlers and these were huddled along the Mississippi River near the present site of Hannibal. All western Marion was a wilderness. It took a decade for this latter country to become settled thickly enough as to induce backwoodsmen looking for elbow room, to cross over the line into our county.

Tradition has it that back in 1830 or 1831, a man by the name of Norton built a cabin on Black Creek and remained there a few months, but there is no certainty of this. Note: See your Shelby County History for more details on this subject. The first settler in the county, as far as the records go, was Major Obadiah Dickerson, who came from Marion County late in 1831 and built a cabin. It was built of hewed logs and the cracks were filled with mud. Later were filled with split poles and then daubed with mud. The two windows were holes cut in the log wall, deer hides served as coverings. The floors were of split puncheons and the chimney was of mud and wood with a base of rock. Fortunately, for the historian of those days, a description of this cabin has been preserved to this day as you have it here. Dickerson's place is now the George Campbell place, first house north

of the Salt River Bridge on Highway 15. Dickerson and his wife are buried in the White Oak Grove north of the house. The graves are marked with river rock.

The historians of Shelby County have little to say of the history of West Shelby County. Either they were unable to get at the source material concerning the early days of Jefferson, Clay, and Lenton townships, or they were content to chronicle the meager records to be found at the county seat. Western Shelby was not surveyed by the government and laid open to homesteading until late in the forties and as a consequence, there are no official records of this part of the county until about 1845. As a matter of fact, settlers had been in these townships for ten years preceding that date and it is this forgotten period of our history that we wish to cover as thoroughly as possible.

Another mistake of our county historians is that they assume that the emigration into the county was from the east to the west and that the western part of the county, naturally, did not have any settlers until the eastern part had been occupied for some years. The truth of the matter is that all of the early occupants of western Shelby were from the south and came into the county from Monroe and from the Missouri River settlements by way of Boone's Lick and old Centerville.

To be continued next week.

When Shelby Was Young

This is a continuation of article 3 by Eugene Maupin.

When Shelby County Was Young About the Second Expedition Through West Shelby First Settlers in this Section.

"Gene" was the editor of the Clarence Independent Newspaper and wrote parts of this article in 1927.

"But so far as we find, there were no settlers in Jefferson, Clay and Lentner at the time of the first settlements in the east part of the county. In 1834, or 17 years after the Whaley expedition, another exploring party from the south entered western Shelby. J. W. Donaldson, Mace Wilkerson, Milton Wilkerson and seven other men, whose homes were in south Monroe County, organized a hunting and exploring party to go north as far as the north fork of Salt River. These men entered Shelby County at a point almost due south of Clarence, and proceeding northward, struck Salt River near Hagers Grove. Turning down river, they explored the country as far east as old Walkersville. Somewhere between Hagers Grove and Walkersville, they found an Indian village of some 100 inhabitants. The red men were friendly and offered no opposition to the progress of the hunting party. The hunting party proceeded to within a few miles of the settlements on Salt River, then turned southwest across the prairies without knowing that they were in close proximity of other white men.

Crossing Crooked Creek, they traveled southward until they came to Otter Creek, where they camped for a few days. This camp was a mile east of Union Church and Donaldson built his home on the spot afterwards. The party of 10 men, comprising the expedition, several came back to Shelby at a later date and settled here. The others pass out of our knowledge and disappear. Their names are now forgotten. They, like the Whaley party, were the first of the tide of Kentuckians, Virginians and men of Carolina which flowed westward in a steady stream making Missouri a semi-southern state, a border land, a

debated territory to be fought over most bitterly in the great war between the states, which was to follow. Note: My articles about the Civil War describes the "bushwhacking" struggles in Missouri as well as the "guerilla" strikes such as "The Centralia Massacre," "The Palmyra Massacre," and others.

In the same year that Donaldson and his companions were crossing and recrossing Clay, Jefferson and Lentner townships, another man from Monroe County, Wm. Stalcup, was examining southern Jefferson, preparatory to building a cabin there and making the county his home. Stalcup was from Virginia and had emigrated from that state to Monroe County some time before. He did not penetrate far into the county, but made his camp on the south bank of Crooked Creek and proceeded to erect a log cabin, probably the first in western Shelby. The location of this cabin was near the present site of the home of Sam Timbrook on the farm, known for many years as the Gorby farm. Stalcup was a primitive Baptist, called hard-shell Baptist in those days, and his pioneer home was the meeting place for early settlers of that religious denomination. Now and then some wandering preacher would find his way to this cabin, out on the edge of civilization, and religious services were held there for the benefit of the pioneers scattered up and down the courses of Crooked and Otter Creeks.

Stalcup had three sons, Isaac, William and Samp. A few years after his first settlement in the county, the elder Stalcup returned to Monroe County for a year or so, but finally returned to his home on Crooked Creek. The three sons also built themselves homes in Jefferson township, Isaac on Crooked Creek a mile or so northwest of his father, William a few miles further west, and Samp on a branch of Crooked Creek in what is now the North Lentner township. The last resting place of two of these old pioneers is in a little forgotten graveyard not far from the old home of Isaac Stalcup.

Will be continued next week.

Settlers of Jefferson Township, Shelby

Written by Eugene Maupin for the Clarence Independent in 1927. A continuation of article No. 13 on the second expedition through west Shelby, the first settlers in this section.

"Meanwhile, on Otter Creek, J. M. Donaldson was making his home near the site of his old camp of the year before. Two other neighbors were now living nearby: Thomas Hoskin who had built a cabin up Otter Creek from the Donaldson location and Thomas Dawson who came from Kentucky about this time pitched his tent on Otter just west of Union Church. Between the homes of Thomas Dawson and J. M. Donaldson was the cabin of J. W. Kyle

often named as the first settler in west Shelby. This was not the case. His prominence in the early history of this part of the county probably gave weight to the assertion. Dawson settled in Jefferson about 1837. His wife was the daughter of J. W. Kyle and his mother was Abigail Dawson, said to have been a sister of Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy. Mrs. Abigail Dawson died in 1853 and was buried in the family graveyard on the homestead of J. W. Kyle. In this little cemetery, now sadly neglected, lie the bodies of probably three score of the first settlers of Jefferson Township. The Kyle cemetery is the oldest burying ground in western Shelby and should have the care and attention of some of the patriotic societies whose work lies in that direction.

Settlers now began to arrive in west Shelby in considerable numbers. Today, it is impossible to fix the date of their arrival exactly or even record all of their names. In future articles we will give such history of them as we have at hand

and should any reader be able to add any further data, or correct any errors as they may appear in the record, we will appreciate it very much.

In the next article, we will take up the story of other early occupants of Jefferson and touch on the settlement at Bacon Chapel, the first settlers in Clay. Note—for the benefit of readers of this article, I am going to give the record of the old Kyle cemetery as we have it.

There seems to be an older generation that is buried here that we do not have. Only J. W. Kyle and his wife, Delilah, are listed. J. W. was born in 1797 and his wife in 1800. Most of the early settlers must have been born in the later 1700's. Being that early, not too many people

had tombstones. We find very little trace of most of these early settlers. Generally speaking, in an early day before there were established cemeteries, we find people buried on the farm they lived on, in the orchard, garden or chicken yard. These we call family burial plots today.

The Kyle cemetery names follow:

Byars, Nancy I., born April 2, 1862, 1 mo. 17 days.

Byars, James A. and Marg. A. (Twins), January 9, 1862.

Crow, Phebe, born December 8, 1824, died June 2, 1897.

Crow, Samuel, born February 22, 1822, died February 22, 1902.

Crow, John F., born 1871, died 1872, son of Sam.

Crow, Maggie, died November 21, 1861, age, 18 mo. 5 days.

Dawson, Oliver, born 1880 and died 1882.

Dawson, John, born July 13, 1847, died September 25, 1916.

Dawson, Thomas C., died December 10, 1852, 34 years, 10 months.

Dawson, Abigail, March 23, 1853, 76 yr 3 mo. 5 days.

Johnson, Williams, died October 20, 1872, 74 years 4 mo. 6 days.

Kyle, Delilah, born around 1800, died January 9, 1870, 69 years 11 months, 24 days.

Kyle, John W., born October 22, 1797, died January 24, 1863.

Lane, Harrison, January 22, 1866, 54 years, 8 days.

Lowry, Flora A., March 2, 1904, 77 years, 3 mo. 3 days.

Lowry, James, born 1827, died 1894.

Lowry, Nuten, born 1846, died 1916.

Spires, Delilah A., died October 20, 1862.

Spires, Harry, born July 10, 1803, died March 18, 1862.

Road Booster in Shelby County

A continuation of articles written by Eugene Maupin. "When Shelby County was Young, 1927." Editor of the Clarence Independent paper on early settlers of west Shelby, the task before them, the first physicians, an early prohibition agent.

The written histories of Shelby County name a dozen men who settled on the banks of Crooked and Otter Creeks in 1845. This is the only reference to the first settlers of western Shelby. Information concerning those who came first with their families is woefully lacking. At this date it is hard to get trustworthy information concerning those who came first to this part of the county, and it is almost impossible to fix the date of their coming exactly. However, in this article, we will take up several of these early pioneers and will give the date of their settlement here as nearly correct as possible.

Perhaps one of the earliest in the extreme southwest part of the county was Shelton Lowery. He came to Shelby County from Virginia soon after the

Donaldson-Kyle settlement on Otter Creek, and made a home for himself on Mad Creek at a point 3½ miles southwest of the present site of Enterprise. Lowery had a large family of boys and they were always present to do their part in helping other settlers raise their log buildings or to help them clear their first plot of ground for a garden or truck patch. He also owned a sorrel horse named "Selim," which, it is said, he rode all the way from Virginia to Missouri. In those days of horseback travel, a saddle horse was worth its weight in gold, and many a trip was made by this sorrel horse from this obscure corner of our county to Hannibal and to the mill at Florida in Monroe County.

About the time that Shelton settled on Mad Creek, or perhaps a little later, George Weatherford settled on Otter Creek near the south line of the county. His home was south of Maud and on the south bank of Otter Creek. He cleared himself a rather large farm for those days and made quite a reputation as a stock raiser.

Joseph Ryland was another of our pioneers. He located on the west line of the county about 1840. Ryland was a Kentuckian and a man of great ambition and vigor. He built a home for himself which was more elaborate than those of his neighbors, in that he made hinges for the doors, hewed out boards for his window and door frames and split

clapboards for the roof of the cabin. These clapboards were made of the finest white oak and they lasted for half a century. The nails were wrought and were brought from Hannibal by freight wagons drawn by oxen. The Rylands lived northwest of Union Church.

At a later date, probably about 1851, Robert Hayes came from old Kentucky to settle in the neighborhood of the Ryland home. Hayes was a very successful farmer and had a well cultivated farm at the time of his death.

He had three sons, Berry, Samuel and Robert, and a daughter who married a Wood.

South of Rylands was another Kentuckian named William Hutton. His home was about 2½ miles southwest of Enterprise and to the north of him was the cabin of James Hagin, an early settler who died in 1856. He was buried in an old cemetery on Mad Creek. Near this cemetery was erected a hewed white oak log church which was known as the Mad Creek Church. The church was about 20' x 30' in dimension. It was one of the early churches of the southwest part of the county.

As late as the year 1851, John Lafon came from Kentucky and made his home southwest of where Enterprise now stands. Lafon was the first of the settlers in Jefferson to settle near the prairies, which until that time, were untouched by the hand of man. A few years after

Lafon came to Shelby, the Hannibal and St. Jo. Railroad was built through the county. Lafon became the first booster for a good road from Leesburg to Clarence. He was so eager to see this road established that he took a yoke of steers and plowed a furrow on each side of the road from near the Monroe County line to the little hamlet of Clarence.

Older men tell us that it took this first good road booster almost two weeks to complete this plowing. When one stops to think of the rate of travel of a yoke of oxen and of the difficulty to be found in breaking virgin prairie sod, he must of necessity have a great admiration for this old pioneer road builder. On the highway laid out by Lafon, caterpillar tractors now drag the graders that keep up the highway and one cannot help but imagine the ghost of old John Lafon leaning on his crude plow as his oxen rest, and watching the tractor and grader, and the traffic of today (1927) pass by.

To be continued next week from his fourth article.

Wagon makers, Doctors, Circuit Riders Among Settlers

This article is a continuation of Eugene Maupin's history of western Shelby County of the early settlers of the western part of Shelby County. "The Task Before Them. An Early Prohibition Agent," written for the Clarence Independent newspaper in 1927 in which he was editor.

A few years earlier "Roley" Threlkeld, a wagon maker by trade, located south of the site of Enterprise, had once put up a wagon shop. His work was mightily appreciated by the neighbors, and he arrived just in time to build several prairie schooners which were to make the trip to California in the gold rush of '49. Scarce as the inhabitants of west Shelby were, a large quota of them were lured to the gold fields in search of the hidden wealth. The wagons, built by Threlkeld, were crude, but sturdy, and some of them were still in service after the Civil War.

Another of the pioneers who settled along the west line of Shelby was James Sage. His homestead was west of Union Church on Otter Creek. He had a family of nine children, and was one of the leading citizens of the Christian Church. He was a leader in the organization of a church in that neighborhood and was also a strong supporter of an early school established just over the line in Macon County.

Other settlers of the territory lying west of the present Clarence Leesburg road were Ben Thrasher, located northwest of Union; Abraham Huntberry who came to Shelby about 1851 and settled west of old Zion Church, and John Hendricks, who lived near the south line of the county and erected the first saw mill in that locality. His lumber was in great demand and with the establishment of this mill, the days of the round and hewed log houses were

numbered.

The physicians who attended the ills of those pioneer days, were few in number. Their practice covered a territory which included a part of two or three counties. Dr. Wood of Walkersville, Dr. McWilliams and Dr. Hill, who was located at Woodville or Centerville, in Macon County, were probably the best known doctors: Isaac Hill was a graduate of the Transylvania Medical College, Kentucky and located at Woodville in 1846. For 12 years he practiced in southwestern Shelby, southeastern Macon and northern Monroe County. After Clarence was founded, he moved to that place where he continued his practice long after the Civil War.

Old Centerville was the trading point of most of the early pioneers of our part of the county. A saloon was one of the great attractions of the time and was

generally filled with bullies of the day. One Saturday evening, a group of these strong arms took it upon themselves to force every passerby to treat the crowd. Along came a meek and threadbare circuit rider on his way to one of his

lonely and out-of-the-way charges. With great gusto, our saloon hangerson swept out to collect the customary treat. They met with a polite refusal. They insisted, but were refused again. They then issued the ultimatum, "treat or fight." The circuit sighed and chose the latter course. The bystanders insisted on fair play, and one at a time, the preacher found the bullies and thrashed them

soundly. Then all of them went to a back room to care for black eyes and broken noses. The little circuit rider issued an invitation to the assembled crowd to attend the services the next day. He mounted his sorry steed and went on his way. It is said that his congregation the following morning was large and enthusiastic as was the militant Christianity of those early days.

NOTE: We find that Jefferson Township had a lot of schools in an early day. We have collected the history of most of them and mention is made of these early settlers. One of the important schools was Liberty. Mrs. Gentry Walker and Mrs. Mary Harding did a very good job of writing the history of this school. In the article next week, we will include the names of some of the early settlers, along with the names of some of their children who attended school there.

To be continued.

