

Dr. Jacob Daniel Smith, M.D., one of Shelbina's early physicians, was born at Hannibal, Mo., January 25, 1849. His father, Columbus Smith, went to California during the "Gold Rush," and died of cholera at Sacramento in 1851. Two years later his mother died. On February 20, 1873, he was married to Miss Ida M. Myers of Palmyra, Mo. Mrs. Smith died April 4, 1947 at the age of 96 years. Dr. Smith lived one month after his beloved wife's death, passing away May 8, 1947 at the age of 98 years.

A more detailed story of his life will be found in the section devoted to "Famous People."

Dr. J. H. Yost, D.D.S. was born in Rockingham county, Va., on Jan. 15, 1835, the son of John B. Yost and Marie B. Rutherford Yost. He was reared on a farm, working at that occupa-

tion until the Civil War began in 1861. He served under General Joseph E. Johnston and General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson.

After the war Dr. Yost entered the Baltimore Dental School, from which he graduated in 1873 with a degree of D.D.S. He began his dental practice in Virginia, but during the winter of 1874 came to Shelbina and opened an office. He was Shelbina's first dentist. The following summer he returned to Virginia for his family, bringing them to Shelbina to live. He was married in Virginia to Miss Sallie J. Weaver of Fort Republic on June 21, 1871. They were parents of five children, Charles W. John B., Mary K., Olive Lee and Kate. John B. Yost and Mrs. Kate Yost Chambers, son and daughter of Dr. Yost, live in Shelbina.

## Early Life In Shelbina

The days of Shelbina's beginning were somewhat similar to other early-period towns—might being the first considered right in argument.

Fights, particularly on weekends, but not unexpected weekday nights, were so much a part of the life in youthful Shelbina, business houses had heavy wooden shutters to cover their front windows after closing at night. As indicated, this was not because of vandalism, but for protection from the free-for-all fights which followed most arguments. Rocks and clubs reinforced fists, and the sanctity of property was forgotten.

Fights were a form of entertainment for the noncombatants as well as a sort of final decision on arguments. Seldom were fights stopped until the fighters were worn out or one individual was put out of action.

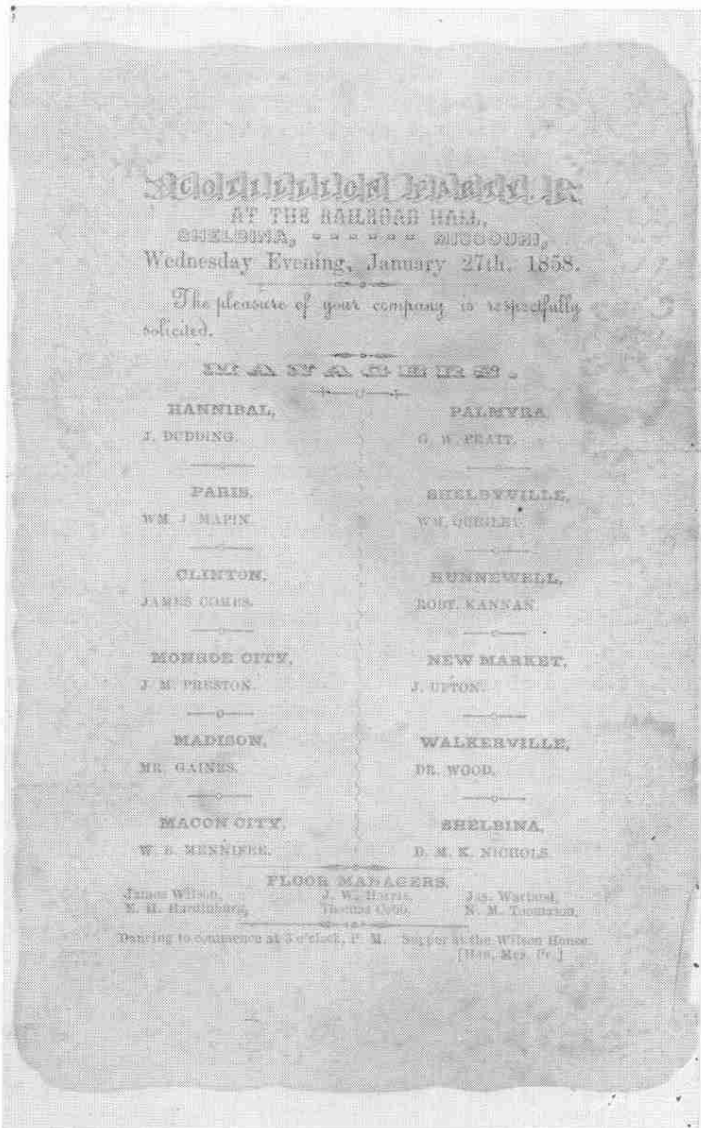
Church services were very few in Shelbina's childhood, but after a few years began to compete with the saloons for centers of society.

The first recorded social event, sufficiently outstanding to be handed down through the years, was a Cotillion Party held in the Railroad Hall, according to the invitation which is a prized possession of W. E. Freeland of Forsythe, Mo. It was held January 27th, 1858, supposedly in celebration of the first train to reach Shelbina. The location of "Railroad Hall," where the party was held, nor the "Wilson House," where supper was to be served, can not be placed at this time.

Another social affair June 14, 1871, was reported in the Democrat under the heading "Social Gathering at Mr. Clay Towson's."

This assembly which occurred about the time of our last issue, was one of the most elegant that we have seen in Shelbina. There were about eighty persons present giving a fair representation of the youth, beauty, intelligence and worth of the town. The music was delightful and the refreshments most palatable. The wine made at home was worthy of special mention. We are not sufficiently educated to discuss artistically the paraphernalia of the ladies, but their coiffeurs seemed most elegantly arranged in every tress, and wave and fold, and their robes and laces were made of finest material and in most fashionable style. Metropolitan elegance from New York and Chicago was conspicuous. Mrs. Towson proved a most accomplished and agreeable hostess, and society is indebted for a very pleasant evening.

And as an illustration of what the ladies wore in 1873, a clipping from the Democrat files of February 5, 1873—"Boys calling at this office for old papers now say: 'for bustles.' 'To make kites' used to be their excuse."



The first record of a formal social affair in Shelbina is the reprint above from an original invitation to the "Cotillion Party" in the Railroad Hall. Shelbina was only five months old when this Cotillion Party was held.