

CHAPTER XV.

THE MUNICIPAL TOWNSHIPS OF SHELBY COUNTY.

Township Boundaries — Jackson Township — Salt River — Jefferson — Clay — Taylor — Bethel — Black Creek — Tiger Fork — Historical Sketches, Description, Etc.

The municipal townships as at present constituted, had their metes and bounds fixed by the county court at the May term, 1868, as follows:—

JACKSON TOWNSHIP.

Beginning at the south-east corner of Shelby county; thence north on the county line to the section line dividing sections 24 and 25, township 58, range 9; thence west to the range line dividing ranges 9 and 10; thence south to the township line dividing townships 57 and 58, in range 10; thence west to the section line dividing sections 2 and 3 in township 57, range 10; thence south to the county line, between the counties of Monroe and Shelby; thence east to the south-east corner of Shelby county.

At the November term of the county court, 1882, the boundaries of Jackson were changed so as to exclude all the territory lying west of range No. 9, which is also west of Salt river, and attaching the same to Salt River township. The western boundary therefore begins on the range line between ranges No. 9 and 10 at the south-western boundary of the county; thence north on the line to Salt River; thence up Salt River to the section line between sections 14 and 15, township 57, range 10; thence north to Black Creek township. The range line between ranges nine and ten is half a mile west of Lakenan.

TIGER FORK TOWNSHIP.

Beginning at the point on the county line between Marion and Shelby county on the section line dividing sections 24 and 25, township 58, range 9; thence north to the north-east corner of Shelby county; thence west on the county line to the township line dividing township 59, range 10, and township 59, range 9; thence south to the section line dividing sections 19 and 30, township 58, range 9; thence east to the beginning.

BLACK CREEK TOWNSHIP.

Beginning at the south-east corner of section 36, township 58, range 10, on the line between township 58, range 10, and township 57, range 10; thence north on the range line between ranges 9 and 10 to the north-east corner of section 1, township 58, range 10, on the line between township 58, range 10, and township 59, range 10; thence west on north line of township 58, range 10, and township 58, range 11, to the north-west corner of section 6, township 58, range 11; thence south on the range line to the south-west corner of section 31, township 58, range 11; thence east on the township line to the place of beginning.

SALT RIVER TOWNSHIP.

Beginning on the county line on the line between sections 10 and 11, in township 56, range 10; thence north to the north-east corner of section 3, township 57, range 10, on the township line between townships 57 and 58, range 10; thence west on the north line of township 57, range 10, and township 57, range 11, to the south-west corner of section four, township 57, range 11; thence south to the county line between Shelby and Monroe counties, at the point dividing sections 8 and 9, in township 56, range 11; thence east on said county line to the place of beginning. [The change in the boundary in November, 1882, is previously noted.]

CLAY TOWNSHIP.

Beginning at the south-east corner of section 17, township 57, range 11; thence north to the township line between townships 57 and 58, in range 11, to the north-east corner section 5, township 57, range 11; thence west on the township line to the range line between ranges 11 and 12; thence north on the range line to north-east corner section 1, township 58, range 12; thence west on township line to the county line; thence south to the south-west corner section 18, township 57, range 12; thence east to the place of beginning.

TAYLOR TOWNSHIP.

Beginning at the north-west corner of Shelby county; thence south on the county line to the township line between townships 58 and 59, in range 12; thence east on township line to the south-east corner of section 33, township 59, range 11; thence north to the south-east corner of section 4, township 59, range 11, on the county line; thence west on the county line to the beginning.

BETHEL TOWNSHIP.

Beginning at the south-east corner of section 36, township 59, range 10; thence north on the range line to the county line; thence

west on the county line to the north-west corner of section 3, township 59, range 11; thence south to the township line between township 58, range 11, and township 59, range 11, at the point between sections 33 and 34, in township 59, range 11; thence east on the township line to the place of beginning.

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP.

Beginning at the south-west corner of Shelby county; thence east on the county line to the range line between ranges 11 and 12; thence north on the county line to the south-east corner of section 12, township 56, range 12; thence east on the county line to the south-east corner of section 8, township 56, range 11; thence north to the north-east corner of section 20, township 57, range 11; thence west to the county line at the point between sections 18 and 19, township 57, range 12; thence south on the county line to the place of beginning.

JACKSON TOWNSHIP.

The first settlements in Jackson township were made properly in the spring of 1833 by Russell W. Moss, Samuel Buckner, Henry Saunders and David Smallwood, in the southern part of the township, and by W. B. Broughton and others at and in the neighborhood of Oak Dale. These settlements are noted fully elsewhere. Jeremiah Rust was another pioneer who should be mentioned. He came from Fauquier county, Va., in 1836, and settled near Oak Dale.

In December, 1837, the township was organized out of Black Creek on the petition of Russell W. Moss and others. Its original boundaries were as follows: Beginning at the south-east corner of the county; thence west nine miles to the middle of range 10; thence north "to the middle of the prairie between Black creek and North river;" thence east to the Marion county line; thence south to the beginning. The first *township* election was held at W. B. Broughton's, at Oak Dale, December 23, 1837, to elect two justices of the peace. The judges of election were George Parker, Samuel S. Matson and W. B. Broughton. The officers elected were W. C. Mitchell and George Parker, justices, and Samuel B. Hardy, constable.

Until the building of the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, Jackson township had no towns, unless, indeed, Oak Dale can be considered a town, where was the first store, the first tavern and the first county seat in Shelby county. The town of Hunnewell is fully mentioned elsewhere.

The village of Lakenan was laid out on the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad in June, 1858, by John Duff, the old contractor, who was the proprietor of the site. It was named for Hon. Robert F.

Lakenan, who owned a large farm north of the town, but who was then a prominent attorney of Hannibal, where he died in May, 1883. He married a daughter of Russell W. Moss. Mr. Lakenan was one of the prime movers in the building of the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad.

There was a depot and some dwelling houses at Lakenan when the war broke out, but Bill Anderson and his band burned the depot in July, 1864, when they made their raid into this county. Since the war the village has grown to a very pleasant little rural situation. It has three or four stores, shops, etc., and receives the patronage of a considerable section of country, not only in Shelby, but in Monroe county, from which it is distant less than a mile.

On Salt river, near the mouth of Black creek, is a coal bank, which furnishes a fair article of blacksmith coal, but the vein is not very thick, of course, and can never be worked very profitably.

Jackson township saw something of the Civil War, and the vision was not delightful. The railroad bridge across Salt river was burned three times by those acting in the interests of the Confederates, and in the summer and early fall of 1861 the Federal regiments of Grant, Palmer, Tinkham and others, with Gens. Pope and Hurlbut to command them. But these and other incidents of the war are so fully set forth on other pages that they need not be narrated here.

One episode of the war may be mentioned. About the 10th of July, or near the time of the Monroe City fight, a party of secession troops, led by John Freeborn, who had been in the employ of R. W. Moss, visited the residence of Gabriel Davis, a Union man, living two miles north of Hunnewell, searched his house for arms and took out Mr. Davis and hung him up a few times, nearly taking his life. The visit occurred at about 2 o'clock in the morning.

Two versions of this affair are given. Mr. Thomas Davis, a son of Gabriel Davis, states that the lynching took place in September, 1861, a few days after the Shelbina fight. He says his brother, William, had been a member of Capt. Jo Furman's company of Union Home Guards, and had shortly before returned home. Learning of the contemplated visit of the secessionists, he, his brother Wallace, and Jesse Hickman, were lying out in the woods to avoid capture and maltreatment; that in the dead of night the band appeared led by Freeborn and George M. Harrison; that after entering the house they made prisoners of him (Thomas Davis) and his father, took them out and lynched them, hanging up the old man to a cherry tree; that George Harrison was the leader of the party that hung him (Thomas),

and told him to pray, for his time was short, and that he answered, "I prayed once to-night, when I went to bed." Mr. Davis further states that he was swung up two or three times, and each time he was let down he was asked where the arms were which had been secreted in the house, but which then were in the woods with his brothers and Jesse Hickman. Finally he promised that if he was given until the next day he would see that the arms were returned to the house and delivered up to the secession troops, and then, after taking an oath not to take up arms against the Confederacy, he and his father were released.

Mr. George M. Harrison, now a prominent attorney of Hannibal and a leading Republican politician, tells an entirely different story concerning this affair. He says:—

* * * It was in July, 1861, that I formed one of a squad of men, some 25 or 30, under Capt. John Freeborn, that were engaged in securing all the arms of the Union men in Shelby county we could. On that night we went to Gabe Davis' house, as we were informed he had filled his house with rifles and double-barreled shot-guns and was ready for us. As we approached his house from the front gate, he or some one else in the house fired on us. It was then concluded to burn him out, as he could not be forced out in any other way. While we, under our Captain's orders, were proceeding to do this, he surrendered and we took possession. I was put in the house with half a dozen men to search for the arms, etc., and while I was in the house word came to me that they were hanging Davis. I at once went out to the front gate and protested against it, and with my knife cut the rope and said to Capt. Freeborn that that was murder, for when Davis surrendered he was entitled to protection; in this the majority of the men coincided, and the result was Davis was taken back to the house and not even asked to take an oath. Tom Davis was not present when the hanging was done, for he and the balance of the family were detained in the house. * * * Dr. A. L. Yancey, of Hunnewell, is the only one I know of who knows these facts. What became of Freeborn I do not know. Of the men who were with me on that night, three-fourths of them went to Southwest Missouri, joined Gen. Price's army and nearly all lost their lives in the struggle; but few ever returned.

The reader must believe which ever version of this story he pleases, and can.

SALT RIVER TOWNSHIP.

This township, occupying the south-central portion of the county, is one of the most important in Shelby and deserves fuller mention than can be made here. It is now composed of about 75 sections of

land, lying on both sides of Salt river, and running southward to the Monroe county line. It contains prairie, timbered, bottom and bluff land, and plenty of stone, timber and water. Near Walkersville there are some exposures of coal, and banks have been opened, but the coal is of inferior quality and the vein shallow.

Salt river enters the township at the north-west corner and flows diagonally through the northern part of the township. Along its banks is naturally a heavy growth of timber, and in its bed a superabundance of stone, sand and gravel. Its bottom lands are veritable muck-beds, rich as those of the Nile, and the stream itself is of great importance to the township and the county.

The first settler in Salt River township was also the first permanent one in the county — Maj. Obadiah Dickerson, who located on the north bank of Salt river, on the main road from Shelbina to Shelbyville, on section 17 — 57 — 10, in 1831. A year or two later, he was joined by Peter Roff and George Roff, who located on section 7, north of Walkersville.

The first settlers in the north-western part of this township, along or in the neighborhood of Salt river, in township 57, range 11, were Perry B. Moore, Isaac Moore, and their sister, Mrs. Mary Wailes, on section 10; James Barr and John Barr, on section 15; James Carroll, on section 9; and John S. Duncan, on the north-west quarter of section 16. The Moore brothers, the Barrs and Mrs. Wailes were from Delaware, James Carroll from Indiana, and John S. Duncan from Kentucky.

The Moores came in about 1837, the Barrs a year later, and John S. Duncan in 1840. The latter was first through the country in 1836. When he settled here permanently he brought with him four large, magnificent horses, heavily harnessed, a capacious "schooner" wagon, and several hundreds of dollars in money. He was a valuable acquisition to the settlement. His horses were in demand to break the tough, stubborn sod of the prairie, his wagon to go to mill, and his dollars for general purposes.

The first school was taught by John B. Lewis, in 1838, in a small school-house that stood on the present site of Bacon's Chapel. This house was built of round logs, had a puncheon floor, a clap-board roof, rough benches, and the windows were composed of greased paper. Some of Mr. Lewis's pupils were Isaac, John, and Mary A. Wailes, Anderton, Cornelia and Mary Tobin, George and Mary Lewis. He had about 20 in all.

The physician that located in the western part of this township

was Dr. John Mills, who came in 1838 from Ohio, and lived near the north line in section 9, township 57, range 11. He practiced through a large extent of country, riding sometimes 20 miles to visit his patients. He went to California finally.

In the western part of the township the first church building was Bacon's Chapel, built by the Methodists, on the south-west quarter of the south-east quarter of section 9, township 57, range 11, in 1845. It was built of logs, and the outside was covered, sides and all, with clap-boards. The first services were held before the floor was laid, and were conducted by old Father Eads. The building stood for 20 years, and was succeeded by the present imposing and commodious building. George Bacon deeded the site to the church.

Adam and Michael Heckart were early settlers in the north-western part of this township, and built a mill on Salt river, in section 4—57—11, in 1838. David O. Walker built the mill on section 18—57—10, which bore his name so long, and which was the foundation for the little hamlet of Walkersville.

Other early settlers in the north-western part of this township were Nicholas Watkins, James Carothers and Prettyman Blizzard, in the vicinity of Bacon Chapel; Dr. James Rackliffe, on the north-east quarter of section 12—57—11; W. T. Coard, on section 1—57—10.

Salt river township was first organized as a municipal township in about 1839, but extended then to the western boundary of the county. Its present limits are defined on a previous page.

During the war, in the spring of 1862, occurred the bushwhacking near Walkersville, by Tom Stacy's Confederate band, when two soldiers, Long and Herbst, and the citizen, Lilburn Hale, were killed, and the soldiers, Ring, Deener and Henning, were wounded. All the soldiers belonged to the Eleventh Missouri State Militia.

The bushwhacking of the Third Iowa soldiers in the road near Maj. Dickerson's old house — now called the Bush Foley place — is detailed elsewhere. Mr. Connelly lived on the farm at the time, and saw John Jacobs and others of the bushwhackers who did the shooting. Jacobs was in the door-yard and had called for some water, when the negro came up with the information that the straggling soldiers were coming. When the main body of Hurlbut's men came up they were furious, and would, perhaps, have made short and bad work of the house, had not the negro assured them that none of its inmates were connected with the affair in any way.

The Shelbina fight in 1861, and Bill Anderson's raid in 1864, are

noted elsewhere. Both of these events, of course, happened in this township.

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP.

Jefferson township comprises the south-western portion of Shelby county, including all of township 56, range 12, which forms the "jog" or pan-handle, so prominent a feature on the map of the county. The greater portion of the township is prairie, the soil of which is rich and fertile, and capable of transformation into beautiful and valuable farms.

This township was not settled as early as the other portions of the county, perhaps because of the great abundance of prairie, which was more difficult to subdue than timbered land in early days, when wooden mold-boards and cast-iron points were all the kind used on breaking plows. Not until after 1840 did settlers come in. The first locations were made along Otter creek and Crooked creek, with a few on Mad creek.

In 1845-46 there were living along Otter creek John Kyle, J. M. Donaldson, Elijah Bishop, Thomas Dawson, Joseph Reynolds, Madison Reynolds, Henry Smock, Henry Spires, Esquire Barton, John Hendricks and Joel Million.

On Crooked creek there were William Stalcup, Sr. ; William Stalcup, Jr. ; Samuel Stalcup, H. Shoemaker, Daniel Thrasher, Henry Kidwell, V. Godfrey, John Dungan, Ed. Tansil, William Bush, Enoch K. Miller.

Shelton Lowry lived on Mad creek, in the extreme south-western portion of the township.

The building of the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad brought more settlers in ; but not until after the war did the township begin its real improvements. It is now quite thickly settled and well improved.

During the war Jefferson township was over-run by the troops of both armies, and its citizens, Union and Confederate, were maltreated and murdered. Early in the war some Confederate partisans took out the old pioneer, Henry Spires, and put him to death, leaving his body to rot by a log, where it was found. Another Union man, named Fifer, was murdered about the same time. Then came the cruel Putnam county militia and murdered some men of Confederate sympathies—Phillips, Butler and Wilson—living in the border of Monroe. Mr. Fifer, the Unionist, was a son-in-law of Phillips, the Secessionist, and both were murdered. With which side Mrs. Fifer sympathized it would be hard to say. One party murdered her father, the other her husband.

In the spring of 1862 the Black Hawk cavalry came out from Macon and had a slight skirmish with a company of Confederates that were encamped down on Mad creek. One Confederate was killed.

CLAY TOWNSHIP.

The first settler in what is now Clay township was Major Taylor, who built a cabin on section 6 — 57 — 11, in the south-eastern part of the township, as early as 1835. This cabin stood at the point of a hill, at the southern edge of the Salt river bottom, with the stream itself a mile away. Mr. Taylor was a Kentuckian. He was not, as his name would perhaps indicate, a military character, but his given or Christian name was Major.

James Parker was on section 8 — 57 — 11, a mile or more below Taylor in 1839, and Isaac Tobin was near him. John B. Lewis was on the north-west quarter of the same section in 1836. West of this, three or four miles, was Capt. Melson in 1839. Of these, Parker was from Delaware, Tobin was a Virginian and Melson a Kentuckian. Farther up on Salt river but few settlements were made until late in the decade beginning with 1840.

The first class of the Methodist Church in Shelby county was formed at the residence of John B. Lewis, on the north-west quarter of section 8 — 57 — 11, in the fall of 1837. Mr. Lewis was the leader, and the other members were his wife, Stanford Drain and wife, Mrs. Margaret Moore, the widow Parker, Mrs. Wailes and Mrs. Jane Parker, wife of James Parker. The same year Rev. James Pryor came out from Ohio, and held services at the house of Mr. Lewis, and it is claimed that he was the first Methodist preacher in Shelby county. This class was the origin of the congregation at Bacon's Chapel.

The township was organized about 1845, when the county was Whig and named for Henry Clay, whom his partisans knew as "gallant Harry of the West." A few years later Taylor township was organized and named for President Taylor. Very much of the land in the southern part of the township was improved and first cultivated since the Civil War, having long been held by speculators.

The town of Clarence is fully mentioned on the other pages. The other village in Clay township is Hager's Grove, on section 15 — 58 — 12, on Salt river.

The site of Hager's Grove was purchased by John Hager of William P. Norton, of Ralls county. A blacksmith shop was run here for some time and the locality was known as Hager's Grove. In the spring of 1857 William P. Casey, Dr. Pile and Joseph and William

Walker, from Iowa, bought a steam saw-mill and put it in operation at Hager's Grove. A man named Spaulding ran a blacksmith shop here at the same time. Some time afterward Thomas J. Blackburn established a small grocery store, whose stock in trade, as reported, consisted of a barrel of whisky, some crackers and cheese and some staples. The store was in a log house.

In a year or so Dr. Pile and William Walker both died, and in August, 1859, G. L. & B. F. Smith bought Blackburn's stock, and making considerable additions, opened a store in Dr. Piles' former house, a two-story frame. The Smith Bros. had Ed. Gray, then the county surveyor, to come and lay out the village into lots. In 1859 a post-office was established, and B. F. Smith appointed post-master.

The Smith Bros. ran the store until in 1861, when Morris Osborn came in and he and B. F. Smith ran it until 1863, when, owing to the troublous times incident to the Civil War, the store was closed and the goods sold at auction. In 1866 L. E. Irwin and John Patton opened another store, and since then the place has always been a trading point. It now has a dozen houses, two general stores, a drug store, a blacksmith shop and the mill; also a post-office.

The old saw-mill has been burned two or three times, but some of the original machinery is said to be still in use. Not long before the war broke out George Janes bought an interest in the saw-mill and added thereto a grist mill and a distillery. These additions were managed by the Janes brothers and their father, John Janes, until some time during the war. While the distillery existed it is said that frequent drunks and free fights were the rule at Hager's Grove. The mill has changed hands quite often.

There is an excellent frame church building at Hager's Grove, under the control of the Christians, or "Campbellites," as they are misnamed. The building was erected in 1873.

Lentner's Station is situated on the north-east corner of section 29—57—11, in this township, but immediately on the line between Clay and Salt River, and on the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad. The road divides the townships, all west being in Clay, and east in Salt River. The depot building is in Clay. The station was at first called Crooked Creek, then after a time John L. Lathrop, of Chicago, a large land owner in this township, named it Lentner.

TAYLOR TOWNSHIP.

This township composes the north-western portion of the county, and comprises all of congressional township 59, range 12, and the west half of township 59, range 11. The land in this township is mostly fine and valuable. The central portion, being excellent prairie, is especially so. The eastern portion is chiefly timber land. Salt river runs almost due north and south through the western part of the township, and along it, for a mile in width, the land is rough and broken.

The Gillaspys, — Lewis, Alexander and Robert — were among the very first settlers in what is now Taylor township, locating on Black creek, in the south-eastern portion of the township, in about 1837. At about the same time two men named Steed and Buckalew came in. Steed located on section 29 — 59 — 11, nearly two miles east of Leonard, and Buckalew over in the western part of the township, a mile or more east of Salt river, on section 21 — 59 — 12. George Gray built his cabin on the west half of section 28 — 59 — 11, about 1839. Ambrose Perry was another early settler in this quarter.

In October, 1839, Thomas G. Poage moved up from Paris, Monroe county, to section 18 — 59 — 12, west of Salt river, in the north-western portion of the township, near the Macon line. In a few years he moved across into Macon. At that time there were in that quarter Samuel Vandiver, in section 8, on Salt river; Griffith D. Shelton, who lived on the bluff, at the edge of the Salt river bottom, in section 29, and Phil. Upton, the slayer of Daniel Thomas, a mile east of Shelton, in section 28; Robert Nickell, a Virginian, was on the west side of Salt river, on section 18, near the Nickell ford, in 1840. Henry Sheetz and Thomas Garrison were included in the settlement in 1840.

Griffith D. Shelton was a cooper, and worked at his trade for the benefit of his neighbors, making for them buckets, tubs, churns, etc. Some of his buckets and churns were made out of cedar brought up from Ralls county, out of the Salt river hills, and were very pretty and durable. Shelton was also a great hunter, and killed scores of deer. Robert Nickell did not remain long here. One of his children swallowed a piece of saucer and choked to death. To this child Mr. Nickell was much attached, and not long after its death he sold out and went back to Virginia.

Benj. F. Forman came up from Ralls county in the spring of 1842,

and bought Mr. Buckalew's farm, on the south-west quarter of section 21 — 59 — 12. In addition to those already mentioned there were in the township then Edwin Brensley, an Englishman, on the north-east quarter of section 20, and near him was Cyrus Saunders. Daniel Michaels lived near the center of section 28. William Mills lived in the north-west corner of the county; he killed a man named Watson, by striking him over the head with a double-barreled shot-gun. The affair took place at Mills' house; he was acquitted on the ground of self-defense. Mills died in the Federal army, a member of Glover's Third Missouri Cavalry.

Upon the first settlement of Taylor township the pioneers went often to Florida, in Monroe county, to mill, as the local mills in this county were not always in order or running. In 1846 Benjamin Forman bought a horse mill — a sweep mill — from a man named Hargis, in the southern part of the county, and moved it up on his farm and ran it for a number of years. The settlers resorted to it for miles around. Each customer furnished his own team to turn the mill, and when it had two good teams hitched to it its capacity averaged five bushels per hour. When, however, a small yoke of steers furnished the motive power the average was much less.

Forman's mill ground both corn and wheat. The flour was bolted by hand — a slow process but an effectual one. It made as good bread as that now produced by the roller process. The toll was one-eighth of the grist. Sometimes this little mill was so thronged that the customers stayed and ground all night, each in his turn.

There was an abundance of game along Salt river and elsewhere in this township at an early day — bear, wolves, deer, etc. Bear creek was named by some hunters from Howard county, who killed a large black bear at its mouth when they were here hunting on one occasion.

Judge Samuel Huston taught a school just over the line, in Macon county, in 1841, which was resorted to by a majority of the children in the north-western portion of this township. Jack Griffin taught another school near him. Religious services were held at Thomas Poage's, in 1840, and in that section, and at that day, nearly all the preachers were Old School Baptists. Two of these were James Ratliffe and Ben Davis. Near the same time old Dr. Shultz, of the Christian Church, preached.

The first physicians who practiced in the township were Dr. Long, of Shelbyville, Dr. Mills, from the neighborhood of Bacon Chapel, and Dr. Edmunds. For many years Shelbyville was the nearest post-office. Up in the north-western part of the township Thomas G.

Poage was the only subscriber to a newspaper up to about 1845. He took the *St. Louis Republican* and the *Boone's Lick Democrat*, and although the papers were usually about two weeks old when they were received, yet his house was headquarters for general intelligence and a resort for people who wanted to learn the news.

In the spring of 1849, Benjamin Forman built the first bridge over Salt river in this quarter at the Ray ford. The lumber for the floor was whip-sawed. The same year, while John Swinney was building the Rollins bridge, over Salt river, he let a chisel fall on his knee and the wound crippled him.

The hamlet now called Leonard, on the north-west quarter of section 30 — 59 — 11, on Black creek, was formerly called Millersburg, from Adolphus Miller, who built the mill there after the war. Isaac Watson is the present owner. There are two or three stores and a post-office. The latter gives the name to the hamlet.

Cherry Box is the name of a post-office in the north-western part of the township, which has for some time past been "on wheels," as it were, being first at one house and then at another, as a man could be found willing to assume the duties of the office.

BETHEL TOWNSHIP.

Bethel township comprises all of congressional township 59, range 10, and half of township 59, range 11, and is the center of the three municipal townships comprising the northern part of Shelby county. There are some very excellent bodies of land in the township and some fine farms, but there is yet much room for improvement in this particular. The northern portion of the township, through which North river and the Tiger fork run, is somewhat broken and unproductive. The southern portion has many a fine tract of prairie.

In the southern portion the Pennsylvania-German members of the old colony of Bethel have made some good farms. In the south-eastern part of the township a colored man named Magruder, who was a slave when the war broke out, and who began life empty handed when it was over, now has one of the best 160 acre farms in the township. He lives in a fine two-story house, has nearly all of the modern conveniences of life about him, buys and ships live stock, works hard and takes care of what he makes, and is universally respected and encouraged by his white neighbors. Instances of such industry, good sense and thrift are rare among colored people, and this one deserves to be noticed.

As to the first settlers in this township, perhaps the distinction

belongs to Abraham Vandiver and Peter Stice, who settled on North river at or near Bethel in 1834. According to the statements of Joshua M. Ennis and others, there were living in this township in 1837 or 1838 the following: Peter Stice, at Bethel; Barton W. Hall, on North river, just below Bethel; Jesse Gentry, east of Hall; Hiram Rookwood, east of Gentry, on North river; William Chinn was north of town; William Ralls, who had 11 children, also lived north, and William Montgomery was near him; John B. Sikes and John Short lived two miles west of Bethel; Peter C. Rust was another early settler on North river.

Beginning at the head waters of Tiger fork and proceeding down the stream, the following settlers were in this township in 1840: Sam Matkins, Wash Matkins, Judge Brown, William Todd, William Vanski, John Neal, John White and James Lear.

One who knew him says of James Lear that he was a large-hearted, whole-souled, enterprising and liberal member of the community—one of nature's noblemen and a man of true worth. He was one of the pillars of the Old School Baptist Church, but in all matters of public interest, whether in the building of churches, schools or roads, he was a worthy leader and was respected and honored by all his fellow-citizens. As he lived near what is now the Tiger Fork line, he had a large acquaintance in that township.

The influx of the Bethel colonists was of great advantage in the improvement of this township, and after 1846¹ it was created into a separate municipal township. It grew apace with the remaining portions of the county until it reached its present conditions and proportions.

BLACK CREEK TOWNSHIP.

Black Creek township comprises all of congressional township 58, ranges 10 and 11, and is the central township of Shelby county. It was one of the original townships of the county, and, indeed, was created when the territory belonged to Marion county. Gradually, with the various changes that have been made, it has been reduced to its present limits. It took its name from the stream of that designation.

The first settlements in what is now this township, were made along Black creek, on North river, and in the neighborhood of Shelbyville. Lewis H. Gillaspy settled a little south-west of Shelbyville, in 1835,

¹ Bethel was regularly laid out by Samuel Miller October 9 and 10, 1846.

and was probably the first settler. Peter Looney, a son of Mrs. Carolina Looney, settled on what came to be known as the Laws place, in the north-eastern part of the township in 1835, and it is claimed that he built the first house that high up on North river. He married a Miss Rice. Mr. James G. Glenn states that he came in the fall of 1833 to section 3 — 58 — 10, on North river. John Ralls lived south-east of him then. It is possible, however, that Mr. Glenn is mistaken one year in the date of his settlement, and that it was in the fall of 1834 when he came.

In addition to the few houses in Shelbyville, there were, in 1837, the following settlers in what is now Black Creek township: James Foley lived in the north-eastern part of the township, on the north-west quarter of section 2 — 58 — 10, across North river. Stephen Lay lived north of Shelbyville, and J. B. Marmaduke south of town and across Black creek, and south also of the fair ground. In Mr. Marmaduke's neighborhood, south of Black creek, and south-east of Shelbyville, in township 58, range 10, were James Graham, on the south-east quarter of section 34; James Swartz and Albert D. Smith, on section 35, east of Graham, and Elijah Pepper, on section 36, east of Swartz and Smith. All of these were along Black creek.

West of Shelbyville, in township 58, range 11, two miles or more, Joe West lived in 1837, on the Chinn branch, on section 25 — 58 — 11. Nearly eight miles west, on Sink branch, section 30, old Phil. Upton, the homicide, lived or had lived. John Dunn settled on the north-west quarter of section 33, on German branch, five miles west, in 1836. William McMurry came to section 16, five miles north-west of Shelbyville in 1842. Thomas S. Priest and M. J. Priest came in about 1836 to sections 21 and 28. Elijah Pollard was another settler who located in the western part of the township in about 1838; he gave his name to the well known Pollard's branch.

After the settlers secured plows and teams strong enough to break the tough, stubborn sod of the prairies, those portions of this county became very popular for the purposes of settlement, and many of the farms in Black Creek township were then opened. The greater portion of the land in the township being prairie accounts for the many fine farms therein. The first settlers sought to use the prairies for pastures, but could not do so very successfully because of the prevalence of flies.

Flies were an intolerable pest for many years — up to 1848 or 1850. The prairies were full of them, and it was as much as a

horse's life was worth to venture through a stretch of prairie in daylight in the summer. The great green-head flies would rise up from the grass and settle on the poor horse in such vast swarms, and attack him so ravenously, that the animal would be in real danger of being bitten to death, and often was driven quite frantic. For this reason, frequently, travel on horseback or with a team was performed after night.

TIGER FORK TOWNSHIP.

Tiger Fork township was one of the first settled and one of the first organized townships in Shelby county. Its first settlement was in 1832, and its original organization in about 1840. The date of the latter is uncertain as, singularly enough, the record is silent on the subject.

Topographically the township is rough and unbroken, generally speaking, but some of the roughest tracks are regarded as the best. The numerous streams which pass through account for the broken character of the country in part.

In the southern part of the township, near Miller's mill, there is some coal, but it is of an inferior quality and not very abundant or accessible. The bank has been worked in time past, but was never very profitable.

The northern and north-eastern portions of the township are very broken, and for the most part composed of tracts of timber primeval and virgin. There is some very fine timber along the streams in this quarter.

But in different portions of the township, in nearly every part, excellent farms are to be met with, and much good land is encountered. Occasionally also there are tracts of prairie, some of which have been improved but a few years.

In township 58, range 9, were the first settlements in the township, and as the municipal township is composed of the greater part of this congressional township and all of township 59, range 9, it is proper to describe the early history by congressional.

The following is a list of the first settlers in 58-9, or in the lower part of the township, information concerning which has been kindly furnished by Mr. Addison Lair and others.

FIRST SETTLERS IN TOWNSHIP 58, RANGE 9.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Originally From.</i>	<i>Directly From.</i>	<i>Where Settled.</i>
Addison Lair	Jan., 1834	Kentucky	Marion Co.	N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 5
Robert Lair	"	"	"	" " "
Robert Joiner	March, 1833	Tennessee	"	Section 6
Mrs. Caroline Looney	"	"	"	" 6
Oliver Latimore	"	"	"	" 6
Alexander Buford	"	Kentucky	Ralls Co.	" 7
Meshack Vanlandingham	1832	"	Marion Co.	" 7
Stephen Gupton	"	N. Carolina	"	" 4
Kindred Feltz	1831 (?)	Kentucky	"	" 9
Mrs. Temperance Gupton	1832	N. Carolina	"	sec. 4, N. river
Cooper Kincaid	183-	Kentucky	"	Section 4
Henry Louthan	1837	"	"	" 9
Jonathan Parsons	1837	" 4

Among the very first settlers of this township was James Turner, who built his cabin at the mouth of Tiger fork in the southern part of the township in 1833. He was a hunter and lived chiefly by his gun.

In the neighborhood of Miller's mill, on Clear creek, in the southwestern part of the township, the first settlers were Elisha Baldwin, Solomon Miller and George Gentry, all of whom came in an early day. Upon the death of Gentry's wife he removed from the county.

Two men named Howell and Carter located on section 12 — 58 — 9 in 1840; both were Virginians. Soon after their location both died and their deaths were among the first of adults in the township.

John Moss settled on section 11 — 58 — 9, in about 1837. The place is now known as the Nesbit farm. Joshua Hope came to section 4, at an early day, and built a horse mill, which was in operation in 1840.

William Moffitt built a cabin 200 yards east of the present site of Mt. Zion Church (section 6) in about 1837, and there lived until his death. Mr. Moffitt was a school-teacher and a very useful citizen in the community; he had all the acquirements of Goldsmith's village schoolmaster, for he acted as a sort of clerk, drew up deeds and other legal papers, kept a pretty good stock of medicine and prescribed for the sick, taught school, and exhorted in religious meetings.

Probably the first child born in this township was George Lair, a son of Robert Lair, who was born in 1834. He was one of the first children born in Shelby county.

The first minister was Rev. William Fuqua, a Baptist, who came

in about 1834, and first held services at Mrs. Caroline Looney's. Rev. M. Hurley was another pioneer preacher.

The first church building erected was the Looney's Creek Church, a small log building put up by the citizens about the year 1837, and standing on the stream whose name it bore, upon the division of the Baptist Church. The New School denomination held the church, and the Old School denomination, under the leadership of Rev. Henry Louthan, built the brick church building, which is still called Looney's Creek Church. The New School denomination afterward erected a building known as Mt. Zion Church. (See Church History.)

A house built by William Payne, Jr., on Alexander Buford's farm (section 7), was used for a school-house—probably the first in the township.

The northern part of township 58—9 was organized into a school township in 1845; the first school was taught by Miss Sarah Strode.

Probably the first physicians who practiced in this section were Dr. Riggs and Dr. Anthony Minter. The latter purchased the farm of Cooper Kincaid, in section 4, in the year 1840. Dr. M. was originally from Virginia, but had lived a year at Oak Dale before coming to this township.

The first mills resorted to were those at Palmyra and Hannibal, Peter Stice's mill at Bethel and Joshua Hope's horse mill on section 4; the latter was built in 1840. Trading points were Palmyra, Hannibal, Shelbyville and Oak Dale. Money was very scarce, and the settlers traded beeswax, venison, hams, etc., for such merchandise as they needed.

The early settlers say that upon the first settlement of Tiger Fork township timber was much scarcer than it now is, notwithstanding the numerous improvements and clearings that have been made. Good timber land was very desirable and many settlers entered tracts at an early day which they could not now sell for half of what the taxes have cost them. When the pioneers did not themselves own good timber, and wanted any, it was not considered very wrong to cut what was wanted on the land owned by "Uncle Johnny Congress," as the Government or Congress land was called. Many a fence was composed of rails made on "Uncle Johnny's" land.

IN TOWNSHIP 59, RANGE 9.

The first settlers in the upper part of Tiger Fork township, or in township 59, range 9, were Kemp Glasscock, who came from Virginia in 1837, to the north-east quarter of section 26; Col. Elias Winchell,

who came from Massachusetts in 1838 to section 15; Chambers Rutter, who came from Kentucky, to the south line of section 17, in 1841; Sylvanus I. Bragg, who came from Kentucky, to the east half of section 23, in March, 1840; Thomas P. Lear, from Marion county to section 12, on the south bank of the Fabius, in 1838; Thomas Claggett, from Kentucky to the south-west quarter of section 11, on the south bank of the Fabius, in 1838, where he built a dam and erected the mill which afterward bore his name.

Other early settlers were Thomas Turner, Abel Turner, Edmond Rutter, John Stone and Elisha Moore, all of whom were here in 1840.

William Hollyman settled on section 32 in about 1837 and died five years later.

As to the settlement of Col. Elias Winchell, his son, Homer H. Winchell, Esq., of Palmyra, Mo., says:—

My father settled on section 15, township 57, range 9, in Shelby county, Mo., and in March, A. D. 1838, entered 560 acres of land, and built a double, two-story, unhewn log dwelling, unchinked and without floors, doors or windows. The next month, April, the family moved in and occupied the dwelling. The nearest neighbors were Kemp Glasscock and Kindred Glasscock, two and three miles distant south-east. On the south there were no dwellings, I believe, north of Tiger, and on the west was Mr. Edmond Rutter, two-and-a-half miles off on Tiger. On the north the only dwelling south of the Fabius was that of Mr. Thomas Claggett, who lived in a small log cabin on the hill, near the present bridge, and there were no other nearer neighbors.

The same season a post-office was established at our house, and the name was called Greenfield, with father as postmaster. Afterwards, Greenfield, the county seat of Dade county, Mo., was established, and the name of the Shelby county office changed to West Springfield.

The first school in the Winchell neighborhood was taught in the summer of 1838, at Mr. James Lear's on Tiger, five miles west of Greenfield, by Fannie M. Winchell, then 16 years of age, and now the wife of Col. Thomas L. Anderson, of Palmyra. Afterward the same school was taught by Miss Sarah M. Winchell, who became the wife of Judge John D. L. Dryden, and who died at Greenfield, April 21, A. D. 1845. Rensselaer Winchell, now of Boston, Mass., and his brother, Elisha B. Winchell, of Fresno, California, also taught the same school.

At that time there was no underbrush in all that country. All was clear, clean, open prairie, or open woodland, through which the vision

was unobstructed except by the trunks of the trees ; and from hill-top to hill-top could be seen an abundance of game at almost any time and in any direction. Deer and wild turkeys were killed in the yard, and it was not uncommon to see a herd of 30 deer gaily bounding on the hills or quietly feeding in the valleys, unaccustomed to the presence of men, and unsuspecting danger of any kind. Wolves were very abundant and were heard in lively chorus night after night, making splendid music, and occasionally charging upon the dogs and driving them up to the very door-steps.

Probably the first minister in this township was Rev. Monroe, a Methodist, who held religious services at Mrs. Mary Glasscock's, in 1839. Rev. Green preached the first sermon in the Bragg school after it was built in 1841. Other early preachers were Revs. Turner, Creath and Hatchett. The first regular church building attended by the people of the northern portion of Tiger Fork township was Asbury Chapel, just over the Lewis county line, which was built in 1853. A Baptist Church was built near by in 1855.

The first school-house was built in 1841. It stood on section 23 and was known as Bragg's school-house because of its nearness to the residence of S. I. Bragg. It was built by the citizens, of hewed logs, and was a good, substantial building. The first teacher in this school-house was R. B. Settle, in 1841. He had 25 or 30 pupils: the children of S. I. Bragg, Thomas Claggett, Hugh Anderson, Thomas Lear, William White and Harry White. Martin's school-house was built in Lewis county, in section 36, township 60, range 9, near the county line and near the Baptist and Methodist Churches mentioned above. This school-house was resorted to by many children living in the northern part of the township.

The first physicians were Dr. A. G. Anderson and Dr. Anthony Minter. Dr. Anderson died in California in 1849.

Tiger Fork township abounded in game at an early day, and in wild animals, too. The stream from which it took its name was called after the panthers killed by John Winnegan, as related on another page. The citizens termed them tigers. Bears were very numerous, especially on Tiger. A large bear was killed on Looney's creek, near Mrs. Looney's in 1836. Addison Lair encountered one over on Tiger fork, but Bruin, after looking at him intently for a minute, turned contemptuously away. New comers were often puzzled to see huge logs turned over in the woods, as if men had rolled them over with hand-spikes, until they ascertained that the bears did it to get at the bugs and

larvæ there to be found. Occasionally, but not often, the bears caught up a pig or two.

At first wolves were very plenty and very savage. Quite often they chased the settlers' pigs into the dooryards, even in daylight. But after awhile the "hazel splitters" grew stout, strong, and almost as savage and dangerous as the wolves, and quite able to care for themselves. When wolves attacked them the pigs and weaker hogs formed in the center of a ring, on the outside of which the boars, with their huge, sharp tusks, presented themselves in a wall almost as impregnable as a cordon of soldiers with bayonets. In a fair fight a boar would do up a huge gray wolf in a few seconds.

Deer were of course plenty. An old hunter named Freeman once found the skeletons of two large bucks, whose antlers had become so tightly locked in a fight that they could not separate themselves, and they had starved to death. Freeman showed this sight to Addison Lair, who yet lives to tell of it.

From 1837 to 1840 immigrants came in rather rapidly, and what were considered the most desirable locations were taken up. Then the hard times set in and but few came until in about 1848. Then for ten years the country gradually settled up to something near its present condition. During the war of course there was no improvement. The immigrants that came in for the most part did not bring their families with them, but rode on horseback, wore either blue or gray clothing and carried muskets, carbines and shot-guns. The leading incidents of the war in this township are recorded elsewhere.

After the war there was a boom, and from 1866 to 1873. Afterwards, whether from the effect of the panic or not can not well be stated, emigration ceased, and there has not been much since.

Addison Lair built the first brick house in the township, in 1849. Rev. Henry Louthan built one about the same time.



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