

CHAPTER IV.

HISTORY OF THE COUNTY FROM 1840 TO 1850.

Miscellaneous Matters — Killing of Daniel Thomas by Philip Upton — The Sixteenth Sections — Stock Raising and Shipping — Crops — Hard Times — The First Jail and Its Inmates — During the Mexican War — The Gold Fever and the Argonauts of 1849 — Elections.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The population of the county in 1840 was 3,056.

In 1842 the chinch bugs did a great deal of damage to the growing crops. Fields of wheat and oats were entirely destroyed, and they covered the young corn so thickly that the rows resembled long black stripes across the fields. Crops were "short" this year.

In 1842-43 times were very hard on our people. Money was scarce, and hard to get and produce and wages ridiculously low. The market report in the fall of 1842 showed that the best flour per barrel, even in St. Louis, was only \$2.50 in gold, and \$3 in "city money." Wheat was only 45 cents per bushel, and went down to 35. Potatoes and corn were 18 cents per bushel each. Nice, well-cured hams brought 5 cents per pound. Tobacco, "firsts," brought only \$3.10 per hundred. On the other hand, groceries were proportionately cheap. Coffee was 10½ cents per pound; the best sugar 7 cents; molasses 25 cents per gallon; whisky, by the barrel, 18 cents per gallon; by the single gallon, 25 cents; by the pint, 5 cents. In this county, prices were even lower. Pork sold in Shelbyville for \$1.50 per hundred; beef, \$1 per hundred; corn, 62½ cents per barrel, or 12½ cents per bushel; bacon, 2 cents per pound. A good steer, five years old, was considered well sold at \$8. Cows brought from \$6 to \$8. No land, except the best improved tracts, could be sold for any price. The government monopolized the land business, getting \$1.25 per acre for all land entered under the pre-emption law.

In 1845 a colony of Germans came in from Pennsylvania and Ohio and purchased some farms west of Shelbyville. They also entered a considerable quantity of government land, and started the towns of Elim and Mamre. They also laid out and established the town of Bethel. (See history of Bethel.)

The Legislature of 1842-43 altered the county boundaries of Shelby

to what they are at present, adding 24 sections of township 56, range 12, which were taken from Monroe, and from the four-mile projection in the south-western portion of the county. The county includes all of townships 59, 58, 57, and the two northern tiers of sections in township 56, lying in ranges 9, 10 and 11; and all of townships 59, 58, 57 and 56 in range 12.

In the winter of 184-, three young girls, the daughters of Mrs. Vaunoy, a widow lady, who lived on Salt river, above Walkersville, were drowned. One of them went on the ice on Salt river, and the ice giving way she fell into deep water and was unable to extricate herself. Her two sisters going to her assistance, they, too, broke in, and all three were drowned.

In the spring of 1844, North river was out of its banks on account of the high waters of that season. Some think it was higher than it has ever been before or since. All the streams in the county overflowed, and were impassable for some days at the principal fords and bridges. This spring the Mississippi and the Missouri overflowed their banks and were miles wide in many places.

In 1844 Daniel Taylor sunk a tanyard on Clear creek, east of Shelbyville (sec. 18—58—9), just below where Miller's mill was afterward situated. Mr. Holliday says that Taylor made leather there for some years, but owing to the scarcity of tan bark, and the poor quality of what was obtained, he quit the business, and allowed the tanyard to go to destruction. He had a splendid spring, which afforded him water at all seasons of the year.

Some time in 1844 the mail was carried regularly in hacks and stages from Hannibal through Palmyra, Shelbyville, Bloomington, and on through the county seats westward to St. Joseph. When not delayed by high waters the stages made daily trips, and mail facilities were believed to have attained the highest degree of excellence.

Rates of postage varied. From the beginning of the postal system in this country up to 1845, there were from six cents to 25 cents on a letter weighing a half ounce or less, depending on the distance it was carried. For each additional half ounce additional postage was charged. From July 1, 1845, to July 1, 1851, the rates were five cents for half an ounce or less, if carried less than 300 miles, and ten cents if conveyed 300 miles and over. From July, 1851, to October 1, 1883, the rate was uniformly three cents for any distance within the United States and less than 3,000 miles. At one time letters to California, Oregon, and elsewhere on the Pacific coast, were charged

double postage. Since October, 1883, letter postage has been two cents.

Toward the close of the decade of 1840 the county began to take on the forms of settled civilization. Schools were common enough in 1848. In 1847 a lodge of Odd Fellows was organized in Shelbyville, and in 1848 the Masonic lodge was established. The farms were in a good state of cultivation; the primitive log cabins began to give way to comfortable frame and brick structures, and life was begun in earnest and to some purpose.

Shelbyville, the only town in the county worthy the name, was a thriving little village with fair prospects for the future. In 1849 the county court had a fence built about the public square. Thomas J. Bounds was the contractor. During the same year Mr. William H. Vannart planted the square with locust trees and a few rose bushes. Prior to that time the square presented a very unsightly appearance.

KILLING OF DANIEL THOMAS BY PHILIP UPTON.

On Christmas Day, 1842, Philip Upton killed one, Daniel Thomas, and this was the second homicide in the county. The killing took place in Upton's field, in Taylor township, about five miles north-west of Hagar's grove, where Upton lived at the time. The circumstances were these: —

Upton was an old man, at least 55, and had a considerable family, three or four members of which were adult daughters. Of one of these daughters Thomas had spoken words seriously affecting her character, alleging that she had admitted to him that she was unchaste and had at least three paramours. This he stated to Peter Greer, who informed Upton of what Thomas had told him.

A bitter quarrel resulted between Upton and Thomas, but was finally, as alleged, made up, and the parties agreed to be friendly. It was in evidence, however, that Thomas had threatened Upton with personal violence — to “mash his d——d old head,” to “beat him half to death,” etc.

Thomas was a young man, unmarried. On Christmas Day he had a pistol and half a pint of whisky. He loaded his pistol with paper wads and fired it off occasionally that morning, seemingly in honor of the day. About nine o'clock he came to the residence of Jonathan Michael, where another young man, named Jeff. Shelton, was employed. Michaels directed Shelton to go to Upton's residence after a gun which Upton had obtained to repair and put in order. Shelton asked Thomas to accompany him, and the two set off together.

Reaching Upton's house, they found that the old man was out in a corn field, engaged in husking corn from the shock. They set out for him, and on the way met two of Upton's daughters, who had been out to where their father was. A dog with them barked furiously, and Shelton took Thomas' pistol and fired at the animal to frighten him.

Upton saw the two young men approaching him, and started to meet them. He habitually carried his rifle with him — never left home without it. Picking up this rifle from a pile of fodder, he leveled it at Daniel Thomas and called out, "Now, d——n you, where's your pistol?" and fired. Thomas fell, shot through the body, and died in less than two hours, where he had fallen, half covered with snow.

Upton was arrested without difficulty, and on examination before a magistrate was released, as his daughters swore that when their father fired, Thomas was in the act of drawing a pistol. In a few months Upton removed to Adair county. At the September term of the Shelby circuit court, 1843, he was indicted and soon after arrested. His trial did not come off until July 12, 1844, when a special term was held at Shelbyville by Judge McBride to try him. The jury in the case was composed of Anthony Gooch, John Gullett, Albert G. Smith, James A. Sherry, Jonathan Rogers, Charles Duncan, Samuel Blackburn, James E. Utz, John C. Utz, Robert K. Mayes, Thomas B. Mayes and James Davis.

The prisoner was ably defended by Hon. Samuel T. Glover, and Hon. J. R. Abernathy, the circuit attorney, was the prosecutor. The trial lasted about two days, and on the second day the jury returned a verdict of "guilty of manslaughter in the second degree." As they could not agree upon his punishment the judge fixed it at three years' imprisonment in the penitentiary. Steps were taken to appeal the case to the Supreme Court, but they were never perfected. Upton served out about two-thirds of his term, when he was pardoned by Gov. Edwards.

In the meantime his family had removed to Putnam county. Hither the old man repaired. Not long afterward he became involved in a difficulty with a son-in-law, named Cain. One day when Upton was at work in the woods, digging out a trough from a huge log, and while his wife and a daughter were washing on the banks of the Chariton river, not far away, he was bushwhacked by Cain, who came stealthily upon him and shot him fatally with a rifle. Upton lived about as long after he was shot as Thomas did after he

was shot, and both were struck in the same part of the body. Cain fled for California, but at St. Joseph a desperado quarreled with him and killed him. Then a mob rose and killed the desperado!

The following is an abstract of the important testimony delivered on the trial of Upton:—

JEFFERSON SHELTON.

Was hired to work at Jonathan Michael's. On Christmas morning, 1842, Thomas, the deceased, came to said Michael's house; witness had to water the horses that morning; said Thomas also had to water his own horse. Michael asked witness to go to Philip Upton's for a gun which Upton had to fix; told witness to ask if the lock was fixed, if not to bring it away. Witness and Thomas went and watered the horses. Thomas told witness to hasten back from Upton's and they would go together to Mr. Forman's; witness asked Thomas to go with him to Upton's; Thomas went with him. When they got there witness asked Mrs. Upton about the gun-lock; she said that Mr. Upton was in the field, to go and see him; we walked out of the house, and witness proposed to Thomas to go straight back to Michael's; but Thomas opposed it, saying they should go and see about the gun-lock; witness said it was not worth while, and that they ought to go and take the horses back; Thomas then said if witness would go by the field where Upton was, he, Thomas, would go back with witness and help drive the horses up; witness agreed to go with Thomas to the field where Upton was; as they went along from the house they met two Miss Uptons, daughters of the prisoner, riding on horseback, coming out of the field; "a dog that was with the girls kept barking at us;" Thomas had a pistol with which he had been shooting paper wads, and witness took the weapon and shot at the dog to scare him; "also shook my coat-tail at the dog. We went on to near where Upton was; the pistol was loaded with paper and powder; *I saw it loaded*; as we went up Thomas says, 'I think Mr. Upton has a horse hitched there.' Upton came from where he was in the field towards us, and when he was about ten or fifteen feet from us, he stooped down and picked up a gun that was lying on the ground, then said to Thomas, 'Now, damn you, where is your pistol?' and fired;" Thomas fell and witness picked him up; Upton came near with his gun and witness thought he would strike him with it; witness put Thomas' cap under his head and went for help; Upton stepped before witness with his gun drawn; witness changed his course, and Upton again got before him; witness then ran off to the fence. "The place where Upton shot Thomas was about half way between the place we first saw him and the fence;" witness looked back after he got over the fence and saw Upton with his gun down as if reloading it. On the Sunday previous to the shooting, witness was at Upton's, and Thomas was there; Thomas and Upton talked; witness never had heard of any difference, and thought they were friendly.

Thomas was shot on Christmas, died of the wound in about three-quarters of an hour ; the ball entered the left side.

Cross-examined. — Witness said it was between ten and eleven o'clock in the morning that they went to water the horses ; that nothing was said about Thomas' going to Upton's with him until after the horses were watered ; witness did not remember of Thomas' saying, just as they were leaving Upton's house : " Let's go up to the field and fix the d—d old rascal ;" that he never heard Thomas threaten or abuse Upton ; that Thomas once told him that Upton had forbidden him (Thomas) to come on his (Upton's) place ; that Thomas prevailed on him to go up to where Upton was in the field, by telling him he would go back with him and drive the horses up ; that the road by which they left Upton's house forked after going a little distance, one fork leading to Michael's, the other leading up in the field to where Upton was ; that when witness and Thomas came to the fork witness took the road to Michael's and Thomas took the road that went up in the field where Upton was ; that he said to Thomas, " Hello, Thomas, where are you going?" to which Thomas said, " Oh ! I have took the wrong road ;" that Thomas then came across into the road witness was in ; that they looked across the field and saw the girls they had met running up the patch to where Upton was ; that they had a little talk together, and concluded to go back to where Upton was ; that nothing was said in the conversation about Upton ; that Thomas wanted to go up there and they concluded to go ; that witness did not strike or strike at Upton ; that he did not see Thomas in the act of drawing a pistol when Upton shot him ; that he was not looking at Thomas at the time, but was looking at Upton ; that, as far as he saw, Thomas gave Upton no provocation whatever ; that when witness came back to the field with help the pistol was found in Thomas' breast coat-pocket ; that he did not know whether Thomas had the pistol in his hand when shot or not ; that Thomas turned and walked five or six steps before he fell. [The witness further swore that soon after the killing he left the county and went over into Monroe ; but that his leaving was not for fear of Upton, but to go to school. Afterward, however, in private conversation, he admitted that the principal reason why he did leave was that he feared Upton would kill him, as he was the principal witness against him.]

JONATHAN MICHAEL.

On Christmas morning, 1842, Daniel Thomas and Jefferson Shelton were at his house ; the latter was hired for the year, with privilege to quit at the end of any month on notice ; witness asked Shelton to go to Upton's and " get my gun ;" Shelton asked Thomas to go with him ; they were at the house before they went to water the horses ; the next witness saw of Thomas, he was lying nearly dead in Upton's field ; Thomas lived an hour or an hour and a half after witness saw him. Upton did not go off after shooting Thomas, but remained

from three to four months in the county, then moved with his family to Macon [Adair?] where he resided until arrested.

Cross-examined.—Immediately after Thomas' death Shelton became dejected and depressed in mind and seemed exceedingly unhappy; he said that he was afraid if he stayed about there Upton would kill him, as he was the only witness against him.

For the defense several witnesses testified to Upton's quiet, peaceable character. One witness said: "He is a peaceable man till you get him roused."

GEORGE LIGGET.

In September or October, just before Thomas was killed, witness had a conversation with Thomas; this was the first time witness had ever seen Thomas; they were passing by Upton's, and witness asked Thomas who lived there, and Thomas said: "Old Phil. Upton;" said I would find him out soon enough; that the whole of 'em were "a d—d ornery pack;" witness said, "how?" Thomas said, "every way;" "Thomas asked me what would be the consequence if he were to catch a man out and beat him nearly to death — what would be the law; I told him I did not know the laws of the State; told him it might be a dangerous thing to attempt; asked him how big a man Upton was; I said he might get the advantage of him; Thomas said he was not afraid of that, and laid his hand on his breeches-pocket and said, 'I have something here in that case' — said he had a pistol for him; besides, Thomas said he intended to have a man by to help." Some time after this witness told Upton what Thomas had said.

MISS ALCINA UPTON.

On Christmas morning witness and her little sister had been up in the field with her father and had returned nearly to the house; as they came up nearly to the house, Jefferson Shelton and Thomas were standing by the corner of the house talking; she heard Thomas say to Shelton, "Jeff., let's go up to the field and fix that d—d old rascal;" they passed along the road with that, and she and her little sister turned and followed them; they went a little way up the road and Jefferson Shelton shot the pistol off at their dog that was coming down the road; witness and her sister passed on at the forks of the road; one of the roads went past Michael's, the other passed where her father was in the field; when Shelton and Thomas came to the forks one took the road to Michael's then the other one crossed over and started towards Michael's. Witness swore that after she passed the forks of the road she looked back and saw Shelton and Thomas standing face to face talking, and that they turned and got on a log and looked towards the field; when witness got up to her father her little sister was telling him what they had done and said; that her father said nothing but turned and walked towards the men; that Shelton and Thomas came up, one on the right the other on the left, and that

Thomas had his hand on a pistol which was partly drawn from his breeches pocket; that Shelton struck at her father just as he got to his gun; that her father picked up the gun, stepped back, and shot Thomas, then turned and struck Shelton with the gun; that the gun knocked Shelton's hat off, and that he picked it up and ran; then her father went to the house; witness did not know why her father took his gun to the field with him. That he went to the field about nine o'clock in the morning.

Peter Greer swore that Thomas made to him the damaging statements affecting Miss Upton's character before alluded to, and that he (Greer) informed Upton of what Thomas had said. Greer also said he arrested Upton at home, without difficulty. Upton was lying before the fire, asleep, when Greer went to the house, it being late at night. Greer hailed, was invited in, and said, "Upton, you will have to go with me." Upton answered, "Certainly; I will go with you anywhere."

Lewis Scobee said he saw Thomas pick up a fire-stick at Michael's once, and heard him say, "I would like to get a lick at old Phil Upton's head with this — the d——d old — — —." Thomas also said: "I intend to devil and aggravate him until he leaves the country."

THE SIXTEENTH SECTION.

After the year 1840 the sixteenth sections in the Congressional townships came into demand, showing the development of the country, as the other sections were uniformly taken up first, unless the particular section was of superior value.

The section numbered 16, in every Congressional township, was donated by Congress to the State, for the support of common schools, and when a majority of the citizens of any such township should petition the county court to sell that section, then the court would make an order to that effect, and the land would be advertised for sale, and sold to the highest bidder, the purchaser being required to give bond and security for the principal and interest. As long as the interest was promptly paid, the purchaser need not pay the principal. In accordance with the law, the land could not be sold for a less sum per acre than \$1.25. The interest was set apart and used for the support of the schools of the township which contained said section and the principal was retained as a perpetual school fund.

The government also gave to the State, and the State to the counties, all the swamp or overflowed land in such counties for school purposes. The county court sold all such land in this county at prices

ranging from \$1.25 to \$10 per acre. The aggregate amount of school funds arising from the sale of swamp land and the sixteenth section in this county, is \$45,663.

STOCK-RAISING AND SHIPPING.

From 1844 for some years a number of the farmers of the county were engaged in stock-breeding and raising, and others were buying and shipping. Russell Moss and Barton W. Hall had each imported superior breeds of hogs, and many others had Merino and other fine sheep.

Some gentlemen named Parsons and Henry Louthan were stock-raisers and also stock-buyers. The pork-packers at Hannibal, and the Thompson Brothers at Palmyra, sent agents into this county and engaged all the pork they could at their own price. Mr. Holliday says they graded the price so that hogs weighing 200 pounds or more would bring \$5. If a hog weighed only 198 pounds he would be graded so as to be worth but \$4.75; if he weighed 150 pounds he would bring \$1.50. But it did not matter how much over 200 pounds the hog weighed, he would bring only \$5, as the grading was only one way. Beef cattle were similarly graded, the average price being \$25 per head.

Mr. Holliday relates an instance or two wherein one or two farmers revolted against the starvation prices offered them by the "bears" under the grading system, and tried to do business on their own hook. Mr. J. B. Marmaduke had two very fine steers which weighed 1,800 pounds each, and which he tried to sell on foot at home. The best offer he received was \$30 per head. He refused this price and determined to have them packed and shipped. He sent them to Hannibal and had them slaughtered, packed and shipped. The agent sent him the returns of the sale, which, after taking both of the steers, left him above \$8 out of pocket and in debt. Mr. Marmaduke shipped a heavy crop of navy beans, and Mr. Vandeventer sent to market a good crop of wheat, each with about the same result, so far as profits were concerned.

The wheat crop dwindled in value and importance after 1842 for some years, and at last came to be looked on as an uncertain crop. Yet some good crops were raised, especially on new land. The price of hemp was so low that farmers abandoned its cultivation almost altogether and began raising tobacco, which always brought a *cash* price even if it was a low one.

THE FIRST JAIL.

Not until 1846 did Shelby county have a jail. Offenders there had been in abundance, felons, some of them, but the county court found it cheaper to board them in the Palmyra jail than to build one especially for their accommodation. But in May, 1846, it was thought best to erect a sort of bastille for the safe keeping of criminals, which thereafter were to be boarded at home.

The jail was built north of the court-house, on the north side of the square on the site of the present prison. Mr. Russell W. Moss was the contractor, and William Gooch the commissioner. The building was erected on the following plan:—

The material was hewed oak logs, 12 inches square and 18 feet high, with cracks between not more than one and one-half inches wide. The sleepers, or the lower wall, was laid with logs the same as the top and sides, and the floors were laid with two-inch oak plank, well spiked down. There were no windows in the lower part called "the dungeon," except holes 12x18 inches on the east, north and south sides, which were secured by iron grates. Then there were logs 20 feet long of the same size built around the dungeon, and seven feet higher, which made a room 18 feet square. The space between the outer and inner walls was filled with limestone broken into pieces the size of apples. There were steps to go up on the outside of the building to a door which entered the upper story; then a trap-door by means of which the dungeon was reached. The floor of the upper room was similar to the dungeon floor. This room, Mr. Holliday says, was called a debtor's prison, while the lower was used for criminals. The cost was about \$600.

In his "sketches" Mr. Holliday says:—

At that time there was a law in Missouri providing that a creditor might put a debtor into prison and keep him there until the last farthing was paid, or until he had given up all property he owned under oath, when he was relieved under what was termed the "Act for the benefit of insolvent debtors." This was why we had a debtor's prison. The outside of the jail was weather-boarded, and looked like a common frame house.

Mr. Holliday is mistaken. The act abolishing imprisonment for debt was passed by our Legislature January 17, 1843, more than two years before this jail was built. If the room he refers to was called the "debtor's prison," it was misnamed.

Concerning this jail, Mr. Holliday relates the following incident, which is strictly true:—

Among the first prisoners placed in our new jail were two brothers from Schuyler county, who were charged with stealing hogs. Mr. Joshua M. Ennis was sheriff at the time, and his father kept the jail. He gave the prisoners their meals through the trap-door. The weather was not very cold, yet they complained of its severity, and the jailor had a stove put in the dungeon for their especial comfort. Several times, upon opening the trap door, he discovered the lower room full of smoke. When he inquired of the prisoners if they were not uncomfortable on account of the smoke, they replied: "Oh no; the smoke all rises upward so we don't feel it down here." One morning Mr. Ennis made his regular visit to the jail with the prisoners' breakfast, but was astonished to find that the birds had flown. Further discoveries showed that they had burned a hole through the floor and walls and made their escape. They were polite enough to leave a letter directed to the sheriff, in which they said that he had treated them well, and that they liked their boarding-house; but that their business needed their immediate personal attention, so much so that they were compelled to leave; if, however, they had occasion to stop in town at any future time, they should stop with him!

The court had the house repaired, and in a short time another hole was made in the same place by an escaping prisoner, when the court, finding the jail unfit for any further use, sold it and had it removed.

SHELBY COUNTY IN THE MEXICAN WAR.

In July, 1846, a company was organized at Palmyra for the Mexican War. Gen. David Willock was the first captain. The company was originally intended for Col. Sterling Price's Second Missouri Mounted Infantry, but on arriving at Ft. Leavenworth that regiment was found to be full, and four additional companies that were present, including the company from Marion, were formed into an extra battalion, to be attached to the regiment. Willock was elected Lieutenant-Colonel, and Anson Smith became Captain of Co. I, the company from Marion. Afterwards Smith was succeeded by Samuel Shepherd.

The following members of Co. I, Second Missouri Volunteers, Willock's Extra Battalion, were from Shelby county:

James A. Carothers, First Lieutenant; now dead.

William H. Brown, private.

George W. Barker, private.

J. Calvin Carothers, private.

Robert Clark, private, died in service, at Las Vegas, February 22, 1847.

James R. Creel, private.

Thomas S. Dunbar, private.

Peter P. Davis, private.

James Parker, private.

W. R. Strachan, private, Gen. McNeal's provost marshal. Dead.

The company left Palmyra July 20, 1846; arrived at Ft. Leavenworth in due time, and was mustered into service August 3; left Ft. Leavenworth August 20, for New Mexico; arrived at Santa Fe in October; the fall and winter were spent in that territory, as was the company's entire term of service. Some of its members were in the assault on the Moro, January 25, 1847, and in an Indian fight on the Seneca river, February 1, following. The principal service rendered, however, was in performing guard and garrison duty at Las Vegas, Santa Fe and Taos, and in the grazing camps.

The company was mustered out at Leavenworth in the fall of 1847, and returned home October 10 and 12. The members marched back from New Mexico, and from Leavenworth to Palmyra, though all or nearly all of the Shelby county men stopped at their homes.

THE GOLD FEVER — HO, FOR CALIFORNIA!

The discovery of gold in California, in 1849, excited not only the people of the West, but of the entire republic. The desire to go at once to the new El Dorado amounted to a mania in many instances, and some of the people of Shelby county caught the infection in its most violent form. The "yellow slave" tempted many to perilous journeys and sore hardships that they might become its master. In the early spring some set out for the land where it was said even the waves of the river and spray of the fountain were bright with the glitter of genuine gold. More followed in the summer and fall, and the emigration was much heavier in 1850.

Some of the Shelby county Argonauts made great sacrifices in order to obtain the necessary "outfit," and oftener than otherwise the investment was a disastrous one, for the investor failed to strike "pay dirt," and his trip generally did not "pan out" a profit. Some of the gold-seekers, however, made comfortable fortunes — but these lucky ones were not numerous. Others realized nothing, and still others laid their lives down in the quest for riches, and all that is mortal of them reposes amid the Sierras, or by the Sacramento, or far out on that wide-extended tract of country called "the Plains."

Among the Shelby county men who went to California in 1849 were John F. Benjamin, J. M. Collier, William Dunn, John Dickerson, Capt. J. A. Carothers, Dr. Mills, C. M. Pilcher, Benjamin Forman, "Bob" Marmaduke (slave), "Joe" Dunn (slave), Calvin Pilcher,

William Robinson, Chas. Rackliffe, Lafayette Shoots, John, Robert and William Montgomery.

In 1850, there was a much larger number, a few of whom were Robert and Newton Dunn and Adam Heckart.

ELECTIONS — PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, 1840.

At the Presidential election, 1840, there was a full vote, and a close one, in this county. The Van Buren or Democratic electors received 233 votes; the Harrison or Whig electors, 226; Democratic majority, 7.

The political campaign of this year was perhaps the most memorable one in the history of the republic. The greatest enthusiasm was awakened among the Whig partisans for their candidates, Gen. Harrison and John Tyler, — “Tippecanoe and Tyler too,” — and they swept the country against the Democracy. In this county, about the first political meetings held came off this year, being held by both parties at Shelbville and at Oak Dale.

In 1840 there were six townships in the county, Black Creek, North River, Salt River, Fabius, Tiger Fork and Jackson.

AUGUST ELECTION, 1841.

Clerk of the Courts — Thomas J. Bounds, 224; John Jacobs, 198.

Assessor — Abraham Matlock, 163; Alfred Tobin, 130; Joseph C. Miller, 71; George W. Gentry, 44.

At this election there were five townships in the county, Black Creek, North River, Salt River, Jackson and Tiger Fork.

AUGUST ELECTION, 1844.

Governor — John C. Edwards (Dem.), 245; C. H. Allen (Ind. Dem. and Whig), 173.

Congressmen — (Five to be chosen). Regular Dems. or “Hards:”¹ Sterling Price, 231; John G. Jamison, 229; John S. Phelps, 229; James B. Bowlin, 232; James H. Relfe, 234. Ind. Dems. or “Softs:” L. H. Sims, 178; T. B. Hudson, 185; Ratcliffe Boone, 186; John Thornton, 182; Augustus Jones, 180; Josiah Fisk, 5.

¹ The Democratic party of Missouri at that date was divided into two factions, the “Hards,” who were in favor of hard money, or of State bank money on a metallic basis, convertible into coin on demand, no bills to be of less denomination than \$10. The “Softs” favored the issue of bank bills of the denomination of \$1, \$2, \$3 and \$5, and leaned toward the Whig idea of free banking.

Senator—Robert Croughton (Dem.), 221; Addison J. Reese (Whig), 227.

Representatives—Russell W. Moss, 254; John W. Long, 249.

Sheriff—Gilbert H. Edmonds, 296; Wm. J. Holliday, 209.

County Judges—S. B. Hardy, 292; John Dunn, 229; James Foley, 222; Perry B. Moore, 175; Thomas Lane, 147; Abraham Vandiver, 145; Robert Givens, 94; Levin Brown, 87; Thomas O. Eskridge, 57; Alexander Gillaspy, 49.

Assessor—William H. Vannort elected.

Coroner—James Patterson elected.

C. H. Allen, known as "Horse" Allen, was an eccentric character, who lived in Palmyra. He was a lawyer and had served a term or two as circuit judge. At one time, when presiding over a court, he called an attorney to order, saying, "I'll let you know that I'm not only judge of this court, but a *hoss* besides, and if you don't sit down and keep your mouth shut, by —— I'll make you!" This year he ran as an independent candidate for Governor against Judge Edwards, but was defeated by a majority of 5,621, the vote standing: Edwards, 36,978; Allen, 31,357.

At the Presidential election, 1844, the vote of the county stood, for Henry Clay and Theodore Frelinghuysen, Whigs, 244; for James K. Polk and George M. Dallas, Democrats, 209. Whig majority, 35.

At the Presidential election, 1848, the vote was, for Cass and Butler, Democrats, 263; for Taylor and Fillmore, Whigs, 175. Democratic majority, 88. John McAfee, Democrat, was elected to the Legislature.

During the famous discussion in the Missouri Legislature in the winter of 1849, over the famous "Jackson resolutions," Mr. John McAfee, the member from Shelby, as a strong anti-Benton man, supported them. The next year he was a candidate for renomination, but was defeated by John F. Benjamin, who had recently returned from California, and was an opponent both of Benton and the Jackson resolutions. Benjamin was brought out by the faction of the Democrats led by J. M. Ennis.



History of Monroe and Shelby Counties, Missouri - Link Page

[PREVIOUS...SHELBY III: HISTORY OF THE COUNTY FROM 1835 TO 1840.....651](#)

[NEXT.....SHELBY V: HISTORY OF THE COUNTY FROM 1850 TO 1861.....680](#)

[GO BACK TO THE ELECTRONIC INDEX PAGE...](#)