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SHELBY COUNTY TO OBSERVE CENTENNIAL IN AUGUST  
3-DAY EVENT TO REVIEW HISTORY RICH IN HAPPENINGS  
AND FAMOUS CITIZENS, MANY LANDMARKS LEFT

By Virginia Crooks

SHELBYVILLE, Mo., July 16--As Shelby County approaches the first days of August, 1935, when, with appropriate celebration, it will observe the one hundredth anniversary of its founding. It seems fitting that its people, who are Shelby county, become, for a quiet hour, individual historians to look back with appreciation, understanding and open minds at men's progress in this one small area during the passing of a century.

Two purposes might be named as the ultimate benefit to be received from such a survey. The first is that individuals come to understand and, therefore, appreciate the heritage of development and progress that is theirs; and the second, that they realize with understanding and open-mindedness, the mistakes and shortcomings of the century's history, recognizing in these the avenues for betterment, which alone is the progress.

To consider the history of Shelby county wholly as an independent unit would be presumptuous and inaccurate, for one of its most reasonable claims to prominence lies in its relationship to the great middle west and the small part the county has had in the development of that section.

It is, then, with such a relationship as a background, that this brief review is made of a county whose population of 11,983 people is included in that great group of ruralists so often referred to as the "backbone" of

America, and whose principal industry, agriculture, is so important as to sometimes set the pulse of the nation's actual progress.

Other counties are larger and with greater population; doubtless there are others more widely known, but Shelby county, too, has its individual claims to recognition and prominence.

#### CLAIMS TO RECOGNITION

Perhaps the most outstanding of these claims is the historic Bethel colony founded by German colonists in 1844 and continuing as a communistic unit until its dissolution in 1880. This settlement is recognized as one of the two most famous communistic experiments in the United States, and its historic lore is a rich heritage to Shelby countians. The other of these colonies was the Shakers in New York.

A second claim, though not a feature exclusive to Shelby county alone, is that of its "famous sons."

Among the foremost ranks in this group are the following:

William Francis Theihoff, born June 25, 1866, at Hunnewell, is now general manager of all C.B.&Q. railroad lines east of the Missouri river. He assumed this position in 1922.

Edwin B. Parker (deceased) born September 7, 1868, in Shelbina. Mr. Parker assisted as a "dollar a year man" at Washington, D.C. during the world war and was a member of the war industry board, which he helped organize. After the signing of the armistice he served in Europe as a member of the U.S. liquidation commission. From 1889-1893, he was a partner in the Houston, Texas, law firm, Baker, Botts, Parker, and Garwood.

Frederic J. Haskin, born December 13, 1872, in Shelbina. Mr. Haskin

is the owner of the largest free information bureau in the United States and is a contributor of special articles to more than 100 newspapers.

Dr. Roy Gillispie Blakey, born in Shelbina, April 27, 1880. Dr. Blakey, an economist, was assistant professor of economics at Cornell University 1912-15, and since 1919 has been the University of Minnesota director of the bureau of research and statistics. He was an economist and trade specialist of the U.S. war board in 1918.

Wilbur Zeigler (deceased), born in Bethel, the son of Franz Zeigler, a Bethel colonist. Zeigler was the maker of Royal baking powder and became known as the "Baking Powder King." At the time of his death his fortune was conservatively estimated at \$25,000,000. His parents are buried in Hebron cemetery, north of Bethel.

John Vandiver (deceased), born in Shelby County. Mr. Vandiver invented and patented the first horse drawn corn planter in the U.S. He was the son of Samuel Vandiver, builder of Bethel's oldest house, and married Julia Jacobs, sister of a Virginia governor.

#### DR. CALDWELL

Dr. W. B. Caldwell (deceased), born in Shelbyville. Dr. Caldwell was the inventor and maker of the patent medicine, Syrup of Pepsin.

Fred and George Naeter, born in Shelby County, who have become well known as publishers of the Cape Girardeau newspaper, The Southeast Missourian.

Bishop W. Fletcher McMurray was born June 29, 1864, near Shelbyville and died January 12, 1934. He was reared in this county and for twenty years was church extension secretary of the Southern Methodist Conference. At the time of his death he was bishop of the Kentucky and West Virginia conferences and president emeritus of Central College, M.E.C.S. school at Fayette. At one time he held the pastorate of the Centenary church in St. Louis, then the largest in the conference.

Four others, not born in the county, but to whom Shelby countians hold part claim are:

Roger Shale (deceased), the "million dollar trust buster" was born May 23, 1885, in Granville, Monroe county. He was reared to manhood in Clarence, graduating from the high school there in 1900. He was admitted to the bar in 1913, and in 1919 was appointed special assistant to the U.S. attorney general with whom he worked in the preparation and trial of important cases under the anti-trust act. After entering private practice, he was appointed by the federal government as one of the trustees in the U.S. district court of southern N.Y. Mr. Shale, who died in 1931, was the son of Mrs. J. B. Shale of Clarence.

Dr. J. D. Smith, born April 15, 1863, in Columbus, Ill., reared in Lewis county and lived in Shelbyville as a young man. Since 1912, he has been general secretary of the Christian Literary Society of Japan. In 1920-21 he was president of the American Peace Society of Japan and in 1930 was decorated with the fourth order of the rising sun. He is an author and contributor to magazines.

Clay Martin, born in Ohio and reared in Shelbina, became freight traffic manager of the Grand Trunk Canadian railroad. He is now retired and lives in Columbus, Ohio.

A third claim is the Producers' Cold Storage plant at Shelbina. This plant is one of the largest of its type in the state, and has a wide trade territory in north and eastern Missouri and eastern Illinois. Its various departments, modernly equipped for the handling of poultry and eggs, have capacities for large daily turnovers and employ more workers than any other enterprise in the county. This, via farm exchanges, provides excellent

produce market advantages for the county's poultry raisers and stimulates, to an extent, this phase of agriculture.

#### SHEEP CENTER

The phases of agriculture for which the county is outstanding are the production of soybeans and the raising of purebred Hampshire sheep. In the raising of purebred sheep, Shelby county ranks among the highest in the state, as it does also in bean production.

A feature deserving of mention, and one which forms a continuous foundation for future progress, is the county school system. The system is far removed from perfection, but its ranking with other midwestern counties is favorable, and the systems in its three largest towns, Shelbina, Clarence, and Shelbyville, must be recognized as exceptionally well organized and equipped for towns of their respective sizes.

As simple statements of fact, these, or other of the county's claims to recognition, remain but vaguely impressive, and it is only with an understanding of related backgrounds and influences that persons may come to appreciate achievements which, to them, are either commonplace or uninvestigated.

The centennial program scheduled here on August 1, 2, 3, and 4 is an appropriate celebration observing the 100th anniversary of the founding of Shelby county on January 1, 1835, when the Missouri state legislature declared that the county of Shelby should be established, and named its boundaries which eight years later were slightly altered to the present limits including 500 square miles.

The territory of Shelby county had in 1812 been made a part of St. Charles county, in 1818 a part of Pike county, in 1820 a part of Ralls

county, and in 1826, with the establishment of Marion county, had been attached to that unit for all military, civil and judicial purposes.

Its establishment as a separate county was made necessary and practicable after pioneers began rapidly settling the territory and it became apparent that the justice at Marion county was too far distant to conveniently and effectively direct the increasing amount of legal proceedings in connection with the growth of the population.

The county, like three fourths of those in Missouri, derived its name from a famous person, in the instance choosing Isaac Shelby, the first governor of Kentucky and a colonel in the North Carolina militia in 1780. Shelby was elected the first governor in 1792 and served one term. Later, in 1812, he was reelected to the governorship for a second term.

Although the county's earliest center of settlement was the community of Oak Dale, located in the southeastern part of the county in Jackson township; the man considered to be the county's first settler, Obadiah Dickerson, established his home on the north bank of Salt river in the south central portion of the county, in what is now Salt River township.

#### SETTLED IN 1831

According to records left by early settlers, Major Dickerson came to this county from Marion in the fall of 1831 and erected a cabin on the bank of the river. His family joined him here about a year later and, from that time until now members of the Dickerson family have lived continuously in the county, where R. C. Dickerson, a son of John Dickerson and grandson of Major Obadiah, now operates one of the county's leading

dry goods companies in Shelbina.

Mrs. Madge Dickerson Chapman, a great granddaughter, and Nancy and Jill Chapman, great, great granddaughters of this first settler, also reside in this county, at Shelbina. A great-great-great-granddaughter, Patsy Dean Spalding, whose descent is from Mrs. Lizzie Dean, a sister of B. C. Dickerson, also lives in Shelbina.

Obadiah Dickerson was not only the first settler in Shelby, but also was the founder of Palmyra (1820) in Marion County, and aided, in 1816 or 1817, in the founding of Louisiana, in Pike County.

Among other of the early Shelby countians included in the "Settlers of 1833," and many of whose descendants still reside in this county are:

Wm. B. Broughton of Oak Dale, whose direct descendants are W. Coin Broughton, Frank Broughton, Earl Broughton, and Melvin, Julius, and Ben Broughton. There are two other great grandsons, Leslie Broughton and Oscar Broughton, the latter having six children in the county. With the exception of Frank Broughton, Sr., of Shelbina, the entire group of descendants resides in the Oak Dale community.

George Parker of southeast of Oak Dale, whose descendants are: Wm. D. Parker, Lewis Parker, deceased, and Mrs. Virginia Parker Kirby residing on the Parker homestead southeast of Oak Dale. Another grandson is Robert Parker of Shelbyville, who has children and grandchildren in the county.

Cyrus A. Saunders, who settled nearly two miles southeast of Oak Dale, is the grandfather of Robert Cyrus Saunders now living in Shelbyville and whose father was Robert A. Saunders.

George Eaton, northwest of Shelbina, has the following line of descendants: Harrison Eaton, C. V. Eaton, Pauline Eaton Yost, Donald Lee Yost, Mrs. Ethel Wood and son, Russell Wood are granddaughter and great grandson, while William Eaton and Anna Ruth Eaton are great grandchildren whose father was the late George Eaton. All live in or near Shelbina.

Nicholas Watkins, who settled near Walkersville, has three grandsons, John, Cecil, and Estil Watkins and several great grandchildren living near Bethel. Their descent is through Nicholas J. Watkins.

James Blackford, who settled about seven miles northeast of Shelbina, has in Shelby county a great-great-grandson descended as follows: Ben G. Blackford, Earl Blackford, Weldin Blackford, and Roy Weldon Blackford. A brother of Earl Blackford, Frank Blackford, and two first cousins, Lloyd and Wayne Blackford, also reside in Shelby county.

Henry Saunders, who settled northeast of Lakenan on Salt river, has several lines of direct descendants now living in Shelby county through his son Lewis Saunders, whose daughter, Georgianna, married Will Saunders, a distant relative from Monroe county. A son of Will and Georgianna Saunders was Ernest, father of Charles, Mrs. Georgia Tyner, and Mrs. Mansur Threlkeld, Lakenan, and Mrs. Julius Buckman, Shelbina, whose children are great-great-grandchildren of the early settler, Henry Saunders. There are also in Shelby county a number of great-great-grandchildren descended from Georgianna's sister, Belle Saunders Worland and Jerome Worland through their son, John Worland.

#### OTHER SETTLERS

Other 1833 settlers, who, as far as may be ascertained, have no direct

descendants living in the county are:

Russell W. Moss, south of Oak Dale; George and James Anderson, north of Salt river, Thomas Holman, two miles south of Oak Dale; Abraham Vandiver (who later became prominent in the early settlement of Shelbyville); Thomas H. Clements, four miles southeast of Oak Dale; Levi Dyer, south of Oak Dale; Angus McDonald Holliday, two miles west of Oak Dale; Thomas H. Bounds, three and one-half miles northeast of Shelbina; Samuel Bell, five miles southeast of Shelbyville; John Eaton, four miles southeast of Shelbyville; Peter Roff, north of Walkersville; E. K. Eaton, near Walkersville; John Thomas, north of Oak Dale; Elijah Pepper, five miles west of Shelbyville; James Swartz, six miles northeast of Shelbyville; Samuel Buckner, northwest of Lakenan; William J. Holliday, near Oak Dale; and Robert Duncan, south of Oak Dale.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENT AT OAK DALE

Oak Dale, deriving its name from the homestead of William B. Broughton, was the setting for the county's very early history, a great deal of which was enacted in Broughton's home, on the site of which the residence of Mrs. Jerome Broughton now stands.

Since 1833, when W. B. Broughton built "Oak Dale," a one-story log house, the site of this home has been continually occupied by direct descendants of W. B. Broughton, including his son, William Coin Broughton, his grandson, T. Jerome Broughton, and his great grandson, Leslie Broughton, who resides with his mother, Mrs. Jerome Broughton. There have been three houses on the site, the second built about sixty years ago and the last built in 1922.

The first county court convened in the W. B. Broughton home Thursday, April 9, 1835, and continued its regular terms there up to and including the July term on July 6, 1836. The October term of court in 1836 opened on the eighth of the month in Shelbyville at the home of Abraham Vandiver and thereafter was held in various residences and buildings in Shelbyville until after the erection of the first courthouse, provided for by an appropriation of \$4,000, made at a session of county court, February 4, 1837. The appropriation called for a building "forty-five feet square, and two stories high to be built of well burnt brick laid in lime and sand cement." This courthouse, completed in November, 1837, burned in 1891 and the present building was erected about 1893.

At the first term of the county court, for which James Foley, Thomas H. Clements and Dr. A. E. Wood were appointed by the governor as judges, James Foley was made presiding judge, Thomas Bounds appointed clerk, and Russell Moss, assessor. After this, the court's only business was enacted, the group adjourned.

The history of the circuit court in Shelby county also had its birth in the Broughton homestead on Thursday, November 25, 1833, with Priestly H. McBride, judge of the second judicial district presiding. The term was officially opened by Sheriff Robert Duncan and Thomas Bounds was clerk.

For the most part the early records of the county's courts are brief and little detailed, a feature of inconvenience for research purposes, but a sense of appreciation, as well as a great deal of enjoyment, may be derived by reading the early record books and realizing the limited resources with which the courts had to work.

## FIRST DEATH

The first death of which there is record in the county is that of William P. Matson, a step-son of Obadiah Dickerson, who died from cholera in June, 1833, at the house of Angus McDonald Holliday living on Black Creek near Oak Dale. Young Matson had been in Palmyra when the cholera epidemic broke out and was en route home when he became ill. At Matson's funeral, Angus Holliday became ill with the disease and died the following day. The epidemic in this territory spread no further, although more than 100 persons died in Palmyra.

The first marriage after the county's organization is said to have been that of Miss Dicy Stice and Bradford Hunsucker, which took place at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Stice near the present Bethel. Esquire Abraham Vandiver performed the ceremony although a great many of the early marriage services were performed by Rev. Richard Sharp, a Methodist clergyman of Marion county who preached frequently in Shelby county.

It is definitely known that the first "store" in Shelby county was operated by William B. Broughton who, during the winter of 1833-34 bought a small stock of general merchandise which he sold from his home. The county's first post office was established that same winter and also in the home of Broughton who was the first postmaster. Mails, carried by horseback, came weekly from Palmyra and when a post office was later established in Shelbyville, the route was via Oak Dale.

## OLD HOMES

Among the oldest houses now in the county are three in the neighborhood

of Oak Dale, one of which was built about 1833, by James Blackford. Another was built either late in 1834 or 1835 by Dr. Adolphus E. Wood, a grandfather of Dr. A. M. Wood, now of Shelbina, and the third house was built probably the same year by Julius C. Jackson who came from Delaware.

Dr. Wood, one of the county's earliest physicians and a judge of the first Shelby county court, was born and reared in New York. His family, originally from England, were wealthy merchant traders and it was in this marine trade that young Wood was engaged when he sailed with a cargo of merchandise to Cuba.

While on the island, he met a young widow of French descent, Mrs. Anna Caroline Clunette Florette, whom he later married. Dr. Wood did not return to New York but remained in Cuba where he studied and followed the medical profession.

In 1834 with his wife and their four children, Charles, Louise, A. G., and Matilda, Dr. Wood immigrated to the states, landing at New Orleans and coming up the river to Hannibal where the family remained only six months before pushing west and settling in this county at Oak Dale. It is believed the old Wood house, now standing at Oak Dale, was erected soon after the family came in 1834.

The house later was owned by "Jeff" Davis and is now occupied by the Harry Smith family. The woodwork throughout its entire four rooms is walnut. The changes, if any, in the structure of the house have been only slight, during the century it has stood and today it remains more nearly in the original than any other house of its age in the county.

Julius Jackson, the builder of the house generally known as the Dr.

Franklin home, located southwest of Oak Dale, and now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Guy Jordan, came from Delaware in about 1834 and probably built his home the year of his arrival. In a family burying ground north of the house there are still stones marking the grave of Julius Jackson, 1792-1848; and Mary Jackson, his second wife, 1808-1846.

Jackson's daughter, Eliza, married Dr. Franklin who, though probably not a graduate practitioner, had a wide practice in the community northeast of Shelbina. With his wife, Dr. Franklin lived in the Jackson homestead which came to be known as the "Franklin place," and it was after the doctor the community was called Franklinville.

A direct line of Jacksons still reside in Shelby county and descends as follows: Julius, Thomas C., Thomas W. (Tom) and Mildred Jackson of Shelbina. Mrs. Frank Dimmitt of Shelbina is a granddaughter of Julius Jackson while Mrs. George Grant is a great granddaughter.

The old James Blackford homestead is located about 7 miles northeast of Shelbina and is now occupied by Claiborne Craigmyle. The house has stood during a century almost as it was built in 1833 or 1834.

A fourth house, older probably, by several years than these mentioned, is the Parker homestead two miles southeast of Oak Dale. It was built in 1831 or '32 by George Parker, a Virginia pioneer, and is alleged to have been the third house built in the county. The house has been remodeled however, and only one room of the present home is a part of the original dwelling. Mrs. Virginia Parker Kirby, a direct descendant of the builder, Mr. Kirby and her mother, Mrs. Lou Parker, now occupy the house.

## EARLY CHURCHES

The earliest organized churches of the county were of Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal and Christian denomination, the old school Baptists organizing at Looney Creek in Tiger Fork township in 1835; the Methodist at Oak Dale and Bacon Chapel in about 1836 and 1837, and the Christians in 1838 at Leonard where the home of Lewis H. Gillaspay was the worship center for the followers.

Religious services of the various denominations had been held in the county prior to the formal organization of churches, but there were no church buildings in the county until 1837 when the Looney Creek log church, probably the first in the county, was erected in Tiger Fork township.

In 1838 the New School Baptists pulled away from the O. S. at Looney Creek to organize Mt. Zion church about three miles northeast and also in Tiger Fork township. Both these churches still function and have occasional services.

The Baptist denomination is now one of the four strongest in the county with numerous rural churches as well as one in each of the organized towns, with the exception of Leonard.

In the Methodist denomination the Oak Dale, Bacon Chapel and Shelbyville (1839) churches are among the oldest and each is still active. Methodist churches are to be found in every town of Shelby county with the exception of Leonard.

The Christian church, among the oldest organizations of which are those of Leonard and Shelbyville, is the only denomination boasting a church in every Shelby county town.

## CATHOLIC CHURCHES

A fourth strong denomination in Shelby county is the Catholic which has five churches in the county. The Hunnewell congregation is probably the oldest of the Catholic churches, being established in 1859 and attended between 1861-1865 by Father Phelan, pastor at Indian Creek church in Monroe county. A church building, however, was not erected until 1878.

Services were also held very early at Hagars Grove in the home of Mr. Hunolt, and a church was erected in 1866. A new building replaced the original church in 1877.

Of these five Catholic churches, all of which have very active memberships, the Shelbina parish is the largest. The others are Lakenan, Clarence, Hagars Grove and Hunnewell.

The Presbyterians held services in Shelby county as early as 1836, but the first church was not organized until June, 1859, at Clarence, and a year later a church building was erected there. The same year churches were built at New Providence, Cherry Box and Shelbyville but all have fallen into disuse, the one at Clarence now being used by the Nazarenes.

The only Presbyterian church in the county is Pleasant Prairie, north of Bethel. It was organized in 1866 and a church was built in 1869.

The first of the county's Holiness churches was established south of Clarence early in the 1830's and still continues as an active organization.

Union, the county's only interdenominational church, was established south of Clarence in 1873 to include Christian, Methodist and Baptist demoninations. This church is among the most active rural churches of the county.

A Mennonite church was formed in the northwest section of the county, south of Cherry Box, in 1872. This sect, whose women are distinguished by wearing sunbonnets and whose men always shave their upper lips, holds to a belief which restricts its members from taking an oath, holding an office or entering military service.

Their preachers, selected from the membership of the local congregation, are at present Lacy Johnson, John Yoder and George Bissey. The church now has about 30 members with services held each Sunday morning and the first, third and fifth Sunday nights.

#### SCHOOLS

From an organized system of short term elementary schools, conducted in early churches or centrally located frontier homes, educational facilities in Shelby county have evolved through a period of private schools, institutions, and elementary public schools to their present well organized system of rural and city schools, attended the past year by approximately 2,100 students.

These facilities for the training of Shelby county's youth insure, more than any other single factor, the future success of this county.

#### LIVING CONDITIONS

Early pioneer living conditions in Shelby county were not unlike those of other pioneer sections during the same period. The land must be cleared, a home must be built, and planting must be started. Since facilities for these and other tasks were limited, the pioneers necessarily spent long hours in manual labor, but, even had they possessed the best tools of the period, few of the settlers would have been trained in their use.

The garden patch containing potatoes, corn, and a few vegetables, a corn field corresponding in size to the length of time a pioneer had been in the county or, perhaps, to his financial status, were the settlers' main dependence for food other than the ever plentiful game, the killing of which provided the pioneer men's chief sport.

It is interesting to compare the prices of agricultural products then and now: 1835, Cow, \$10; horse, \$25; good hog, \$1.25; wheat, 25 cents per bushel; honey, 20 cents per gallon; split rails, 25 cents per hundred.

1935, Cow, \$40; horse \$75; hog, \$18; wheat, 90 cents per bushel; honey, \$1.25 per gallon; locust posts, 4 cents each.

Facilities for recreation were limited; living conditions, for the most part, provided little more than necessities; working hours were long; but, despite these situations, the pioneer families were happy and generally contented.

A century has greatly changed conditions under which midwesterners live, but human characteristics have remained the same, and in 1935, as in 1835, the sources of happiness and contentment continue to evolve from the inner personality rather than develop as a consequence of material wealth.

#### TOWNS ORGANIZED

Shelbyville, the county seat and oldest of Shelby county's organized towns, was laid off in the fall of 1835 by county seat commissioners, Elias Kincheloe, of Marion county; James Lay, Lewis county; and Joseph Hardy, Ralls county. At the November term of court on Thursday, December 21, 1835, the plat of the seat of justice, as prepared by Thomas J. Bounds,

was adopted and, as may be seen in the first court record, it was "ordered that the seat of justice in and for Shelby county be called by the name of Shelbyville."

Records show bills of \$12 each submitted by the three commissioners for locating the county seat.

The land site of Shelbyville, located within three miles of the geographical center of the county, was donated by Obadiah Dickerson, Abraham Vandiver, Samuel J. Parker and Lewis H. Gillaspy.

The first settler near the present site of Shelbyville was Lewis H. Gillaspy, who was living slightly southeast of the town at the time of its establishment.

Abraham Vandiver erected the town's first house, a story and a half log "cabin" in which the first courts were held in Shelbyville and in which the first store and tavern were located. The license for the tavern was issued to Vandiver May 21, 1836.

Not until 24 years after its establishment was Shelbyville incorporated as a town on January 5, 1859, with the following first board of trustees:

John F. Benjamin (who later moved to Shelbina and was prominent in the affairs of that town), Wilson Vaughn, John Dickerson, William B. Cotton and George W. Webb.

The town was reincorporated in 1867 and in August, 1877, was organized as a city of the fourth class, with the first city officers as follows:

H. B. Dines, mayor; J. C. Hale, attorney; S. V. Vaughn, clerk; S. G. Gunby, collector, marshal, and street commissioner. Aldermen were: J. W. Darrah, Samuel F. Dunn, Lewis A. Hayward and R. C. Calvert.

The present mayor is Arthur Burk. Shelbyville now has a population of 704.

## LEONARD

Leonard, a northern county town in Taylor township, was originally known as Millersburg, being named for Adolphus Miller who built a mill there following the Civil war. In recent years Leonard has been incorporated as a town of the fourth class, its present mayor being J. D. Garnett. The population of Leonard is 191.

## SOUTHERN TOWNS

The significant influence in the development of Hunnewell, Shelbina, Clarence, and the two villages, Lakenan and Lentner, in the southern part of the county, was the construction of the Hannibal and St. Joseph railroad, now incorporated as a branch of the C.B. and Q. system.

The railroad was completed as far west as Hunnewell in June, 1857, and the following August, the days of the 15th and the 11th, the respective towns of Hunnewell and Shelbina were laid off by Josiah Hunt, land commissioner of the railroad company. A derivation of the word Shelby was used for naming Shelbina, while Hunnewell was named for H. Hollis Hunnewell, of Boston, who was connected with the Hannibal and St. Joseph Land Company.

## HUNNEWELL

Hunnewell, though actually laid out a few days later than Shelbina, was settled earlier, probably because the railroad reached that point first, and the late winter of 1857 Stephen Doyle built the first store and a little later Richard Durbin built a house on the south side of the track. It is said Mr. Durbin's family was the first in Hunnewell.

The Fourth of July, 1857, was celebrated with a railroad excursion

to Monroe City and return, the excursioners making the trip on flat cars.

Hunnewell was first incorporated as a town May 3, 1869, with Wm. F. Blackburn, Daniel Byrd, I. R. Jones, Wm. Shorts, and C. Hurd as the first board of trustees.

Following the organization of the town as a city of the fourth class, and at the first city election, held May 20, 1882, S. T. McAtee was chosen mayor, and Dr. E. C. Davis, Thomas Irons, P. J. Theihoff and Wm. C. Blackburn, aldermen.

The present mayor of Hunnewell, now a town of 335, is Yancey Byrd, a descendant of the town's first doctor, Dr. A. L. Yancey.

#### SHELBINA

Not until after the town of Shelbina had been laid out and it was definitely known the railroad was to be routed via that territory did the vicinity begin to be settled. Its first houses, rather than those of settlers, were shacks built on either side of the track for railroad laborers.

At the time of the town's establishment, but one house, that of George T. Hill, was in view of the town site.

The town's first store is said to have been built by Kemper Brothers in the fall of 1857, and shortly after a Mr. P. Thomas came to open the Thomas Hotel south of the railroad where the Waverly hotel now stands.

Shelbina at first grew rather slowly because of the generally rough atmosphere resulting from a majority population of transient laborers, but by the spring of 1859, it was estimated, there were 25 houses in the town which in 1861 had a population of 500.

March 5, 1867, Shelbina was incorporated as a town, and the board of

trustees appointed was as follows: W. W. Weatherby, Daniel Taylor, John W. Miller, Simeon Downing and John W. Shaffer.

In 1878 Shelbina became a city of the fourth class with W. T. Dean as the first mayor. A week after Dean's election, it is said, a second election was held with the following results: J. W. Towson, mayor; J. J. Foster, marshal; J. W. Ford, W. H. Warren, G. A. Jenks, Charles Miller, aldermen.

Charles Miller, still a resident of Shelbina, is the only living member of that first city board.

Shelbina, which is acknowledged the county's leading business center, now has 1,826 population. L. B. Henderson is the present mayor.

#### LAKENAN

Laid out in June, 1855, by John Duff, was named for Robert F. Lakenan, a large land owner north of the town, and a then prominent attorney of Hannibal.

#### LENTNER

Known first as Crooked Creek station, was named by J. L. Lathrop of Chicago who owned large land tracts in Lentner township.

#### CLARENCE

The town of Clarence was laid out October 20, 1857, by John Duff, the principal contractor for the building of the Hannibal St. Joe railroad, and was named for one of John Duff's sons.

The first house in Clarence was built on the north side of the railroad tracks in the fall of 1857 by Wilson Hamilton who was also the town's

first merchant. In the spring of 1858 there were but three families in the town which in 1860 had 100 inhabitants.

In 1866 the village incorporated as a town with George Merriman, A. J. Higbee, J. M. Mattison, Stephen Doyle and S. A. Durham as the first board of trustees.

When in 1877 Clarence was made a city of the fourth class, G. W. Chinn was elected the first mayor and was succeeded by the following: W. Houghton, William Evans, G. W. Hodge, and S. M. Whitby. R. E. Dale was marshal for several terms beginning with the administration of Houghton.

The town now has a population of 1,286 and has recently been modernized with the building of a municipal water system. Its present mayor is Henry Hudson.

# History of Shelby County

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BY N. WATKINS.

Mr. Editor: - In beginning my history of the early settlers of Shelby county, it may be proper for me to state that I shall write from memory alone.

Alex, George, James Anderson, Peter Roff, George Eaton and Nicholas Watkins, five women and six children, emigrated from Mason county, Kentucky, October 16th, 1831, and on the 26th of the next month landed at William Lair's house in three miles of Palmyra, Mo. He and wife were at that time the happy parents of ten children, among whom were Robert, Addison, and Wesley Lair, now citizens of Shelby county. They with James Graham and George G. Muldrow were among the first acquaintances we made in the State.

In 1832 we all made crops in Marion county, and in November '32 George and James Y. Anderson, Peter Roff, John Eaton and myself all moved to Salt River, in this county, near Maj. Dickerson's farm. We found no white settlers West of us in 1832.

In this year the first election was held after our removal to the State. Judge Allen and Joshua Gentry were candidates for the legislature. Allen was a Jackson Democrat and Gentry a Whig. Allen was elected by a majority of two votes. In this year ('32) we relected Gen. Jackson president of the United States. It would have done you good to have seen men ride up

and down the streets of Palmyra and hallow for Jackson.

Palmyra was our Post-office, and we had to go two miles east of Palmyra for all the bread we ate, which was a distance of over thirty miles.

George Eaton moved to Salt River in 1834, and settled where his widow now resides, who, with James Anderson, Jonathan Roff, and the writer, are all that are left of those who emigrated to Missouri in 1831.

Maj. Dickerson came to Missouri in 1818 and stopped at Louisiana, where he lived until 1820, when he moved to Palmyra. In 1832 he moved on his old farm north of the bridge on Salt River, four miles south of Shelbyville, where he died in 1847. Maj. Dickerson and Mrs. D. raised a large family of boys and girls, Harrison, Milton, Lewis and John Dickerson, and three step-sons, William Issac and Scoot Mattson. William Mattson died of cholera, in 1832, two miles west of Oakdale. Angus Holliday, also died with cholera that year.

The Black Hawk war broke out in 1832. Maj. Dickerson moved his wife and children to Palmyra for protection, he and the larger boys remained at home and raising a crop.

In 1834, we had another election. Maj. Dickerson, S.W.B. Carnegy, John Anderson, William McDaniel, John McAfee were candidates for the legislature. The two first, whigs, were elected to represent Marion county which then included the territory of Shelby. In the legislature, Maj. Dickerson's neighbors all voted for him, Whig and Democrat alike. In 1834 the question of establishing a new county was agitated, and in February 1835 Shelby County was organized.