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HISTORICAL SKETCH

CASS COUNTY,

ILLINOIS.

AN ORATION DELIVERED JULY 4, 1878, AT BEARDSTOWN, ILL.

BY

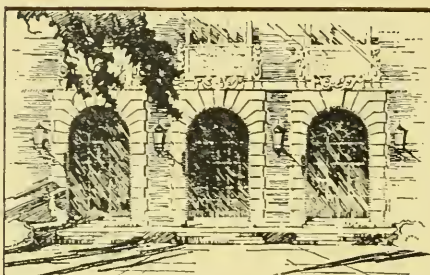
J. HENRY SHAW.

BEARDSTOWN

PUBLISHED AT THE OFFICE OF THE "CASS COUNTY MESSENGER."

1878.

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— OF —

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# HISTORICAL SKETCH

— OF —

## CASS COUNTY, ILLS.

ILLINOIS dates its white settlements among the first in North America. Four years prior to the settlement of Plymouth, Le Caron had explored Upper Canada; and twenty years later the hardy and ambitious French traders and voyageurs and zealous missionaries had erected trading posts and missions along the rivers and upon the lake shores now within the jurisdiction of Illinois and Wisconsin.

At that period the surface of Illinois was much lower, geologically considered, than it is at the present time. Since its creation, the thin crust of the earth has been undergoing slow mutations, breathing, as it were, by centuries; elevating and depressing in the lapse of ages under the influence of its mighty lungs of fire; sinking slowly and imperceptibly beneath their former level continents and islands, and as gradually raising others above the waste of waters.

While the countries bordering upon the Levantine seas have been

Revised Oct. 44 1880

gradually encroached upon by the water, there has been a corresponding rise in the earth's surface here. Two hundred years ago the white settlers of Illinois navigated the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers to the great northern lakes. French pirogues and Indian canoes found no difficulty in passing through the portages of the North to Hudson's Bay. The routes from the Mississippi River—up the Wisconsin and down the Fox to Lake Michigan; and up the Illinois to Chicago, or "River of the Miami," as it was then called; or up the Kankakee and down the St. Joseph—were well known and navigated.

Indeed, but a few centuries since, these rivers were the southern outlets for the waters of the great lakes, and the Illinois penitentiary, near Joliet, now stands upon a ledge of rocks over which a great river once flowed in rapids similar to those of the Des Moines on the Upper Mississippi.

In the southern part of the State, at that point now known as Tower Rock, this great river was dammed up by a wall of rock, over which it fell one hundred feet, forming a cataract of such volume and height as to rival even the great Niagara. But the continual wearing of the water, aided materially by earthquakes, finally opened the present channel of the Mississippi, and gave an outlet to the ocean of waters that lay stagnating in the swamps, now prairies, above. These are the two great natural causes of the present agricultural productiveness of the State of Illinois.

Two hundred years ago northern and central Illinois was inhabited by two powerful nations of Indians, the Illinois and the Miamis. The Miamis occupied the northern part of the present State of Illinois, and part of Wisconsin, and their chief town was upon the present site of Chicago.

The Illinois tribe occupied the country bordering upon the Illinois, called by the French the "River Seignelay;" and all the country between that country and the "River Colbert," or Mississippi.

The principal tribe of the Illinois were the Muscoteens, and their town was upon the present site of Beardstown, on the east bank of the river, at the foot of Muscooten Bay, and was called by the French the "Mound Village."

The Peorians, another of the Illinois tribes, more particularly occupied that portion of the country between the rivers, having their



town on the west bank of the Illinois River, four miles above the Muscooten village, upon the bluff's back of the present town of Frederick. The present site of Beardstown was at that time an island, surrounded on the north, east and south by almost impassable swamps, containing dangerous quicksands and quaking bogs, and which could be crossed only in canoes, or by Indians jumping from hillock to hillock of the turf grass with which these swamps were interspersed, and on the west by the Seignelay or Illinois River. The Indian town of the Muscootens was a beautiful place. It was built upon a series of beautiful mounds, covered with grass, and partially shaded by tall trees, which stood like sentinels upon the hills, or ornamental trees upon a lawn, so scattered as not to obstruct the view of the whole town from the river. The island had evidently been selected, not only on account of its natural beauty, but for its easy defense and safety from enemies.

By two bends in the river, forming two obtuse angles, the allied villages of the Peorias and the Muscootens stood at the two elbows, in plain sight of each other, the broad river forming a straight sheet of water between, while north of the Mound village, and in front of the Peorias, spread the wide and glassy surface of Muscooten Bay, separated from the river by a narrow peninsula.

Back of the swamp which protected the rear of the town, was a wide belt of rich prairie bottom land, and beyond, six miles, loomed up the Sangamon Bluffs, looking like miniature Andes in the distance, between which and the island, in the day time, all approaching foes could be discerned.

This island town was a favorite resting place with the tired voyageurs and devout missionaries; a large cross was erected here, and friendly relations established between the "children of the forest" and the white men. This favoritism on the part of the French towards the Illinois Indians excited the jealousies of the Miamis, and they determined upon revenge. In vain did the missionaries try to prevent animosities. The Miamis invaded the country of the Illinois, and took some prisoners. At this time, the Chevalier La Salle, who had built a fort called Creve Cœur, or the "Broken Heart," where the present city of Peoria now stands, in order to prevent further hostilities, made a journey alone down the river to the Muscooten village, but his efforts were without avail, and the war continued.

The Muscoteens believed that La Salle was acting as a spy for the Iroquois, whose chief town was then where Buffalo, N. Y., now is, and who were the most powerful Indian nation upon the continent. This impression seemed to be confirmed when it became known to them that the Iroquois and Miamis had formed an alliance for the purpose of exterminating them.

Many battles were fought between these hostile nations, but, by the superior numbers of their enemies, the Illinois were worsted and besieged in their towns. The Peorias fortified themselves with earthworks upon the bluffs at their village, and passed men down the river in canoes, as necessity required, to the Mound village, the river being protected from the arrows of the enemy by marshy ground on one side and the bay on the other, which forbade their near approach.

The Muscoteens were besieged in their island town. Occasionally they were assailed by parties of their enemies, who, more courageous than their fellows, crossed the swamps in the night, on the grassy hillocks, with the help of long poles. On these occasions fierce battles were fought, and none of the daring assailants survived to recross those trembling hillocks. At every defeat the Miamis and Iroquois became more enraged. In the night time, when out of danger from arrows, the allied Indians cut grass and small trees, and gathered floating wood, and began building a causeway across the swamp. When it was completed they rushed upon the island, and for several days the battle raged fiercely. There was no quarter given or asked. Death was dealt out by unsparing hands on both sides. They had been rendered doubly savage by hunger and delay. Their revenge had long been at usury, and they were now satisfying principal and interest. The battle temporarily subsided only when the combatants became exhausted, and was resumed when rest brought returning strength. Those who from fatigue were unable to rise, were scalped and tomahawked, entering from the dreamland of life to the dreamland of death.

At length, exhausted, and overwhelmed by superior numbers, the Muscoteens began to fall back towards the river, when with yells of victory their allied enemies rushed upon them, and with tomahawks and scalping knives ended the battle. A few of the unfortunate Muscoteens swam the river, and concealed themselves in the high swampy grass beyond, and a small number fled in canoes to the village of the Peorias. The women and children were taken prisoners.

The battle being over, then came the mourning for the slain. Funeral rites, in which the missionaries took part, were performed, and in the great mound on the bank of the river, which had been raised centuries before by a long forgotten race, they buried the slain warriors, with their bows, arrows and tomahawks, together with the silver and flint crosses of the missionaries.

After these ceremonies were concluded the Iroquois returned to their own country. The Miamis, with their prisoners, encamped upon the present site of Chandlerville, where game was plenty, and attended to their sick and dying, great numbers of whom did not survive their wounds. Their dead were buried in the bluffs near by, and long after the settlement of Chandlerville their ghastly skeletons lay in white rows, exposed to the sun, laid bare by the action of the winds upon their sandy covering.

Some years later Mound Island was taken possession of by the Kickapoo Indians, upon which they built their village, known by the name of "Kickapoo Town," although still remembered by the French missionaries as the "Beautiful Mound Village."

This became a favorite trading post and missionary station, and continued in the possession of the Kickapoos until its settlement by Thomas Beard, in 1820, after whom the present city of Beardstown was named.

Forty years ago the great mound in Beardstown began to be encroached upon by the spade and pickaxe of the avaricious white man.

The decaying bones of the red warriors, as they lay in their quiet and lovely resting place, with the implements of war around them; the silver and flint crosses of the missionaries; even the beautiful mound itself, which as an ornament to the river, and a historic feature of the town should have been held sacred, could not restrain the money making white man from destroying it, and it is now recollected only by the old settlers, who used to sit upon its summit and watch the passing away of the last of two races—the Indian in his canoe and the French voyageur in his pirogue.

Many years ago, at the request of a young friend, I related one of the incidents of the above narrative and put it into verse and rhyme, which is as follows:

## THE LEGEND OF MONSOLA.

Far, far into the long ago, and upon the very place  
Where Beardstown stands, there lived and loved and died a noble race.  
Where pretty lawns and spacious streets and lofty buildings stand,  
Monsœla's Indian village stood upon the hills of sand.

It was an island then, and round the hills on which it stood  
The river ripples wandered in a long continuous flood;  
While over all the tall oaks waved in foliage bright and green,  
And the trees and tents were mirror'd on the broad and glassy stream.

Far above the stars were shining, bathed in clouds of silv'ry light.  
And the gentle breeze of summer-day had slumbered into night:  
The murmur of the wavelets flowing, and hum of insect wings,  
Fell lightly on the sleepers' ears, nor waked their slumberings.

Three weary moons two Indian tribes had been in deadly strife.  
And Miamis and Muscutens had yielded many a life;  
'Till the allies of the Muscutens had left them all alone.  
And the Miamis besieged them upon their island home.

Slowly, at night, across the waters upon the southern side,  
The Miamis were paddling up their canoes against the tide;  
While in advance of every boat was held a branching bough,  
Which from the gaze of watching eyes might shield the advancing prow.

Upon the island, faint and tired, the Muscutens lay at rest.  
All witless of the coming foe as the flowers which they pressed;  
They had fought them day by day, their watchfires burning night by night,  
Until glimmered on their ashen beds the last faint rays of light.

Just as the distant glittering beams that led the morning sun  
Sat lightly on the yellow knobs of the bluffs of Sangamon.  
A yell as of a thousand fiends fell on the startled ears,  
And sleepers woke to sleep again pierced by the foemen's spears.

Monsœla then, Muscuten's Chief, raised high the battle cry,  
And bade his warriors follow him and win the fight or die:  
Now on the left, now on the right, his ponderous war-club fell,  
And many an Indian skull crushed he, and stifled many a yell.

Now backward borne, now pressing on, Muscuten's wavering braves  
Proved that the blood that nerved their arms was never meant for slaves;  
'Till overpowered, and rank by rank fell weltering in their blood,  
The brave Monsœla fought alone amidst the crimson flood.

Then the old chief's daughter, White Wing, ran through the rift of spears;  
'Though gentle as a fawn, that day she showed no childish fears;  
Pierced to the heart, into his arms she threw herself, a shield,  
He grasped her lifeless form and slowly bore her from the field.

Where the golden grass was waving on the river's western shore,  
Monsieula's birchen shallop touched the flowery bank once more;  
There oft before the same proud chief had pushed his light canoe,  
With warriors in sinewy keels—three hundred brave and true.

Near two hundred years have entered into the dreamy past  
Since the chief of the Muscouens on his village looked the last—  
One longing, lingering look he gave toward his island home,  
Then drew his mantle round him and wandered forth alone.

In 1700, Illinois was a part of the territory owned by the French government, and was called New France.

In 1720, all the country west of the Mississippi River belonged to Spain, with Santa Fe as its capital.

In 1763, Illinois was ceded by France to Great Britain, after a "seven years' war." Many French inhabitants, rather than live under British rule, joined La Cede and settled St. Louis.

In 1778, the Illinois country was conquered from Great Britain by troops from the State of Virginia, under the command of General George Rogers Clark, which was an independent military enterprise of that State; and on the 4th day of July of that year, Gen. Clark and his troops took possession of Kaskaskia, the capital of the British possessions west of the Alleghenies, and declared the Illinois country free and independent of Great Britain, thus making the 4th day of July the natal day of this State as well as of our nation.

In that year, Illinois was created a county of Virginia, and Timothy Darnanbrun was appointed by the governor, Patrick Henry, a justice of the peace, to rule over it; which was probably the most extensive territorial jurisdiction that a magistrate ever had.

In 1794, the Legislature of the Northwest Territory divided it into two counties, Randolph and St. Clair.

In 1809, Illinois was declared a separate territory.

In 1812, Madison County was organized from St. Clair, and then contained all of the present State north of St. Clair and Randolph.

In 1818, Illinois was admitted into the Union as the twenty-second State.

In 1821, Green County was formed from Madison County.

In 1823, Morgan County was formed from Green County.

In 1837, Cass County was formed from Morgan County.

During the first quarter of the present century, immigration to the Illinois country had been retarded by frequent earthquakes; indeed, from 1811 to 1813 they were as severe as ever happened on

this continent, and the few of the settlers here were in constant dread from these disturbances. New Madrid, a flourishing town near the mouth of the Ohio, was utterly destroyed and swallowed up. But in 1825 the Erie Canal was completed, and steamboats had been introduced upon the Mississippi and its tributaries, and immigration received a new impulse and flowed in vigorously. This immigration excitement was called on the other side of the mountains, the "western fever;" and it carried many a good man off—*west*.

In 1818, a man by the name of Pullam settled upon Horse Creek, a tributary of the Sangamon, and later, in November of that year, another man, by the name of Seymour Kellogg, was the first settler in the country comprised afterwards in the county of Morgan, and it was at his house that the first white child of the Sangamon country was born.

The first actual and permanent white settler within the limits of the present city of Beardstown, was Thomas Beard, who came here on horseback when it was a Kickapoo village, in 1819, and made it his home for some time as a trader among the Indians.

Martin L. Lindsley, together with his wife and two children, John C. and Mary A., and Timothy Harris and John Cettrough, settled here in 1820. These settlers located afterward in "Camp Hollow," a short distance east of the site of the present county farm, where Mr. Lindsley built a cabin, and the first white child born in this immediate vicinity was added to his family.

During the year 1820, a family named Eggleston settled on the site of Beardstown.

Major Elijah Iles, now a resident of Springfield, Ills., landed in 1819 where Beardstown now is, on his way to the "Keeley Settlement," afterwards named Calhoun, and now "Springfield," the State capital. He says that at that time there was a hut at Beardstown, built of birchen poles, standing on the bank of the river, but unoccupied. As the Indians lived in tents, this hut was probably erected by the French traders nearly a quarter of a century before the landing of Major Iles.

Archibald Job settled first at Beardstown, and then at Sylvan Grove, in the edge of North Prairie, in the spring of 1821, surrounded by Kickapoo and Pottowatamie Indians.

There were other pioneers settled here about that time, whose names I have not learned.

In 1821, there were but twenty families within the present limits of Morgan, Cass and Scott counties.

In the early years of the white settlements here, wheat was unknown, and Indian corn, the only breadstuff, was exceedingly hard to obtain, as mills were scarce. Jarvoe's Mill, on Cahokia Creek, was for a long time the only one accessible to our pioneers. In 1821, a small horse-mill was erected on Indian Creek by one Richard Shepard. Then a horse-mill was put up at Clary's Grove, Menard County. To these mills the boys of the families had to make frequent and tedious journeys to procure corn meal for bread.

The public lands were first offered for sale in November, 1823; so that all those who settled here previous to that time were only squatters on the public lands, and could hardly be termed permanent settlers. In fact, Thomas Beard, and his friends who lived with the Indians at Kickapoo village, were merely squatters, dependent upon the Indians for the privilege of erecting their huts.

The first land entry was made by Thomas Beard and Enoch C. March, jointly, who entered the northeast quarter of 15, 18, 12, Sept. 23, 1826. It was upon this quarter section that Mr. Beard's cabin was built. On the 28th day of October, 1827, Beard and March entered the northwest quarter of 15, 18, 12, which extended their river front down below the mound. Thomas Beard individually entered the west half, southwest, 15, 18, 12, October 10, 1827; and John Knight entered the east half, southwest, 15, 18, 12, July 17, 1828. Thus there were three men entered the entire section upon which the original town of Beardstown was located, in the years 1826, 1827 and 1828. So you will see that the stories current that Beardstown was laid out in 1824, and that the site was bought by Beard and March for twenty-five dollars, are not founded on record evidence.

The fact is, that the original town of Beardstown, consisting of 23 blocks, fronting on the river, three blocks deep, reaching from Clay to Jackson Street, of which block 10, lying between the Park and Main Street, is the centre one, was laid out and platted by Enoch C. March and Thomas Beard, and acknowledged before Thomas B. Arnet, a justice of the peace of Jacksonville, September 9, 1829, and is recorded on page 228 of Book B of the Morgan County records.

Among the first settlers in Beardstown, after it became a town site, were Francis Arenz and Nathaniel Ware, who purchased an interest and became joint landed proprietors with Beard and March. The town was named after Thomas Beard.

The very first deed from March and Beard upon record, of lands

within the present limits of Beardstown, was made before the town was laid out, and is dated August 21, 1828, to "Charles Robinson, of New Orleans," for the consideration of \$100, being for a "part of the fractional part of the N. W. qr. of Sec. 15, in town. 18, 12; beginning at a forked birch tree on the Illinois river bank, marked as a corner, running thence down the river meanders thereof, so as to make two hundred yards on a strait line, and from thence running out from the river at both ends of the above line by two parallel lines, until they strike the north line of the E. hf. of the S. W. qr. of Sec. 15, 18, 12, supposed to contain 12 acres."

And immediately following this deed upon the record is this singular "deed of defeasance," executed by Charles Robinson.

#### DEED OF DEFEASANCE.

"I having this day bought of Enoch C. March and Thomas Beard and his wife Sarah a piece of land on the river below the ferry of the above Beard and have this day rec'd from them a deed for the same I hereby declare that it is my intention to do a public business on the said land between this date and the first day of Oct. next year and if I have not upon the land by that date persons and property to effect the same or actually upon the way to do so I will return the above deed and transfer back the land to them upon receiving the consideration given them for the same. The above public business means. a steam mill, distillery rope walk or store. Witness my hand and seal this 21 day of Aug 1828.

(Signed) "CHARLES ROBINSON. [SEAL.]"

Acknowledged August 1, 1828, before Dennis Rockwell, Clerk of Morgan Circuit Court; recorded June 29, 1829, Book B, deeds, 180. This land is part of the original town of Beardstown. \*

Mr. Charles Robinson, party to these deeds, still lives in this county, near Arenzville. On the 8th of February, 1872, he wrote a letter to the *Chicago Journal*, from which I make this extract :

"Fifty years ago, or in the summer of 1821, there was not a bushel of corn to be had in Central Illinois. My father settled in that year twenty-three miles west of Springfield. We had to live for a time on venison, blackberries, and milk, while the men were gone to Egypt to harvest and procure breadstuffs. The land we improved was surveyed that summer, and afterwards bought of the government, the money being raised by sending beeswax down the Illinois river to St. Louis in an Indian canoe. Dressed deer skins and tanned hides were then in use, and we made one piece of cloth out of nettles instead of flax. Cotton matured well for a decade, until the deep snow of 1830."

The southern part of the State, referred to by Mr. Robinson as



Egypt, received this appellation, as here indicated, because, being older, better settled and cultivated, it "gathered corn as the sand of of the sea," and the immigrants of the central part of the State, after the manner of the children of Israel, in their wants, went "thither to buy and bring from thence that they might live and not die."

Reddick Horn, a Methodist minister, settled at Beardstown about 1823, and entered eighty acres near by, afterward making entries near the bluff.

The Cottonwood School-house was built in 1830, in the Sangamon Bottom, and is now known by that name.

The exact date of each arrival of the settlers is very hard to obtain, as those of them now living differ in their recollections of those who have precedence; but, by taking a conspicuous event, such for instance as the *deep snow*, which occurred in the winter of 1830-31, it becomes more easy to decide who then lived in the different neighborhoods. At that time, upon the Sangamon Bottom road there were the following named settlers: The first above Beardstown, was Solomon Penny, in section 10, 18, 11, where Richard Tink now lives. The next was John Waggoner, who lived where the Bottrell farm is now. Above him were the Carrs—Elisha, William, and Benjamin—and their father: Elisha lived on the present Kendall farm. Next above the Carrs was Grandpa Horrom. Then Jerry Bowen, where Calvin Wilson now lives. Next, the widow Stewart. Next, Shadrach Richardson, on the present Brauer farm. Then Thomas Plaster, sr., where, ~~Je~~ Jephtha Plaster now lives.

These were all that then lived below where Chandlerville now is, on this road. The first above these was Robert Leeper, on the Cleph. Bowen place. Next, William Myers; next, Henry McHenry; and in their order above him were Peter Dick; John Taylor; William Morgan; James Hickey, and Amos Ogden; and then Isham Reavis, who afterward moved below Chandlerville. James McAuley, and Elijah Garner settled in 1832.

Among the earliest settlers in the vicinity of Arenzville were Henry McKean, John McKean, Alexander Pitner, William Pitner, John Melone, William McHenry, James Davis, George Bristow, Aquilla Low, J. A. Arenz, Richard Matthews, Charles Robertson, James and Christian Crum, Peter Hudson, Charles Wiggins, David Black, Alexander Huffman, Benjamin Mathews, William Summers, Andrew Williams, and Richard Graves. Most of these persons came

about 1830. John, Stephen and Jasper Buck, and John Shafer were also early settlers. John Savage came in 1823.

In 1830, there was a water mill built at Arenzville, where Englebach's steam mill now stands. The power was obtained by changing the channel of Indian Creek fully a quarter of a mile north from its bed where it now runs. There is the site of an old Indian town and burial place on Prairie Creek, about three miles northeast of Arenzville.

Among the first settlers in the centre of the county, near where Virginia now stands, were Capt. Jacob Yaples, who sat out the first orchard in the county; Henry Hopkins, Elijah Carver, Charles Brady, John De Webber, Thomas Hanby, George Bristow, John Dawsey, Samuel Way, Charles Brady, William Weaver, Thomas Gatton, Halsey Smith, and a preacher named Chambers, and others. Some of these settled as soon as the lands opened for sale at the land office in 1823; others a few years later.

The next installment of settlers, ranging from 1827 to 1835, were James Stephenson and his five grown sons, Wesley, James, William, Robert, and Augustus; Charles Beggs, Jacob and John Epler, John Hiler, Rev. John Biddlecome, Isaac Mitchell, William Kinner, Jesse Allred, Nathan Compton; John C., Peter and William Conover; and a widow Pratt and her four sons—William, Charles, Rogers and Haramel.

A school-house was built of logs in this neighborhood in 1829. Samuel Thompson built a horse-mill in 1830. James Richardson built the first blacksmith shop in 1826. Peter Conover and Elizabeth Marshall were the first to marry here, which was in 1827. The south-east part of the county was settled early by James Davis, who made an improvement on the tract now owned by Travis Elmore, at the head of Little Indian Creek. He sold out to Strawder Ball, and he to Isaac Bennett. Bennett sold to Rev. Joshua Crow, who entered the land in 1826. Joshua Crow entered other lands in this vicinity as early as 1823. Eli Cox settled here as early as 1820, in Cox's Grove, so named from him. William Cooper, a negro with a white wife, settled here also; and Stephen Short, with his four sons, James, Benjamin, George and Albert. Stephen Lee, Tilman Hornbuckle, and Dr. Stockton, settled in Panther Grove in 1830. John Miller, James Thompson and Daniel Blair settled near by on the prairie. Stephen Short was first justice of the peace. Rev. William Crow first preacher.

Further north, on the east side of the county, among the first

settlers were George and John Wilson, in 1824; William Daniels, in 1825; Bartlett Conyers, John Lucas, John B. Witty and Robert Hawthorn, in 1826. The first child born in this neighborhood was Lucinda Daniels, in 1828. The first marriage was Miles Hamilton and Barbara Baeger. On the north side of the county, on and near the Sangamon Bottom, the first settlers were Amos Ogden, in 1830, who built a house of hewn logs in 1831, and rode three days to get eight men to help him to raise it. The men he got were those other old settlers: Joseph Hickey, James Watkins, John Hickey, James Hickey, Isham Reavis, Daniel Aturbury, and a Mr. Mounts.

The first school-house was of logs, built on Amos Ogden's farm. The first blacksmith shop was owned by Mathew Holland in 1835. The first mill was a small specimen of a water-mill, owned by James Watkins in 1832.

The five Dick brothers, William Lynn, Ishmael West, and William P. Morgan, settled here in 1831; and Dr. Charles Chandler, Marcus Chandler, and Mr. Ingliss, in 1832. Dr. Chandler's cabin was in the centre of the present town of Chandlerville, where the first Congregational Church now stands, the land being subsequently donated by the doctor for that purpose. South of the Chandler settlement, on the Sangamon Bottom, David Clopton, Robert Leeper, William Myers, Oliver Coyne, William McAuley and Mark Cooper, in 1831 and 1832. The first preaching was by Rev. Levi Springer. X

#### LIST OF ALL THOSE WHO ENTERED LAND

(*i. e.*, bought from the government) in Cass County, Ills., including the "three-mile strip," before "the deep snow," in the winter of 1830-31; and in what township and in what year the entry was made. Where a person entered land in more than one township, his name is given for that tract only which he first entered.

18, 12, Thomas Beard.....1826.	18, 11, William W. Babb.....1829.
“ Enoch C. March.....1826.	“ Elred Renshaw.....1830.
“ John Knight.....1828.	18, 11, Samuel B. Crewdson..1829.
17, 12, Freeman Skinner.....1830.	“ Solomon Penny.....1828.
“ Kimball & Knapp.....1830.	“ Benjamin Carr.....1829.
“ Asa C. New.....1830.	“ Amos Hager.....1830.
18, 11, Henry Summers.....1830.	“ Reddick Horn.....1826.
“ Richard Gaines.....1830.	“ Elisha Carr.....1829.
“ John S. Warfield.....1830.	“ John Waggoner.....1829.
“ Robert Farrell.....1830.	“ James Scott.....1829.
“ John Farrell.....1830.	17, 11, Alexander Pitner.....1829.
“ Temperance Baker....1829.	“ John Thompson.....1830.

- |                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 17, 11, James Orchard.....1826. | 18, 10, William Myers.....1827.   |
| “ Oswell Thompson, jr...1830.   | “ Thomas Gatton.....1829.         |
| “ Joseph L. Kirkpatrick..1830.  | “ James Mason.....1829.           |
| “ Joseph C. Christy.....1829.   | “ Nathan Compton.....1828.        |
| “ Frederick Troxel .....1828.   | “ John Robertson.....1828.        |
| “ Peter Karges .....1830.       | “ Street & Bland.....1827.        |
| “ David Black.....1829.         | “ Susan Washburn.....1827.        |
| “ James Smart .....1827.        | “ Henry Traughber.....1826.       |
| “ John R. Sparks.....1828.      | “ William McCord.....1830.        |
| “ Aquilla Low .....1827.        | “ Robert Alexander.....1829.      |
| “ Abraham Gish.....1828.        | “ Ralph Morgan.....1830.          |
| “ Charles Robertson.....1828.   | “ John Biddlecome .....1830.      |
| “ Peter Taylor.....1827.        | “ Zadoe W. Flinn.....1829.        |
| “ Martin Robertson.....1828.    | “ Peter Carr.....1828.            |
| “ James H. Richards.....1830.   | “ William Carr.....1828.          |
| “ Jonah H. Case.....1826.       | “ William D. Sturgis....1830.     |
| “ Daniel R. Scaffer.....1829.   | “ Shadraeh Richardson...1830.     |
| “ Thomas Clark.....1830.        | “ Robert H. Ivers.....1830.       |
| “ David B. Carter.....1830.     | “ Josiah Rees.....1830.           |
| “ James Davis.....1826.         | “ Joseph Baker.....1829.          |
| “ Andrew Williams.....1827.     | “ Thomas Plaster.....1830.        |
| “ Alexander Huffman....1827.    | “ William Sewall.....1830.        |
| “ William Summers.....1827.     | 17, 10, William Chambers....1826. |
| “ L. L. Case.....1826.          | “ John C. Conover.....1827.       |
| “ John Savage.....1830.         | “ Susanna Pratt.....1826.         |
| “ Dennis Rockwell.....1828.     | “ David Black.....1830.           |
| “ Augustus Barber.....1826.     | “ James Marshall.....1826.        |
| “ Joseph P. Croshwait...1830.   | “ Jacob Ward.....1829.            |
| “ Thomas Wiggins.....1829.      | “ William Porter .....1826.       |
| “ George F. Miller.....1828.    | “ Jacob Lawrence.....1826.        |
| “ Henry McKean.....1829.        | “ Carrollton R. Gatton..1826.     |
| “ Daniel T. Matthews....1828.   | “ Thomas Gatton.....1826.         |
| “ John McKean.....1829.         | “ Archibald Job.....1826.         |
| “ Daniel Richards... ..1829.    | “ Peter Conover.....1826.         |
| “ John Cuppy .....1830.         | “ William Conover.....1826.       |
| “ Patrick Mullen.....1827.      | “ Abner Tinnen.....1826.          |
| “ Shadrick Scott.....1828.      | “ Nathan Compton.....1826.        |
| “ Benjamin Matthews....1827.    | “ Joseph T. Leonard....1826.      |
| “ Samuel Grosong.....1826.      | “ Bazaleel Gillett.....1830.      |
| “ William S. Hauby.....1826.    | “ George T. Bristow....1826.      |
| 18, 10, John E. Scott.....1826. | “ William H. Johnson...1830.      |
| “ John De Weber.....1828.       | “ William Breeden .....1827.      |
| “ A. S. West.....1826.          | “ Peter Taylor.....1829.          |
| “ John Ray.....1826.            | “ John Ream.....1830.             |
| “ Joshua Crow .....1826.        | “ Samuel Way.....1828.            |
| “ Benjamin Stribling....1830.   | “ Archer Herndon.....1827.        |
| “ John G. Bergen.....1828.      | “ Evin Martin.....1827.           |
| “ Phineas Underwood...1826.     | “ James Sturgis.....1827.         |
| “ Henry Madison.....1828.       | “ Jonathan Atherton....1830.      |

17, 10, Jacob Yapple.....1829.	17, 9, Burton Litton.....1830.
“ Alexander D. Cox.....1826.	“ Page A. Williams.....1826.
“ Henry Madison.....1826.	“ Morris Davis.....1826.
“ James Marshall.....1826.	“ Josiah Sims.....1826.
“ Jesse Allred.....1826.	“ Robert Fitzhugh.....1826.
“ Isaac Mitchell.....1829.	“ Jesse Gum.....1827.
“ Thomas Redman.....1826.	“ Thomas Atkinson.....1826.
“ George Tureman.....1827.	“ John Vance.....1826.
“ Edward Fuller.....1830.	“ James Welch.....1827.
“ Levi Springer.....1830.	“ Richard Jones.....1826.
“ William M. Clark.....1827.	“ James Fletcher.....1829.
“ George Freeman.....1827.	“ Andrew Beard.....1827.
“ Thomas Payne.....1830.	“ John Bridges.....1826.
“ Lucian T. Bryant.....1830.	“ John Creel.....1827.
“ William Lumme.....1826.	“ Joseph McDonald.....1826.
“ Silas Freeman.....1828.	“ Gersham Jayne.....1829.
“ Isaiah Paschall.....1828.	“ Jonas McDonald.....1828.
“ Littleberry Freeman...1830.	“ Anthony M. Thomas...1826.
“ Silas Freeman.....1828.	“ Alexander Beard.....1829.
19, 9, David McGinnis.....1830.	“ John Robertson.....1829.
“ Stephen Handy.....1830.	“ Felix French.....1829.
“ Thos Plaster.....1828.	“ Richard A. Lane.....1830.
“ William Linn.....1830.	“ John McDonald.....1828.
“ Richard McDonald.....1829.	19, 8, Isham Reavis.....1830.
“ Wilson Runyon.....1830.	“ Robert Taylor.....1830.
“ William D. Leeper....1830.	“ Wm. P. Morgan.....1830.
“ William Myers.....1830.	18, 8, Samuel Reid.....1828.
“ John Taylor.....1829.	“ Robert Elkins.....1829.
“ Elias Rogers.....1830.	“ Ralph Elkins.....1829.
“ Jesse Armstrong.....1830.	“ Henry Williams.....1828.
18, 9, William Holmes.....1826.	“ Eaton Nance.....1828.
“ John Lee.....1830.	“ John Lucas.....1829.
“ Joseph Lee.....1830.	“ Susan Washburne....1828.
“ Robert Nance.....1830.	“ David Williams.....1829.
“ James Fletcher.....1829.	“ Joel Ragsdale.....1829.
17, 9, John Hughes.....1827.	17, 8, James B. Watson.....1826.
“ Susanna Walker.....1828.	“ Wm. Cooper.....1826.
“ Solomon Redman.....1826.	“ Stephen Short.....1830.
“ Henry Kittner.....1826.	“ Wm. Crow.....1826.
“ Martin Hardin.....1827.	“ Lewis Farmer.....1830.
“ Josiah Flinn.....1826.	“ Stephen Lee.....1830.
“ David Manchester.....1830.	“ Eli Cox.....1823.
“ William Miller.....1826.	“ Robert Johnson.....1828.
“ Strother Ball.....1826.	“ G. W. Wilson.....1826.
“ Samuel Montgomery...1830.	“ Wm. T. Hamilton.....1826.

These make, by counting, 212 persons who entered land in what is now Cass County, previous to the deep snow.

At this early date, before there were any other towns than Beardstown, localities were known by other names, as for instance, Robinson's Mills, Panther Creek, Miller's Ferry, Schoonover's Ford, North Prairie, Jersey Prairie or Workman Post-office, Panther or *Painter* Grove, as it was called; *Painter* Creek Post-office, where Chandler-ville is now; Little Painter, Middle Creek Settlement, Fly Point, Sylvan Grove. Puncheon Camp, Lynn Grove, etc.

The winter of 1830-31 was a remarkable one, and will always be remembered by old settlers as the most terrible for suffering within their memories. The snow fell at first about thirty inches deep, then the weather settled, and another snow fell, and another, until it was from four to six feet deep. In drifts it was much deeper. Fences were covered and lanes filled up. There was much suffering everywhere. Stock died for want of food. Deer stood in their tracks and died. Prairie chickens and quails having alighted in the snow, could not get out. Man was the only animal that could walk, and game alone, of the food kind, was all he had in plenty. That could be had for the picking up from the snow, for it was helpless. But, finally, even game became so poor from starvation that it was unfit for food. The snow staid on the ground nearly all winter, until March, and people ran short of every thing, particularly fuel. Thomas Beard, recollecting a widow with a small family living at the bluffs, generously walked out there, and found her and her family on the verge of starvation, and hovering over the last remnants of a fire, she having used all her fuel. Mr. Beard tore up some fencing and chopped a large pile of wood for her, and afterwards carried provisions to her through the snow on foot, a distance of seven miles, as a horse could not travel.

In 1831 the Indians became very troublesome in this State, and threatened to overrun the white population. They were led by Black Hawk, their chief and prophet, who pretended to have power given him by the Great Spirit to destroy the pale-faces. He attacked the whites with so much vigor that militia companies were formed for self-protection. A battalion of this militia, of 275 men, commanded by Major Israel Stillman, of Fulton County, was, on the 14th of May, 1832, attacked by Black Hawk on a small branch of Sycamore Creek and badly defeated and cut up. This was called the battle of "Stillman's Run." The first call which Governor Reynolds made for troops was in May, 1831, for all able-bodied men who were willing to fight the Indians. to the number of seven hundred, to rendezvous at Beardstown, on the 10th day of June. On that day

they assembled in Beardstown in three times that number. Gov. Reynolds organized them at once by appointing Joseph Duncan, of Jacksonville, brigadier-general, and our Enoch C. March, of Beardstown, quartermaster. March was equal to the occasion. He was so well acquainted with this vicinity that he soon furnished the necessary supplies. But Gov. Reynolds was at a loss to know how to arm those who had not brought rifles. In this emergency, Francis Arenz came to the rescue. He was a merchant in Beardstown, and had previously purchased some light brass-barreled fowling-pieces, which had been manufactured in the East for a South American government, and not answering the purpose for which they were made they were shipped West to shoot birds with. These answered excellently for arms for light horsemen and skirmishers. The troops were encamped above town, where the saw mills now stand, until they took up their march. In their ranks were some of the best men of the country.

I will relate one incident only, connected with the Black-Hawk War, to show how it affected the then future history, of at least a portion, of Cass County.

David Epler, a resident of North Prairie in this county, came to Beardstown to purchase two barrels of salt. He drove two beautiful horses, well harnessed, and a good wagon; altogether just what Col. March wanted for war material. He accordingly seized them, under that law so universally adopted in war times, that "might makes right," and took them from Mr. Epler, *volens volens*. But Mr. Epler refused to give them up, and, his face livid with anger, declared that he would defend them with his life, and that the colonel and his troops would have to walk over his dead body before he would give up his favorite team; at least, until he was paid their value. Col. March then offered to pay for them what two disinterested men should say they were worth. This was agreed to. There were then stopping in Beardstown two comparative strangers, Dr. Charles Chandler and a man named Crawford; to them the cause was referred. They, having come from the East, were wholly unacquainted with the low prices of this new country, and priced the team at eastern values, which Col. March felt in honor bound to abide by, and the consequence was Mr. Epler got \$350 for his team, which was a large price then.

This incident leads me to relate how Dr. Chandler came here. He left Rhode Island, where he had a good practice in his profession, and a new house which he had just built, and started westward with his family, with the intention of settling at Fort Clark, where Peoria now stands.

When the steamer, upon which he came up the Illinois River, arrived at Beardstown—the hostile attitude of the Indians in the vicinity, and the preparations for a general Indian war, induced the captain to discharge his passengers and freight at Beardstown, he thinking it unsafe to go any further north with his boat.

While here, Dr. Chandler took a ride up the Sangamon Bottom with Thomas Beard, and he was so well pleased with that part of it where Chandlerville now stands, that he determined to go no further north, but to settle there. This was in the spring of 1832. The bottom and bluffs had been burned over, and the new, fresh, green grass and beautiful flowers had sprung up; the trees and vines and shrubbery were dressed in their most inviting foliage, and he had never seen so beautiful a sight. In a short time he took his wife and little daughter to see their future home, and they were equally delighted with it. There was a wagon road up the bottom, winding along the bluffs, in about the same place it now does, but so little was it travelled that it had not hindered the fire passing over it, and in the middle of the road, between the two horse-paths, was a ridge of green grass mingled with strawberry vines, which looked like a row of cultivated strawberries, and these right in the road; the doctor and his wife and little daughter ate in abundance the large, ripe berries. The doctor entered 160 acres of land where the town of Chandlerville now stands, and built his cabin upon the site of the present Congregational Church. He broke up three acres of land that spring, late as it was, and raised a crop of buckwheat upon it, without any fence around.

There was a universal custom among the settlers at that time, that every man should be entitled to 80 acres of land on each side of the land already entered by him until such time as he was able to *enter* it, as it was called, or, in other words, until he could raise money enough to buy it from the Government at \$1.25 per acre; and it was considered as mean as stealing for another man to enter it.

Shortly after the doctor had settled there, a man stopped there named English. He was so well pleased with the prospect that he concluded to enter land and settle there. The doctor assisted and befriended him all he could, and, to induce him to stop, offered to give up his claim to one-half of the 80 acre tract, next to the land that English wanted, and let him enter it. English told him that he was going to Springfield and enter the *whole* tract: that he did not care for the customs of the country; and that he was going to have it right or wrong, and started for Springfield. All of Dr. Chandler's



expostulations with him did not avail anything. The doctor went to his cabin and looked over his little pile of money and found that he had fifty dollars. He thought that his neighbor McAuly had some money, and, saddling his best horse, he rode to McAuly's house and borrowed fifty dollars more. Thus provided, he took a different route through the woods and prairies from that chosen by English, and, putting his horse to his best speed, started for the Land Office.

When about ten miles of Springfield, he overtook two young men on horse-back, and as his horse was foaming with perspiration, and nearly tired out, he rode slowly along with the young men, as well to rest his horse, as to relate to them the cause of his haste. When he told them of the meanness of the man English, one of the young men was so indignant that he offered the doctor his own comparatively fresh horse, that he might make all haste and thwart the efforts of English, while the young man would ride the doctor's horse slowly into town. But the doctor rode his own horse, got safely to the Land Office and entered the land before English got there. Sometime after that he wanted to have his land surveyed, and the county surveyor lived at Jacksonville, but a neighbor told him that there was a better surveyor living at Salem, in Sangamon County, named Abraham Lincoln. So the doctor sent for him, and when he came with his implements to do the surveying, the doctor found that Abraham Lincoln, the surveyor, was the same young man who had so kindly offered to lend him his horse, so that he might defeat the rascally man English.

Dr. Chandler was the first physician in Central Illinois who adopted quinine in his practice as a remedy; the first who introduced the practice of the infliction of bodily pain as a remedy for over doses of opium; and the first who opposed bleeding as a remedy. When he went to Sangamon Bottom, he was called into practice before he could build a stable, and for weeks, when at home, tied his horse to a tree and pulled grass to feed him on, having no scythe to cut it with. He built the first frame house within the present limits of this county. It was 10x12 feet, one-story, and angled with split and shaved oak shingles, which made a good roof for 25 years—a fact worthy of notice. He built it for a drug store and office, and it is still in existence. In 1836, he built his present large residence. His reason for building so large a house at that early day was, that it was exactly like the one he had built and left in Rhode Island; and as his family had sacrificed so much in leaving their comfortable

home for the wilds of the west, he wished to make a home as near like their former one as possible.

In 1833, Jackson was president; John Reynolds, governor; and Clay and Webster were in their glory. Beardstown was quite a flourishing town, and the port on the river from which most towns in the interior of the State got their supplies of goods, and from which their produce was shipped to market.

In that year Francis Arenz began publishing the first newspaper north of Jacksonville and south of Chicago, entitled "The Beardstown Chronicle and Illinois Military Bounty Land Advertiser." This paper did the advertising for the counties of Mason, Warren, Brown, Schuyler, McDonough, Stark, Knox, and Fulton, as there were no newspapers printed in those counties. There were no lawyers in Beardstown then, but those usually consulted by our citizens were: John J. Hardin, Walter Jones, Aaron B. Fontaine, Josiah Lamborn, and Murray McConnell of Jacksonville, and William H. Richardson of Rushville.

In 1833, there was not a single merchant north of the Manvistarre, outside of Beardstown, and not one advertised in the "Beardstown Chronicle;" and money was so scarce that it was almost impossible for any kind of business to be transacted. Francis Arenz humorously ascribes the phenomenon of the great meteoric shower of that year, to the fact, that a day or two previously a subscriber had paid him two dollars, all in cash, for a year's subscription to the "Chronicle."

The names of the steamers which navigated the Illinois River in 1833-34, were the Peoria, Exchange, Ottawa, Ceres, Utility, Cavalier, Express, Black Hawk, and Olive Branch.

James B. Kenner kept the Bounty Land Hotel at Beard's landing, on the west bank of the river, opposite Beardstown.

Prices of staples in 1833 at Beardstown were: Flour, imported, per barrel, \$4.25; wheat, in 90 days, per bushel, 50c.; wheat, cash, per bushel, 45c.; salt, per bushel, 75c.; corn, per bushel, 12 to 16c.; beans, per bushel, 50c.; whiskey, per gallon, 48c.; pork, per lb. 2 c.; butter, per lb. 10c.; beef, per lb. 2½c.; cigars, per 1000, \$1; cigars, per box, best, \$1.

The business men of Beardstown in 1834 were: Francis Arenz, L. W. Talmage & Co., T. & J. S. Wilbourne, J. M. Merchant & Co., Haywood Read, J. Parrott & Co., merchants; John Alfred, M. Kingsbury, and Liscomb & Buckle, tailors; J. Roulston, hat-maker; Henry Boemler, cabinet maker; M. McCreary, cooper; Malony &

Smith, forwarding and commission business. There were also: Dr. J. W. Fitch, Dr. Owen M. Long, and Dr. Chas. Hochstetter.

As descriptive of the business of Beardstown, I will quote the following extract from an editorial in the "Beardstown Chronicle" of March 1, 1834:

"Since the opening of the river, there has been shipped from this place 1,502 barrels of flour and 150 barrels of pork. Ready for shipment at the warehouses at this time, 581 barrels of flour, 400 barrels pork, and 150 kegs of lard. This is a fair commencement of exporting surplus produce from a country where a few years ago many of such articles were imported. Two steam flouring mills and one steam saw mill are now in operation. A large brewery and distillery are being built, with a grist mill. Besides, arrangements are being made for building ware, store, and dwelling houses. Four years ago only three families, residing in log huts, lived in this place, and now, we venture to assert, more business is transacted in this town than any other place in the State."

The old Brick School House in Beardstown, now a part of Dr. Theo. Hoffman's premises, was built in 1834, by Beard and Arenz, and presented by them to the inhabitants.

At that time great stress was laid upon the navigability of the Sangamon River, as boats frequently passed up and down that stream. In 1832, a steambot of the larger class went up the Sangamon to within five miles of Springfield, and discharged its cargo there.

The farm houses, just previous to the organizing of Cass County, were mostly built of logs, and, in many cases, innocent of glass. The floors were made of puncheon or split logs, as saw mills were few and far between. The fire-places were made of logs filled up with clay dug from beneath the floors. A temporary wall would be built about two feet inside the log wall; the space then filled with earth, and wetted, was pounded or rammed down solid. The inner wall was then taken away and a fire built inside, which baked the jams like brick. Then this was surmounted with a stick and clay chimney, a pole was run across to hang kettles on; and the chinks between the logs of the house were filled up with sticks, clay, and chopped straw. The doors and roof of the house were made of split boards, and frequently not a nail or any iron was used in the whole house. The roof-boards were kept in their places by logs weighing them down; the doors, held together by wooden pins, hung on wooden hinges, and latched with wooden latches. The houses generally had but one room and two doors, but no window. Usually,

one door of the house was left open, no matter how cold the weather was, to admit light; and rarely both doors were closed, except when the family were about to retire to rest. So habituated were people to open doors that that custom prevailed even after the introduction of glass into the cabins, for windows. It is related, that on a very cold day, an eastern man who was visiting a friend at his log cabin, proposed to close the door to make the house warmer. The proprietor expressed his surprise at the proposition, but did not object to try it as an experiment. After the door had been shut a few minutes, he seemed much pleased with the result, and said, "Well, I declare! I believe it does make a difference."

A rural poet has truthfully stated that—

"In every country village where  
Ten chimneys' smoke perfume the air,  
Contiguous to a steeple,  
Great gentle-folks are found, a score,  
Who can't associate any more  
With common country people."

So even in our early days we had some aristocrats. Occasionally, a man was found that built his house of hewn logs, and had sawn planks for his floor, and perhaps a glass window. And then some ambitious neighbor must over top him, and the wonderful palatial double-log-house, with a porch between, appeared. By the youngsters this seemed extravagant and useless; but the surprise of everybody was Dr. Chandler's large, well-finished frame house. Even beds were more accommodating than now, and would hold many more occupants. There was one, usually, in each of two corners in every log cabin, and under each of these was a trundle-bed which *pulled out* at night; and then there was bedding to spare in most houses, and, when friends called and stayed *all night*, which they usually did, a *field-bed* was made that accommodated all. When meal time came, a large amount of good wholesome provender would be supplied, considering the few cooking utensils that were used. Even in well-to-do families the articles for cooking consisted of a Dutch oven, in which first the bread and then the meat was cooked, a coffee-pot, and a kettle to cook vegetables, when they had any. Wheat bread was scarce, and corn bread was universally used. When bread was spoken of without a prefix, corn bread was meant; any other kind being designated as *wheat* bread or *rye* bread. I recollect a circumstance which will illustrate how corn bread was respected. When Major Miller kept the Western Hotel in Jacksonville, in 1836,

there was a grocery under it called "Our House." A Yankee, who had been stopping with the Major, called into the grocery to get his bitters, and outraged the thirsty customers at the bar by an offensive allusion to the corn bread he had had set before him at the hotel table, stating among other remarks, that corn bread was only fit for hogs to eat. At this an irritable native took offence; he *peeled* off his coat, and squared his brawny shoulders before the astonished Yankee, and said, "See yer, stranger, I don't know you who you are, and I don't keer a durn, nuther; but I'll have you understand that the man that makes fun of corn bread makes fun of the principal part of my living." It was with considerable difficulty that a fuss was prevented, and then only by the Yankee apologising and treating the crowd to the drinks.

While speaking of Yankees, I might just as well say, that this part of Morgan County was settled principally by citizens from south of the Potomac and Ohio Rivers; and a strong prejudice was felt against people from New England, who were all denominated "Yankees;" and, to be just, candor compels me to admit that the representatives of the descendants of the pilgrim fathers, who peddled clocks and tinware, and notions, and essences, and the like, through this part of the country at that time, were not calculated in every instance to inspire any high respect for them as a class.

Fitz Greene Helleck, the poet, writes of them as

"Apostates, who are meddling  
With merchandise, pounds, shillings, pence, and peddling;  
Or, wandering through southern countries, teaching  
The A, B, C. from Webster's spelling-book;  
Gallant and godly, making love, and preaching,  
And gaining, by what they call "hook and crook."  
And what the moralists call overreaching,  
A decent living. The Virginians look  
Upon them with as favorable eyes  
As Gabriel on the devil in paradise."

In fact, a mean trick was always expected from a Yankee; while there is reason to believe that, really, there was sometimes just as mean things done by persons from other portions of the nation. To illustrate: Nearly forty years ago, I attended a wolf hunt on Indian Creek. There were about a hundred of us, on horseback, up on a rise in the timber, waiting to hear from the hounds, and passing the time in conversation. The subject of discussion, a not unusual one, was the Yankees, and each man had a story to tell of some *Yankee trick*. Finally, old Uncle Bob Martin, who had but one eye, but was,

nevertheless, quite an oracle in such matters, had his say, in this wise: "Well, gentlemen, I'll tell yer what it is. I've seed a heap 'er Yankees in my day, and I know all about 'em. I know 'em like a book, inside and out, and I tell yer what it is, gentlemen, all the Yankees don't come from New England nuther, not by a durn sight. And the meanest Yankee I *ever* seed, gentlemen, was a Kanetucky Yankee."

I said corn bread was the principal article of diet then. But there were various kinds of corn bread. That most in use was corn dodger. This was simply made of corn meal, hot water and a little salt, stirred together to the consistency of dough; then a double handful was rounded, flatted, and placed in a hot Dutch oven, surrounded with glowing embers. An oven would hold three or four of these, and they were cooked so quickly that a woman could keep quite a large number of hungry men in business. Then there was the pumpkin bread, made by mixing pumpkins and meal, and the *pone*. This last was considered suitable for kings, and I must tell you how it was made. It was thus: Take as much corn meal as is wanted for use; sift it; put it in an iron kettle and pour on it boiling water; stir it till it becomes well mixed and quite thin; this being right, let it remain in the same vessel till morning, and if kept warm it will be well fermented (which is necessary); then put it into a hot Dutch oven, it being heated before the dough is put in it; apply good live embers on the lid of the oven as well as under it, being careful not to burn it. These were sometimes baked in hot ashes and embers, without an oven. These were called *ash-pones*.

Butter was not common, except in the spring and summer; but large quantities of fat bacon and hams were used instead, which were kept the year round, in the smoke houses, one of which every family had. Potatoes were unknown for many years; and when they were introduced, they were at first very unpopular. People that ate them were stigmatized as *Irish*. Deer, prairie-chickens and other game, as well as domestic fowls, were very plenty and much used for food.

The principal clothing worn by the men was of Kentucky jeans, made into pants and hunting shirts. Under-clothing was hardly ever worn, even in winter, and overcoats, never; and yet men seemed as warm and comfortable then as they do now, with under-garments and overcoats. The ladies dressed principally in linsey of their own weaving. I well recollect when calico was first generally worn. Patterns with large flowery figures were preferred; and although our prairies were covered all over in profusion with the most beautiful

of flowers, like unto a garden of the gods, yet, I must admit, the prettiest flowers to my delighted eyes were those printed upon calico. And I might admit further, that they are not altogether displeasing to me even now. At the huskings, weddings, meetings, and merry-makings, the girls looked as pretty then in their home-made suits as they do now, though arrayed in all the gaud and glory of the milliner.

The principal occasions of great public gatherings were political discussions; for, either fortunately or unfortunately (and which it is a great moral question), there never was a man hung within the limits of this county at the hands of justice, so the public have never been called together out of curiosity on that account. Among our public speakers at that time were: Lincoln, Hardin, Baker, Lamborn, Richardson, and more latterly, Yates and Douglas, besides many from a distance. Besides these occasions, we had preaching in the schoolhouses and barns and groves. Often have some of us, now present, listened to Reddick Horn, Cyrus Wright, Peter Cartwright, "Old Man Hammaker," of North Prairie, and many others. How many of the old settlers here recollect Old Father Doyle, who used to shout "power" until the far-off woods rang, and the hills sent back the echo. Oh! those public meetings in the woods; how grand they were! Bryant sings of them and says—

"The groves were God's first temples.

Ah! why should we in the world's riper years neglect

God's ancient sanctuaries, and adore

Only among the crowd, and under roofs

That our frail hands have raised."

There used to be a famous camp meeting ground for many years at "Uncle" William Holmes', north-east of Virginia, and people attended it from twenty miles around. When this county was first formed, there were but few farms on North Prairie, except those skirting the edge of the timber; and a man could cross it any where on horseback, led only by Indian trails, or the points of timber. For instance, a man could start from the Jacksonville road at Yaples or Peterfish's farm, south of where Virginia now is, and go straight to Holmes' camp ground, a distance of about ten miles, northeast, and not pass a fence.

In 1835, the Beardstown and Sangamon Canal Company were incorporated, and there was considerable interest taken in that work.

In 1836, on the 16th day of June, Dr. H. H. Hall laid out and platted the town of Virginia, he having entered the land upon which it stands a short time previously.

About this time there became a gradually growing feeling of dissatisfaction in this, the northern part of Morgan County, with the management of county affairs at Jacksonville. It seemed to the people here, that Morgan County was ruled by Jacksonville, and that that village was ruled by a clique, or *ring*, as it would now be called. This feeling became more conspicuous, as at that time the removal of the State capital was being worked up. It was provided in the Constitution of 1818, while the capital was at Kaskaskia, that the Legislature should locate a new town, which should be the capital for twenty years. This the Legislature did, and named the place Vandalia. The constitutional limit of that location was fast approaching, and a new seat of government was to be selected.

A statute was passed February 5, 1833, providing, that after the expiration of the time prescribed by the constitution for the seat of government remaining at Vandalia, the people should vote for one of the following named places for the permanent seat of government, to-wit: "The geographical centre of the State," Jacksonville, Springfield, Alton, Vandalia, and Peoria, and the point receiving the highest number of votes should forever remain the seat of government. The southern part of the State was at that time most thickly settled, and it soon became evident, that, unless the people of Central Illinois united upon a town in their portion of the State, Vandalia or Alton would gain it. The people in the northern portion of the State were willing to sacrifice Peoria, but the people of Central Illinois were divided between Springfield and Jacksonville. There was a growing feeling, however, in favor of Springfield, as being the most available; and a convention was called by the central and northern counties, to meet at Rushville, on the 7th day of April, 1834, to unite on one point to support for the State capital. Jacksonville was opposed to this, and favored the deferring the removal of the seat of government to some future time, hoping to gain strength by this line of policy. Consequently, Jacksonville refused to take part in the Rushville convention, while the northern part of the county met at Beardstown, decided to take part in the convention, and elected Archibald Job and Thomas Beard to represent them there, which they afterwards did. This occasioned a discussion between the newspaper of Jacksonville, conducted by Josiah Lamborn, and the "Chronicle," on the part of Beardstown, by Francis Arenz.



To show the state of this feeling as early as 1834, the following is from the "Chronicle" of March 25th, of that year:

"In the 'Chronicle,' No. 35, we published the preamble and resolutions adopted at a public meeting held in Beardstown on the 20th of February last. In one of the resolutions, Archibald Job and Thomas Beard were appointed to attend as delegates at Rushville, on the first Monday of April next, to represent the wishes of the people in the northern part of Morgan County.

"In our last number we published the proceedings of a meeting held in Jacksonville on the 3d inst. One of the resolutions adopted at that meeting, declares, that 'from the neutral position of Morgan County in relation to locality and interest, it is inexpedient, at this time, for citizens of our county to send delegates to the convention proposed to be held on the first Monday of April next.'

"We also published a letter from J. Lamborn, Esq., to the editor of this paper, explanatory of the views and feelings of those attending the Jacksonville meeting towards their fellow citizens of the northern part of Morgan County, who composed the Beardstown meeting; but as this letter was not part of the proceedings at Jacksonville, and the resolutions adopted are contrary and in opposition to the friendly feelings privately expressed by Mr. Lamborn, we have to take the sentiments as expressed by the meeting.

"The meeting at Beardstown was composed of freemen. They acted for themselves, and appointed two delegates to represent their wishes at the proposed convention, leaving four delegates to be chosen in other parts of Morgan County. If our fellow citizens at Jacksonville, and in the southern and western parts of the county, did not choose to send delegates, no objection or dissatisfaction would have been entertained; but a meeting composed of about one hundred and fifty individuals at Jacksonville and vicinity (being acquainted with the sentiments expressed here), have assumed to indicate in their resolution that it is *inexpedient*, at this time, for *the citizens of our county* to send delegates. To this decree the citizens of the north will not submit. We unhesitatingly say, that two delegates will attend and represent their wishes. We believe the time has gone by when a few leaders of Jacksonville controlled the votes of Morgan County; and we would advise those who have influence in and about Jacksonville, to use it with discretion. The people north of Indian Creek, and we doubt not in other parts of the county, understand their own interest, and will act accordingly."

The convention was held at Rushville at the appointed time, and such united action was taken as eventuated in the passage of a statute on the 3d day of February, 1837, which permanently located the seat of government at Springfield, and Archibald Job, A. G. Henry and Thomas Hunghan were appointed commissioners to superintend the erection of the State House.

At the very same session which removed the capital, on the 3d day of March, 1837, a bill was passed that the people of Morgan County should, on the third Monday of April of that year, vote for and against the division of that county, on the line running through the middle of townships seventeen, north, and in case the vote favored it, all north of that line to constitute a new county, to be called the county of Cass; that the county seat should be at Beardstown, until the people should permanently locate the county seat by election; and the school fund should be divided according to the number of the townships between the two counties.

The election was had; the feeling between the northern and southern sides of the county was such that the election was favorable to division, and the northern townships immediately called an election for officers with which to organize the new county of Cass.

There were then but three voting precincts in this part of Morgan County, which was about being formed into a new county; they were: Beardstown, Virginia and Richmond, and the following are the names of every man that voted at that election, with the names of the precincts they voted in:

Poll Book at an election held at the house of Moses Perkins, in the Beardstown Precinct, in the County of Cass, Ills., August 7, 1837. Thos. Beard, James Arnold, John Scheffer, judges: T. U. Webb, C. W. Clarke, clerks.

John F. Bailey,	C. F. Kandage.	Evan Jenkins.
Alex. King,	Elisha Marshall,	T. C. Mills.
Ben. Beasley,	John Marshall.	Wm. Turkymire,
Christ. Shanks,	Jos. Seaman.	J. W. Crewdson,
Jerem. Wilson.	Isham Revis.	Thos. Haskins.
Jordan Marshall.	Nich. Parsons.	Andr. Keltner.
Jos. Britton,	Lewis G. Lambert,	Amasa Reeves.
Geo. Bryant.	Wm. Cox.	Chr. Boyd,
Jas. King.	Frankl. Stewart.	Jos. Haskins.
Geo. McKay,	Sam. Hunt,	Milton Parmele,
John C. Linsley,	Jas. Pounds.	Jno. Quail.
Elizur Anderson.	Fredy White,	Barnard Beist,
Edmund Ensly.	Landerick Kale,	Ben. Britton,

Geo. Cowan,	Wm. Bryant.	Wm. Home,
J. N. Jenkins,	Dav. Marshall.	Thos. C. Black,
Dan. Britton,	Bluford Haines,	Owen Clemens,
Sam. Groshong,	Hy. Schaffer,	Bradford Rew,
Jn. Kettely.	Thos. Pierce,	Lewis Cowan,
Wm. Quigg,	Jacob J. Brown.	Nich. Coterall.
Marcus Chandler,	Jackson Stewart,	Gottlieb Jokisch,
Leander Brown,	Jos. Canby,	Jn. Cuppy.
Jas. Garlick,	Geo. Garlick.	Godfr. Gutlet.
Dan'l Boyne.	Jas. Dickinson,	John C. Scott.
Thos. Proctor,	Wesley Payton,	Wm. H. McKanley,
Rich'd Graves,	Isaac Short.	Alex. Ratcliff.
Rich'd Wells,	Amasa Warren,	Math. McBride,
Geo. Brown,	Geo. Schaeffr.	John Burns,
Ben. Horom.	Asa Street.	John Bridgewater,
Jos. H. Clemens,	Jas. Roach,	Jno. A. Thomas
Jas. Neeper,	Jas. A. Carr.	John Buck.
Jackson Scott,	John Haram,	Wm. R. White.
Stephen Buck,	Zach. Bridgewater,	Jn. W. Anderson,
Wm. Shuteman.	Wm. Moore.	Henry Collins,
Edward Salley,	Wm. R. Parks,	Hy. Roha,
Demsey Boyce,	Jn. P. Dick.	Wm. Bassett,
Aaron Powell,	Joshua Morris.	Jas. Davidson,
Jerm. Bowes,	Wm. W. Clemens.	Robt. Lindsay,
Jas. Case,	J. Philippi,	Wm. Cross,
A. Philippi.	Jas. Scott,	Jn. Wilbourns,
P. Philippi.	Jas. Cook.	John McKean,
W. W. Gordon,	John Gutliff Berger,	Jas. Logan.
Hy. Havekluft,	Fred. Krohe,	Jos. Baker,
Jac. Fisal.	Aug. Krohe.	Christ. Newman,
John Newman,	Fred. Inkle.	Thos. Stokes,
John Yokes,	Louis Sudbrink,	Jasper Buck,
Orrin Hicks,	Adam Krough.	Jas. Davis,
John Waggoner,	Montela Richardson,	Jas. Bell,
Thos. Cowan,	Rucy Richardson,	E. R. Gillet.
John Hicks.	W. Moody,	J. B. Pierce,
Dav. Newman,	Sam. Fletcher,	Harmon Byrnes,
G. A. Bonny,	L. H. Treadway,	Shosua Alexander,
Nich. Rheim,	John Price.	Edw'd Treadway,
Moses Derby,	Reuben Alexander,	Chs. Chandler,
Jas. Bonnett,	Jn. Miller,	Peter Light,
Curtis Hager,	Lewis Haines,	Wm. B. Gaines,
Dan. Wells,	Phil. Schaffer.	Fred. Krohe,
Hy. P. Ross,	Gottlieb Jokisch,	Caleb Lee,
Hy. Kemble.	Jn. H. Treadway,	Thos. Carroll,
Edw. Saunders,	John Richardson,	Phil. Kuhn,
Adolph Shupong,	Christ'n Kuhl,	G. Kuhl,
G. Kuhl. 2d.	John Holkmon.	John Rohn,
Henry T. Foster,	Seymour Coffren.	Jac. Downing,

Dav. Tureman,	Pet. B. Bell.	Edw. Collins.
Dav. Spence,	Morgan Kemper,	John Pierson,
Moritz Hallenbach,	Thos. Bryant,	Lewis Piper,
Hy. Boemler,	Otto Wells,	Jn. Steele,
Dav. Emmerich,	J. W. Lippincott,	Arn. Arenz,
L. H. Wilkey,	Wm. Shepard,	Pet. Douglas.
Thos. J. Moseley,	Sam. Thompson,	Hy. Kashner,
Joel K. Bowman,	Hy. Hendricker,	J. M. Quate,
Wm. W. Gillet,	Rob. Moore,	Jn. W. Gillis,
Wm. Hemminghouse,	Wm. Sewell,	Dav. Jones,
Fred. Kors,	Sam. McKee.	Jos. W. Hardy,
John Decker,	T. A. Hoffman,	Wm. Miller,
Chs. Garland,	Reuben Hager,	Christ. Trone,
John Brackle,	John Duchardt,	Jessie Ankrom,
Chr. Hell.	Wm. L. Felix,	John McKowan,
Elisha Olcott. ✓	John Ayers,	Hy. Whittick,
Absalom Spence,	Hammer Oatman.	Carlton Logan,
Wm. Ritchie,	Thos. Saunders.	Wm. Butler,
Hy. Miller,	A. Williams,	H. Smith.
M. Kemper,	J. B. Wilson,	J. C. Spence,
Wm. Moore,	Thos. Payne,	Nich. Kelly,
Sam. Shaw,	Wm. B. Ulside.	Wm. W. Bolt,
Jos. McClure,	Dan. Sheldon,	Wm. DeHaven,
Wm. Dougall,	John McLane,	Hy. Wedeking,
Wm. Holmes,	Lewis Kloker.	Dan. Riggie,
Lewis Nolte.	F. Arenz.	G. F. Miller,
Wm. Clark,	Moses Perkins,	C. J. Norbury,
B. W. Schneider,	Hy. Pheboe.	T. Graham, Jr.,
Francis Rice,	Butler Arnold,	Lemuel Plasters,
Aug. Knapp,	Isaac Plasters,	Jac. Anderson,
Dan. Scott,	J. P. Harvey,	Hy. McKean,
Martin F. Higgins,	Wm. H. Williams,	John W. Pratt,
Dudley Green,	Ralph Morgan,	John Bull.
Thos. Wilbourne,	J. P. Crow,	Lewis Stoner,
Hy. Braker,	Austin Shittenden,	Thos. Beard,
O. Long,	C. W. Clark,	J. Arnold,
John Schaeffer,	John Cushman,	N. B. Thompson.
T. U. Webb,	J. S. Wilbourne,	A. Batoage,
J. Blackman,	Wm. Scott,	Dav. White.

Poll Book at Richmond Precinct election of 1837.

Mat <sup>w</sup> Soundsberry, Jr.,	David Pratt,	John Roberts.
John Hillis,	John Fancier.	John Chesshire.
Wm. T. Kirk,	Henry Nichols.	Thomas Plasters,
Thos. Lockermant.	Jacob Bixler,	Abner Foster,
Azariah Lewis,	Obadiah Morgan,	Peter Dick,
Levy Dick,	Horatio Purdy.	Cary Nance,
Gibson Carter.	Jerry W. Davis.	Wm. Linn.

Enoch Wheelock,	James B. Conner,	John Leeper,
John Wilson,	Willis Daniels.	Pleasant Rose.
Oliver Loge,	Wm. S. Clemons,	Geo. Fancier,
Wm. Lucas,	Robert Carter,	James Bonnet,
Aaron Wright,	James Wing,	Cyrus Elmore.
John Pryor,	Washington Daniels.	Thomas Jones,
Standley Lockerman,	Ely Cox.	Henry D. Wilson,
Henry S. Dutch,	James Hickey,	John L. Witty.
Robert Nance,	John Baldin,	Henry Taylor,
Wm. Myers,	Ashley Hickey,	Alfred Daniels,
Wm. Myers,	John B. Witty,	Marcus Cooper,
Amos Dick.	Calvin Wilson, ✓	John B. Thompson,
Henry Dick,	Charles Scaggs,	Eaton Nance,
Jonathan N. Loge,	Wm. P. Morgan,	James Hathorn,
John Hathorn,	Riley Claxton,	John Pratt,
Colman Gaines,	Zechariah Hash,	H. W. Libbeon,
John Davis,	John Cook,	Sylvester Sutton,
Daniel Robinson,	Clinton Wilson,	Robert G. Gaines.
John Lucas,	Henry McHenry,	Amos Bonney, ✓
Robert Leeper,	John Johnson,	James Roles.
John Taylor.	Mathew Loundsberry,	Cyrus Wright,
Robert B. Taylor,	Frederick McDonald.	

Election at the house of John De Weber, in the Virginia Precinct, in the County of Cass, Illinois, August 7, 1837. This certificate is added: "The county not being organized, and, of course, no Justice of Peace or appointed Judge, Mr. Wm. Clark administered the oath to the other acting judges, and Mr. James Daniel administered it to him and to the clerks. Subscribed by us,

"WM. M. CLARK,  
JAMES DANIEL."

Louis Thornsberry,	John Daniel.	Geo. Cunningham.
Wm. Paton.	Wm. B. Kirk.	Michael Reed.
Wm. Graves,	Jeremiah Northern.	Green H. Paschal,
Levi Springer,	Jos. McDaniel.	Onslow Watson,
P. S. Oulten,	Felix Cameron.	John McDonald.
John Slack.	Robt. Davison.	Joel Home.
Ezra Dutch,	H. Osborne,	Chas. Brady,
Young Phelps,	Benedict Cameron,	Wm. Daniels,
John Craig,	Anderson Phelps,	W. P. Johnstone.
L. B. Ross.	Zeb. Wood.	W. P. Finch.
Thos. Plaster, Sr..	Jesse Spicer,	John Carpenter.
Benj. Corby.	Wm. Craig,	Thos. Lee.
John Glover.	Jas. Bland,	Thos. G. Howard.
P. Underwood, Jr.,	L. Carpenter,	Joshua Price.
Perry G. Price,	John Clark.	Green Garner,
Thos. J. Joy.	L. Clark,	Aaron Bonny,

Amos L. Bonny,	Titus Phelps,	James B. Davis,
Ephraim Moseley,	Jas. Williams,	John Redman,
Jas. Ross, Sr.,	Henry Hopkins,	Elias Matthew,
T. S. Berry,	Thos. Boicourt,	Thos. Finn,
A. Bowen,	John Robinson,	Daniel Cauby,
John Long,	George Shaw,	L. B. Freeman,
Evan Warren,	J. M. Ross,	J. M. McLean,
John Cunningham,	Pleas. Scott,	B. A. Blantin,
Jas. Holland.	Jas. Biddle.	Jos. Jump,
Wm. Fields,	J. T. Powell.	C. H. Oliver,
Alex. Bain,	John De Weber,	Alex. Huffman,
Jas. Garner,	Reddick Horn,	Jonas McDonald,
John Biddles,	Archibald Job,	John Peirce,
Phillip Cochrane,	George Beggs,	John Biddlecome,
H. H. Hall,	B. Stribling,	Jas. Berry.
A. Elder,	Chas. P. Anderson,	M. O'Brien,
A. S. West,	S. Steveson,	Isaiah Paschal,
Wm. M. Clark,	Jas. Daniels,	M. H. Biddles,
Wm. Blain.		

C A N D I D A T E S .

*Probate Justice.*

J. S. Wilbourne .....11 Wm. Scott.....26 Jas. Berry .....65

*Sheriff.*

Lemon Plaster .....81 M. F. Higgins.....15 J. B. Bueb .....70

*Recorder.*

N. B. Thompson .....30 Thos. Graham ..... 1 Dr. O. M. Long ..... 7  
 Alfred Elder .....64

*County Commissioners' Treasurer.*

Thos. Wilbourn .....14 J. C. Spense .....84

*County Commissioners' Clerk.*

J. M. Pratt.....52 R. G. Gains .....49

*County Commissioners.*

Amos Bonney.....60 G. F. Miller .....16 H. McKean .....30  
 Benj. Stribling .....95 Henry McHenry.... 7

*County Surveyor.*

Wm. Holmes.....86 Wm. Clark ..... 19

*Coroner.*

C. Rew .....27 J. Anderson ....None. Halsey Smith.....75

The election was held on the first day of August, 1837, and the following named officers were elected: Joshua P. Crow, Amos Bonney and George F. Miller, county commissioners; John S. Wilbourne, probate justice of the peace; John W. Pratt, clerk of county commissioners' court; N. B. Thompson, clerk of the circuit court; Lemon Plaster, sheriff. These men were sworn into office by Thomas Pogue, a Beardstown magistrate.

On the 14th day of August, the county commissioners met and organized Cass County. At this first meeting of the Board, the new county was divided into six precincts, which were named: Beardstown, Monroe, Virginia, Sugar Grove, Richmond and Bowens.

When this county was organized there was not a house, built exclusively for religious worship, in it, and not one in all Morgan County outside of Jacksonville. Physicians were scarce, and fever and ague quite common. Game was plenty, some of which was very disagreeable, particularly wolves, and an occasional panther. The wolves very seldom did violence to human beings; but when the weather was cold and stormy, and the ground frozen, they were so bold and threatening, that nobody cared to risk himself out alone at night. The only instance of violence to a man within my recollection, was the case of Esquire Daniel Troy, living near Bethel, who was walking home one night from town, carrying a quarter of beef on his shoulder. He was attacked by a gang of wolves, the beef taken away from him, and he very roughly handled.

There were a few large gray wolves also, that were very much feared. One cold, bright, moon-shiny night, I heard an uncommon fuss with my dogs, and opened my cabin door. A favorite little black dog immediately pounced into the house, and the largest gray wolf I ever saw, which was after him, tried to follow. The door was open, and I had no time to get my rifle. The only weapon at hand was a stick of fire wood, but with this I did good execution, and Mr. Wolf had to beat a retreat. So severely had I beaten him, that he immediately left our premises. I afterwards heard a fuss among the dogs at a neighbor's, Armstrong Cooper's house, and then the crack of a rifle, and in a short time I heard the dogs and another rifle at Mr. Lamb's house, and then all was still. I found next morning that these shots of Cooper and Lamb had killed him. He was a monster, and measured nine feet and nine inches, from his nose to the end of his tail.

At that time, there was very little litigation among the country people, and personal altercations were usually settled by a resort to blows.

It was in the winter of 1836-37, I believe, although I would defer my recollection to others, if they think I am mistaken, that we had what we called the "sudden change" in the weather, the most remarkable one I ever saw, heard of, or read of. On Saturday morning, there was snow on the ground. The following Sunday was a very warm day, and Monday, until about one o'clock p.m., was

still warmer, and on both days there was considerable rain. The snow had melted into slush and water, which was standing in ponds on the level ground, and roaring down declivities. At that hour, the weather turned suddenly very cold. In one hour after the change began the slush and water was frozen solid; and in two hours from that time, men were hurriedly crossing the river on the ice. A vast amount of cattle, fowls and game, and many persons, were frozen to death. I heard of one man, who was crossing a prairie, on horse-back, who had killed his horse and taken the entrails out of him and then crawled inside of him for protection, was found there frozen to death. I don't know how the thermometer stood, for we had none.

On Monday, during this sudden change, Dr. Chandler was returning home from a professional trip up the bottom. His overcoat was covered with slush and mud, and in a few minutes after the change began his coat was frozen stiff, and he felt that he was in danger of being frozen. He stopped at the store of Henry T. & Abner Foster, at Richmond, on the land since owned by John P. Dick, where he was warmed up and thawed out. He then mounted his horse and started on a gallop for home, about six miles distant, but soon found himself freezing again. He stopped at another house, and warmed, and started again, with like results. He thus was forced to stop at four different houses, between Foster's store and his house, to prevent freezing to death. When he arrived within sight of his own house his horse fell down, and left him helpless on the ice, and his family dragged him, in a helpless condition, into the house.

At the special session of the Legislature in the summer of 1837, was passed a preamble and statute to the following effect:

“Whereas, at an election held in the county of Morgan, according to the provisions of ‘An act for the formation of the county of Cass,’ it appeared that a majority of the voters of said county voted for the creation of said county; and, whereas, at an election for the county seat of said county, Beardstown received the highest number of votes for the county seat, and whereas some doubts have been expressed as to the legality of the proceedings of said elections, now, therefore, to remove all doubts on that subject:

“Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the people of the State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly,* That the county of Cass, as designated and bounded in the ‘Act for the formation of the county of Cass,’ approved, March 3d, 1837, be, and the same is hereby declared to be, one of the counties of this State.



“Sec. 2. The county seat shall be located at the city of Beardstown, in said county; *Provided, however,* That the provision of the act, above referred to, shall be complied with by the citizens, or corporation of Beardstown, in relation to the raising the sum of ten thousand dollars, to defray the expenses of erecting public buildings for said county.

“Sec. 3. The corporation of Beardstown shall be allowed the period of one, two, and three years, for the payment of ten thousand dollars, aforesaid, to be calculated from the passage of the law aforesaid, which sum shall be paid in three equal payments. The County Commissioners’ Court of said county shall make their contracts for erecting the public buildings in said county, so as to make their payments thereon when the said installments aforesaid shall become due and payable.

“Sec. 4. The court house of said county shall be erected on the plat of ground known as the public square; in said town of Beardstown.

“Sec. 5. Returns of the elections for the county officers of said county, to be elected on the first Monday of August next, shall be made in Beardstown, to O. M. Long and Thomas Poyne, notaries public in Beardstown, who shall open and examine the poll books of said election in the presence of one or more Justices of the Peace in and for said county; and said notaries public, after due inspection and examination of the poll books, according to the laws of this State, shall make out certificates of election of those persons who have received the highest number of votes, which certificates shall be such as those required to be made by the clerks of the County Commissioners’ Court, and shall receive and be entitled to the same effect in law.”

This statute also provides *how* the school fund of Morgan County shall be divided with Cass County.

At the session of 1839, on the 2d day of March, the Legislature made this preamble and statute:

“*Whereas* it was provided, by the act for the formation of the county of Cass, that, in case the county seat of said county should be located at Beardstown, the corporation or inhabitants should, within one year after the location, pay into the county treasury the sum of ten thousand dollars, to be applied to the erection of public buildings; and whereas, by the act passed 21st of July, 1837, in relation to said county, further time was allowed said corporation to make said payment, the said corporation having failed to pay the

said ten thousand dollars,<sup>4</sup> and not having complied with, or agreed to comply with the provisions of the last recited act, the County Commissioners of said county, under the provisions of the first recited act, located the county seat at Virginia, and contracted for the erection of a court house and jail in said county; and doubts being entertained as to the true construction of the act last recited in relation to the rights of said corporation, and the duties of the County Commissioners, therefore :

“Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the people of the State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly*, That the county seat of Cass County shall be and remain at Virginia, and the courts of said county shall hereafter be held at that place; and the several county officers, who are required to keep their offices at the county seat, are required to remove their respective offices, and all bonds, documents, books and papers pertaining to the same, to Virginia, on or before the first day of May next, and thereafter hold and keep their respective offices at that place; and in case one or more of said officers shall fail, or refuse to comply with the provisions of this act, such officer shall forfeit his office.”

In the years 1838 and 1839, was built, as I believe, the first railroad west of the Alleghany Mountains, running from Meredosia to Springfield. I particularly recollect this great enterprise, for two reasons: first, I took a trip in 1838 from Meredosia to Jacksonville, on the first passenger train that ever ran on that road; and second, because it was built by the State, and was a part of that great internal improvement policy, which bankrupted and disgraced the State, and spread misery among the people. Of all the *hard times* that the people of Cass County, and indeed of the whole State, have ever seen, these were the hardest.

This was caused by the passage of a bill in the Legislature, providing for a general system of internal improvements by the construction of nearly 1,300 miles of railroad, and the improvement of various rivers. These improvements never paid the interest on the money they cost, and in 1840, after a short but eventful life of three years, fell the most stupendous, extravagant, and almost ruinous folly of a grand system of internal improvements that any civilized community, perhaps, ever engaged in, leaving a State debt of \$14,237,348.00, and a population of less than half a million to pay it. For this the people could not blame the Legislature, or the politicians, for the people themselves had demanded and clamored for it, and the Legislature only obeyed their behest in granting it. At the same

time. the State banks suspended, and left us with a depreciated currency. The State Bank of Shawneetown collapsed with a circulation of \$1,700,000, and the State Bank with \$3,000,000. The people were left destitute of an adequate circulating medium, and were not supplied until the ordinary process of their limited commerce brought in gold and silver and bills of solvent banks from the other States, which was very slow. Even immigration was stopped, owing to the general financial embarrassment, high taxes, and disgraceful condition of the State. When money was abundant, credit had been extended to every body. With the vast system of internal improvements, and the large circulation of the banks, this was the condition of our people. They were largely in debt on account of speculations, which proved to be delusions. Contracts matured, but nobody paid. The State had sold and hypothecated her bonds until its credit was exhausted. Then no further effort was made to pay even the interest on the State debt. Then the State bonds went down, down, until they were worth but fourteen cents on the dollar. The people were unable and unwilling to pay higher taxes, and what might almost be called a general bankruptcy ensued. The people owed the merchants; the merchants owed the banks, and for goods purchased abroad: while the banks, having suspended specie payment, owed every one who carried one of their rags in his pocket. None could pay in par funds, for there were none to be had. In this dilemma the Legislature tried to come to the relief of the people, but instead of relieving them from their wretched condition by summary legislation, they, as such bodies usually do, in like circumstances, only made matters worse. Among other statutes passed with this generous object, was one that I have no doubt many of my hearers will recollect, which was known among the people as the *stay law*, or *two-thirds law*. It serves to illustrate both the *hard times* and the inconsiderate and unjust legislation of that day, although done with the intention of affording relief to the debtor class, without apparently thinking that it was at the expense of the creditor. This law provided that property levied upon by execution should be valued as in "ordinary times;" the valuation to be made by three householders summoned by the officer holding the writ, of whom the debtor, creditor, and officer should each choose one, thus placing it in the power of the officer to favor either party at his option; the property was not to be sold unless it brought two-thirds of its valuation; no way was provided by which the creditor, if two-thirds of its valuation was not bid, could hold his lien; thus forcing him to stay collection

or suffer discount of  $33\frac{1}{3}$  per cent. This law was made applicable to all judgments rendered and contracts accruing prior to the 1st of May, 1841, without reference to the legal obligations of the time when contracts were entered into; being in violation of that clause of the constitution of the United States, declaring that "no law shall be passed impairing the obligation of contracts." In the case of *McCracken vs. Howard*, 2d Howard, 608, the Supreme Court of the United States subsequently held this law to be unconstitutional. But, in the mean time, the law had performed its mission, and had rendered the collection of debts almost impossible. The condition of our people was truly distressing. There was an utter dearth and stagnation of business. Abroad, the name of the State was associated with dishonor. There were no immigrants but those who had nothing to lose; while people here, with rare exceptions, were anxious to sell out and flee a country presenting no alternative than exorbitant taxation or disgrace. But property would not sell, nor was there any money to buy with. Indeed, money, as a means of exchange, became almost unknown. Payment was taken *in trade*, *store pay*, etc. Merchants and other dealers issued warrants or due bills, which passed for so much on the dollar *in trade*. Even the County Commissioners' Court of Cass County came to the relief of the people, and had a plate engraved, and issued vast quantities of county warrants, or orders, in the similitude of one dollar bank bills. But these county orders, and others like them, were made invalid by an Act of the Legislature passed in the interest of the banks; so that even this charitable act on the part of our County Commissioners to relieve the local scarcity of money failed in its office.

At this time money was so scarce that it was with great difficulty that farmers, owning good farms, could get the money to pay their postage. It was not necessary then to prepay postage. Domestic letters cost from five to twenty-five cents apiece, according to the distance they had come; and foreign letters were still higher.

What was worse, they must all be paid for in silver, and it often occurred that a letter would lay in the office for weeks before its owner could get the silver to redeem it. If the farmers wished to get goods from the store, they were forced to buy on credit, and pay in grain or other produce, or take butter, eggs, poultry, game, honey, wood, or other articles, to exchange for store goods.

Produce continually fluctuated in price, even in store pay. I have seen corn sell at six cents often, and have heard farmers remark that ten cents in cash was all that corn ought to and probably ever

would bring, and that farmers could get rich at that price. I have sold wheat in Beardstown at 35 cents per bushel, and pork often at 1¼ cents per pound.

One of the first acts of the County Commissioners' Court after the organization of this county, was to arrange for raising a revenue, and they passed an order that the following kinds of property be taxed at the rate of one-half per cent.: Town lots, "indentured or registered negro or mulatto servants" (for this had not ceased to be a slave State at that time), pleasure carriages, stocks in trade, horses, mules, "and all neat cattle over and under three years old," hogs, sheep, wagons and carts.

A public notice was given to "all persons trading in Cass County" to procure a license according to law. Under this notice, at the September Term, 1837, Spence & Foster, T. & J. T. Wilbourn, and Parrot & Alcott, got a license to sell goods, wares, and merchandise in Beardstown; and Beasley & Schafer, a similar license at Monroe; and all such licenses were fixed at five dollars each. Tavern licenses were granted at seven dollars each. At the same term, a license to keep a ferry-boat, for one year, at Beardstown, was granted to Thomas Beard for twenty-two dollars.

The first county order drawn on the treasurer, was for twenty-two dollars and fifty cents, in favor of N. B. Thompson, for the books of the County Commissioners' Court. The second was in favor of N. B. Thompson, for thirty dollars, and was for three county seals, in full, September 6, 1837.

The first term of the Circuit Court of Cass County was held in Beardstown, November 13, 1837, in a one-story frame building standing at the corner of Main and State streets, where Seeger's hall now stands. Present: the Hon. Jesse B. Thomas, jr., judge of the First Judicial Circuit; Lemon Plaster, sheriff; and there being no Circuit Clerk elect, N. B. Thompson was appointed clerk by the judge.

The grand jury at that time consisted of Thomas Wilbourn, foreman, Isaac Spence, Augustus Knapp, James H. Blackman, Alexander Huffman, Robert Gaines, Richard Graves, William Shoopman, Benjamin Stribling, John Daniels, Phineas Underwood, Ephraim Moseley, John Robinson, Elijah Carver, John P. Dick, William McAuley, Marcus Chandler, Henry S. Ingalls, Jeremiah Bowen, Amos Hager, and Jeremiah Northern.

There was no petit jury at this term, but talismen were drawn as they were wanted.

At the May term, 1838, Nathan *alias* Nathaniel Graves was indicted for the murder of an eastern man named Fowle, which murder took place at what was known as Miller McLane's grocery, kept in a log house which stood on the present site of Philadelphia. Fowle and Alec Beard were sitting down on a log outside the grocery, talking in a friendly manner. There was quite a number of persons around. Graves and Richard McDonald came riding up on horseback from different directions about the same time. Graves dismounted, leading his horse toward Fowle, drew a pistol and shot and killed him. He was so near Fowle that the fire burned his clothes. The men standing around were so surprised that they stood still while Graves mounted his horse and started to ride away. At this time McDonald cried out, "Men, why don't you arrest him?" and rode after him. When Graves saw that McDonald was about to catch him, he drew a knife and turned around. McDonald caught him by the throat and choked him till he surrendered, but was himself badly, almost fatally, wounded in the struggle. Graves took a change of venue to Green County, where, breaking jail, he escaped to Kentucky, where he died a natural death.

In 1839, the town of Arenzville was founded by Francis Arenz.

Thus matters stood from 1837 to 1843, during which time there grew a feeling of dissatisfaction among the people of the southern half of the townships seventeen and other parts of Morgan County, with Jacksonville; and there was such effort made to dis sever their relations, that two statutes were passed by the Legislature in the session of 1843, which provided for the accomplishment of three objects: one of which was that a vote be taken whether Morgan County should be divided into two counties, one of which was to remain by the name of Morgan County, and the other by the name of Benton; second, that the tier of half townships, known as seventeen, or the "three-mile strip," on the north side of Morgan County, be added to Cass County; and third, that Cass County should vote for the selection of a permanent county seat. The election on the first proposition was held in Morgan County on the first Monday in August, 1843, and resulted unfavorably to the creation of the county of Benton. The proposition to annex the "three-mile strip," in the four different precincts in that strip of territory, stood as follows:

	For attaching to Cass.	Against attaching.
Arenzville.....	115	5
At the house of Henry Price.....	70	14
Princeton.....	41	35
At the house of William Berry.....	20	24

Majority for attaching the "three-mile strip" to Cass. 168.

On the first Monday in September, 1843, there was an election held in Cass County, in which the "three-mile strip" took part, to determine the permanent location of the county seat, at which election the vote stood as follows :

Precincts.	For Beardstown.	For Virginia.
Virginia.....	2	234
Richmond.....	21	34
Monroe.....	17	7
Beardstown.....	413	13

Majority for Beardstown, 165.

The County Seat was removed to Beardstown, and on the eighth day of February, 1845, the town of Beardstown presented the County Commissioners' Court with lot one, in block thirty-one, in that town, with the Court House and Jail thereon completed. On the sixth of March, 1846, Reddick Horn sold his farm, consisting of 134 acres, in sections twenty-eight and twenty-nine, in township eighteen, range eleven, to the County of Cass, for a "home for the poor of the county," for \$1,500.

By the breaking out of the Mormon war, in 1845, Beardstown again became the rendezvous for the State forces called out to coerce into obedience to our State laws that peculiar people. The troops were under the command of Brigadier-General John J. Hardin, of Jacksonville, Illinois.

The town of Chandlerville was begun in 1848, by Dr. Charles Chandler.

From 1850 to 1852, Cass County was infested by horse thieves, who resided in the county, some half dozen of which were arrested in the latter year, and brought before a magistrate for examination. One of the number was a large, powerful, good-looking young Hungarian, named Eugene Honorius. I was prosecuting the case, and felt satisfied from what I could learn, that he had no heart in that nefarious business, but was induced to stay with the gang out of love for the sister of one of them. Not having sufficient testimony, I pressed him into the service as witness, and by a rigid examination, extorted all the necessary facts from him sufficient to hold the rest of the gang, who were committed to jail.

Before the sitting of the Circuit Court, however, they all broke jail, and fled to Kansas: from whence the girl to whom Honorius was attached, wrote back to a friend the statement: That by an arrangement with the gang, after they had escaped from jail, one Sunday she asked the Hungarian to go to a religious meeting with

her, down on Indian Creek. That they started down on horseback, but that she decoyed him away down on Hog Island, where they met the gang, who shot and killed him in revenge for his having "*peached*" on them; and that if the prosecutors wanted to use him for a witness again they could find him at a certain place on Hog Island, and designated it.

Upon being informed of this, John Craig and I rode down there, and at the place designated in the girl's letter, we found the bones of a man, evidently about the large size of Honorius, but so much torn to pieces and broken by animals, that we could find but three whole bones, the two thighs and the jaw bone, which I have yet in my possession. The perpetrators were never retaken, but the county was not troubled with horse-thieves for a long time afterwards.

By virtue of the State Constitution of 1848, a statute was passed by the legislature of 1849, abolishing the County Commissioners' Court, and the office of Probate Justice of the Peace, and creating instead the County Court, consisting of one judge and two associate justices of the peace.

The first court elected under the new law was: James Shaw, judge; Wm. Taylor and Thomas Plaster, associates.

At the same session an act was passed authorizing counties to adopt township organization, if a majority of the citizens should favor it. An effort was made at that time, and several others by a vote of the people have been made since, but have failed; the people in every instance preferring to remain under the old form of organization.

In the same year, 1849, Beardstown was incorporated as a city, with the same charter as those of Springfield and Quincy. In this year also occurred the third election for location of the County Seat, which was decided in favor of Beardstown. Another election was had in 1857, and another in 1868, for the same purpose, but the County Seat still remained at Beardstown. Another election was held in 1872, under the Constitution of 1870, and a new general statute governing re-location of county seats. The history of this last election and its results is too fresh in the memory of my hearers to need repeating now.

The first census taken after Cass County was formed, was in 1840; it then had a total population of 2,981. In 1850, it had 7,253; in 1860, 11,325; in 1870, 11,580.



The principal officers of Cass County since its formation, are as follows :

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, CASS COUNTY.

- |                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Joshua P. Crow.....                   | } Elected August 7, 1837.            |
| Amos Bonney.....                      |                                      |
| George F. Miller.....                 |                                      |
| Joshua P. Crow.                       |                                      |
| Amos Bonney.                          |                                      |
| Isaac C. Spence.....                  | Elected August 6, 1838.              |
| Amos Bonney.                          |                                      |
| John C. Scott.....                    | Elected August 3, 1840, for 3 years. |
| Marcus Chandler.....                  | “ “ “ 2 “                            |
| John C. Scott.                        |                                      |
| Marcus Chandler.                      |                                      |
| W. J. DeHaven.....                    | Elected August, 1841.                |
| John C. Scott.                        |                                      |
| W. J. DeHaven.                        |                                      |
| Robert Leeper.....                    | Elected August, 1842.                |
| John C. Scott.                        |                                      |
| W. J. DeHaven.                        |                                      |
| Henry McHenry.....                    | Elected December 26, 1842.           |
| W. J. DeHaven.                        |                                      |
| Henry McHenry.                        |                                      |
| Jesse B. Pence.....                   | Elected August 7, 1843.              |
| Henry McHenry.                        |                                      |
| J. B. Pence.                          |                                      |
| George B. Thompson.....               | Elected August, 1844.                |
| J. B. Pence.                          |                                      |
| George B. Thompson.                   |                                      |
| William McHenry.....                  | Elected 1st Monday of August, 1845.  |
| J. B. Thompson.                       |                                      |
| William McHenry.                      |                                      |
| Henry McHenry.....                    | Elected 1st Monday of August, 1846.  |
| William McHenry.                      |                                      |
| Henry McHenry.                        |                                      |
| George H. Nolte.....                  | Elected 1st Monday of August. 1847.  |
| Henry McHenry.                        |                                      |
| George H. Nolte.                      |                                      |
| George W. Weaver.....                 | Elected 1st Monday of August, 1848.  |
| James Shaw, <i>Judge</i> .....        | } Elected November 6, 1849.          |
| William Taylor, <i>Associate</i> ...  |                                      |
| Thomas Plaster, <i>Associate</i> .... |                                      |

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, CASS COUNTY—*Continued.*James Shaw, *Judge.*Thomas Plaster, *Associate.*Jacob Ward, *Associate* ..... Elected May 19, 1851.John A. Arenz, *Judge* ..... }Isaac Epler, *Associate*..... } Elected November, 1853.

Sylvester Paddock ..... }

John A. Arenz, *Judge.*Sylvester Paddock, *Associate.*James M. Short, *Associate* ..... Elected November, 1854.H. C. Havekluft, *Judge* ..... }Wm. McHenry, *Associate*.... } Elected November, 1857.G. W. Shawen, *Associate* .... }F. H. Rearick, *Judge* ..... Elected November, 1861.Wm. McHenry, *Associate:*G. W. Shawen, *Associate.*John A. Arenz, *Judge*..... }Jennings G. Mathis, *Associate* } Elected November, 1865.Samuel Smith, *Associate*..... }Alexander Huffman, *Judge*.. }Andrew Struble, *Associate*... } Elected November, 1869.Jepthah Plaster, *Associate*... }F. H. Rearick, *Judge* ..... Elected February 24, 1872.Andrew Struble, *Associate.*Jepthah Plaster, *Associate.*John W. Savage, *Judge* ..... Elected November, 1873.

William Campbell ..... }

John H. Melone..... } *Commissioners.* Elected Nov., 1873.

Robert Fielden..... }

William Campbell.

John M. Melone.

Luke Dunn ..... Elected November, 1875.

## PROBATE JUSTICES—1837 TO 1849.

John P. Wilbourne..... Elected August 7, 1837.

Joshua P. Crow ..... " " 1839.

Alexander Huffmann..... " " 1842.

H. E. Dummer..... " " 1843.

Hulett Clark ..... " " 1847.

H. E. Dummer..... " May 13, 1849.

## SHERIFFS.

Lemon Plasters .....	Elected August 7, 1837.
John Savage. ....	" " 1841.
Joseph M. McLean .....	" " 1848.
J. B. Fulks.....	" November, 1850.
William Pitner. ....	" " 1852.
James Taylor .....	" " 1854.
James A. Dick. ....	" " 1856.
Francis H. Rearick.....	" " 1858.
James Taylor.....	" " 1860.
Charles E. Yeck. ....	" " 1862.
James A. Dick.....	" " 1864.
Charles E. Yeck.....	" " 1866.
Thomas Chapman .....	" " 1868.
Horace Cowan .....	" " 1870.
George Volkmar .....	" " 1872.
William Epler.....	" " 1874.

I have now extended this address far beyond the limits which custom has assigned to Fourth of July orations, and must soon close. It has been usual on our national birth-day for the orator to take a survey of our past history, and awake the enthusiasm of his hearers by referring to the dark and bloody days of the revolution of 1776. So often have our hearts expanded at the relation of the glorious deeds of our fathers east of the Appalachian chain, that I fear we have allowed ourselves to forget the brilliant exploits of George Rogers Clark and his daring followers, who made the most extraordinary march and important conquest of the war, and who, just ninety-eight years ago to-day, planted the American flag upon the battlements of Kaskaskia, and declared the Illinois country free from Great Britain. We have also allowed ourselves to think too little of that band of patriots, the pioneers of the great Mississippi Valley. It was that we, their posterity, might enjoy the blessings which now surround us, that they left their comfortable homes in the far East and South, and settled the wild prairies and woodlands of Illinois, and caused them to blossom with the rose and flow with milk and honey. And perhaps, too, in our enthusiasm for the heroes of the last century, those for whom and in whose memory Independence Day as a national feast-day was originally inaugurated, we have, through custom, neglected to pay a passing tribute to the heroes of later times. This ought not to be. Our own eyes have witnessed our country in the throes of a revolution, far greater, far grander, more fearful, more terrible, than that of 1776, which we are more particularly called upon to celebrate to-day.

Fifteen years ago, a cloud, deep and dark and impenetrable, settled down upon our beloved country. It was that cloud that had been feared by Webster, and Jackson, and Clay, and a host of their compatriots. No statesman was wise enough to see through the gloom. But the country, in its agony, called upon its citizen-soldiery for protection; and the call was not in vain. From every village and hamlet; yea, from almost every farm-house in Cass County, men sprang to the rescue, as lions do when their young is threatened with danger.

Upon every field between the Ohio and the Gulf, and from where the Blue Ridge steps his feet upon the savannas of the South, away westward to where the Arkansas grasps the prairies of the West in his watery fingers, the heroes of Cass County have borne aloft the Stars and Stripes; and many of them are now at rest, the long southern grass waving upon the level surface above them, and the head-boards which were placed over them by their departing comrades have long since mingled with the dust.

But the time will come—it must come, fellow-citizens—when the history of Cass County will not be compressed into a Fourth of July oration, but will be enlarged into the dignity of a volume, and on its pages will be transcribed the name of every man who sacrificed himself for the good of his country, whether he fell upon the bloody field, or languished in the dreary hospital, or, with his honored scars upon him, has lived to mingle in the avocations of civil life.

I have now told you, in so comparatively short a time, what I can condense of the half century's history of what is now Cass County, four-fifths of which period has passed under my own personal observation. How strange that a man should see the birth and infancy, and live on through the youth to the maturity of a great State! How passing strange that the pioneer of the prairie and the forest should witness all the mysteries of the building—the substructure and the superstructure; should with his own hands help, not only to lay the foundation rocks deep in the soil, but also to bear up the pillars of strength, and assist in rearing upon them the dome and pinnacle of an Empire State! But so it is. In other countries, generations after generations pass away, and witness no perceptible change in their communities; but here, men have passed their early lives in log cabins, who now rest from their labors in rosewood beds enshrined in marble.

And what may we learn by to-day's lesson? It is this, if no other: that whatever condition in life circumstances may place us in, to act

well our part, and then we cannot fail to become important factors in the making-up of the State in which we live. Nations are but a conglomerate of communities, and communities of individuals; and the State looks to every man to do his duty.

And now, finally, as this is a county festival, the people of which are assembled together to celebrate this, the centennial, anniversary of our country's independence, let us ask ourselves this question: Has Cass County, during the half century of its history, done its duty to the State and nation; its duty to God and the great world of humanity outside of it; its duty to itself and to the future generations that are to succeed us?

And, in response, I believe we can lay our hands upon our hearts, and our consciences will tell us that this county, as a community, has done its duty; and results show it. There is probably as much of wealth, intelligence and happiness in it, present and prospective, as in any rural district of its size and population in this great valley. The patriotism of its people and the integrity of its magistracy stand unimpeached. No duty to the nation nor to humanity has been left unperformed. And the generation now passing away can say to the one just stepping upon the platform: Go and do likewise, and your reward shall be equal, and we trust even an hundred-fold more abundant.



## ILLINOIS RIVER MEMORANDA.

The following I have collected from various sources as well as largely from my own observation.

J. HENRY SHAW.

1640—Twenty years after the settlement of Plymouth Colony, the Illinois River was first navigated by white men in pirogues and birch canoes, and Illinois was colonized by Frenchmen, and added to the French Dominion.

1673—Marquette and Joliet with five followers crossed Wisconsin in canoes to the Mississippi River, down that stream and up the

Illinois to Lake Michigan, the point of their departure, the entire route being at that time, and for a hundred years later, navigable for pirogues and canoes. The route being via Green Bay, and the Wisconsin, Mississippi, Illinois, Kankakee and St. Joseph Rivers. There was another navigable connection, during the whole of that period, between the Illinois and Lake Michigan, by means of the DesPlaines and Chicago Rivers. which men now alive have traveled in pirogues, all the way.

1670, Dec.—The Illinois, Kankakee and St. Joseph route was navigated by La Salle and thirty-three followers.

1681, Aug —Illinois, Kankakee and St. Joseph route again navigated by La Salle and party.

1682—La Salle and party navigated the waters from Lake Michigan, across Wisconsin, down the Mississippi, up the Illinois, Kankakee and St. Joseph to the Lake. At that time Beardstown was upon an island. The water surrounding it the year round, permanently.

1687, Sept.—The Illinois, Kankakee and St. Joseph route navigated by seven Frenchmen, mutineers and murderers of La Salle, on their way from Arkansas to Lake Michigan.

1693—Gravier and his followers settled at Kaskaskia, Cahokia and Peoria, and from this time for fifty years the Illinois was continually navigated by canoes, pirogues, and other small boats.

1725—The first of the four greatest floods of the Western rivers.

1750—Vivier says that forty vessels from the Illinois River landed at New Orleans, laden with lumber, brick, beef, tallow, cotton, myrtle, wax, leather, tobacco, lead, iron, copper, wild game, tar, skins, furs, pork, bears' oil, flour and other articles of produce.

From this time on for many years, the principal part of the produce received at New Orleans was shipped from the Illinois River.

1763—LaCledé founded St. Louis, which gave a new impetus to commerce in the Illinois River, it being a nearer market. At this time the Illinois country was ceded by France to Great Britain, which closed the French war.

1772—Second great flood.

1778—Illinois was conquered and taken from Great Britain by Virginia, and was added to that State, and named Illinois County.

1785—A great flood on the Illinois and all Western Rivers, the third highest ever known.

1786—Another great flood. The Ohio rose fifty-nine feet above low water mark. The stage of water in the Illinois River is not recorded that I can find, but known to be very high.

1792—Another great flood. The Ohio rose sixty-three feet above low water mark. Stage of the Illinois not recorded, but very high.

1800—The population of Illinois, on the borders of its rivers, 3,000.

1810—Great flood in all the Western rivers. The Ohio at Pittsburg higher than ever before known. Stage of the Illinois not recorded. Steamer "Orleans," the first on the Western rivers, built.

1811—On the 16th day of December began the most remarkable phenomena that ever occurred in North America: an earthquake, the continued shocks of which lasted for the space of three months, a longer period than ever before known; the effects of which were felt in Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky and Arkansas, the focus of which seemed to be about the mouth of the Ohio. It made great commotion in the rivers the banks of which caved in by whole acres at a time. Large islands disappeared under the waters. The town of New Madrid, Missouri, was destroyed, and the river now runs over part of its former site. The balance of it is lower by twenty-five feet than it was before. The bed of the river just below the mouth of the Ohio raised up like a bow and turned up stream, until its pent-up waters with accumulated force swept over the barrier and poured into the craters and fissures of the ground, when they were again thrown out in huge streams higher than the trees.

The river was navigated at that time by many flat-boats from the Illinois, Upper Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, some of which were swallowed up in the great chasms of the river. There was much loss of life and property. Fortunately at that time the country was sparsely settled; for no building could have withstood its fury.

This calamity checked the commerce of the Illinois River, as indeed also the general prosperity of the Western States. All immigration stopped, and the impression became general in the Eastern and Middle States, that Illinois and Missouri were so subject to earthquakes, as to be forever unsafe as a place of habitation. But in a few years this impression with its attendant fears wore away, and immigration again was resumed.

There have been but two earthquakes in Illinois since that time, one in 1840 and the other in 1862; both slight shocks; the one in 1840, however, doing some little damage to brick buildings and chimneys.

1815—The steamer "Enterprise" built, and run from New Orleans to Louisville, the first steamboat which ever run up stream in the Western rivers. The "Orleans" was able only to run down stream, and

had to be cordelled back. From 1815, steamboats multiplied very fast, and the pirates, who in large numbers had infested the Western rivers, began to disappear, and finally ceased their depredations altogether.

1826, June 2—The Illinois and Mississippi were higher than before known for forty years. The river was up to Main Street, in St. Louis, which caused great destruction of property.

1827—Steamer "Mechanic," John S. Clark, captain, first steamboat ever up the Illinois River.

1828—Another great flood, supposed to be as great as that of 1792.

1829—Beardstown was founded by Thomas Beard.

1830-31—The great snow, six feet deep.

1836—The Illinois and Mississippi again flooded. The water at St. Louis was fifty-four feet above low water mark, being nine feet ten inches higher than in 1810.

1837—Steamer "Wave" burned near Peru. One man lost, a passenger, who was drowned.

1844—This was the greatest flood on record in this or any other country, since the days of Noah. Every river west of the Alleghanies and north of the Gulf of Mexico rose simultaneously, and the channel of the Mississippi was unable to pass out the vast amount of water which came into it. Four hundred human beings, and a great number of horses, cattle and other stock lost their lives.

The water was one foot deep on Main Street, in Beardstown, and this city again became an island, with ten feet depth of water between it and the bluffs. The water rose to a level with the second story windows on Front Street, St. Louis. A great many towns were inundated and houses washed away.

The four greatest floods on the Mississippi River and its tributaries, within the last 150 years, are those of 1725, 1772, 1785 and 1844.

1848—"Planter" exploded and burned at Jones' Ferry on the Illinois River. Five persons were killed and many scalded, some of whom afterward died. The captain escaped harm, but was shortly afterward killed by the explosion of the "Saluda," on the Missouri River.

1849—Another flood this year. The water was on a level with Main Street, in Beardstown, and again it became an island. The people on the lower Mississippi suffered more than in 1844, on account of crevasses, their losses amounting to \$60,000,000. The



water was ten feet deep in some of the streets of New Orleans. At this time, and for several years afterward, steamboating on the Illinois River arrived at the zenith of its glory and prosperity. During these years it boasted the finest vessels which ever floated on its waters; among which were the *Die Vernon*, *Prairie State*, *Cataract*, *Garden City*, *Ocean Wave*, *Belle Gould*, *Polar Star*, and many others; they were truly floating palaces, and the travel was upon the river and canal exclusively, there being no railroad convenient for that class of travelers. On May 17th of this year, occurred the great conflagration in St. Louis, by which several whole blocks of buildings and twenty-three steamboats were burned, among which were the *Prairie State* and *Acadia*, Illinois River packets.

1850—*Financier*, an Illinois River packet, exploded at Alton. Seven lives lost.

1851—August 20, *Dacotah* exploded at Peoria; eleven lives lost. November 27, *Die Vernon* and *Archer* collided three miles above the mouth of the Illinois River; the *Archer* sank immediately; twenty-three persons were drowned, whose names were known, also quite a number on deck, whose names were unknown. In this year there were two floods, the two continuing so long as to cause more damage than any former one. The water was highest on the 11th of June, when it was four feet nine inches lower than the high water mark of 1844.

1852—*Prairie State No. 2* exploded April 25th, at Pekin; twenty lives lost. In April, the Illinois was very high, but no unusual damage was done. The Ohio rose as high as in 1832, doing an immense injury to property.

1856—Illinois River on a level with Main Street, running over at one place, Lafayette Street. March 22, *Tropic* and *Challenge* first boats up. *Ocean Spray* burned. December 14, River closed.

In 1852 and 1856, during the high water, first-class steamboats went entirely around Beardstown without any difficulty.

1857—February 18, *Brazil* first boat up. River moderate. November 19, River closed. December 1, Opened and remained navigable until February 19, when it closed.

1858—March 11, River opened; *Adriatic* first boat up. River did not close again. *Prairie State* collapsed a flue; one man killed. This spring the river very high, being nearly as high as in 1844. The water crossed over Main Street, and all the lower parts covered. The city again an island, and a first-class steamer, loaded with passengers, went around it.

1859—January 21, River closed for the first time. Open to St. Louis on the 28th. February 3, Closed again. February 16, F. X. Aubry first boat up. December 15, Closed.

1860—February 21, Polar Star first boat up. Belle Peoria burned. November 24, River closed. December 7, Sam. Young came up. December 13, River closed. January 1, Deep snow; very cold; railroads generally blocked up; mails stopped, and traveling suspended two weeks.

1861—February 16, Polar Star first boat up. Still very cold; some ice running. February 22, Minnesota Belle came up. December 26, River closed.

1862—March 12, Minnesota Belle first boat up. December 6, River over the Schuyler Bottom lands, and closed. December 12th, River open. La Salle first boat up.

1863—February 3, River closed until February 13th. Lacon first boat down. December 9th, River closed.

1864—February 2, Schuyler first boat up. February 16th, River closed. February 22, River open. From September 1 until October 13, only two feet of water in channel, and navigation suspended. December 9, River closed.

1865—February 20, City of Pekin first boat up. December 12, River closed. December 21, Thermometer  $14^{\circ}$  below 0, Fahrenheit. December 23,  $14^{\circ}$  below.

1866—January 21,  $\frac{3}{4}$ Six o'clock P. M., thermometer  $4^{\circ}$  above, with heavy rain, freezing as it fell, and heavy thunder and lightning, mercury falling rapidly meantime, until nine o'clock P. M. it stood  $8^{\circ}$  below, where it stood until morning. Thunder and lightning lasted one hour, say until seven o'clock P. M. It will require a skillful meteorologist to explain this phenomena. February 15th, thermometer  $26^{\circ}$  below at Beardstown, which was the coldest day ever known in this country. In the northern counties of this State it ranged from 30 to  $40^{\circ}$  below. February 16, thermometer  $16^{\circ}$  below. March 1, Schuyler first boat up; river over bottom lands. Steamer Farragut collided with the Meredosia bridge, whereby the canal boat Ajax, with entire cargo, was lost, and John Quigg drowned. The Ajax was in tow of the Farragut. March 17, Thermometer  $7^{\circ}$  above, but river remained open. Fall quite warm and pleasant until December 11; turned cold, mercury  $8^{\circ}$  above. December 12,  $4^{\circ}$  above, and ice running thin. Illinois run down in the morning, cutting her way through. Same day river got clear of ice and Farragut went down. December 15, Snowed six inches; weather moderate;  $26^{\circ}$  above, but

ice running; 17th, 2° below; 19th, river opened and boats run until Christmas; 25th, ice running; and 26th, river closed, 2° above.

1867—February 9th and 10th, Thermometer 10° below. March 8, River clear of ice; Farragut and Gem started down. Boats run all the week. March 13, Weather turned suddenly cold, 6° below, ice running; and March 14, River closed. March 20, River open; water all over the low lands and within three feet of the surface of Main Street, Beardstown. June 14, Peoria City's last trip down; low water began. July 20, Illinois' last trip down. August 8, City of Pekin's last trip down. Gem collapsed a flue; two men killed. September 18, Lancaster's last trip down. December 1, Lacon's last trip down. December 5, Beardstown's last trip up. River closed.

1868—March 4th, River open; Schuyler first boat up. March 5, City of Pekin up. March 9, Beardstown up. March 10, Illinois up. July 7, Low water began; Schuyler's last trip down. July 13, Illinois' last trip down. November 15, River in good stage; Illinois began regular trips. December 4, Snow six inches; thermometer 33° above. Belle Pike burst a cylinder; one life lost, one wounded. December 9, 4° below; river closed. Illinois last boat up. December 12, Mercury 10° below. The second week in this month was the coldest week ever experienced in this State, the mercury 26° below, Fahrenheit.

1869—January 1, Weather warm. January 6, River opened; Pekin up. April 2, River moderately high, and ferry-boat ran to Frederick. River continued gradually to rise until about August 3, when it reached its highest, being on State Street, in Beardstown, within one foot of the level of Main Street. The rainiest season ever known. River open to navigation until January 7, 1870.

1871—November 11, River closed, and remained closed all winter.

1873—January 28, Coldest night ever known in this State. Early in the morning the thermometer stood 40° below zero, Fahrenheit. Mercury congealed. Snow 16 inches deep.

## THE CELEBRATION.



Beardstown was selected as the site for the celebration of the Centennial in Cass County. The weather was inauspicious on the morning of the Fourth, and doubtless lessened the attendance on the occasion. Towards mid-day, however, the storm passed away, and the Public Park, in which the prominent features of the day were to take place, soon began to fill. Judge Savage, of Virginia, was elected to the Chair. A. M. Brownlee, of Virginia, read the Declaration of Independence; and J. Henry Shaw, of Beardstown, delivered the oration. Schneider's Band filled the orchestra of the stand, and the Beardstown Glee Club occupied a temporary platform on its right. On the stand were Judge Savage, Judge Emmons; Robert Hall, marshal of the day; Judge Arenz, Dr. Ehrhardt; Mr. Oetgen, Sr., of Bluff Springs; Mayor of Beardstown; Mr. Petefish, of Virginia; Rev. R. Knoll, N. Parsons; Chas. Robinson, of Arenzville; Henry McKinnel; J. S. Nicholson, of the *Central Illinoian*; A. M. Brownlee, of the *Gazette*; Dr. Littlefield; J. S. Harper, of the *Ashland Eagle*; George Kuhl; Rev. J. H. Shay, of the *Cass County Messenger*; Cyrus Loomis, H. B. DeSollar, D. M. Irwin, J. Henry Shaw, John Husted, Henry Durham, Hon. William Epler, Chris. Crum, Rev. L. F. Grassow, Milton Logan, John Milt. Epler, J. W. Lawson, and others.

All passed off with great *eclat*, and the only regret was that the long-protracted shower had excluded many distant citizens of the county from participating.



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