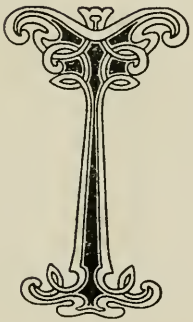
HISTORY OF
HARDIN COUNTY, ILLINOIS



WRITTEN BY
The Historical Committee for the Centennial
1 9 3 9

PREFACE

HARDIN County has contributed largely to Illinois history and we cannot fully comprehend the story of our beloved county unless we know something of the trials and triumphs of the people who have given to Hardin County its prominence in the state and national affairs.

It is the aim of the authors to present the important facts in the history of Hardin County in chronological order and in a brief and tangible shape without making any attempt at rhetorical display.

Grateful acknowledgements are due the Historical committee composed of the following persons: E. N. Hall, R. F. Taylor, A. A. Miles, Robert Gustin and Sidney Haman for their untiring efforts in assembling and preparing the material and facts here presented.

The history of Hardin County has been written as a part of the Centennial celebration which was observed on Thursday, March 2nd, 1939 by the opening of court in regular session with Circuit Judges Roy Pearce, W. Joe Hill and Blaine Huffman sitting in a body with County Judge James G. Gullett. The early history of the county from the date of organization up to July 4, 1876 as had been prepared by L. F. Twitchell, Franklin Dimick, John Vinyard, Elihu Oxford, Edward Shearer and John Mitchell was read and ordered to be made a permanent record of the Circuit Court and of the County Court of Hardin County that it might be preserved for succeeding generations.

The principal address was delivered by David A. Warford, a native of Hardin County but now an attorney at law of Marion, Ill. Many other former residents of the county made short talks.

The program for the evening was prepared and presented by the schools of Hardin county under the direc-

tion of County Superintendent Clyde L. Flynn. Musical numbers were furnished by the Elizabethtown and Rosiclare grade schools and the Rosiclare High School. The spelling contest was conducted with great interest and enthusiasm and the winners were Mrs. Margaret Green Howse, first; Mrs. Ella McDonald, second; and Ruey M. Rash, third. Everyone enjoyed the program and it was decided to hold a more elaborate celebration on July 2nd, 3rd and 4th at Elizabethtown.

A meeting was called on March 28th for the purpose of getting plans under way for the celebration to be held on July 2nd, 3rd and 4th and the following executive committee was selected with a representative from each precinct of the county.

James A. Watson, Chairman; R. F. Taylor, Vice Chairman; Clyde L. Flynn, Secretary; and the following committeemen from each precinct: Otis Lamar, East Rosiclare; W. C. Karber, West Rosiclare; Eschol Jackson, McFarlan; C. C. Kerr, Cave-in-Rock; R. F. Austin, Rock Creek; Chas. N. Hill, Battery Rock; Guy Hale, East Monroe; J. H. Banks, West Monroe.

It was decided that the celebration commence on Sunday, July 2nd with a homecoming in all churches of the county and to be continued on the 3rd and 4th at Elizabethtown, the county seat town.

In view of the great task of planning and completing arrangements for this celebration the following committees were appointed for the task: Finance, W. C. Karber, Otis Lamar, E. F. Wall, Jr.; Schools, J. H. Banks, Loren E. Denton, W. E. Jackson, Ray Oxford, H. W. Bear, Dora Young, Fred Wheeler, Evans Young, Walter W. Hamilton; Antiques, Grace H. Kenney, Essie Robinson, Etta Carter, Gwendolyn Oxford; Agriculture, Chas. N. Hill, Glen C. Smith, Eschol Oxford, M. J. Koch; Mines, A. A. Miles; Churches, R. F. Austin, L. T. Rash, Dewey Green, John Suits; Fraternities and Civic Organizations, Guy Hale, J.

L. Hosick, Joe Frailey, Wiley Cochran, J. W. Hill, Winnie Lovier, Charlotte Gullett, Lena Travis, Gladyne Richards; Forests. W. D. Gissen, Forester; Publicity, C. C. Kerr, Sarah Porter; Registration, Otis Lamar; Concessions, W. E. Jackson, Chas. D. Ledbetter, Oscar Rice; Parades, Woodrow Frailey, Guy Hale. J. H. Banks, Chas. Hill, R. F. Austin; History, E. N. Hall, A. A. Miles, R. F. Taylor, Robert Gustin, Sidney Haman.

The question of finance was the major problem in connection with the celebration and after due consideration the honorable board of County Commissioners, John Gintert, Raymond Rose and Chas. M. Austin agreed to underwrite the proposition for $500 which was guaranteed by some sixty-five good loyal citizens of the county to be repaid by receipts from concessions and other sources of revenue. A. D. Paris was given the responsibility of securing donations from merchants, business and professional men and others of the county of which he did an exceptionally good job.

The work of this history is divided into well defined units of study, and each chapter is written by a different author who has endeavored to bring to the young citizens of Hardin County an appreciation of the dramatic history of their county.

The authors are deeply indebted to many citizens of Hardin County who have freely given advice, suggestions and material assistance in publishing this history of Hardin County.

Clyde L. Flynn.

PREHISTORY OF HARDIN COUNTY

(Judge Hall)

Our committee has given me the privilege of writing the first chapter in the historical sketch of Hardin County; thereupon readers may excuse me for offering a few words by way of introduction.

History has been rather loosely defined as a record of past events; but it is far more than a mere statement of dry facts. History is the measuring of facts; an interpretation of events, trends, and movements which build societies, weld counties into states and nations, and develop mankind into higher and healthier degrees of enlightenment. Wherefore history has been accorded a seat, and a favorite seat, among the learned sciences.

The Muse of History:

The Greeks believed that there were nine goddesses, called Muses who inspired and presided over the fine arts of learning, and that Clio, the Muse of history, was the wisest of the Muses. They further believed that Clio's inspired quill sketched the story of mankind, beginning with Deucalion, who not so many years before their own days, tided himself and family over the flood in his own ark, and so became the father of the Greeks, while the other nations; that is, "the heathens" grew up from stones. However Clio inspired wise men to write their own immortal story down to that of Glorious Athens.

So virtually all the other nations believed that mankind came upon the earth about 4000 years B. C. and likewise believed that they knew their history from the beginning; nevertheless in recent times it has been discovered that the time Clio first inspired men to write is what scholars have chosen to call the "Dawn of History," and that such dates are very far removed from the time of man's advent upon the earth.

As only about one-tenth of a mountainous ice floe may be seen above the surface of ocean waters, so it has been discovered that only about one-tenth of the story of man floats above that wave-line which we call the dawn of history. Hence scholars have recently learned that, when compared with the whole story of mankind, all history is but modern.

What is Prehistory?

Such as they know of the story of the human race before the Dawn of History, has been named "Prehistory." So I have that difficult but pleasing task of writing a sketch of that prehistory, which the hills of Hardin County could tell, if they would divulge secrets guarded within their cryptic caverns ten-thousand years and more.

Before 1900 scholars began to think of the Old World of buried cities and lost empires as a vast field for the study of this new branch of knowledge; but they have been surprised that in the short space of time since the World War facts have come to light proving that our own American Continent from Alaska to Patagonia is immensely rich in ruins and data for prehistory; hence this new science is just now sparkling with interest.

Our own Hardin County centers in this interesting field, and more or less takes its prehistoric coloring from the whole field. Prehistory cannot be written with the same degree of exactness in dates and locations that history copied from original records can be written; but scholars very largely judge the prehistory of a certain place from that of the region in which it lies. They would say that the prehistory of Hardin County is practically the same as that of the Ozark regions, because it nestles in the arms of those mountains. Perhaps we should also think of the two main sources of prehistory as artifacts and traditions. Artifacts include the ruins and relics left by people who lived before the age of history. Traditions

include such stories, songs, folklores, and reminiscences as are orally handed down from one generation to another, or from one race to another.

Hardin County a Choice Site

That our own Hardin County with her beautiful interchange of hills and valleys, hanging cliffs and forest shelters, clear streams and sparkling fountains has furnished homes for three distinct races of mankind is not any more doubted by investigating scholars. These favored attractions gave her a choice place, first place in the hearts of the nations. They turned their backs upon the swamp-cursed lands all about her to love her and wed her. Competent and conclusive evidences for these things are to be had, if the writer's humble efforts can arraign them before the court of prehistory.

We know that when the White Man came, he settled in Hardin County, pitching his log hut near a fine spring.

Hardin County was dotted with many settlements with their churches, schools, and water mills a hundred years before what was called the "Big Flats" had any settlement other than a hunter's shack on the highest and driest lands here and there. "Many of those who did try to settle in the flat lands," pioneers said, "had the 'shakes' till they turned yaller, and had to pull stakes for the hills of Hardin County."

One is naturally led to conclude that these same conditions prevailed when the Red Man came before the White Man, and that they also existed when the Mound Builder came before the Red Man. These mountains promised not only natural shelters, wholesome waters, and good health to each coming race of men, but they offered the more immediately pressing needs of food and sustenance. The heavy forests of Hardin County abounded with nuts, fruits, and honey, the bluff ranges with game, the grassy glades with deer, and the streams with

fish; while acres of wild rye stood in the valleys, bushels of acorns lay under trees, and wild sweet potato roots in the ground, all waiting to be pounded into meal for hot johnnycakes and jumped-up hoecakes for all three races of mankind.

Indians called the oak "The King of Forests," and no doubt Mound Builders held that wonderful tree family in like esteem, for kettles filled with acorns and with acorn meal have been unearthed buried in ancient city-sites and in mounds. Perhaps these were borne by the fruitful oak 3000 or more years ago. In fact the heavy mastfall from Ozark Oaks gave man meal for his bread and also fattened his meat till only a few years ago when a heartless commerce discovered the oak was prized for furniture; then it was swept from the forests. However to use the fine figure of the Hebrew poet, prehistoric Hardin County was "a land flowing with milk and honey."

Why a Hunter's Paradise

There were yet other conditions favoring prehistoric Hardin County for the abode of man, and we are now ready to consider proof that these existed at the time the ancient Mound Builder occupied our county. Pioneers very early observed that deer and other ruminant animals here had migratory habits. These passed the summer months very largely on the plains to the north, but they returned to Hardin County and other Ozark regions for winter quarters. No doubt there were more than one urge for those movements. In winter seasons rains, snows, and icy swamps naturally drove them to lands provided with natural shelters; but without doubt deergrass furnished the main urge, for strange to say, it drove animals from the hills in summer and invited them back in winter.

This unusually rank grass covered the Ozark ridges from knee high to shoulder high to a man. It was somewhat of the nature of sorghum cane; when growing it was

succulent, puckery in taste, and altogether unsavory for pasturage. However in late fall deergrass ripened and sweetened; then bowing down and curing under frosts and snows, it provided that most valuable ruminant family with the best winter forage an All-wise Creator ever gave to tide them over the bleak days of winter. Hence up till later pioneer days large herds of animals left our hills in summer to return here as soon as winter provender was needed. Herds of buffaloes were among those migrating; but they were not forest animals; they were the first to go, when the powder and lead of the White Man came. Judging from the lay of the lands as well as from other inferences, we may safely aver that these movements and advantages existed for Hardin County 2000 years ago at the coming of the Red Man, and 5000 years ago at the coming of the Mound Builder. But the most competent evidence is yet to be considered.

Hardin County's First Race

So far as is known now the Mound Builder was the aboriginal race of Hardin County. The Mound Builder is the least known, yet the best known of any ancient race. Judging from tradition, he is the least known; no ditty, no psalm, no poem, not one word has come down from his lost race or from his vast American Empire. Nevertheless judging from artifacts, the Mound Builder is the best known of the prehistorically ancient. His imperishable earthworks have told a wondrous story. His vast empire was built upon river commerce. City sites, mounds, pounds, playgrounds, etc. lay along or near all the rivers, but wherever a river ceased to be navigable, he ceased to build. In his mounds and buried factories are found the most exquisitely ornamented pottery ever made by man, and the finest cloth known to the weaver's art, as well as the most beautifully bedecked clothes known to the art of needlecraft.

A few mounds were left in Hardin County and adjoining counties, but most of them have been ploughed down, till hundreds, maybe thousands have been lost since the coming of White Men to the Ozark plateaus. Fortunately there is a public sentiment now seeking to protect at least the more conspicuous mounds and other earthworks which have come down from that ancient race. Monks Mound near East St. Louis which covers about 13 acres of land and is still 100 feet high is protected by our own state. So also the Great Serpent Mound of Ohio presenting a gigantic but beautiful serpentine figure almost a mile long is protected by the state of Ohio.

Prehistoric Tolu

However tempting this subject is in its general survey, I must turn to the Mound Builder in or at the doorways of our own county. Prehistoric Tolu, Kentucky which stood facing the hunting grounds of our county was an amazing example of Mound Builder's work here. Tolu was a walled city like ancient Jerusalem and Babylon. White pioneers found the walls of that prehistoric city broken down and covered with debris in places. For 200 years pioneers and their progeny have hauled building stones from that wall. Many other stones have succumbed to disintegration, yet there are foundation stones in that wall which are estimated to weigh a ton and more. Moreover a subway led under that wall and under the ground to a spring of copious waters almost a quarter of a mile away and which was securely hidden from the eyes of strangers by a high creek bank and willow growths. South of that city something like a hundred acres are covered from three to five feet deep with chippings from river shells. I examined these studiously and found a number of shells which are not to be seen in the Ohio river in our day, and if I interpret geology correctly they belonged, or at least some of them, to shell animals that

are extinct in our age. We may safely conclude that Ancient Tolu, whatever name Mound Builders knew it by, was a busy trinket factory, a mint, and banking center; because as their artifacts prove, they used a shell money system. Indians might have borrowed the use of wampum from them.

Prehistoric Corrals

On the north edge of Hardin County, and which at one time was within its limits, are yet to be seen the wreckage of The Pounds walls. These walls extending east and west from the gateway were really one wall almost a quarter of a mile in length. Oldest men whom I questioned in my boyhood days agreed that this wall was six feet thick; but some believed that this wall and the one around Old Stone Fort on the same mountain trend were originally eight feet high, while others believed they were as much as ten or even twelve feet high, especially near the gateways and at the ends.

These were at first believed to be Indian forts; for the wreckage of eight or ten have been discovered in our Ozark ranges. Some Philadelphia scholars came to Shawneetown in pioneer days and proceeded to make a thorough examination of The Pounds. Their verdict was that those structures were pounds built for corralling animals. One mark that they relied upon for their conclusion was the site of an old buffalo wallow, which may yet be seen just below the only spring on The Pounds. An old buffalo trail and a wallow is to be seen at Old Stone Fort, as well as in other places where similar inclosures were built. Evidences are rather conclusive that these pounds were built by Mound Builders to entrap buffalo, deer, and perhaps wild sheep and goats. A number of gaps in bluffs near the center of our county were also closed by high rock walls, no doubt for the same purposes of entrapping animals when they annually came to our

mountains for winter shelter and deergrass provender.

Uncle John Bishop, who taught the writer to hunt in his early teens, pointed out two bluff-gaps in the Rock Creek bluffs, where walls had been thrown down by men in search for building stones for chimneys, flag stones for walkways, etc. He furthermore said that there were a half-dozen such walls or parts of them inclosing gaps in those bluffs when he himself was a boy.

Uncle George Joyner, a pioneer settler of Stone Fort, in answer to boyish questions of the writer told of driving deer into Old Stone Fort, and of the advantages of that inclosure for corralling animals. The South Fork of Saline river hugs closely to that bluff, and as it follows a northeasterly course there for more than a mile it has or did have a high bank on the north shore. Animals coming to that high bank in seeking to elude drivers or pursuers, naturally followed up the stream, but instead of finding a crossing, they encountered a bank growing more precipitous, till at length it turned into a bluff; then farther up they came to the gateway into the inclosure. When they entered that, they were inclosed by a bluff on the south a hundred feet high, and a half-moon shaped wall on the north joining hard at the bluff edge on the west. Certainly no ancient Nimrod could have selected a better site for corralling animals anywhere else in those mountains.

The Fat Man's Grief

Should a frightened animal jump over the bluff, it could be followed by what pioneers called "The Fat Man's Grief." This is a path leading down the bluff so narrow that a fat man who attempts to descend by it may be brought to grief. Strange to say, there is a fat man's grief on the western limb of The Pounds bluff, one in Johnson County and another in Jackson County, all leading down from walled corralls. No doubt those narrow passages were selected or worked out to permit men, but not animals to descend the bluffs.

Uncle William Winters, of Civil War fame, now in his nineties, and Uncle Owen Curry his nephew in his eighties tell of corralling deer in The Pounds. One day they drove two into the gateway, which they left guarded by two trusty dogs; but when the deer discovered that they were hemmed, they jumped over the bluff into the tops of the timber below. One jumped into the fork of a small hickory tree, which splitting down a little way held the deer fast, where it died before they fell the tree. They did not find the other at all. They believe that the boughs of the trees and underbrush bore it uncrippled to the ground, securing its escape.

The stones in The Pounds wall before they were battered and broken were of a flag-stone nature weighing from about 50 to 75 pounds. They are of the same consistency as those under the bluff in a drainway about a quarter of a mile from the wall. In that day long before it was discovered that steam could lift the lid of a teakettle, those thousands of stones were either carried around and up that steep bluff-way, or were drawn upon the bluff by thongs and ropes. Both means might have been used, but either or both required an immense amount of labor.

Mound Builders Not Indians

It was once written in our histories that these prehistoric structures were the workmanship of Indians for forts, but this conjecture is a historical error. Nature built the only fort an Indian ever wished for, because ambush was his fort. Neither was he a builder. He did not build anything or work at any trade. Looking upon all labor as menial, he pursued his chase or war-path, leaving even his improvised tepee to be built by squaws and papooses. Neither did Indians build the massive walls of ancient Tolu, or dig its subway to that city's water supply. They did not build the stone bison traps and pounds found

in Hardin County and in every other county in these Ozark spurs and ranges.

The Mound Builder was altogether a different man from the Indian. He was a larger man than either Indians or Caucasians. He had a long head, which ethnologists call a dolichocephalic head, while the American Indian had a round head with a cephalic index of 80 and more. It is now believed that the two races came from different continents; and that oft-repeated question of "How did the Mound Builders first and the Indians later come to America?" have been recently and rather conclusively answered.

Geodetic surveys prove that the mighty centrifugal forces of the earth are gradually inching the massive land divisions towards the equator, leaving more room towards the poles for seas and bays. The artic coasts are known as sinking coasts. They believe that 8000 years ago Mound Builders could have crossed by way of Greenland and Labrador dry shod to America. They probably belonged to that ancient stalwart Neanderthal Race. Their cranial and skeletal measurements are similar. It might have been that prehistoric race of gigantic men that Moses referred to when he wrote, "In those days there were giants upon the earth."

Animal Ascendencies

Mound Builders came to our country in time to build an empire in the Mississippi Valley before what Zoologists call "The Buffalo Ascendency." This was one of the strangest freaks known of the animal kingdom. However scientists claim that prehistoric Hardin County has known two of these freaks (I may call these for the use of a better term). The saurian ascendency first reigned supremely here. Along the shores of our rivers where our homes and towns now stand there stalked big oil-tank lizzards a hundred feet long and beside which an elephant

would have appeared a mere midget. Furthermore flying from spur to spur of our Ozark hills, maybe all the way from High Knob to the Ben Taylor Tower, were pterodactyls, which had wing-spreads outmeasuring the wings of our largest air-planes and beak-like jaws and teeth more dangerous in appearance than those of alligators. It is said that man had not come to live in our county at that time, and the writer knows one man who is pleased that he missed that ascendency of brontosaurs, dinosaurs, and pterodactyls in prehistoric Hardin County.

However the American Bison ascendency played a rather conspicuous role on the stage with all three races of men in our hills. Early white men standing on a bluff or other prominence have estimated that they have seen herds of buffaloes like a sea on the plains, and having, they believed, a million head. Perhaps in order to break up such overcharged herds, they had a habit of dashing into a panic stricken rush called a buffalo stampede. Pioneers claimed that this was the most fearful sight ever witnessed on the Great Plains of America. Under the thunderous roar of a buffalo stampede, it is said that the earth trembled as if it were in the throes of a mighty quake.

Early historians believed that Indians drove Mound Builders from their vast empire in the Mississippi Valley, but some later scholars believe that it is more probable that they were driven from their homes by the untamable buffalo ascendency. What few they could trap in mountain pounds in Hardin and her sister counties did not effect their mad onrush.

Be this as it may, it is well known that the mad, stampeding buffalo held Indian prowess in check on the Great Plains. The scattered tribes that settled there were driven in by stronger and more war-like tribes, and then they sought bluffs, rugged lands, or forested strips along rivers for protection from the beastly buffalo and his wild

stampedes. Buffaloes were the tyrants of the American plains from the Rocky mountains to the beginning of the Hardwood Belt in the state of Ohio.

That beastly tyranny might have domineered the vast plains of America for two or three thousand years without a waver or shadow of turning, till the coming of the invincible White Man on his horse. The buffalo had no fear of man nor of beast; but when man sat astride of a horse, that seemed to form an impression upon the bully beast of Pegasus, the winged horse, and from it he fled pell-mell. About 1870 a fad for Buffalo rugs and robes leaped into vogue as if it came in overnight both in America and Europe. During the next thirty years it is estimated that two millions of these animals were shot down every year. Sixty million buffaloes fell upon the plains; their hides were taken and their bodies left for beasts and birds. History has no record or anything like that destruction of animal life. Thereafter no more buffaloes were driven into the pounds of Hardin County, or deer either. His stampedes had stood at bay two strong races of men, but the third race brought buffaloes to extinction or near it in the unbelievable space of thirty years.

The Red Man of the Forests

However, previous to this event Indians followed Mound Builders in that prehistoric drama of Hardin County and other Ozark regions. It is believed that perhaps the Red Man held possession of our county more than a thousand years before the coming of Europeans. Recent ethnologists hold that there can be no mistake that the American Indian is a descendant of the ancient Mongolian Race of Central Asia. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. aptly called the Desert of Gobi "The Dead Heart of Asia." From that mad climate 5000 years ago, Mongolians fled to the four winds. The sinking Alaska Peninsula was then a wide isthmus over which unnumbered tribes crossed to America.

It is one of the discoveries of prehistory that the tribes of mankind multiply prolifically in the tonicy climates of northlands, while they suffer loss and decimation in the pestilential south; hence tribes generally and steadily move from north to south. The mighty empires of southern lands like Rome, Babylon, and Jerusalem have fallen before onrushing wild tribes from northlands. At the coming of the White Man to our country this movement was in full force and effect among Indian tribes. The fierce Iroquois were driving Algonquian tribes southward from New York and the Great Lakes. The Algonquians had pushed the Shawnees from Ohio and Indiana down to Shawneetown, and Tolu with Hardin County lying between as their chief hunting grounds. In return the Shawnees were bloodily clashing with tribes south of them, which gave that region the name of Kentucky; that is, "Dark and Bloody Grounds." At this time as Cherokees said, "the Pale Faces" came, but the Shawnees called white men "Big Knives," because they carried swords.

Prehistoric Trails

Now I am edging upon the borders of history, which belong to other writers in our committee. But the line between tradition and history has never been surveyed. Like hope and prayer, it is difficult to tell where one ends and the other begins. I must not close without adding a few words pertaining to the famous Indian trails of Hardin County. These trails virtually all connected Shawneetown, Equality, and Tolu. These were famous Shawnee cities, but they were noted cities under Cherokee rule, before Shawnees drove them southward; and we have already noted evidence which prove that they were also famous under the rule and prowess of Mound Builders. Furthermore there can be little doubt that those trails were well-trodden paths when nuts were first jarred from

topmost twigs of our giant forests by resounding war-whoops of "Big Injuns." North and west Shawnees were held in check by Illini and Tamaroas, which were likewise Algonquin tribes. Illinois was named for the Illini, which meant Big Men.

The Saline and Ohio rivers were the main avenues of trade between these cities. Birch-bark canoes carried salt from the "Salt Spring" of Equality and the "Salt Licks" of Shawneetown to Tolu for that city and a number of villages on the Hardin County side. These canoes returned with supplies of shell beads, trinkets, and wampum from the shell factories of Tolu.

But the main land trail which traversed our county began at Equality proceeding southeastward to the Salt Spring, where it was joined by a branch trail from Shawneetown. From that juncture it proceeded to Potts Hill Spring, where there was a village. Here it branched and passing through the mountain gap near the present site of Thos. Clanton's Store, it entered Shawnee Hollow, and from time immemorial has been known as Shawnee Hollow Trail. This crossed the mountain pass again near Keeling Church and School into Hosick Creek, which led on to the river opposite Tolu. This trail was famous for its game long after the White Man came, and it must have been even more so before a Big Knife had set foot upon it. It would be only a matter of conjecture to try to estimate the number or amount of flint arrow heads, hatchets, skinning knives, pipes, etc. that have been picked up for the past 200 years along the trail threading its way through that deep hollow. However, one could safely place the estimate in tons of Indian artifacts.

Another trail which was really a branch trail slipped up Pounds Hollow to The Pounds, and from there it followed Big Creek to the Illinois Furnace and joined the Shawnee Hollow trail as it was leaving that hollow for

the Keeling Gap and Hosick Creek depression. Another followed the trend of the mountains southwestward from Equality to Herod Gap where it also divided. One trail crossing the valleys of Rose and Hicks creeks avoided the mountains by following Walrabs Mill Creek till it also joined the Big Creek and Shawnee Hollow trails. The other branch followed Big Grandpier creek to a few villages near some large springs along the river. From these it followed the river passing the sites of Rosiclare and Elizabethtown to their village and ferry near the mouth of Hosick Creek.

The Bloody Fords Road Trail

These were well-traveled hunting trails following creeks and valleys always well supplied with game and water. In fact hunting necessarily had to be done more or less by trails, because it was a tiresome task to travel through the high grass most seasons of the year. However the shortest route connecting Equality and Shawneetown with Cave-in-Rock and Tolu, and the one travelled for other intercourse than hunting and fishing trips was that famous trail taken over by White Men and named Fords Road for Esquire James Ford, who rebuilt Fords Ferry and Tolu. This noted trail divided towards the southern terminus into two branches for Fords Ferry and Cave-in-Rock, where there were large Shawnee villages at the coming of Caucasian Big Knives.

If we may rely upon the traditionary history of Shawnees, that 25-miles of path was famous as a war-path. Here Cherokees and other tribes driven southward met their Waterloo defeats under such famous Shawnee Chiefs as Logan the Eloquent and Tecumseh the Wise. Here also that favorite path was marked and colored with blood when Shawnee later clashed with Big Knives. Nevertheless that 25-miles did not cease to flow with human blood even after Indians were gone, if we are to believe the voluminous traditions of pioneers; for in those

days when Tories and bandits fled westward from what they called "The Tyrannical Government of George Washington and Pat Henry," they set up a rebellious rule of clans, hoping to hold Hardin County for their own, and men continued, (to use the speech of that bloody path) to "bite the dust of Fords Road."

Many of those Indian trails became roadways in pioneer days, and some of them are traveled to this day. Illinois Route No. 34 slips through Herod Gap and branches as the Indian's most western trail of our county did to furnish travel both up and down the Ohio river. So also Route No. 1, though much straighter and shorter, follows the Equality Trail pretty well of Indian days and of Fords Road of pioneer days, and there is still a road avoiding the mountains by following Shawnee Hollow to Elizabethtown.

But by far the most famous road and by far the most notorious is the old trail of Fords Road seen in part by State Route No. 1. Whole families weirdly disappeared on that road never to be heard from again. Virtually every mile of it has its murder story as well as its ghost story. The folklores of three races of mankind which occulty hover about that most notorious path in the Mississippi Valley are hoary and bloody, fantastic and marvelous. In Indian days as well as in pioneer days it was also spoken of as "the Road of the Werwolf." If Indian traditions are to be given credence, hundreds of arrows sped from the finest archers at that meddlesome spook, but no hair was ever skelped from it by Indian archery. Likewise fearless pioneer marksmen whose aim was true with the old flintlocks spent many a ball and the powder which followed it with a whirling spurt of fire at that strange loafer of Fords Road, but no marksman ever drew blood from that magic target. Honest pioneers from that race of men honored for truth and veracity claim that at least three men at different times had tried to kick the Werwolf off Fords Road, but that their home-made boots

slipped through that vicious-looking animal, as if they had kicked through a shadow. Many a brave Red Man and sturdy White Man have taken to forest paths travelling some distances around rather than tread the dust of that Werwolf Road after sunset.

Modern readers will ask me, "Now, Mr. Writer, why are you writing this ghostly stuff? Do you not know that we don't believe a word of this large volume of folklore told by Indians and pioneers also?"

That's perfectly all right; readers may tell me that and get by with it easily; but if those brave old Indians or sturdy White Men were living, I would not advise any one to tell them that they were lying and try to get by with it.

The Noble Shawnees

Shawnee Indians who called the forest-covered hills and sheltered valleys of Hardin County, "Our Happiest Hunting Grounds," were intelligent and upright people. They would fight before they would break a trust or betray a friend, and their word sealed by a smoke from the peace-pipe was as good as any man's bond. It has been said that Chief Tecumseh was the wisest unlettered man that ever lived. He preached a crusade uniting Red Men to resist encroachment of Big Knives. His war trumpet was a long-necked gourd said to be five feet long. When that mighty trumpet sounded, Indian war-whoops also sounded in the din of battle. In the battle of the Thames near Lake Erie, however, Tecumseh fell; his trumpet ceased, and Indians fled to the four winds. When that wise Chief who ruled Hardin County went down to rise no more, Indian rule and gallantry also went down to rise no more. A third race had come to possess these hills.

It is said that Frederick the Great, who was the most learned man of his times, was a great admirer of history; but when he found time to read, he would say

to his servant, "Jimmy, bring me my liar." The servant understood that the king wished his history brought to him.

All History Biased

So wise men in general have held history to be far from an unbiased report of the acts of men and nations; but it is the humble opinion of the writer of this brief sketch that the biggest untruth in all history is that biased story of the American Indian found in United States histories. There were hundreds of treaties entered into between Europeans and Indians, but these were all broken by White Men, except one. That one made under the historic elm with William Penn was the only one never sworn to and the only one never broken. Bancroft, the most trustworthy of American historians, says, "There was never a drop of Quaker blood shed by an Indian, or of Indian blood shed by a Quaker." They told William Penn on that famous day that they would live in peace with him and his tribe so long as the sun and moon continued to shine, and they kept their word.

The facts are that domineering Big Knives broke all teatries, and tried to enslave Red Men by whole tribes. Failing in this, they proceeded to drive them from their homes and lands, shooting them down as they would shoot beasts of jungles, and because Indians would not succumb to such inhuman treatment and raised their hands in defense of their homes and families, American history wrote them down as savages unworthy the consideration of civilized people.

But as I was leading up to say, the Shawnees who ruled our own county were a learned people; that is, if one would be allowed to use the term "learned" for the quaint knowledge and wisdom they cultivated and revered. They had and wished to have only one book, but that was the "Book of Nature given by the Great Spirit." The habits and habitudes of animals, trees with their

fruits, barks, and juices, and herbs with their healing properties were common knowledge to them. They knew the stars of the firmament and grouped them into constellations which agree so well with Mongolian astrology that there can be no mistake that they came from a common source. They furthermore were a chaste people, true to family vows and ties. Divorce and illegitimacy were virtually unknown among them.

When the deadly milk-sick plague swooped down upon pioneer Hardin County with an awful death scourge for man and beast, settlers began to move to settlements north and west towards Vandalia, because they superstitiously reasoned among themselves that these hills infested by wicked clans were at length justly cursed by heaven's decree. However, in the time of that dire calamity, it was a Shawnee medicine woman, who led Doctor Anna Bigsby into the forests to teach her "White Sister" the cause of the milk sick plague. She showed her the deadly snake-root herb, saying that it must be first destroyed before White people and their cattle could live in these mountains.

The Shawnee's Signal System

When I assert that Shawnees used a system of wireless telegraphy in the hills of our county, it may surprise some readers who have been schooled to that adverse view of Indians advanced by U. S. history. Pioneer Big Knives did not understand that ingenius invention, and were many times made to wonder how Red Men knew that their armies were approaching even beyond rivers and mountains. Though many times generals had taken the utmost precautions to keep strategic plans and movements from being revealed, yet in some mysterious way Indians foreknew and prepared bloody ambush attacks, or fled to safety before an army approached.

Near Indian village sites along the northern ranges

of our county were for a long time seen what early settlers called "coalings." This term also later was applied to the iron mining regions of our county, because in them were many sites where charcoal had been burnt for use in blast furnaces for smelting iron. Charred wood is a lasting substance, and remained many years to mark places where Shawnees raised their signal fires.

An Indian lived so near the breast of nature that he knew winds and weather intimately. He knew the day when smoke would rise steadily towards the zenith cup of the heavens. Weather bureaus have since discovered that the Creator wisely planned to water the lands by sending vast whirlwinds from west to east collecting and distributing vapors. From two to five of these pass over us a week usually with higher wind and falling weather. But there are a few hours, often a whole day, as the centers of these cyclonic movements are passing, during which the air becomes very quiet, often sultry and apparently breathless, but during these hours the air is steadily rising and carrying smoke upward in straight columns.

The mother buzzard knows these hours and days quite well, and she leaves her bluff retreats of our county with her bevies, and without efforts of wings or pinions they circle upward, being lifted by rising currents aloft to high altitudes, where in their circles they naturally turn anti-clockwise, as all whirlwinds turn over our county, and as some timber also twists in growing.

Likewise the Shawnee's instinctive knowledge of nature led him to prepare for the centers of rising atmospheric drifts in order to send up his smoke signals from his telegraphic smoke-pit. A blue smoke spoke a certain message, a white smoke another, and a black smoke still another. At times a blue cone rose from one point, while from an adjacent hill a white cone rose, or maybe two would rise of the same color, and on the night following

perhaps their fires would paint the heavens with a radiant glow. All these signals were read and interpreted by allied chiefs far away.

A number of these coalings were left on the Oldham Hills of our county lying near the Saline and Ohio rivers. Night fires and day columns of smoke on that high spur could be seen far up the Ohio and Wabash to the north, up the Saline to the west, and up Tread Water eastward in Kentucky. White men passed up their notices of these smoke messages, as a casual fire or burning tepee, and thought no more about it, but it came to light many years later that on the northern hills of Hardin County in prehistoric days there was a wireless system of telegraphy, and that this system explained how Red Men came to know many things, which many white people believe they received through revelations from their prophets and fortune tellers. Nevertheless this as well as other knowledge and inventions reveal to us that Hardin County was inhabited in prehistoric days by an intelligent race, a brave and noble race of men.

This bush-whacking warfare continued in Hardin County till 1813 bloodily fought between three tribes, in their free-for-all war. These were the Cherokees, the Shawnees, and the Big Knives (White settlers). However, it is believed that Cherokees moved on southward taking less part north of the Ohio river after 1800. It is known that Tecumseh was in Hardin County Territory and in Tolu, Kentucky as late as 1808, organizing his forces against Big Knives. In 1811 William Henry Harrison whipped the Shawnees out of Tippecanoe, their only remaining town in Indiana, and sent them scouting into the Illinois Territory.

Hardin County Abandoned

In the War of 1812 Tecumseh advised the Indians to join the British against the Big Knives. The British com-

missioned him as brigadier general, but he was killed in the battle of the Thames near Detroit in 1813. After this his brother, Tenskwatawa the Prophet, took command as ruling chief of Shawnees, and virtually gave up the fight. Under his rule Shawneetown and Tolu were abondoned, and Hardin County with them, as the Shawnees moved westward along the Ozark Ranges. So at the time Illinois became a state in 1818 there were very few Indians in our county, and they desired peace with the Big Knives.

In 1829 the Indian Territory was set aside by the U. S. Congress as a permanent reservation for Indians. In the next few years many tribes, which had been reduced to dwindling number in their wars with Big Knives, were moved to reservations in that Territory. Among them were the Shawnees, but a few scattering families hiding in the Ozarks here and there remained here many years. They were called "Stowaways," because they had dodged officers in their work of moving Indians to western reservations, but they gave pioneer settlers no more trouble in the way of warfare.

From this time on Hardin County's main trouble was in establishing law and order among a lawless class of river pirates, rogues, and highwaymen, who gave her trouble for a number of years.

Gala Days of Irish Miners

The iron industry did as much later on to invite peopue to Hardin County, as her beautiful hills, healthful waters, and abundant food supplies had been doing from time immemorial; but here history begins, and I must close for other writers. However, many fine stories have come down to us from those gala days through the channels of tradition; hence I may claim an interest in them as a writer of prehistory. Yet I shall venture only a closing one. Uncle Riley Oxford who got his start in boyhood days by hauling "pigs" (pig iron) from Martha Fur-

nace to the Elizabethtown landing, gave the writer a good story, which reveals iron-mining times quite well.

Hardin County being the first and only mining section then in the West, very few here knew anything about iron mining. Uncle Riley said that many Irish workers who understood mining came to our county from the East, and that they were a gay set of fellows. One Saturday pay-day a nimble young fellow offered to wager a gallon of good whiskey that there was not a man on the job who could hit him with a club. Colonel Ferrell who was then in his prime of life and who had been somewhat of a fighter himself accepted the proffered wager.

So the bully Irishman walked out with his shillalah in hand. An Irish shillalah is a stout cudgel about the size of a large hoe handle, but not so long. The hilarious crowd found one for Col. Ferrell, and gathered around the contestants to see the shillalah bout. The Colonel struck at and punched at the young Irishman rather lightly at first, but each of his efforts was skillfully warded off with the shillalah of the practiced Irishman.

At length the contest became more spirited and he caught a rather quick lick of Col. Ferrell's which jarred his hand painfully and angered the Colonel; whereupon he came back with a quick stroke intended to knock the bully down. Nevertheless the practiced shillalah again caught his club, jerking it from his hand and whirling it over the heads of by-standers into the brush.

Then rubbing his hand, Colonel Ferrell exclaimed, "D——n him, fellows, draw out his gallon; I'll pay for it; pay for two before I'd fight him again!"

PIONEER HARDIN COUNTY

By Robert A. Gustin

French Occupancy

In the year of 1692 the English settlers of Maryland were treated to a bit of excitement. Two hundred odd Shawnee Indians had appeared on the banks of the Susquehanna. There near the mouth of the river they squatted, as if they intended to make the spot their permanent residence. Suspicious of the Indians' intentions the colonists sent officers to investigate—and found the leader was a Frenchman, Martin Chartier. Chartier was questioned and his story recorded. According to it, he must have been the first man ever to travel the length of the Ohio—and strangely enough to the English officials, his journey had been eastward. Upstream, he had travelled through over a thousand miles of unknown wilderness before he and his band reached to most western outposts of the English.

Perhaps a part of the Ohio, roughly between Pittsburgh and the falls at Louisville, had been seen a few years previously by LaSalle. But Chartier was undoubtedly the first of any white man on the lower five hundred miles of the river. In 1679 he had been one of the men with LaSalle, when that explorer was on the Illinois river preparing for his first exploration of the Mississippi. LaSalle's harsh treatment had caused him to desert in January 1680, after which he had wandered to the Ohio and Wabash Valleys, where he had made friends with the Shawnees. There he had lived for several years before he with his band migrated eastward, probably to escape punishment by the French government for his desertion.

Martin Chartier: we have no definite proof, still we can feel pretty certain that he was the first White to touch what is now Hardin County, to trap its streams, explore

its forests and hills, live within its bounds. We can picture him, dressed like his Indian companions in fringed buckskin shirt and loincloth, leather leggings and moccasins, carrying Indian weapons, the tomahawk and knife, in his belt, a bow and arrows (little chance of him possessing ammunition for a musket), beaching a canoe with a band of Shawnees before the great-mouthed cave which overlooked the Ohio, and there camping for the night, listening to his braves as they squatted before the campfire, telling legends of the place.

Then, before the party left the following morning on its way upstream to the *creek of the licks* to make a supply of salt for which the band had hungered for months, possibly Chartier scrawled his name and date among the Indian pictographs upon the cave walls. The first of all the white man names inscribed there—and like so many others, now erased by time along with the crude scrawls of French coureurs and voyageurs who for eighty years after his visit camped there on voyages between Detroit and New Orleans along the Maumee-Wabash-Ohio-Mississippi route with cargoes of furs or brandy and trade goods. Names which in turn were erased or covered by the English-speaking banditti and traders and trappers of the late seventeen hundreds, the settlers and boatmen of the eighteen hundreds, the tourists of today.

There is no question but what the big cave facing the Ohio river was widely known in early days. It is indicated on a number of old French maps made before 1750. In fact, "le caverne dans le roc," the cave-in-the-rock, together with "la riviere au sel," the river to the salt, were the only two landmarks shown for Southeastern Illinois.

Even later, up until almost 1800, references to the cave on maps and in a few scattered reports are about all the record there is concerning Hardin County territory. During that early period, the region, like the rest of the

Western Ohio Valley, was largely unsettled, and unexplored except for a few hunters, it was visited only when river travellers camped upon its banks for the night.

English Occupancy

In 1766, just after the English had taken control of Illinois from the French, the commercial firm of Baynton, Wharton and Morgan, in high hopes of creating a boom for the "Far Western Country", sent several convoys of goods down the Ohio and up the Mississippi to the Kaskaskia and Cahokia settlements. The booms never materialized, and the firm went into the hands of receivers; but the journals of the commanders of the boat convoys were preserved; and from them we get our first English description of the Hardin County region:

"Tuesday, March 25th. At eight o'clock this morning brought too at an island (it rained and blow'd very hard) opposite to which on the west side the river is a large rock with a cave in it. At nine sett off again, at one o'clock in the afternoon, it rained and blow'd so very hard was obliged to bring too, the gale continuing, encamp'd for the night. Came about forty miles since six o'clock this morning. Passed several fine islands this day."

With rain and gale, Jennings, the writer, must have been too busy to spend much time describing the country. However, later in the year, Captain Gordon heading another convoy writes:

"August 2nd. We left the Wabash in the evening. Next morning we halted near the Saline or Salt Run—of which any quantity of good salt may be made. From this place the Deputies from the northern Nations were sent across the country by Mr. Croghan to the Illinois, to acquaint the Commandant and Indian people there of our arrival in these parts . . . .

August 6th . . . . In the morning we halted at Fort Massac, formerly a French Post, 120 miles below the mouth of the Wabash, & 11 below that of the Cherokee river (i. e. the Tennessee) The country 25 miles from the Wabash begins again to be mountainous, being the N. W. end of the Apalachian mountains (sic) which entirely terminate a small distance from the river. Northerly—they are between 50 & 60 miles across and are scarpt rocky precipices. Below them no more highlands are to be seen to w.rd as far as those that border the Mexican Provinces. The reason of the French's sending a garrison to this place was to be a check on the Cherokee parties that came down the river of that name which is navigable for canoes from their upper towns and who harassed extremely the French traders intending to go among the Wabash and Shawnee Nations . . . .

"Hunters from this post may be sent amongst the buffalo, any quantity of whose beef they can procure in proper season & salt may be got from the above mentioned Saline at an easy rate to cure it. . . . "

Hardin County Battle Ground

Gordon's journal was written in 1766. But the country near Hardin County remained unchanged for almost forty more years. Buffalo was hunted here after 1800, when it was still unsettled by whites because it was dangerous territory—for Indians as well as whites. Here the Cherokees from south, the Iroquois from the east fought the Shawnee and the other Illinois tribes from the north and west in a continuous free-for-all scalp lifting. For years Southern Illinois was deserted except for roving bands of Indian hunters, or occasionally a small group of white hunters from Eastern Kentucky or Tennessee—such a group as George Rogers Clark found at the mouth of the Tennessee River in 1779 at the time he brought his men down the Ohio on his way to a victorious campaign against the British at Kaskaskia.

Even in 1801 a river traveler wrote that the whole stretch of river between Louisville and Natchez was nothing but howling wilderness except for small settlements at Redbank and Yellowbank, a government post at Fort Massac, and a cabin below the big cave.

The Coming of the Settlers.

Two years, however, was the beginning of a new era. In 1803-1804 Southern Illinois was ceded to the United States by the Indians; and in that year the Louisiana Territory was purchased. This purchase gave the Union control of the whole of the Mississippi river. Until that time, the lower part, including the port at New Orleans, had been in the hands of either the Spanish or the French. These nations had kept shipments of American produce from being floated down to New Orleans and transshipped by ocean vessels to Europe or the Eastern States. This bottling up had delayed the settling of the Mississippi and Ohio Valleys, as there was no other way for western settlers of that time to get their farm products to a market than by floating it down-river.

But with the Mississippi opened, a tide of emigrants flowed westward from the overcrowded and discontented East: frontiersmen from Kentucky and Tennessee, whose fathers had pushed through the Cumberland Gap a generation before, and who, feeling crowded whenever a neighbor settled within rifle-shot, were pushing still farther into the west; backwoodsmen and Scotch-Irish settlers from the Carolinas and Virginias, leaving worn-out hill farms and the country of slave-worked plantations with which they could not compete; enterprising Yankee tradesmen and Germans fom low wage-paying factories of Pennsylvania or New York and New England; a scattering of emigrants from persecution in Ireland or hard times in England.

And part of this tide of migration to what later became the states of Indiana and Illinois stopped in the

region of Hardin County. Some of these folk, from the eastern end of the Ohio, came down river in flatboats, keel boats, and arks, bringing their few household furnishings, their stock and farm tools by water. But mostly Hardin County settlers came overland across the wilderness trails of Tennessee and Kentucky.

Their possessions were few—even the best of ox-carts or conestaga wagons had tough sledding over the rough hill-and-valley trails. But the men were backwoodsmen by birth, their wives and daughters of backwoodsmen. Indian fighting and hunting had been the men's professions for generations. And in those trades they have never been excelled before or since. With them, as with the Indians before them, farming was a side line to supplement a food supply of game. For them in the rough hard life they had to lead any belongings except the most essential were a burden. When they traveled, they traveled light so that they could travel far.

With the lone hunter such possessions might consist solely of weapons: the flintlock long-rifle with its powder and shot, together with a knife and hand-axe, while inside belted hunting shirt lay an emergency supply of venison jerky, johnny-cake, and bag of parched corn for food.

Such lone hunters rarely built more than brush lean-to shelters. They did not settle permanently. It was the more serious, true backwoodsmen rather than the hunter who cleared and settled Hardin County.

Their possessions, brought by slow ox-cart up through Tennessee and Kentucky, consisted of a few cooking vessels, a spinning wheel and loom, and perhaps quilted or pelt coverlets for the cabin; draw-knife, saw and axe for tools; the iron parts of shovel, hoe, scythe and plow for farming; and of course the precious sacks of seed for planting. Possibly some wheat and oats; but never without seed corn—and with it, to be planted Indian fashion in the same patch, seeds for squash, pumpkin and climb-

ing beans. Nor were seeds for fruit trees forgotten, particularly peaches; for the frontiersman had long known that the peach was a versatile article. It was luscious fresh from the tree; dried, it was a delicacy throughout the long winter; and better still, or so it was thought, it could be made into potent peach brandy — a product which with whiskey was commonly used in that day both as a substitute for water and for cash in trading with the small boat stores which floated from isolated settlement to settlement down the river.

Today the hill land of Hardin and other Ozark counties is classed far below prairie land in fertility. But during this early period Hardin had advantages with which the prairies could not compete. Indians still held title to most of the flat upstate and few trails led through it; and too, most of it was so far from water highways that crops raised there cost more to get to market than they were worth.

But farms in the Hardin County region had access to the busiest and best river highway of them all: the Ohio-Mississippi route. There a number of backwoodsmen came to settle for a good purpose. They calculated to find the hill country on which they built their cabins free from the agues and fevers which were so common among folks living elsewhere in swampy flat lands. Besides, most of these settlers had come from hill country; they felt at home among the Illinois Ozarks. The hollows were filled with game; the buffalo, bear, and deer for food and skins; the beaver, mink, otter, and others still common today for pelts; the wild turkey, the migrating ducks and geese, and the small game for table delicacies.

There is no doubt but what the backwoodsmen found a hunter's paradise in the forest with which the whole Hardin County region was then covered. The forest itself was a source of income. The navigable Ohio was near by. The huge trees of oak, walnut, poplar and

maple could be logged to the river, rafted downstream to Mississippi towns and sold. But most of this splendid timber never saw market. Its real use to the settler was for building the cabin—and of course for fuel. Otherwise trees were a nuisance—to be girded by the settler as soon as possible, and when dead the following year, felled and burned at a logrolling frolic.

Thereafter corn and potato patches were planted in the shallow-plowed stump-field which circled the cabin, after which it was up to the ambitions of the individual as to how much extra land he would clear, how big a crop he could raise with his yoke of oxen, how many head of stock he could acquire and care for.

Extent of Early Settlements

Usually, up until 1814, there was little clearing of land by settlers; for not until 1812-14 could land be bought in Southern Illinois, the settlers being squatters allowed by the government to remain upon the land, but with no rights of possession.

However, in 1814 a government land office was established in Shawneetown. There land was sold in quarter sections: first at public auction; or when no bidders were found, later on at a minimum price of $2.00 per acre, payable in installments over a three-year period. An 1818 land-plat map shows almost all Hardin County land bordering the Ohio had been taken up. In addition there was a large block taken out along Big Creek and other blocks near the mouth of Saline Creek, in the Harris Creek bottoms, and at Karber's Ridge.

In that year it is estimated that four hundred to five hundred people must have lived within the present boundaries of Hardin County—a well settled region for that time. Yet even ten years earlier the county had been settled along the river banks. This is described in the journal of Fortesque Cuming, who made a flatboat trip down the Ohio in 1808. Here, several paragraphs are de-

voted to the region between Diamond Island, below Evansville, and Fort Massac, all of which is connected with Hardin County history:

Shawneetown and Early Records

No history of Hardin County would be complete without mention of Shawneetown. Up until 1816 all of Hardin was included in the county of Gallatin, of which Shawneetown was the county seat. After 1816 and until 1839 southwestern Hardin was included in Pope County. But the northeastern part remained in Gallatin until 1847.

Through all these years, particularly the early ones, Shawneetown was the metropolis of Southern Illinois. It was never a large place; floods and a malarial location kept its size down to less than one hundred buildings; but it was a thriving place with its brick bank, its newspaper, its brick hotel where Lafayette visited in 1825, its busy blacksmith shops, general stores, its taverns crowded with emigrants—and it would be hard to overestimate its importance. Chicago could be walled off and cause less inconvenience to the population of near-by states today than would have been caused in early times if there had been no Shawneetown.

It was the port of entry to the Illinois country. From it ran the best and most traveled trail to Kaskaskia and the other Mississippi settlements. The salt works which supplied the Middle West with most of this article, producing over 300,000 bushels a year, were located on Saline Creek only ten miles away. This salt was routed through Shawneetown to ports up and down the rivers of Ohio and Mississippi.

In other ways, too, the town was a part of first importance. It was near the junction of the Wabash, which was an important water highway in early pioneer days. Farm produce from the Wabash Valley settlements was brought to Shawneetown and sold to speculators who shipped it on to New Orleans.

Manufactured goods, brought up the Mississippi and Ohio by keel boats or down the Ohio from Pittsburgh and Cincinnati were unloaded and sold here. It was here that the first postoffice was located; here the early settlers in Hardin County came to do their trading, exchanging pelts and pork, both on the hoof and as bacon, and their crops of potatoes and corn for iron tools and pans, ammunition and glassware, muslins from England, tea from India, and other items common today, but which to the early inhabitants were prized because they were touches of civilization.

Here, in Shawneetown, on May 24th, 1813 two flatboats were warped together and moored at the low, unleveed landing; and with the long row of river-front cabins as a background, the first Court of Common Pleas of the new County of Gallatin was opened with L. White, J. C. Slocum, and Gabriel Greathouse, Gentlemen, presiding.

On that day this flatboat court heard the petition of one Lewis Barker for the inhabitants of Rock-and-Cave (later Cave-in-Rock) Township to establish a road from Barker's ferry to the U. S. Salines at Francis Jourdans. The petition was granted and viewers were appointed to survey the best route, these being: Lewis Barker, Phillip Coon, Issac Casey, Chisem Estes, Francis and Joseph Jourdan.

On the following day, the 25th, the county was laid off in townships (i. e., precincts), with the bounds of the militia companies designated as boundaries of the townships. Thereafter the captains of the companies of militia were appointed: Captain Steel of Grandpier; Captain McFarland of Big Creek; Captain Barker of Rock-and-Cave—the foregoing being officers for townships within the modern boundaries of Hardin County. Constables for these townships were: Leonard Harrison of Big Creek; John Jackson of Grandpier; and Asa Ledbetter of Rock-and-Cave.

During this term, the court ordered a jail to be built in the public square, to consist of two stories, and of two thicknesses of white oak, hewed to 10 inches square. Among other items: a tax of $2 per year was levied on a ferry operating next above the mouth of Saline Creek. Jeptha Hardin was admitted to practice law. And the legal prices which taverns could charge were established; breakfast, dinner, supper, not over 25c; lodging 12½c; horse to hay or fodder, 25c; oats or corn per gallon, 25c, ½ pint whiskey 12½c; peach brandy or cherry bounce 25c.

In September court was held again. During this term James McFarland for the inhabitants of Big Creek prayed for the establishment of a road to U. S. Saline Salt Works; and Wm. Frizzell, Elias Jourdan, Peter Etter and Lewis Watkins were appointed to view out the best routes.

A report was made on the Barker Ferry road: "Agreeable to an order of the Court of Common Pleas of Gallatin County, May Term 1813, to have a road viewed from Barker Ferry to the U. S. Saline, we, the viewers . . . did begin at the said ferry and review thence to Nathaniel Armstrong's; thence across Harris Creek to a large spring; thence to cross Eagle Creek just above the forks; and thence to the U. S. Saline."

Upon the submission of this report, overseers were appointed with power to call out all the hands on each side of the route within six miles of it, to cut it out and keep it in repair; Henry Ledbetter to oversee the stretch from the Ohio to Harris Creek and John Stovall from Harris Creek to the Saline.

On September 29th, James McFarland was licensed to keep a ferry where he resided on land belonging to the U. S. government until the sale of these lands.

In the January, 1814, term of court, a report on the McFarland road was made, the route decided upon being

from McFarland's ferry to Absolom Estes; thence to Nathan Clamhits; thence to Betty Pankey's on Big Creek, thence to Elias Jourdan's thence to Lewis Watkins, taking the old road to Willis Hargrave's salt works.

On the 2nd of May, 1815, the court found it necessary "to exercise its authority and fine Jeptha Hardin and Thos. C. Browne for contempt offered this court."

In the April term, 1819, the Court had the county laid off in five township or election districts, with judges of election appointed: John Black, Asa Ledbetter and Alexander McElroy for Rock-and-Cave; John Groves, Joseph Riley and Mr. Stout for Cane Creek; Hankerson Rude, Hugh Robinson and Chishem Estes for Monroe.

Later in 1819 a report was made by viewers for a road from Flynn's Ferry to Saline Tavern. These viewers were: Isaac Baldwin, John Black, Neil Thompson, and Alex McElroy. At this time the court ordered the road established as a public highway with Hugh McConnell appointed supervisor of stretch from the ferry to Powell's cabins, Isaac Potts supervisor from there to include the crossing of Beaver Creek, John Black thence to Eagle Creek, and Robert Watson on to the intersection with road from Shawneetown to Saline Tavern.

One interesting item, this court set an annual tax of $150 each on all billiard tables.

Frontiersmen and Boatmen

From the foregoing, it can be seen that most of the official and commercial affairs of the Hardin County region was transacted in Shawneetown. It was a center of population and visitors there judged the rest of backwoods Illinois by its actions. Sometimes unjustly, sometimes with amusing insight. Reading these old records today we get a picture of old "Shawanoe" as an uncurried, ripsnorting border town where river rowdies and cutthroats the length of the Ohio congregated and devoted

their energies to raising the roofs of the six or more village taverns.

As one pioneer preacher related it was the most unpromising point for ministerial labors in the Union—which at that time took in a lot of pretty rough territory.

Another visitor wrote:

"Among two or three hundred inhabitants not a single soul made any pretentions to religion. Their shocking profaneness was enough to make one afraid to walk the street and those who on the Sabbath were not fighting and drinking at the taverns and grog shops, were either hunting in the woods or trading behind their counters . . . a laborer might almost as soon expect to hear the stones cry out as to expect a revolution in the morals of the place.

Shawneetown, however, had no monopoly on such dubious activities. One traveler, an Englishman by the name of Flint, who found some American traits quite admirable, appeared to find others just as lamentable.

In Cincinnati,, New Year's day, 1819, his one journal entry was: "During the night I heard much noise of fighting and swearing amongst adult persons." Elsewhere he wrote: " . . . The river Ohio is considered the greatest thoroughfare of banditti in the Union. Horse stealing is notorious, as are escapes from prison—jails being constructed of thin brick walls or of logs fit only to detain the prisoner while he is satisfied with the treatment he receives . . . Runaway apprentices, slaves, and wives are frequently advertised. I have heard several tavern keepers complain of young men going off without paying their board . . . . "

And he really goes to town in writing of the river boatmen: "It gives me great pleasure to be relieved from the company of boatmen. I have seen nothing in human form so profligate as they are. Accomplished in depravity, their habits and education seem to comprehend every

vice. They make few pretentions to moral character; and their swearing is excessive and perfectly disgusting . . . The Scotsman recently referred to missed a knife. On his accusing them, one degraded wretch offered to buy his fork. I have seen several whose trousers formed the whole of their wardrobe. They are extremely addicted to drinking. Indeed I have frequntly seen them borrowing of one another a few cents to quench their insatiable thirst."

However, Flint makes a more sober commentary in the following: "Most of them (i. e., backwoodsmen) are well acquainted with the law, and fond of it on the most trifling occasions. I have known a lawsuit brought for a pail of the value of 25c. . . . Many of them are sometimes truly industrious, and at other times excessively idle. Numbers of them can turn their hands to many things, having been accustomed to do for themselves in small societies. They are a most determined set of republicans, well versed in politics, and thoroughly independent. A man who has only half a shirt and without shoes or stockings, is as independent as the first man in the states; and interests himself in the choice of men to serve his country as much as the highest man in it, and often from as pure motives—the general good without any private views of his own . . . . I was struck to find with what harmony people of different religions lived together, and have since had no reason to alter my opinion. I have had much conversation with Baptists, Methodists, and Quakers. They all expressed much charity for those other sects, although most of them seemed to have a high opinion of their own.

Record of a Circuit Minister

Such were the observations of one traveler on that early American Frontier. The following picture of frontier life comes from a more understanding writer, John Scripps, a Methodist circuit rider of pioneer times. It would be difficult to equal the vividness which he relates

the hardships he and his fellow ministers encountered during those early days; nor could we learn better than through his words the hospitality which was to be found in even the rudest of cabins.

". . . Our roads were narrow, winding horse-paths, sometimes scarcely perceptible, and frequently for miles, no path at all, amid tangled brushwood, over fallen timber, rocky glens, mountainous precipices; through swamps and low grounds, overflowed or saturated by water for miles together, and consequently muddy, which the breaking up of the winter and the continued rains gave a continued supply of; the streams some of them large and rapid, swollen to overflowing, we had to swim on our horses, carrying our saddle-bags on our shoulders. It was a common occurrence, in our journeying, to close our day's ride drenched to the skin by continually descending rains, for which that spring was remarkable. Our nights were spent, not in two but in one room log cabins, each generally constituting our evening meetinghouse, kitchen, nursery, parlor, dining and bedroom—all within the dimensions of sixteen square feet, and not unfrequently a loom occupying one-fourth of it, together with spinning wheels and other apparatus for manufacturing their apparel—our congregations requiring our services till ten or twelve o'clock; our supper after dismission, not of select, but of just such aliment as our hospitable entertainers could provide (for hospitable, in the highest sense of the word, they were); corn-cakes, fried bacon, sometimes butter, with milk or herb tea, or some substitute for coffee.

"At the Rock-and-Cave camp meeting, the measles being very prevalent in the congregation, I took them. Very high fevers were th first symptom; but unconscious of the cause and nature of my affliction, I continued traveling through all weathers for upwards of two weeks, before the complaint developed its character. My stomach became very delicate, and through a populous part of our

journey I inquired for coffee at every house we passed, and was invariably directed to Mr. L.'s several miles ahead, as the only probable place for the procurement of the grateful beverage. On making known my wants to Mrs. L., she searched and found a few scattered grains at the bottom of a chest, of which she made me two cupfuls.

"We have sometimes sat in the large fireplace, occupying the entire end of a log cabin, and plucked from out the smoke of the chimney above us pieces of dried and smoked venison, or jerk, the only provision the place could afford us, and the only food the inmates had to sustain themselves, till they could obtain it by the cultivation of the soil. Our horses fared worse, in muddy pens, or tied up to saplings or corners of the cabin, regaled with the refuse of winter's fodder, sometimes (when we could not restrain over-liberality) with seed-corn, purchased in Kentucky at a dollar per bushel, and brought in small quantities, according to the circumstances of the purchaser, one hundred miles or more at some expense and trouble. This, when they had it, our remonstrances to the contrary could not prevent being pounded on mortars to make us bread. Our lodgings were on beds of various qualities, generally feather-beds, but not infrequently fodder, chaff, shucks, straw, and sometimes only deerskins, but always the best the house afforded, either spread on the rough puncheon floor before the fire (from which we must rise early to make room for breakfast operations or on a patched-up platform attached to the wall, which not unfrequently would fall down, sometimes in the night, with its triplicate burden of three in a bed. Such incidents would occasion a little mirth among us, but we would soon fix up and be asleep again. Now, I would here remark, that many of these privations could have been avoided by keeping a more direct course from one quarterly-meeting to another, and selecting, with a view to comfort, our lodging-places. But Brother Walker river, which afforded the only means of transportation

sought not personal comfort so much as the food of souls, and he sought the most destitute, in their most retired recesses, and in their earliest settlements."

CHAIN OF TITLES

By Judge Arthur A. Miles

This beautiful and picturesque territory, with its rugged surface broken by many beautiful hills and valleys, now known as Hardin County, originally belonged to the Illini Indians, so far as we know, for an indefinite period. They were displaced by the Tamaroa Indians (Note No. 1) who by occupancy and use owned all southeastern Illinois when first visited by white man. Evidences of Indian occupation over a long period of time are numerous as several of their cemeteries have been located and many of their arrow heads, axes, tools, and vessels have been found. As the site of Hardin County is located so far inland from the Atlantic coast, where the first settlements were made by white people, and as so little was known about the topography and extent of the country, the title of this particular territory was in dispute for about three hundred years.

Conflicting Claims

Spain claimed all this country by Columbus' discovery of the new world in 1492. Spain also claimed this country by discoveries and explorations by De Leon in 1503 and De Soto in 1541 although it is not known that either of these great explorers ever reached Hardin County.

England claimed all this country by Cabot's discovery of the North American Continent in 1498.

France claimed this territory by explorations by Marquet in 1671 and by La Salle in 1680, though there is no evidence that either of these good men ever touched the soil of Hardin County. There is, however, some history

of travels published by Frenchmen which mention the great river, probably the Ohio, and the great cave of Cave-in-Rock. This would give them some cause to claim the territory.

The charters and grants given by the English government to the Connecticut colony, the Massachusetts colony, the Plymouth colony, and the Virginia colony and probably those given to Lord Delaware and William Penn, could, by some stretch of the facts and imagination, have covered the site of this county.

The leaders of these colonies knew nothing of the extent of the country and as their grants covered points along the Atlantic seaboard, they claimed all the land to the west and some seemed to think that their grants spread fanwise from the coast. For no doubt they were familiar with the actions and words of the great explorer, Balboa, when he waded into the waters of the Pacific ocean and claimed it and all its shores for the crown of Spain.

George Rogers Clark

The colony of Virginia, however, had the right of possession on account of the conquest of all this territory by one of her sons, General George Rogers Clark, who recruited an army near Louisville, Kentucky, came down the Ohio to Fort Massac then across the state to capture Kaskaskia and Cahokia. Later he returned across the state and captured Fort Sacketville, now known as Vincennes, Indiana, from the British and Indians and held this section of the country for Virginia and the American government.

All these colonies ceded their rights to this territory prior to the forming of the Northwest Territory in 1787 by an act of Congress consisting of the states of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and parts of Minnesota. Hardin County is wtihin that portion known as the Northwest Territory.

Counties Organized

After Illinois was admitted as a state in 1818, counties were laid out with more or less indefinite boundaries as this country had not as yet been surveyed. Pope and Gallatin counties had been organized but no definite boundary lines between the two had been fixed when the state legislature passed a bill on March 2, 1839, cutting off a portion of the eastern part of Pope County and called it Hardin County. This new county was in a form of a triangle—the Ohio river forming one side, Grand Pierre Creek one side, and a line, running in a northwesterly direction from a point on the Ohio river near Cave-in-Rock to the southwest corner of township 10, south range 8 east touching the southern boundary of the then Gallatin County near the head of Grand Pierre Creek, formed the other side.

By an act of legislature approved January 8, 1840, the western boundary was changed eastward to its present location and on February 20, 1847, territory was taken from Gallatin County, added to that already taken from Pope—giving Hardin County its present boundaries. Hardin County is in the southeast portion of the state of Illinois, is the second smallest county of the state and lies wholly within the Ozark territory—its northern boundary separating it from Gallatin and Saline runs almost exactly along the crest of the mountain range.

Note: The Shawnee Indians, a kindred tribe of the Tamaroas, actually lived in this county at the arrival of the white settlers.

HARDIN COUNTY AGRICULTURE

By Sidney Snook Haman

The great tide of American civilization rolling westward across the Appalachian mountains in the closing

years of the Eighteenth century brought in its wake the pioneer farmer. In the front rank of this mighty procession, which marked the moulding of a nation, came the hunter, who trekked through the forests in pursuit of game; and, following him closely, the frontier farmer, who was attracted by the virgin soil of the broad river valleys.

This pioneer farmer usually brought his wife and children along with him and planned a more or less permanent abode. Scores of them came down the Ohio river by flatboat or barge. During the latter part of the century the river was the principal route of entry into the new country. Thousands of crafts of every size and description moved downstream with their human cargo of valiant settlers who sought to carve new homes in the western wilderness, traders taking their goods to market at New Orleans, and free souls lured by a spirit of adventure. Aboard the family boats, bearing old and young with their eyes turned hopefully to the future, the routine of daily living was carried on. The family cow and the chickens were part of the living cargo. These journeys down the river were slow and uncertain and full of peril from snag and shoal and the buffeting of wind and current, but for years the human drift continued.

Landed in a strange new country with all that was safe and familiar behind him, this frontier farmer set staunchly about the task of wresting a home and a livelihood from the wilderness. He girdled a few trees, cut a clearing in the forest, built a log cabin, put a rail fence around his ground, and planted a garden patch with beans and corn, potatoes and cabbage and turnips. In the autumn he laid-by his crops, the corn in a crib, the turnips and cabbage and potatoes buried in mounds. There was his winter's food supply.

Such is a picture of the pioneer farmer. The advancing frontier had gained a foothold in the new land of the West.

That might well be a picture of the first farmer in Hardin County, whoever he may have been. He came into this territory on that sweeping tide of emigration that pushed over the mountains and down the valleys.

Historians record that as early as 1808 Samuel O'Melvany, an Irishman, led a group of Irish families down the broad waters of the Ohio into this section and made a permanent settlement near the present site of Elizabethtown. They tilled the soil and raised their food and prospered.

As the pioneer surge continued, the settlements grew. By 1830 the banks of the river were lined with bustling villages. In this immediate section, which became Hardin County on March 2, 1839, more land was cleared, more settlers tilled the oil, more crops were harvested. New trails had been blazed, and hardy pioneer farmers and their families had conquered the wilderness.

The Tuber Staple

In the very early years of Hardin County's farming the growers discovered what crop was best suited to the soil and meant the biggest yield. Maybe it was that pioneer Irishman who found it out. The crop was Irish potatoes. The potato forged to the front as the principal crop and held that distinctive place until the early Eighties of the last century. Since that time, however, it has declined until today the appellation of "potato country" would no longer be fitting.

But it was then. Thousands of bushels of high grade potatoes were shipped out of the county aboard flatboats down the river to New Orleans. The potatoes were either piled in bulk aboard the flatboat or loaded in barrels for shipment. Sacking potatoes was rare. When the flatboat captain and his crew reached their destination down river, the cargo would be marketed, the boat sold, and he and his men would return overland. Com-

paratively few potato crops ever were shipped by steamboat because of the higher transportation costs.

Cave-in-Rock, Elizabethtown, and Shetlerville were potato shipping points. Stories are told of that early day when Cave-in-Rock, the cave in the rock itself, one-time rendezvous of Ohio river pirates who preyed on boatmen plying the river, was known as "potato cave" because quantities of potatoes would be stored there until the arrival of flatboats to transport the cargo downstream. Protecting campfires, lighted by the growers to ward off freezing of the potatoes, flickered on the gray walls of the dusky old cavern, which had once patterned the firelight of the pirates' campfire as they gathered about it to divide their ill-gotten gains, to join in revelry, or to plot bloodshed. Those wicked old boys would have grinned a wicked grin at such a prosaic sight as a pile of potatoes.

With the flatboats tied up at the shore, the loading of the potatoes, bushel upon bushel, would begin. Sometimes hours would be required to complete the task. Hardin County's reputation grew as a land of fine potatoes, and numerous potato growers found the venture a highly profitable one.

Farmers planted their potatoes about the Fourth of July and dug them after the first "killing frost." They were wont to talk proudly of the "Peachblow", which was the most prolific late potato grown in the county.

Staple Crops Change

About 1880 the potato crops began to fail. And what, one might ask, happened to the potatoes? Once a potato county why not yet a potato county? Wearing out of the soil by raising one crop right after another and a change in the climate are held responsible. Old-timers insist that the fall and winter are not what they used to be. Those early potato growers well knew that the crop requires a damp climate. Along in the late seventies, ac-

cording to those who watched the potatoes and the weather, the autumn rains began to lessen. Dry falls became the rule instead of the exception. The potato yield decreased steadily. Furthermore, much of the land had been overworked and robbed of what might be called its "potato elements." Hence, the potato as a distinctive Hardin County crop passed away.

Early Hardin County farmers also raised wheat, very fine wheat; but more or less the same story might be told of that commodity. Wheat production began to decline about the turn of the present century. Again a change in climatic conditions might be held responsible in some quarters. "We don't have the old-time winters," some farmers say. In the old days there was excellent production of winter wheat, but with gradual clearing of the forests, which sheltered snow blankets on the wheatlands, the wheat crop too began to fail. Winters, which once, the early settlers say, were long and hard and cold, became a series of thaws and freezes with the devastating result that erosion has swept away much of the fine wheat soil from the hills and plateaus of the county. Many a prosperous wheat grower was ruined by the changes which brought about depletion of the wheat-producing areas.

Ledbetter Milling Company

During the heyday of the wheat industry in Hardin County, milling was one of the most successful business enterprises.

Milling operations begun by James A. Ledbetter, a native of Christian County, Kentucky, who came into Hardin County in the early Fifties, continued successfully over a period of nearly sixty years. He established a chain of mills at Elizabethtown, Cave-in-Rock, and Tolu, Kentucky, and handled approximately 100,000 bushels of wheat a year, all of it produced in Hardin County. In

1879 Mr. Ledbetter placed operation of the three mills in the hands of his three sons, respectively, with George W. Ledbetter assuming management of the Elizabethtown mill; Henry Ledbetter, the Tolu plant; and James A. Ledbetter, Jr., the mill at Cave-in-Rock. The business operated under the firm name of The Ledbetter Mills and represented the largest business organization of its kind in the southern Illinois and western Kentucky region

The Hardin County wheat yield at that time was excellent and resulted in a particularly high grade flour. For many years the mills ground only Hardin County wheat, but, in its latter existence, acquired some of its grain from Posey County, Indiana, and Bayou, Kentucky. When home-grown wheat no longer was available in sufficient quantity for the mill demands, the business began to decline because of increased transportation costs.

In 1890 the company disposed of the Tolu mill, and Henry Ledbetter joined his brother, George, in operation of the Elizabethtown and Cave-in-Rock mills under the firm name of Ledbetter Brothers, which was subsequently changed, in 1907, to the Ledbetter Milling Company. During its years of operation the company marketed flour under the trade names of "Silver Floss", "Georgia", "Mora", and "Helora", the last three brands taking their names from the sons and daughters of the Ledbetter family.

The Cave-in-Rock property was sold about 1920 to the Benzon Mining Company, and in 1922 George W. Ledbetter, retiring from business, turned over operation of the Elizabethtown mill to his son, M. D. Ledbetter, who continued the business for six years. The property was finally disposed of in 1930.

Another flour mill operating in Hardin County over a period of a few years was that of Ferrell and Clark, whose plant was situated on the Elizabethtown riverbank. The Ledbetter interests took it over in 1905.

The Walrab Water Mill

Growing of corn dates back to the very beginning of agriculture in Hardin County, back to a day before it was Hardin County at all, for the Indians of the territory were raising corn when the white settlers came along. The pioneer farmers took it up and added acreage and improved the means of cultivation. The Indians used soft corn for roasting-ears, but after it had matured and hardened, they ground or powdered it into grist on the tops of tree stumps. The early farmers continued the same practice for a time, but afterward fashioned "grittles", made by tacking small sheets of zinc or iron, perforated with nail holes, to boards.

Then they built water-mills. One of the best known of these old mills was Browns Mill, which stood for years near Mount Zion church on the Old Ford's Ferry Road, where many a hapless traveler, crossing from Kentucky into the Illinois country, met his fate at the hands of the notorious Ford's Ferry band of robbers. Another of these early county water-mills, and one which gained a wide and favorable reputation throughout southern Illinois, was Walrab's Mill, situated a mile northeast of the Illinois Iron Furnace. John C. Walrab, a young German settler, purchased the site from a man named Casad. He dug a mill-race half a mile in length in order to gain power for operation of an overshot wheel. The other mills of the region were pulled by undershot wheels. During the iron-mining period in this county the Walrab mill supplied grist for a large portion of the county's population.

It was the first mill in the county to engage in day and night operation that it might meet the demands of customers. A familiar sight around the mill was the load upon load of corn in carts drawn by double yokes of oxen.

At a later date Brown and Walrab installed steam-boilers for their grist mills. Today the boiler from the

old Brown mill is a roadside derelict near Mount Zion church.

After a few years corn became a money crop in the county as well as a stock and a food crop, and large quantities of the grain were shipped by flatboat down the river to Memphis and New Orleans markets along with potatoes and salt pork. Unlike the crops of potatoes and wheat, which have waned with the years, corn is still produced in the county and holds its place as the major farm yield. The creek bottom lands, fed from the rugged Ozark foothills, are particularly well adapted to production of this golden grain.

Cattle on the Ranges

In an earlier day cattle raising was an extensive industry in Hardin County. Most of the pioneer settlers moving into the region brought with them a few head of stock which were corralled near the cabins as a precautionary move against roving wolves and cattle thieves. Soon it was discovered that abundant herbs and grasses, as well as an adequate water supply, provided excellent cattle ranges; and the livestock industry grew apace. Many an early cattle man realized a neat fortune from the ranges of Hardin County hillsides.

But an ill wind blew the way of that pioneer industry in the form of a plague, described in old records as the "milk sick plague." Great herds of young stock died in Illinois and Kentucky and as far south as Tennessee. The loss was tremendous. It also took a heavy toll in human life in the community. Probably the most complete account of the disaster is found in a diary left by Dr. Anna Hobbs Bigsby, a pioneer woman doctor. She came into Hardin County with her parents in a covered wagon from Philadelphia. Later, her family sent her back to Philadelphia for medical and nurse's training. Completing her course of study, she returned to the frontier settle-

ment and practiced her profession. Her's was an active part in the life of the community as she visited the sick, taught, and participated in church work. Her maiden name was Anna Pierce. She was married twice; first to Issac Hobbs and later to Eson Bigsby.

The Milk Sick Plague

At the time the "milk sick plague" struck the community she plunged immediately into the fight against the malady. Because of her training, she felt the responsibility of doing all she could. Days and nights she spent with the sick. She read medical books, and she communicated with eminent doctors back East in an effort to find a clue to the devastating disease. It seemed as though her efforts were futile. Many deaths occurred, even among members of her own family, and the tragedy rested crushingly upon her.

With tears in her eyes this young woman cried, "There is no one to be blamed for this awful scourge unless it is Anna Hobbs. The people have looked to me to meet and treat such epidemics, but in this I have failed, helplessly failed."

As the number of deaths increased alarmingly and as whole herds of young cattle were destroyed, many people, losing their normal sense of balance, came to believe that it was a deliberate plot on the part of some lawless element in the community to poison the cattle, and indirectly the people. An uprising was threatened with murmurs of taking the law into their own hands and dealing with the suspected persons in the summary manner of frontier justice.

But this thirty-year-old woman intervened successfully. She continued her investigation and finally reached the conclusion that the poisoning was through the milk supply, reasoning that the milk cows gave off enough poison through the mammary glands to escape death

themselves in most instances, but that those who drank the milk fell victim of the malady. She spread word of warning far and near to refrain from use of milk until after frost in the autumn. This measure saved many human lives, but did not save the young cattle upon which many settlers were dependent for their livelihood.

According to her carefully kept diary, the source of the milk's poisoning was finally discovered after a strange fashion. She chanced to meet in the woods an old Indian squaw, once a herb doctor or "medicine squaw" of the Shawnees. Dr. Hobbs took the woman into her home and learned from her the cause of the deadly "milk sick plague." "Aunt Shawnee", as the Indian woman became known in the community, went with Dr. Hobbs into the woods and showed her the herb, the poisonous snakeroot, which they believed caused the cattle disease.

For many years after that, according to tradition, every fall the boys and men of the community, armed with hoes and knives, trooped through the forests to destroy the root. Its eradication stopped the plague, but not before it had ruined in large measure one of the most promising of the county's pioneer industries.

Since that time the livestock industry has not attained premier rank in the county's agricultural life although, farm leaders say, the section is potentially excellent for cattle raising.

The Old Man River

For a period of roughly thirty years, shipment of pig iron was among Hardin County's early industries. The Illinois Furnace, established in 1837 and continuing in operation until 1874, and the Martha Furnace, operating from 1848 to 1857, shipped their products from the county. Several hundred tons of pig iron were shipped out annually. The abandoned remains of the old Illinois furnace may be seen today.

Shipment of all products from the county was by

for many years. It was only in 1919 that a railroad came into the county. The Illinois Central System extended its line into Rosiclare at that time. Those very early settlers watched transportation grow on the river. They watched the procession of barges and flatboats, keel boats, and Kentucky boats moving down river to New Orleans; and they beheld in 1811 the passage of the "New Orleans", the first steamboat ever to navigate the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. They watched the growth of that majestic pageant which was to attain its full glory in the "golden age of steamboatin'."

Old Man River served the community well in that long ago day. Potatoes and wheat, corn and hay, salt pork and pig iron, all of them were moved out on flatboats and aboard the proud packets that pulled into the Elizabethtown levee during those years that rivermen now refer to wistfully as "the good old river days."

There have been changes in the agricultural and industrial picture of Hardin County in the years. No longer are potato barrels rolled on to flatboats, no longer do ox carts pull up to the grist mills; no longer do herds of cattle roam the ranges; no longer do the iron furnaces send forth a glow against the night sky. Neither do Hardin County travelers, gentlemen in frock coats and ladies in crinoline with tiny parasols, trip down the levee to board a gleaming white packet boat that pulled out from the shore with a clang of bells; those travelers now step into shiny automobiles and flash along paved highways. The years have wrought the change.

Hardin County Acreage

There is an up-to-date agricultural picture in Hardin County. Despite much land that is rugged and untillable, there are well-cultivated farms dotting the countryside. Of the total Hardin County acreage of 110,257 acres there are 27,447 acres in cultivation. Timbered

lands embrace 30,878 acres and brushlands, 9,792 acres. There are 42,140 acres in open fields.

In Hardin County today there are 950 farms with corn and hay as the principal crops. Corn production is 245,000 bushels annually. The yield of hay is from approximately 22,000 acres. The river bottom areas are well suited to corn production.

While the soil of Hardin County could not be described as the best in Illinois, it responds to treatment better than most areas in the state, farm leaders say. The county is potentially an ideal livestock area since the hill lands produce almost year-around pasture and the river lands yield sufficient corn to supply thousands of head of cattle. Poultry and dairying occupy only a minor place in Hardin County agriculture because of unfavorable marketing facilities. There are no commercial orchards.

From that long-ago day when a pioneer farmer planted his "truck patch" and began his new home in the wilderness of the west, Hardin County has been an agricultural community.

MINERALS AND MINING

By Judge A. A. Miles

In order to write intelligently upon this subject, it is necessary that we say something of the geology of the territory, that the reader may understand the formations and how the faults and veins occurred and how ore was deposited in them. Geologists tell us that in the long, long ago—possibly as much as 100,000,000 years or more ago—there was a disturbance, probably caused by pressure of gases from beneath which broke the crust of the earth in the section of country now known as Hardin County. These breaks in which the crust of the earth parted and some parts of the crust moved upward or downward, left many cracks, and the gases while escaping,

solidified, filling these breaks with a non-metallic mineral called calcite, which is calcium carbonate and almost pure lime.

Some claim the calcite was deposited in the breaks of the earth's crust by water percolating through them. At a later time, another disturbance occurred in which fluorine gases from below, escaping through the former breaks, united with the calcite and limestone and formed what is known as fluorspar. The cracks in the earth's crust then formed are what we now call veins, and the moving of the parts of the earth's crust upward or downward is known as faulting.

These faults vary from a few feet to more than 1,000 feet and run in a general north-easternly, south-westernly direction across Hardin County. The proof of this is plainly seen in several places where great cliffs of limestone and sandstone stand side by side. This condition is also found in the mines.

Formation

The country rock is of two kinds—sedimentary and igneous. The sedementary rocks are those that were formed by sediment from erosion of the mountains which settled in the low places and was formed into rock under pressure of large bodies of water, for at one time all this territory was, no doubt, the bottom of a vast ocean. The igneous rocks are those which were intruded while in a molten mass through the cracks of the sedimentary rock and there is in the northern part of this county a plainly visible crater of an extinct volcano.

Minerals

There are several minerals found in Hardin County, the most important of which are fluorspar, iron, lead, silver, zinc, and limestone. These are, or have been, mined and shipped commercially. Other minerals found in this county are barite, calcite, calcium, coal, malachite

and stibnite. This county is more particularly noted for the large deposits of fluorspar which is a non-metallic mineral composed of about fifty-one per cent calcium and forty-nine per cent fluorine. In color it ranges through all the shades of amber, blue, green, violet, and yellow to transparent. The iron is of high quality and many beautiful specimens of limite ore have been found. The lead and zinc is to a large extent sulphide although some carbonate is found. The limestone is high in carbonate content.

The great limestone cliffs both along the river and in the interior have furnished tens of thousands of yards for commercial purposes. The quarries along the river (idle now) have been operated for many years and the stone used to pave the river banks at most of the cities along the lower Mississippi, to riprap the caving, crumbling banks, to make the dikes, and to build the jetties at the mouth of that river. In the last few years much limestone has been crushed for soil sweetening.

Fluorspar was discovered in this territory in 1839 by a farmer while digging a well on what is now the Property of the Franklin Fluorspar Company within the present corporate limits of the city of Rosiclare, near what is known as Fairview Landing.

Lead

At that time another mineral was discovered, which the farmer thought to be silver. A quantity of this mineral was transported by flat boat down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to the government mint at New Orleans. Analysis proved that while there was some silver in the material, the greater part of it was lead sulphide. Mining operations were started at the site of the well and carried on for lead alone, there being no market for fluorspar. A small smelter was erected, the lead smelted, but the fluorspar was thrown into the waste dump. A cast

iron part of a small lead smelter, used in early times, is still to be seen at the Fairview Mines.

In 1842 lead and fluorspar were found on the property of the Rosiclare Lead and Fluorspar Mining Company, near the present site of their mill which also lies within the corporate limits of the City of Rosiclare. Mining operations were carried on here for lead. A large smelter was built and the lead was molded into pigs for shipment. It is said by some of our older citizens that lead from these mines was used by the United States Army in the war with Mexico, 1847. The activities in the lead smelting were suspended probably prior to the suspension of iron smelting. But mining has been carried on in conjunction with the mining of fluorspar until this date.

Iron

We do not know a great deal regarding the mining and smelting of the iron ore as our early settlers left us few records. We know, however, that iron ore was discovered about the same year, 1839, in which fluorspar was discovered, and two furnaces were built and smelting operations were carried on for a number of years. These furnaces were located five to six miles north of Elizabethtown, one being known as the Illinois Furnace and the other as the Martha Furnace. The ore was cast into pigs and hauled by team and wagon to Elizabethtown for shipment by boat. The charcoal for the smelting was obtained from timber cut from the surrounding forest. These furnaces were operated intermittently over a period of years and were finally closed about 1875 and 1882. Part of the old stone masonry stack and furnace is still standing at the site of the Illinois Furnace. Recent efforts to restore it to the original form have failed owing to the fact that the property is owned by private parties who will not or cannot give authority.

Many years ago the machinery was moved from the

site of the Martha Furnace and nothing is left to mark the spot but a recently constructed concrete slab. Since closing the furnaces for smelting no further mining of iron has been done although there are indications that large bodies of ore lie hidden in several of the little hills.

Zinc

Although small quantities of zinc have been mined from several localities in conjunction with mining for fluorspar and lead, no large bodies of rich zinc ore had been located in this county until recently when the Mahoning Mining Company opened up a large deposit five miles north of Cave-in-Rock. Zinc ore is not found in all the mines that produce fluorspar and lead yet in some mines there are places where zinc is found interspersed with the fluorspar and lead to such an extent as to make milling very difficult.

This condition of mixed ores was found at the Fairview Mines twenty years ago when several thousands of tons of high zinc—highlead—low fluorspare ore were mined. In order to separate these ores a new mill was built and a "flotation" system was installed, and was the first flotation used in Hardin County. The floated ores, called concentrates of lead and zinc sulphide, were shipped to smelters located outside this county. The experiment proved successful and now all the larger mills are using the flotation system along with the water and gravity system for fluorspar as well as lead and zinc.

Calcite

Calcite is the purest form of calcium carbonate and is white in color. As it was thought to be valueless, being used only for dressing walkways and driveways or to make ornamental flower beds, however, about twenty years ago it was sold as a soil sweetener, since that time considerable tonnage has been shipped for that and other purposes.

Silver

The silver found in Hardin County has been so interspersed with lead that no attempt has been made to separate them, hence the two minerals are shipped together and the smelters pay for the silver they recover.

Coal

There are several coal measures in the county and some of them have been worked but the veins are too narrow for profitable mining.

Fluorspar

Experiments with fluorspar proved it to be useful as a flux in making steel, but small quantities were used until the development of the open-hearth furnace. Further experiments proved fluorspar to be useful in making acids, opalescent glass, and in enameling.

The crude ore as it comes from the mines is not of uniform grade but frequently mixed with other minerals, and to prepare it for the market it must undergo thorough milling.

The mining of fruorspar together with the by products of lead and zinc has been carried on in all the various forms from open cuts or shallow pits to deep shaft work. But the best mining today is done by sinking a three or four compartment shaft in the foot wall near the vein to a depth of five hundred feet or more then crosscut to the vein. Drifts then are driven along the vein at intervals of about one hundred feet in depth of the shaft.

These drifts, usually about eight feet wide and ten feet high or sometimes the width of the vein, are timbered overhead and bins built to receive the ore from above which is drilled by air-operated machines and blasted with dynamite to break it loose from its solid formation. This is called overhead stoping and is continued upward from one hundred foot level to another until all the ore except what is left for pillars is taken out.

The ore is then loaded into cars and hoisted to the surface by electricity or steam. Two hundred tons is a fairly good day's hoisting.

In order to keep mines safe for workmen, timber must be used where the ore has been extracted. This timber is secured from the forests of the county.

From the beginning of mining operations until about thirty-five years ago, drilling was done with hand steel drills and hammers and black powder was used in blasting. Two men working together worked the drill—one holding the drill—the other striking. While this seems very crude today, yet, our early miners could break all the spar the trade demanded.

In prospecting and in some small operations hoisting is done by manpower using a windless but in earlier days when machinery was scarce horsepower was also used.

Milling of Fluorspar

The milling of fluorspar is a business within itself. In order to produce the various grades large mills and expensive machinery are required.

When the ore reaches the surface it is placed in bins at the top of the mill from where it moves by gravity and elevators through crushers and washers to a horizontal conveyer belt where it is hand picked. The pure lumps, called high grade or acid spar, are separated and placed in bins while the larger pieces of waste material such as limestone, calcite and all other waste is also picked by hand to take it out of the circuit. The mixed ores are then recrushed, screened to various sizes, and passed over jigs which use a gravity water system where much of the waste and foreign materials are separated and thrown out. Some of the ore coming from these jigs is of high fluoride content and is acid spar, but the greater part will run about eighty-five per cent and this is known as the metallurgical or fluxing grade.

Some of the acid spar is shipped in lump form and some is pulverized to the fineness of wheat flour which it then resembles and is placed in bags for shipmnt to consumers. The fluxing grades are shipped in the gravel form. There is also some shipments of the lump form of a lower grade.

In this connection, we might add that in the smaller mining operations where the ore is not so badly mixed with other materials but containing clay or free rock, a system of log washing is used to prepare this ore for market. A log washer is a timber approximately twelve to sixteen feet in length with iron lugs fastened along the octagal sides, (making a sort of screw conveyer), and geared so that in turning the ore is stirred and washed while moving along the length of the log. In some instances hand picking is also necessary to take out the larger pieces of foreign matter.

Owing to the fact that some ores are so interspersed with fluorspar, lead, zinc, silica (sand) and other substances, it is necessary to use the new milling system known as "flotation". In this system the ore is pulverized in ball mills to a fineness of one hundred and fifty to three hundred mesh. And the material is passed through frothing machines where with the use of certain reagents the fluorspar, lead, and zinc is floated by the froth which is then passed over vibrating tables and washed so that the remaining waste material is removed and the ores are of sufficient grade for use.

Some of the mines have reached the depth today of eight hundred feet and there is much seepage of water and in order to clear the mine of this water large and expensive pumps must be used. Some of these pumps throw from three to ten thousand gallons of water per minute.

The largest and deepest fluorspar mines in the world are located at Rosiclare for the mining operations have

been more continuous at that point and gone on for a longer period than at other points of the county. Within recent years large bodies of ore have been located some three to five miles north of Cave-in-Rock and considerable mining operations have been carried on there. Some of this mining is done by deep shaft and some by lateral mining or tunneling.

The largest fluorspar mills in the world are located within the corporate limits of the City of Rosiclare. The other mines of consequence are located near Elizabethtown, Cave-in-Rock, Eichorn and Karbers Ridge.

Fluorspar in the Trades

What we have written in the foregoing pages pertain particularly to the activities of mining and milling in Hardin County but we feel that we should follow these mineral products to the point of consumption and give the readers, many of whom are unfamiliar with this matter, a brief account of their uses. The high grade or acid fluorspar is used in making hydrofluoric acid. This acid is used in etching glass and in the preparation of sheet iron for galvanizing. The high grade is further used in making of opalescent glass and in enameling. Opalescent glass has a white appearance and is used for table tops, lamp shades and other useful and ornamental glass fixtures. This glass may be seen in practically every home in the country in some form, as, the inside lining of the Mason fruit jar caps are made with the use of fluorspar. It is high grade fluorspar that gives the beautiful white finish to bath tubs and other bathroom fixtures and it is also used in enameling kitchen utensils of various kinds. Fluorspar is used to make a synthetic cryolite and this is used in extracting alumina from the bauxite or aluminum ore. It is used in the refining of lead. Some cement companies use fluorspar in the making of cement. There are still other uses but the foregoing are the principal ones.

The lower grade of fluorspar which contains about eighty-five per cent calcium fluoride is used principally at the steel mills to speed up the heating processes of the smelting and to help purify the steel by removing the dross. About seven and one-half pounds of fluorspar is used in making a ton of steel. Although spar is used to some extent in the cupola furnaces it is a necessity in the open-hearth furnaces in which most steel is now made. With increased activities in steel making, in acid making, and in enameling works, the consumption of fluorspar rose from a few thousand tons annually in 1880 to approximately 200,000 tons in 1920. Some fluorspar is imported from Europe and other countries.

Early Personalities

The early citizens of our county seemed to be content to work at the mines and mills and probably thought little of passing information on down to future generations. Therefore we have refrained from going into detail of personalities of people who have operated the mines or were employed therein.

We might, however, mention a few men of national reputation that were connected in some way with the fluorspar and lead industry in this section of the country. The earliest was General Andrew Jackson, later President, who operated mines in the Illinois-Kentucky district for lead. President William McKinley owned fluorspar property lying in this district although not directly in Hardin County. John R. McClean, newspaper publisher of Cincinnati and Washington, was the principal owner and at one time the operator of the Rosiclare Mines. The late Andrew Mellon was interested in the Fairview Mines. Many other men of more or less prominence have in the past one hundred years had something to do with mining in Hardin County.

INSTITUTIONS AND PERSONS

By Capt. R. F. Taylor

Histories of the Early Churches

Having been appointed one of the Committee for History of Hardin County for a Centennial Celebration, and having been assigned the subject, "Histories of the Early Churches", I give this as I can find from the various histories and records of churches in the land now Hardin County.

I find that back in the year 1806, probably the first organized church in Hardin County was organized in a little log pen about two miles West of Elizabethtown in what was then known as English territory several years before it became the State of Illinois or the County of Pope or the County of Hardin. That church was called the Regular Baptist Church organized by William Rondo, Steven Stilley and others. It grew and prospered until it was fairly a large congregatoin. Other Baptist churches existed in the land now known as Hardin County.

At that time and since that time an order called General Baptists has grown extensively and is now strongly built in many parts of the country. This seems to have been an order separated from the Regular Baptists in the third century and has existed as an independnt order ever since.

There was also a Separatists Baptist in this country, which seemed to be of the same faith and order as the other churches.

After some reasoning and arguments, on the 21st day of October 1827, at that time being Pope County, these churches met on the banks of Grand Pier Creek by prearrangement and united into one church, and from then on for several years called themselves United Baptists, taking in the Separatists and the Regular Baptists.

A few years after that Charlie Clay, who entered the

land where the Stuart Mines are now, was a prominent preacher of that denomination and preached successfully for many years.

These churches spread out to other parts of the country and in their associations united Tennessee and Kentucky and up through Illinois. Afterwards dissension got among these denominations, and they again separated. Those who had belonged to the Regular Baptist gave themselves the name of the Regular Baptists. The others called themselves United Baptists, which existed for a good many years. For the last few years they are known as the Missionary Baptists. All have prospered and done a great deal of good for the country. The old Regular Baptist Church organized on Big Creek still exists, and its minutes of the old meetings are in possession of the Clerk, but it has drifted across the line into Pope County and is known as Grand Pier.

A strong church at Elizabethtown called Non-Missionary, that went with the United Baptists since, is a part of the old Regular Baptist church organized in 1806 on Big Creek near Stone Church.

Later Churches

The Methodist Churches have been strong and done much good. Some great preachers existed in this County, and at the time the present brick Methodist church was built, a very strong Revivalist by the name of Grabe was in charge of the church. Since then we have had many strong preachers. Among them it would be proper to mention the name of Barney Thompson.

The Christian order have done much good in Hardin County. It has got some splendid members but not many organizations.

Presbyterians have been strong and have done a great deal of good.

Methodists were organized as early as any other church and has been a strong church ever since.

Schools have improved greatly within the knowledge of this writer. They have gone from little log schoolhouses practically all over the county to much better buildings built of good material and a much higher grade of teachers, who are making scholars out of people such as had no opportunity many years ago. The early schools were taught mostly by self-made teachers, who had but little opportunities to give themselves a higher education but much desire to learn.

Many years ago it appeared these early churches of the various names were more enthusiastic and really appeared enjoy their religion to even a greater extent than the people do now. They would hold camp meetings in the woods and in passing nearby you would hear the eloquent sermons and the good women shouting with joy.

Soldiers of Hardin County

One Revolution soldier, Isaac Hobbs, lies buried in cemetery located on the SW SE Sec. 31 11 9. It is claimed that there are seven Civil War soldiers buried in same cemetery; all in unmarked graves.

One soldier of 1812 served under Jackson at New Orleans, lies buried in Hardin County, but writer does not know where. His name was Ginger. Among the most noted Civil War veterans were General Lucian Greathouse and Colonel C. M. Ferrell. In 1832 this, then Pope County, furnished large share Blackhawk soldiers; among which was Isaac Martin, who built the little brick house near Stone church, just where the first Baptist church was organized and many years afterwards used the little old round log church house for a stable for horses.

Company "D" 9th Ill. V S was the only company furnished in Spanish American War, commanded by Captain Richard F. Taylor; W. B. Hines First Lieutenant. Edward Ferrell, Second Lieutenant, and Harry Warson, Orderly Sergeant. They returned home after war was over with loss of six enlisted soldeirs.

Pioneer Lawyers

R. F. Wingate, Judge James Warren, Charles Burnett and J. B. Turner all before the Civil War. James Macklin.

Lawyers since the Civil War can be noted as Colonel Charles Wilkinson of Confederate Army. Lieutenant W. S. Morris, L. F. Plater, C. H. Littlepage, Harry Boyer, Marion Moyers, Judge J. A. Ledbetter, Judge J. F. Taylor, L. F. Twitchell, R. F. Taylor, H. Robert Fowler, J. E. Denton, Noah Gullett, James A. Watson, Clarence Soward and James G. Gullett.

Under the Constitution of 1848 we had such distinguished District Attorneys as John A. Logan, Sam Marshall and Marion Youngblood.

Since the Constitution of 1870 those who have served as State's Attorneys are as follows: W. S. Morris, L. F. Plater, J. Q. A. Ledbetter, H. Robert Fowler, Richard F. Taylor, James A. Watson, Noah Gullett, James E. Denton, John C. Oxford and Clarence E. Soward. Hardin County has never had a Circuit Judge and only one Congressman (H. Robert Fowler). Only three lawyers, Judges J. Q. A. Ledbetter, J. F. Taylor and James G. Gullett, have ever been County Judge.

Hardin County has only two Ex-State Senators: H. R. Fowler and A. A. Miles. Dr. W. N. Ayers, L. F. Plater, W. S. Morris, R. R. Lacy, H. R. Fowler, James A. Watson and Richard F. Taylor have served in Legislature.

There are only four licensed lawyers in Hardin County at this time, Richard F. Taylor licensed in 1882; James A. Watson in 1896; Clarence E. Soward, 1910 and Judge Gullett in 1934, all teaching the people to do good.

Pioneer Ministers

Among the pioneer preachers of Hardin County, we note the names of William Rondo and Steven Stilley. Soon afterwards the Reverend Charlie Clay, all of the Regular Baptist order.

The earliest General Baptist preachers, who appear to have organized their denomination, we find John Gregory, Abner Dutton, John Tucker, Albert Briggs and John Thornton.

Of the Christian order we find the Reverend Joel Coghill, David Warford and others.

Catholics have a strong church in Hardin County. Among their leaders we find such men as John B. Hankin, Father Hankin had charge of that church some forty years ago. Father Sonnan had charge of the church about twelve years ago. He was a highly educated priest, a great scholar and orator. He did much good in the community. Father Reish has been the priest for the past six years and appears to be a very able man.

Other General Baptist Ministers who deserve mentioning are Horace Foster, William Rose, Elihu Oxford and James Oxford.

Teachers and Educators

Among the early educators of Hardin County, I would recall the names of H. Robert Fowler, who was the first teacher to come to Hardin County, who had a diploma, a graduate of the Normal University. He taught many years at Cave-in-Rock. Soon afterwards John H. Jenkins of Hardin County finished his educatoni at the Old Normal University, Bloomington, Illinois and at Carbondale. They were followed by such teachers as John H. Oxford, E. N. Hall and our present worthy superintendent, Clyde Flynn. The schools have prospered greatly with such Superintendents of School as John H. Jenkins for nine years, John Womack, Hattie Rittenhouse, John H. Oxford. Many others deserve mention, but space forbids. Schools are now being well handled by our present worthy Superintendent, Clyde L. Flynn.

Among the first ladies to graduate at the State University at Carbondale were Eunice Taylor, in 1909, and

Gertrude Tyre, in 1910. Since then nearly all of the teachers from Hardin County have been attending those Universities, are well trained and teaching the best of schools.

Concluding Remarks

It is very evident from history that the General Baptist church divided from the Regular Baptist in the third Century and have existed as a separate body for over seventeen hundred years; claiming to be the true followers of Christ. But the old Regulars claim that John the Baptist baptized Christ and that it established the Baptist church as the true church of Christ and that the Bible tells us that John and Christ went down into the water together and that they both came up out of the water, thus inferring that John certainly put Christ clear under the water.

But now comes the Reverend G. L. Hancock and claims that Paul was taught to preach Missionary doctrine and that the Missionary Baptist is the true church. The writer now knows of about eight denominations of Baptist all claiming to be the church of John the Baptist. So the writer has about concluded that "There is so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us that it illy becomes any of us to talk against the rest of us".

FORESTS AND CONSERVATION

(By Judge Hall)

As people usually do in staging such enterprises as Centennials, we allowed time to slip upon us; and in our hurried selection of subjects, we overlooked forestry and conservation, two subjects that touch our country very materially. So as the printer is at work on the other material, some of the committee have suggested that I jot down a few thoughts as lessons at least for our youths.

Since our civilization is built of wood, it becomes a rather grave question, "How are we going to maintain the comforts of life when timber is gone?"

Hardin County uplands surrounded by ever-rising vapors from her adjacent swamplands and rivers, grew a surprisingly heavy and dense forest. Pioneers used to say in wonder that they had never laid eyes upon such giant oaks, hickories, maples, and poplars as sheltered our hills and vales. And it is yet said in wonder that Hardin and Pope counties have as many acres of timber stands as the rest of the state of Illinois.

It is a point worthy the notation of history that the U. S. Government has chosen this section for a national forest project, and appropriately named it for the Shawnees who once roamed these forests as their "Happiest Hunting Ground." The Peters Creek Observation Tower stands only a little east of the center of our county. The High Knob Tower stands on the Gallatin County line overlooking our country from the north. While Williams Hill and Raum Towers overlook us on the west from the Pope County hills. So government eyes hold daily vigilance over our forests from four towers. Thus eyes look down upon us from elevations 1000 feet above sea level and 640 feet above the Ohio River. The government has been buying lands for this Shawnee Project about 10 years, and still has lands in process of transfers, so that just now I am not prepared to give the acreage in exact figures, but it runs well into thousands, and when completed it will aggregate other thousands.

Different Views of Forests

Ancient Nomads believed that forests were set upon the earth as a curse for man's disobedience. In the woods hid ravenous beasts which preyed upon their flocks, and the ugly dragons of their stories all lived in the dark forests. They hated forests and burnt them in the hope "to make the whole earth one vast pastureland."

When our grandfathers came to Hardin County, they came with axes in hand. Never did man meet a more stubborn forest, and never did a stubborn forest meet a more sleepless, untiring race of men. They believed to clear away a useless forest meant to build homes and establish an empire. Then and there began a war upon trees which lasted day and night for a hundred years.

Every summer about "dog days" they belted 10, 15, or 20 acres more of timber land. Next March they set fire to these "deadenings," and some great forest fires raged, as men followed to roll the logs into heaps and burn them at night by the light of their own fires. From my bedroom window I've watched fires climb tall dead trees many a night, delighted to see slabs of burning bark and limbs come down followed by fiery trails, like comets falling from the skies.

They also believed that timber was worse than worthless; it was a curse to lands. There were two subjects which those sturdy farmers never seemd to tire of. One was just how to belt a tree on the light of the moon, or during dog days, or when the Zodiac sign was in the heart, in order to "make a shore shot ter kill 'er dead." The other was just where a certain piece of road could be put in order to place it on lands that could not be tended. Their indefatigable industry succeeded with both projects. they killed the timber and put the roads on lands that could not be tilled, or traveled either.

Timber Became Valuable

Our forefathers are not to be blamed for their iron industry in clearing timber from good lands; but in their hatred for trees, they destroyed valuable timber on lands worthless for anything else than the growing of timber, and it soon became valuable. However, when it did so, some of the finest timber in Hardin County was stolen by timber-thieves. Some have criticised me for writing

of the outlaws of Hardin County. But I believe a writer should hew to the line, letting the chips fall as they may. This is one reason the Bible has held its place through the ages as a History of Truth. It lays bare the bad as well as the good, not even sparing kings and nobles.

That Hardin County in pioneer days was infested and even ruled by outlaws cannot be denied. We may seek to pass these things up as legends, but legend usually has truth behind its stories. When the writer was ten years old, a big portly looking fellow posed craftily as a government timber dealer, and passed under the name of Hornbuckle; but many lived under assumed names here in early days. He bought and had men to raft in Little Saline just east of Mount Zion Church the finest lot of logs that ever grew in the Hard Wood Section of our country.

When the work was done, he waited for the coming of a government pay clerk to settle for it all. About the middle of that September while they were expecting the pay clerk any day, a week's rainy weather came on. To the dismay and disappointment of many timber sellers and workmen, it was discovered that Hornbuckle and his immense lot of timber had floated away with the freshet. Later on, but too late, it was discovered that this timber thief with his cargo floated into Memphis, but neither he nor the pay checks ever floated back to Hardin County people. This is only one of many such swindles of those notorious days.

The Sawmill Age

About 1870 sons of pioneers began to tear away log huts and to replace them with framed dwellings and boxed barns. This was the age of the sawmill, cooper factory, vehicle factory, handle factory, furniture factories, paper mills, and tie-hacks; all calling for immense amounts of timber stands. From 1870 till 1910 statistics

say that for every tree that grew in our Ozark forests ten trees fell. It was that age when "the axe was laid at the root of the tree." Now the timber is gone and 10 million workmen are idle, and economists fear that they will be idle a long time. The Mississippi Valley in which Hardin County lies is now paying 10 million dollars a year in freight rates to have lumber supplies hauled from the Gulf and Pacific coast forests. With this added to other costs, we have learned the value of timber at last.

Had our forefathers foreseen these things, much wealth could have been saved for their sons and daughters; but as it is, I cannot estimate the thousands of dollars that timber has brought into our county.

A Valuable Industry

Our older citizens remember well the days of timber works here which furnished meat and bread for a lot of us fellows in our teens when our appetites were at their best. They can tell us some wonderful stories of the days when such companies worked our forests as Brunns and Braursaux, Aaron Lloyd Tie Company, and the John Maxwell Stave Company. These also furnished hauling to a lot of teemsters in those horse-and-wagon days, paying good money for hauling. About 1895 the Maxwell Company worked a paying set just west of the T. B. Rutherford farm, and soon they advertised for haulers. One morning Mr. Brunns lined up about a dozen new haulers, asking for their names rather hurriedly. One gave his name Smith, another Jones, and so on, till he came to a rather excellent teamster named Thomas Guess. Tom like others answered his question with his last name, calling out "Guess." Whereupon Mr. Brunns impatiently demanded, "How the devil can I guess your name, man, when I never saw you before!"

A Stave Culler

The timber business like other businesses can find

common workmen rather easily, but skilled, dependable men are always difficult to find, and are always in demand. Tie companies had much difficulty in finding that sort of men, but when they do find such a man as William Irby, of our county, they hold on to him with increasing wages.

The writer happened to learn of these things pertaining to the stave business. The oil companies, as well as the whisky, and beer companies demanded particular qualities and measurements for their vessels, and timber companies had to meet their demands or lose their patronage. I intruded upon and forced our County Clerk A. H. Wooten to lay his books aside for a storm of cross questions pertaining to all this. It was said that the Maxwell Company gave him the credit of having the quickest and best eye for judging and culling staves that they had ever tested, and they kept him on the job through some large sets in Hardin County; but he told me that they also used him as their stave culler in Kentucky and in Tennessee a few years after they moved from Hardin County. That was before Mr. Wooton's quick eye had learned to cull voters.

Climatic Value of Forests

Only in the last few decades scholars, called conservationists, have discovered that trees are given by an All-Wise Creator for the comforts of man and for a protective covering of the earth from extremes of climate and weather. They now know that the three great deserts of the earth were anciently three cradle homes for the three races of mankind; that these millions of square miles of sandy wastes were once blessed with rivers and lakes, cities and villages, forests and glades. Hulks of ships and boats have been discovered with many other artifacts of man as well as large petrified trees, all offering silent evidences buried in sifting sands that those wilderness

wastes prehistorically were forested homelands of happy people. But as charred remains prove, they burnt their forests to "make the whole earth one vast pastureland." A maddened climate followed with teeth of hot stinging sands, which drove them pell-mell from their homelands. Now a climate rules the day which lifts thermometers to 150 degrees, but that night, with no tree covers and waters to ameliorate temperature, ice will often freeze. The black hot simooms of Sahara hurled black dust into the very skin pores of man, driving the Black Race into the jungles of Africa. The white dust of Punjab Desert of Asia likewise drove the White Race from its unbearable climate, and the yellow sands of Gobi hurled a Yellow Race out of those plateaus from which the Yellow River rose and flowed into the Yellow Sea. Scholars now believe that deserts are man-made instead of God-made.

Conservationists Warn Us

Hence scientists are asking us if Hardin County and the Ozarks will change, can they change as much during the next hundred years as they have changed during the last? What will Hardin County be like when our next centennial rolls around? Tests have shown that the water table under the Ozarks has steadily sunk an inch a year for 25 years, and many fine springs have discontinued their flows. They further tell us that in summer months a large tree brings up water from ground storages and breaths out from the leaf stomata vapor enough in 24 hours to condense into a barrel of water. It is believed that this forest vapor very largely accounted for the heavy dews and summer showers that grew the finest peachblow potatoes for our grandfathers.

It is likewise argued that forest shelters held snows from melting and held warm waves back for "old time winters." But since the forests are gone winter rains turn [illegible] torrents which sweep wheat lands from fields,

Mr. George Ledbetter, who had bought wheat from many sections, even from the spring-wheat fields of the Dakotas, told the writer more than once that the wheat with the heaviest test and from which was ground the best flour that ever went out of his mills, was grown on the plateaus of Hardin County.

When the writer was a boy, he had to climb the banisters of Jas. Brownfield's porch to see the combs of the Arch Rutherford house and barn, by looking over one of those fine wheat plateaus. A few months ago he stood on the porch floor and saw 10 or 12 feet of those roofs. The heights of none of the buildings have been changed, but the damaging tooth of erosion has gnawed 60 or 70 inches from that broad plateau; so that it will not grow wheat now. I decided that day that these figures would hold good for thousands of acres in Hardin County. Because of this steady loss of our top-soils by winter freshets, we have lost the most valuable crop Hardin County ever raised; but by that erosion we lost a more valuable heritage than wheat-growing, and that was the virgin soils, the inherent wealth of a country.

Are Fruits Going?

We are assured by scholars that our climate is in danger of losing its evenness. The first hot winds ever felt in Hardin County schorched corn-tassels in August 1898, but since then they are becoming more and more common. In 1930 and 1936 the Western Desert laid claims to more than a million of acres of fine lands of the Great Plains. Even Congress became somewhat alarmed, when dust from the Western Dust Bowl threatened to becloud the noonday sun in Washington, D. C. They called scientists in for expert testimony. One scholar warningly said, "Gentlemen, our forests are gone, and our climate will go. In a hundred years from now the western line of the American Desert will be the Mississippi river."

Should such a thing happen, Hardin County will have no fruit at our next centennial, for good fruits go first before an arid climate. One fruit company alone in the Arkansas fruit belt reported that in the drouths and hot winds of 30 and 36, they lost a million apple trees. It is an evil omen that such wealthy companies are now leaving the Ozarks to invest in the more equable climates along the coasts of the U. S.

The government now owns more than thirteen thousand acres of land in Hardin County. It hopes to save our forests and therefore our climate, but the government cannot do so alone. That is too large a task for the government. A hundred million people can devastate a country of many more trees than any government can plant and grow. We must teach forestry to our youths and the love of trees to our children. We must plant trees, protect and grow trees for our comfort, our health, and the conservation of our county and country. Teach in the spirit of Joyce Kilmer:

"Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree."

Hardin County's First Business Directory

Through the courtesy of J. L. Hosick, merchant of Elizabethtown, I have access to an Illinois Atlas published in 1876, the centennial year of American Independence. It was purchased about that time by Mr. Hosick's grandfather, Joseph T. Hosick. This directory ought to pass as history with interest to the decendants and other relatives of these early business men of our county. Below I am giving their names, their business, their native homes, and the dates of their settlements in our county.—Chairman.

ELIZABETHTOWN

Wm. F. Adams	Farmer and Mechanic	Kentucky	1843
W. N. Ayres	Member of Lead Co. and Druggist	Ohio	1848
L. B. Anderson	Miller	Kentucky	1869
W. J. Banks	Farmer and Teacher	Tennessee	1866
John J. Baker	Farmer and Machinist	New York	1859
John S. Curry	Teacher	Illinois	1861
Willis Cunningham	Blacksmith	Tennessee	1874
Robert Craig	Farmer and Miner	Virginia	1844
Solomon Cox	Farmer and Mechanic	Kentucky	1869
L. T. Dean	Physician and Druggist	Kentucky	1862
Jacob Drumm	Farmer and Carpenter	France	1851
Martin Eichorn	Farmer and County Commissioner	Germany	1857
Charles Eller	Grocer and Liquor Dealer	Germany	1849

Col. C. M. Ferrell	Produce Dealer and Senator	Tennessee	1841
H. Ferrell	Dealer in Liquor	Indiana	1848
Thos. Gribble	Miner	England	1872
Anna Gross	Teacher	Illinois	1859
J. W. Grimsley	Physician	Tennessee	1853
H. R. Hardin	Barber	Kentucky	1871
Joseph Irby	Printer	Indiana	1856
Geo. W. Jackson	Sheriff	Indiana	1858
John Jackson	Boot and Shoemaker	Illinois	1841
Matthew Jenkins	Farmer and Teacher	Illinois	1850
F. C. Karber	Blacksmith	Germany	1852
J. N. Ledbetter	Merchant and Real Estate	Kentucky	1843
James A. Lowry	Editor of Hardin Gazette	Illinois	1841
J. Q. A. Ledbetter	Attorney and County Judge	Arkansas	1856
John T. Ledbetter	Farmer and County Treasurer	Illinois	1845
W. S. Morris	Attorney at Law	Illinois	1842
T. A. McAmis	Merchant and Postmaster	Tennessee	1844
Jas. McFarlan	Farmer and Ex-Circuit Clerk	Illinois	1810
Siddey Pankey	Miner	Illinois	1836
J. L. Paris	Physician and Druggist	Tennessee	1871
Wm. J. J. Paris	Teacher	Kentucky	1871
J. H. B. Renfro	County Clerk	Tennessee	1860
J. W. Ralph	Farmer and Real Estate	Illinois	1829

Marshall Rose	County Supt. of Schools	Illinois	1840
Hannah M. Stone	Teacher	Illinois	1857
Giley Schmid	Farmer and Carpenter	Sweden	1857
J. K. M. Stone	Pastor, Big Creek U. B. Church	Tennessee	1842
Charlotte Spyker	Music Teacher	New York	1837
Charles Swaggirt	Farmer and School Director	Pennsylvania	1870
Andrew Shell	Carpenter and Builder	Tennessee	1828
Earl Sherwood	Attorney at Law	Pennsylvania	1865
La Fayette Twitchell	Circuit Clerk	Illinois	1829
J. B. Thomson	Pastor of M. E. Church	Maryland	1870
I. M. Williams	Lumber and Saw Milling	New York	1861
James Hunter	Lumber and Saw Milling	New York	1861
C. W. Wilkinson	Attorney at Law	Tennessee	1867
Joseph T. Hosick	Farmer	Kentucky	1827

ROSE CLARE (Rosiclare)

J. Chinoweth	Miner and minerologist	Wisconsin	1867
Otho Davis	Miner	Illinois	1856
James Dunstar	Minerologist	England	1871
G. W. Ferrell	Farmer and Cooper	Kentucky	1869
Wm. Fields	Real Estate Dealer	Kentucky	1872
Jesse Griffin	Butcher	Tennessee	1850
J. W. Grigsby	Blacksmith	Kentucky	1868

Mrs. M. J. Hopkins	Music Teacher	New York	1872
Clifton Hoskins	Practical Mining	England	1871
R. J. McGinis	Physician	Pennsylvania	1861
Henry Magraw	Bricklayer	New York	1860
Jas. B. Miller	Attorney at Law	Virginia	1875
J. M. Moxley	Engineer	Kentucky	1871
D. W. Pell	Merchant	Illinois	1855
Wm. Rowan	Merchant	Indiana	1839
John O. Smoot	Merchant	Kentucky	1865
Harrison Tryon	Horseman and Livery Stable	Ohio	1862
J. A. Turner	Carpenter and Builder	Tennessee	1873
Mrs. S. Volkert	Dry Goods and Groceries	Germany	1849
George Wheeler	Practical Mining	England	1871
L. D. Webster	Dealer in Loquors	Alabama	1871
W. B. White	Practical Mining	Illinois	1848
J. S. Walton	Liquor Dealer	Indiana	1872

CAVE-IN-ROCK

Ed. H. Baker	Dealer in Produce	Kentucky	1872
R. C. Estridge	Dealer in Liquors	Tennessee	1874
J. J. Goodwin	General Merchant	Missouri	1868
J. M. Jentry	Physician	Tennessee	1864
Thos. Hodges	Farmer and Minister	Indiana	1852

John Mitchell	Farmer and Merchant	Ireland	1832
Pell & Madden	General Merchants	Illinois	1840
Wm. L. Ray	Physician and Surgeon	Kentucky	1874
M. L. Shelby	Dry Goods and Produce	Kentucky	1846
John M. St. John	Farmer and Engineer	Kentucky	1850
M. Wright	Farmer and Minister	Kentucky	1871
E. F. Wall	Farmer and Shipper	Tennessee	1850
John Sheares	First Teacher	Pennsylvania	1818

PARKINSON'S LANDING

Shetler & Allard	Merchants and Grain Dealers	Indiana	1871
John E. Beal	Clerk and Salesman	Pennsylvania	1868
John S. Cummins	Physician	Indiana	1850
Geo. J. Carter	Carpenter and Cooper	Illinois	1850
W. T. Cullum	General Produce	Kentucky	1850
Daniel V. Davis	Cooper and Carpenter	Illinois	1825
J. M. Dixon	Mechanic	Tennessee	1859
A. W. Givens	Groceries and Produce	Ohio	1869
Moore & Reed	Blacksmiths	Illinois	1844
Joseph Shetler	Shetler and Allard Merchants	Germany	1853

SPARKS HILL

Braxton Ginger	Farmer and Teacher	Illinois	1852
A. J. Lee	Farmer and Mechanic	Tennessee	1870
John A. Oxford	Farmer and Teacher	Illinois	1848
Elihu Oxford	Farmer and Minister	N. Carolina	1836
James Oxford	Farmer and Minister	N. Carolina	1836
William Patton	Farmer	Tennessee	1836
Jas. Rutherford	Farmer	Ohio	1844
Benj. Ingram	Farmer	Kentucky	1840
George Hall	Farmer	Ohio	1845
Caleb Grace	Farmer and Mason	Kentucky	1852
John Russell	Farmer	Kentucky	1856
Garland Waters	Farmer and Mail Carrier	Kentucky	1844
Arch Sutton	Farmer	Kentucky	1844
Jess Miles	Farmer and Carpenter	Kentucky	1844
Josiah Suits	Farmer	Pennsylvania	1840
Anderson Thacker	Farmer and Cooper	Pennsylvania	1840
Joel Coghill	Farmer and Minister	Kentucky	1844
Wm. N. Warford	Merchant and Physician	Kentucky	1850
David T. Warford	Merchant and Postmaster	Kentucky	1850
Horace Foster	Farmer	Tennessee	1846
Jerry Reynolds	Farmer	Virginia	1840
Joseph Irby	First Justice	Pennsylvania	1823

WALRABS MILLS

John C. Walrab	Farmer and Miller	Germany	1849
Jefferson Hobbs	Farmer and Flatboatman	Virginia	1842
Norman Pierce	Farmer and Shipper	Virginia	1845
James Hill	Farmer	Kentucky	1848
Ira Driver	Farmer and Minister	Tennessee	1845
Antone Herman	Farmer	Germany	1845
Nicholas Reif	Farmer	Germany	1845
Carl Humm	Farmer	Germany	1848
John Rotes	Farmer	Germany	1841
John Koch	Farmer	Germany	1841
John Seiner	Farmer	Germany	1848
Daniel Vinyard	Farmer	Virginia	1817

HERALD-ENTERPRISE

Golconda, Illinois, 1939