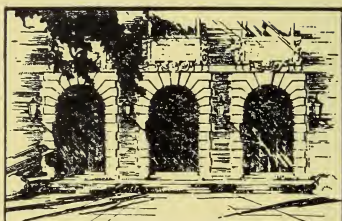


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History of Massac County


—GEORGE W. MAY



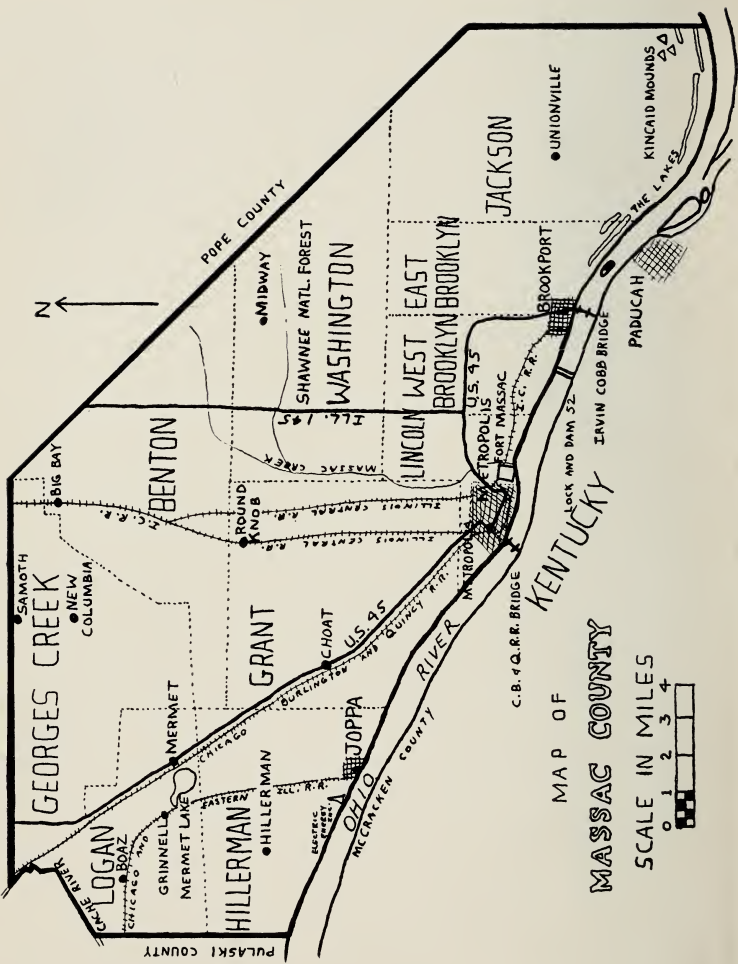
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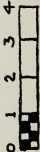
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MAP OF

MASSAC COUNTY

SCALE IN MILES



HISTORY OF MASSAC COUNTY ILLINOIS

BY

GEORGE W. MAY

Teacher, Public Schools of Illinois

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A spot of local history is like an inn upon a highway; it is a stage upon a far journey; it is a place the National history has passed through. There mankind has stopped and lodged by the way.

—Woodrow Wilson

PREFACE

As a little boy four years old, the author remembers his parents taking him to old Fort Massac one Fourth of July. At the age of seven he was taken to live with his grandparents for one year. The home was in an area which commanded a sweeping view of most of the county and part of Kentucky. Those were impressionable days. At night the grandparents would tell many tales of yore about the region. A love for the home county was thus early engendered in the child. As time went by he became curious to know more about Massac county. Some of the fruits of his inquiry follow in this book.

No county in "Egypt", or Southern Illinois, has a more interesting history than Massac. It has played its part under the rule of five distinct peoples. It has held from earliest times a strategic position.

Interest in our county history centers around old Fort Massac. It was early visited by the French, and here in 1757 they staged their last struggle for possession of the fairest portion of the New World—Illinois. "Probably the most outstanding event that ever happened in Massac County," said the late Roy R. Helm in a memorial address, "was when Clark landed on the north bank of the Ohio on June 28, 1778." Part of Aaron Burr's conspiracy was planned here. Many other stirring events have occurred in the county and in the adjacent region. Massac has played its part well in the unfolding of the progress of the Nation—through the tide of im-

migration, the various wars, and the quiet daily tasks of economic life.

Flowing past the entire south side of Massac County is the beautiful Ohio River, "La Belle Riviere," as the French called it when they first beheld the glistening, undulating body of that stream. It is a river which vies with the Mississippi in importance. Nations struggled for it. It is the "Gateway to the North and the South." The river has been the scene of many dramatic incidents and also the cause of some leading historical events. The Ohio ranked as a personage in the legends of the Indians, and they relinquished it with much bitterness. Illinois and Kentucky both can look with just pride upon "Ohiopechen," "the Deep Broken Shining River," as the native Indian did before the coming of the white man broke the dual continuity.

This rich heritage of local history was, until a few years ago, scarcely known to thousands of people in the county. Only brief mention was made of the legend of Father Mermet. Clark's visit in 1778 was vaguely treated. The situation in 1846, such as is now almost unbelievable, was neglected. Social and cultural history was only dimly seen in the discussions of the larger State and National development. There has been an upsurge of interest in local history all over America during recent years. Interest in Massac County history has awakened among the local citizens as well. Perhaps the Metropolis Centennial gave the spark in 1939.

This former neglect has been only natural and in no way reflects upon the interest and pride which

the people have in their county. With the exception of O. J. Page's **History of Massac County**, published more than fifty years ago, the accounts are fragmentary. No average person or school child would be expected to read the material in such form. Page's book has been out of print almost since it was published, and copies are rare.

It is the aim of this little book, if not to present many new facts or aspects of our local history, at least to revive interest in its history. There are few attempts at original interpretations of historical points in dispute. That is left for academic research workers with their mass of references and footnotes. The aim has been rather to present briefly some of the high spots for school children and for those adults having only a casual interest. It is hoped a reading will inspire a deeper esteem for Massac County. If certain viewpoints do not seem conventional, if the reader detects any gross errors, if there seems to be a lack of literary expression or show, bear in mind that the purpose is to arouse a new interest, especially in the children who are now in school. It is suggested that when a period is studied in National or State history, that Massac be drawn into the picture whenever possible. In that way, children will see the relation of local events to points in their regular text books. It is hoped also that a phrase or sentence here and there will generate a spark which will lead some future embryonic historian to delve deeper. This lengthy preface may well indicate the possibilities.

Let it not be supposed that all available material

has been used. Much detail has been omitted. Several chapters of a secondary character have been entirely deleted. As Samuel Crothers has said in his book, **The Gentle Reader**: "Kind-hearted historians overload their works. There is no surer oblivion than that which awaits one whose name is recorded in a book that undertakes to tell all,"* so some principles of selection must guide. Bits of reminiscences, anecdotes, and oddities are interesting but compromise is made necessary by the demands of reality. The extremely high cost of publication is a very real factor. Often the only alternative to a small book is no book at all. As a convenient book of reference, a "clearing house" for the scattered material, it is hoped this book will commend itself to all.

Numbers in parentheses inserted in the text refer to the authorities as numbered in the bibliography.

O. J. Page has been largely drawn upon. Much in his book is worthy of being incorporated in any proposed history of the county. In several instances material may not be credited to Page, for which acknowledgment is hereby made. But throughout, the most natural order has been attempted, declining to copy Page's, which, in some instances, does not seem the most logical.

Especial thanks are given the Illinois State Historical Society for blanket permission to use material from its various publications and from the **Centen-**

*Samuel Crothers—**The Gentle Reader** (Houghton Mifflin Company, 1903), P. 182. By special permission.

nial History of Illinois. Grateful acknowledgment is made to those who from time to time have had articles printed in the local newspapers. Such material has been used freely. Among the writers are Mrs. Ella K. Moseley, Mr. Robert Dollar, Mr. Thrift Corlis, the late Roy R. Helm, W. P. Bunn, Tom Willis, Jesse Jones of Joppa, and many others.

The writer acknowledges himself indebted to many who granted personal interviews or answered letters of inquiry, among whom are many church pastors and other community leaders. A personal "thank you" is extended to Miss Hattie Mann and Mr. Charles C. Feirich of **The Metropolis News**; Mr. Howard Miller; Mr. Floyd Cougill; former county clerk, Mr. Henry Morrow; Mr. Clyde Taylor; and to the author's wife for her continuing faith. Further thanks are due Dr. Louis A. R. Yates, Head of the History Department, Bradley University, who took time out from a busy schedule to read the manuscript and offer helpful criticism. Gratitude is tendered to all others who in any way helped make this volume possible, and who thereby manifested an admirable interest in their home county.

Metropolis, Illinois
November 1, 1954

G. W. M.

CHAPTER I

GENERAL FACTS

AREA AND BOUNDARIES—Massac county has an area of 246 square miles. It is much smaller than the average of 555 square miles for Illinois counties, ranking ninety-sixth. It is nearest in size to Scott and Edwards Counties. The county is three and one-half times larger than the District of Columbia, and lacks 48 square miles being one-fifth as large as Rhode Island. Massac County has 157,400 acres, or about equal to the combined area of Chicago and Indianapolis.

Massac is bounded on the north by Johnson County. For a short distance, in the northwest corner, flows the Cache River. To the west lies Pulaski County. Along the entire south side flows the Ohio River which, however, is claimed by Kentucky. Pope County borders on the east. In shape, the County resembles a low-topped shoe, if some imagination is used. The boundaries total about 64 miles, of which 24 is the Ohio River.

SURFACE AND DRAINAGE—The average elevation of Massac County is 325 feet above sea level.

The highest place is at a point not far west of Choat. The elevation of Metropolis is 328.5 feet.

The county is divided into three drainage basins: Bay Creek, Cache Creek, and the Ohio. Between the Cache basin on the north, and the Ohio, on the south, runs the divide, extending across the county roughly southeast and northwest. The northeastern area is drained by Bay Creek. Eventually, both the Cache Creek and Bay Creek waters reach the Ohio. At one place the divide lies less than two miles from the Ohio, but the water, falling on the north slope, must journey fifty miles down the Cache before reaching the Ohio.

A peculiarity exists in regard to the headwaters of Cache and Bay Creeks. When the Ohio is high the headwaters of Bay Creek tend to drain into the Cache bottoms and flow west. When the Ohio is at normal stage, the waters drain into the respective systems as usual. This phenomenon occurs because of the extremely low divide.

Along the north side of the county extends a range of irregular shelved rocks. Rising abruptly from the lowlands of the Cache Basin, they extend from Indian Point eastward to Reevesville. They are the utmost foothills of the southern part of the Ozark Spurs. The hills through the center of the county are seldom rocky. Along the Ohio occur many steep river hills clothed with trees. In the southeastern end of the county there is much low swampy land, formerly covered with dense forests,

and known as the Black Bottoms. Increased population and demand for land has brought about reclamation of the Cache Basin, which on early maps was lettered as Cypress swamps. In the Cache Basin only a vestige of Long Lake remains since drainage. Part of the area will soon be covered by Mermet Lake as a conservation project. In the Black Bottom area are several lakes, some lying in Massac and some in Pope County.



LOON LAKE

Seven-mile Creek and Massac Creek are the two largest streams entirely within the county, the latter being 14 miles long and draining 33 square miles. The large streams of the Ohio Basin are all in the east one-half of the county.

SOILS AND MINERALS—Massac County has a great variety of soils. Much of it is comprised of old river bottoms, and swamp areas, unequalled in productivity. Much of this land, if transferred to

Northern Illinois, would bring hundreds of dollars per acre. In the central hills of Massac are the more depleted clays. Even those have been improved to good productivity under the various soil-building programs. Because of the variety of soils varied types of agriculture can be profitably pursued. Fruits grow well, and because the gray silt loam has much iron in it, gives the fruit excellent color and flavor. The Ozark Ridge also tempers the north winds.

The nearest approach to minerals of present commercial worth is a conglomerate or gravel-like substance good for road building, sand, and limestone. The rocks are not only an asset materially but also add a characteristic beauty to the bluff area. There are some good clay deposits but they have not been utilized for many years. Within a radius of 50 miles there are ample resources of coal, fluorspar, shale, Fuller's earth, Kaolin, tripoli, and clay.

GEOLOGY—The Egypt region of Illinois is the youngest geologically. There is evidence of early animal life. In the Age of Reptiles the Ohio River emptied into the Gulf of Mexico near Cairo. Ages ago the Ohio perhaps flowed across the Bay-Cache Basins.

The last geologic era was the Cenozoic which had two systems, the Tertiary and the Quaternary. The first approached from the south and reached only the counties bordering the Ohio. The Quaternary period is sub-divided into Glacial and Post-Glacial formations. Life had been going on for ages.

Where we live today was tropical. Great beasts roamed about the luxuriant vegetation. With the Quaternary period came a great change. The temperature fell; the animals died or moved southward. A huge glacier pushed down from the north. The Ozark Hills seem to have been a bulwark against the advance of the ice sheet, for Massac and neighboring counties remained unglaciated. All of the superficial material—soil, gravel, clay and sand—is of the Quaternary system. In places there is no mantle rock, or superficial material, the solid rock being exposed. (1)

Under the Quaternary deposits are found the older rocks of the Tertiary formation. The Chester group is exposed along the bluffs. Even the older and deeper St. Louis limestones crop out south of the swamps and in the western part of the county. (2) The upper Mississippi Rocks underlie the Black Bottom area. The larger central part of the county is of the Ripley Formation, a thick bed of sandy clay under the topsoil, but even here sometimes the Mississippian layer crops out. (3)

CLIMATE AND RAINFALL—The latitude of Massac County is $37^{\circ} 10' 48''$ to $37^{\circ} 18' 54''$ north, or a width of about 8 minutes or 19 miles. The latitude almost parallels that of Norfolk, Virginia.

The climate closely approximates that of Western Kentucky and the Middle South. To the southeast the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers empty their

warm waters into the Ohio, tempering the climate to make it similar to Nashville. The mean annual temperature is 58° F. The average range is 114°. Thermometers may fall below zero or rise above the century mark. Winds, storms and cyclones sometimes occur in March and September. In 1930 a low temperature of 22 degrees below zero was recorded. The last average killing frost is April 15 and never later than May 15. The autumn average is October 15. Indian Summer brings a gorgeous display of vari-colored leaves. The growing season lasts from two to four weeks longer than the rest of Illinois. Any temperate plant will grow, and flax, tobacco and cotton have been grown successfully.

The average annual rainfall from 1878 to 1936 is 40 to 45 inches. Although the south third of Illinois has heavier precipitation, only 21.6 inches fall in the summer months when growing crops need rain most. It makes Egypt less well adapted to farming. (1)

The ground water source is minor rock and alluvium. In Metropolis the source is drift wells. The Ohio River has over 100 million gallons flow daily; Cache Creek zero to one million gallons daily. (4) Rural wells, cisterns and ponds sometime fail in drought. The need for more surface water is being met by the construction of larger and better reservoirs.

FLORA AND FAUNA—The two southern tiers of Illinois counties have no prairies. The region is broken by bluffs and hills which were once, and to

a great extent yet, forest-clad. About 75 species of trees, mostly hardwoods, grow in the county. In pioneer days the woodlands were of great value. They provided material for houses, furniture, tools, fuel, and fences. The sawmill reduced labor but also reduced good stands of timber. Lumbering as an industry has dwindled in Massac County. About 28 per cent of the county is forested today, of which Shawnee National Forest comprises 2978 acres government owned.

The fauna of this region was exceptionally rich in the early days. Bear, buffalo and beaver abounded as well as many smaller animals. Deer were plentiful and rather increased with the population. By 1837 the buffalo was entirely extinct in Illinois and bear and elk were seldom seen. Wolves were common and destructive. In water areas bird life was abundant. Massac is in the center of the Mississippi flyway of bird migration. Snakes abounded, including the dangerous rattler, copperhead, and water moccasin. There were squirrels, gophers, rabbits, raccoon, muskrats, opossums, otter, martens, bees, and various edible birds such as grouse, quail and turkeys. (5)

There were bears, wolves, elk, deer, panther, otters and beavers in Massac County as late as 1855. Near Tucker's Mills, in lower Massac, was an elk-glade, where an elk was killed, and a bear was killed at Indian Point by David Sherer. (6)

KINCAID MOUNDS—Excavations begun in 1934

and carried on in several successive years have revealed much about the so-called Mound Builders. There are ten mounds on the Kincaid farm in southeastern Massac County, and nine on the Lewis farm across the line in Pope County. Work carried on by the University of Chicago revealed an extensive village site. Six of the larger mounds are pyramids used for ceremonies. Upon the most imposing mound rests the Kincaid homestead. It is a truncated mound 30 feet high with a base 300 by 200 feet and has a top area of almost an acre. The work uncovered many artifacts as well as skeletons. The Kincaid Culture was of the later and more settled agricultural type which existed perhaps as recently as one thousand years ago. (7)

INDIANS—Bear, buffalo and beaver drew the Indians to forested Egypt. There also were the salines. The region has been occupied by no less than seven distinct Indian nations. The Tamaroas were probably the first to be seen by white men, the Mascoutens perhaps sharing the honor. In their footsteps came a few Shawnees around 1684 and some scattering Cherokee. The Mascoutens were a sixth tribe of the Illinois Indians. (8) Another ill-defined nation consisting of the Weahs, Miamis, Piankishaws and Cahokias was the Ninneway who occupied Southern Illinois for a time. The Cherokees and Chickashaws almost wiped them out. The latter constantly stirred up revolts among the Central Illinois Tribes. They crossed the Ohio on seditious

expeditions. The crossing must have been near the Fort Massac site, as they came down the Tenenssee and Cumberland. The Shawnees were quite warlike and Tecumseh visited Fort Massac around 1754 in the interest of his conspiracy. Egypt, rather than a habitation, seems more likely to have served as a neutral hunting ground for many nations. The Indian relinquished his lands with extreme reluctance. The Treaty of Vincennes in 1803 practically extinguished his title. But there were a few Indians around Fort Massac in 1811.

PEOPLE—With a population in 1950 of 13,594 Massac County ranked 1963 among American counties. This was a decrease of nine per cent from 1940. The average number of persons per square mile was 55. Those age 65 or over constituted 12.9 per cent. Households numbered 4325; families 3860. Almost 60 per cent had incomes less than \$2000. Those in the civilian labor force were 4909 of which 25 per cent were in agriculture and 23 per cent in manufacturing. Urban population in 1950 was 6,093, rural non-farm 3866, and rural farm 3635. There were 257 live births and 181 deaths. (9) Within a 10-mile radius of Metropolis live almost 30,000 persons.

The people are almost all native born Americans. There is a large element of Scotch with origins in the South, Pennsylvania, Ohio and other states. Many of them are in the professions. There are some of English, Irish and Scotch-Irish descent.

The German element is great. Few German-born people remain, each year having seen one or more pass on at an old age. In 1900 one-third of the population was of German descent. Their taste ran to farming, but they have increasingly turned to business. (6)

The pioneers endured many hardships and met the tests of good citizenship. They toiled and conquered so that they might have government, schools, churches, roads and farms. We enjoy an abundant life of which they never dreamed. We should appreciate our heritage and strive to pass it on with whatever improvement we can add.

At one time approximately 20 per cent of the population was of the Negro race. It was once 25 per cent in Metropolis. From 1940 to 1950 the colored population declined 3.7 per cent. There are now 1185 of which about 75 per cent live in Metropolis, Brookport and Joppa. (9) They are a law-abiding and industrious people. The earliest colored families were the Yanceys and Chavices, the former always free. (6)

GOVERNMENT—Massac County has the county or commission form of government. The three County Commissioners, constituting the County Board, are elected at large by the people, one each year, for a term of three years. Due to the Southern origins of the people, they have never favored the township form of local government. In the Convention of 1871 the county voted against it.

The county is divided into eleven voting precincts. They are Logan, Hillerman, Georges Creek, Benton, Grant, Metropolis, Washington, Lincoln, Jackson, West Brooklyn and East Brooklyn. Metropolis is the county seat.

Metropolis and Brookport have the Aldermanic form of government. Joppa has the Village Board. These are the only incorporated places.

What makes a region distinctive? So one may ask of Massac County. A conglomeration of answers is almost sure to be given. Some may say Fort Massac; others say the Ohio; still others its vast but former cypress swamps, or its friendly homogeneous people. There would be other different answers.

The history of Fort Massac is essentially the history of Massac County to 1820. The historical field is rich around the old fort. One only needs to secure a few fundamental facts to put oneself in an attitude of subservience to enjoy its spell. Randall Parrish adequately expresses the sentiments of true Massacans when he exclaims: "Fort Massac! What wealth of romance forgotten and lost forever lies hidden beneath your green-clad ruins! What brave hopes have been buried here! What great deeds have here found birth! Careless, indeed, is that child of Illinois who will fail to give you honor." (12)

It shall now be our duty to relate in several succeeding chapters the story of Fort Massac.

CHAPTER II

TRADITIONS

DESOTO—The debunking of history and historical personages is not always a good thing and sometimes boomerangs upon the author. It is common practice, however, to include legend as a part of history. Crothers has said that "the legend is often more significant than the colorless annals."* When there is any chance to verify the details of a legend it should be done. The historian-educationalist Henry Johnson, however, would go so far as to suppress controversy forcibly, believing that children and the general reading public should be given something definite to believe in.

Three first-class traditions exist concerning Fort Massac. The first is that De Soto stopped at the site in 1542 and built a palisaded fort. The exponents of this tradition have little or nothing upon which to base such a belief. As Mulcaster says: "De Soto was a gold hunter and not a builder of forts." (13)

*Samuel Crothers—**The Gentle Reader** (Houghton Mifflin Company. 1903), P. 176. By special permission.

No type of evidence has been uncovered and the account must remain conjectural.

FATHER MERMET—The second tradition is by far the stronger rooted not only among local citizens but also among some older historians. Briefly the story is that Father Mermet accompanied Charles Juchereau de St. Denys on his expedition to establish a tannery on the lower Ohio about 1702. Father Mermet built the Mission of Assumption and preached to the Indians. The site was Fort Massac. So strong has been the belief that the village of Mermet was so named many years ago. Troubles with the Indians arose and the French hastily fled back to Kaskaskia. Juchereau, the leader, died and was buried at the post. This is the first and older version.

The writer confesses that this was by far the most puzzling problem in the writing of this book, because of the conflicting theories and because he did not wish to shatter a beautiful legend if preventable. At the same time he wished to get at the truth as near as possible. Hence was the dilemma. The reader, though, must understand two things. First, as Allen Nevins warns: "Nothing is easier than to become enamored of a particular answer, a cherished hypothesis, for an historical problem. The only honest course is to confess error and bend to the evidence."*¹ Second, as Ruth Painter Randall

*¹Allan Nevins—**The Gateway to History** (D. C. Heath and Company. 1938), P. 230. By special permission.

says: "There is pressure upon publishers and authors to play up the legend to please the popular taste. The public wants to believe the romantic tale."*2

Moses, Brown, Hall, Wallace, Shea, O. J. Page and other older writers based their stories on hearsay and insufficient evidence. Mrs. M. T. Scott in 1903 fell into error on a translation of French from the Margry papers. Professor George W. Smith adheres rather to the older group. Alvord was more cautious writing in 1920. As far back as 1910, Lansden, the Cairo historian, located the tannery at or near Cairo. Schlarman, writing in 1929, did also.

Hockett, the historiographer, well said that an error, once in circulation, displays great vitality. Alvord and Carter said: "Fort Massac has enjoyed a greater reputation in the traditions that have grown up around its abandoned earthworks than can be derived from its actual history." (14) W. P. Bunn was the first Massac County historian to evince a new critical view of this topic. In a prepared paper read in 1944 he voiced skepticism of the various legends and began certain history with 1757.

Trained workers in the field of historical research have gone to original sources and are to be believed over the words of the older school. Research and archeology have made great progress in recent years.

*2Ruth Painter Randall—**Mary Lincoln, Biography of a Marriage** (Little, Brown and Company. 1953), P. 405. By special permission.

We have had to revise many of our beliefs. The evidence so well presented by Dr. Norman Caldwell is sufficient to cause the author to take a new view, though his regrets are as keen as those of any other native Massacan. Even Dr. Caldwell admits difficulty on the question of the location of Juchereau's establishment. The chronicler Charlevoix perhaps in the last analysis is the best guide. The key phrase as to location is "two or three leagues above the mouth of the Ohio." Fort Massac is four times farther upstream. (15)

At this point let us return to the other versions, though each of these has variations. A second view and one most likely is that the French tannery was located near Mound City. Father Mermet preached there. The expedition broke up, but due to the loss of the leader in an epidemic rather than to Indian trouble. Dr. Caldwell takes this view. Lansden says: "There can be little doubt as to this old fort being at or near the mouth of the Ohio River and not at the site of Fort Massac." (16) Schlarman says it was "a short distance above the present Cairo, Illinois. The Jesuit Father Mermet was appointed missionary of this post." (17)

A third account is that of Moyers. (18) He locates Juchereau de St. Denys' post at or near the head of the Grand Chain of Rocks, or Va Bache, on the Ohio. Hunting parties went out and depots were set up in 1703. One depot was Belle Garde near the mouth of Massac Creek. By April 1704 the

post had 13,000 skins. Mermet preached at Va Bache. Troubles arose in June 1704 and the Indians massacred many. Juchereau escaped. Moyers seems to base his story on Thwaites who translated into 73 volumes the letters of Charlevoix. A mass of detail has been omitted from Moyers, but enough to say is it is fascinating reading.

Since so many theories and conflicting statements exist one is tempted to say "Take your choice." We do not want to renege on our acceptance of the second version, but for those die-hard martyrs to tradition there is a tenuous middle-ground. Since, as Barbara Burr Hubbs agrees, the Va Bache outposts were scattered over a very extensive area, it is remotely possible that Father Mermet did preach on the banks of the Ohio at the future site of Fort Massac. (19) The story, so well related by Kipp, is too pious to relinquish easily. (20)

THE MASSACRE—Definite records are lacking for the years up to 1757. Tradition maintains that a fort was built on the Fort Massac site between 1708 and 1711. The French may have returned to the area not only because the Mascoutens continued friendly but also because the Cherokees were intruding upon Illinois by way of the Cherokee (Tennessee) River. From 1710 to 1725 the Fox Indians warred against the French and unallied Indians and threatened to cut asunder the colonies of France. (21) In 1731 a party of French and Shawnees descended probably as far as the future

Fort Massac. According to Brown the fort was erected at this period. (22) Charlevoix had, in 1721, urged that a good garrison be built to keep the savages in awe.

This period is the source of the tradition which tries to explain the origin of the name "Massac". Those who contend that the name comes from the word "Massacre" base their belief on the massacre which is said to have occurred at this time. Those who disregard this source say the fort was named "Massiac" in honor of M. de Massiac, who was French Minister of Marine and Colonies in 1758.

The story is that the Indians had arranged for the extermination of the inmates of the fort, which was to be effected by a curious, though as Hall says, not uncommon stratagem. (23) Under cover of night, some Indians crossed the river and showed themselves next morning arrayed in bearskins. The others crept up to the fort. Completely deceived, some of the French next morning rowed across the river in pursuit of the "game", leaving the others on the bank to observe the sport. The bruins disappeared and the French to their dismay found too late that those at the fort had been annihilated. (22)

It is unlikely that such an event happened. However, the story gained currency and was repeated by many of the older historians. So far as is known, the fort experienced only one attack. It was made in 1757 by the Cherokees who were repulsed. (24) **American State Papers, Foreign Affairs 1:458, an**

undisputed authority, states: "The fort was named Massiac after a French Minister, and not 'Massacre' because of the massacre of the French garrison. That event never took place." (21)

CHAPTER III

LAST YEARS UNDER THE FRENCH

For seven years Fort Massac was the scene of stirring events in the French struggle for supremacy in the Ohio Valley. Massac's part began with the coming of Charles Philippe Aubry to the site in 1757, a man who was in many respects the most distinguished personage of the period. Major de Makarty was at this time commander of the Illinois Country, and learning that the British were planning to send a war party to the Mississippi by way of the Tennessee River, ordered Aubry to erect a fort on the Ohio. (21)

Aubry came to Massac by way of the Mississippi and soon a temporary structure was begun. Aubry says in his account that he built the fort on May 10, 1757. This being on Ascension Day, the fort was named Fort de l'Ascension. The corner stone was laid on this day but the fort was not completed until June 20. The fort was "a square flanked by two rows of tree trunks joined and set against a banquette inside." It was believed effective against the savages but not the English. (17)

The fort was not far west of Massac Creek which placed it at about the present site. M. Aubry led a party of forty men up the Tennessee in quest of the English for a distance of "about 120 leagues", but finding no trace of them, returned to Fort Ascension. Soon after Aubry repelled an attack on the fort by the Cherokees. (21)

The following year Aubry conducted an expedition which carried supplies to the French at Fort Duquesne, and was engaged in several skirmishes while there. But the French, seeing that they could hold Duquesne no longer, burnt it in October and began the retreat of a thousand miles to the Illinois Country, Aubry coming down the Ohio to Fort Ascension again.

Along with Aubry came the noted St. Ange de Belle Rive, who had once served as Illinois commandant and who was destined to play an important role in the struggle. Aubry brought with him eight cannon and 100 men for garrison duty. Upon arrival, he strengthened and enlarged the fort by throwing up new earthen works and erecting a stockade with four bastions. Aubry departed and, it is said, left in command a young subaltern, M. Marsiac, or Massaiac, who was also the engineer of the fort. Some authorities claim the fort was now named for him, but no one has been able to find anywhere any record of such an officer. (25) Be that as it may, henceforth, in French records it was

known as Fort Massac, and was the last fort to be built by the French in America.

St. Ange was instructed to remain at the fort and stop every pursuing expedition. He served well in that capacity, warding off the English in several instances. Later he went to New Orleans where he died some years later.

Fort Massac at once became a charge upon Fort Chartres, sending its requisitions to Major Makarty for arms, ammunition, provisions and other needed supplies. (26) During the last years of Makarty's command he, in 1759, took further measures to protect the country along the Ohio by stationing a considerable party of Chaoumon (Shawnee) Indians at Fort Massac, with an ample supply of provisions for the season. He gave as his reason that "they will be more useful and less dangerous than at Fort Chartres." The Indians did not remain long enough to be of any assistance, but becoming fearful, withdrew northwards toward Fort Chartres again. (21) (26)

In June 1759, 300 soldiers and militia and 600 Indians marched from the Illinois Country by way of Fort Massac for the relief of Fort Niagara. M. Hertel, who had maintained his ground among the Indians on the Scioto, reported that though friendly he recommended an early removal of the Scioto to a point near Fort Massac. (27)

On April 12, 1760, Makarty heard of the menacing operations of the English at Fort Duquesne and

said: "I have caused Fort Massac to be terraced, fraized and fortified, piece upon piece, with a strong ditch." He continued to send it cannon until at the surrender it had eight guns mounted. (26)

The next person of note who appeared upon the local scene was Philippe Francois de Rastel, Chevalier de Rocheblave. Villiers, Makarty's successor, assumed the command of Illinois in 1760, and in the same year gave Rocheblave the command of Fort Massac to guard against the British attacks from the Tennessee. Rocheblave arrived on May 22 with two boats and fifty soldiers to supersede the Sieur de Clouet, then stationed there. (21)

The French began gradually but steadily to lose ground and in 1761 only the Illinois Country remained to them. The British continued to triumph until in 1763 the Peace of Paris was signed. When Villiers learned of the treaty he ordered his scattered forces to be drawn in. The garrison under Rocheblave was reduced to 15 men and one officer. Rocheblave occupied Fort Massac only a short time, for after the Peace of Paris he was appointed to other duties. In a report of Robertson he says: "a captain and sixty men are to relieve the French garrison at Massiac, thirty five leagues up the Ohio, on the left bank from the river's mouth opposite to the Cherokee River." (28) In a letter signed by Dabbadie he said two pieces of cannon could be left to the British. These, along with others from various ceded forts, were to be taken to New Orleans. (28) Before the

British arrived the French had abandoned the fort.

The French garrison was directed to give up Fort Massac by a special order of April 21, 1764, but technically they continued to hold it for another year. The order then was formally carried out by a Captain Thomas Stirling who "embarked in boats at Fort Pitt with 100 Highlander Veterans of the 42nd English regiment, and descended the Ohio to its mouth, accepting the surrender of Fort Massac en route." (27)

With the end of the French and Indian War Fort Massac and the Illinois Country passed into British hands. The lilies of France ceased to grow on Illinois soil, and the French dominion of over 100 years ended.

CHAPTER IV

MASSAC UNDER THE BRITISH

The British rule of fifteen years in the Illinois Country began with the coming of Captain Thomas Stirling in October 1765. As has been said, he came down the Ohio to Fort Massac and accepted its surrender.

The French were ignorant of the true state of affairs so soon after the peace signature, and had influenced the Indians against the expected arrival of the English. Being aware of this, Stirling sent Lieutenant Rumsey by land with two Indians and two French from Fort Massac to acquaint St. Ange of the approach, and asked him to pacify the Indians. The French lowered their lily-splashed banner, and journeying morosely down to New Orleans, left the British flag floating over the now decimated population.

The old French forts were in many instances rebuilt by the British. Fort Massac was among those mentioned as being of some consequence. In an account of the French forts ceded to Great Britain in Louisiana by the Treaty of 1763, written by an

officer well acquainted with the place he described, he says: "13 leagues from the Mississippi on the left bank of the Ohio, is Fort Massac or Ascension, built in 1757 a little below the mouth of the Cherokee. It is of consequence for the British to preserve it as it secures the communication between the Illinois and Fort Pitt."

The French had restrictions placed upon their trading activities—it was the policy of the British to compel the French to make full account of trade—but illegal trade and smuggling was carried on, and it was difficult for the British to hold the trade monopoly. They began planning for the prevention of French trade. It is strange that no action was ever taken towards rebuilding Fort Massac.

Captain Stirling remained in command only three months, and was succeeded by Major Robert Farmer, who in turn was appointed governor. He at once advised the establishment of a good post on the Ohio at Fort Massac where, he said, the French had one burnt a few months previously by the Chickasaws. Robertson also advised that the fort be rebuilt.

Captain Harry Gordon made a trip down the Ohio in the summer of 1766 and halted for a few hours at the fort. To quote from his journal: "The 6th in the morning we halted at Fort Massiac, formerly a French post, 120 miles below the mouth of the Wabash, and 11 below that of the Cherokee River—The reason of the French's sending a gar-

rison to this place, was to be a check on the Cherokee parties that came down the river of that name—The situation of this fort is a good one, jetting with a point a little into the river, the beach of which up and down it discovers to a considerable distance. A garrison here will protect the traders that come down the Ohio; until they have accounts from the Illinois. It will prevent those of the French going up the Ohio or among the Wabash Indians. Hunters from this post may be sent amongst the buffalo, any quantity of whose beef they can procure in proper season, and the salt may be got from the Saline at an easy rate to cure it, for the use of the troops at the Illinois. The situation is a good one nowhere commanded from, nor can the retreat of the garrison (a consideration in the Indian Countries) ever be cut off—the river being, from the entrance of that called the Cherokee, from 7 to 800 yards wide. It will in a political light hold the balance between the Cherokee and Wabash Indians, as it favors the entrance of the former, across the Ohio, into the latter's Country, and covers the retreat from it. There is no proper spot for a post nearer the Cherokee River above or below the Mississippi but this, as the grounds on the bank of the Ohio begin to get very low. The current of the river towards the Mississippi is very still and may be easily ascended if affairs are in any way doubtful at or near the Illinois.

“7th we got to the fork of the Ohio in Lat. 35-43 about 40 miles below Massiac; we took a survey of

the river in coming down." According to Gordon's estimate, it was $1118\frac{3}{4}$ miles from Fort Pitt to Fort Massac.

On January 17, 1767, George Gibsoa and an Indian chief of prominence, Kayashata, arrived at Kaskaskia with the intelligence of Captain Smith at Fort Massac on the 5th instant. Smith had left Fort Pitt on November 15.

The British were in constant communication with the territory along the Ohio during these years. In 1776 John Jennings, who was the representative of a large firm for western trade, made a trip down the Ohio with a large cargo of goods on his way to Fort Chartres. To quote his journal for Thursday, March 27: "At half past six o'clock this morning set off, at half past seven, passed the Cherokee River and about twelve miles below the Shawnees River with an island at the mouth—at ten o'clock arrived at Massiac, or Cherokee fort, on the north side of the river, about ten miles below the Cherokee River. This fort (which is now in ruins) was four square about one hundred feet, was built with logs and earth and most delightfully situated, on a high bank by the river side. The land was very low for some distance." Gage also mentioned the ruinous condition of the fort.

In 1776 the Revolutionary War began, and soon after the colonists began the fight for the Ohio Valley. The British, for lack of men, could not maintain garrisons at all the posts in the Illinois

Country. Consequently, Fort Massac was not occupied. Had it been so, the next chapter of western history might have been different.

In the great struggle the French inhabitants were allied with the British. Rocheblave, St. Ange, and other prominent French had not left for New Orleans as some had done. They were typical of those who accepted British rule with seemingly little regret, and were straightway employed in British service. Rocheblave, it will be remembered, was appointed as French Commander of Fort Massac. Later he acted in the same capacity for the British, although if he occupied Fort Massac at all it was only for a short time. He dwelt constantly in fear of the expected attack of the colonists. Letter after letter, as the situation grew more menacing, he sent to Detroit beseeching assistance. "We are on the eve of seeing here," he wrote, "a numerous band of brigands who will establish a chain of communication which will not be easy to break, once formed."

Detroit, however, gave him no aid and when he wrote these words the "brigands", under George Rogers Clark, were ready to spring upon him, and Fort Massac was soon to see the unfurling of a strange new flag—that of the United States of America.*

*This chapter is based largely upon **The New Regime**, by C. W. Alvord, of the **Illinois Historical Collections Vol. 11.**

CHAPTER V

THE "BIG KNIFE CHIEF"—CLARK

The greatest defender of the frontier in the War of Independence was George Rogers Clark, a daring hunter, Indian fighter, and born leader of men. He conceived the idea of wresting the Northwest Territory from the British and presented his plans to Patrick Henry in the year 1778.

After much difficulty Clark succeeded in enlisting 150 Virginians. Returning to Kentucky he endeavored to raise more men. He told them nothing of his daring plans and they readily enlisted, thinking it was for the purpose of home protection. Clark then descended the Ohio to Corn Island, expecting more recruits. Many arrived but discovering Clark's real purpose, deserted in great numbers. Full preparations were made at Corn Island for the campaign, and on June 24, 1778, during an eclipse of the sun, they set out on the voyage downstream. Clark's force of eight score men was divided into four companies, commanded by Captains Montgomery, Bowman, Helm and Harrod.



CLARK MONUMENT — FORT MASSAC STATE PARK

They continued their journey day and night for four days until they came to the mouth of the Tennessee River and landed on a small island, where they stopped. While there, Clark's men picked up a party of hunters under the leadership of John Duff, an Englishman. Clark says in his Memoir: "as I intended to leave the Ohio at Fort Massac, three leagues below the Tennessee, I landed on a small island (Barataria) in the mouth of that river, in order to prepare for the march. In a few hours after, one John Duff and a party of hunters coming down the river were brought to our boats. They were men formerly from the states, and assured us of their happiness in the adventure (their surprise having been owing to not knowing who we were). They had been but lately from Kaskaskia, and were able to give us all the intelligence we wished—They hoped to be received as partakers in the enterprise, and wished us to put full confidence in them, and they would assist the guides in conducting the party. This was agreed to and they proved valuable men.

"The acquisition to us was great, as I had no intelligence from those posts since the spies I sent twelve months past. But no part of their information pleased me more than that of the inhabitants viewing us as more savage than the neighbors, the Indians. I was determined to improve upon this if I was fortunate enough to get them into my possession, and conceived the greater the shock I could give them at first, the more sensibly would they feel

my lenity and become more valuable friends.” (29)
(30)

Clark mentioned that he wished the inhabitants to feel a horror for his “savage” men. The Kentuckians at this time were men adept in the use of the long hunting knife of the period, and they had succeeded in inspiring a great terror in the Indians for their skill in its use. The Kentuckians were called the “Long Knives” and Clark was called the “Big Knife Chief”. Later he used this nickname to advantage.

Clark did not say whether Duff’s first inclination was to retreat or not. If he had retreated, no officer would have hesitated to cut him off. No chance could be taken as Clark’s plan depended upon secrecy. “Hunter” was a term applied to all the free-lance wanderers and they took neither the American nor British side. They were, it may be said, without a country, and served as connecting links between the two sides. They were experienced on the trail. Their password was “furs” and they retailed news along the way. Palmer says: “Sudden historical importance had descended on Duff. He had good reason to be polite when he faced a leader who was surrounded by nine score of armed men—and Clark had good reason to be polite to him. There was no concealing the fact that the nine score were not seeking buffalo meat or looking for land for a settlement. They were plainly on the warpath

against the British garrisons.”*¹ Therefore, Clark told Duff his objective. The oath of allegiance was administered which, by Patrick Henry’s instructions, gave Clark as much right over Duff’s party as over his own army. Palmer continues: “Clark might still wonder if Duff were not telling him what Duff thought he would like to hear. In any event, Clark knew that here was good propaganda to arouse the confidence of his troops. He bade Duff circulate among them, repeating what Clark wanted him to say—.” Clark said this “put the whole in the greatest spirits, sure, by what they heard, of success.”*²

Clark was favorably impressed by John Saunders (Sanders), one of Duff’s party, and engaged him to be his guide to Kaskaskia. The entire party was willing to accompany Clark but he took only a few. It was seen plainly that these men could be invaluable, although there was some risk in so brief an acquaintance. Sanders proved his worth and later was given a grant of land.

On the evening of June 28 the entire party descended the river and first stepped on Illinois soil at the mouth of Massac Creek, which Clark called a “gut” or gully. As there was no further use for the boats, they were hidden beneath some underbrush.

*¹Reprinted by permission of Dodd, Mead & Company from **Clark of the Ohio**, by Frederick Palmer. Copyright 1929 by Dodd, Mead & Company, Inc. P. 196.

*²Palmer—**Clark of the Ohio**, Pp. 198, 199.

They were now relieved of every unessential thing. There not being a soul at Fort Massac, the soldiers took possession.

On landing, Clark hoisted the newly-adopted banner of the United States, since there is good reason to believe that he carried such a flag. This was probably the first time that the flag of the young nation was ever unrolled so far in the west. However, it is remotely possible that it was seen earlier in the year when James Willing, a Captain in the Continental Army, made a cruise down the Ohio in an armed vessel from Fort Pitt. "He skirted the entire boundary of Southern Illinois, captured a number of traders, and greatly alarmed the commandant at Kaskaskia." (12)

Clark's first difficulty had been to raise money and troops; now he faced a second great difficulty. A thousand miles from his base of supplies, no chance of reenforcements, an unknown wilderness before him, in a hostile country—these were enough to test the strength of any man. But his men were undaunted, and depended on secrecy and surprise to accomplish the work of numbers. Hulbert has said that "had one man dropped from the ranks each mile, not one of the one hundred sixty would have reached the Wabash."*¹

Some writers have thought that if Fort Massac

*¹Reprinted by permission of the publishers, The Arthur H. Clark Company, from Hulbert's **Military Roads of the Mississippi Basin**, P. 33.

had been occupied in 1778, Clark's plans for the conquest of Illinois would have been "nipped in the bud." Such is unlikely. Clark would have gone about the capture of Fort Massac as he did the Village of Kaskaskia; he would have taken the fort by some stratagem. Although Fort Massac undoubtedly would have complicated matters for Clark, yet we must not place too much emphasis upon it in the campaign. The focus should be upon Clark himself.

There has been a great deal of controversy as to the route which Clark took from Fort Massac. Hulbert says: "It is strange that the route of this immortal little army has never been carefully considered—for the story of the route is almost the whole story of the Campaign."*² Recall Chapter One, under "Surface and Drainage". There it was learned of the vast cypress swamps which then stretched between Cache Creek and Bay Creek, making it impassable in the wet season and difficult enough in the dry season. Lakes and sloughs lay over a width of one to four miles. It was possible to avoid the worst by taking the old Massac Road to the east and passing through Pope County. There the trail merged with another one and swung westward to the prairies. Since it was June and comparatively dry, Clark, then, had a choice of routes.

*²Reprinted by permission of the publishers, The Arthur H. Clark Company, from Hulbert's **Military Roads of the Mississippi Basin**, Pp. 33, 34.

There were two routes from Fort Massac to the prairies of Williamson County. One led from Fort Massac (called the Moccasin Gap route) and after circling northeastward to avoid the swamps, led into the Golconda-Kaskaskia road, two and one-half miles west of Golconda. This route, after joining the "Hunter's Road", turned northwestward, passing near Parker City and Marion to the prairies. This was in the earliest days a military road; in the future it was to serve as a road for immigrants, and later was marked each mile on trees from Massac to Kaskaskia. It has also been called "The Trace", and later, "The Old Massac Road". (31) The trail was very irregular until in 1821 a Mr. Worthen performed the task of straightening it.

The second route was known as the Buffalo Gap route. It circled the lakes of Massac County to the westward, keeping between them and the Cache River. It left Massac County near Indian Point, where years ago, an old abandoned road could be faintly discerned, and passed northward through Buffalo Gap, in Johnson County, to the prairies. (31)

There was a third route which led to Kaskaskia, but which did not pass to the prairies of Williamson County. This third route followed the second through Massac County, and left it just above Indian Point. It then swung westward to Carbondale. (31)

All the evidence points quite conclusively that the "middle", Buffalo Gap, or second route, as we

have numbered it, was the one followed by Clark. The junction of the "Old Massac Road" with the "Hunter's Road" (the first route) was not more than a day's journey from Fort Massac. It was a three day's journey from the fort to the "Hunter's Road" by the "Middle Trail", and when the guide became lost the third day, there can be little doubt but that he was searching for this road. In fact, Clark's command was to find the "Hunter's Road." The trail was distinguished only by woods which extended some ways into the prairies or along streams, and the tall grass made it easy for one to have his view so obstructed that he could not recognize familiar "points" of woods. (31)

Since the "Western Trail", or third route, was wet and did not touch the prairies at all, it can be eliminated. (31) Parrish and Milo Erwin believe the Moccasin Gap route was taken; but if Clark's memoir is accepted as accurate in detail, then it must be concluded that the Buffalo Gap route was the one taken.

After a good night's rest the army struck out in a northwestern direction, keeping the swamps of the Big Bay on the east and those of the Cache on the west. They crossed the Morgan Bottoms several miles out. Higher land was found at noon on a hill now known as Clark's Spur, where no doubt they paused to rest. They then entered a dark and gloomy cypress swamp which bordered the Cache. The smaller canyons of Cache Creek were crossed,

and in the late afternoon they emerged from the green arbor and ascended the rocky promontory known as Indian Point. They passed out of Massac County in Sec. 5, Twp. 14, R. 3 E. It was approximately 18 miles from Fort Massac and was a good day's march considering the terrain.

A stone shaft has been erected at Indian Point in honor of the passage over this hill. It is one of four markers erected in 1913 by the Daniel Chapman Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. This granite monument bears the following inscription: "First Camp of General George Rogers Clark, on his march from Fort Massac to Fort Kaskaskia, 1778. Erected 1913 by Daniel Chapman Chapter D.A.R."

All had gone well thus far except for some thirst, but not to excess. On the third day, however, the principal guide, John Sanders, lost his bearing on the prairies and sought in vain for the "Hunter's Road". Clark had a suspicion that he was a traitor and gave him only a short time in which to discover the trail, else he would be hanged. Upon his knees Sanders begged for his life and asked to be allowed time to find the trail. After a search of an hour or two, he came to a place that he knew. Far from being a traitor he proved an invaluable man and Clark became much attached to him.

After reaching the level plains Clark was very vigilant lest the enemy should discover his army. It was exigent that he hurry for on these level

prairies an army could be seen for miles. Everything now depended on swiftness and secrecy.

At last, after another three-day's march Clark arrived at Kaskaskia. There is no need to trace his career further. Every history tells of his daring triumph over the British at Kaskaskia in the middle of the night of July 4; how the inhabitants yielded with terror and without a struggle to the stalwart "Long Knives". So the British gave up their brief authority.

Massac County has been able to pay honor to George Rogers Clark. Early in the present century, the D.A.R. began the reconstruction of old Fort Massac and a monument was erected to his memory. A new statue was unveiled in 1932. Near the top of the old monument, and on each side, was the shield or insignia of the four nations that had possession of the fort. At the base of the old shaft was the following inscription in bronze, but which is now on a separate tablet: IN MEMORY OF GEORGE ROGERS CLARK and his faithful companions in arms, who, by their enterprise, courage, devotion, and sagacity, won the Illinois Country for the Commonwealth of Virginia, and so for the American Union, this monument has been erected in the name of a grateful people by the Illinois Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1907.

CHAPTER VI

A PERIOD OF CONSPIRACY

FOREIGN CONSPIRACY—In 1794 conditions grew so alarming on the western frontier that there was need for some protective measures. Clark had frequently mentioned Fort Massac as needing fortifying but no action had been taken and for sixteen years the place had been deserted.

France had determined to drive Spain from Louisiana, and was even fitting out parties recruited from American citizens. General Arthur St. Clair, Governor of the Northwest Territory, issued in 1793 a proclamation warning all citizens to observe a strict neutrality, and commanded military officers to do all within their power to keep Americans from joining in the malicious plans of the French. Citizen Genet deliberately planned two expeditions made up of American filibusters, one of which was to sail down the Ohio. Old Fort Massac was considered by the conspirators as a good rallying place and base of supplies, although it is unknown if it actually was used.

Certainly it was not so used after the summer of

1794, for on March 31 General "Mad Anthony" Wayne received a special order from President Washington instructing him to "erect a strong redoubt and block house with some suitable cannon from Cincinnati, for the purpose of stopping by force, if peaceful means should fail, any body of armed men who should proceed down the Ohio and threaten hostilities with Spain." (21) General Wayne, acting upon Washington's order, instructed a detachment of men under Major Thomas Doyle to go to Fort Massac and garrison it. Doyle's expedition, consisting of ten boats, reached the fort on June 12.

An interesting character in Doyle's party was one Benjamin Van Cleve, who kept a diary. The diary, from which Mrs. Scott gives excerpts, is too lengthy to quote here. Van Cleve wrote that on June 24 several of the men joined the French, and that Major Doyle had trouble with some of the deserters. Matters were soon settled, however, to the pleasure of all. (27)

FORT MASSAC POST SUCCESSFUL—In the autumn of 1794 the Indians began a ravaging campaign and committed many dreadful depredations along the Ohio and Tennessee rivers. To protect the frontier from these harrowing incidents, Major Doyle called for a relief force. In October he stated that "the relief will be necessary in order to protect the valuable settlement and trade along the river, and my own force, from the smallness of the force

and the number of sick, can only be expected to defend the fort." In answer to the call came a detachment of Kentucky Militia under Lieutenant Bird, who arrived at Fort Massac on October 19 and remained in arms until December. (27)

By the Treaty of Greenville, August 3, 1795, the Indian savagery was to cease, and the Revolution may be said properly to have ended in the west. By the fourth article of the treaty "the said Indian tribes relinquish all the title and claim which they or any of them have to the Post of Fort Massac, towards the mouth of the Ohio." (27)

Fort Massac, thus rebuilt and garrisoned, was successful in staving off the Spanish, French and English intrigues following the Revolutionary War, and served as a protection against the Indians.

At one time Spain was actually contemplating the capture of Fort Massac, which in turn was to be occupied by adventurers and conspirators. Baron Carondelet actually proposed that "immediately after the Declaration, Fort Massac shall be taken possession of by the troops of the new government, which shall be furnished by his Catholic Majesty, without loss of time, with 20 field pieces, with their carriages and every necessary appendage, including powder, ball, etc., together with a number of small arms, and ammunition sufficient to equip the troops that it shall be necessary to raise. The whole to be transported at his expense to the already mentioned Fort Massac. His Catholic Majesty will further

supply the sum of \$100,000 for the raising and maintaining of said troops, which sum shall also be conveyed to, and delivered to Fort Massac." (27)

Several valuable and interesting accounts exist concerning the Western Country at this time. The foreign conspirators had spies to travel about and make written reports. Others were friendly visitors. Victor Collot, in his atlas (1826) gives a description of the Ohio and the posts adjacent to it. He remarks of Fort Massac that it was "so called by the Americans, and Fort Massacre by the Canadians. It is a post anciently established by the French and abandoned at the time of the cession of Louisiana. It has lately been repaired, and has been occupied two years by the Americans." (27)

Francis Baily, noted English astronomer, toured the west in 1796-97. He says of Fort Massac in his journal: "It takes its name from a cruel massacre of the garrison by the Indians, when the French had possession of it." (27) This shows that visitors to the old fort formed an incorrect conception of its past history as soon as they received a hint as to the possible origin of its name.

During the spring of 1796, 30 families and a garrison of 83 men, commanded by Captain Zebulon Pike, were settled at the fort to guard the frontier against Indian attacks. Pike was characterized by those who knew him as an experienced officer, polite and considerate toward the people of the fort.

A consideration was made in September 1799 for

the further defense of Fort Massac. Troubles continued with the French. Although General James Wilkinson submitted plans for strengthening the post with 100 men and companies of artillery, they were dropped, after which trouble with France soon ceased.

In the autumn of 1799 provision boats stopped at intervals and furnished the fort with supplies. The last trip had been made in October 1797, when clothing was sent in quantity for 159 men. The next trip was on September 24, 1799, when more clothing was sent—for infantry and artillery men this time. On November 24 “hospital” supplies were sent, consisting of allspice, barley, coffee, chocolate, brandy, wine and other things. On December 17 medicines were sent for the garrison. (27)

For a decade and a half of the new century various companies of the United States Army were stationed at Fort Massac. In 1802 one company of infantry was allotted to the fort. On March 7, 1803, and on February 3, 1804, the Secretary of War stated that a company of artillerists and one company of the first regiment of infantry were stationed there, with Lieutenant Swan as assistant military agent. In December 1804 Captain Russell Bissell was in command. Early in 1805 Laymon’s Company was stationed at the fort. (27)

The first post office established in Johnson and what is now Massac County was at Fort Massac in 1803. It was given as 870 miles from Washington.

THE BURR CONSPIRACY—In April 1803 Aaron Burr began his tour of the west for recruits for his treasonable plans. He made his first appearance at Fort Massac in the summer of 1806. He had enlisted previously a Mr. Blennerhasset in his confidence. It was Burr's plan, as far as history knows, to establish an empire in the unsettled west and to make himself the ruler over it. Burr's beautiful daughter, Theodosia, was left at Blennerhasset's Island with Mrs. Blennerhasset, while he himself crossed into Kentucky and Tennessee in an attempt to secure followers. He then set afloat on the Cumberland and dropped down to Fort Massac to confer and plot with Wilkinson, then stationed there. Wilkinson pledged himself to so infamous a proposal as was presented. During all his services in the Army he was of doubtful character, ready to listen to any scheme which promised personal gain. He worked assiduously at St. Louis for recruits for Burr.

In the meantime, Burr had passed down to New Orleans and presented his scheme in a glowing style to the Creoles. They listened with acquiescence but did nothing to further the scheme. Burr then returned to visit Wilkinson at St. Louis. The latter had changed. He saw the futility of such a plan; he saw that men were not to be swayed in their allegiance to the Union. Wilkinson promptly gave Burr to understand he did not wish to become involved in a scheme in which the chances for success were frail.

In August, 1806, Burr again visited Blennerhasset. The attractions of Theodosia and Burr's own address and magnetism, completely overcame Blennerhasset and his wife. What Burr now needed most was money. His friend met the appeal by giving almost all his money to the financing of a proposed expedition.

They remained at the island until autumn. Burr returned to Tennessee while Blennerhasset, on December 10, under cover of night, set afloat with his batteaux, leaving his wife and two little boys to follow later. The two conspirators had planned to meet at the mouth of the Cumberland and, true to plans, met on Christmas Eve. They proceeded to Fort Massac, where they passed Christmas, and spent a few days in making plans for the trip to New Orleans. On December 29, everything was ready and they departed.

It is rather certain that Blennerhasset took most of his money with him. Tradition has it that he buried a large amount somewhere near the old fort. It is said that a number of men from Paducah came over to the fort several years ago to prospect for the buried treasure. They never found it.

The career of Aaron Burr was now about to come to a close. Jefferson was informed of the scheme by regularly-sent letters, and issued an order for Burr's arrest. Judge Hall writes: "When the alarm was given, and orders were issued for the arrest of Burr and his adherents, they were obliged to resort to a

variety of expedients to escape detection. At Fort Massac, and other places, all boats on descending the river were compelled to stop and undergo strict examination, to the great vexation of boatmen and peaceable voyagers, who were often obliged to land at unseasonable hours. Very diligent inquiry was made for the lady who several times narrowly escaped detection, through her own ingenuity and that of her companions." (23) In this manner Burr's expedition was broken up. (22)

As Burr's flotilla approached Natchez it was seized with scarcely an effort. Burr escaped into the Choctaw lands but was later captured. Mrs. Blennerhasset and the two little boys returned from Marietta on December 16. Her captor was A. W. Putnam, who had learned that she was to meet her husband at the mouth of the Cumberland. Early in January, 1807, she was restored to her husband at Bayou Pierre. No serious charges were brought against Blennerhasset but he was almost a ruined man. Burr was acquitted and the so-called conspiracy ended.

This was the wildest of all western dreams. Burr should have seen the futility of such a scheme, but he was highly fanciful and ambitious and in the new unsettled west saw in his mind's eye a chance for disunion. Some writer has said that the French, Spanish, English and Burr conspiracies were really manifestations of the beginnings of politics in the west. The nation was young; the country beyond

the Alleghenies still younger. Upon the least grounds political aspirants brought charges against Sebastian, Powers, Innes, Wilkinson and others, seeking thereby to gain the support and acclaim of the mass of the people.

Burr's intrigues were the least dangerous of the western schemes for disunion. Theodore Roosevelt writes that "it left scarcely a ripple in the West." Yet among all the plotters Burr's actions aroused the most interest and speculation. Although it is hardly to be thought that anyone regards Burr's stay at Fort Massac, and the disloyal plans made there, as an honor; yet steeped in infamy as it is and tinged with actions which must forever remain a stigma, the name of Aaron Burr must occupy forever a prominent place in American history.

CHAPTER VII

FOUR DECADES OF MASSAC HISTORY

MASSAC AN ECONOMIC CENTER—One must be impressed at once, in the study of a certain region, with the fact that out-lying regions in which one does not pretend an interest, inevitably force themselves upon the student for consideration. We cannot very well understand the economic development around the Massac area if we do not give attention to general movements in all Western Kentucky, Southern Illinois, and even the parts of Tennessee and Missouri which are nearest to us. The history of our little world is often closely linked with the near events and movements of adjacent regions. Massac could not have become an economic factor in the West, a center of trade and traffic, if goods had not been brought down the Ohio, Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, and up and down the Mississippi, to meet at a common center of activity.

It appears as a matter of history that from earliest times Fort Massac has been a great gathering place for successive peoples, the Indian first, followed by hunter and settler. The tannery and

fur trading post established at Va Bache nearby in 1702, was a forerunner and indicator of the character of the products and activities of the region. The flora and fauna of the lower Ohio was varied. The animal life played its part for the first hundred years of the white man's occupation. The post was significant as it related to the fur industry. It was also strategically located from a military standpoint.

There are some very real and natural causes for the importance of the Fort Massac territory in the Eighteenth Century, and which reached its highest point around 1800, but did not culminate until some time later. Foremost was the remarkable fertility of the Ohio Valley. The first settlements were made along the fringes of the river banks, the prairies being still unoccupied. When the white man first came in contact with the Indians, he found little patches of corn all along the river. Begun by the Indians this plan of agriculture was adopted by the white man. It was a convenient way of getting the products to market. After the crop was harvested the settler built a raft and in the spring floated down with the surplus grain to market. (8)

Besides the crops, which around 1800 were still small, there was the industry of hunting and trapping. Although not as lucrative as in earlier years, the traffic in furs, skins, venison and other wild meat made up a considerable part of the trade in the Massac district. It was in the midst of the bear country and near the salines of Kentucky and Illi-

nois. These products were exchanged for manufactured goods and luxuries from the States. For a long time the fur industry remained a favored occupation. After the larger animals became scarce, effort was concentrated upon the smaller but scarcely less valuable fur-bearers.

Western immigration from the coastal states is characterized by successive waves, beginning around 1763 and lasting well past 1800. It was the second and third wave which filled the Ohio Valley. This exodus from the east paved the way for western development, whose lands as yet had been scarcely touched. Crops were grown by the newcomers and gradually reached important proportions. Fort Massac was a terminus for many of these immigrants. In 1797 a colony of 126 persons landed at the fort on their way to New Design. (8) In 1800 the official population of Fort Massac was 90. In 1806 it was estimated that 650 people were living on the Ohio between the Wabash River and Fort Massac. (21)

With the beginning of the year 1799 Fort Massac and the adjacent region began to take a larger part in the economic history of the period. River trade increased very rapidly. Alvord says in regard to this development: "In 1799, for the collection of duties on merchandise and tonnage, Congress created several districts, two of which touched Illinois, though only one ever attained importance. The district of Fort Massac, extending north and east with the fort

as entry, became a real factor in the trade of the west; and in 1801 the district was extended to the basin of the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers. All boats carrying goods to market were obliged to report at the fort, and from the inventories of cargoes, it is learned that a considerable amount of merchandise was passing up and down the Ohio." (21)

Regarding boat-building in the West, Alvord says: "The first years of the Nineteenth Century saw a very remarkable era in the building of ocean-going ships on the Ohio. Before this industry was brought to an untimely end by President Jefferson's embargo policy, probably one hundred vessels were built in western shipyards; and from the report of tonnage duties collected at Fort Massac in 1802, it would appear that three ships of one hundred and fifty tons to six ships of seventy-five tons were built in that district. After 1807 there was a rearrangement of the administration of tax collecting, and all Illinois and the surrounding territory fell into the district of Mississippi." (21)

Among the products which passed through the Massac port were tobacco, flour, apples, pork, lard, venison, bear's meat, hams, country linen, saddles, saltpeter, shoes, potatoes, hemp, castings, iron, guns, nails, glass bottles, window-glass (as yet a scarce item) and the inevitable liquors—whiskey, beer, brandy and gin. (21)

People were stopped in the Fort Massac district not only for legitimate reasons for the collection of

duties, but also often along the way by men from the Cave-in-Rock gang. This band of outlaws was a real and dangerous factor in the trade which came up or down the Ohio. It was the chief drawback in river traffic for many years. These robbers were so numerous and well-organized that it was no uncommon event for them to rush out upon an unsuspecting craft and murder the entire crew. The Cave-in-Rock band terrorized the river country for many years before they were finally driven out. (33)

An attempt has been made to picture in some degree the character of the activity around Fort Massac around 1800. That day of early western stimulation can never return in the same way, but in this day Massac County does play an important part in the life of the region. Some of the forces are old; some, like the Atomic Energy Commission, are new.

A MILITARY POST—During the first part of 1808 Captain D. Bissell was in command at Fort Massac with a company of infantry. It is also quite certain that a Captain Daniel Bird was in command a part of the year with forty men. Bissell's force included artillerists. In the official records it is recorded that on April 7, 1809, medicine and hospital supplies were sent the "late Captain D. Bissell, C. O. Fort Massac." He was superseded by Captain Sam Price in the latter part of the year, and who remained in command until 1812. (27)

On February 6, 1810 it was stated that only one

company was stationed at the fort. During March, Captain Price was relieved temporarily by a Captain Gaines. In April several supply boats stopped at intervals to give medicines, hospital stores and provisions. Captain Estes was in command. (27)

As late as 1812 Fort Massac was repaired and used for defensive purposes during the war with Great Britain. It was then furnished with a new stockade, and occupied by the Illinois mounted rangers. They were intrusted with the defense of the border against the intrusion of hostile Indians and British soldiers. (27) The year 1811-12 was uncommon, what with war, the comet in the sky, the first steamboat, Tecumseh's conspiracy, and the earthquakes. A part of General Jackson's army camped at Fort Massac in 1812, on its way to New Orleans.

From 1810 to 1812 Henry Skinner was the physician at the fort, with the rank of surgeon's mate. The supplies sent to Estes April 16, 1810, were the last received until May 4, 1811, when he received clothing, medicines and subsistence supplies sufficient for a company of artillery. (27)

Alvord says that only 36 men were stationed at the fort on June 6, 1811. (21) On August 14, 1812, more supplies were sent. A month later Colonel William P. Anderson was directed "to take charge of the defense of Fort Massac." He, in turn, ordered his inferior officer, Captain Phillips, to go there with his company of artillery. Both men were stationed

together for some time during the war. Their efforts at recruiting men were quite successful, if the invoice of the goods shipped from Pennsylvania to Fort Massac can be regarded as an index. On December 11, 1812, quantities of goods sufficient for 612 infantrymen and 90 artillerymen were sent. The supplies ranged from clothing and gun supplies to books, ink and paper. This was the largest garrison ever stationed at Fort Massac. During this time Colonel E. P. Gaines was also stationed there drilling the soldiers. (27) The old fort must have been a lively place then, with more than 700 soldiers there besides the surrounding settlers, who had been a nuclei of settlements for sometime.

Colonel Anderson wintered at the fort 1812-13, but moved to Cleveland on March 10. Captain Joseph was left in command and the garrison radically reduced to only one company of artillery. A supply boat traveled by the post in June and left supplies for 90 men. (27)

By 1817 United States troops had been withdrawn from Fort Massac. The war of 1812 was over. Four years later Governor Shadrach Bond answered a letter of inquiry from General H. Wilkinson, of St. Louis, and said that he was of the opinion the fort was of little further value and would not need to be occupied again. (24)

Although Governor Bond saw no reason for maintaining the fort, yet for a period of thirty years it was mentioned as a desirable place for the estab-

lishment of a military base and armory. Mention as such was made in 1818 by John C. Calhoun; in 1823 by Monroe; in 1824 by Colonel Richard M. Johnson; in 1837 by Van Buren; and again in 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1846 and 1850. House Document 133, 3rd Session 27th Congress, a report on sites, recommended Fort Massac as the best. A report dated Harper's Ferry, to the Secretary of War, January 28, 1842, further recommended the site. The Board of Army Officers gave a good description at the time of their personal examination and it was published in the preceding report. It contained a description of the topography, flora, fauna, situation of the fort, description of the river for several miles, and of the government tracts which had been laid out previously for military purposes, and comprising the country around Fort Massac, Massac City, and Metropolis. (27)

Despite all the favorable reports the project for the armory fell through. After 1843, when Massac became a county, Congress perhaps had little further relations with the locality. However, in 1850, a fourth report was made which selected Fort Massac as more favorable on all accounts for such an establishment, and recommended the addition of foundries and machine shops capable of producing all supplies required by either the military or naval service of the United States. But nothing was done about it. (27) It is said that in 1856 the walls of the fort were still intact. The main building was 135

feet square with a tower at each of the four corners. (34) Lusk says that in 1884 not a vestige of the works remained. (35)

Many other things might be said about Fort Massac during this period, but lack of space forbids it. (See chapter XVIII)

EARLY POLITICAL ORGANIZATION—General Arthur St. Clair was appointed first governor of the Northwest Territory. On April 27, 1790, he issued a proclamation creating the county of St. Clair. Shortly after Knox County was created. Massac was about equally a part of the two counties, according to the proclamation which read: "Beginning at the mouth of the Michilamackinack River, running thence southerly in a direct line to the mouth of the little river [Massac Creek] about Fort Massac, on the Ohio River, thence with the Ohio to its junction with the Mississippi; thence—to the place of beginning." (36)

In 1795 the west part of Massac became a part of Randolph County. In 1812 Massac was made a part of Johnson County. In 1816 it became about equally a part of Johnson and Pope Counties. So it remained until 1843. The seat of justice was at the home of John Bradshaw in Elvira, Johnson County. (32)

On January 15, 1813, the townships of Big Bay, Cache, Massac and others were laid off. They were military districts which had been created by the gov-

error for the defense of the settlers against hostile Indians. Captain Whiteside's company defended Big Bay, and Captain Fox's company that of Massac Township. The districts were very large, that of Massac including Massac County in its present form "with possibly a little part of Johnson and Pope. In 1814 that part between the 'ponds' and the Ohio River, in Massac, was created into one called Massac. The boundaries and names were changed from time to time." (32) It was much later that the townships took on a political character, such as they have today.

EARLY ROADS AND FERRIES—Many of the immigrants took the water route to the west as being the easier. However, by 1815 the overland journey was much improved. Roads and bridges had been built and ferries established at many points. Roadside taverns and villages began to appear. (1) The first roads followed the trails made by the buffalo and Indians. These were little more than trails beaten out by the passage of men, wagons and horses. One of the first of these was the Old Massac Road. (37) It curved into Pope County, where it connected with the Kaskaskia Trace. Travel was on foot or horseback. The early traveler was practically a pathfinder over this road, despite the burns or blazes on the trees used to mark the trail. No accommodations were afforded because, as the pioneer Reynolds says, there was not a single house,

in 1800, between Kaskaskia and Hull's landing on the Ohio, a few miles above Fort Massac. Mrs. Chapman's admirable history states that "Among the first things the county court [Johnson County] did September 13, 1813, was to order Isaac D. Wilcox to open a road from Massac the nearest and best way to Wm. Style's in Center Township, and to make same passable for carriages." (32)

John Copeland and John Cooper reported on a road in 1824 to Wilcox's warehouse, near the Massac-Pulaski line. In 1824 perhaps three to seven miles of this road were worked. It took much time and labor on the part of the citizens. Three notches on a tree indicated a public road; one notch, or blaze, a neighborhood road. (32)

By 1834 three stage routes passed through Fort Massac. One went across Pope County to Golconda; one went to Cairo, where it connected with others; and one went to Vienna, where it connected with others. (38)

In 1821 Isaac Wilcox established a ferry on his land on the Ohio, where his warehouse was being built. It was known successively as Copeland's Landing, Marberry Landing, Williamson's Landing, and Sharp's Landing. Tradition has it that most of the northern roads led to this landing. There was much importing and exporting of goods. The Metropolis ferry service began in 1824, when J. H. G. Wilcox established a ferry on his land near the

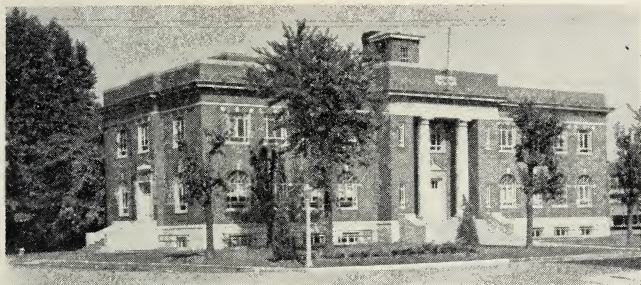
site of the present ferry-landing. (32) Wilcox was still operating the ferry in 1843.

Meanwhile the new century had ushered in the age of steamboats. First to go down the Ohio was the **New Orleans** in 1811, followed by the **Comet** in 1813 and the **Enterprise** in 1814. Within another five years more than sixty steamers plied the Ohio. By 1832 the records show 230 steam craft of various kinds. (10) More will be said about river traffic in chapter XV.

As late as 1818 there were still few settlers located along the Ohio River itself. However, much land was in the hands of speculators. The town of Waterloo was one such dream-town projected by them. Lots were advertised to be sold on April 10, 1818. The location was nine miles below the Tennessee on the Illinois side of the river, which places it at or near present Metropolis. (39) Metropolis itself was founded in 1839, for which see chapter XVIII.

MASSAC COUNTY ORGANIZED—On February 8, 1843, by an act of the Legislature, Massac County was created, its territory being derived from Johnson and Pope Counties. There seemed to be an epidemic of new counties in 1843. Pulaski, Moultrie, and Cumberland were three other counties created in the State, all less than one month after Massac.

The boundary line was described as follows: "Beginning at the Southwest corner of Johnson County on the bank of the Ohio River, and running

**MASSAC COUNTY COURT HOUSE**

thence north with the range line dividing townships one and two, east of the third principal meridian, to Cache River, thence up to the center of the main channel of said Cache River to the township line dividing townships 13 and 14, thence east along said line, to the county line dividing the counties of Pope and Johnson, thence southeast so as to strike at the southeast corner of township 15 south, six east, thence three miles south, thence east to the Ohio River, thence down the Ohio River to the place of beginning shall constitute a new county to be called the County of Massac.”

We quote O. J. Page: “The County Surveyor of Pope County, G. H. Hanna, was ordered to survey the line between Pope and Massac County before the first Monday in April. In the same act an election of county officers for the new county was ordered for the first Monday of April, 1843, and the county clerks of Johnson and Pope Counties were

directed to issue notices of such election, and returns from the election were to be made to the Clerk of the County Court of Johnson County. The officers to be elected were: one sheriff, coroner, recorder, treasurer, probate justice of peace, school commissioner, three county commissioners, county surveyor, and clerk of the commissioner's court." (6)

The county board first met April 8, 1843. Lots were drawn for terms of office. The second meeting was April 17. Orders for highway reviews were given. Five precincts were formed—Jackson, Washington, Metropolis, George's Creek and Wilconsonville—judges appointed, and elections ordered. Fifteen road districts were formed. Appointments of supervisors, justices of the peace, constables, and overseers of the poor were made. (6)

The first officers were as follows: Sheriff, John W. Read; Coroner, Travis Wethers; Clerk of the Court, J. B. Hicks; Clerk, John W. Carmichael; States Attorney, William Allen; Assessor, James Robinson; Surveyor, W. C. Crow; and County Commissioners, G. G. Allen, J. Moody, and J. T. Collier. There were only 250 voters to elect the officers in 1843. (6)

The meetings of the county board were held in the Manville House, corner of Ferry and 2nd streets, Metropolis. Circuit court was held in the old Methodist Church. On April 29 the plan for the court house was drafted by Samuel Arnont. On June 6 Wilcox and McBane deeded two and one-half acres

for a public square. The first county assessment was \$36, one-half to be paid by the county and one-half by the State. The tax rate for 1844 was 50 cents per \$100 valuation. John W. Reed was appointed to take the first census, September, 1845. He found 1500 people. Included were a few free Negroes, the rest serving by indenture. (10)

CHAPTER VIII

THE REGULATORS AND FLATHEADS

Trouble between the law-abiding citizens and the malevolent elements began in Southern Illinois in 1831. The war between the Regulators and Flatheads was filled with atrocious crimes and constant terror. O. J. Page gives only two pages to this internecine struggle. He generalizes and says little because, as he avers, "It is better to cover with the cloak of charity and consign to oblivion's tomb." (6)

From 1831 to 1838 horse thievery, arson and counterfeiting were very prevalent. A man named Sturdevant began counterfeiting money in what is now Hardin County in 1831. He was finally driven out of the country by a band of prominent citizens. Such crimes were common in all counties bordering the lower Ohio in this period. Shortly afterwards, another form of crime arose: the kidnaping of the children of freed slaves. A man named Vaughn, who had as his accomplices Joe Lynn and Hiram Campbell, of Massac County, was the perpetrator of one of these outrageous crimes. It turned out that Vaughn had ordered the kidnaping and transporta-

tion to St. Louis, where he was poisoned later by one of his own men, when just after the indictment one of the men of whom he had purchased the slave gave him a drink of whiskey.

Soon after the Vaughn affair, a Mr. Sides and his wife, of Pope County, were attacked and brutally knocked down in their house, \$2500 in gold of the money of a freed slave taken, and the house set afire. A rain extinguished the fire before the couple were burned. While committing the robbery, one of the criminals left a knife made by a neighborhood blacksmith, by which the robber was identified. Thus exposed, he was arrested and tortured by the aroused neighbors until he gave the name of his associates to the number of a dozen. These, being apprehended and tortured, disclosed the names of many other confederates scattered through several counties. (12) (40)

It was at this point that the honest people formed a band of Regulators, which was, as Judge Hall says, "a kind of holy brotherhood whose duty it was to purge the community of its unruly members—Squire Birch, who was impersonated by one of the party, established his tribunal under a tree in the woods; the culprit was brought before him, tried, and generally convicted." (23) They had as their purpose not so much the punishment of wrong doers as to see that the courts properly executed the law. The Flatheads were, originally, the wrong doers. Governor Ford says: "The governor and judges of the

territory, seeing the impossibility of executing the laws in the ordinary way, against an organized banditti, who set all law at defiance, winked at and encouraged the proceedings of the Regulators.

“These Regulators in number generally constituted about a captain’s company, to which they gave a military organization by the election of officers. The company generally operated at night. When assembled for duty, they marched armed and equipped as if for war, to the residence or lurking-place of a rogue, arrested, tried, and punished him by severe whipping and banishment from the territory. It was the opinion of the best men at the time, that—such proceedings were not only justifiable, but absolutely necessary for the existence of government.” (40)

In case of undoubted criminals they were whipped and banished on the spot. Old offenders were frequently hanged at once to the nearest tree. Modes of torture applied to some were “to take them to the Ohio River, and hold them under water, until they showed a willingness to confess. Others had ropes tied around their bodies over their arms, and a stick twisted into the ropes until their ribs and sides were crushed in by force of the pressure. Some of the persons who were maltreated in this way, obtained warrants for the arrest of the Regulators.” (40)

In most instances “lynch’s law” proved sufficiently efficacious, yet there remained for many years a desperate and noted gang of ruffians in Pope,

Massac, and other river counties, who resisted all efforts to dislodge them and set the government at open defiance. (12) In 1831 a large number of honest people attacked a fort in Pope County, with small arms and one piece of artillery. Three rogues and one Regulator were killed when the fort was finally taken by storm. (40) The Regulators took a very active part in the case of Mr. Sides, and after much stratagem succeeded in having six convicted. Four of these served long terms and died in the penitentiary.

After the execution of so many criminals, in no part of the State did such an unfortunate state of affairs continue to exist as in Massac County. One of the reasons for the creation of the new county in 1843 had been the hope that troubles in other counties would not spill over into Massac. It helped not at all. It was not only overrun but actually controlled by vicious outlaws. Parrish says that the "courts and county and township officers were at one time actual participants in outlawry and the entire region was apparently a den of thieves. In 1846 this carnival of crime was at its height, the conditions such as to be now almost unbelievable." (12) The Regulators became so assertive that no person was free from accusation. Many atrocious crimes were committed—drowning, beating, burning, murder, and torture in various forms.

In the county election which followed it was claimed that some were Flatheads. Then began a

period of civil war. Until 1850 affairs were in utter chaos. James A. Rose has written well on this phase of Illinois history. He said: "The conflict between the two factions had already reached the stage where all good men were not Regulators and all bad men were not Flatheads." (41)

A long series of outrages followed in which men upon the slightest imputation of being Flatheads were taken out and tortured. Some were beaten mercilessly; some were strapped across logs and their backs beaten into a pulp; others were taken to the river and their heads held under water until they confessed or drowned. Still others disappeared mysteriously and were never heard from. "Gone to Arkansas" was the term applied to these sudden disappearances, meaning they had been murdered and their bodies left to float down stream.

In 1846 John W. Read was a candidate for reelection for sheriff. He had no sooner announced this than he was accused of counterfeiting and ordered to leave the county. Ford says: "Those who were suspected to be rogues all threw their votes one way and, it was asserted, thereby insured the election of a sheriff and other officers in the County of Massac, who were opposed to the proceedings of the Regulators, and not over-zealous in enforcing the laws. The County of Massac gave about five hundred votes, and out of these John W. Read, the successful candidate for sheriff, received about three hundred majority. His opponent was a wealthy citi-

zen and, as it appeared, not very popular, but his influence over his friends was almost unlimited. There was another unsuccessful candidate for county clerk, of the same description. These two put themselves at the head of their friends in Pope and Massac and, being assisted by large numbers from Paducah and Smithland, in Kentucky, they proceeded to drive out and punish all suspected persons, and to torture them, to enforce them to confess and disclose the names of their confederates. By this means the numbers implicated in crime were increased every day." (40)

The failure of the Regulators at the polls had the effect of their redoubling their energies as an organization. They ordered the sheriff, county clerk, several citizens, and representatives in the legislature to leave the county. The sheriff afterwards returned and qualified for the office but, in this "reign of terror" no man could stand long, and he soon had to leave again. (12) (42)

At this juncture Ford says: "In this condition of things application was made in August, 1846, to the governor, for a military force to sustain the constituted authorities of Massac. This disturbance being at a distance of 250 miles from the seat of government, there was but little communication, the facts concerning it were but imperfectly known to the governor, for which reason he issued an order to Brigadier-General John T. Davis, of Williamson

County, to examine into it, and if he judged it necessary to call out the militia.

“General Davis proceeded to Massac, called the parties together, and, as he believed, induced them to settle their difficulties; but he had no sooner left the county, than violence broke out afresh.” (40)

Judge Moses says: “As the feud progressed, parties who at first stood aloof—including many from adjoining counties—became involved, not only through family connections, but also as partisans, on one side or the other, of the question of maintaining the supremacy of the law.” (42) The great evil of lynch’s law was that every one was threatened with summary punishment, rogue or honest man, who spoke against the proceedings.

Massac County court was held in the autumn of 1846 with Judge Walter B. Scates presiding. He criticized the lawless proceedings of the Regulators and as a result several indictments were returned. Some were arrested and committed to jail, whereupon Judge Scates was ordered to leave the county and never to return under penalty of lynching. He resigned on January 11, 1847. (42)

The Regulators resented the imprisonment of their friends, and openly revolted against the law by demanding the release of the prisoners. The sheriff now saw the need for volunteers to protect the jail and the court. But so great was the intimidation of the inhabitants that only sixty responded, although the moderate men outnumbered

the others three to one. Of the sixty, many were Flatheads of ill-repute. The imprisoned Regulators under guard now saw the very thing for which they had worked, arrayed against them: the self-guardianship of law and public welfare.

The Regulators took every advantage of the sheriff's predicament and gathering their forces, several hundred strong, marched down to Metropolis House and demanded the release of their fellow-Regulators. After a short parley the Regulators were liberated, the sheriff and his **posse** securing first the promise that they would be exempt from violence. The jail was opened and the prisoners set free. The Regulators now saw that they had the upper hand and, seizing several of the sheriff's **posse**, drove them down to the river and deliberately drowned them. The sheriff and his friends were notified to leave. (12) (40)

Following such procedure as this, Governor Ford was again asked to call out the militia. He disavored this. Instead, he sent Dr. William I. Gibbs, of Johnson County, to Massac, with authority to call out the county militia when necessary. Gibbs went and on Wednesday, November 11, 1846, called a meeting at the Metropolis House where anyone who had any criminal claim against anyone might have it settled. November 21 was the day named for such settlements by Dr. Gibbs and the justice of the peace. As no one appeared on that day, the neighboring county militia was ordered to come to Massac

to accelerate action. Contrary to Gibbs' order, it did not respond and he could do nothing alone. Moses says that Gibbs' attempt had no other result than to leave the Regulators masters of the field and stronger than ever. "They proceeded to seize, try, and punish alleged offenders with a high hand. Other indictments of Regulators and collisions between their friends and the Flatheads followed, and other seizures and outrages rapidly succeeded each other until the meeting of the legislature." (42)

It was about this time (November) that an atrocious crime was committed by the Regulators. They entered the house of an old couple named Mathis, and attempted to force the old man to tell of the guilt of some of his neighbors. Mathis refused, whereupon he was knocked down and attempted to be arrested without a warrant. The old lady was very strong, and knocked down two or three of the intruders before a gun was pointed at her. She seized the gun, shoved it downward, but not quick enough. It was discharged, the shot entering her thigh. She was also struck several blows over the head with the gun barrel. The Regulators fled, taking the old man with them. He was probably murdered, as he was never heard from. (12)

Mrs. Mathis had several perpetrators of this crime arrested, after which they were taken to the old Metropolis House and put under guard. The Regulators then marched into Metropolis City and demanded the release of their friends. Some trouble

and shooting ensued in which one man was fatally stabbed. A compromise was made, but as soon as the visitors secured the advantage, they seized some of the sheriff's men, and it is said the sheriff as well, and tying them together, carried them in the direction of Paducah. As no one except the sheriff was ever heard from, presumably they all "went to Arkansas." (12) On December 23, 1846, the sheriff and many citizens were ordered to leave Massac County within thirty days.

Captain Akin, of Franklin County, in his report to Governor Ford, said: "From the last information we could learn there are but few responsible men who take a part in favor of the 'Regulators' at this time, but there are some influential men behind the curtain and stimulating others to act; some very abandoned, and some very honest men, who are acting with the best intentions; and the same may be said of the 'Flatheads'. Of this, however, we feel confident that a large majority of the people of that county are sick and tired of the difficulties, and are anxious to see them at an end. If allowed to continue, no good citizen can remain in the county." (41)

The legislature was constantly at work on the problem of the proper administration of Massac County, and scarcely a day passed but that it was mentioned two or three times. Senator Thomas G. C. Davis, later of Massac, a gifted orator, was the

author of several interesting speeches in regard to the sad conditions.

A resolution passed on January 26, 1848, expressed a loss of confidence in the Legislature. The full text will be omitted here. (41)

John W. Read was re-elected for a third term in August, 1849. Trouble had not yet ceased. **The Western Citizen** of August 14 said: "In August, 1849, a civil war was anticipated. The 'Flatheads' who had killed a regulator informer by tying him naked to a tree in a mosquito infested district, barricaded themselves with ammunition and two cannons taken from the regulators who, determined to arrest the murderers, sent for cannon and aid from their friends in Kentucky." (43) Just a week before **The Daily Journal**, of Springfield, had reported: "There is a perfect lawless state of things in Massac in this state. About two weeks ago in an encounter between the Flatheads and Regulators, two of the former, Taylor and Robert Canada, were killed and Daniel Ensloe, son of a former representative, wounded. Clinton King, on the side of the Regulators, was killed, and two others wounded, one dangerously. Both parties were well armed. Affairs are represented as proceeding from bad to worse, constantly. One of the parties will have to leave the county." Soon after, an actual battle was fought, there being about sixty Flatheads and about eighty Regulators in the field. (41)

Some historians have criticized Governor Ford

for his handling of the Massac problem. Ballance says Ford had ability as a judge but lacked courage to act in Massac. Ballance thought either General Duncan or General Hardin would have "made the vigilants and anti-vigilants and scoundrels of every grade in Massac, tremble before the majesty of the law." He concludes: "and he let the people of Massac cut each other's throats, and drown each other in the Ohio, until they quit of their own accord." (44)

The legislature, after working for several years upon the problem, at last was able, in part, to solve it. On October 30, 1849, a bill was passed extending jurisdiction of the circuit court so that Massac was directly connected with the state judicial system. The text of the bill is too lengthy to include here. Moses says that "the object of the passage of the law to establish district courts was, in effect, to provide for a change of venue by the state—to enable the judge to hold court in any county in his circuit, so that the administration of the law would not be obstructed by interested jurors or tainted with partisan feelings. The determination of the state authorities to interfere and restore order had a quieting effect for the time on all parties. But the same lawless spirit has since been frequently manifested in that locality to such a degree as to be difficult of control." (42) Local historians may wish to disagree with Moses. As late as 1866, a man by the name of Lynn harbored horse thieves and stolen

horses in adjacent counties. O. J. Page also relates some incidents about mobs and lynch law.

By 1850 an astonishing tranquillity had fallen upon Massac County and all Southern Illinois. Disturbances died away and law assumed sway. Thus ended an eighteen-year struggle. All ill feelings have died long ago. Certainly today there is no such partisanship and that period of bitter tyranny has almost been forgotten. Not until the "Bloody Vendetta" of 1876 and its revival in the 1920's, was there anything similar, and that happened in Williamson County, not Massac.

CHAPTER IX

MASSAC COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR

It would be a superficial treatment if an account of the military part Massac County played in the Civil War were divorced from the political. Hence, it is desirable that the first part of Chapter X be read in conjunction with the present chapter. Egypt (Southern Illinois) was strongly pro-slavery and Democratic. The epithet "Copperhead" was applied to a northern man who spoke against the Union, and there were many in Egypt prior to 1861.

How did Egypt respond when the call came for men? Let it be said at once that the response was "enough to quicken the pulse of patriotism and to silence the tongue of slander." (45) Governors Oglesby and Yates hesitated to reorganize the militia for fear of hurting the Southern feelings of those in Egypt unnecessarily. Oglesby believed that when the crisis came, the whole country would rise **en masse** for the common love of Union. (42) How true was his belief, so far as Southern Illinois was concerned, may now be seen.

It is strange, but the best response came from

Democratic Egypt. In the first call the Cairo district offered more companies than could be received. When Logan and McClernand tendered their services, the tide was distinctly turned to the Union. Troops tendered not by companies but by regiments. Not only the quotas but also the surplus were filled. On October 1, 1863, the ten extreme southern counties were officially credited with almost 50 per cent excess. "Old Democratic strong-holds, charged with apprehension, offered recruits with a generosity that shamed their opponents." (46)

Massac County contributed five-sixths of its voting population, or 800 soldiers tried and true! Students give varying figures, one saying that the county furnished more soldiers than it had legal voters; some books credit the number 880. All agreed that this was a fine showing from Egypt while Northern Illinois had thought it was disloyal. Bluford Wilson wrote that the false belief current that Egypt furnished thousands of soldiers to the South, was a lie, or slander, or misrepresentation, which was unjust and cruel, whether intentional or unintentional. Of the 3,538 drafted men from Illinois, not one was from Egypt. Every call was answered and quotas filled. (45)

By 1861 old Fort Massac had fallen into decay. It was speedily repaired and on September 24, 1861, the 3rd Regiment of Illinois Cavalry occupied it. On October 3, six companies of Infantry arrived from Cairo. On November 11 four companies were sent

to Paducah, leaving three to occupy the fort. (10)

By order of Governor Yates one regiment, the 131st, was enlisted and went into camp at old Fort Massac (Camp Massac). It was comprised of men from Hamilton, Gallatin, Hardin, Pope, and Massac Counties. They were enlisted in July and August, 1862. They remained in camp from September until November 13, when they were mustered into the Union service. The aggregate strength reached 880. Excluding officers, they numbered 815 men. More than 300 were Massac men. Colonel George W. Neely, of Metropolis, was the commandant. Companies A to H contained Massac men with the following captains, respectively: Elisha T. Woods, of Metropolis, who was chiefly instrumental in raising Co. A; Herod and Twitchall; Purdon, of Massac, and Field; Woodward, of Massac; Halley; Hobbs; McCaleb; and Pulsifer and Eugene Crapper, of Metropolis. (47)

There is not space here to give the history of the 131st except briefly. At Fort Massac there was guard duty and drill despite poor equipage. Measles broke out and prostrated about 100, many of whom died or were discharged. On December 2 they embarked on the **Iowa** for Cairo. From there they moved to Memphis; thence to Louisiana, the Yazoo River, the White River, and Vicksburg, engaging in battle and construction. Disease again hit hard. They returned to Memphis to recruit their health. Back to Vicksburg they went and two months later

were in Kentucky to meet expected raids of General Forrest. As he did not appear the regiment returned to Vicksburg. Constant losses caused the 131st to be consolidated with the 29th Infantry on November 14, 1863. Final pay and discharge was received two years later. (47) Total deaths of the 131st were 294, most of which was by disease and accidents. The aggregate strength of the 29th was 1547 but declined to 520. It suffered 300 killed. (42)

The Adjutant General praised the sacrifice of the 131st. Though few died from rebel bullets, yet the nature and duty of the work was such as to cause much disability and death. It did its part.

The nearest actual fighting at Massac occurred at Paducah on March 26, 1864, when the Confederate General Forrest with 1800 cavalry men attacked Colonel Hicks and his force. Killed were 25 and wounded 85. Union gunboats patrolling the harbor decided the battle. Many women and children fled in boats to the Illinois side of the river. Other refugees hid in cellars and under the river bank.

Metropolis had made some preparations. Page says: "On May 18, 1861, a resolution was passed authorizing the City Clerk to purchase 3 kegs of powder, 2 sacks of buckshot, and 100 bars of lead, for the 'Home Guards', to be used in defense of the city from threatened attacks by rebels." (6)

Captain J. F. McCartney, of Metropolis, personally recruited 150 men during the winter of 1863-64. He was commissioned Captain of his Co. D, 56th

Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was assigned with Sherman on his march to the sea. (6)

In any compilation of war records it is difficult to avoid errors. Even the Adjutant General's reports admit errors. Sometimes records are not available for individuals, there are misspellings, blanks appear for residence, and the mode and place of death are unknown. At the time, for instance, Brooklyn appeared on the map of Illinois in three places. Many men enlisted in other counties and in other states so that Massac County loses their credit. The author has sifted the names with some care. Of the 800 Massac County soldiers, almost 500 were in regiments other than the 131st. One man each was in the 7th and 11th Infantry. Seven were in the 18th. Captain James Williamson was in the 31st.* Eight men were in the 48th. Luke Mayfield was its Sergeant Major. Andrew Walbright was First Sergeant in the 56th, which contained 173 Massac men. First Assistant Surgeon John H. Scott was in the 90th. Six men were in the 109th and seven in the 120th. Eugene Crapper was First Lieutenant of the 136th, which had 24 Massac men. Two men were in the 2nd Cavalry. Peck and Vickers were captains of the 6th. There were five other officers and 61 men from Massac. The 10th had one man. The 13th had six men in Co. F and M. Six men were in the 14th. The 15th Cavalry was made up of seven officers and 72 men, Carmichael and Leek being cap-

*All names are Massac men.

tains. In the G and K Batteries of the First Regiment Light Artillery were 15 men. Curtiss was First Sergeant of K. (47)

Post No. 345 of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized locally on October 1, 1883. It was named Tom Smith Post in honor of the first Union soldier from Massac County who died in service. A total of 284 names were eventually enrolled in the GAR.

Illinois furnished 256,297 men from 1861 to 1865. Serving in that vast Union Army were 2,675,000 men. Only one yet lives in the entire United States, Albert Woolson (age 107), of Duluth. In 1927 there were yet 29 veterans living in Massac County. On March 24, 1939, James A Smith died. Reed Crider (colored) died February 1, 1943. Van Lyons (colored) died May 15, 1944. On January 31, 1945, S. E. Womack died at Boaz, probably the last Civil War veteran in Southern Illinois.

CHAPTER X

POLITICAL NOTES — THE BAR

War sometimes splits political parties. In some cases political parties cause wars. The Civil War definitely converted Massac County from a Democratic to a Republican stronghold, which it has remained generally ever since.

Southern Illinois had been pro-slavery in sentiment long before the crisis. In the general election for the convention in 1824, Pope County (of which Massac was then a part) was 273 votes for and 124 against; i.e., was for slavery. That part of Massac lying in Johnson was a tie. Even the constitution of 1818 was framed by southern men. Up to 1862 Massac County was overwhelmingly Democratic. In 1848, for president, it voted about 70 per cent for Cass; in 1852 and 1856 Pierce and Buchanan were the choices. In 1854, for State Treasurer, the vote was over 75 per cent for Democratic Moore. In 1858, the vote was 75 per cent for Douglas. For President in 1860 Massac voted 75 per cent or 873 votes for Douglas; for Bell (Union Party) 8 per cent or 84 votes; and for Lincoln, 121 votes. It

might be well to say here that there is no record of Lincoln ever visiting Massac County.

The population of Massac County in 1860 was 6,213 with 3219 white males, 2882 white females, 63 free colored females, and 49 free colored males. A total of 1,078 votes were cast. There were no "stay-at-homes" in that momentous year. Southern Illinois was not Republican and emphatically was not for Lincoln. (45) As late as 1862 Massac gave about 70 per cent for the Democratic Congressman-at-large, James C. Allen.

In those first stirring days the term "copperhead" arose. A copperhead was a northern man who sympathized with the South. The term was especially applied to those who actively aided the South. Several prominent politicians were among them. One of these was assemblyman William H. Green, of Massac County. He intimated that his constituents would oppose any invasion of the North, but at the same time, if the North marched on the South, his people would die before the North could invade the South. He was said to advocate secession in Egypt. On a charge of Copperheadism he was arrested and placed in jail but later "honorably discharged." (46)

Pope County had a mass meeting openly declaring right of secession. Many other secret meetings were held. Marion pledged itself to work for division of the State and attach Egypt to the Confederacy. It was long contended that John A. Logan

approved of these resolutions, but the writers Smith, Lusk, and Erwin absolve him. (1) (35) (48)

Why was Southern Illinois pro-slavery? At least five reasons may be given. First, in latitude, that part of Illinois extended far into the South. Much of Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri were no farther south than many Illinois counties. Cairo reached down almost to the geographical center of what was known as the Southern States. (49) Secondly, "In shape—a wedge, in the end riving apart the ill-starred Confederacy—a shining lance head, thrusting its way deep into the very vitals of slavery and rebellion." (45) This led to similar trade interests as a third reason. Lastly, were the factors of blood-relationship, and the pro-slavery instincts of the immigrants from slave-holding states. These last cannot be over-emphasized. They led to political affiliations and Southern sympathies. (49)

Then why was Egypt so loyal? Rumors, a sort of "whispering campaign", had built up the "disloyal Egypt" myth. Cross says that to the Union it had always been true; it needed the crisis to prove it to the world. (50) Another writer suggests that Egypt would much have desired to be a Switzerland or neutral ground during the war, to act as mediator rather than participant on either side. The "Underground Railroad", of which Metropolis was an important terminus, was in operation through the years. One must admit that the subversive Knights of the Golden Circle were strong in Egypt in 1862.

The Cairo "castle" claimed to have a membership of 20,000. Their "nuisance value" was great. (51)

The first local Republican organization met in Metropolis in the spring of 1860. Only five persons were present. But how marvelous the revolution in public sentiment! State Representative William H. Green had warned his fellow Democrats in 1859 that the party's strength might soon be tested. General Green B. Raum was an ardent supporter of Douglas in 1860. The fall of Fort Sumter created a profound sensation in Egypt. Feeling ran high. Immediately General Raum declared himself on the side of the Union. As a visiting attorney at Metropolis a few days after the event, he was asked to express his views. Lusk gives this speech verbosely, but enough to say that the speech was effective. Without seeking it, Raum had met a great emergency and led the way for the cause of Union and liberty. He changed his support to Lincoln, and from that time on the Republican party grew in Massac County. The vote in 1864 was 948 for Lincoln and only 265 for McClellan. (35)

The Negro, of course, was one of the major spokes in the hub of the Civil War causes. An entire chapter could easily be devoted to the Negro in Massac County. Employed mostly at tilling the soil or as servants, his position was lowly. The word "servant" covered a multitude of sins, and slavery existed in Egypt just as surely as in the South. (52) (53) Colonel W. R. Brown, of Metropolis, pro-

tected the first Negro who dared to vote in Cairo in 1869. Prejudice against the intellectual or political advancement of the colored race was deep-seated. (35) Locally, by the "gentleman's agreement" of about 1870, Negroes were allowed an alderman. This was recently broken when William Grimes, white, unseated Henry Upshaw. Negroes also serve on the West End police force in Metropolis. Since 1839 there have been several lawyers. In 1940 there were 1705 colored citizens in the county, 615 being in Metropolis. This has declined to 1185. There are no colored voters in Washington Precinct. In the area, Massac, Pulaski, Alexander, and McCracken (Kentucky) Counties contain the most Negroes by percentage of total population. The percentage in Massac is 8.7 per cent. The Negro vote is predominantly Republican. While there has been a decline in Negro population, politically, the vote is still a force with which to reckon.

Through the years Massac County has been thrown into variously-numbered Senatorial and Congressional districts. At present it is a part of the 51st Senatorial District and the 25th Congressional District. Due to limits of space only county personalities will be mentioned. Dates of office and session numbers also are omitted. In the respective order the State Senators have been William H. Green, Douglas W. Helm, W. A. Spence, and Arthur Van Hooser. Again in chronological order the State Representatives have been George W. Gray,

William H. Greene, Thomas B. Hicks, Charles Burnett, Jonathan C. Willis, William R. Brown, Benjamin O. Jones, John D. Young, Robert McCartney, Fowler Armstrong, F. A. Trousdale, Oliver J. Page, S. Bartlett Kerr, Claude Lacey, W. V. Rush, and Gordon Kerr. Several of the above served a number of terms and gave honorable service. Trousdale was the only Democrat since the Civil War. Douglas W. Helm served through six Senatorial sessions. W. V. Rush was elected five times to the Lower House. The present Senator, Arthur Van Hooser, has had the longest tenure. Not since 1920, when Spence and Lacey were serving, has Massac been so fully represented as now. Representative Kerr lives in Brookport. Van Hooser has been a fighter for his constituents and has gained national recognition as an authority on roads. He has sponsored and co-sponsored much outstanding legislation.

The county claims two Congressmen, both Representatives. John R. Thomas, Republican, served from 1879 to 1885. As General Green B. Raum was once resident at Metropolis and, according to Moses, was elected from there in 1867, Massac may lay claim to him. Meanwhile, he had entered the Republican ranks.

The county Republican party reigned supreme until the 1930's when some breaks occurred, but its strength had returned by 1940. However, at no time since the Civil War has the county ever gone Democratic for President or for Governor. The race was

fairly close in 1868, 1932, and 1936 for President. The vote in 1932 stood 2851 for Hoover and 2593 for Roosevelt. In 1932, the only real local gubernatorial race, Horner polled 2244 votes while Small received 3131. The record county vote in an election occurred November 8, 1932, when about 7700 voted. With 8500 voters registered in November 1952, there were 6930 votes cast of which 60.8 per cent were Republican. For offices below the National, and the Governor, the picture has been about the same. Claude V. Parsons, Democratic Congressman, received a small plurality of 18 votes in 1932. For State Senator, the controversial Kenneth Jones got a Democratic plurality of 65 votes from the county in 1934. In the Judicial elections the county has remained Republican. There was a curious recurrence of events on November 8, 1932. Forty years before, it is said, on November 8, 1892, there was a local snowfall of about 15 inches. That day Altgeld was elected Democratic Governor and Cleveland elected Democratic President. It also snowed locally on that date in 1932, when Horner and Roosevelt were elected. As some Democrat wag said, the Republicans were "snowed under."

In November 1932 Harve Evens was elected State's Attorney. He was the third Democrat since the Civil War to win a county office. The first was Sylvester Shoemaker (County Clerk, 1877); the second, James Leech (Assessor and Treasurer, about 1882). On November 8, 1938, John Steele was

elected as sheriff and Harry Wright as County Superintendent of Schools. Both were Democrats.

Party choices in the April 8, 1952 primary were Kefauver (Democrat) and Taft (Republican) for President; for Governor it was Stevenson (Democrat) and Stratton (Republican). The swing was away from the "Fair Deal" as the November election attested.

Lloyd Armstrong (Republican) has been circuit clerk for 26 years, the longest tenure of any Massac County officer in its history.

In the early days judges, district attorneys, and the lawyers were circuit riders. John A. Logan was one of those non-resident lawyers of Massac County. So was Green B. Raum. John H. Mulkey, after retirement, moved to Metropolis. He was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. (54) Thomas G. C. Davis was at one time a citizen of Metropolis. He was a lawyer of distinction. It was related of him that he was never at a loss to supply a missing link in the chain of testimony wherein his client had a personal interest. (35) It was said of him that no man could speak as he did without being endowed from on high. He once served as attorney in Massac court for a colored boy, and presented proof that he was born free. (10)

Jedediah Jack, an almost forgotten lawyer, lies in an unmarked grave in old Kidd's Cemetery. He defended a poor and friendless colored man named Decatur Campbell, who had been convicted of mur-

der. Jack carried the case to the Supreme Court and secured a reversal, thus promulgating the Doctrine of Self-Defense—that if a man is pursued or assaulted in such a way as to induce in him a reasonable belief that he is in actual danger, he might with force defend himself whether the danger was real or apparent. (10)

States Attorneys since 1888 have been Douglas W. Helm, Fred R. Young, George Sawyer, Fred Smith, Walter Roberts, Roy R. Helm, Harve Evans and Robert Chase. The present incumbent is Louis Horman. County judges in the same period have been Jonathan C. Willis, B. O. Jones, George Sawyer, Lannes P. Oakes, William F. Smith, Fred Smith, Walter Roberts, and presently, Carl H. Smith.

Other practicing lawyers have been Benjamin Delevan, John B. Hicks, Thomas B. Hicks, William H. Green, Thomas H. Smith, Isaac Armstrong, Richard Brown, Manning Mayfield, Hal Armstrong, William Hays, Edward McMahan, John F. and Robert W. McCartney and John R. Thomas. The Dean of the Bar in age and seniority was James C. Courtney. Harve Evans was the last of the old school of lawyers, those who did their own work and thinking, a time when “intellectual virility” was the ideal. (10)

During March 1940 the last term of court was held in the old court house with Judge Roberts trying the last case. The old court house was built in

1862. On July 29, 1942, the new court house was occupied.

In 1952 a record number of cases—some 573—were filed with the State's Attorney. It was a case of "growing pains". This resulted in the County Board appointing an Assistant State's Attorney, of which James L. Foreman has the honor of being the first. (11)

The present county officers are: Sheriff, Joe Troutman; Judge, Carl Smith; State's Attorney, Louis Horman; Circuit Clerk, Lloyd Armstrong; County Clerk, Howard Miller; Assessor and Treasurer, George Krueger; Coroner, Dr. George Cummins; Master-in-Chancery, James L. Foreman; Superintendent of Highways, Clyde Taylor; County Superintendent of Schools, B. D. Fowler; County Commissioners, Curtis Comer, Henry Horntrop, and Walter Dyer.

CHAPTER XI

NEWSPAPERS — LITERARY — LIBRARY

Since the history of local newspapers is rather complex, the lines of succession must be only briefly given. The first newspaper in Massac County was founded by John H. Wood in 1848 or 1849. It was **The Metropolitan**. One issue is extant in the State Library. The next, **The Metropolis Register**, edited by W. B. and H. L. Acee, had a short life. A druggist, Dr. G. D. Duncan (or Duncombe), revived Wood's paper for a time. D. W. Lusk founded **The Sentinel** in 1853. It dwindled and died when Edward McMahon bought it and went to the war. (10)

The ancestor of **The Republican Herald**, longest newspaper in continuous circulation (83 years), was founded in October 1865. John F. McCartney founded **The Promulgator** after serving as captain in the Civil War. In 1870 the name was changed to **The Massac Journal**. From 1870 to 1892 it was published by McCartney, Jones, Davisson, Malone, Hines and Starkes, and Starkes successively. It was a weekly and always Republican. (10) (55) In 1892 the paper was combined with **The Massac Repub-**

ican and called **The Massac Journal Republican**. In 1918 W. A. Spence, the publisher, effected a merger with W. E. Speckman's **The Metropolis Herald** and the name was changed to **The Republican Herald**. Speckman was editor and manager. In 1925 Spence became the owner. Allan V. Robinson purchased the paper in 1945 but four years later sold it to Charles C. Feirich, who extinguished the title. (10)

The founding of newspapers was epidemic between 1865 and 1917. Many had only a brief existence or were consolidated with others. Strangely, the record of local newspapers around 1900 seems to be dimmer than in the earlier period. Whereas many early copies are filed in the State Library (and some may be found locally), only a few are on file for the years 1900 to 1920.

The Republican was begun in 1890 by D. R. Pryor. **The Metropolis Democrat** was published from 1878 to 1892 by Stewart and Trousdale. In 1899 it was sold to the Starkes who changed it to the independent **The Herald**. (10) **The Massac Times** was published from 1867 to about 1879. Depue and Ward were the publishers in 1869; Ward and McBane in 1870; McBane, 1871-73; and J. F. McCartney until he sold it to Vickers, of Vienna. McCartney had changed it from Democrat to independent. **The Democrat** started about 1877 under Armstrong but did not long survive. (55) Other ephemeral papers were **The Item** (1880's), **Republi-**

can, **The Weekly Review** (1890's), and **The Evening Herald** (a daily, 1900). (10)

In the first decade or so after 1900 several other newspapers arose. **The Tribune** was published by Stewart and Mulkey about 1908 or 1910. It was a Democrat paper. **The Metropolis Daily Democrat** (1906) made the claim that it was the first daily ever published in the county. **The Metropolis Herald** was being published in 1900 through 1910 by Trousdale and Barnes. The paper, under Speckman, in 1918 became **The Republican Herald**. (10)

The Colored Baptist Church Society published for several years **The Baptist Truth**, under the direction of J. B. McCrary. On March 8, 1898, he founded **The Metropolis Gazette** which continued well into the 1920's. (10)

In 1898 G. Lay Wolfe began publishing **The Brooklyn Eagle**. First independent, it changed to Republican. (6) Names have changed. **The Brookport News** was followed by **The Brookport Eagle**, which was bought by Richard McGregor from Bonnifield and Baugh in January 1906. W. D. Harrington was editor in 1908. In 1909 fire destroyed the building but he did not miss an issue. **The Brookport Journal** was issued two or three months in 1923-24. In 1923 James L. Hall established **The Brookport Independent** and was publisher until his death in 1946. Charles C. Feirich is the present publisher. (10)

The Metropolis News was established February 15, 1917, by J. L. Starkes. At different times it was a bi-weekly and daily. Under the masthead of **The Daily News**, it performed a great service during the hectic days of the war, furnishing the news day by day of the world's greatest drama. The title was changed to **The Metropolis Weekly News** and under such was sold to Charles C. Feirich in October 1937. After consolidation with **The Republican Herald** in 1949 the circulation rose until it reached more than 4000 in March 1954.

An examination of old newspapers reveals differences from those today. Local news was scarce; the personal news terse. Politics, foreign news, and morality sermons occupied much space. Advertisements were numerous but space was small with little display appeal. The print was often poor. But people had more time to read. The bicycle, automobile, movies, radio and television have successively competed for the people's time. Conquest for that time began when folks started gadding about. The scene has changed. Through it all the newspaper has continued to be a means of mass communication. It is more popular than ever. Television will settle into its niche but the local newspaper will go on, the one thing of old which one cannot do without.

There has not been a plethora of literary activity in Massac County, which is strange, with its rich backgrounds of fact and fancy to draw upon. Egypt

and Fort Massac have figured in considerable fiction written by outsiders, however. Nina Gordon Modglin has been the most prolific poet. In 1927 she was paid special tribute by the Woman's Club at a meeting during which two of her poems, "An Appreciation of Fort Massac" and "Glass Houses", were read. Coming to Metropolis in 1871, Jennie Inman Wilkins wrote much poetry over the years, with the local scene the dominant theme. T. M. Rutledge is the most prolific of the local versifiers today, writing on such homely subjects as "The Curb-Stone Sitter", "Trailer Folks", and "A Cup of Coffee".

Oliver J. Page has been referred to several times as the author of **The History of Massac County**. The book was written in Metropolis in 1900, but was not published until 1903. It was a fitting event with which to close the century. Practically every phase was covered up to 1900, including a biographical section. The book was illustrated. It is now a collectors' item for only a few copies seem to exist. Page was not a native of the county and after doing newspaper work, serving in the legislature, and pastoring the Christian Church, went to Missouri, where he died in 1948.

During the years of World War II Clyde Frothingham released, among others, the song hit "Star Spangled Banner Waving Somewhere." It was named the Number One song on the 1943 popular list. Mrs. Hattie Bakehouse also had success with

her war song hit, "Good-bye". By 1941 Kenneth Fulkerson had had three songs published.

The "R. W. McCartney Library" was the ancestor of the present Carnegie Public Library. As a result of a meeting in 1892 of public spirited women, Judge McCartney offered to erect a suitable building if they would procure the books. The McCartney Music Hall was erected in 1894 and opened as a private library. There were few books and few borrowers. The next year McCartney died and F. A. Trousdale became president in his stead. As a city library it continued until 1915.

The Carnegie Library was begun June 8, 1914, and dedicated November 27, 1915. The Carnegie Corporation gave \$9000 of the \$11,500 cost of erection. The first appropriation was \$900 for the year. The first president was Dr. Edward Trovillion. Mrs. Daisy Walsh was appointed librarian. The library has remained open continuously ever since, except for three weeks during a World War I coal shortage. In 1917 the library had 1292 books, in 1934 there were 6928, and as of July 1952 there were 12,192. The circulation of 48,315 constituted an increase of 63 per cent over the three previous years. Mrs. Jack Middagh is the present librarian.

CHAPTER XII

CHURCHES

The growth of the county's religious organizations has kept pace with the growth of the area itself. Today there are 66 religious congregations in the county but it is impossible to tell in these few pages the complete story of each. The author late in July made a complete tour of rural and city churches and here gives a few of the most pertinent facts. Some of the statistics of membership are only approximate. Churches contiguous to the county line, such as Azotus and Reevesville, have been omitted, although some Massac membership is held in such nearby churches.

Long before 1843 there was Baptist and Methodist preaching within the area. Lasley, McIntosh, and Rondeau, of England, were early Baptist preachers in Massac and adjacent counties. A little later were Americus Smith, J. A. Ramer, Valentine Smith, M. W. Holland, Willis White, John Baxter, George Lefever, and Wiley Pullen. (6) Peter Cartwright, a Methodist, rode the Fort Massac circuit in 1812-13. Jacob Whiteside served in the Cache and

Big Bay areas 1815-18. Assistants were W. R. Jones and Thomas Davis. Josiah Patterson preached along the Ohio in 1814-15. However, as yet, no permanent home congregations were organized. These awaited the 1830's and 1840's. (32)

The First Baptist Church of Metropolis is the oldest church in existence in the county, as it is also the largest in membership. In April 1951 a new church was begun. A new parsonage on Marberry Drive was occupied in April 1954. Membership is 877. Sunday School enrollment is 698, a growth of 153 per cent the past two years. The pastor is Dr. Charles H. Morris. Immanuel Baptist Church (Metropolis) began as a mission house January 1939. It was reorganized in 1941. Membership: 300. Sunday School: 150. Pastor: J. R. Jenkins. The First Baptist Church of Brookport was organized late in 1891. The present building dates from 1921, and the parsonage from 1948. With 425 members and a Sunday School of 320, it shows an increasingly vigorous growth. The pastor is Ivan V. Christoff. Joppa Mission Baptist Church is a project of the Brotherhood Union of the Baptist Association. Services in the prim new building began March 1953, but street and tent meetings had preceded. With 12 members and a Sunday School of 35, it is still unorganized, but Pastor Don Anderson views a field rich in opportunities.

Rural churches have always added a nostalgic and not unromantic touch to the American scene.

There are five (white) rural Baptist churches. Macedonia is situated on one of the highest points in the county with a superb view toward Kentucky. It was organized April 1851 with five members and as an arm of the Metropolis Church. J. A. Ramer was the first of 31 pastors to date. A log house built in 1886 burned in 1889 and the present building was soon erected. Members: 180. Sunday School: 85. Pastor: A. R. Adams. Seven Mile Church was organized in 1853. A new building is presently being erected. Members: 100. Sunday School: 85. Merrel Scott has been the pastor for three years. Waldo Church, organized in 1850, is the oldest of the five. From Sycamore Plains, in Pope County, it moved to Tindall Valley, then Shadrack School (now rural Central), and about 1883 to the present site. The present building was erected about 1889. Its belfry, built in 1911, is a landmark. Members: 81. Sunday School: 43. James Pepper has recently taken over pastoral service. New Hope is occupying its third new building. Organized February 1860, a log house was soon built, and in 1879 a better frame building occupied. It burned March 1935 and a new structure was dedicated the next year. Americus Smith was one of the first organizers and the first pastor. Members: 256. Sunday School: 65. The pastor is Kermit Jackson. Hillerman was organized in 1886. A destructive storm made necessary a new building which was dedicated May 1941. Members: 95. Sunday School: 46. John Harner is pastor.

Methodism in Metropolis dates back to 1838 or 1840. Samuel Peter gave the first services. In 1842 Samuel Boicourt preached in private homes. The First Methodist Church was organized in 1854. The present building was finished in 1892. Many records before 1870 have been destroyed by fire. Members: 792. Sunday School: 420. R. A. Lippman is pastor. A Brooklyn class organized in 1897 under S. D. Smith. A building was dedicated by September 1899. The church was plagued by flood in 1937 and by fire in 1951, the latter necessitating a complete rebuilding which was done in 1952 at a cost of \$27,000. Members: 122. Sunday School: 100. Eugene F. Black is pastor. The old Oak Grove log school house in Joppa, probably built in the 1850's, was the birthplace of both the Methodist and Christian Churches in Joppa. Subsequently the Methodists occupied their own log house and later a brick structure. The present one is frame and was dedicated in 1931. Members: 149. Sunday School: 106. Roy Cole has been pastor more than a year.

The Methodists also have five rural (white) churches. Lower Salem was organized shortly after 1875. It and the Boaz Congregational Church hold Memorial Day services in alternate years, a custom begun soon after the Civil War. Members: 43. Sunday School: 45. The pastor is Carl Davis, of Karnak. Oak Grove was organized in 1901 and the building finished in 1902. Members: 95. Sunday School: 47. Pastor: Roy Cole. Upper Salem began

as a German Church but later was changed to English. Organization and building were finished in 1860. Presently there are 45 members with Roy Cole as pastor. Powers was organized in October 1888 under Rev. F. J. Davis, who was pastor until 1899. The building was erected in 1897. The present pastor is Eugene F. Black. Zion Methodist Church is located at Midway and the pastor is also Reverend Black.

The Christian Church of Metropolis was organized April 1864 in the Court House. The first house was completed in 1873. Captain William McBane deeded the lots. The present organization was perfected in 1876. A cyclone wrecked the building which had to be rebuilt. The present commodious building was dedicated in December 1914. The membership has grown from 230 in 1900 to the present 400, with 260 in Sunday School. O. L. Angel has been pastor for 14 years. Brookport Christian Church was organized October 29, 1885, by Dr. D. M. Breaker, of Tennessee. The building was dedicated in May 1895. With 185 members, and 120 in Sunday School, the pastor, Gene Carter, thinks the outlook for continued growth is bright. Joppa Christian Church was organized September 21, 1881, by H. C. Waddell, Dr. Bundy, and J. F. McCartney. Standstills and revival marked its earlier history. A building was secured in 1894 and the famous church bell added in 1895. Formerly a boat bell, it is one of the finest toned in the county. Members: 23.

Sunday School: 52. Pastor: Harold Calhoun. At the end of the Civil War W. W. Duger organized the Unionville Christian Church, and erected a building, possibly the first Christian Church in the county. A new building was dedicated by 1900.

The Congregational Church (Metropolis) began with a tent meeting in 1889. The house secured in 1890 was hit by a cyclone, but was rebuilt the same year. The Presbyterians organized June 8, 1850. They reorganized in 1866 and a building was dedicated in 1868. The Congregational Church and Presbyterian Church merged in 1923 under the present name, Union Presbyterian Congregational. Members: 260. Sunday School: 110. James M. Lotz has been pastor since October 1950. The Cumberland Presbyterian Church, or Mt. Sterling, near Unionville, was organized in 1861. A new building was acquired in 1879. A new organization was effected in 1881. The first Cumberland church established in the county, services are still held with about 100 members.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Metropolis) organized in 1869 but reorganized in 1876. A brick building was erected in 1869 to be replaced by the new one in 1950. The confirmed membership is 282 with 150 in Sunday School, Roger Burchett pastoring. St. Stephen's Lutheran (Midway) was organized in 1857 according to the Synod's records, but in 1875 according to the local record. The earlier date is believed to be more correct. The present building

was erected in 1881. The grounds are graced by many large oak trees, horseshoes being embedded in many, when during horse and buggy days the shoes were driven in as hitching rings. Confirmed members: 200. Sunday School: 130. Marvin H. Krueger has pastored for four years. St. John's Lutheran (northeast of Round Knob) was organized in 1860 and the building erected in 1885. Confirmed members: 202. Sunday School: 135. Pastor: Hartwig Harms.

Located near St. John's Lutheran is Zion's Evangelical and Reformed Church. It was organized in August 1853 and a building erected in 1876. Services in German was the practice from the start; in fact it virtually became a requirement for burial in the church cemetery that one be German. Members: 159. Sunday School: 120. Pastor: Noel A. Gehm. St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church (rural) was organized in 1892. A building was finished for the Christmas season, 1893. A Sunday School was immediately formed and has never ceased; hence the "Evergreen Sunday School." The parsonage was built in 1897. Fred Feiker is pastor over the 136 members.

Two dates are given for the establishment of the Metropolis Church of Christ: 1929 and 1933. Though not the oldest, it is, with its 150 members, the largest of the denomination in the county. The building presently occupied was bought from the Episcopal Church. Kenneth Gossage is pastor. The Brook-

port Fourth Street Church of Christ was begun about 1922 and the building erected about 1927. It has never had a pastor but Rev. Gowers is the evangelist. It counts 70 members and a Sunday School of 48. The other Brookport Church of Christ is located at 3rd and Crockett Streets. It was organized about 1913. Members: 45. Sunday School: 55. Pastor: Albert Gardene. In 1885 George Barrows held a meeting at Hillerman and organized the Bethel Church of Christ. Andrew Perry was the first minister. J. F. McCartney deeded the ground. There is no regular pastor but L. E. Wright conducts services at present. Membership is under 25. Mt. Pleasant Church of Christ is at least 50 years old. Robert Lamb shepherds the 17 regular members. Samoth Church of Christ holds services but it does not have a pastor.

Certain ones of the comparatively new Pentecost group of the 1920's have separated until now there are only four small congregations bearing that name. Briefly, they are: Boaz, organized in 1940, and pastored by Alvin Thomas the past 8 years, with 100 in Sunday School; Mermet, with a neat stucco building; Samoth Free Pentecost Trinity, organized about 1940, and presently pastored by Charlie Rushing, with 25 in Sunday School; and the First Pentecost Church of Brookport, with only a few members, but the property debt free, and pastored by Mrs. Elsie Jones.

Boaz Congregational (Unity) Church is a unique

example of religious tolerance and cooperation. Organized in May 1894, it is composed of members of various original denominational beliefs. The old edifice burned in 1943 but by the next year a new one was ready for dedication. As has been said, this church alternates Memorial Day services with Lower Salem. Present pastor is Lowell Earnhardt in charge of 40 members and a Sunday School of 75.

The Church of God (1105 Girard Street, Metropolis) organized between 1920 and 1922. The building was erected very soon. The membership is more than 100. Under E. H. Harding since 1946, it has been a very active and solid church. Services at the Church of God in East Metropolis have been suspended temporarily.

The number of Catholics is small in proportion to the total county population. They assembled for years at various places until property was acquired and a church built in 1895. The church is under the patronage of the first American saint, St. Rose of Lima. An elementary parochial school has been conducted the past two years. Church members number 80. Day school enrolls 59. Herbert C. Kopff is the shepherd.

The Church of the Nazarene occupies the same building as the older extinct United Brethren Church. The latter was organized in 1895 under Mrs. M. W. Lennox, a powerful preacher. After 1900 the church languished. In 1939 the new Church

of the Nazarene was dedicated. There are 26 members. The new pastor is Keith Kelley.

The Assembly of God was established about 1941. Today there are 60 members under the pastor D. Lungsford.

The Congregational Holiness Church was established about 30 years ago, and has been located at the present site 23 years. A new building was dedicated in April 1934. Membership, under Walter Brack, is 40.

Jehovah's Witnesses meet in Kingdom Hall, Metropolis, every Sunday and every Wednesday night. First known as International Bible Students, they assumed the present name in 1931. They met in private homes for years. September 4-6, 1953, more than 750 persons attended an assembly in the Junior High School. W. B. Lucas leads the 50 members.

The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints meets in Joppa. It was first organized under William G. Barrett in 1926. It was reorganized in 1952 as a mission church of Independence, Missouri. There are 25 members. The leader is Elder Earl Phillips.

The Seventh Day Adventists meet at the Maurice Copley home on North Avenue, under Elder W. A. Kalmodin.

The Gideons is a non-denominational group of business men whose chief purpose is the distribution of Bibles and Testaments to hotels, motels, school

youth, and service men. Through the President, James Hard, and his eight helpers, many books have been placed.

A history of churches would not be complete without a treatment of Negro Churches. Here again Baptists and Methodists predominate. The First Baptist Church (Metropolis) was established in 1866. The longest pastorate was that of Ferdinand Robinson—27 years. Members number 150. Lenus Turley is the new pastor, having just completed 17 years pastoring of Brookport Unity. Antioch Baptist Church was organized in 1904. Membership is small for a city church—only 18. The Freewill Baptist Church is a younger member. There are 30 members but it is growing. S. S. Cousins is pastor. Some maintain that the St. Paul AME Church was organized in 1913, but probably a much earlier date should be set. Members total 124. The pastor is James K. Brown. The colored Church of God has a small congregation on Johnson Street.

In Brookport the oldest colored church is the Bethel AME, started in 1874. The building was erected in 1917. Members: 50. Pastor: J. H. Roulac. Baptist Unity Church was established in 1913, the result of a union of St. Paul's and another church. The building was erected in 1915. Members: 70. Pastor: Rafield Sanford. The colored people have a small congregation at the Church of Christ.

The remaining Negro churches will be dealt with briefly. In Joppa the Cumberland Presbyterian

Church is almost inactive. Rev. L. Turley conducts part-time services at the Joppa Clover Leaf Baptist Church. In Mermet those of the Church of Christ, Methodist, and Presbyterian belief all occupy the same building on different Sundays. The village of Choat has the Mt. Hebron Baptist and a Presbyterian Church. Siloam, established about 60 years ago, is decadent, having only 13 members. This Baptist church is pastored by Otto Roten. Shady Grove Free Baptist has about 35 members and a strong Sunday School. Rev. Macon is pastor. Little Rock is the only Christian colored church in the county. It was organized in 1875. Every three months Siloam, Shady Grove, and Little Rock take communion together.

Some statistics may be interesting at this point. There are 66 churches in the county. In 1929 Metropolis had 12 churches. Today there are 21. In 1900 Baptists numbered 1000 in the county. Today there are 2684 members. The three leaders for numbers of churches are: Baptists 17, Methodists 11, Church of Christ 9. The smallest group is probably the Seventh Day Adventists or the Latter Day Saints. Methodists total 1450, Lutheran 684, Christian 633. The largest church is Metropolis First Baptist with 877; the second, Metropolis First Methodist with 792; the third, Brookport Baptist with 425. Total county church members are 7056 or more than 50 per cent of the total population. The national figure was 59 per cent in 1954.

Some of the extinct churches deserve a word. Tucker's Chapel, organized after 1875, always held services in school-houses. It was Methodist. Liberty Ridge Christian Church began about 1867 and died in the 1920's. Canaan Church is no more. Nineveh Baptist Church (colored) lasted past 1900. So did the colored Goodman's Chapel. Ebenezer Baptist was organized in 1838. New Ebenezer lingered past 1900. Old Salem Baptist was organized in 1844. New Columbia Churches—one which was dedicated by the famous Peter Cartwright—are gone. The colored Zion Baptist died soon after 1900. (6)

As one wanders over the grounds of the old extinct churches, or about the cemeteries, a pensive mood will likely come upon one. One thinks what high visions have been seen, how the Gospel message has called generations of men to attempt a better, fuller life. Those churches served their day, and many right well. The church is still one firm foundation upon which to mold a life. The years have seen many thousands of Massac County people working toward the spiritual and cultural advancement of the community.*

*For data up to 1900, O. J. Page has largely been drawn upon.

CHAPTER XIII

SOCIAL CENTERS

Close to 50 social, service, youth, fraternal, and professional organizations are active in Massac County, providing an adequate outlet for the varied needs and interests of the citizenry.

The Metropolis Blue Lodge No. 91 of the Masons is the oldest group, having been organized April 1850. It is strictly local and numbers more than 250 members. Royal Arch Masons, Metropolitan Chapter No. 101 was chartered October 1866. It comprises more than Massac County. Gethsemane Commandery No. 41, Knights Templar, was organized October 1872. East St. Louis is the local center for this stage. Sam Smith is Master and Merritt D. May Chaplain. E. G. Whyers has been secretary for 48 years. Farmers' Lodge No. 232 is located in Brookport. There are local men also in the New Columbia, Bay City, and Ganntown lodges. Lily of the Valley Chapter No. 85 of the Order of the Eastern Star surrendered its charter to the Grand Chapter in 1871, and was issued a new one in 1886. It has about 200 members. Pauline Miller is Worthy

Matron. Metropolis Shrine No. 89 of the White Shrine of Jerusalem, an adjunct of the Masons, is a group to which men also may belong. It was chartered in May 1947. Members total 165 of which Edna Rodgers is Worthy High Priestess.

The parent lodge of Odd Fellowship was chartered October 1851. It was the Chosen Friends Lodge No. 86. The Massac Lodge No. 442 was chartered in 1871. In 1922 the two merged as Massac Lodge No. 86. There are 100 members. John W. Guice is Noble Grand. Joppa and New Columbia lodges are extinct. Welcome Rebecca Degree Lodge No. 28 was organized October 1870. Metropolis Rebecca Degree Lodge No. 116 was instituted in 1882. (6) According to Mrs. Curtis Haley, present Noble Grand, the present lodge is No. 28 and was formed in 1881. There are now 77 members.

Elks Lodge No. 1428 was organized August 13, 1923, with 73 charter members. There are 168 members now. Robert Eckenberg is Exalted Ruler.

Loyal Order of Moose Lodge No. 282 was organized in Metropolis in November 1949. Its 538 members makes it perhaps the largest organization in the county. Growth has been phenomenal. Arthur Heil is Governor. The Women of the Moose organized a chapter October 11, 1950, with 75 charter members. Mrs. Idella Compton is Senior Regent.

In the 1870's debating clubs, literary societies, and singing schools filled the social needs. In 1880 a Chautauqua Circle was formed and lived nine

years. In 1897 the Women's Literary Club was formed which name was changed in 1908 to the Metropolis Women's Club. Many outstanding civic moves have had their beginning in this club. Mrs. Frank Marberry is president, succeeding Mrs. Elmer Geittmann. There are 57 members. The Evening Women's Club (formerly the Junior Women's) was organized in 1930, with Cornelia Carter as first president. The membership of 70 is presided over by Mrs. Anna Schwegman. The Metropolis Business and Professional Women's Club began in August 1945. Monthly meetings are held for its 86 members. Organized by Verna Helm, Betty Grace is now president. The Brookport Women's Club was organized about 1925. Members: 35. President: Carolyn Midgette. There are two sororities in Metropolis: Beta Sigma Phi, formed April 1947 (Mrs. Leonard Adkins, president), and local chapter Zeta Eta of Delta Theta Tau, installed February 1938 (Pat Kidd, president).

Overton P. Morris Post No. 306 of the American Legion was organized at Metropolis on October 21, 1919. It was named in honor of Overton P. Morris who was killed in the Argonne. High membership year, before the entrance of the many World War II men, was 1926 with 227 members. Membership now is 308. The post has done much excellent work along civic and charitable lines. Eugene Miller was installed new commander in July 1954. The Auxiliary organized June 1937. There are 97 members.

Mrs. Juanita Wehrmeyer is secretary. The Brookport Lester Reynolds Legion Post No. 523 was organized in 1930 and has 60 members commanded by Jack Anderson. Its Auxiliary has about 40 members. Ruby Garrett is president. Joppa Legion Post No. 1214 is inactive at present. The Disabled American Veterans organized originally May 27, 1935, but later reorganized. It counts 154 members. The commander is Norman Grant. The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Fort Massac Post No. 3847, was organized February 1943. Ray Lindsey is commander over the 231 members. Its Auxiliary, organized June 1946, is still active. William L. Cross Camp No. 130 of the Spanish War Veterans was organized November 1934. A convention of 150 Southern Illinois veterans was held in Metropolis June 1937. According to William D. Harrington, a Spanish War veteran, the charter was surrendered about 10 years ago, and the few veterans left affiliate with the V.F.W.

An organizational meeting was held in the New Central Hotel May 10, 1921, at which time a permanent organization of the Metropolis Rotary Club was effected. There were 23 charter members and Henry J. Humma was chosen president. On April 23, 1941, the club was host to more than 3000 Rotarians in an annual District Conference. Presently there are 55 members. Raymond Wehrmeyer is president. Metropolis Lions Club was formed in the spring of 1941. Members: 45. President: J.

Riley Wetherington. Brookport Lions organized January 1953. Members: 22. President: Talmadge Ross. Metropolis Kiwanis organized April 6, 1938. It has taken an aggressive lead in advancing the general well-being of the community. It was honored by the election of Ray Harper as Governor of the Illinois-Eastern Iowa District for 1953. Members total 45, with Howard Miller succeeding Paul Wehrmeyer as president. Joppa Kiwanis formed January 1953. There are 20 members. Logan Woods is president. Metropolis Country Club organized in 1922. It has a fine clubhouse and ample acreage for golfing. Members: 135. President: William Tiner.

The Metropolis Chamber of Commerce is the result of a consolidation of the old Commercial Club and the Business Men's Association, October 1917. Membership has been erratic but is now 195. Thomas Graman is president; James Cannon, secretary. Under Cannon, new civic spirit and membership has been quickly built up. The chamber has done much since 1926 to assist in community endeavors. The Junior Chamber of Commerce received its charter November 4, 1947, but became inactive in 1950. Brookport Chamber of Commerce has as its secretary Wayne Hohman. Membership is 25 or 30. Joppa Chamber of Commerce organized in March 1950. Under the impact of the erection of the huge steam electric station, the Joppa Chamber has a peculiar and vital part to play. Secretary James

L. Wood has made a vigorous publicity campaign in behalf of Joppa.

Fort Massac Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was formed December 17, 1929. The present Regent, Mrs. L. L. Evers, has succeeded Mrs. Roy Helm. There are 26 members.

Several groups cater to youth and act as an uplifting force in the community. Boy Scout Troop No. 1 began March 1915, under Scoutmaster Andrus E. Helm. The county BSA is a member of the Egyptian Council. Alfred Bonifield has been prominent in such organizational work. Metropolis has seven troops, Brookport and Joppa have one each. A total of 134 boys participate, under the direction of O. D. Troutman. Cub Scouting started in 1942 but languished for want of leadership. There are several boys who are members of Boys of Woodcraft. There are 182 Girl Scouts. Sixty-two of these are Brownies and 20 are Seniors. Joppa is expecting a GSA group. Inter-racial groups are planned for Metropolis; in fact, there are one or two mixed groups now. Mrs. Margaret Decker is Scout Commissioner. Under the 4-H banner are seven agricultural clubs comprising 133 youth. There are eight Home Economics clubs with 146 members. J. R. Strubinger and Athylin Mathis are advisors. Club work was begun in 1931.

The following five organizations fall into the professional category. The president of the long-standing Massac County Teacher's Association is

Howard Trampe. Average enrollment is 125. The County Bar Association has six members. Grover E. Holmes is chairman. The Massac County Medical Association was organized March 31, 1875. There are six members. Harry Wright is president; G. F. Cummins, secretary. Dr. J. A. Fisher was president of the Southern Illinois Medical Society in 1942-43. The Massac County Ministerial Association has about 20 members. Dr. Charles H. Morris is chairman. The Farm Bureau was organized October 6, 1920. It has 800 members. President: Ben Buldtman. The Home Bureau was organized August 13, 1947. Members: 227. President: Athylin Mathis. The Farm Bureau advisor is J. R. Strubinger. The Farmer's Institute is an annual event. It was first organized in the county in 1898. Other temporary groups have been organized along special interests, such as The Strawberry Association and The Livestock Shippers Association.

Dr. George F. Cummins is permanent chairman of the Red Cross, with Mrs. Nettie Miller as secretary. There is little activity now, but the Red Cross stands ready for any emergency.

A number of miscellaneous organizations, some extinct, are placed here next. There is a Woman's Christian Temperance Union. The Civil Air Patrol is a national organization for the promotion of air activities. It has gained impetus under L. Vance Moyers, manager of the Municipal Airport. There are 60 members, exclusive of cadets. Paul Miller is

president of the Massac County Fair Association. The first fair since 1892 was given in 1946. The Sportsmen's League started November 1952. Metropolis Fishing Club, started in 1926, is no more. The Isaac Walton League began July 1935. The Southern Illinois Fox Hunter's Association has held several large meetings at Fort Massac. One such, September 5-7, 1938, drew a crowd of 15,000 with 200 dogs. Specialized recreational clubs, such as baseball, must all but be omitted in this short account. Metropolis was the home of the "Old Blues" Baseball team back in the first decade and a half of the century. Wid Matthews played his first game in it May 1914. The present Khowry League and Lions Club promote a softball program.

No data has been secured on the Metropolis Men's Choral Club (organized October 1938) nor the Massac County Chorus (organized April 1948). The latter won first place at the State Fair. The Massac County Singing Convention is an annual affair, drawing crowds of 2000 or more. The County Blind joined forces in July 1935. The Townsend Club movement found numerous adherents here in May 1936. A squadron of the Sons of the American Legion was formed January 10, 1940. It lost strength. The Orestes Lodge No. 268 of the Knights of Pythias began October 1892 and flourished for some years. The Tribe of Ben-Hur, Metropolis Court No. 181, had 180 members in 1906. It still made news in 1911. The Grand Army of the Repub-

lic has long since been deceased (see Chapter IX). The Redmen of Metropolis once numbered 35. It is extinct. A project for the Pocahontas fell through. District Redmen and Pocahontas staged a large celebration in Metropolis on July 4, 1930, at which almost 10,000 were in attendance. Modern Woodmen of the World counted some members for a number of years. A local group was organized in 1908. By 1933 it was dead. In 1929 and 1937 large conventions were held in Metropolis.

The colored population has been quite active in its social centers. Of the 13 groups, only three have become extinct: the American Legion Auxiliary (organized 1940), the Elks, and Sister of the Mysterious Ten (organized 1909). Alpha Art Club was organized in 1918, Bessie M. Cork Club in 1930, Etta Jackson Club in 1925, Daughter Elks in 1923, Court of Calanthe in 1939, Household of Ruth in 1881, and Order of the Eastern Star in 1892. Silver Crown Lodge No. 26 of the F. and A. M. (Masons) was chartered October 10, 1878. Odd Fellows Lodge No. 1808, now numbering 30 members, was organized June 4, 1877. A good three-story building was erected in 1903. Neely Fossie Post No. 760 of the American Legion, was organized in 1934. There are 35 members. Thelbert Renfro is commander.*

*O. J. Page has been most helpful for data up to 1900.

CHAPTER XIV

EDUCATION AND HEALTH

There is not the space to discuss the various State laws which affected education, interesting and pertinent as they are. Suffice to say that the free school law was enacted in 1855 and was further implemented by the 1870 constitution.

Early schools were very different from those to-day. Reading material was scarce as well as other supplies. The houses were of log. There were rows of rough benches but no desks. At recess the books were placed on shelves. Water was carried, sometimes from ponds. Modes of punishment were more severe, even if quaint. Schools ran for a few months in the winter season and had very little supervision except for the teacher. He was supreme.

The office of School Commissioner was established in 1831. Rev. H. G. Estell was the first who held the office in the county, 1843-44. Ben S. Enloe served next in 1846 but was removed for incompetency. R. S. Nelson was also found unfit. James Elliot served efficiently until 1855. He is said to have taught the second term of subscription school

in the first school house of Massac County. In 1847-48 there were 1516 children of school age. (6)

W. H. Scott was elected by the people as the first county Superintendent in 1865. In the meantime young William Priestly had become superintendent of the Metropolis city schools (1865-1870), and later became the third county superintendent (1877-1882), Called by Page "the father of the public schools of Massac County", his annual institutes drew educators from afar, and his influence was never crased. (6)

By 1887 there were 47 schools in the county. Gone, or disappearing, were many old practices, such as "studying out loud." Webster's Blue Back Speller was being replaced by other books. Charts, maps and encyclopedias appeared. Buildings were of frame. Teachers understood the laws of pedagogy better. Even the paddle was less used. (6) A few generations ago those who acquired a formal education thought it would suffice for a lifetime. However, changes have come, slow perhaps and sometimes imperceptible, and old and young alike have had to adjust.

History is dynamic. It must record changes or explain the absence of change. Today we live in a very dynamic age. Change has accelerated at an ever-increasing pace since World War I. What of the blanks in our own county history before 1900? Some of the blankness is due to paucity of records. Perhaps a greater reason is that society was rather

static. Progress in agriculture and industry was slow. Southern Illinois for a long time was essentially "a hog and hominy region". It was a pretty drab world. Social progress was slow. Victorian prudery prevailed. Schools continued largely in the old tradition and only rarely would a man like Bob Ingersoll or William Priestly come along. Isolation, too, was a real factor. The river, with its fleeting ships, only for the moment widened the horizon of toiling farmer or tradesman. Provincialism long remained in the region. The railroad was the first to quicken the pulse of the population, to be rushed along in the twentieth century by the automobile and airplane. To education itself is due a great share of this change.

Some figures may serve to show the trend in school population. There were 3078 pupils enrolled in the elementary schools of the county in 1906-07. There was a 2.6 per cent increase by 1925-26 or 3160. Of children ages 6 to 20 many times only 65 per cent were in regular attendance. For 1930 the enrollment was 3014; for 1940 a drop to 2293. (56) By March 1954 the enrollment had risen to 3443. Metropolis alone in 1953 counted 1363 elementary pupils. (11) In 1873 the old Central School required only six teachers. The other schools of the county were one-room. There were probably less than 70 teachers in the county in 1890. In 1920 there were 97 teachers and the term had increased to 146 days. In 1940 there were 130 teaching positions. Forty-four

still taught in rural one-room schools. (10) Teaching positions dropped to 115 in 1951-52.

W. A. Spence was County Superintendent 16 years (1902-1919). Luther L. Evers was the dean, having served 20 years (1919-1939), and having previously taught 16 years. Someone has said that probably no man in any capacity touched and influenced the lives of more young people of Massac County than did Luther L. Evers. (11)

The last county grade school mass graduation exercises held June 1952 marked the passing of an old tradition. The average size of the graduating class over a 35-year period was 131. The largest was 300 in 1926. The 1952 class numbered 139. (11)

High schools have had a phenomenal growth in America. The first high school in Illinois was in 1855. In 1875 there were 133. (1) In Massac, high school work began about 1873 in a 2-story, 8-room brick known as Central School. W. C. Scott organized and graded the school, which also housed elementary pupils. Kittie Brown was the first and only graduate in 1877. There were no classes in 1879, 1881, or 1883. Since 1877 there have been about 2500 graduates. Enrollment has constantly increased in the Metropolis High School. Ten were graduated in 1906. In 1924 graduates numbered 82; in 1942 there were 80; and in 1954 the largest class of 142 graduated. Enrollment was 130 in 1915; in 1953 it was 564. A District School at first, in 1924 the school became the Metropolis Community High

School. The main building was built in 1912. The gymnasium was added in 1930; a wing in 1931; major improvements in 1944; and a \$600,000 expansion program began in 1954. (10) (11) The Junior High School was completed in 1951. It graduated 116 in June 1954.

A. L. Whittenberg was the guiding spirit at Brookport High School. As principal, around 1900, he prepared a 3-year high school course. Before, the schools were poor and overcrowded. There had been none at all in 1870. In recent years the high school has had an average enrollment of about 170. There were 18 graduated in 1954. Lincoln High School (colored) is now integrated with Brookport High. Joppa High School was organized in 1921 and the building erected in 1926. An increased enrollment to more than 100 has necessitated a recent \$400,000 expansion program. New Columbia High School was organized in 1928 and a good building erected the next year. It never enrolled many, and the building has housed a consolidation of elementary schools since 1949-50, the secondary pupils going to Metropolis Community High School. Dunbar School, Metropolis, was built in 1921, and housed both elementary and high school colored children until 1953, when a policy of non-segregation was instituted. The school had been preceded by the old Livingston Institute which burned in 1915. (10) County-wide high school enrollment has shown a no less phenomenal rise. From 75 pupils in 1890,

and 244 in 1920, enrollment soared to 763 in 1940. There are more than 800 high school pupils at present. From 1906 to 1926 there was an increase of 403 per cent. (56)

How does area population compare in educational status? The median years of school completed in Illinois is 7.8 years. That of Massac is 8.6 years. In Illinois 24 per cent had completed high school. Locally 18.8 per cent had completed high school or beyond. (9) Figures are for 1950. In 1940 about 43 per cent of Illinois high school graduates entered college. The rate for Massac County is near 57 per cent. About 100 left for college in September 1952. Southern Illinois University and the University of Illinois received about one half of them. (11)

An early attempt at a college was made in 1851 according to Court House records. No one seems to know whether the college opened or not. The "Old Seminary" held its fourth term in 1868. J. F. McCartney induced David Kerr to come to Metropolis from the East and teach at the seminary. The year was 1880. In its heyday this institution was known as the Christian Collegiate Institute. It stood across the street north of the present Christian Church. Various normal schools, lasting several weeks in the spring or summer, prepared teachers even past 1906. The last attempt at a college was in 1926. Fort Massac College held day and night

classes in the old Central School building. It did not last long. (10)

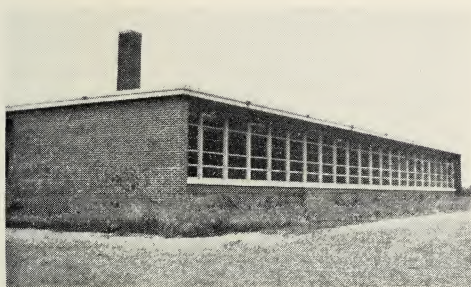
The entire Egypt area is known to have a low average level of schooling. In general the women have had more formal education than the men. More women than men have one to three years of college; conversely, more men than women have four years or more. (3) Teaching conditions have improved since the days of the Great Depression. In 1928 the average salary of all county teachers was \$909.78. Only three rural teachers in 1932 received \$1000 or more. Two teachers received less than \$400. Even in March 1941 almost one half of the teachers earned less than \$100 per month. Ten teachers in 1932 had no training above high school. Twenty-three had two years. Only one had four or more years. There were 49 rural schools. The picture was brighter in the city schools. Twelve persons received above \$1000 annually. In high school, salaries were between \$1200 and \$1800. All but six had four or more years training above high school. The situation today is much better in regard to teacher training, salaries, school buildings and school equipment. (56)

Finance has always been a school problem. Except for city schools the tax rates do not seem exorbitant. The lowest rate for a county school is 46 cents on the \$100 valuation at Belgrade. The new consolidated schools show an increase, still no more than \$1.08 at 36-A, and they have large original building costs. Even the Metropolis rate (ele-

mentary and high school) is under \$2.15, less than many other Illinois school systems. There is consolation also in the higher State aid being received. The 1954 claim is \$416,589.99.

The estimated population of more than 15,000 for the county is made up of 1185 colored citizens. This is a decline from the 1705 of 1940. (3) Not until 1872 were the common schools of Illinois open and free to all, including Negroes. Theoretically, subordination had ceased, but in many places Negro children were forced to attend "Black Schools". It was not until the 1953-54 term that racial lines were erased in Metropolis schools. Some 52 are now in attendance at three schools. Even in mixed schools of the county there has never been a Negro teacher. The Negro has learned of the better opportunities to the north and he will continue to leave sedate, tradition-bound Egypt. Negro youth is reaching out for the greater opportunities which Du Bois, in a militant way, advised. Our local colored citizens are progressive, clean and energetic and have a strong desire to be successful.

Consolidation is a mark of the age, no less in education than in business and industry. In November 1945, county school boards voted a county school survey. The 1947 Community Unit Law dissolved old districts. By 1948 the 12,000 school districts of the state had been reduced more than one-half. Consolidation was voted for District 44-A, New Columbia, May 7, 1949. District 36-A, Unity School, was



**UNITY SCHOOL
FIRST OF THE NEW CONSOLIDATED**

voted in September 1951 by a 65 to 0 vote. District 5, Jefferson School, was voted in May 1952, followed closely by Districts 6 and 17 (which have begun construction), and District 7 (Franklin School) the same year. Of the most modern structure and design, the new schools are well equipped, including heating and plumbing, and are a teacher's dream.

Under the leadership of B. D. Fowler, County Superintendent of Schools, and his predecessor, L. W. Smith, Massac County schools have forged ahead. Much major school development has occurred during the past ten years. Massac County is progressive. As an example, the county was one of only two counties in Illinois which had 100 per cent membership in the National Education Association the past year.

Much sickness prevailed in pioneer days. Fevers, chills, insect pests, poor diet, exposure, and a lack of

health knowledge and doctors often made life less than romantic. Cholera was widespread in the 1830's. Swamp lands which harbored mosquitoes were a menace. Some progress in drainage was made for draining the Massac cypress swamps from 1912 to 1916 but much work still remained in 1924.

In 1877 the county had 16 doctors. The youngest was Jesse Orr, of Brookport. The oldest was Joseph Brown of Metropolis. Eight others were located in Metropolis, one each in Joppa and Samoth, two others in Brookport (Pellonia), and two in New Columbia. (10) Familiar names like Trovillion, Cummins, Dixon, Walbright, Ragsdale, Tucker, Fisher, Willis, Kerr, and Jacobs appear after 1900. Dr. Winfield Dixon was the oldest physician in the area at the time of his death in 1953. He was 83. Dr. T. W. Roberts is the oldest practicing doctor in the county today.

Temperance probably was never as much a political issue as one of health and morals. Several villages, including Metropolis, caught the contagion and experimented with prohibition in the 1850's. (46) In 1877 the Murphy Movement swept the area. A temperance society was organized in Joppa and held meetings for years in the old log Oak Grove School. (10) In 1906 Paducah and Joppa proposed locating all saloons on one side of a street. Metropolis, in 1909, voted a majority of 121 against saloons. In 1930 the county voted for repeal of State Prohibition but against the repeal of the Eighteenth

Amendment. In 1947 the Metropolis Drys faced the Tax Payer's League, but local option was defeated by a 472 majority. (10) (11)

The birth rate in the 1920's for the county oscillated around 16 per 1000 population. The death rate in the same period was 13 or 14. The birth rate, of course, rose in the 1940's. (56)

In 1910 the county death rate per 100,000 persons was 80 for tuberculosis. It rose to 99.2 in 1930, but fell to 50 in 1936. (56) In 1934 Massac was the fourth worst county in TB and infant deaths in Illinois. Twenty-three died of TB in the county in a recent 5-year period. (11) The typhoid and diphtheria rates have dropped to almost nothing. The rate for malaria was still 21 in 1930. Cancer deaths have risen. The 1925 rate of 73.7 per 100,000 was below the State rate of 104.5. (56)

Later figures have just reached the author. Resident deaths from all causes in 1940 were 182; in 1950, 177; in 1953, 182 deaths. The death rate per 1000 in 1940 was 12.2; in 1950, 13.0; in 1953, 13.9. The high year was 1951 with 204 deaths, or a rate of 15.1 per 1000 persons. In 1953 heart disease led with a resident death rate of 550 per 100,000. Cancer was second with 191. Vascular lesions affecting the central nervous system had a rate of 129.9. The pneumonia and influenza rate was 61.1. The tuberculosis rate has fallen to 38.2. Motor accidents rose from a rate of 7.4 in 1950 to 45.8 in 1953 (per 100,000).

There was a rabies scare in 1953. Instead of

trusting to a madstone, as was still common in 1906, a rabies quarantine was clamped down and anti-rabies immunization clinics were held over the county. Almost 600 dogs received the vaccine.

Unsafe water was a menace in 1949 perhaps through neglect. Only 21 of 46 rural schools had safe water. Equally dangerous as disease these days is the automobile hazard. The county had 12 traffic deaths in 1952, one of the worst in Illinois.

The Quadri-County Health Department, organized in the last decade, has been a real force for better health. As a member, Massac has received many benefits. An especial fight is being made against tuberculosis, 2720 chest X-rays being made early in 1953.

Social aid to dependents, blind and disability assistance, and old age assistance are some of the means taken to alleviate handicaps and insure better health to this class. In February 1941, one out of every three in the county was receiving some sort of public aid. The State rate was one out of eight persons. Recipients and costs have shown a decline in the county since 1952.

The Metropolis Sanitarium was opened in 1899 with many patients. Dr. A. C. Ragsdale was the chief agitator and was in sole charge in 1906. The Walbright Hospital operated for some years afterward. The Fisher Hospital was owned and operated by Dr. J. A. Fisher for many years. It came to be known as Memorial Hospital. In December 1949

four Metropolis doctors formed a corporation called The Metropolis Doctor's Hospital. Since May 1953, when its doors were closed, there has been no real hospital. Patients are taken to Paducah, Carbon-dale, or even to St. Louis or Memphis.

Talk about a new hospital began as early as 1945. Two years later at the Court House a meeting was held, which resulted the next year in the approval of a Massac County Hospital Authority by a good voting majority. There were set-backs in plans, and it was not until 1953 that a 9-member board of directors was appointed by the newly established Massac County Hospital District with Ralph Frazier as chairman. Plans then began to go forward. Charles Adkins, Sr., donated a six-acre plot in the northwest city limits. The cost was to be met by Federal aid, State aid, and local contributions. Under public relations chairman Mrs. George H. Moseley, contributions had reached more than \$50,000 by February 1954. The remainder is to be raised through bonds. It will be a 40-bed, \$800,000 structure. Massac Memorial Hospital—named in memory of the war dead—should be well under construction before the close of 1954.

CHAPTER XV

THE ECONOMY

AGRICULTURE—Agriculture, in its various forms, is a basic industry in Massac County. As the backbone of the economic structure, area farmers are keeping pace with the modern agriculture. The rural farm population is 3635 out of a county total of 13,594 (1950 figures). Rural non-farm adds another 3866. The proportion of the area in farms is 76.4 per cent or more than 130,000 acres. About 25 per cent of the county population is engaged in farming. (9)

There were 969 farms in 1950 with an average size of 124.2 acres. Ten years before the size was 115 acres. (3) In 1936 the average size was 109.5 acres. As Roger Babson says, the squeeze is on for the marginal farmer, and fewer but larger farms is the trend over the nation, which is made possible by mechanization, soil improvement, and other factors.

The county still practices largely a self-sufficient, general type of farming that grew up in the early settlement. Natural factors of soil and rainfall have

heretofore limited specialization. Less than 30 per cent of the land is level and sub-soil permeability is poor. (4) Despite certain disadvantages much change has occurred, which has been made possible by other balancing advantages (see Chapter I). The county has a long record of prizes taken at various agricultural shows. The best developed corn at the Columbia Exposition was from Massac. It came from a yield of 142 bushels per acre from the farm of H. D. Fry. (6) In 1953 Wayne Cockerel and Noah Koch won prizes in the DeKalb corn growing contest with 82 bushels per acre. Ira Giltner, in 1941, won a corn growing grand championship. The yield was 93.62 bushels per acre. Hunnerkoch Hybrid Seed Corn has won prizes at the Chicago grain show. Prizes for peaches have been won by W. P. Bunn and Chick Brothers. The Adkins won five out of eight prizes for their apples at the State Fair in 1936 (10)

The average value of land and buildings per farm is \$7141 or twice what it was in 1936. Tenancy is only 11.5 per cent, which is much below the State proportion of 34.6 per cent. The total value of farm products sold in 1949 was \$2,693,000. Crops constituted \$953,000, livestock \$1,328,000, dairy products, \$167,000, and poultry \$235,000. (9)

There has been an increased standard of living for area farmers. Farms having electricity total 723; those with telephones 237. Automobiles number 743, trucks 248, and tractors 590. The level-of-living index for 1940 was 64; for 1950 it was 109.

Early farming followed the pioneer pattern. Lack of space prohibits even a mention of the many inventions and innovations relating to agriculture. Experiments, some successful, were made in Massac with cotton, flax, mulberry trees, tobacco, and hemp. Cotton and wool were processed at a gin in Metropolis. By 1940 hybrid corn had gained a sweeping popularity. In 1944 Paul Borman tried rice.

Corn—a mainstay of the Indian and pioneer—has continued the major crop in the county, occupying around 20,000 acres annually with a varying yield of 568,000 bushels in 1922 and 887,913 bushels in 1949. Wheat, oats, rye and barley are the other grains. In 1949 threshed wheat production was 52,275 bushels. Hay of various kinds varies from 12,000 to 36,000 tons annually. The soybean has burgeoned into a major crop of 176,682 bushels in 1949. (3) (56) Truck farming has languished. The value of all vegetables sold is only \$2,709. Fruits and nuts total \$237,988, of which the greater part is peaches. (3) Peaches took a distinctive lead between 1926 and 1940 with 400,000 trees in 1931. There are only 14,000 now. Annual production has varied from 20 to 150 thousand bushels. (11) Many seasons of poor prices have discouraged peach growers. Apple and pear production has declined also.

Farmers have been alive to the opportunities in livestock. Herds of beef cattle fed on the various new types of grass and hay introduced in the past 20 years. The sales of all types of livestock and live-

stock products in 1949 was more than a million and a quarter dollars. (3) There are about 7700 beef cattle, 2300 dairy cows, 1500 sheep, 2800 horses and mules, and 14,000 hogs. Milk production is about 1,200,000 gallons annually. (4) There is a livestock auction barn at Metropolis where packing plants, traders, and farmers may buy. In February 1946 the Massac County Locker Service officially opened. Poultry provides regular cash income. The value in 1949 was \$235,094. (3) The Helm Hatchery, starting in a small way in 1920, has become nationally famous. It has won many prizes both for itself and for its customers in egg-laying contests.

Drainage of the cypress swamps of the Big Bay and Cache Basins has meant much to agriculture. Attempts were made from 1852 onward, but not until 1911 was the Cache River Drainage District organized. The total area in need of drainage was 183,550 acres. In 1923 one-fourth was still unclaimed. In 1939 there were 68,400 acres in the district. The land is very fertile.

The Farm Bureau has been a great factor in agricultural development. The list of accomplishments in the county since 1920 is lengthy. Conservation has received great emphasis. There are 32,600 acres in the District Conservation Plan with 300 cooperators. In 1952 about 2400 soil samples from 293 farms were tested.

Conservation is being practiced also by means of the Shawnee Forest. The county also has more

than 40,000 acres of private forests. Construction of farm ponds is a current practice. The 2000-acre Mermet Lake will aid in conserving wild life.

In 1949 there were 202 farmers who thought it desirable to spend 100 or more days in off-farm work. (9) Marginal farmers need more production per acre and more acreage. (57) Unemployment in Egypt has been chronic for years, and part of the reason is the loose and simple relationship between agriculture and manufacturing. (11) There must be much less reliance upon agriculture as a source of employment and income. (58) Until then there can be no permanent improvement in economic welfare. (11)

MANUFACTURING—Early industry grew out of the natural resources readily available—timber, clay, grains, and water transportation. Manufacturing has been confined chiefly to Metropolis, and some of those now extinct will be noted first. The first enterprise was the Brown Cooperage. There followed in succession the Kimball saw mills; Yost-Bigelow company which made hubs and spokes; the Conner Spoke Works; the Edson and Loud Mill in 1875; the Towle Mill; the Rampendahl Stave Mill; and the Cutting shipyard. All these worked with wood. Pottery occupied a large place in the economy even past 1900. Kirkpatrick had a large pottery in 1867. It later became the Shick pottery of 1889. In 1899 Metropolis had two potteries and Round Knob had one. Some of the clay came from Joppa and

some from Choat. The Metropolis Pottery Company was still operating in 1906. Tom Richmond made the bricks for the old court house. Green Hodge had a hand-made brick kiln on the river front. John L. Turnbo later had a more modern brick business there. In 1885 the Massac Iron Company was established. It failed in the 1893 Panic and was a serious blow to local business. Iron pipes and stoves were made for a short time by other transitory concerns. (10)

Joe Bowker's cotton gin used locally raised cotton in the early 1880's. Klutz ran a woolen mill. It was in grain milling, however, that Massac was prominent. Wheat was King. In 1865 Rampendahl had a mill where the Church of Christ now stands. There was a smaller city mill. The Empire Mills was erected in 1868. The Riverside Mill, largest grain mill ever built in the county, was built by Quante Brothers about 1880. The capacity was 200 barrels of flour per day. Brookport once had a mill. J. P. Choate operated a mill at New Columbia. W. T. Cagle had a mill in Samoth. Fire frequently destroyed these mills. At the same time there were once four flour mills in Metropolis and four others in the county. There are none today. (10)

The cigar industry was important for many years. All were hand made. The following concerns operated at one time: Kurtz Brothers (1870), Henry Kraper (1885-1913), Corlis Cigars, Barbero-Toler (1907), Roy Cosby (the last), and other

smaller ones. At the peak more than 100 were employed. Plug tobacco was made by Corlis-Rankin Company until it burned in the early 1880's. (10)

As timber was basic to industry in the nineteenth century so it continued into the twentieth. Metropolis is one of the three outstanding woodworking centers of the State. Good rail and water transportation facilities have also helped. As timber became depleted, new synthetic materials developed, such as plastic, and styles changed, manufacturers have had to diversify.

The C. C. Leonard Mill was formerly Towles' "Big Mill" and was built in the 1860's by Bailey. Wooden farm accessories were made. In 1937 more than 100 were employed. In the face of depression and a fire in 1931, Charles Leonard carried on. Another fire hit in 1935. Between 1923 and 1931, every mill in east Metropolis burned except the box factory. The Leonard Mill still operates. The Roberts-Liggett Company was established in Ohio in 1878 and moved to Metropolis in 1893. It made fruit and vegetable boxes, crates, and veneers. It employed 100 men in 1941. In 1948 it sold out to the newly-formed Metropolis Basket Company which went into receivership the next year. The Metropolis Bending Company was organized in 1903. At one time it could say that it was the world's largest bender, making wooden bows for buggies, automobiles and airplanes. A subsidiary, the Fort Massac Chair Company, was formed about 1932.

In 1937 another subsidiary was formed, the Babee-Tenda Company. The chair division was sold and moved away in 1948. The "Bender" has contributed immeasurably to the local economy. The products value \$1,500,000 annually with 125 on the payroll. Artman Lumber and Planing Mill was established in 1912. It employed 100 in 1937. Operations have ceased. The Joyce-Watkins Tie Company began some time before 1918. It was bought in 1935 by the Wyoming Tie and Timber Company, which had been established in 1913. Ties and timber are treated with creosote to lengthen their life. The Good Luck Glove Company has been a great factor in the life of many a town and country youth. It came to Metropolis in 1916. Factory payroll in 1951 exceeded \$1,000,000. The career of the Wilson Stove Company has been erratic. Established in 1916, it once employed 300 men and prospered until 1932. It was reorganized in 1938, but finally was sold to a Memphis company in 1954. (10) (11)

Several smaller firms, among others, are: Miller Dairy (1923), Dr. Pepper Bottling (1930), Egyptian Concrete Pipe, Moss Tie Company, Double-Cola, and several grain elevators or mills.

Of the total 4565 persons employed in 1950 about 23 per cent were employed in manufacturing. (9) In 1923 Massac had 37 establishments with 703 workers earning \$671,507. The value of products was \$3,414,973. (56) The average annual wage in 1939 was \$600, below the Illinois average of \$1258

and the Egypt average of \$754. (58) In 1950 there were 21 establishments with products valued at \$3,222,000. Wages paid were \$1,731,000. (9) Manufacturers across the nation decreased 7.5% from 1947 but those of Southern Illinois increased 20 per cent. (3) Employment has been at a high level in Massac County recently and the outlook continues bright.

The Atomic Energy Commission and its Joppa power station, Electric Energy Incorporated, came quite suddenly upon the scene to change the aspirations of the area. The \$73,000,000 plant was definitely assured in January 1951. While it is too early to know the full potentialities of this new power source—whether extra power will be available for private industry, or whether such industry can be induced to locate in the area—the impact upon Massac County, and particularly upon Joppa and Metropolis, has been great. High employment has led to more money in local circulation, and stimulated trade and home construction.

The present economy will not support a large population. There must be more industry for an even prosperity—and to retain our youth, our most precious asset. Many factors combine to make the area a desirable location. Industries for which it offers the best prospects must be informed of the details of the opportunities. (3) Any industry or homeseeker contemplating coming to Massac would

do well to read either one or both of the references numbered 3 and 58.

Several other industries merit a few lines. Lumbering, mining and fisheries provide a livelihood for less than 50 persons. Many small sawmills once existed. The first one was near Seven Mile Creek and was operated by water power. Several trees are native to Illinois only along the Ohio River. The cypress was particularly of great commercial value. Timber became depleted, sawmills disappeared, and additional timber has had to be brought in from Kentucky and Tennessee. Shawnee National Forest, established in 1933, comprises 800,000 acres of which only 2978 acres in Massac is government owned. Total county forest is 36,390 acres of which there are 100,799 board feet of saw timber. (58)

As has been noted materials for pottery and brick making are abundant. There is no stone coal and hope is futile. The copperas springs are of no value. What iron ore exists is mixed with conglomerate and Smilex, which prevents the ore from being smelted. The Metropolis Sand and Gravel Company, under Rampendahl and Fritts, began in 1910. It ceased about 1928. The Western Indiana Sand and Gravel Company, on Massac Creek, quit in the 1920's. The Federal Sand and Gravel Company has been operating since about 1935. Production in 1928 was 140,000 tons; in 1937 it was 35,000 tons; and in 1946 it was 16,613 tons with a value of \$11,543. In 1950 the Mermet Stone Company and Massac Stone

Company were in operation. Good limestone is quarried. In 1946 there were 26,347 tons quarried. The per capita value of all minerals was only \$3. (58) A rich vein of phosphate was discovered in 1938.

Oil was first reported in 1909 near Round Knob. Nothing was done until 1933. Perhaps the philosophy was that of the old Illinoisian who in 1879 said, "The Government ought to interfere at once, and put a stop to further pumping and boring for oil". He was "quite certain the oil is drawn through these wells from the bearing on the earth's axis, and that the earth will cease to turn when the lubrication ceases". (59) Glen Kahle had put a well down to 3000 feet by January 1938, at Mermet, and high hopes were held. This and later drilling on the McGhee farm, near Brookport, has failed to reach paying oil.

Many species of fish are found in the Ohio River and the lakes. Fish up to 100 pounds have been caught. Mussels are obtained also and from the shells buttons, poultry grit, and fertilizer are made. The McKee Button Factory, of Metropolis, has employed as many as 100 workers, and annual capacity passed 776,000 gross in 1940.

Labor organization came late to Massac industry. The open-shop prevailed. There was a 30-minute fist fight in Joppa in July 1917 between union and non-union workers at the tie plant. Artman Milling Company employees struck briefly in June

1937. A strike in Joppa in 1941 lasted more than a month. The so-called Massac County Workers organized in January 1935. Very few and brief strikes has been the record. According to Floyd Cougill, Business Agent of Local 1320, most workers are now well organized in the respective crafts. Labor is strong and the outlook is good for its continued strength. The plague of strikes at the AEC project—claimed to have been 143 in 26 months—should not scare any manufacturing company. Neither local industry nor construction has been plagued with strikes or unreasonable demands. Outsiders will find the native workers, if not docile, at least amenable to reason and just in their demands. The strikes have been widely publicized by **Colliers** (June 20, 1953) and **The Saturday Evening Post** (December 26, 1953), and the press, and have done great harm and injustice to the native reputation. The labor on the three projects is not a manufacturing type in the strict sense of the word. Skilled labor and many other outside workers have had to be imported for construction. Because, too, of a new situation in a heretofore relatively unorganized area, jurisdictional strikes unavoidably have occurred. Let this set the local record straight, clearly and fairly.

TRANSPORTATION—Transportation, communication, and public utilities used 383 of the 4565 persons employed in 1950 (9)

Essentially a river town, Metropolis was scarcely ever out of sight of steamboats in the earlier period. Those days have become recollections. Few will ever have the opportunity of taking a steamboat ride now. The first wharfboat was built in 1866; the second in 1880. Six to eight thousand barrels of flour might once be seen on the wharfboat. Ferry boats have run from earliest years. Wilcox operated a hand ferry in the 1830's and later a horse ferry. McBane ran a ferry from the 1840's to 1873. From 1855 to 1907 the Owens ran a ferry. In 1874 McBane built a steam ferry. Tow and freight boats also plied the river, some owned locally. (10) There is no ferry service at present.

A half dozen packet lines passed the city. Freight and passengers easily made connections for large cities. The Paducah-Cairo packet passed every night. The **Gus Fowler** (1886), **Dick Fowler** (1890's), **Lovella Brown** (1890's), **Hudson** (1883), **Cumberland** (1868), **Desmet** (1877), **Silver Cloud** (1886), and the showboats **Cotton Blossom** and **Water Queen** were household words in Metropolis. The **George Cowling** was the last. It ran for 27 years, until about 1920. River traffic has been marked by rise and fall. The palmy days of the 1870's were followed by decadence between 1890 and 1910. (60) General economic conditions, river ice, and railroads and automobiles were some reasons. Two World Wars and the system of locks and dams has increased barge tonnage as never before. Dam 52 at

Brookport was completed in 1928. Tonnage in 1952 was 55,957,367 tons. Massac has several waterway terminal facilities, the Joppa facilities being the most important in Egypt. As the river is the basic point for rate changes, it is expected that other terminals and other industries will locate on both sides of the river. Freight rates are good.

There are three great railroad systems in the county: the Illinois Central (1889), the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy (1910), and the Chicago and Eastern Illinois (1900). The IC Edgewood-Fulton cutoff was completed in 1928. Until 1952, when the C & EI put on **The Meadowbrook**, passenger service had all but ceased by 1941. The river is spanned by the Burlington Bridge, the largest simple truss type bridge (720 feet span) in the world. It was completed in 1917 at a cost of \$5,000,000. The county has 52.8 miles of main railroads.

Several truck lines operate between markets, the largest being Bonifield Brothers Truck Lines. With main offices and terminal in Metropolis they have 119 power units and 111 trailers. Local employees number 85. There is adequate Greyhound bus service.

Gas was turned on in Metropolis in 1931, but it was not until 1950 that natural gas was assured. The Trunkline Gas Company completed its Joppa booster station in 1951 and a pipeline of 8.4 miles was laid to Metropolis the next year.

A characteristic of our age is the mobility of its

people. Good roads and automobiles are both a cause and an effect. It is a far cry from the old Worthen Trail of 1821, the toll gate of the Metropolis and Vienna Turnpike and Plank Road Company of the 1855's, to our modern U. S. Route 45 and Illinois Route 145. Because of plenty of gravel Massac County for years had the best road system in the State. (58) Hardroads came in the early 1920's under Governor Len Small. The Irvin Cobb bridge across the Ohio was dedicated May 8, 1929. In the first two days 7000 automobiles crossed. It is now toll-free. Road District consolidation was approved in March 1952. According to Clyde Taylor, Superintendent of Highways, U. S. 45 and Ill. 145 are 35 miles in length and all types of roads total 413 miles, of which more than 300 miles are well-kept county unit roads. The proposed Egyptian Trails Bridge now seems assured.

The date for the first automobile is not known. C. C. Leonard, Bill West, C. C. Roberts, Dr. Jacobs, and William Walsh were early owners. Roberts had one in 1906. In 1936 there were 1637. In April 1954 there were 6,379 motor vehicles, of which 5,128 were passenger cars. (11)

The week of May 17, 1914, Tony Janus was to start making regular trips in his airship between Metropolis, Brookport, and Paducah. In transportation it was another far cry to the modern Municipal Airport of Metropolis. A dedication and air show was held October 12, 1947, with an attendance

of 3000. Although the nearest scheduled air carrier is at Paducah, L. Vance Moyers and James Boyd are always ready to make chartered flights.

COMMUNICATION—One hundred years after the Fort Massac post office was established Rural Free Delivery came in 1904. In 1916 free city delivery was inaugurated in Metropolis. Post office receipts showed a steady increase until in 1945 it became first class. Stamps and stock sales went to an all-time high in 1952 of \$64,604.40. Service has been extended to the many new residents of the new subdivisions. Four numbered routes and one Star route radiate from Metropolis.

The public utilities—water, gas, electricity, and telephones—are on a par with those of any other modern community. The first two telephones locally were those of Cummins and Curtiss in 1887. By 1902 it had become the Curtiss Telephone Company. Franchises were granted to three companies in 1899-1900. (10) The ancestor of the present General Telephone Company in Metropolis was William Smith (1893). He sold out to the Murphysboro Telephone Company which merged with the Illinois Southern Telephone Company, a subsidiary of the present company. Metropolis alone serves 2774 stations. Total employees number 39 with L. D. Goss as exchange manager. Dial phones were installed in May 1952. (11)

Electric power has been supplied from various

sources. One is the interconnected network of high voltage transmission lines operated by the Central Illinois Public Service Company and the Illinois Power Company. The county is also traversed by Kentucky Utilities, starting from Paducah. Metropolis has municipal ownership of its own plant. Another source is the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). The first 20 miles were energized in 1940. Additional lines have made light and power available to most rural people.

Radio station WMOK, Metropolis, began operations in February 1951.

BUSINESS—In the 1850's there was one "Wild Cat" bank each in Metropolis and Brooklyn. They opened offices but never operated. The Mayfield Bank (1869-1883) operated under the name of Brown and Bruner from 1883 to 1895. Upon its failure a new State Bank was organized in 1895 and merged into the National State Bank the next year. McKee, Quante and Company opened a bank in 1881. It became the First National Bank in 1884. (6) The City National Bank was organized in 1907. The Brookport National Bank began in 1903. The Joppa State Bank opened in 1920 but closed in 1931. The four banks now operating—First National, City National, National State, and Brookport National—have shown a phenomenal increase in assets the last fifteen years. In 1939 assets were under \$3,000,000. In 1946 they were almost \$9,000,000. In 1954 they surpassed \$13,000,000.

Population estimates of Massac County are made as high as 25,000 currently. Metropolis itself has a large trade area extending outside the county. Several of the firms have been established for many years, which testifies to their solidity. Willis and Company, coal dealers, began in 1866 and survived past 1937. Elliot Brothers Furniture is perhaps the oldest existing business. It began in 1872. Simmons Clothing dates from 1888 and Hummas Drugs from 1891.

The total labor force in the retail and wholesale trade numbers 789. Miscellaneous services employ another 570. The trade outlets and professional services number well over 200 and cover every essential line. Eating and drinking places alone numbered 41 in 1948 with \$604,000 in sales. (9) During the first quarter of 1952 an average of 3963 employees (all labor classes) were paid \$3,641,712 in wages by 72 establishments. (11) Retail sales back in 1948 totaled more than seven million dollars. (9) In March 1953 there was \$701 on deposit in county banks for every person in the county. The total effective buying income is well over ten million dollars. Per capita income rose from \$600 in 1946 to \$918 in 1953. The median income in 1949 was \$3000 to \$3500. (3) The State Sales Tax also helps to tell the story of the increased business activity. It has almost quadrupled since 1950. It indicates that present retail sales are near sixteen millions of

dollars. Even the parking meters help to show the substantial gains made over other Egyptian cities.

The total assessed valuation of the county rose from \$15,304,755 in 1947 to \$26,783,285 in 1953. The tax extension in November 1951 was \$529,633. The rate, which includes eight funds, is 71.4 cents per \$100 valuation. Before school and road consolidation there were 62 taxing units. Schools received 30 per cent of the taxes. The urban tax was \$2.74 and the rural rate \$2.40. (4) The Illinois Central Railroad alone, in a sample year (1939), paid \$80,000 in taxes.

CHAPTER XVI

NATURAL DISASTERS

In some respects the year 1811-12 was a most memorable one. The comet of 1811 was visible for 17 months; the first steamboat on the Ohio River, the **New Orleans**, made its maiden trip; the War of 1812 began; a volcanic eruption occurred in the West Indies; and much sickness prevailed in the Midwest. Venezuela was having its own War of Independence. Closer home, Johnson County was established. But perhaps the most remarkable event was the New Madrid series of earthquakes. Eighteen hundred distinct shocks were felt and famous Reelfoot Lake was formed in Tennessee. Some of the lakes in Massac County may have been thus formed, because Cairo and the surrounding area was one of sinkholes. Perhaps not until October 5, 1895, did Massac feel a shock as severe as those of the 1811-12 series.

In 1860 (some say '61 or '66) a cyclone struck the lower end of the county. An eye witness said it was made up of three funnels, one of which struck and did great damage. It is alleged that Aunt Eliza

State was carried in her feather bed from near Boaz into Pope County—and arrived safely! The name of Grinnel School was changed to “Hurricane” after the storm.

Robert L. Dollar, in a recent reminiscent article, recounts the cyclone of March 27, 1890. The original story appeared in **The Democrat** of April 3, 1890, and was reprinted in **The Republican Herald** of March 28, 1930. In Metropolis Mrs. T. J. Sheppard and a colored woman, a Mrs. Lamb, were killed. It blew away the Kingston Chapel and left the Bible on the pulpit. Other cyclones were in 1909, 1913, 1917, and 1924. Six were killed and numbers injured on May 9, 1927, when a tornado swept through Hillerman, Mermet, and New Columbia. On March 25, 1935, Metropolis was hit by a most destructive tornado. The story was headlined in the St. Louis **Globe-Democrat**. Sam Abell was killed and property damage was estimated at \$250,000. A severe storm April 30, 1940, caused property damage of \$50,000 but no lives were lost. On Armistice Day the same year another severe storm struck four miles northeast of Metropolis. Miss Loraine Buldtman suffered broken bones. (11)

Floods have come intermittently to the Ohio Valley. Those of 1884, 1913, and 1937 have been the greatest. The river reached a 50-foot stage on February 25, 1883. On April 25, 1884, it stood at 54.2 feet. On March 24, 1897, it stood at 50.9 feet. A peak of 54.3 feet was recorded April 8, 1913. The

water stood halfway between 2nd and 3rd Streets. In April of both 1927 and 1936 water crept over the IC tracks. A rather high stage was reached on January 19, 1950. (10)

The Great Flood of 1937 was the greatest disaster in the history of Massac County. Heavy precipitation of sleet, snow, and rain and the succeeding thaw, caused the flood. Mild temperatures and general precipitation which prevailed through January and February brought the flood earlier than usual. Following in the wake of the most destructive ice storm since 1902, came the swollen waters of the Ohio. On January 24 the stage was 57 feet which broke all records. Still, many people delayed evacuation. Added to the belief that the water would go no higher was the difficulty in moving. Sleet and snow prevented trucks from running freely. Boats were not plentiful. The flood reached its crest on February 2 at an official mark of 60.7 feet, exceeding the 1913 mark by six and one-half feet.

There was great suffering and anxiety among those who were forced to flee. Friends and kinsmen became separated. Many suffered exposure. No lives were lost in Massac County. Farm animals were taken out in barges and some were moved to barn lofts, but many were drowned. Refugees were sent to Metropolis and other points, where they were quartered in box cars, schools, and churches. Brookport, entirely covered by water, was evacuated by

January 25, most of it going to Carbondale. The churches of Metropolis served many thousands of meals. Three hospital units were operated under able nurses. Boy Scouts and PWA workers rendered invaluable service. The Red Cross was on the job early. There were many other good Samaritans. Company F of the 130th Illinois Infantry remained some time to assist where needed.



**CHRISTIAN CHURCH, METROPOLIS—
1937 FLOOD**

Property damage over the flood area was high. While for a time Metropolis and Massac County were almost islands, yet much of the county was untouched. Not more than 50 per cent of Metropolis was covered by water. The post office was 18 feet above the crest; Upper Market Street was 25 feet above; and at Girard and 9th Streets it was 31.7

feet above the water. About 25 plants and businesses suspended operations. Through heroic effort, the water and light plant was saved. Boat transportation was established northward, the railroads being covered in several places. Over the Big Bay and Cache Basins the water swept down on a three-mile front. The water was eleven miles wide over U. S. 45 and had a strong current.

As the waters receded, the work of rehabilitation began. The Red Cross was in charge of relief work. By April, 1816 families had registered for relief. The total expenditure was \$148,063.05. The towns slowly fought for recovery.

Many heroic stories came out of the flood. Some incidents were comic, some serious. Many lost practically everything they had. But most were like Frank Watson, a farmer near Mermet, who said: "We do not want charity. Let us have feed and seed and we can do the rest."

Visions of another flood were mixed with thoughts of what could be done about it. A Flood Control Bill allotted \$87,770 for Metropolis and \$88,250 for Brookport. At a referendum April 28, 1938, Metropolis voters turned down the offer. Brookport completed its flood wall the next year.

During the "dry year" of 1854 no rain fell after June 14 until late in the fall. (6) Another dry year was 1872. On August 14, 1881, a long drouth came to an end. An old citizen says he gathered one load of corn from 38 acres. The hot dry summer was in

1930, when temperatures as high as 114 degrees were recorded. Farmers begged Springfield to rush building as a source of employment. In July 1936 there was another heat wave. Dust storms in the West produced copper skies locally during these years. The year 1953 will go down as the driest year in many years. Massac did not suffer as much as some other Illinois counties. (10) (11)

Other types of freak weather have struck the county. The ice storm of 1902 has been mentioned. Between January 5 and 7, 1937, thousands of dollars damage was done to the county by a severe ice storm. Metropolis was blacked-out by a similar storm January 8 and 9, 1952. Storm and ice gorges destroyed river craft in 1918. Captain Cutting had to go to Cairo to look for his ferryboat **Alfred** on January 31, 1918. It had broken loose. The river froze over again in January 1940. (10) (11)

The Winter of the Deep Snow was in 1830-31. Nature gave a repeat performance in 1917-18. It began to snow about December 8, and did so at intervals for several weeks. A hard crust was formed over the top, which held up man and beast. The ground was not visible for two months. The Ohio River was frozen over and several people walked across it. The heaviest snow since 1917-18 fell in February 1929, and another heavy snow fell February 1, 1936. (10)

Fire is not usually classed as a natural phenomenon. Nevertheless, for the curious, it may be said

that perhaps the two most expensive fires which the county has experienced was the one at Artman's Mill on October 1, 1928, and the American Laundry fire on January 9, 1953. The first suffered a loss of \$125,000; the second, a loss of \$200,000. (10) (11)

CHAPTER XVII

ORIGIN OF SOME COMMON PLACE NAMES

New Columbia was first settled by Sylvester Smith in the early 1840's. J. P. Choat came in 1861 with a store. A flour mill was built but was burned down, as well as the succeeding one. Page says: "In 1862 the town was almost destroyed by fire. The place was once large enough to incorporate. The name is derived from a common plant (the Columbine) and 'new' was prefixed to distinguish the post office from another Columbia [Monroe County] in the State." (6) It is said that at one time New Columbia had the largest collection of buildings in the county.

Samoth is derived from "Thomas" in honor of Congressman John R. Thomas. Samoth was the post office name; Walnut Ridge, the village name. (6) The post office (now discontinued) was established April 9, 1880, with William T. Cagle as postmaster.

Hillerman was a village in 1835. It was named after L. D. Hillerman, a river man, who purchased

it from William Parker, who went to New Orleans. (6) At one time Hillerman was quite a town. It was then situated on the river. It had several stores, a flour mill, and a hat factory. Later, the village was moved about one mile north. The original cemetery is washing away.

Choat got its name from Isaac Choat, who owned a small store near Liberty Ridge Church. The store was later moved to the present site. Before the railroad came, it was called Morgantown, Crossroads, or Forktown. At one time Choat was a post office, it being cared for by William Morgan, who also had a store there.

Among the railroad men of the C. B. & Q. were a number of Catholics, who named the station "Mermet" after the early French Missionary priest, Father Jean Mermet. (10) It was established as a post office on July 10, 1916, with Shelby S. Morris as postmaster.

Boaz obtained its name from Lynn Boaz, a farmer, who had a park and picnic ground called Boaz's Park. Some say that the place was named after an older settlement in Kentucky. Old residents, however, adhere to the first origin. The railroad station was placed near the park and called Boaz. The park is now a field.

Big Bay was named from Big Bay Creek or River. In French it is Gros Baie. The post office, McNoel, was established on January 28, 1889, with Charles M. Powell as postmaster.

Round Knob was named for Round Knob Hill. The post office was established the next day after McNoel's.

No data was found as to the origin of Unionville, but the post office was begun May 31, 1889, with Jesse A. Woods as postmaster. Several of the small post offices have been discontinued, due to the lengthening of rural routes, which was made possible by the automobile.

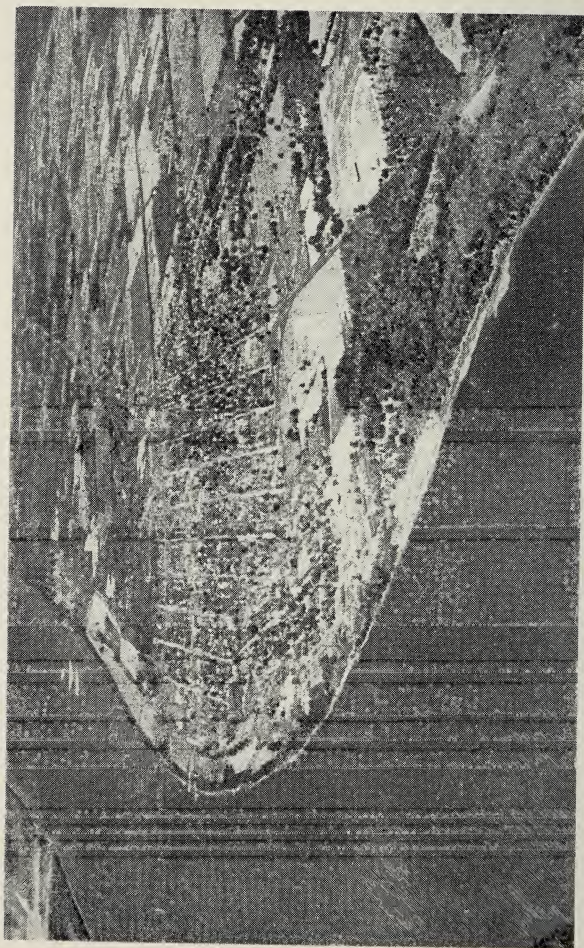
Tradition says that George's Creek was named for an Indian Chief, George, who, it is thought, lived along its banks long before the white settler came. (32)

Cache River received its name in no well-defined way. Wild rice and oats grew along its banks and was used for food by the Indians. The grain may have been stored along the stream for later use. Such methods of storing or "caching" were common with the Indians. The French, or later the English, may have applied the French word "cacher" (to hide) or "cache" to it. On the other hand the mouth of Cache River in early days was hard to espy, and Juchereau's Frenchmen may have called it Cache or "hidden creek". (61)

The word "Ohio" has been derived from one or more of several Indian names. It was called by them the "Deep Shining River", "Very White Stream", "Very Deep White River", "White Shining River", and "Deep Broken Shining River"; which according to translators, came from varied Indian

names: "Ohiopechen", "Ohiophanne", and "Ohio-peckhanne". The translation "Deep Broken Shining River" gives the key to the meaning. Clark says: "It was evidently suggested by the windcapped undulations in the long river-reaches, particularly, near the mouth." (62)

For the three theories as to the origin of the name "Massac", the reader is referred to Chapters II and III. Metropolis, Brookport, and Joppa are taken up in the following two chapters.

**AERIAL VIEW OF METROPOLIS**

Courtesy Dr. Robert Korte, Metropolis

Pilot, Vance Moyers

CHAPTER XVIII

METROPOLIS AND LATER FORT MASSAC

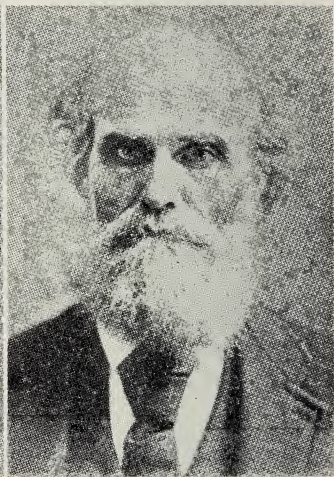
Metropolis means literally "mother" or "largest city", and such did the founders wish it to become.

O. J. Page may well be quoted at this point. "In the name of Metropolis", he says, "is wrapped the dream of its founder, William A. McBane, Sr., who was attracted by the inviting and beautiful location for a modern city, considered by experienced boatmen as the most beautiful on the Ohio River and the Lower Mississippi. Mr. McBane was also a practical engineer and a New Orleans and Pittsburgh merchant, whose business necessitated trips on the river. He reasoned that a railroad bridge must span the Ohio, connecting the North and the South; and that this was the most natural available crossing. Upon landing from a flat-boat of merchandise, he found J. H. G. Wilcox the owner and occupant of perhaps one thousand acres of the land which struck his fancy, and he immediately purchased with his stock of goods a half interest in the virgin soil. On April 18, 1839, McBane and Wilcox laid out what the former dreamed would become a

mighty city, and named it without a duplicate in all the world, 'Metropolis' (largest city).



J. H. G. WILCOX



WILLIAM A. McBANE

"City lots were sold in 1840. Washington and Franklin Parks, the court house square, and a lot to the Christian Church, were their benefactions to the public. James Hendricks Gaines Wilcox owned and occupied the only residence. Immediately after the birth and christening of the city, Mr. Wilcox erected a splendid brick residence on Front Street."

The acknowledgment to the plot of the City of Metropolis under the name of "Metropolis City" was recorded in the office of the Recorder of Deeds

of Johnson County, Illinois, in Deed Book A at page 268 and also in Deed Book B, page 21. The date of acknowledgment was May 4, 1839. (10)

The Wilcox House—located east of the old Quante Mill—later served as a store and as a hotel. The “Thrift House” and the “Parker House” were the later hotel names. In this house the wife of General John A. Logan lived several years as a young girl. Tradition has it that Charles Dickens occupied an apartment of the hotel one night in 1842. It is thought that Dickens referred to Metropolis as “New Thermopylae” in his book **Martin Chuzzlewit**. He described the structure as a “barn-like hotel upon the hill and the attendant wooden buildings and sheds.”

The description was in keeping with the town in 1842, for there were only about a dozen houses in Metropolis, mostly of log. (6) The only entirely-frame building in the county stood where Elliot’s furniture store now stands. In 1848 or 1849 there were three or four stores.

The first town election was held March 7, 1858. William V. McGee was elected as the first Mayor, John B. Hicks as Magistrate, and J. Dayhuff as Marshal. There were three wards and ward members first met in the office of Hicks. Metropolis was first incorporated on February 18, 1859. It was re-incorporated March 6, 1873. (10)

William A. McBeane (later McBane) was a bachelor and lived with his aged mother until her

death. He was then a recluse. He was an agnostic, but had many sterling qualities, especially that of charity to the poor. (6) He died in 1873 and lies in the Masonic Cemetery where a large monument was placed about 1906.

J. H. G. Wilcox, Sr., had come to Fort Massac as commander in 1806. He had two sons, Isaac Dow and J. H. G., Jr. Isaac, about 1817, filed claim for the fort and 1000 acres of adjacent land. Later he assigned the land to J. H. G., Jr., who received a patent to the land. He had operated a ferry before McBane had come. Later, he sold out to McBane, moved to a farm a few miles up the river, and later died there. (6) (10)

What claims to be the original Wilcox house stands at the northeast corner of Girard and Second Streets, and is occupied by James E. Hard. Another old building is located at the northeast corner of Ferry and Fourth Streets, now occupied by a motorcycle shop. It is here that Robert G. Ingersoll taught school when a mere youth, in 1852. (63) (64) Called the old Cedar House, it was built in 1848. (11)

In early days Metropolis was pre-eminently a river town. Its original character has faded but new links of interests have been forged. It is still closely connected with the South by ties of consanguinity, climate, and interests, which gives it its famous Southern friendliness. Its growth has been slow but steady: 4655 in 1910; 5570 in 1930; 6093 in 1950;

and 7784 in August 1954. Metropolis is a trading center for many more thousands.

Business and industry have found much in Metropolis that is good. Power, transportation, labor, and locations are ideal. In few other places in Egypt will there be found a larger percentage of firmly-based establishments. To an ingrained confidence will be found the aggressiveness brought on by the "Miracle of Joppa." Aiding and promoting the continued development of Metropolis will be found the local Chamber of Commerce.

Business and industry alone, however, do not complete a community. There is the social life. Metropolis has four good grade schools—Central, Clark, Washington, and Lincoln—and the Community High School. A Junior High School was opened in 1951. Superintendent since 1928 is C. J. Ramsey. Metropolis has 20 churches representing more than a dozen denominations. The various social organizations and service clubs promote civic and cultural improvement.

At one time Metropolis grew so many roses that it was called "the city of roses". Beautiful lawns may be found all over the city. Here one may find the magnolia. The four parks are prominent features of the city and provide space for various recreational activities. As has been said the location of the city is unsurpassed. The pellucid Ohio is ever beautiful. From the river there is a gradual rise for nine blocks until a high point of 89 feet above low water mark is

reached. There is then a gradual decline in the opposite direction. This provides natural drainage so that even before gravel streets came, mud and water were rare. Less than one-half of the city was under water in the 1937 flood. With prophetic vision William McBane saw ahead and laid out the two principal streets 100 feet wide, and the others 70 feet. Traffic congestion is not yet a problem. Five miles of street paving were completed by 1928. Five miles more were added up to 1936. Since then another five miles has been paved. Other streets are of good native gravel. (10)

Metropolis takes pride in its municipally-owned water and light plant, which has been recently expanded. The household rate is eight cents for the first 20 KWH, and three and one-half cents for all over 180 KWH. On March 24, 1927, the first "white way" lights were turned on. Fifth Street lighting was completed in the fall of 1929, and other streets subsequently. Water comes from two deep wells and is 99.9 per cent pure. What is fortunate is that there is usually plenty of it. The fire protection equipment is of the best. Two men are on duty full time at two fire stations and 13 men are on part time, all of whom are paid a fixed amount annually. The per capita fire loss is only 30 to 50 cents. H. Lester Craig resigned as Fire Chief in September, 1954, to be succeeded by Rass Owens. Natural gas is supplied by the Trunkline Gas Company. The influx of new workmen to the AEC projects caused

an upsurge in law-breaking, but an efficient, well-equipped police force has been able to cope with the situation admirably. The two-way radio was first turned on May 31, 1953, and has proved its effectiveness. The spacious City Hall was dedicated July 13, 1931. The county fair grounds adjoin the city to the east.

It was appropriate that in 1939 Metropolis should celebrate its centennial. (65) It was held May 28 to June 4 and was a complete success. Every segment of the population had a part, the hard labor of carrying out the program falling, of course, to the ten committees. On Friday night, June 2, a particularly impressive pageant was enacted by the colored people. The last day (Sunday) the largest crowd in the history of the city attended the Legion and Centennial parade. The estimated attendance was 40,000. (10)

Metropolis had twelve plattings from 1839 to 1919. The fourth platting, July 25, 1896, closed the gap between Metropolis and Massac City, to the east. Subsequent additions were called Fairview, Fairmount, Glove Factory, McBane, and Greenlawn Terrace. (10) The construction boom began in March 1951, although there had been some construction in the suburban Hilanoa in 1949. A city zoning commission was appointed in May 1951. In succession were annexed the Northern Heights, Lindsey-Oakes, and Gothbawn Mead additions. In the same period three Federal housing projects were finished

and three private companies were building scores of homes.

The mayor of this new growing Metropolis is Barney Beane, who has served since January 1941. Wid Matthews, on a visit here in 1952, just about summed up the true sentiments of Metropolitans when he exclaimed, "Everything about Metropolis is wonderful!"

Although not within the city limits, Fort Massac is an integral part of Metropolis. Its early history has been given in previous chapters. It now remains to say something about the old fort today. Writers seem to differ as to how or when the site came into private hands, or whether the fort itself ever did. Be that as it may, the State acquired the site in 1903. To the original 20 acres enough has been added to bring the present size to 456 acres. It was Illinois' first State Park. A monument was dedicated in 1908. A statue of Clark to replace it was dedicated in 1932. The first keeper was George W. Evans, appointed in 1905. The sea wall was built in 1921. (10) Byrd Stewart is present custodian.

The George Rogers Clark Sesqui-Centennial celebration June 28 to July 1, 1928, brought thousands to Fort Massac. Some of the notables were Honorable Louis L. Emmerson, Senator Deneen, Legion Commander Spafford, Otis H. Glenn and Thomas Williams. There were speeches and parades. On the night of the 29th the D.A.R. presented the Historical Pageant of Fort Massac. The vast tent

was crowded to capacity. Almost 600 home amateurs took part and it was presented three times. It was a noteworthy celebration. (10)

In 1941 and 1942 archaeological research was conducted by the State with the aid of WPA labor. From the evidence gathered the old fort has been partially reconstructed.

Fort Massac State Park has seen many large crowds. It is popular for conventions, family reunions, and picnics. On "I am an American" Day, May 22, 1941, there were 7000. On August 10, 1952, there were 11,000 reported.

Recreational facilities are excellent at the park. There are picnic areas well equipped. The latest development is along Massac Creek. Sites for public camping are available without cost, only a permit being required from the custodian. There is ample playground equipment for children. Finally, there is the great scenic beauty of the place.

CHAPTER XIX

BROOKPORT AND JOPPA

The history of Brookport has been gleaned from various books, newspaper clippings, and interviews. It is far from complete, but as facts cannot be seized by ledgerdemain so gaps must remain.

During the late fifties there were many so-called wildcat banks. Paper money would be issued to the value of the lots in the new towns. A good example of this practice is found in the early history of Brookport. Land had been entered by Enoch Fleece on August 6, 1821. The town of Brooklyn was plotted in 1855 by Charles Pell and a Captain Davis. The village being "laid off", a map of the same was drawn, and the wild-cat money was issued from the banks. In 1819 one lone cabin marked the spot where the later Brookport was to appear. This part of the river bank was called the Davis Landing, Captain Davis, an early river man, having owned the land when it was platted. The town was chartered by a special act of the Legislature on February 15, 1855. (6)

The village operated under the charter until

1867, when it became dormant until July 9, 1887. With the coming of the Illinois Central Railroad in 1888 came the "boot-legger". The good citizens proposed to stop lawlessness and break up the gang that made the nights hideous. Accordingly, a special charter was obtained and the place incorporated on November 10, 1888, under the name of Brooklyn. On July 8, 1901, the name was changed to Brookport. It was incorporated as a city on October 20, 1903. Dr. John D. Young, after serving six months in the Andersonville prison hell, returned from the Civil War, and later became the first mayor of Brookport.

In postal history Brookport was established under the name Pellonia, October 1854. It was named for Mitchell Pell, who came to the place before 1850. The postmaster was John W. Blackwell. The name of the office was changed to Brookport on March 12, 1901, with George Rush as postmaster. The name Brooklyn is derived from the analogous relation between Brooklyn, N. Y. and New York City, and Paducah and the town (being near) of Brooklyn. The name was changed to Brookport because a town in Schuyler County already had that name for its post office.

The original town of Brooklyn comprised eight blocks: five blocks on the river front; three blocks where the bank stands; one block at Kerr's Dry Goods Store; and one block at Dr. Gann's, the difference in the total being according to the arrange-

ment of the blocks. The rest of the city has been added to by several additions, beginning in 1867.

Several names stand out in the history of Brookport, among them being Benjamin J. Delavan, a justice of the peace, who had a wealth of information pertaining to the city's history. James Smith and Samuel Caldwell surveyed the city. Under the able administration of John Black, Brookport, between 1903 and 1905, got its waterworks and sidewalks. John Chapman and O. H. and Jasper Margrave were responsible for the Margrave-Chapman addition in 1898. The Margraves furnished from their mill over 50 per cent of the lumber for the frame buildings. In 1905 the entire Block No. 3 burned.

Brookport has had its ups and downs. Wild-cat banks provided a boom; it went down and was not revived until the Civil War; again the town started downhill and continued until the railroads came. Brookport is the second largest city in the county, but in speed of growth surpasses all. The population more than doubled in the three years following the railroad. Later figures are 1900—865; 1910—1443; 1930—1336; 1950—1119. Baptist Town or Robinsville has had as many as 200 colored people.

The bank came in 1903; the Irvin Cobb Vehicular bridge in 1929; the paved highway in 1934; the City Hall in 1936; and the flood wall in 1938. The oldest business is the dry goods store of A. T. Kerr, founded in 1898.

Formerly there was much river traffic. For one

hundred years there was a ferry. Early trains transferred across the river by ferry. The area was densely wooded which gave impetus to the tie industry and sawmilling. As late as March 1934 Brookport shipped out 100 carloads of ties. It once had excellent barge-rail terminal facilities. A button factory operated for years, until the 1937 flood. Steamboats took on or discharged merchandise. As many as 32 steamboats have been moving about the wharf at once. Gone, at least temporarily, are those halcyon days. The surrounding rich farming community and a type of pushing business man has preserved much of Brookport's former prosperity. The newest piece of construction is the Federal housing project, now completed. A noteworthy civic project was the War Memorial which was unveiled May 30, 1951. A special honor has come to Brookport through Gordon E. Kerr, who is serving his third



BROOKPORT WAR MEMORIAL

term as State Representative. Virgil Flowers is City Mayor.

As for local industry, Brookport is in the doldrums. Some are hopeful; the majority are optimistic; and a few are highly optimistic. Presently, the government plants (AEC) are a great help since the commuting distance is not too great. And it may not be long until industry moves in or water terminals spring up.

The Copeland brothers owned Copeland's Landing early in the history of Joppa. There had been a ferry not too far down-river in 1821. Sometimes there would be a store owned by one or another of the brothers, but often there would be no store at all. In 1854 Joppa had a store kept by Dick Venable for Sam Copeland, of Vienna. During the Civil War, John R. ("Cigar") Jones owned a big store on the hill at or near where Judge Oakes' house stood. Even then, such a place as Joppa was never thought of. Much of the trading was done when trading boats stopped, which had stores upon them.

A. J. Kuykendall owned much of the land when Jesse Baccus, in the spring of 1871, moved a saw and grist mill on the river bank, on land which he had bought from Kuykendall. There was much virgin timber and shingle-making was a big industry. Timber was cut from anyone's land without having to ask permission. Deer were as plentiful as rabbits are now. Squirrels and droves of wild turkey were abundant.

Kuykendall and Baccus got together and decided to lay out a small town. Accordingly, the land was surveyed from the river to the hill, not more than an ordinary one-half city block. Kuykendall, who was probably a Bible student, suggested "Joppa" for a name, likening the hauling of timber out of the country to the river bank to build the town, to the hauling of cedars for the building of Jaffa or Joppa of Biblical times. The word signifies "beauty".

John, Joshua, and L. W. Copeland (later Major) were early Joppa citizens. The grandfather, John, was an educated Virginian. He kept records when he was justice of the peace, as well as many other records. Jesse Jones (to whom we are indebted for much of the early history of Joppa) found this record book, and presented it to the Copeland family many years ago. John Copeland is probably buried in the family cemetery, eight miles below Joppa.

L. W. Copeland had a large store but had started with scarcely a wagon-load of goods. He would buy anything from an egg to a steamboat. His store burned. At one time he had 1,900,000 shingles and often bought 30,000 a day. He also secured the establishment of Joppa post office on January 5, 1874, and was postmaster for many years.

In 1853 Mrs. Jesse Jones' parents came to Joppa on a trading boat. There was no church or school closer than Macedonia. The Jones built a log structure upon arrival which served as a community center for many years. It was the birthplace of the

Joppa Methodist and Christian Churches and was the first Oak Grove School.

The Dr. Pierce Medical Company ran the first automobile over Joppa streets. It was in the winter and a fire was built under it and kept there for one-half day to get it started. It went to Metropolis on a boat. A Mr. Neihouse owned the first automobile in Joppa.

The C. & E. I. Railroad came to Joppa in 1900 and paid for itself the first year it is said. Joppa was then in the hey-day of the tie business. The village was incorporated on October 28, 1901, and a charter issued January 29, 1902. The population in 1910 was 734; in 1930—462; in 1950—513. The present estimate is 1000. The Mayor is Logan Wood.

The river—and the railroad until 1912—provided Joppa with economic prosperity. Then river traffic died and the river-to-rail and rail-to-river movement declined. Population declined despite the timber processing plant. There just were not enough jobs. In 1944 the major industry, the Republic Creosoting Company, burned but was not rebuilt. Suddenly, in December 1950 Electric Energy Incorporated announced that it would build a huge power plant. (See Chapter XXIV). Joppa awakened from its bad economic dream.

Undeniably Joppa has many desirable features. The harbor is the best on the Ohio; there is plenty of underground water; industrial sites are ample; transportation by rail or water is available; Joppa is

flood-free; and there is a surplus of willing labor.

Other assets have been added as well since EEI arrived. There is the Trunkline Gas Company and its pumping station. A water system costing \$180,000 has been built. The C & E I Railroad has barge handling facilities and plans another one. Mayor Wood thinks the terminal will help the county as much as any other thing. When the steam electric station gets into operation it alone will require from two to three millions of tons of coal annually. Drew Pearson, in December 1951, predicted that Joppa would become the coal capital of the Midwest. Other assets of the new Joppa are the schools which have enough space for the workers' children, the many new homes, new businesses and other civic improvements. Development of the EEI came so unexpectedly that housing was inadequate, hence Vanmeter and Carson Homeland trailer courts sprang up, while other people had to commute from other towns.

On the night of August 19, 1952, Joppa commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of its incorporation by giving a free barbecue and street dance. Industrialists and politicians joined in the fun, which was followed by a number of speeches.

As Joppa never quite gave up in those dark days following the 1944 disaster, so may it with confidence and renewed spirit face the future, and welcome the great development which it is sure to have and which it so well merits.

CHAPTER XX

TWO FOREIGN WARS

"Remember the Maine" was the cry echoed in the country following the sinking of the battleship **Maine** on February 15, 1898. Many Massac County men were anxious to serve.

Company I of Robart's Provisional Regiment was organized here, with S. Bartlett Kerr as Captain, O. J. Page as First Lieutenant, and George Sawyer as Second Lieutenant. Sawyer drilled the men around the Armstrong Building. The company was tendered to Governor Tanner, and made available for immediate mobilization, but it was not needed. Copeland's Provisional Independent Cavalry Squadron was also organized here. L. W. Copeland, of Metropolis, was instrumental in raising it, for which he held a commission as Major. Ernest P. Copeland was Quartermaster. (66)

The records fail to give us complete data on the part our men took in the war, and only a few veterans are living now. The following are only examples of services, but to all is due equal honor. William D. Harrington was in Co. E of the 9th

Illinois Volunteers. Taylor Wentzell was in Co. D of the same. Louis Thane enlisted in Minneapolis and served two years in the Philippines. Lark D. Richardson enlisted in Paducah and was in Co. K of the 3rd Kentucky Volunteer Infantry. He served in Cuba, the Philippines, and China. Ed Wade was cook and later, assistant doctor. William Cross, of New Columbia, served in the Philippines. Other men were W. P. Bunn, Joe Holt, George Grace, Dave King, and Joe Bellemey, the last from Hillerman. Several county men were in the 8th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, among them being Jacob Crim. Several colored men served honorably in the war, at least one, Lawrence Michaux, having died in the service.

Paducah and Mound City were the two nearest recruiting stations.

America declared war against Germany on April 6, 1917. By war's end Illinois had furnished 343,604 men, and Massac County almost 500.

The county was in the Eastern District, Division No. 1, of the District Draft Board, which included 22 counties. Metropolis was No. 69 Unit, of Division 1, State at Large, of the Volunteer Training Corps, June 1918. Unlike during the Civil War, when no men were drafted in the county, the draft was employed in 1917-18. There were three draft calls but many volunteered. The gross quota of the county under the Federal Conscription Act was 139. The men already in the National Guard and enlisted

in the Regular Army, however, brought the net quota down to 32. (56)

The official registration of the Massac County Local Draft Board follows: June 5, 1917—1203 men; June 5 and August 24, 1918—108 men; September 12, 1918—1564 men; or a total of 2875 registrants. The induction reports give, for total called, 384; for inducted, 336; for accepted 278; and for total rejected, 57. (67)

At the opening of World's War I Metropolis was a unit of the National Guard. Company M of the 8th Illinois Infantry was organized here and was made up entirely of colored men, mostly from Massac County. It consisted of four officers and 129 men. The captain was Arthur Williams and the First Lieutenant was Horace Burke. Many of these men had had prior service, some as far back as the Spanish-American War. Company M reported for duty on July 25, 1917. Upon its induction it became the 370th Infantry of the 93rd Division. Williams and Burke were promoted to the respective ranks of Major and Captain.

A number of men had enlisted for service on the Mexican Border previously. These men were among the first to go to Europe. The 84th Division was organized August 1917 at Camp Taylor, Kentucky, and included many men from Southern Illinois. The author's father was first in this Division, but was transferred to the 33rd in Texas. The county furnished 21 men for the navy and 27 for the Naval

Reserve. These men served in various waters. It is impossible in these few pages to tell properly of the county's part in the war. Nor is it easy to determine the precise number who enlisted or to which county or unit some men should be credited, for in this war geographical identification rarely existed.

Including naval men, 133 colored men, and 331 white men (according to available data—some few remain unrecorded), the total number of Massac County men in the war was 464—"nearly 500 boys in Khaki".

The local men were sent to various training centers, such as Camp Grant, Camp Taylor, Jefferson Barracks, Camp Shelby, and others. The first group of drafted men departed on September 5, 1917. Some of the young men left wives and small children, but each of them went forth bravely to do his duty to his country.

The first Americans arrived in France on June 26, 1917. They were in the trenches for the first time on October 26, 1917. On November 11, 1918, the men had ended their work. Twenty-seven of our soldiers died in the service. They merit everlasting honor. They are:

Ray Stegall, Virgil Kellum, Finis Anderson, Clarence Hawkins, William Hausman, Hollis Heron, Eury Johnson, Overton P. Morris, James Lassiter, Robert Farris, Altamont Armstead, N. W. Long, Earl Houchin, Ed Schwegman, Harry Ed-

wards, Theodore Woodard, Herman Hinners, Carlos Baker, John Crabtree, Bryan Randolph, James Neeley, Dillie Marthel, Moses Perkins, Wesley Truley, John Banks, Coy Crawford, Aaron Blackwell.

At least six men received the Distinguished Service Cross: Chester Triplett, Merritt May, Lester Fossie, T. M. Rutledge, Charles Mahaffee, and Luther Summers. A report came through on October 10, 1918, that Captain Tom Smith, son of Judge W. F. Smith, of Metropolis, had distinguished himself by killing two Germans and capturing single-handedly 28 others. He was decorated with the French **Croix de Guerre**. Apparently, some of the last boys to come home—October 2, 1919—were Earl Armstrong, Ira Rankin, and T. M. Rutledge. The entire Co. M had arrived from overseas by February, 1919.

Almost as soon as war was declared the home front was organized. The staff of the Massac County Chapter of the Red Cross consisted of 59 hard-working members. The ladies knitted many garments and prepared comfort kits. The county gave liberally to the various benefits such as the Belgian Relief. The government launched five great Liberty Loans during the war, which netted almost twenty billions of dollars. Massac County subscribed \$51,900 in the first loan; \$117,050 in the second; \$255,100 in the third; \$296,700 in the fourth; and \$224,300 in the fifth or Victory Loan. The total over-subscriptions

amounted to thousands of dollars. The highest per cent of quota was in the third loan, when it was 199 per cent! The total sales of War Savings Stamps of the 1918 issue was \$123,925. More than \$7000 was collected in the county for the United War Work Campaign.

Those at home also underwent hardships. Besides the wheatless, and meatless, and fuelless days (which the people were willing to bear as a war effort) were the sufferings of disease and severe weather. The deep snow fell in 1917-18. The ravages of the Spanish influenza began in October 1918 and lasted through the following year. On November 7, 1918, the County Board issued a closing order to all public places. Few escaped the disease. Sometimes two or three in a family died. A double funeral was not uncommon.

By an act of the Legislature, June 28, 1919, counties might erect memorials to World War Veterans. After a number of years of planning, Memorial Park was created. It was completed and dedicated on Memorial Day, 1934. An appropriate monument stands in the center of the park, which is located at the corner of Metropolis and Third Streets.

CHAPTER XXI

BETWEEN TWO WARS

The 1920's was a period which has been variously called the "Roaring '20's", the "incredible age", and the "Prohibition Era". Isabel Leighton has labeled it "the aspirin age". The majority seemed to want to forget the horrors of the last war, and to engage in a prolonged celebration spree. It was the period of bobbed hair, flappers, bell-bottom pants, the ukulele, the hip-flask, bootleggers, and a loosening of the sex morals. Some historians say it was a reflection of the governmental policies. There were administrative debacles like the Teapot Dome Case. The "back to normalcy" attempt was a failure despite such shibboleths as "Keep Cool with Coolidge" and "Coolidge or Chaos". The Bolshevism bogey prevented any needed reform. It was a period of disarmament talk and peace pacts. Meanwhile, Mussolini and Hitler rose to power and Stalin was getting a toe-hold. A few years later Franco seized his chance. In our own country Huey Long was thought by many to be a potential danger by his

fascist methods. The rejection of Catholic Al Smith closed the decade to any further major changes.

Regionally, Southern Illinois shared in the paved roads program of 1921 to 1926. The Ku Klux Klan and the Knights of the Flaming Circle gave many public demonstrations, some in Massac County. One gathering about 1923 drew 7000 Klansmen to Metropolis. From 1922 to 1928 the "Bloody Vendetta" flared up again in Williamson County. S. Glenn Young was in Massac for brief periods. Charles Birger was hanged in Williamson County in 1928.

Local events in the 1920's may be summarized by briefing the files of the local newspapers. The Illinois Central Railroad Cut-off, the Irvin S. Cobb bridge, and the Metropolis Post Office were built. The City Hall was erected in 1931. Two years later, beer came back. It was the "Peach Era" in Egypt. The Metropolis Chamber of Commerce was very active in this period and chalked up many accomplishments. Massac County shared in the hectic prosperity of the twenties. On December 16, 1927, William Brown, colored, was hanged in the jail yard for the axe-murder of two colored women near Brookport. It was the second hanging in County history, as it was also the last, because in the same year the Electrocutation Bill was passed.

The 1930's witnessed the Clark Sesqui-Centennial and the Metropolis Centennial. The flood came in 1937. Other major events have been given else-

where in this book. It only remains to pass on to the calamitous Great Depression.

The causes of the depression were various, and some were obscure, but everyone learned the **results** of the depression. The "prosperity around the corner" philosophy did not work. "Black Friday", October 29, 1929, precipitated many unusual happenings. With the stock market crash, bank failures, business failures—and suicides—became common headlines. The wheels of industry ground slower and unemployment became widespread. Added to this was a series of severe drouths.

The present volume is no place to recount national history, but mention of a few governmental measures is almost necessary. President Roosevelt adopted revolutionary methods—methods which were and since have been severely criticized. Despite much vitriolic censure some of the new laws worked. Some did not. A few of the alphabetical agencies created were NRA, AAA, CWA, PWA, WPA, CCC, NYA, and RFC. None alone seemed to be the panacea desperately needed.

A picture of some of the local activity during these depression years may perhaps be gained by glancing at some of the local headlines briefly. March 1933—Bank Moratorium. Local banks closed. No concern was felt for it was known the banks were sound. August to December—Wheat production control. NRA supported by 95 businesses. November—Several projects begun under CWA. December—

ber—Company No. 1660 CCC came to Metropolis to do Erosion Control work. February 1934—Families on relief numbered 518. They rose to 800 by April. Ward Minor, of the National Employment Agency, was finding jobs for men. May—146 relief gardens in the county planted. A. D. Kadoch was appointed Relief Administrator. October—Forty work projects approved requiring 45,760 men days. Three centers can 50,000 cans of food. January 1935—Families receiving aid numbered 1050. May—Responsibility for relief and works shifted to local administration. July—Some factories show larger payroll since NRA died. September—County road project for \$300,000 approved. October—Quota for the high school is 18 students for NYA. PWA allotments made for Washington School and Water and Light Plant. December—Last federal dole. Throughout 1936 the county was recipient of various funds—WPA, AAA, NYA—and the oldsters began to receive the first pensions, 185 of them in July, and 484 by November.

Various types of programs continued for several years. By January 1937, the county WPA Sewing Project had completed 36,745 articles. Canning in season was continued and a commercial laundry was opened. Jesse Lassiter was appointed County Relief Administrator in November 1939. WPA labor helped extend the city sewers. As late as 1940 WPA funds in the amount of \$71,020 were approved for a proposed new Court House. On April 11, 1940, a long list of accomplishments for WPA was cited.

Apropos the fact that the rest of the country was feeling the pinch of the depression, **The Republican Herald** said in 1930: "Massac County may be small; it may not have the wealth of the larger counties, but such as it is, is substantial and withstands the storms of financial depression. Our people are conservative and not carried away by the temptations to live extravagantly in good times, but take care of what they have for times of stress. Therefore, when other counties are suffering, Massac County pursues the even tenor of its way, safe and sane at all times." With 22 per cent on relief in April 1934, perhaps the writer did not feel so confident. However, by March 1936, relief cases had fallen to 9.7 per cent. In 1932 the newspaper reported as follows: "Metropolis is a substantial city. There are three banks in better condition than any bank in any other city of like size in the country. Factories were idle part of the time. The rayon factory, stove plant, box factory, Artman's Mill, chair factory, bender, glove factory, C.I.P.S. ice plant, Miller's Dairy, and nearly all grocers and bakers weathered the storm. However, in 1931, work was not plentiful."

A paragraph of miscellaneous items seems to be necessary at this point. In the 1930-1940 period the Kincaid Mounds were intensively studied. Hopes for oil were high between 1933 and 1940. Two former Massac County women made news. Miss Mignon Spence began to draw attention as early as 1927 by her singing. By 1932 she was scoring suc-

cesses in France and Belgium. Her career took her to Genoa, Turin, London, Paris, Stockholm, Antwerp, Brussels, and other operatic centers. The press said: "Europe sits at her feet". After an absence of seven years she visited Metropolis and gave a concert July 1, 1936. Miss Francis E. Willis was acting United States Minister at Stockholm in 1932. She was later sent to Brussels. She also had served in Chile. At the present time she is Ambassador to Switzerland.

The county was honored by the visits of several notables as follows: Governor Emmerson, Legion Commander Spafford, Lorado Taft, Governor Horner, Governor Len Small, former Vice-President Dawes, and a number of Congressmen and minor officials.

The year 1939 opened with high hopes. Several local industries reported the outlook bright for a big year. But tragedy stalked Europe before the year was gone, as Hitler swiftly spread the tentacles of his power over Poland.

CHAPTER XXII

FROM KRAKOW TO KOREA

Global war began in 1939 when Hitler blitzed Poland. In 1940 the Germans swept through Europe. On December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was bombed. The Normandy invasion in 1944 and the A-bomb on August 6, 1945 were the two turning points.

On the clear frosty morning of October 16, 1940, Massac County men and boys between the ages of 18 to 45 to the number of 1817 registered under the first peace-time Selective Service Act. On the 29th the National lottery drawing was held. The first 1000 draft numbers included 36 Massac men. The first number was 158, that of Norman Townsend, of Metropolis. Strangely, the second number, 192, was also from Massac, that of Edgar Lille, of Brookport.

The first military call to the county was in February 1941. Twenty-five men—only three draftees—answered the call. In April, 30 men—21 being draftees—were called up. L. W. Smith was clerk of the Local Draft Board No. 1. Upon his resignation in February 1942, David A. DeJarnett assumed the position. Enlistments had been numerous before

the draft call, 46 having been accepted in September 1940 alone. John Henry Frazee held the first county number called in the first war time draft lottery, March 18, 1942. Space will not permit a listing of the various groups inducted, except that the largest was 45 men in January 1943. There were volunteers all along. Leonard Armstrong was the first to volunteer under the Selective Service Act. By August 1942, **The Metropolis News** was sending its paper to 390 men, 91 being in foreign service.

There were six general registrations and 141 induction calls. Massac's total registration was 3672, according to Colonel Kleber. He also says that the total number of men inducted from the county was 1170. This included only men that the draft board furnished by induction. So-called "credits" of enlistees—and women—were not counted because of the unavailability of complete and correct figures. (68) Of course, the number 1170 is far too small. **The Metropolis News** said that the number of inductees was 1204, plus enlisted men totaled 1517. Mr. DeJarnett told the writer that he believed the board had drafted about 1900 men. The grand total of all service men, he stated, would approach 2300. Here again we find difficulty in deciding just who a Massac County man was in establishing "credits". Since 1929 the government has increasingly made the country one "vast amorphous mass", and most activities have been "swallowed up in anonymity". (69)

December 7, 1941, found many boys in Hawaii and the Far East. Juan Luis Lackey, of Metropolis, was reported as killed but was later reported safe. Pearl Harbor incited 22 men to enlist in the Marines within a few days. During the war local soldiers were trained at dozens of different camps. Camp Grant was the largest reception center.

Strange, indeed, did seem sometimes the operation of war. State lines, color lines, and military outfits crossed as in no other war which America had fought. Strange and interesting also were the stories the service men brought back. Massac was represented in all the theaters of war, from Greenland to Guadalcanal, from Italy to Iwo Jima. One boy enlisted before Pearl Harbor, spent much time in West Coast camps, was sent to Algiers during the war heat, served throughout as MP, was sent back to the States after 10 months, and never saw any action. Why? He has often tried to figure it out. Many were cited for their heroic actions. Carlton Starkes got three Jap dive bombers as they attacked a ship. Many were decorated, many were wounded—and some died.

There were several examples of three and four of the same family in service. There were five of the Johnston brothers: Clifford, Tyre, Cecil, Vernon, and Leslie, and the youngest, Delbert, although in high school, was registered. The Comptons had six sons and one daughter in service: Lavere, William, James, Don, Kenneth, Robert, and Ione.

Ten women enlisted for military service. Dorothy Jessing was first to join in 1943, as a WAC. The nine others served as nurses or as WACS, WAVES, or SPARS.

Edwin Virgil Kerr was the only one to serve who had a commission as high as that of Major. He died in a Japanese prison camp. Kes Austin served his country, even though he left six children at home. There was one example of father and son serving—F. W. Nannie, Sr., and Freeman W. Nannie, Jr. An official letter received in December 1943 reported the first county death casualty, Marine William A. Nichols.

On the home front there were many activities. It was a time when Molly Pitchers became Rosie Riveters. There were at least six major bond drives in which the county oversubscribed. The story was the same for the Red Cross and the USO. The price freeze came in April 1942. Sales were easy but goods were scarce. Gardening burgeoned again into a major civilian activity. The rationing of tires, gasoline, shoes, and foods became necessary. In the various scrap drives the children were often the heroes. (70) The Metropolis Boy Scouts were said to have been the nation's leader in collecting 6700 bags of milkweed pods. The Fort Massac cannon balls were disposed of for scrap iron. Civil Defense measures were organized and a blackout conducted July 20, 1943, was successful.

Industry boomed. The Kentucky Ordnance works across the river took shape in the latter part of 1942, for the manufacture of TNT. It benefitted the area by giving employment and by stimulating housing construction. Many found employment at the Crab Orchard shell-loading plant. The Elwood Ordnance Plant at Joliet hired many from the Metropolis area. Still others wandered to defense jobs in many states. Local industry was also able to help in war production. In February 1941 the Good Luck Glove Company received a defense order for 232,200 pairs of gloves. Steel cuts increased the demand for oyster buttons and McKee employed additional workers. Sixty NYA girls were at Fort Massac making incendiary bomb parts. The Bending Company filled army orders for 50,000 chairs, 10,000 cots, and 200,000 wood bendings for self-sealing gas tanks.

Germany surrendered on May 6, 1945. Japan held out until August 14, when it too surrendered. The world could then begin to count the cost. To arrive at the exact number and names to be placed upon the roll of honor is not easy. The author shall regret deeply any errors appearing below and hopes he may be forgiven.

William Aaron Nichols, Talmadge L. Phoenix, Clarence A. Smith, Paul Shook, William Orlan Compton, Philip Sebart Barton, Russell Alonzo Goodson, Milfred L. Walter, Orvil Meeks, Jr., George Kittle, Everett I. Lillie, Kenneth Wayne

Hardy, Russell Q. Cummins, Melvin King, Kenneth Wayne Cossey, Robert V. Owens, Russell E. Ramer, Carl Barnett Lytton, Loren L. Mathis, Harry A. Triplett, James Linnard Wedeking, Cleo L. Teague, William F. James, John Lowell Burkhead, Charles L. Ellerbusch, James Ferrell Crockett, John Paul Adkins, Charles E. Moore, Thomas Otto Owens.

Raymond Shappard, Jr., Marvin W. Finley, Paul C. Hornback, Roy K. Philips, William R. Searles, Thelbert F. Robinett, Russell E. Kelley, William E. Rodenberg, Paul Clyde Walter, Norman W. Steele, Elton Hendrix, Lester Reynolds, Norman Rose, Lester D. James, Jr., William Luster Leukering, Edwin Virgil Kerr, William Milton Lindsey, Arnold P. Buckland, Oris G. Collins, Zelmer J. Hall, Lawrence T. Huser, John W. James, George W. Williamson, Paul J. Teckenbrock, William L. Shambling, William J. Hendrix, L. G. Strickland.

Fifty-six. We cherish proudly and gratefully the memory of those to whom the war's cost has been greatest—the ones who could not stop to count the cost, but offered and gave their all.

The drafting of men ceased some time in October 1946, but enlistments were still accepted. Several re-enlisted. Delmar T. Jackson was the first new volunteer after war's end. Norma Jean Wiseman joined the WAC in October 1948. Drafting began again about September 1948 and the first quota was four men on November 30. From September 1945 to June 1950 at least 125 men enlisted or were

drafted. The exact number could not be ascertained.

America's part in the Korea struggle lasted from June 1950 to July 1953. During that time at least 160 local men were inducted or enlisted. It is unknown how many served in Korea. If anything, that war was more terrible than the last. Sergeant Carl Brannum, a prisoner of war for 32 months in North Korea, lived to return to Brookport and reveal the ordeals of existence in a Chinese prison camp. Louis Oliver wrote in October 1952: "My division almost got wiped out. I'm to be decorated three times for bravery, but a guy doesn't have to be brave to fight. It is a matter of 'they' or 'we'. War is horrible—don't get me wrong—I'm not sorry I enlisted."

Almost 30,000 American soldiers gave their lives in Korea. According to newspaper files, Massac County lost five. They are: James Earl Moore, Tally J. Sheppard, Everett Lynn, Carl Stewart, and Arthur Lovins.

And the drafting goes on.

CHAPTER XXIII

OTHER RECENT EVENTS

In this chapter we shall try to mention important or unusual events since 1940, which have not been mentioned anywhere in the text earlier. Aside from war activities, significant events were scarce locally from 1941 to 1945. Many activities were suspended for lack of manpower or materials. During those years, however, thinking people were looking ahead to post-war days, and several planning meetings were held in Metropolis.

One of the important projects completed during the war period was the new Court House. The old building was outmoded and deteriorating. Plans had been begun for the old building in 1860, and by the end of 1862 it had been erected. Jury rooms had been added in 1891. Fire had caused heavy damage in 1900. (11) In 1938 the county approved a new court house by a vote of 1102 to 802. In January 1940 the County Board—Morton Chick, George Laird, and Cletis Cummins—approved the proposal, and the next month a WPA allotment for \$71,020 was approved. The path to a new court house was

not smooth, bonds to finish it being voted down in June and again in November. At last in January 1942 in a special election the people gave a large majority in favor of completion. The new Court House was occupied in July.

In October 1944, three ferocious lynx were killed near New Columbia by fox-hunters. Governor Green visited Metropolis in December.

In October 1944, three officers and 64 men were ready to form a National Guard Company. The captain was John Schneider; First Lieutenant, William Brannon; Second Lieutenant, Ralph Tucker. By 1949 it had definitely been organized as Co. D of the 135th Combat Engineers Battalion, with the Armory in the Hinners Building.

On March 1, 1945, twenty-eight gold stars hung in the windows, the death of John Paul Adkins making the twenty-eighth. In December the old folks home on Fifth Street, Metropolis, burned with a loss of eight lives. The county declared it had a huge job ahead on repairs, both private and public. In February 1946, the county government authorized \$18,914 for the community improvement, and a Local Housing Authority was created.

The first county fair since 1892 was held July 1-5, 1946.

January 1947 found about 125 veterans engaged in on-the-job training under the GI Bill of Rights. Bounties were paid for five wolves killed on the Myrick farm. The second county fair drew 18,000.

On July 7 came the first reports of flying saucers being seen locally. Miss Alice Lee Pryor won the title of "Miss Metropolis" in October. The first war veteran to be returned for burial was Carl B. Lytton, of Brookport, in November. The same month George Herman, of near Samoth, died at the age of 107. Although he died in Chicago, he was for many years a familiar figure on the streets of Metropolis. At the age of 102 he had registered to vote in Georges Creek Precinct, and was farming five acres at age 103. He had talked with Lincoln.

In March 1948, Mrs. Roy R. Helm was chosen First Lady of the Year. City bus service was suspended in May but was resumed in October. Federal Court was in session for the first time in county history. Held in May, it involved an estate case. Shawnee Forest reported sales of \$18,327 for the past year, 25 per cent of which was returned to the county. Governor Green again visited Metropolis in September. In October the first annual Festival of Egypt opened in Metropolis. It moved in parade-form to Chester. The theme was George Rogers Clark.

In 1949 several more war dead were received. Clean-up week occurred in June. A public opinion poll showed that the people were against parking meters for Metropolis.

In March 1950 Metropolis and Joppa were seeking the Air Academy. Colorado Springs got it. Counterfeit \$10 bills flooded Metropolis in April.

Governor Stevenson visited in July. Paving of roads to Round Knob and Unionville was approved in September. Joseph Edd Amos was missing in Korea in November.

The Brookport War Memorial was unveiled on May 30, 1951. Mrs. Temmie Cohen was honored with the title "Mrs. Southern Illinois Business Woman of 1951". The sixth annual county fair drew more people than any of the others. Construction was begun on two Federal housing projects: the Ada Spence Apartments and the L. G. Strickland Apartments, the latter for colored. In October rents were rolled back to the January level.

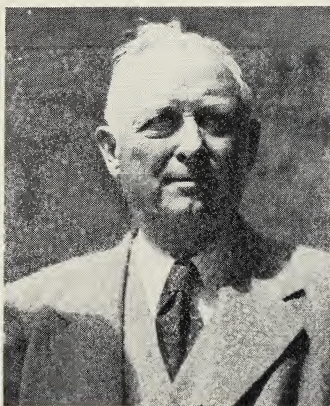
The impact of the AEC project began to be felt in the increasing number of law violations. Under Sheriff Leonard Devers a high tempo of law enforcement had been attained by May 1952 and has since continued so. Arrests doubled in 1952. The county was still bond-conscious, its people buying \$44,281 in June alone. In September it was estimated that Metropolis would spend \$451,100 during the new fiscal year. The City Council approved a \$750,000 bond issue for power plant improvements. The amount was later raised to \$850,000. The ferry operated briefly, then ceased. Construction began on a \$334,500 FHA housing project, north of the Baynes Addition.

Law violations still continued high in 1953. Dr. William J. Buchanan was appointed Civil Defense Director of Metropolis. Miss Betty Rae Korte was

elected State Hi-Tri vice-president, the first Metropolis girl ever to hold such a State office. A proposition to build a \$950,000 sewage disposal plant was defeated in Metropolis 710 to 10. For the first time in 30 years there were no divorce cases in the August term of Circuit Court. Dr. Charles H. Morris, pastor of the First Baptist Church, was on tour of the Holy Land in August. The Rotary Club named Howard H. Hays, of Riverside, California, as Metropolis' "Most Distinguished Citizen". He is a newspaper publisher, and president of Glacier Park Transport Company. (On January 15, 1954, Mr. Hays was in Metropolis to receive personally the honor). An eminent citizen and lawyer of Metropolis died in November, Roy R. Helm.



Mrs. George H. Moseley

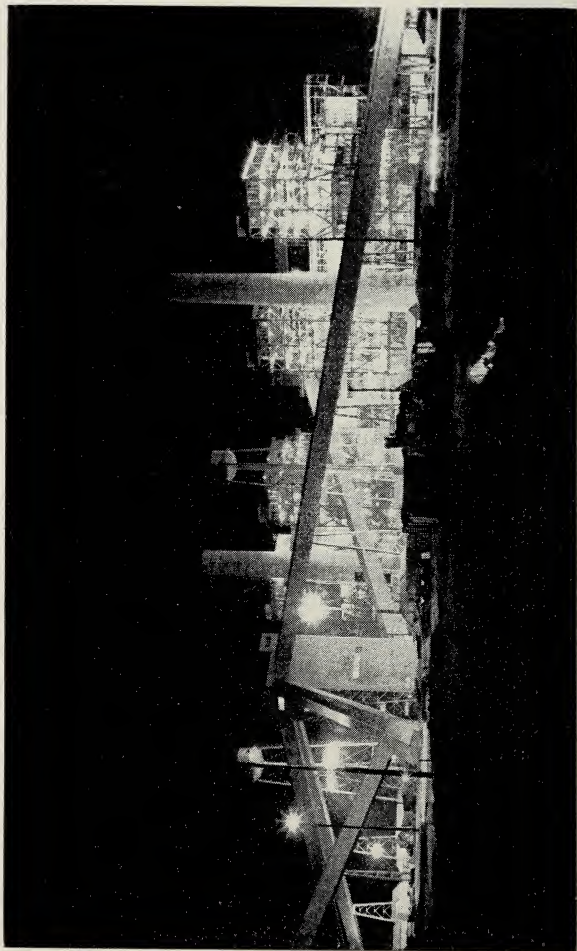


Howard H. Hays

Brief notes of 1954 events follow. Memorial Hospital plans forged ahead. Other construction in progress was expansion of two high schools, two new elementary schools, many new homes, the Methodist and Baptist Churches, a motel, and the "Cadet Square" houses. Mrs. George H. Moseley was named Illinois "Mother of the Year". Harry Nave, popular columnist, passed away. The Khoury Softball League was organized. **Betchel Briefs** magazine featured Joppa. The Egyptian Trails bridge permit was granted. Metropolis was featured in the General Telephone Company's **News** magazine. The Fort Massac Park Association was organized with Maurice Clark as president. Governor Stratton and other officials attended the county fair. The four Wehrmeyer brothers were at the head of four local clubs simultaneously. A box of Fort Massac artifacts was taken to New Salem for lack of proper storage here. On July 11 a jam occurred in the river channel near Joppa when 25 boats lodged. Some desired drought aid for the county but Governor Stratton did not include it in his request for aid. A 115 pound gar was caught near Joppa. Captain Frank Ragland, civil engineer and one-time native, paid a visit to Metropolis after an absence of 45 years. Nine 4-H Club youths represented the county at the State Fair. Sheriff Leonard Devers resigned to become district inspector. Joe Troutman succeeded him.

Mayor Beane proclaimed August 19-26 as

Booster Week. The five largest peach orchards harvested 53,000 bushels but prices were poor. More than 100 youths exhibited at the annual 4-H Club show on August 25. County school enrollment was 3272, one less than 1953. Peak college enrollment from the area was expected. The drouth was broken by a record rain September 20. Metropolis was still holding a lead in per business sales tax payments. Brookport dial phone conversion was slated for December. Perfect local TV signal reception from the new Cape Girardeau KFVS station was experienced. Rapid progress was being made on Memorial Hospital by the John Cassidy Construction Company in September. Massac County was added to the group of counties eligible to receive drouth disaster loans. A flood wall around the Metropolis power plant was authorized September 27, to cost \$33,600. District Rotarians convened at Metropolis, October 11-12. Approximately 1700 construction workers began the second year of work at the Joppa Steam Electric Plant without a work stoppage.



—Courtesy Bechtel Corporation

JOPPA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION

CHAPTER XXIV

THE ATOM IN OUR HOUSE—

THE FUTURE

It is a long way from Hiroshima and Bikini to Massac County. Few at the time fully comprehended the world-shaking significance of the A-bomb and H-bomb, or paused to predict we would soon be so intimately linked to such revolutionary developments. Like a bomb-shell the news fell into our midst on December 15, 1950. As **Time Magazine** said, "It hit Paducah like a double shot of fine Kentucky bourbon." On that date the Atomic Energy Commission announced that it would build a uranium gaseous diffusion plant across the river near Kevil, Kentucky, on 6100 acres of land.

The AEC project is especially important to Joppa and Metropolis. That statement deserves reiteration. The three plants are not only important to these two places but also to Southern Illinois, Western Kentucky, and the Nation as a whole, as a vital part of our defense program.

To supply the power the Shawnee steam electric station has also been erected, up the river from the AEC plant. In addition the Joppa steam electric station is supplying power. It is located on the west boundary of Joppa. The TVA supplies the power for Shawnee; Electric Energy, Inc., that for Joppa.

The \$700 million atomic plant is now in production, but of course all production statistics are top secrets. The total power requirements is 1,940,000 kilowatts. The Shawnee station cost \$216,500,000 and is now supplying three-fifths of the power which is needed. It has ten giant turbine generators. Construction at Joppa began under the Ebasco Company, February 1951, and was continued under Bechtel Corporation from August 1953. The cost is expected to reach \$90 million. It will supply the remaining needed power, or about 937,500 kilowatts. Four units are operating. The last two generator units will be completed by the fall of 1955. Electric Energy, Incorporated, is formed of five utility companies: Union Electric Company of Missouri, Central Illinois Public Service Company, Illinois Power Company, Kentucky Utilities Company, and Middle South Utilities Company. J. W. McAfee is its president. Turner White, Jr., is vice-president and general manager. A prime contractor is Bechtel Corporation, of which A. J. Orselli is vice-president and project manager. The Prudential and Metropolitan Insurance Companies financed \$195 million of the project.

Of equal importance are the facilities for handling the coal which will be needed—two to three millions of tons annually. The C & EI Railroad has already spent \$1,000,000. Across the river the Dravo Corporation has built extensive docks and a giant coal barge unloader. The prime motive of top management in all the companies involved in the AEC is to make the nation more secure.

Peak employment at Joppa was 3500 men; it is now about 1500; and it is expected eventually to level off at 250.

It hardly seems necessary, but at the risk of being trite it may be said that atom bombs are not being made nor will be made at the AEC plant.

It would require a scientist to explain in detail the process of producing Uranium-235. Only a few notes, taken from an AEC handbook, will be presented here. The purpose of the gaseous diffusion plant is to separate the uranium isotope 235 from a chemical compound of uranium. The process involves several thousand stages. The result is a separated and concentrated U-235, an essential ingredient of the atomic bomb.

The AEC project is a climactic event, placing one on the heights to see dimly a new horizon. Truly, the atomic age has dropped down in the very midst of quiet Massac County. At this new height of activity and prosperity is a fitting place to close this account of the history of Massac County. Someone has written: "Everyone seems to take for

granted that the next war, if and when it comes, will be an atomic, hydrogen, or cobalt war. The most destructive of bombs offers no absolute salvation, for others may beat us to the draw. Ultimately, moral force is the most invulnerable."

What of the history of the past 100 years? How shall one characterize it; how synthesize the great number of events and relationships with other parts of the State, the Nation, and the world? One may say that Massac has followed the path of Conservatism, which, in Pope's words, is "Be not the first by whom the new is tried, nor yet the last to lay the old aside."

What of the future? The author does not pretend to pose as a local Isaiah or Walter Winchell, but from a study of history and from a view of the present it should not be difficult for anyone to make some good general guesses. To know is impossible. Fifteen years ago the author, in several conversations with close friends, advocated and predicted road consolidation and school consolidation. Both are actualities. He also confidently hoped to see the lakes in eastern Massac County more accessible and used. He felt that agriculture, as the major source of income, should and must give way to more industrialization. Many other developments, he felt, were to be realized.

An augmented industry will increasingly supplement agriculture. It is absolutely necessary that more factories be established. The agricultural

supremacy is probably doomed. Irrigation may become common if the drouth cycle continues. No proper need for credit or finance will be ignored. There will be low labor turn-over. There will be more centralization of population. The people will be a home-loving, contented people. The Negro population will continue to decrease unless proper acknowledgment is made of their potentialities. Public utilities will continue to contribute to the prosperity and comfort of the people. River traffic will continue heavy. The new bridge and the continued development of recreational facilities will cause Metropolis and the county to grow in prosperity. It appears incongruous that a city the size of Metropolis, with a great river at its front door, cannot maintain a public swimming pool or beach. But it will eventually. Mrs. George H. Moseley as far back as 1938 voiced a need for a historical museum. The 1939 Centennial, with its wealth of relics displayed, showed there was ample material for a nucleus. It, and a county historical society, will come soon. Clyde Lindsey said in 1951 that he had built more than 100 homes in the 10 years past. "I have lived in Metropolis for 28 years," he said, "and I believe Metropolis has the greatest future of any city in Southern Illinois."

When old plants fold up, new jobs must be created, as Herrin has done. Numbers of industrial leaders have visited the area recently. They all con-

cur in believing that there is a great future for the area.

It is well to have the vision high, for "where there is no vision the people perish." Such will apply to the leaders of the community and to those yet young. Success or failure will depend upon how the citizens meet the challenge. The opportunities are here.

Finally, those of us to whom Massac County is home may look back proudly to its past—ahead, confidently to its future.

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