





HISTORY
OF
LABETTE COUNTY,
KANSAS,

FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT TO
THE CLOSE OF 1892.

BY NELSON CASE.

TOPEKA, KANSAS:
CRANE & COMPANY, PUBLISHERS.
1893.

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DEDICATION.

TO the Pioneers of the Sixties, whose heroic self-sacrifice conquered the difficulties and privations which beset them, and thereby made possible the comforts enjoyed by their successors in the Nineties, this imperfect record of their achievements is respectfully dedicated by the Author.





PREFACE.

ON May 15, 1891, the following report was made to the Labette County Historical Society, by a committee that had theretofore been appointed :

“*To the Labette County Historical Society:* We, your committee appointed to consider and report upon the advisability of preparing and publishing a history of our county, having had the same under consideration, report and recommend as follows :

“1st. We believe the time has come when, for the general good, the history of Labette county should be collected and put in shape for use and preservation.

“2d. That to secure such preparation, one person should be selected and appointed as historian, and everyone should be requested to contribute such facts and information as are within his or her knowledge which will help to make the history accurate and complete.

“3d. We recommend that Hon. Nelson Case be appointed county historian, and invited to undertake the work of writing a history of this county at as early a day as practicable, to be submitted to the county society for its approval.

“4th. For the successful carrying out of the proposed undertaking, everyone is invited to give such assistance as is within his or her power.

“All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. B. COOK,
ANGELL MATTHEWSON,
MILO HILDRETH,
Committee.”

This report was unanimously adopted by the Society.

In compliance with the request therein contained, I soon entered upon the task of gathering information, with the hope of having the work completed within a year. During most of the following winter, in which I had expected to do the main part of the work, family afflictions prevented my accomplishing anything to speak of. During the past spring and summer I devoted as much time to the work as my business would

allow, and by the first of October the work was practically completed. Since then I have done what I could to gather data that were hard to secure, to complete several of the subjects treated of.

To those who know me, and who are at all familiar with my business, I hardly need to say that my labor on this volume has been principally performed at such times as most people take either for sleep or rest. It goes to the printer as first written or dictated, and therefore, almost of necessity, will in many respects present an unfinished appearance. For the sake of a more accurate statement of facts, as well as for the purpose of presenting a work with more literary merits, I should have been glad, could I have taken the time, to have rewritten the entire volume; but as I have not the time to devote to that purpose, I send it forth in its original garb.

Herodotus, in the opening sentence of his immortal history, says that the object of its production was "to preserve from oblivion the memory of former incidents." I have tried to have a no less worthy object in writing the following pages.

It is perhaps but fair to mention some of the sources from which the facts herein recorded have been derived. I cannot say of this book what Virgil, as translated by Dryden, makes Æneas say in reference to the transactions which he was recording, that it is simply an account of

"All that I saw, and part of which I was,"

for very many of the most important events herein recorded took place before I ever set foot on Kansas soil. It was on May 15, 1869, that, having traveled afoot and alone from Osage Mission, I first saw the blooming prairies of Labette county, and about 2 o'clock in the afternoon for the first time walked into the comparatively new but beautiful town of Oswego. Since then I have been somewhat familiar with the current events of our history as they have transpired within our borders; and yet, knowing as I do the treachery of human memory, I would not dare to write a history depending alone on my recollection even of the events of which I have been personally cognizant. I have sought for facts wherever I could find them, but have recorded scarcely anything with-

out having procured the information from more than one source. I have tried to verify the facts given in every way within my power. I have visited all parts of the county, have talked with as many of the old settlers as I could, and have obtained their recollections of the events so far as they were able to give them; I have gone through the files of our county newspapers, and have procured much information from them; I have examined many of the official records and reproduced a part of them in these pages; I have consulted church and school records whenever I have had an opportunity; I have had access to several diaries kept by old settlers for a series of years. Out of all the material I have obtained in these and other ways, I have tried to eliminate the legendary and the fictitious, and to present only that which has actually occurred. It would have been comparatively easy to write a romance, but I have chosen the harder task of recording only history.

To intimate that I have come anywhere near satisfying myself, would not be in accordance with truth. To anyone who is disposed to severely criticise the work I may say if he will come to me I think I can point out to him more defects than he is likely to suggest without my aid. To those who think I have omitted to mention the most important events that have occurred in our history, I may be permitted to reply that if they had taken half the pains to communicate the facts within their knowledge that I have taken to try to secure them, many more events might have been given. I assure the reader that I do not send this forth with any idea that it is either perfect or complete. There will be plenty for some one else to do when he wants to engage in a similar undertaking. Besides the personal interviews and inquiries of which I have spoken, I have written more than five hundred personal letters, very few of which have been answered; have sent out several times as many circular letters asking for facts, and have done all I could to obtain the information from which I could present a truthful record of every important feature of our county history. In the attempt which I have thus made I can scarcely hope to have accomplished more than to lay the foundation of facts on which, in due time, some one with greater ability than I possess, and with more time at his disposal than I am able to command, shall con-

struct a history that shall fully and fairly present the settlement and development of one of the most enlightened and prosperous counties within the bounds of one of the finest and most progressive States in the American Union.

NELSON CASE.

OSWEGO, KANSAS, December 31, 1892.

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HISTORY OF LABETTE COUNTY.

EARLY HISTORY.

THE English claim to this continent, like that of all the European governments which made claim thereto, was based on discovery. In 1496 King Henry VII granted a commission to John Cabot to discover countries then unknown to Christian people, and to take possession of them in the name of the King of England. Under this commission Cabot and his son Sebastian the following year discovered the continent of North America, and setting up the English standard took possession of the same in the name of the King of England some fourteen months prior to the discovery of the main land of America by Columbus. In 1498, John Cabot having in the meantime died, Sebastian made another voyage and explored the coast as far south as Virginia. From these discoveries England dates her claim to this continent.

In 1606 James I granted a charter to Sir Thomas Gates and others, authorizing them to colonize the New World. Under this charter two companies were formed. One, called the London Company, was to send out the "First Colony of Virginia," who were to settle between the 34th and 38th degrees of north latitude, and whose possessions were to extend inland without bound; under this grant the first permanent English settlement in America was made, at Jamestown, in 1607. The other company under this charter, called the Western Company, was to send out the "Second Colony of Virginia," who were to settle between the 41st and 45th degrees of north latitude. This county is embraced within the first of these grants.

On May 23, 1609, the London Company was granted a new charter by King James, under letters patent running to Robert, Earl of Salisbury, and others, constituting them a body corporate under the style of "The Treasurer and Company of Adventurers and Planters of the City of London for the First Colony of Virginia." By this patent the company was granted "All the lands, countries and territories situate, lying and being in that part of North America called Virginia, from the point of land

called Cape or Point Comfort all along the seacoast to the northward two hundred miles; and from said Cape or Point Comfort all along the seacoast to the southward two hundred miles, and all that space and circuit of land lying from the seacoast of the precinct aforesaid up into the land throughout from the sea, west and northwest; and also all the islands lying within one hundred miles along the coast of both seas of the precinct aforesaid, with all the soil, grounds, rights, privileges and appurtenances to these territories belonging, and in the letters patent particularly enumerated."

In March, 1612, a third charter was granted this London company, but without changing the boundaries of its grant from what they were under its prior charter.

By the terms of the first charter of which I have spoken, the superior council of the company were appointed by the king; and under the king's advice and direction this company was to ordain and remove the resident council. The king retained the supreme legislative authority in himself. Emigrants were promised that they and their children should continue Englishmen. The state religion of England was established here, and capital punishment was prescribed for several offenses. Lands were to descend according to the laws of England.

By the second charter the powers reserved to the king in the first were given to the company. The council were to be elected by the shareholders, and they might endow emigrants with the rights of Englishmen. Colonists were given a few acres of ground, and the right of private property was firmly established. By the third charter, power was transferred from the council to the company, through which the colonists might be granted all the rights belonging to the people of England. Under this charter the first American representative legislature assembled at Jamestown on July 30, 1619. In 1624, in an action of *quo warranto*, this corporation was dissolved by judgment of the court of King's Bench, and its rights reverted to the crown of England.

By the treaty of Paris, signed on February 10, 1763, entered into between Great Britain, Spain and France, the latter released to the former all claim to the territory east of the Mississippi except New Orleans, while all the territory west of that river was ceded to France. From this time we ceased to be a dependency of the English and became attached to the French crown.

In 1762, by the secret treaty of Fontainbleau, France ceded upper Louisiana, embracing the territory we now occupy, to Spain, though the latter did not take possession of the same till 1770.

On October 1, 1800, by the treaty of St. Ildefonso, Spain retroceded

Louisiana to France. Those who lived here from 1770 to 1800 were therefore under Spanish rule, and all changes of title during that time must have been by Spanish laws.

On April 30, 1803, the treaty of Paris was concluded, by the provisions of which the French Republic sold the entire province of Louisiana to the United States, since which time we have been a part of her territory and subject to her laws.

LAWS PRIOR TO THE ORGANIZATION OF KANSAS TERRITORY.

On October 31, 1803, the law was approved authorizing the President to take possession of the French (Louisiana) purchase, and to provide for its government until a government should be provided by Congress.

On March 26, 1804, the President approved the act dividing the French purchase into two districts, viz.: the Territory of Orleans, to embrace all the purchase lying south of the 33d degree of latitude, for which a territorial government was provided; and all the purchase lying north of that line was designated the District of Louisiana, the government of which was placed under the governor and judges of the Indiana Territory, and these officers were authorized to exercise legislative as well as executive and judicial functions over the district.

In pursuance of the authority conferred by this act of Congress, the governor and judges of the Indiana Territory ordained and promulgated a body of laws, most of which went into operation October 1, 1804. Various crimes were defined and punishments therefor provided: courts were established; slavery was recognized throughout the territory, and minute regulations were prescribed for the conduct and government of negroes; provision was made for recording legal instruments, for licensing attorneys, for practice in court, and for marriage.

By act of Congress of March 3, 1805, the *District* of Louisiana was changed to the *Territory* of Louisiana, and a territorial government provided, consisting of a governor and three judges, who were also to exercise legislative functions.

By act of Congress approved June 4, 1812, and which went into operation on the first Monday of December, 1812, the name of the Territory was changed from Louisiana to Missouri, and a legislative assembly was added to the executive and judicial departments of government.

By a law of the General Assembly of the Territory of Missouri, approved January 19, 1816, the common law of England, so far as not inconsistent with the laws of the United States, was declared to be in force, but the doctrine of survivorship in case of joint tenancy, it was expressly declared, should never be in force.

On March 6, 1820, the famous compromise measure of Henry Clay became a law by the approval of the President, whereby that portion of the Territory of Missouri embraced within the bounds of the present State of Missouri was authorized to form a constitution and be admitted into the Union as a State, and from all the remainder of said Territory, lying north of 36 degrees 30 minutes, slavery and involuntary servitude were forever excluded. In pursuance of this authority a constitution was adopted and Missouri was fully admitted into the Union by proclamation of the President, dated August 10, 1821.

In 1850 the slavery agitation was reopened in Congress, and several acts passed as another compromise, among them the establishment of territorial governments for New Mexico and Utah, with provisions in each for their admission "into the Union, with or without slavery, as their constitutions may prescribe at the time of their admission"; and an act making more stringent provisions for the apprehension and return of fugitive slaves.

By "An act to regulate trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes, and to preserve peace on the frontiers," approved June 30, 1834, Congress declared all the territory west of Missouri and Arkansas "Indian Country," and attached, among others, the Osage country to the Territory of Arkansas, and declared the laws of the United States providing for the punishment of crimes committed in territory under the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States to be in force in such Indian Country. This arrangement continued to the formation of the territorial government.

TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT.

By "An act to organize the Territories of Nebraska and Kansas," approved May 30, 1854, Congress organized the territory now forming the State of Kansas into a Territory, and provided for it a government consisting of executive, legislative and judicial departments. By sec. 27, writs of error were to be allowed from the Supreme Court of the Territory to the Supreme Court of the United States "in all cases involving title to slaves," without regard to the amount in controversy; and provision was made for enforcing the Fugitive Slave act of 1850.

In July, 1855, the first Territorial Legislature met, and enacted what were popularly known as the Bogus Laws. These were almost a transcript of the laws of Missouri. Some recognition seems to have been given them by some subsequent amendments, and repeal of certain parts, but as a whole, so far as I know, they were never formally repealed; and yet no one, when the people got control of matters out of the hands of the border-ruffians, ever paid any attention to their provisions when they

conflicted with his convictions of right. Probably the most objectionable feature was the one relating to slavery.

By chapter 151 of this enactment, slavery was recognized as an existing institution, and severe penalties were enforced for any interference therewith. By this law it was made a felony to deny the right of property in slaves, or to print or circulate any book, pamphlet or paper denying such right.

The only other provision particularly affecting the people of this county was the creation of the county of Dorn, embracing what is now Neosho and Labette counties.

On January 29, 1861, Kansas was admitted into the Union under the Wyandotte Constitution. Under this constitution and the laws made by authority thereof most of us have lived since our residence in this county.

THE OSAGES.

Whether or not the Osages were the autochthones of this county I leave for the antiquarians to determine, but for the purposes of this work I shall not go back of their settlement here to inquire who, if anyone, preceded them to this country. The Government's intercourse with this tribe seems to have commenced in 1808, when on November 10, 1808, a treaty was concluded at Fort Clark, on the Missouri river, by the terms of which the United States received the tribe into its fellowship and under its protection, and the Osages ceded to the United States all their territory lying east of a line running south from Fort Clark to the Arkansas river. The next important treaty with this tribe was made June 2, 1825, at St. Louis. By the provisions of this treaty the Osages relinquished to the Government all their land lying south of the Kansas river and north and west of the Red river, east of a line drawn south from the sources of the Kansas through Rock Saline, excepting a strip fifty miles wide extending from a line twenty-five miles west of the Missouri State line to the west line of the ceded territory. The southern part of Allen, together with Neosho and Labette counties, formed the territory on the east line of this reservation, which extended west nearly across the State.

Soon after the conclusion of this treaty the Osages moved to Kansas, and began settling along the Neosho and Verdigris rivers: these settlements commenced as early as 1827. Prior to this their home had been farther east, and this had formed their hunting-ground. Here they were when our people commenced settling this county, in 1865.

SURVEY OF RESERVATION.

The northeast corner of this reservation was established by Major Angus Langham, in 1827, and the east and south lines as far west as

the Arkansas river were surveyed and established by him that year. It was not until 1836 that the north line was definitely surveyed and established, by John C. McCoy.

SCHOOLS.

About 1826 the Presbyterians established a school on the left bank of the Marais des Cygnes, near the present site of Pappinsville, Bates county, Missouri, called Harmony Mission. A year later they established another school, at Saline, in the Cherokee Nation. These schools did not prosper, and after they were broken up the Presbyterians erected a large house on the east bank of Four-Mile creek, in Neosho county, just above its junction with the Neosho. Father John Schoenmaker started the Catholic Mission in the spring of 1847.

CHIEFS.

Parties who have long been acquainted with the Osages tell me that to entitle a party to the position of civil chief, he had to have a mother of a chief-bearing family. The Beaver family, if not the only, was the principal one from whom the women came whose children were entitled to obtain the position of civil chief. There was not only a principal civil chief, but also the chiefs who led the bands in war; to this latter class Chetopa belonged. It is said he could not become a civil chief, not having a mother who produced a candidate for that position; but he was the principal war chief, and when on the war-path outranked the civil chief. He was a great friend of Dr. Lisle. It was for him that the town of Chetopa was named. White Hair, who was the principal chief on the arrival of the first white settlers, was a man of great force and authority. He was born in Neosho county, about 1834, and died of consumption, at his camp on the Verdigris, December 24, 1869. ✓

TOWNS.

The position of the chief's town, as that of the towns of the others, varied from time to time. Their improvements were not such as to make it impossible to change location when circumstances seemed to demand it. On a map of the Osage country, made in 1836 by John C. McCoy, who surveyed and ran the north line of the reservation, "White Hair Town" was located on the west side of the Neosho river, about one-fourth of the way from the north to the south boundary of the reservation. A copy of this map, which was furnished to the St. Louis office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, is now in our State Historical Society. Subsequently we find White Hair Town at a point farther down the river, but probably all the time it was somewhere in Neosho county. At the foot of the bluff north and east of Oswego, as well as at other points

within a few miles of Oswego, are still to be found unmistakable evidences of the sites of their towns, which must have been inhabited for very many years. Dr. W. S. Newlon has made something of a study of the subject of their villages, implements, etc.

BATTLE.

About 1837 there was a bloody encounter between a band of Cherokees under the command of Captain Rogers, who lived at the salt works on Grand river, and who was an uncle of Lewis Rogers of Chetopa, and the Little Town band of Osages, in a grove a few miles south of Oswego. About 100 of the Osages, embracing nearly all of the band, were killed. White Hair, who was then a small boy, and who afterward became the principal chief, was away from the band at the time, and was thus spared. The Osages were all drunk, and were butchered — men, women and children alike. This butchery was in revenge for an expedition that they had made down in the Cherokee country a short time before. Dr. Lisle has told me he got this information direct from White Hair himself, and also the same from a man by the name of Etter, who was with Captain Rogers on the Cherokee side.

It is said that in 1862 or 1863 a band of Missouri rebels on their way to the western plains or mountains, were surprised by a band of Osages in what is now Osage township in this county; the rebels were surrounded by the Indians, and all but two were killed. In regard to this matter I have no information except that which I get from the old settlers, who in turn claim to have gotten it from the Indians, or some one with them.

THE TWO BANDS.

Rev. Isaac McCoy in his history of Baptist Indian Missions, on page 358, says that the Osages lived on the Missouri in two settlements, and were known among Indians and those familiar with Indian affairs, as upper settlement, or people, and lower settlement, or people; and remarks that the whites, who were ignorant of their language, fancied that one was called "tall people" and the other "short people." He says that this was the origin of the designation Great and Little Osages. Those designated the "upper people," which the whites took to mean *tall people*, being the Great Osages, and those designated "lower people," supposed by the whites to mean *short people*, the Little Osages. He says: "In most of our treaties with the Osages they have been represented as composed of two distinct bands, called Great and Little Osages: no such distinction in reality exists, or ever did exist. The supposition originated in the ignorance and awkwardness of traders among them."

This account was given in 1828, and seems to furnish a plausible theory of the origin of this designation ; but we must remember that these terms were used in our first treaty with them, in 1808.

CHARACTER.

I have not sufficient acquaintance with Indian matters to be able to attempt anything like a description of the Osages, or to assign to them the character to which they are probably entitled, but the facts of their history as we gather them from the reports of their doings, lead me to suppose that they were not of that savage and barbarous disposition which some have attributed to them, and which characterizes so many of the Indian tribes. I should rather say of them that they were expert cattle and horse thieves, and that among them a person's life was less in danger than his jewelry and clothing.

BURYING-GROUNDS.

The mode of burial among the Osages was to place the corpse in a sitting posture on the ground, at most only in a slight excavation, and pile around it a heap of stones for its protection. When the early settlers came here many such graves were seen in which the skeleton was remaining intact, and in some instances the flesh scarcely yet having entirely disappeared. There were a number of these burial-places located in this county—one in Neosho township, on the county line, one or more where Oswego now is, and others farther west.

TREATIES.

The treaty with this tribe in which our people are especially interested was concluded at Canville trading-post, nearly on the site, but a short distance east of the present station of Shaw, between Erie and Chanute, on the 29th of September, 1865. M. W. Reynolds was clerk of the commission which negotiated this treaty. When it reached the Senate its ratification with certain amendments was made on June 26, 1866. These amendments were accepted by the Indians on September 21, 1866, and the treaty as thus amended was proclaimed by the President and became operative January 21, 1867.

By the first article of this treaty a strip thirty miles in width on the east end of their lands was sold to the United States. This was afterwards known as the Osage Ceded Lands, and is principally embraced in the counties of Neosho and Labette.

By the second article of the treaty the Osages ceded to the United States in trust a strip twenty miles in width off the north side of the remainder of their lands. This was known as the Osage Trust Lands.

The remaining portion of their lands was thereafter known as the Osage Diminished Reservation.

On May 27, 1868, another treaty was concluded with the Osages, on Drum creek, which was commonly known as the Sturgis treaty, because of the controlling spirit of William Sturgis in securing its negotiation. By the terms of this treaty the entire tract included in said Diminished reservation, estimated to contain 8,000,000 acres, was sold to the Leavenworth, Lawrence & Galveston R. R. Co., but supposed to be largely for the benefit of Mr. Sturgis, who had secured the treaty, at the agreed price of \$1,600,000, or about twenty cents an acre.

By the time this treaty reached the Senate the settlers were aroused, and at once a determined fight was made against its ratification. Great credit is due to Congressman Clarke for the active measures by him inaugurated in the House to bring to light the objectionable features of the treaty. Its ratification was never secured.

By an act approved July 15, 1870, the President was directed to remove the Osage Indians from the State of Kansas to the Indian Territory as soon as they would agree thereto.

About the middle of September following, a council with the Indians was held on Drum creek, and arrangements agreed on for their final removal from the State. This removal took place within the following few months, since which time their home has been in the Territory just south of the State line.

JOHN MATHEWS.

John Mathews was a native, some say of Virginia and others of Kentucky, and at a very early day—usually given at about 1840, but the exact date is not known—he came among the Osages as a trader, and became their blacksmith. His name does not appear among those on the Government roll of blacksmiths for the Osages in 1843, and if he had come among them at that time he had probably not secured Government employment. His name appears among the Government blacksmiths for the Senecas and Shawnees in 1839, so it seems certain that between that time and 1843 he came among the Osages. He settled near the edge of the bluff in the east part of Oswego, where he maintained a trading-post and erected several buildings. These buildings stood partly on what is now block 61, and extended north across Fourth avenue and on to block 60. They were used by him as a residence, a place where travelers were entertained, for his store and warehouse, and for the care of his stock. The remains of the ruins of some of these buildings may still be seen in the street about 125 feet east of the northeast corner of the Park, on

block 52. He got water from the spring at the intersection of Fourth avenue and Union street. Mathews was a very popular man among the Indians. He had for his wife a full-blooded Osage, and raised a large family of children. He had an extensive trade, and is said to have accumulated a large property, all of which was destroyed or captured at the time of his death. He had some fine stock, and kept a race-course just south of his residence. At the outbreak of the war he joined his interests with the Southern Confederacy, became a colonel in the Rebel army, and generally has the reputation of being engaged in the sacking of Humboldt, in August, 1861; but Dr. Lisle, who knew him well, says he was not with the force at the time of the occurrence of that event, and did not arrive there until after the raid of the place, and was in no wise responsible for it. After this the United States forces became very much exasperated at the conduct of the Rebels in the sacking of Humboldt, and determined to take speedy revenge. Mathews, being credited with having conducted the raid, was sought after, and those in pursuit determined upon his capture or death, and a party was organized to proceed south and take him.

Col. W. A. Johnson, of Garnett, and Dr. George Lisle, of Chetopa, have furnished me the information on which the following account is based.

One detachment came down the river from Humboldt, and another from Fort Lincoln in Bourbon county, the two detachments expecting to meet near the mouth of Lightning creek. This force was composed of some enlisted men and many civilians who had not been mustered into the service, numbering perhaps two or three hundred, only a part of whom arrived at the place where Mathews was found. They were all under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Blunt. Among the civilians who were in the company were Preston B. Plumb, of Emporia, and W. A. Johnson, of Garnett. They marched down on the east side of the Neosho river, crossed the river at Rocky Ford, and came up and surrounded the house owned by Wm. Blythe on the west side of the Neosho, and just above the State line, being in what is now Cherokee county. The house was then occupied by Lewis Rogers. It was now just daylight; Mathews had come from his home the day before, stopping at Dr. Lisle's in the evening to get something to eat, and then, on his way south, arrived at the home of Rogers after dark. The scouts had seen him go there, and the troops were reasonably certain that they had found the man for whom they were hunting. A demand was made that Mathews be delivered to them. The house was surrounded by corn and high weeds; Mathews came out of the back door, partially dressed, with a

double-barrel shotgun in his hand; he was at once riddled with bullets: no one knew whose shot did the work. This was in the latter part of September, 1861; corn was then just getting ripe enough for use. That day a part of the troops returned to the Chetopa settlement and arrested all the men whom they found living there at the time, and took them to Mathews's place, or Little Town, where that evening they were tried by court-martial. Among those arrested were James Bowles, George Ewers, Mr. White, Joel Combs, and Dr. George Lisle. It was ascertained that Combs was a government detective, and had been working up evidence to implicate some of the residents as sympathizers with the Rebel cause. Colonel Blunt presided at the trial, and Captain Brooks acted as clerk. After a full investigation, and all the testimony had been introduced, nothing was found implicating any of the parties arrested, and they were all discharged. They were allowed to remain under Government protection over night, and the next day they started for their homes under an escort to protect them outside of the limits, where they were likely to be molested by any of the troops. During the night one of the soldiers had exchanged an old broken-down horse for Dr. Lisle's animal, which was in much better condition, and it took a peremptory order from Colonel Blunt to induce him to deliver to the Doctor his horse when he was ready to start home. Before this party was out of sight the Mathews premises were set on fire and all destroyed.

Mathews had his burying-ground on the high land at the intersection of Union street and First avenue. A number of graves are still visible. Until within a few years there stood at the head of one of these graves a common sandstone with the following inscription cut thereon: "A. E. Mathes. Departed this life April 10, A. D. 1857. Aged 11 years, 7 months, 27 days." It will be noticed that in the name, as cut on this stone, there is no *w*. Several years ago the stone was broken down, and is now in the possession of the County Historical Society. Some of the writing is partially effaced.

The early white settlers continued to use this burying-ground for a year or two after the settlement commenced in 1865.

The following letter from the son of John Matthews is of interest, not only because of the information it contains, but also because coming from one of the first children born to a white parent on the present site of Oswego. I wrote to the uncle referred to in the letter, but could get no reply from him:

"PAWHUSKA, INDIAN TER., Sept. 30, 1891.

"*Nelson Cuse, Esq., Oswego, Kansas*—DEAR SIR: I will try and give you all the information I can in regard to the old place. It was called

Little Town as far back as I can recollect. I was born in the year 1848. The stream west of town was named by the Osages; they called it En-gru-seah-op-pa, which means some kind of animal; then the French called it La Bette, which means the same thing. I do not know how large the farm was, but from the best information I can gather there were one hundred acres on the place where the town now stands, and if my memory serves me right, there were thirty acres in the bottom.

“I do not know what white men settled near our place, but I can find out from my sister, who lives thirty miles west from here. From the best information I can find out, the place was settled by a man by the name of Augustos Chautau, in the year 1843, who sold it to my father, who started a trading-post there in the year 1849.

“I have an uncle by the name of Allen Matthews, who lives in Neosho, Jasper county, Missouri, who can give you more information than I can if you will write to him.

“Hoping this will help you in your work, I remain,

Yours,

W. S. MATTHEWS.”

EARLY EXPEDITIONS.

The early surveyors and Indian agents made a number of trips through this country, several of which we have official accounts of. In Mr. McCoy's history of Baptist Indian Missions, at page 355, he says: “On the 17th [of November, 1828] we reached the Osage Agency, gave notice of our arrival to the Osages, and desired them to meet us in council. On the 20th we pitched our tents near the village of the chief called White Hair.” And further along he says that on November 26, 1828, their exploring party camped on the Arkansas at the mouth of the Verdigris river. Their journey in all probability took them through or near the present sites of Oswego and Chetopa. After making some surveys in the Territory, the party returned, and on December 14th were again at White Hair's village. He again speaks of crossing the Neosho into the principal village of the Osages on June 30th, on his way to Fort Gibson to establish certain boundaries between Indian tribes.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

The date of settlement of the first white person in this county is unknown; whether it was John Mathews or some of the parties in the neighborhood of Chetopa, I cannot say. The letters which I present herewith contain the most authentic information I have been able to gather on the subject, and I give them here as I have received them.

“PACTOLUS, BENTON CO., ARK., Dec. 1, 1891.

“*Hon. Nelson Case, President Labette Co. Historical Society*—DEAR SIR: In response to your request for some facts relative to early history, I will contribute the following.

“I came to what is now Labette county on January 17, 1847, and established a trading-post at the point where Chetopa now stands. I came from Spring Place, Murray county, Georgia. The name of that place was spelled with an ‘h’ at the end—‘Chetopah,’ and meant four houses; ‘Che’ in the Osage Indian language is house, and ‘topah’ is four. Chetopah had a town, and lived on the Verdegree river, west or northwest of Chetopa town. He was only chief of his town. Each town had a chief and there was a principal chief over all.

“I found five white, or partially white, families there when I arrived. They were the widow Tianna Rogers and family, consisting of four sons and three daughters, all grown, living about one mile north of Chetopa; William Blythe, whose wife was a white woman; Finchel Mouroe, who had a white wife; Daniel Hopkins, a white man with a Cherokee wife; and a white man named Tucker, who had a Cherokee wife. These families lived near Chetopa, on the Neosho river, below where the town is at present. In 1848 I married Sarah Rogers, daughter of Tianna Rogers; we had born to us three sons and one daughter. Two of my sons, John and Albert, live in the Cherokee Nation, ten miles from Chetopa. The other two children are dead. Tianna Rogers and all the family are dead.

“John Mathews, a Kentuckian, who had married an Osage woman, lived and had a trading-post at the point where Oswego now stands. He had been there some years when I came; he had a farm of about forty acres in cultivation on the prairie. He had a good house standing on top of the bluff in the edge of the prairie; there was a spring near it, just north and east of the house. His house was a framed house, with two stone chimneys, the framing timbers hewn out; it was boarded up on the outside with boards split or rived out of burr-oak trees, then shaved and smoothed, and the house sided up and painted white. It looked quite nice compared with our log houses. His house was plastered on the inside, done in workmanlike style. All of the rest of the people lived in log cabins. I do not know how long he came before I did—probably several years. He was a heavy trader, and wealthy. He had one negro woman with him who was a slave, till he was killed. He had fine blooded race stock, with race-tracks south and west of his house, and between his house and his cultivated land: he had fast horses. He

would take trips to Missouri, Kentucky, Texas, and other States, racing, and was very successful. Mathews had a good many horses and cattle.

“Cattle lived without being fed, and did better in the winter than in summer, for in the summer the mosquitoes and green-headed flies nearly ate them up. In the fall the pea-vine, and in the winter a winter grass and flag that grew around the lakes, made a good range for stock. Where you now have good farms we then had large lakes on which immense numbers of geese, ducks, pelican, swan, brant, and other fowl flourished. We never fed hogs, but the hickory and other nuts furnished food that kept them fat. There were plenty of wild turkey, fish, antelope, deer, and other game; also honey-bees, wolves, panthers and other wild animals to hunt for traffic, and wild horses could also be caught on the prairie.

“There was a good deal of sickness, principally fever and ague, and no doctor within twenty-two miles: everyone had to be his own doctor. The winter of 1848-9, and also that of 1849-50, were unusually cold and severe. In the latter the snow was thirty inches deep, crusted on top, and stayed on the ground about six weeks. These two winters stock suffered a good deal, but other winters were not so bad, although I am of the opinion they were colder than they are since the country has settled up.

“The settlers lived by hunting and trading with the Osages, and other tribes of wild Indians that roamed over the country. The Cherokees claimed and extended their laws to the mouth of the Labette creek, until the south line of Kansas was established. The Osages lived in towns, usually along the streams, with one chief to a town. One town, called Little Town, was situated where Oswego now stands. Pah-Che-Ka, one of the chiefs of the Osages, lived at Little Town. White Hair was the principal chief of the Osages, and lived on the Neosho river six miles south of Osage Mission, and down the river: this was the largest town in the Osage Nation at that time.

“The Labette creek took its name from a Frenchman of that name who then lived on the creek nearly west of where Oswego now stands. He had a full-blood Osage for a wife. It is said he once lived opposite the mouth of Labette creek; if he did it was before Dr. Lisle or myself saw that country; when I knew him he lived on the Labette, southwest of Oswego. He was a very common old Frenchman.

“There are many things of note that happened in an early day, and in the first settling of that country, that I could tell, that I cannot write.

Yours,

LARKIN MCGHEE.”

“CHETOPA, KANSAS, August 1, 1892.

“*Hon. Nelson Case, President of the Historical Society*—DEAR JUDGE: In compliance with your request for a statement in reference to matters connected with my first visit to Labette county, and settlement therein, I herewith comply.

“About 1850 I met a man by the name of Wilfred Cox, on a steamboat on the Ohio river, on his return from the West to his old home in Pennsylvania. He was a school teacher, and had taught in various places, and finally reached Council Grove, in this State; thence he came down to Osage Mission with stockmen, and from there in one way and another got down to the Ambrose McGhee place, near where Chetopa now stands. This was sometime probably in 1847 or '48. He built him a canoe in which he floated down the river to Van Buren; after teaching school there and at other points in Arkansas he started back home, and it was on this return trip that I saw him.

“He gave me a full account of the Neosho river and its scenery, describing the valley from north of the Labette to the McGhee place; he said it was the finest valley he had ever seen. I made notes of what he said, took a full description of the country, and made a sketch of a map. On this information I decided to make a trip as soon as possible to this country. On March 20, 1857, in company with Abraham Ewers, George Ewers and Samuel Steel, I started from my home in Powhattan, Belmont county, Ohio, for the Neosho valley, at the point last spoken of by Cox. I came on a steamboat to St. Louis, and from there to Osage City, Missouri, by rail; at that point we bought two yoke of oxen and drove through. We came by the Quapaw agency, where Major Dorn, the Indian agent, was located, with whom I had a conversation, and arranged to meet him a short time thereafter at Osage Mission to act as his clerk in the payment to the Indians of the funds coming to them from the Government.

“We crossed the Neosho river at Rocky Ford on the State line on the evening of April 17, 1857; there we camped near the residence of James Childers, who was a white man, and who had married one of the Rogers girls; he lived on the west side of the river, in what is now a part of Cherokee county. The next day he came with us to the present site of Chetopa, where I decided to locate, and where we encamped. After arranging with those who came with me to proceed to getting out logs with which to build, I started for Osage Mission to meet Major Dorn. It was now near the last of April; I clerked for the Major during the disbursement to the Indians of their funds. During this time I attended a meeting of the council of the Osage chiefs, held at that place, at which

they discussed the propriety of paying a bill of about \$39 to a young man by the name of Peyett, who had acted as interpreter to Dr. Griffith, of Carthage, who had a year before that time been sent by the Government to vaccinate the Osages. Several of the chiefs made speeches opposing the payment, saying, 'That if the Government intended to do them a kindness it ought to pay the interpreter as well as the doctor'; when they came to the close, White Hair requested Chetopa to speak for him, and he depicted in very strong language the horrors of the small-pox, and what benefit they had received from the young man, who had well earned his money, and that being a just debt they should pay it, and suggested that it be paid by the chiefs; the ranking chief, White Hair, to pay \$10, and the other chiefs a less sum.

"After finishing my duties as clerk at this point I returned to my company at Chetopa, where I spent the summer with them in getting out and hewing the logs for one house and having enough cut for another. Sometime in July I started back to Ohio for my family, and returned with them, arriving at Chetopa about the 20th of November of that year.

"I was met at Jefferson City, to which point the railroad was completed, by the boys from Chetopa with a team, who brought us back to Chetopa in that way. While I was gone the boys had raised a house, which was a double log house with twelve feet space between the two parts; it stood on the northwest quarter of block 24, near where my residence now stands. The next season we put up a shop and office, which was made of shaved boards and covered with the same material; the boards of the roof being two feet long, while those covering the sides were four feet; I split and shaved them myself, out of pecan, in the winter of 1857-58. This building was 16 by 40 feet, one part of which was used for my office and drugs, and the other for a gun shop and blacksmith shop. It stood on the south side of what is now block 24, just west of the alley, about where my present office and shop stand. I also built a smoke-house and stable; inclosed about twenty-five acres with high rail fence, the rails being of walnut, and the fence was about ten rails high: the lot extended to about what is now Third and Sixth streets, and from about Maple on the south to Elm or Oak street on the north. I lived upon these premises until November 19, 1863, when I was driven from them by the United States troops, and just as I was leaving saw them all in flames. I lost my library and other valuables in addition to the buildings that I have described. My wife, Phœbe, died on the last day of 1860, and my daughter Penina had married J. E. Bryan, and was then living at Council Grove.

"I took my daughter Martha, and two sons, Albert and John, and

started for Council Grove on the day last named, November 19, 1863. The following persons also accompanied us on that occasion part of the way: Elizabeth and Christian McMurtry, two children of John McMurtry, who had recently died in the army; Larkin McGhee and family; Jane Jackson, whose husband was then in the army; and Mrs. Walker, whose husband had been driven into the Rebel army. In addition to my own property which was destroyed at this time, the following persons also had all of their property burned: Sarah Rogers had a large hewed-log house and a large stable on what is now Mr. Crichton's place north of town; George Walker, a Cherokee, had a house, stable, crib, etc., west of the river, just south of where Mr. Edwards's mill now stands; John McMurtry had a house near where the west end of the bridge across the Neosho now is, which was set on fire but would not burn, and was afterward torn down. Larkin McGhee had a house and stable and some grain just south of the branch south of Chetopa, on land now owned by Dr. Halderman. There were perhaps 300 soldiers composed of Indians and whites under the command of Captain Willits, Adjutant Ahle, and Lieutenant Joslyn, who did this burning, and who stated that they acted under instructions from their commanding officers. At this same time they arrested James Childers and demanded of him his money: they had been informed that he had \$6,000 buried. At first he denied having any, but after they had put a rope around his neck and stretched him up for awhile, and after letting him down, he acknowledged having \$2,000, and told them where it was; they found this and wanted more: he said that was every cent he had. He was stretched up and let down two or three times, and was finally killed, his throat cut, and left unburied, and was eaten by the hogs. I asked to be allowed to go back and bury him, but was refused permission. I got this statement in reference to his being killed from his son. This entirely broke up the Chetopa settlement. I stayed at Council Grove until September, 1865, when I went back to Chetopa, and in November of that year moved my family back. I lived with George Walker that winter, and built on my farm across the river, and have ever since had my home in or near Chetopa.

"Soon after coming to the county I traveled up the Neosho, and came upon a clearing on the east side of the river nearly opposite the mouth of the Labette, where I was informed a Frenchman by the name of Pierre Labette had lived for a number of years, but who some time previous had moved west. It was from him that the creek was named.

"On the occasion of the United States troops coming down the river for the capture of Mathews, after he had been killed below Chetopa a detachment of the troops came to the Chetopa settlement and arrested all

of us, and took us to the Mathews premises at Little Town, now Oswego, where we were held in custody over night, during which time we were tried by court-martial for assisting or encouraging parties to go into the Rebel army. Colonel Blunt presided at the trial, and after a full hearing all of us were discharged, but were kept, however, until the next day. While I was on my way back to Chetopa I could see the flames from the Mathews buildings, which had been fired by the troops before they took their departure. The evening before Mathews was killed he took supper at my house on his way down from his place to the Nation. When I returned from the Mathews place after our release as aforesaid, I started to bury him, but found that he had been already buried.

“In the fall of 1859 I got up a petition for a postoffice at my place, and had forty-one signers between Little Town (now Oswego) and Timber Hill, in the Nation. I was instructed by the Department at Washington to have all the signers the heads of families, either male or female. I had all but two; they were away at the time, and did not get back until the petition had gone to Washington. Counting five to a family it would make 215; then counting thirty single men who had no families, I think there were about 250 when the war broke out, living on or near the river between the points named. I was granted the postoffice—and it was to be called Chetopa, Dorn county, Kansas—sometime in the summer of 1860, but as there was no mail route near here which could carry the mail we had to wait until 1861 for a new route to be established, which was done, and the contract for carrying the mail from Grand Falls by Quawpaw Mission, Baxter Springs and Cherokee on Cherry creek, Osage Mission, thence by Chetopa to Grand Falls, was advertised to be let in June, which was not done on account of the war breaking out that summer, and the mail arrangements in the southwest abandoned.

Respectfully,

GEORGE LISLE.”

SURVEYS.

In 1827 or 1828 the east boundary of the Osage reservation was surveyed by Major A. L. Langham, and the northeast corner established. In the summer of 1857 Col. J. E. Johnston, with about five hundred U. S. soldiers forming an escort to the surveying party, surveyed and established the south line of the State. This force was stationed for some time on Russell creek. There were with the expedition two astronomers, two geologists, two botanists, and a number of engineers and surveyors. There were twenty wagons with which to haul provisions. After completing the survey to the southwest corner of the State they

came back, having their wagons loaded with salt which they had procured on the salt plains in the western part of the State. It was on this expedition that Col. Johnston established the ford at Chetopa across the Neosho.

In 1871 the south line of Kansas was retraced in compliance with the 21st article of the treaty with the Cherokee Indians, made July 19, 1866. This work was done under the supervision of Rev. D. P. Mitchell as chief engineer. In the fall of 1884, commencing in August, a party of Government employés came to Oswego and established their headquarters, making astronomical observations and a geological survey of the country.

The survey of the Osage Ceded lands into sections was completed in the spring of 1867.

LABETTE.

A number of articles have been written, and some of them by persons whose names would carry with them authority, on the origin of the name of the county. This name was first applied to the stream running through our county, and subsequently to the county itself when it was organized. Two or three letters will be found in this work which incidentally refer to this matter. W. S. Mathews, son of the old Indian trader, says the Osage name for the stream meant "some kind of animal: then the French called it *La Bette*, which means the same thing." This more fully agrees with the origin of the name as commonly given, but is not to my mind as reasonable as that given by Larkin McGhee and Dr. Lisle, both of whom say that the name was given to the stream on account of the first white settler at or near its mouth—*Pierre Labetté*. This man lived at one time on the east of the Neosho opposite the mouth of the Labette, and subsequently farther up the stream, and afterward went farther west. I think it reasonable to say that it was for him the stream was named: but whatever the origin of the name, it was given to the stream at a very early date. I have seen in a book originally belonging to the St. Louis office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and now in our State Historical Society, a map of the Osage survey made and signed by Isaac McCoy, dated Westport, Missouri, September 13, 1836, on which the stream is quite correctly located, and the name thereon written "*Le Bete creek*." At the first Republican convention, held at Jacksonville in September, 1866, where it was agreed that Neosho county should be divided, it was on motion of G. W. Kingsbury agreed that the south part of the county, when it should be organized, should be called "*La Bete*." J. S. Waters, who was present and took an active part in the work of the convention, says: "That day was the first time I know of the word *La Bete* having been written, and it was that day written as I have written it above.

There was some dispute as to whether there should be two or one *t.* When the county was organized it was given this name as then agreed upon."

BOUNDARY.

The following acts of the Legislature have in some way fixed or affected the boundaries of our county :

By section 10 of chapter 30 of the laws of 1855, all the territory lying south of Allen county was constituted the county of Dorn. Its east line was 24 miles west of the Missouri line, and its width was 24 miles, (which was supposed to take it to the west line of range 18.)

By "An act to more particularly define the boundaries of the several counties in Kansas Territory," approved February 22, 1857, the county of Dorn is made to commence at the corner of sections 14, 15, 22, 23, town 28, range 21; thence south to the Territory line, and west to same sections in range 17.

By chapter 31 of the laws of 1860, the east line of Neosho county is declared to be the line between ranges 21 and 22, and the western line the line between ranges 17 and 18; but as yet no bill had been passed creating Neosho county.

By chapter 18 of the laws of 1861, approved June 3, 1861, the name of the county was changed from Dorn to Neosho.

By chapter 29, laws of 1867, approved February 7, 1867, Labette county was created, and made to embrace from the 6th standard parallel on the north to the south line of the State, and from Cherokee Neutral Lands on the east to the east boundary of the Osage reserve on the west. Subsequently the Legislature made provision for a vote being taken as to whether the line between Cherokee and Labette counties should be as above fixed, or whether a part of the way the river should form the boundary. This legislation gave rise to a protracted dispute as to what really was the boundary between the two counties, but finally all parties interested acquiesced in considering the west line of the Cherokee Neutral Lands as the line between the two counties.

By chapter 38 of the laws of 1870, the east line of Montgomery county was made to run south between sections 2 and 3, thus taking a strip from Labette county and placing it in Montgomery.

PERMANENT SETTLEMENT,

ORGANIZATION, AND GROWTH.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY.

At the general election in November, 1866, although we were legally a part of Neosho county, by mutual understanding between the people of what is now Neosho county and those residing in what is now Labette county, the latter took no part in the election of the county officers for Neosho county, but went through the form of holding an election for county officers for Labette county, with the understanding on their part that an act of the Legislature would be secured legalizing the election and organizing the county with the officers thus elected, recognized by the Legislature as the legal county officers; or in the event such an act could not be secured, then that the officers thus elected would be appointed to the positions to which they were thus respectively elected. It seems to have been agreed that each locality might vote at this election and make their returns, although the place at which the votes were cast had not been established as an election precinct. Votes were received at Montana, Oswego, Chetopa, and possibly at Neola. I have found no one among the old settlers who remembers who it was that composed the board of canvassers at this election, but probably it was made up of parties from two or three of the different localities, mutually agreed on by all; I judge from all I can learn that the canvass took place, and the result was declared, at Oswego. A full ticket was run by both the Democratic and Republican parties. The Republican ticket was elected by a large majority; the officers elected at that time were as follows: Representative in the Legislature, Chas. H. Bent; County Commissioners, S. W. Collins, C. H. Talbot, and Bergen Van Ness; County Clerk, A. T. Dickerman; Sheriff, Benjamin A. Rice; Clerk District Court, Elza Craft; Register of Deeds, George Bent; County Assessor, Jabez Zink; Probate Judge, David C. Lowe; County Treasurer, C. C. Clover; County Attorney, J. S. Waters; Superintendent of Public Instruction, J. F. Newlon; Coroner, G. W. Kingsbury. No one that I have found questions the correctness of the above list, except as to County

Attorney and Probate Judge. According to the remembrance of some of the old settlers there was no one elected County Attorney, as at the time there was no one in the county who had been admitted to the bar; probably no one ran for County Attorney at this election. And in respect to Probate Judge, the remembrance of some is that David Stanfield, instead of David C. Lowe, was the party elected. Of course the election had no validity, and all understood that it only amounted to an expression of public opinion as to persons whom the people would like to have for their first officers.

On the certificate of election furnished him, Mr. Bent went to the Legislature in January, 1867, and was admitted to his seat soon after the organization of the House. Little or no opposition was made to the bill introduced by him organizing Labette county, and on February 7, 1867, it was approved by the Governor and became a law. On March 7, 1867, N. P. Elsbree, Bergen Van Ness and Nelson F. Carr each made affidavit before C. H. Talbot, justice of the peace, to the fact of the county having a population of more than 600 inhabitants. Mr. Bent took these affidavits, together with a statement of the fact of the fall election, to Governor Crawford on March 10th. and secured from him on that day a proclamation designating Oswego as the temporary county seat, and the appointment by him of S. W. Collins, C. H. Talbot and Bergen Van Ness as County Commissioners, and A. T. Dickerman as County Clerk; these being the parties who had been respectively elected to those positions in November preceding. Mr. Bent at once came home, bringing with him the proclamation and the commission of the parties thus appointed.

We have no record of any of the official acts of the officers thus appointed: whatever record was kept of their doings has been either entirely lost or is so misplaced that it cannot be found. I have been unable to find a single word of official record pretending to give the transactions of any officers prior to June 5, 1867. The nearest I can come to making the statement of the organization of our county authentic is by giving the following letter from the then County Clerk:

“OSWEGO, KANSAS, August 5, 1892.

“*Judge Nelson Case*—DEAR SIR: In reference to the organization of the county, and the record of the same of which you ask, I will give a brief account. When Mr. Bent came back from Topeka in March, 1867, he brought with him the commissions of the officers who had been appointed to organize the county. Very soon thereafter Mr. Van Ness came down to Oswego and saw Mr. Talbot, and the two talked over what they

thought should be done. It was agreed that Mr. Talbot should see Mr. Collins, the other commissioner, and have an election called. The three commissioners did not meet together, and in fact Mr. Van Ness never really qualified. The other two commissioners agreed on fixing voting precincts and calling an election. The four river townships were set off as they now are: the south one was then called Chetopa. The next two tiers of congressional townships were divided into three municipal townships, and named North, Labette, and Hackberry. The balance of the county to the west was divided into two parts, and named Timber Hill and Pumpkin Creek. No election was held that spring in either of these two west precincts. The election was called for sometime in April; I do not remember the exact date. I posted the notices of this election. The commissioners then met and canvassed the vote and directed me to issue certificates of election to the parties who were declared to be elected.

"I kept a record of the proceedings on foolscap paper, which I turned over to old father Clover, who acted as my deputy after the county was organized. The commissioners first held their meetings in a hewed-log house standing on block 24, belonging to C. H. Talbot.

"Respectfully,

A. T. DICKERMAN."

Persons who search for information respecting the organization of our county, as I have done, will find a number of printed articles, some in newspapers and some in books, and among the latter the standard histories of our State, stating that the organization took place in May, 1867, the date they usually fix being the third Tuesday in May, and I have been unable to find anything giving a prior date. Notwithstanding this, I fix on April 22, 1867, as the time when our first county election was held, and in support of the time thus selected I offer the following: In the first place, to anyone who has had any experience in Kansas politics it will not be worth while to argue that a set of men who had been appointed to offices on the 10th of March would wait a whole month or more before qualifying and entering upon the discharge of their duties, unless they were prevented from so doing by some uncontrollable force or necessity. I have never heard that these Commissioners were in any way prevented from the exercise of their official duties, and from this fact I conclude that it was not many days after Mr. Bent's return from Topeka until they had qualified and taken some steps to make their official acts known. But there are references in the official records subsequently made which confirm this theory. In the record of the Commissioners' proceedings on July 1, 1867, is the following:

"It is hereby ordered that the election for county-seat expenses be post-

poned until the question of county seat is decided. It is ordered that the election held the 22d day of April for county and township officers, the last amounting to \$80.40."

It will be seen that the clerk who made this record has not finished the sentence; but from the statement the inevitable inference is that an election had been held on the 22d of April. And again on November 19, 1867, the following appears in the Commissioners' record:

"Ordered, that Austin Dickerman be allowed the sum of thirteen dollars and 25 cts. for service as County Clerk in posting notices of the April election, 1867."

These are the only official references that I have found of the transactions of any of the county officers, in any way fixing the time when our first county election was held. However, the records show that as early as the middle of May, John N. Watson was exercising the functions of justice of the peace in Richland township; I find no one who claims that he was appointed, nor do I find anything in the office of the Secretary of State indicating that he was; he was evidently elected at the first election, which must have been held previous to the last-mentioned date. From all these considerations, I conclude the election took place on April 22d; thus giving ample time for the meeting of the Commissioners after the return of Mr. Bent from Topeka, and thirty days' notice of the time and place of the election. Our record being lost, presuming one to have been kept, we have no official declaration of the result of this election, but we find certain persons exercising official functions, and from reference to them in official records subsequently made, we can arrive at a very nearly, if not an absolutely, correct conclusion as to who were elected; and the officers at that time elected were the following: County Commissioners, Nathan Ames, Wm. Shay, and David C. Lowe; County Clerk, A. T. Dickerman; County Assessor, Francis Wall; Clerk District Court, R. S. Cornish; Register of Deeds, Elza Craft; Treasurer, C. C. Clover; Sheriff, Benjamin A. Rice; Superintendent Public Instruction, John F. Newlon; Surveyor, Z. Harris; Coroner, George W. Kingsbury. I find nothing indicating that anyone was elected County Attorney, and am somewhat in doubt as to who was elected Probate Judge, for the reason the record is silent on that subject; and among the old settlers I find no one who seems to be positive as to who was elected, and some of them have in their memory, somewhat indistinctly, however, different persons. I will here give what I find in the record in reference to the vacancy in the corps of officers: Two of the Commissioners elected, viz., D. C. Lowe and Nathan Ames, met at Oswego on June 5th; this seems to have been

the first meeting, and on this date we have our first official record, and from it it appears that Wm. Shay failed to qualify as Commissioner, whereupon the office was declared vacant, and John G. Rice was appointed to fill the vacancy; thereupon, D. C. Lowe was elected chairman of the board. The next order made declared the office of Assessor vacant, because of the removal from the county of the party elected, leaving him unnamed, however, and A. W. Jones was then appointed Assessor to fill the vacancy. The next order is as follows:

“It is hereby ordered, that the office of Probate Judge be declared vacant on his not coming forward and qualifying and giving bond according to law. It is therefore ordered, that Bergen Van Ness be appointed Probate Judge until the next general election in November, or his successor is qualified.”

Some of the old settlers think that Van Ness was the party elected, but I think the force of this record is strongly against them. It seems that Mr. Van Ness did not at once qualify upon being appointed as aforesaid, for in the record of the Commissioners' proceedings of July 3d is the following:

“Ordered, that Bergen Van Ness be appointed Probate Judge of Labette county, Kansas, to fill a vacancy of the Probate Judge owing to his not coming forward and filing his bond in the time required by law.”

This language indicates that the person now appointed is the one who had failed to qualify, but evidently this refers to his failure to qualify under his previous appointment, and not his election. I have nothing more definite as to who was elected Probate Judge in April.

At the first meeting of the board the County Clerk was directed to order blank books and stationery from Luce & Griggs, Davenport, Iowa, “to be sent as per agreement,” and I find that the first orders on the county treasury were drawn in their favor, dated September 3, 1867, for the supplies thus ordered; order No. 1 was for \$199; orders Nos. 2 and 3 for \$24 each. At the same time that this order was made to this Davenport firm the clerk was directed to make an order for other books and blanks for the Assessor, Treasurer, and Commissioner, which order seems to have been sent to Samuel Dodsworth, of Leavenworth. The following appears in the record of the Commissioners for January 14, 1868:

“It is hereby ordered, that the County Clerk make out the proper statement of the proceedings of this for the general meeting commencing the first Monday in January, 1868, according to law, and forward the same for publication to the Humboldt *Union*.”

This is the first order I find designating any official paper or in any way providing for the official publication of the proceedings of the county officers. It was not long after this order was made until the *Neosho Valley Eagle* was established, and I find that the publisher of that paper was allowed bills for printing. The first paper to be started in the county was the *Oswego Register*, which appeared in June of this year, and must have at once been given at least a part of the county printing, for, on July 8th, E. R. Trask, the publisher, is allowed an account of \$4 for county printing.

LAND TITLES.

The Osage Ceded Lands were first brought into market by virtue of the joint resolution of April 10, 1869. Owing to the ruling of the Secretary of the Interior on the claims made by the railroad companies, only a part of the lands was disposed of under this law. After the Supreme Court of the United States declared the railroad companies' claims void, Congress passed another act, which was approved August 11, 1876, under which the remainder of the Osage Ceded Lands was purchased. The Cherokee strip, on the south side of the county, was sold to the settlers under act of Congress approved May 11, 1872.

HARDSHIPS.

The experience of those who first came to this county is probably not very dissimilar to that which has attended early settlers in nearly every county. Some of them had sufficient means to make themselves as comfortable as they well could be, with the distance they were from market, though many of them were in very plain circumstances, and under very much more favorable conditions would have found it hard to make their families comfortable. As it was, there was necessarily a great amount of suffering. Provisions had to be hauled from so great a distance that the price continued very high all the time for several years. Flour was frequently \$15 a hundred, corn \$3 a bushel, meal \$6 a hundred, bacon 25 cents a pound, and other things in the line of living in proportion. Teams which were used for hauling provisions were poorly fed and consequently generally poor, and in going to Missouri for a load of provisions but a small load could be hauled. Frequently the streams were up so that for days they could not be crossed, which would necessitate the consumption of a large part of what had been procured before they reached their homes. Sometimes boats loaded with vegetables would be shipped down the Neosho from points up the stream where they were raised. In the fall of 1866 there was much sickness among the settlers, so much that

there were scarcely enough well ones to wait on the sick. All of these things and many more contributed to make the lot of the early settler a hard one. In 1867 a sufficient amount of crops was raised to make quite a help in providing the new country with the necessaries of life, but it was not until 1868 that anything like a sufficient amount was raised to supply the demands, and even then very much had to be shipped in.

FIRST ADMINISTRATION.

In September, 1866, A. W. Richardson died, and in December following, his son John Richardson was appointed administrator of his estate by the Probate Court of Neosho county. In February, 1867, he held a public sale of the effects of the estate. Francis Wall was auctioneer. The property was sold on time, and brought a good price, and every dollar of the purchase-price was collected by the administrator. This was the first estate administered upon within the present limits of the county.

MARRIAGES.

In this as in very many other matters, there are several who claim the honor of being first; but the first marriage of which I have any information is that of J. E. Bryan and Penina Lisle, the ceremony of which was performed at Chetopa, September 4, 1860, by Rev. Mr. Rader. Of course there is no record of this, there being at the time no civil organization in the county, and no license procured. There were several parties married at quite an early date after the commencement of the settlement of the county, in 1865. It is possible that some marriage ceremony may have been performed prior to that of which I shall now speak; but I am quite sure that this is the first marriage in the county, of which there is any official record. The marriage record in the Probate Court in Neosho county has the following:

“*State of Kansas,* }
County of Neosho. } CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

“This is to certify, that Mr. Wm. Wilcox and Miss Sarah Jane Marlow were married by me on the 5th day of August, 1866.

GEORGE BENNETT, J. P.

Recorded October 2, 1866.—J. L. FLETCHER, *Clerk.*”

COUNTY SEAT, AND COUNTY-SEAT CONTESTS.

The subject of county seat in this county commences with the following proclamation by the Governor:

"STATE OF KANSAS, EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
TOPEKA, March 10, 1867.

"Whereas, in due form of law it has been made to appear that the county of Labette, State of Kansas, contains the required number of inhabitants to entitle the people of said county to a county organization :

"Now, therefore, I, Samuel J. Crawford, Governor of Kansas, by virtue of authority in me vested by law, and having commissioned special county officers, do hereby locate the county seat of Labette county, State of Kansas, at the town of Oswego in said county.

"In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my hand, and caused to be affixed the official seal of State.

"Done at Topeka, this 10th day of March, A. D. 1867.

"[Seal.] S. J. CRAWFORD."

At the first county election, held on April 22, 1867, in addition to the choice of county officers the electors voted upon the location of the county seat, with the following result : Oswego received 156 votes, Montana 140 votes, and Neola 84 votes. On October 4, 1867, the commissioners "Ordered that an election on the permanent location of the county seat of Labette county, Kansas, be held on the 5th day of November, A. D. 1867." The canvass of this vote shows that Oswego received 158 votes, Neola 144 votes, and Montana 95 votes. On November 21, 1867, on a petition, containing 251 names, for a county-seat election, it was ordered that such election be held on the 30th day of December, 1867. The vote was canvassed January 2, 1868, with the following result : Oswego, 204 votes ; Neola, 122 votes, Montana, 109 votes ; and the Geographical Center, 6 votes. The poll-books for Hackberry township and Iuka precinct in Neosho township were thrown out at this election, for incompleteness of return. Another election was held, on January 7, 1868, which was canvassed on January 10, 1868, and the result declared to be as follows : Oswego, 211 votes ; Neola, 122 votes ; whereupon it was declared that "Oswego having received a majority of all the votes cast at said election for county seat, it is hereby declared to be the county seat of Labette, in the State of Kansas."

The next county-seat move seems to have been on April 12, 1869, when J. S. Waters presented a petition for a county-seat election, the consideration of which was had on the 13th, and again on the 14th of the same month, on which last day it was rejected.

On January 5, 1871, D. G. Brown presented a petition, purporting to be signed by 1,494 citizens, asking for an election on the permanent location of the county seat of Labette county. David Kelso appeared before

the board and asked that it defer action on the petition for ten days or two weeks, to give time for an examination of said petition and to make a showing that it was not such a one as was required by law in order that an election may be ordered. The board gave two hours for making such showing; whereupon several affidavits were filed, but after all objections the board made its order that an election be held on February 15, 1871, for permanent location of the county seat.

On February 18, 1871, the vote was canvassed, and the result declared to be as follows: Whole number of votes cast, 3,715; of which Chetopa received 877, Oswego 1,011, Labette 1,588, Geographical Center 237, Center 1, Montana 1. The poll-books from Parsons precinct were not received, for the reason that no such voting precinct had then been established. The votes thus rejected were 51 for Oswego, 3 for Labette, and 2 for Geographical Center.

It was then ordered that a second election be held, on February 28th, to determine as between Oswego and Labette which should be the county seat. In the meantime the friends of Chetopa commenced suit against the Commissioners and obtained an injunction restraining them from canvassing the returns cast at the election on February 28th. On March 4th the Commissioners met and heard extended arguments in favor of and against their proceeding with a canvass of the votes. As a record of a deliberative body the report of the action of the board at this time, as found in its journal, is somewhat amusing. They finally determined "that they had no right under the injunction to canvass the vote, and that they would not canvass or proclaim any result, but would repair to the County Clerk's office and there examine the packages purporting to contain returns, and filed in said office, and ascertain if said packages so filed contained poll-books in fact of the election held on February 28th, 1871, for the location of the county seat."

About the time the Commissioners had completed the inspection of the packages and ascertained the result of the votes, the deputy sheriff came into the room with an order for their arrest on contempt of court. On hearing had before the District Judge they were discharged as not having intended any contempt by the unofficial canvass, and ascertaining the result of the vote cast on the 28th of February. Although not officially announced, the result of that vote as shown by the returns, and as given out and published at the time, was found to be as follows: Total vote 2,509, Labette 1,308, Oswego 1,201.

At the election held February 15th, the vote of Liberty township, which included the town of Labette, was 952, all but three of which were cast for Labette, while at the election held but thirteen days later the

vote of this township had dwindled down to 372. At the first election the vote of Oswego township and city was 672, and at the second election it was 687. At the first election Iuka precinct cast 305 votes, all for Labette; while at the second election she was content with a poll of 58 votes, all of which were for Labette.

During this 1871 contest over the county seat, parties attempted to make capital for themselves, or for some other cause, on the strength of their promises as to what would be done for or against certain localities in the county-seat vote. D. C. Hutchinson and W. M. Rogers, claiming to represent the settlers' association, went to Chetopa and got \$500 donated to the settlers' organization, with the promise, as was generally understood, that the settlers would in turn give Chetopa their support for the county seat; and soon thereafter the North township council tendered a vote of thanks to Chetopa for her generous contribution. It is not improbable that like attempts were made to secure funds from other points on similar promises.

During this canvass also other attempts were made to influence the voting, which, if intended in good faith, were perhaps less objectionable. To induce the location of the county seat at Labette, the town company offered to pay the expenses of the election, and set aside a block of ground to be donated to the county on which to erect county buildings. In January, 1868, a somewhat similar proposition had been made by Oswego, she proposing to pay expenses of election and to furnish court-house building free for two years if she were chosen county seat. A public meeting was held at Mound Valley, at which it was voted to offer to pay \$5,000 into the county treasury, provided the county seat were located at that point and remained there for five years, and in addition to donate a block of ground 400 feet square and the use of a town hall until the county could do better; and further offered to donate grounds for an agricultural fair.

It would be hard to give even a faint idea of the bitterness of feeling engendered, and of the amount of corruption practiced at this time. Persons who were considered good and honest citizens seemed to have no scruples in encouraging and assisting illegal and fraudulent voting, in tampering with ballot-boxes, and fixing up returns to suit the emergency, so as to give the place for which they were working a majority.

On July 9, 1874, a petition containing 2,193 names was presented to the Board of County Commissioners, asking that an order be made for an election for the purpose of voting on the relocation of the county seat. A large number of business men and attorneys from Parsons appeared and argued in favor of granting the petition, and a like representation from

Oswego appeared and argued against the petition. The matter was under consideration a large part of the time from the 9th to the 17th of July, during which time nearly every phase of the law relative to county-seat elections was discussed, and many important questions were passed upon by the board. Among these may be mentioned: Who are competent petitioners; from what rolls the number of electors in the county are to be determined; the right of a party who has signed a petition to withdraw his name therefrom; the right to add names after the petition has been presented. The board finally determined that the number of electors in the county as shown by the tax-rolls was 3,564. From the 2,193 names on the petition, 174 were stricken off for various reasons; some because appearing there twice, some because put there by other parties without authority, some because they were not legal electors, and some because they requested their names to be stricken therefrom. After these names were stricken from the petition there were left thereon 2,019. There not being three-fifths of the total number of electors, the board on July 17th unanimously voted not to order an election.

On January 14, 1880, the Commissioners invited Chetopa, Oswego and Parsons cities and Mount Pleasant and Mound Valley townships to submit propositions as to what they would do toward furnishing a building, of a kind designated in the order, for court-house and offices, and in case of removal of county seat, a jail, and the payment of the costs of removal; such propositions to be submitted to the electors of the county at a special election to be called for that purpose.

On January 15, 1880, A. M. Fellows presented to the board a petition said to contain about 2,700 names, asking an election to be called for relocating the county seat. Consideration of this was had on the following day, and being found insufficient, was denied, and leave given to withdraw the same. On January 27, 1880, Angell Matthewson presented a petition for an election to relocate the county seat, and attorneys for petitioners objected to anyone being heard to argue against granting the petition, on the ground that it was an *ex parte* matter in which no one but the petitioners were known to the board. The objection was overruled, and the board decided to hear parties for and against the petition. After consideration of the petition from day to day up to February 7, 1880, the board on that day found that the petition contained 2,495 names, only 1,168 of which were the names of legal electors, and that as the number of names on the assessment-rolls was 3,374, it would require a petition containing the names of 2,024 electors to entitle them to an order for a county-seat election. It was thereupon ordered that the prayer of the petitioners be denied.

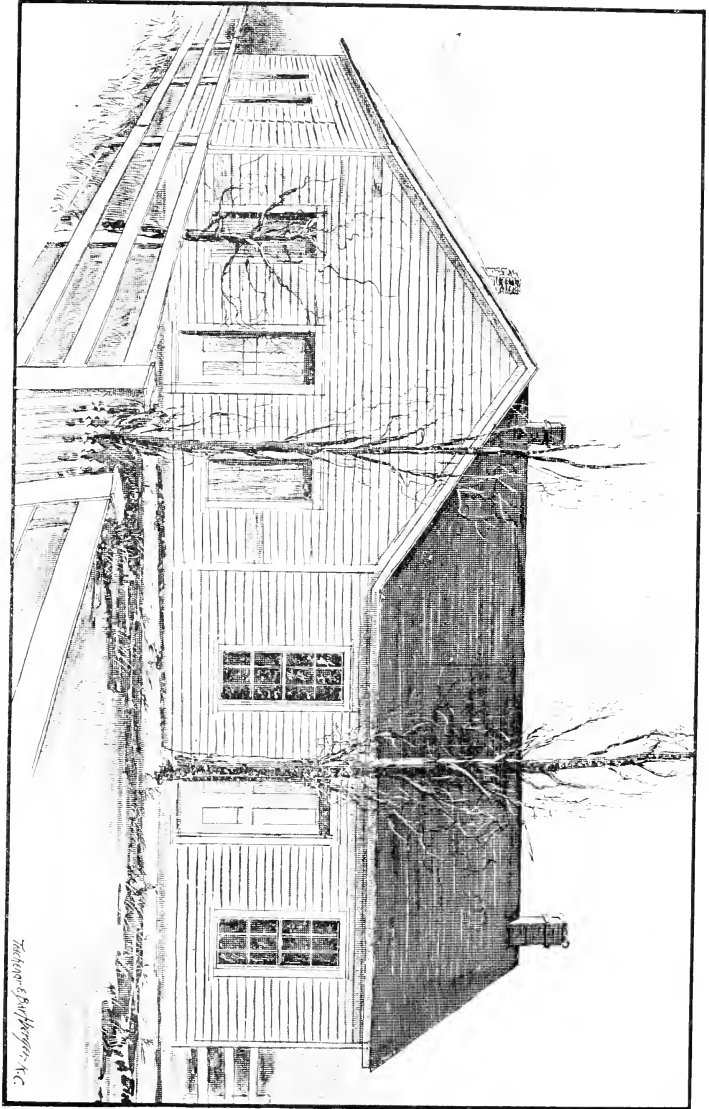
This controversy over the application for an election in 1880 was somewhat mixed up with the matter of building a new court-house. In both matters the representatives of Parsons attempted to institute legal proceedings in the name of the State. An injunction was applied for to restrain the building of the court-house, and a mandamus was asked to compel the commissioners to count parties as petitioners for an election although their names did not appear on the assessment-rolls. Application was made to the Attorney General to allow the suits to be conducted in the name of the State. The request was granted on condition of certain preliminary steps being first taken. This course was not taken, and the cases in the name of the State were dismissed. A mandamus proceeding by W. G. Adkins, one of the petitioners, was instituted to compel the board to count him, and others similarly situated, as legal petitioners, but the Supreme Court held that he was not authorized to maintain the suit.

The last public effort that was made to obtain a county-seat election was in 1889. During a large part of that summer petitions were in circulation in nearly every neighborhood in the county, asking that an election be called. One of the peculiar features of this effort was the form of petition which was adopted. It was really a contract whereby each party who signed it agreed with every other one who signed it, not to ask to have his name stricken off. This petition, however, has never yet been presented to the board.

COUNTY BUILDINGS.

During the first two years the county officers held their offices in such temporary quarters as could be secured, and the court was first held in the second story of the Buntain building, then standing on the southwest corner of block 25, and now standing on the northwest corner of block 11; and thereafter it was held in the second story of the Fleming building, on lot 17 in block 31, now occupied by O. E. Woods as a lumberyard office.

In the summer and fall of 1868 the citizens of Oswego by private contribution erected a one-story frame building 24 by 36 feet, 12 feet high, on lot 20 in block 39, in which to hold church, school and public lectures. This building was ready for occupancy in the fall of 1868, and in it was taught the public school that winter. The Oswego Town Company, having repaid the money to those who had contributed for the erection of this building, took it off their hands, and on February 15, 1869, in consideration of \$1 to them paid by the County Commissioners, conveyed said lots with said building thereon to the County Commissioners for the benefit of Labette county, and on the same day the



FIRST COURT-HOUSE: ERECTED 1868.

ADDITION TO COURT-HOUSE: ERECTED 1870.

THE FENCE AND TREES WHICH APPEAR HERE WERE NOT AROUND THIS BUILDING WHEN IT WAS ERECTED.

town company entered into a contract with the County Commissioners for the erection of a stone building 12 feet square and 12 feet high, and to cost not less than \$1,000, and to donate the same to the county for a jail; the County Commissioners agreeing to accept and use the same for that purpose. Thereupon the town company employed J. H. Sawin to erect such a building, and it was built on the west end of lot 1, block 18, and was ready for occupancy in July of that year. The building above described, donated to the county by the town company, was at first used only for a court-house, the county offices still remaining scattered over town in temporary quarters rented for that purpose. The first term of court held in this building was in October, 1869.

On January 8, 1870, the Commissioners, having taken the opinion of the County Attorney, and being advised by him that they were fully authorized so to do, decided to put up an addition to the court-house, to be used for offices by the county officers. They thereupon entered into a contract with Rev. Joseph A. Cox for the erection of such an addition, to be about 24 by 30 feet, for the sum of \$900; and they appointed Elisha Hammer agent of the county to superintend the erection of such an addition, and upon its completion to accept it and deliver to the contractor the county orders in payment for the same. On the completion of this addition it was divided into four offices, in which most of the county officers were able to find quarters. Soon thereafter, however, the Clerk of the District Court and Sheriff removed their offices to the main room used for court-house.

The building referred to, erected for a county jail, for the number of prisoners who frequently had to be placed therein, was found to be unfit for the purpose, and occasionally before the new jail was built prisoners had to be taken to some neighboring county, usually Bourbon, for safe-keeping. No other building was provided by the county until 1879. In April, 1879, the Commissioners contracted with Samuel Fellows for the erection of a large stone building in the rear of the court-house, for which they agreed to pay him \$698.56. The building was completed in May, and in it the Commissioners placed three iron cells, for which they paid \$750 and freight. While this building was quite an improvement on the first, it was still insufficient both in size and construction for a county jail. Over and over again did the Judge of the District Court and the grand jury, as well as the public press, declare this building to be a totally unfit place in which to confine prisoners. Four and sometimes six prisoners would be confined in one of these small cells. Dampness and lack of ventilation, and, almost of necessity, with such a number as it contained, a large degree of filthiness, characterized this building, and

made its maintenance a blot on our good name. However, it was not until 1890 that better accommodations were provided. In 1890 the city of Oswego proposed to the county to erect on the court-house premises a substantial two-story brick building, the use of which the county was to have free so long as she desired to occupy it as a county jail, and during the summer such building was erected. In 1891 the old cells and three additional new iron ones, for which the county paid \$1,800, were placed in this building.

On July 10, 1880, the Commissioners conveyed the first stone building used as a jail to the city of Oswego for use as a calaboose.

On December 4, 1879, H. C. Hall and C. O. Perkins offered to rent from the county the court-house site for ninety-nine years, and to erect thereon a brick or stone building of sufficient size and accommodation for county purposes, which they would lease to the county for a term of years at a reasonable rent. Whereupon the board accepted their proposition, and agreed if they would erect the building described, which was substantially the one subsequently constructed, they would rent it for ten years, and pay therefor as rental \$900 for the first year and \$600 per annum thereafter. On January 14, 1880, the board rescinded its action taken on December 4, 1879, and revoked the contract; but on January 17th, on the executing of a bond by certain citizens, which was approved by the board, conditioned that they would pay the rent on the proposed building to be erected by Messrs. Hall and Perkins, the board ratified and confirmed its order made on December 4, 1879; whereupon the proposed building was erected, and on May 23, 1880, being fully completed, was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. In 1883 the County Commissioners caused brick vaults to be constructed for the offices of the Register of Deeds and the Clerk of the District Court.

The shade trees which add so much to the appearance of the property were set out in 1881.

FURNISHING COUNTY OFFICES.

The record of the proceedings of the Commissioners at their first meeting, on June 5, 1867, contains this order:

“It is further ordered, that the county officers shall hold their offices at home until a place is provided by said Board of Commissioners.”

However, temporary offices were soon thereafter provided in Oswego for most of the officers. On January 14, 1868, I find among the proceedings of the Board the following order:

“County Clerk is hereby ordered to give notice to the various county officers of this county when and where county offices have been provided, when the same shall have been so provided.”

On November 12, 1870, is the following order :

“County offices having been provided with furniture, ordered, that county officers keep office in court-house from November 20, 1870.”

The first order which I find referring to the furniture for county offices is on January 14, 1868, when the Commissioners adopted the following :

“Whereas, the county offices of this county are destitute of furniture ; and whereas, such furniture is absolutely necessary for the transaction of business in said offices, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the County Clerk be and is hereby authorized to procure for said offices the following articles of furniture : Twelve office chairs, two tables 3 by 6 feet, one coal stove of large size, one book case ; said furniture to be purchased or procured on the most advantageous terms to the county, and paid for out of the county treasury with any money not otherwise appropriated.”

On July 7, 1868, the Commissioners allowed bill to Hanford & Pierson in the sum of \$19 for one half-dozen office chairs. This seems to have been the first bill of furniture bought by the county. On the same day the Commissioners made the following order :

“It appearing to the board that it is necessary, in order to preserve the books, records and papers belonging to the county, that they should be placed in a safe, and there being no safe in possession of the county authorities, therefore, be it ordered by the board, that the County Clerk enter into contract with R. W. Wright or some other person for the use of a safe for one year upon the following terms : The county will pay five per centum on the cost of the safe, and the county to have the use of one-half of the safe, with the privilege of going to the safe at pleasure. The safe to stand in R. W. Wright's business house, if rented of him : if rented of any other person it is to be placed in county rooms or some building convenient thereto.”

On January 8, 1869, it is “Ordered by the board, that the County Clerk and Treasurer be and are hereby authorized to purchase a safe from G. R. Tileston, of Chetopa, if in their opinion it will answer the purposes of the county, at a price not to exceed \$245” ; and on April 12th following the bill of R. G. Tileston in the sum of \$245 for a safe was allowed, and the further bill of H. C. Bridgman in the sum of \$16 for services in going to Chetopa and purchasing the safe was also allowed. On July 29, 1870, the Commissioners made a contract with Beard & Bro., of St. Louis, for two safes, one with burglar-proof box for County Treasurer and one large fire-proof safe for County Clerk, for which they agreed to pay \$1,000.

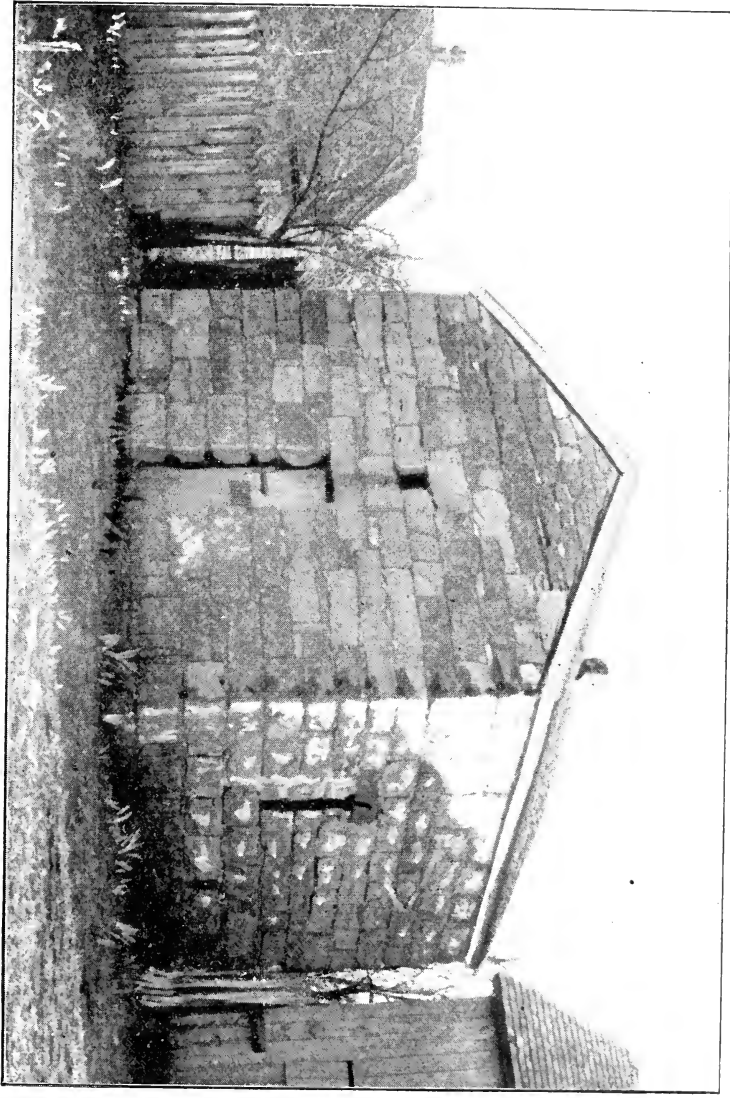
These items are given for the purpose of showing how gradually the Commissioners furnished offices and provided safeguards for the county property. Small bills of office furniture were procured from time to time as the necessities of the case seemed to require, but at no time has there been any lavish expenditure of money in furniture or other accommodations for the county offices.

SELF-ORGANIZED COURTS.

Prior to the summer of 1866 there was really no civil protection for the settlers residing in what is now Labette county, it being then a part of Neosho county. They had in theory civil officers, but they were so far away, and the organization of Neosho county was at the time so crude and imperfect, that little reliance could be placed by the settlers in this part of the county receiving any aid from the officers up there.

In June, George Bennett, of Montana, was appointed justice of the peace, and in September, C. H. Talbott, of Oswego, was likewise appointed. But even after their appointment the arm of the law could hardly be said to have sufficient strength to vigorously deal with law-breakers. This lack of civil law, almost of necessity, forced the settlers into an organization of their own for the purpose of protecting their rights and rendering redress to those who complained of having suffered grievances. Several of these organizations were formed early in 1866, and in them a sort of judicial air was maintained and the forms of law partially observed, to the end that the real party at fault might be discovered, and only those who were guilty should suffer. One of these organizations, known as the Soldiers' Club, was organized at Oswego in the spring of 1866; W. C. Watkins was president, D. M. Clover vice-president, and Maj. Victor secretary. It met in Clover's cabin by the river. Another of these organizations was formed by the settlers on Hackberry and Labette creeks; another one existed at Oswego, and still another on the Neosho, in the northern portion of the county. Each of these had more or less business in the way of settling disturbances among the settlers, and on one or two occasions resort was had to measures which to some would seem severe.

Francis Wall, of Fairview township, had a yoke of oxen stolen. Investigation revealed the fact that James Moss, a settler on Hackberry, had been peddling meat about the time that Mr. Wall's oxen were missing. The local court became satisfied that Mr. Moss and some of his neighbors were the parties guilty of stealing Mr. Wall's oxen, and concluded that the best thing to do was to have them leave the county and then to appropriate and sell their claims and apply the proceeds toward



FIRST COUNTY JAIL : ERECTED 1869.

reimbursing Mr. Wall for his oxen, and the balance to be used for contingent court expenses. A committee visited the parties at their homes and informed them of the judgment of the court, to which they took several exceptions; but the order was imperative, and by the help of some of the members of the court the goods of these parties were placed in their wagons and they were told that the best thing for them to do was not to be seen there any more. It was not long after this until a deputy sheriff from Neosho county came down for the arrest of some dozen members of the court who were engaged in this act of depopulation. The parties were taken in charge by the deputy sheriff and his posse, but before they had reached the line that now divides Neosho and Labette counties, the Neosho county party were induced to believe that it would be as well for them not to further insist on taking their prisoners with them. A proper return was made out on the warrant relieving the officers from responsibility, and the parties returned to their homes.

A large part of the business of these courts was in settling disputes between settlers in reference to their claims. Very few men were found who would insist upon a course of conduct which had been condemned by one of these courts, and usually their judgments were as well obeyed as are those of the courts that have since been established by law.

THE DISTRICT COURT.

Labette county was a part of the territory constituting the Seventh Judicial District of the State of Kansas until the 1870 session of the Legislature, at which time the Eleventh Judicial District was created, since which time Labette county has been comprised in that district. The Judges of the court have been William Spriggs, of Garnett; John R. Goodin, of Humboldt; William C. Webb, of Fort Scott; Henry G. Webb, of Oswego; Bishop W. Perkins, of Oswego; George Chandler, of Independence; John N. Ritter, of Columbus; and Jerry D. McCue, of Independence.

On June 5th, 1867, the Board of County Commissioners "Ordered that the District Court will organize in Labette county, Kansas, at as early a day as practicable; W. Spriggs, Judge, will be notified by the County Clerk to fix the day and month." And thereafter, on August 19, 1867, the Board made the following request:

"To the Hon. Mr. Spriggs, Judge of the Seventh Judicial District: We, the undersigned, Commissioners of Labette county, do hereby request that you order a grand jury for the October term of the District Court for Labette county, State of Kansas."

The first term of the court held in the county convened on Monday, October 7th, 1867, and continued until the 11th, when it finally adjourned. In compliance with the request of the County Commissioners, a grand jury had been ordered and drawn, and the first thing done upon the opening of court was to call the list of the grand jury. The following persons responded: H. W. Latham, D. B. Shultz, James F. Molesworth, David Stanfield, Joseph McCormick, J. S. Lee, Dempsey Elliott, W. C. Watkins, and W. D. Birum. Upon the direction of the court, the Sheriff filled in the panel with the following: Z. Harris, J. M. Dodson, Wm. H. Reed, E. W. King, Enos Reed, and J. Huntley. These fifteen were duly sworn and charged. Joseph McCormick was appointed foreman, and Charles E. Simons, deputy sheriff, was assigned to them as their bailiff.

The next action taken by the court was the appointment of W. J. Parkinson as County Attorney. The following attorneys seem to have been admitted to practice in other courts, and to have been recognized as attorneys at this, viz.: J. D. McCue, W. P. Bishop, W. J. Parkinson, and W. A. Johnson. Committees were appointed to examine applicants, and after what was supposed to have been an examination, and the applicants having satisfactorily shown their qualifications therefor, the following were duly admitted to practice: N. L. Hibbard, J. S. Waters, Charles H. Bent, J. F. Newton, W. C. Watkins, and C. C. Clover.

As far as appears from the records, no case, either criminal or civil, was tried at this term of the court. Some preliminary matters in the shape of demurrers, motions to make record more complete, etc., were presented to and decided by the court. A jury was impaneled in one case, but plaintiff finding it necessary to amend petition, the case was continued without trial.

The first indictment found by the grand jury was against Samuel Gregory, who was charged with assault and battery with intent to kill Willoughby Doudna, with a whip-stock; and by another indictment he was charged with attempting to kill James M. Dodson with a revolver. From the fact that at a subsequent term of the court Mr. Gregory, with consent of the County Attorney, pleaded guilty to an assault and battery alone, and was released from the charge with intent to kill, upon which plea he was fined but \$10 by the court, it may fairly be inferred that the offense was not considered very aggravated.

The first motion that seems to have been made in court was by J. D. McCue, to require the justice to send up a complete transcript in case No. 1, James P. May *vs.* John Staginaff, which was an appeal from Justice Logan's court.

This was the only term of court in this county presided over by Judge

Spriggs. Before the convening of the next term, in April, 1868, the Hon. John R. Goodin had succeeded Judge Spriggs on the bench.

HOME FOR THE POOR.

Prior to 1873 the poor of the county had been cared for by the trustees of the respective townships, and the bills contracted in their support paid by the county. This item of expense became a heavy burden, and a general desire for a better system was expressed. The County Commissioners submitted to the electors of the county, at the spring election held April 1, 1873, a proposition to vote ten thousand dollars to purchase and improve a poor-farm. The proposition carried by a large majority. The bonds were sold to Hobart & Longwell, at eighty-five cents on the dollar. The Commissioners bought the northwest quarter of S. 33, T. 33, R. 21, and paid therefor four thousand dollars. They immediately made arrangements for the erection of a house thereon, and by October of that year the house now standing on said farm was ready for occupancy.

On May 7, 1873, it having been determined to open the asylum for the poor in temporary quarters until the county house could be erected on the farm just purchased, T. B. Julian and his wife Emily C. Julian were employed as superintendent and matron of the house, at a salary of forty dollars a month for the former and twenty dollars a month for the latter; they to provide a building ready-furnished, and receive and care for all the poor who would be sent them; the county to furnish provisions. Under this arrangement the asylum was opened about the 10th of May, 1873, in the two-story building then and now standing on lot 8, in block 39, in Oswego, on the north side of the block on which the court-house stands. Here it was kept until the county house was finished, in October of that year, when the home was permanently established there.

LIST OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF POOR-FARM.

T. B. Julian, from May 8, 1873, to September 8, 1874; H. G. Newton, to October 3, 1876; W. H. Carico, to October 10, 1878; Robert A. Hogue, to March 1, 1880; James H. Haggerty, to February 15, 1884; John McCaw, to November 6, 1884; J. H. Haggerty, to March 1, 1885; J. A. Warbington, to March 1, 1889; William Dudgeon, to March 1, 1891; L. H. Summers, to March 1, 1892; William Dudgeon.

BRIDGES.

NEOSHO TOWNSHIP.

Before any other township had moved to bridge its streams, or any action had been taken by the county looking to that end, Neosho township, early in 1868, took steps to bridge several of the streams leading

into the Neosho. A tax of one-and-one-fourth per cent., to pay for such bridges, was levied that year. The dissatisfaction which resulted from this action was because of the belief that the money was not to be honestly appropriated, but that bridges of an inferior quality would be erected, for which a large price was to be paid. Thereupon, Anthony Amend was appointed commissioner by the Board of County Commissioners, to make estimates and oversee the construction of these bridges.

PROPOSITIONS BY THE COUNTY.

On June 21, 1871, the board, on petition of ninety-six electors, submitted a proposition to vote \$40,000 for bridges in the county, and an election was called for July 21st. This proposition was opposed by the *Register*, but favored by the *Advance*; the latter, however, advocating making it \$75,000 instead of \$40,000. Afterward the Commissioners changed the amount to \$105,000, and fixed the date of election for the latter part of August. It was proposed to expend the money as follows: \$20,000 each for four bridges over the Neosho at points at or near Chetopa, Oswego, Montana, and Parsons, and the balance was to be expended in bridges at one or more points over Labette, Hackberry, Pumpkin, and Big Hill creeks. A large anti-bridge-bond meeting was held at Mound Valley, and strong grounds taken against the issuance of bonds. On canvassing the vote it was found that not a single vote had been cast for bonds excepting in four townships; these were as follows: Montana 1, Labette 5, Chetopa 156, Parsons 83, total 245; all the rest of the vote, amounting to 1,295 votes, was against the bounds.

BRIDGES ACROSS THE LABETTE.

The first bridge in the county built by order of the County Commissioners was across Labette creek, west of Oswego. The steps leading to this commenced on July 17, 1869, when the Commissioners ordered the question of issuing \$1,300 in bonds to be submitted to the electors at the next general election. At the election held in November of that year the proposition for issuing bonds was carried, and on December 16th following, the board issued \$500 of the amount so voted to Thomas Powers, and contracted with him for the construction of the bridge. On November 14, 1870, the contractor having failed to complete the bridge, the \$500 (amount appropriated by the county) being insufficient, the Commissioners sold said bridge to Thomas Powers and W. W. Babbit, who proposed to make of the same a toll bridge; they agreeing to pay the county \$1,000 in ten years. On February 20, 1871, Messrs. Horner, Weaver, Patrick and Condon were appointed a committee to see about the re-purchase of this bridge for the county. On March 3d they reported that the bridge was worth \$2,500, and recommended the board to liquidate the outstanding

obligation against it, and to assume control of the same. On April 3d, by agreement, the contract with Messrs. Powers and Babbit was canceled, the county agreeing to pay \$850 and take the bridge. The bridge was soon thereafter completed. On April 12, 1878, an order of the board was made to repair this old bridge, at a cost of not to exceed \$985. Subsequently this order was revoked, and on June 5th a new bridge was ordered constructed. The site of the bridge was changed from the section line to a point farther down the creek, near where it crosses the township line from Fairview township to Oswego township. In 1884 this old wooden bridge was replaced by an iron bridge, at a cost of \$1,995.

On April 17, 1878, the board directed the construction of a bridge across the Labette, on the line leading from Oswego to Chetopa, at a cost of \$999. With this a wooden bridge was constructed, and ready for crossing in October of that year. This bridge stood until 1885, when it was replaced with an iron structure, at a cost of \$2,000.

In 1883 an appropriation of \$1,300 was made for a bridge across the Little Labette, and in 1884 an appropriation of \$2,500 for a bridge across the main Labette, both near Parsons.

A good bridge also spans this stream in Liberty township, west of the town of Labette; and perhaps there may be bridges at other points, of which I have not spoken.

BRIDGES ACROSS THE NEOSHO.

In the fall of 1871 Chetopa voted \$10,000 for a bridge across the Neosho, work on which was commenced at once, and the abutments were completed early in 1872. Before the reorganization of the Board of County Commissioners in January, 1872, the old board made an appropriation of \$950 to aid in the construction of this Chetopa bridge. This was a frame structure, and was completed in 1872; it remained until the spring of 1878, when it was washed away by high water. During the next year there was no bridge at this point, a ferry-boat being the means of crossing. In the spring of 1879 steps were taken to build a new bridge; it was nearly done, when in July a wind-storm blew it down; work was again commenced, and it was nearly completed when, on August 14th, it was again entirely washed out by a rise in the river; it was not until November that the bridge was completed and ready for use. This bridge was a combination of wood and iron, and cost \$1,900, \$999 of which was paid by the county, and the balance by Chetopa.

In 1888 this bridge gave place to the fine iron structure which now spans the Neosho at that point, and was erected entirely by the county, at a cost of \$8,500.

On June 30, 1872, Oswego city and township voted \$20,000 for the pur-

pose of constructing two bridges across the Neosho; one was to be located north and the other southeast of town. A contract was made with the King Iron Bridge Company for the erection of these two bridges, for the sum of \$19,650, to be completed by December of that year. By some means the bonds were issued and delivered before any work was done, and as usually happens under such circumstances, the work was not done. Finally, some two years thereafter, a compromise was effected with the bridge company whereby it was to put in one bridge and be released from its further obligation. In 1874, under this arrangement, the bridge now spanning the Neosho north of town was constructed, and on November 27th of that year teams passed over it for the first time. On June 7, 1886, Oswego donated this bridge to the county, and it was accepted by the county as a county bridge.

In 1885 it was arranged between the officers of Oswego city and the Commissioners of Cherokee county to build a bridge across the Neosho at a point directly east of Oswego, in Cherokee county. Under this arrangement an iron bridge was constructed during the year, for which Oswego built the piers and abutments and Cherokee county put on the structure. In April, 1885, the middle pier of this bridge, which was then being erected, was washed away: in February, 1886, the bridge was completed and accepted.

Several efforts have been made to secure a bridge across the Neosho at Montana. On September 29, 1881, Dr. J. M. Mahr presented the petition of himself and 131 others, asking for an appropriation to build a bridge at that point. The Commissioners did not make the appropriation, for the reason that the amount required was beyond the amount they were authorized to grant; but they made an order submitting a proposition to the electors to vote on at the November election, whether or not they would authorize the issuance of \$9,000 for the construction of such a bridge. At the election 309 votes were cast in favor of the proposition and 1,513 against it.

In 1885 the Legislature passed an act authorizing the Commissioners to build a bridge across the Neosho, at a point to be designated by three commissioners appointed in the act.

At the time of the passage of this law it was intended that provision was to be made for two bridges—one at Montana, and one east of Parsons, and these points were designated by the commissioners. Notwithstanding the strenuous efforts that were made to procure an appropriation for a bridge, the Board of County Commissioners refused to act that year.

In January, 1886, under authority of the act of 1885 above referred to, the board appropriated \$7,000 for a bridge across the Neosho directly east of Parsons, and it was built that season.

In 1888 the board made an appropriation of \$8,500 for the construction of a bridge across the Neosho at Montana, and with this the iron bridge now spanning the stream at that point was built.

BRIDGES ACROSS OTHER STREAMS.

Without going into the particulars as to each appropriation made for bridges over the various streams in the county, I may say that appropriations have been made by the board for bridging all the streams in the county at nearly every point where they are crossed by the principal thoroughfares: Hackberry, Pumpkin, Deer, Bachelor, Big Hill, The Cut-Off, Chetopa, Turkey, as well as some of the smaller creeks, are spanned with substantial bridges which have been erected at the county's expense.

I think the general opinion is that the money expended for these bridges has been as wisely appropriated as any that the board has been called upon to make, and that no one feels that too much has been done in that direction.

In building these bridges the board has usually required the township in which the bridge was located to put in the approaches, and sometimes to do even more than this: but generally the main part of the expense has been borne by the county.

U. S. CENSUS.

<i>Townships.</i>	1870.	1880.	1890.
Neosho.....	515	728	621
North.....	581	895	850
Walton.....	477	694	714
Osage.....	930	1,394	1,588
Mound Valley (including city).....	275	1,408	1,829
Labette.....	282	626	773
Liberty.....	720	906	861
Montana.....	783	871	838
Oswego.....	640	942	660
Fairview.....	464	852	826
Mount Pleasant (including Altamont city).....	249	657	1,230
Canada.....	480	675	741
Howard.....	.....	752	828
Elm Grove (including Edna city).....	.....	1,096	1,400
Hackberry.....	637	1,104	1,184
Richland.....	784	1,280	1,068
<i>Cities.</i>			
Chetopa.....	960	1,305	2,265
Oswego.....	1,196	2,351	2,574
Parsons.....	.....	4,199	6,736
Total of county.....	9,973	22,735	27,586
Altamont.....	.....	.....	454
Edna.....	.....	26	321
Mound Valley.....	.....	138	545

ASSESSMENT FOR 1867.

The following is the amount of taxable property in the several townships of the county as reported by the county assessor on the first assessment ever made of the county, in the year 1867:

<i>Name of township.</i>	<i>Amount of taxable property.</i>	<i>Name of township.</i>	<i>Amount of taxable property.</i>
Oswego township.....	\$18,126 00	Montana township.....	\$9,369 50
Chetopa "	16,961 00	Neosho "	17,120 00
Hackberry "	5,609 00	Labette "	3,116 00
Canada "	2,549 00	Big Hill "	1,862 00
North "	4,596 00		

TAX SALES.

So many different considerations enter into the question of the payment or non-payment of taxes that I shall not attempt to assign any reason for the fact that in several years a very large proportion of the real estate has gone to tax sale. In 1877 an act was passed authorizing a sale of all real estate on which any county or city held tax-sale certificates; proceedings were required by which a judgment was rendered determining the amount due on each tract, and directing the sale of such tract to be made by the sheriff substantially as upon execution. Under the provisions of this act, one and one-half pages of the *Independent* were occupied in July, 1877, by a notice describing the real estate on which a judgment was to be asked. A small part of this property was redeemed before it went to sale, but the bulk of it was sold in December of that year, under these proceedings. As will be seen by the following statement, prior to 1877 very much more land went to sale for taxes than after that date. In 1873 the *Advance* contained twenty-five solid columns of description of real estate to be sold at tax sale. In 1874 the *Independent* contained thirty-five columns of such matter; in 1875, twenty-three columns. In 1876 the list was embraced in eight columns in the *Herald*. In 1877 it filled but seven and one-half columns of the *Independent*. In 1878 twelve columns of the *Independent* were required; and a less amount of space has been required each year since.

COUNTY EXPENSES.

The first few years no detailed annual report of the county expenses was made; there are one or two reports prior to 1871, but it seems evident that the figures there given are incorrect. Reports exist subsequent to 1870, but as to some of them it is probable they do not cover exactly a year, and it is also quite evident that some mistakes have been made by

the party who copied them or by the printer; but it is believed the following table shows substantially the amount expended by the county each fiscal year. For a number of years the fiscal year ended with July, but more recently it has closed with October :

1871.....	\$21,125 74	1879.....	\$29,713 62	1887.....	\$36,261 62
1872.....	23,621 81	1880.....	32,797 62	1888.....	44,897 14
1873.....	36,380 92	1881.....	27,224 96	1889.....	41,019 93
1874.....	31,459 45	1882.....	38,589 13	1890.....	34,150 48
1875.....	27,439 71	1883.....	40,958 43	1891.....	31,244 44
1876.....	23,814 89	1884.....	47,760 60	1892.....	34,834 10
1877.....	23,895 28	1885.....	40,657 53		
1878.....	31,789 84	1886.....	48,296 44		

COLORED PEOPLE.

From almost the first settlement of the county there have been a few colored people living in it, a number of whom have been successful and made good homes. Dairy Nero settled upon the S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 15, adjoining Oswego, in 1866, and entered it at the Government land office, and has ever since made it his home.

On April 4, 1870, the noon stage brought the news of the ratification of the fifteenth amendment, whereupon the colored men then in Oswego were informed of their rights, marched to the polls, the election being then in progress, where they deposited their ballots. Spencer Jones, who was the porter at the Oswego House, was the first colored man in the county, and of course one of the first in the State, to exercise the right of suffrage.

In the fall of 1879 the "exodus" began, and hundreds of colored people, principally from Texas and Tennessee, and also many from other parts of the South, arrived in the county. Chetopa, Oswego and Parsons were almost overrun by them. Their coming was unexpected, and no provision for their care and comfort had been made. Buildings for shelter could not be procured. They were mostly without means, destitute of everything like comfortable clothing, and in a condition to appeal strongly to the sympathies of charitable people. Rough board sheds were erected and made as comfortable as could be, in which large numbers were housed for that winter. During the next year or two others came in, until the number of colored people formed quite a large percentage of the population of the cities named. Quite a number also were scattered over the county, more especially in the river bottom.

A very great improvement has been made in their condition both intellectually and financially, and there are now among the colored people many well-to-do families, who are intelligent, industrious, and moral.

Some of course have remained shiftless, trifling, and worthless. From all appearances they are a permanent part of the population.

ATHLETICS.

Almost from the first settlement of the county the lovers of base ball have been organized, and have done what they could toward making the game popular and successful. As early as 1871 clubs were organized at Oswego and Chetopa, and within the next two or three years organizations were had at several other places in the county, and frequent local contests took place. The craze seems to have reached its highest point in 1885, when there was a great strife by the Oswego club to be the champions not only of the county but of southeastern Kansas, and under the leadership of F. C. Wheeler great proficiency was attained. The interest in the game has been kept up to a considerable extent, but since the departure of Mr. Wheeler it has never created the excitement it reached at that time.

In the fall of 1885 a ladies' broom brigade was formed, and attained a considerable degree of skill at drilling under the command of Col. True.

The roller-skating craze had perhaps for a season the greatest run of anything in the line of athletics that has been witnessed in the county. The height of its prosperity was witnessed about 1884. Commodious and well-furnished rinks were erected at Parsons and Oswego, and perhaps at other places in the county, and their owners supposed that they had a permanent and well-paying business established: but the interest died out as suddenly as it arose, and nothing farther was heard of it.

OFFICIAL DELINQUENCIES.

The county has been extremely fortunate since since its organization in having officers who performed their duties satisfactorily and who were true to the trust reposed in them. There have been three or four instances in which the county has been required to commence legal proceedings in order to collect from its officers money which they held in their official capacity. When H. C. Bridgman went out of office as treasurer his accounts were found to be short. A suit against him and his bondsmen was instituted, pending which a settlement was had, in which it was agreed that he was indebted to the county in the sum of \$8,750. This was settled by him and his bondsmen as follows: The County Commissioners took from them the quarter-section of land on which they located the poor-farm, at the agreed price of \$4,000. They gave their note for \$3,000 and paid \$1,750 in cash. By this means the county was saved from any financial loss.

When S. B. Abbott, the sheriff, completed the tax sale under the proceedings of 1877, he reported that he had received \$1,698.02, and that his charges for fees and services were \$2,008.48. These charges were largely in excess of what the law authorized. Suit was brought by the Commissioners to recover from him fees which he illegally held. The matter was finally settled by his paying \$802.62.

Under a change of law regulating the fees of county officers, a question arose between the county and one or two of its officers as to what fees they were entitled to, and not agreeing on the construction of the law, the matter was settled in court.

RECEPTION TO PRESIDENT HAYES.

In the evening of September 24, 1879, President Rutherford B. Hayes and wife, General W. T. Sherman, George St. John and wife, and other dignitaries arrived at Parsons on their way to Neosho Falls, where they were to attend the district fair. People from all parts of Labette county went to Parsons, where a reception was tendered the Presidential party. An address of welcome was made by T. C. Cory, which was responded to by President Hayes and General Sherman. In the evening the whole assemblage was presented to the party.

INDUSTRIAL PURSUITS.—COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS.

FIRST WHEAT CROPS.—THRESHING-MACHINES AND GRIST-MILLS.

In the fall of 1866 Charles Wadsack sowed a few acres of wheat, which he harvested the following summer; this was probably the first wheat crop raised in the county. There was no threshing-machine here at the time, and he was compelled to thresh it by a more primitive method, which was by having his horses tread upon it. When he got it to the mill it was so dirty that it would not make flour very palatable; however, it was the best that could be done, and it furnished him with something in the line of breadstuffs during that year.

Quite a number of farmers had enough ground in cultivation by the fall of 1867 to enable them to put out fairly good crops of wheat, and in 1868 the first machinery for harvesting and threshing was brought to the county. The first threshing-machine was brought into the county by Ed. and George Cubbison. There were so many parties having wheat threshed who were all anxious to get it done early, that some of them had to be disappointed, and occasionally when the machine was through with a job the neighbors would take possession of it and put it at work at the next nearest place instead of allowing it to go out of the neighborhood.

In 1870 Martin Jackson brought on a new reaper and Thomas Phillips a threshing-machine; these were probably the first machines of this kind south of the Hackberry.

The first mill in the county, so far as I have learned, that was prepared to do anything at grinding wheat, was John Hart's mill, on the Labette. In addition to the corn buhrs which he had been using, he put in wheat buhrs in the fall of 1868, and was able to grind wheat for the farmers in that community. It was not until about 1873 that self-binders and steam threshers appeared.

CASTOR BEANS.

It is said that W. W. Robbins, in Pleasant Valley, was the first person in the county to raise a crop of castor beans. This was in 1873. The

yield was so good that the following season many others planted, and since then this has been one of the largest crops raised.

TAME GRASS.

On July 8, 1873, Col. F. Swantick brought a load of timothy to Oswego, which he sold to B. F. Hobart, at 88 per ton. The next day he sold a load of clover to H. C. Draper, at the same price. This was the first tame hay marketed in the county. At that time very few farmers had commenced to raise tame grass. Since then its production has generally increased, until now the crop of tame grass is quite an item in the annual production of the county.

THE COTTON INDUSTRY.

In the spring of 1873 G. W. Everhart procured the seed and distributed it among the farmers along Labette creek, and secured the planting of quite a large acreage of cotton in the vicinity of Parsons. Mr. Everhart put in a small cotton-gin that fall, which he continued to operate some two or three years, when it was removed to the Indian Territory. On February 5, 1874, a cotton convention was held at Parsons which resulted in awakening quite an interest in connection with the raising of this product. After 1876 there was nothing done in the way of raising cotton until 1879, when an enterprising colored man from Texas who was living on David Romine's place, a few miles southwest of Oswego, planted several acres of cotton and induced several other colored men living along the Neosho river to also put out a few acres. Mr. Romine assisted in the erection of a cotton-gin at Oswego that fall, and it was found that the crop was large and profitable, considering the small number of acres that had been planted. In 1880, 98 bales were ginned and shipped; in 1881, 145 bales: in 1882 a very much larger acreage was planted, but the fall was so wet that it cut the crop short, and but 70 bales were ginned. The prospect was good again in 1883 for a large crop, but this year, as the year previous, it was cut short by the wet fall, and but 45 bales were ginned. Two years of partial failure rather discouraged those who had been engaged in the business, and very little if any was planted thereafter in this vicinity. In 1889 the Oswego gin was taken to Chetopa, in the vicinity of which a few colored men had raised small crops, but the amount that has been raised the last few years has been inconsiderable.

GRASSHOPPERS.

In the fall of 1866 grasshoppers came in great quantities. Of the little crop that was raised that year most of it was matured so that they did

not damage it, but everything that was green was devoured by them. They stayed until cold weather came. A rain in the fall filled the little brooks, and so washed them down stream that in places wagon-loads of them could be gathered up. The following February was so warm that the eggs hatched, and a hard freeze coming on in March killed the young hoppers; so they bothered no more at that time. The next visit they made this county was in September, 1874. They came in one day in such myriads that what was green in whole fields of corn was devoured by them in a single day. All the trees were stripped of their leaves, and fruit trees were left bare of all foliage, hanging full of ripe apples. They laid their eggs and disappeared in the fall, so that the wheat crop then sowed was not all destroyed. About the last of March in the following spring they commenced hatching, and during April and May ate the young crop about as fast as it came on. Corn had to be planted two or three times; the last planting extending into July. About the last of May they commenced moving, and during the fore part of June they were nearly all gone. In September, 1876, there was another visitation of them, but not to as great an extent as there had been the two years preceding.

In 1875 farmers learned that very much could be done towards destroying the hoppers and saving the crops. Several methods of destruction were used, among others plowing a deep furrow into which the hoppers were driven and then covered, either by refilling it with dirt or by putting straw over them and burning them up.

FISH AND GAME.

All of the streams of the county are well supplied with fish. They are more numerous, of course, in the Neosho than in the smaller streams. Many have been taken from the Neosho measuring from four to six feet in length and two and one-half feet in circumference, weighing from 60 to 100 pounds.

On July 5, 1875, a large catfish of about the size just described got into a basin on the riffle at Motter's ford, east of Oswego, and could not get away. Two men who were crossing caught it, and brought it to town.

In the early settlement of the county large numbers of wild animals of various kinds were caught, and added very much to the stock of provisions of the early settlers. Deer, antelope, wild geese and turkeys, and prairie chickens, as well as other birds and animals, were found in abundance. Coyotes, badgers and other carnivorous animals were here in larger numbers than was desirable to the settlers. As the county became settled they became less numerous.

BOUNTY.

On July 11, 1877, the County Commissioners passed an order putting into operation chapter 76 of the Laws of 1877, giving a bounty on scalps of certain wild animals. Under this order, almost an innumerable number of scalps was presented during the years the law was in force, and large sums of money were paid as bounty therefor. The law remained in operation under the above order until January 13, 1885, when the Commissioners made an order revoking their previous one, since which time no bounty has been paid for scalps of any wild animals.

DEHORNING STOCK.

In January, 1886, G. J. Coleman, of Mound Valley, created something of an excitement in the neighborhood by dehorning his cattle. This was the first instance in which that system of treatment of stock had been practiced in this county. A party who was not friendly with Mr. Coleman caused his arrest on the charge of cruelty to animals. On the trial he was acquitted, having convinced the jury that his process was one of mercy rather than of cruelty to animals. Ever since that time this system of treatment has been generally practiced.

TEXAS FEVER.

In 1866, and for several years thereafter, the people frequently became alarmed over the introduction of Texas cattle and the spread of Texas fever among native stock. Several farmers lost quite a number of their cattle from what was supposed to be Texas fever. A number of arrests were made of those who had been instrumental in bringing stock into the county, but it was seldom that a conviction was had. It was a disputed question as to whether or not the stock died from the effects of disease contracted from those introduced, and there was a large-enough element in the county interested in bringing cattle in from the south to make quite a sentiment in the minds of the public opposed to such prosecution. However, the law was finally enforced so vigorously that few parties attempted its violation.

FIELD CROPS.

On the pages following will be found, in tabulated form, a full report of the various field crops of the county, from 1872 to 1892 inclusive, showing acreage, product, and value. For these valuable tables I am indebted to the Reports of the State Board of Agriculture.

TABLE showing the acres, product and value of field crops in Labette county.

CROPS.	1872.			1873.		
	Acres.	Product.	Value.	Acres.	Product.*	Value.*
Winter wheat.....bu.	23,765	475,300	\$712,950	23,765	.....	.....
Spring wheat.....bu.	51	612	612	84	.....	.....
Corn.....bu.	31,486	1,083,915	216,783	34,631	.....	.....
Oats.....bu.	11,113	333,390	66,178	10,608	.....	.....
Rye.....bu.	131	1,834	1,375	283	.....	.....
Barley.....bu.	12	468	374	16	.....	.....
Buckwheat.....bu.	92	1,380	1,380	49	.....	.....
Irish potatoes.....bu.	764	60,356	36,213	1,380	.....	.....
Sweet potatoes.....bu.	30	3,090	2,317	64	.....	.....
Sorghum.....gals.	286	16,302	8,151	379	.....	.....
Castor beans.....bu.	186	3,720	5,208	156	.....	.....
Cotton.....lbs.	3	996	199	107	.....	.....
Flax.....bu.	1	10	12	41	.....	.....
Tobacco.....lbs.	4	2,000	400	10	.....	.....
Millet and Hung'n.....tons	745	1,762	8,810	576	.....	.....
Timothy meadow.....tons	214	428	4,280	214	.....	.....
Clover meadow.....tons	205	410	2,460	207	.....	.....
Prairie meadow.....tons	16,711	25,066	75,198	8,810	.....	.....
Timothy pasture.....	34	.....	.....	6	.....	.....
Clover pasture.....	10	.....	.....	10	.....	.....
Blue-grass pasture.....	462	.....	.....	463	.....	.....
Prairie pasture.....	28,068	.....	.....	27,238	.....	.....
Totals.....	114,373	.....	.....	109,048	.....	.....

CROPS.	1874.			1875.		
	Acres.	Product.	Value.	Acres.	Product.	Value.
Winter wheat.....bu.	32,402	583,236	\$466,588	38,075	761,515	\$723,439
Spring wheat.....bu.	36	360	234	12	150	112
Corn.....bu.	37,641	752,820	526,974	44,490	1,868,601	373,720
Oats.....bu.	7,836	117,540	58,770	6,391	242,886	48,577
Rye.....bu.	262	5,240	3,668	313	7,210	4,326
Barley.....bu.	41	779	662	3	90	108
Buckwheat.....bu.	38	380	570	5	110	123
Irish potatoes.....bu.	1,330	26,600	33,250	1,109	138,731	55,492
Sweet potatoes.....bu.	91	6,825	10,920	99	15,497	11,622
Sorghum.....gals.	485	38,800	25,220	905	113,244	48,128
Castor beans.....bu.	800	9,600	12,000	1,564	18,777	18,777
Cotton.....lbs.	90	8,100	1,053	101	20,298	2,029
Flax.....bu.	436	4,360	7,040	2,036	20,362	24,434
Hemp.....lbs.	4	3,000	150	5	4,125	2,681
Tobacco.....lbs.	17	11,900	1,190	12	8,834	662
Broom corn.....lbs.	54	37,800	1,753	95	78,994	3,949
Millet and Hung'n.....tons	1,104	2,208	13,248	1,215	3,950	15,800
Timothy meadow.....tons	343	515	3,090	266	333	1,998
Clover meadow.....tons	189	378	2,268	63	159	954
Prairie meadow.....tons	5,485	5,485	21,940	10,055	15,082	60,328
Timothy pasture.....	83	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Clover pasture.....	25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Blue-grass pasture.....	21	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Prairie pasture.....	24,708	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals.....	113,521	.....	.....	106,825	.....	\$1,397,264

* There is nothing of record, either in the office of the State Board of Agriculture, or elsewhere, which shows the product and value by counties for 1873.—[N. C.

TABLE showing the acres, product and value of field crops in Labette county.

CROPS.	1876.			1877.		
	Acres.	Product.	Value.	Acres.	Product.	Value.
Winter wheat.....bu.	40,297	604,455	\$544,009	25,557	255,570	\$247,902
Spring wheat.....bu.	5	40	32	2	20	17
Corn.....bu.	47,748	1,909,920	420,182	66,759	2,670,360	480,664
Oats.....bu.	11,861	343,969	85,992	8,579	394,634	59,195
Rye.....bu.	389	7,780	4,356	200	2,800	840
Barley.....bu.	8	240	144	77	1,925	577
Buckwheat.....bu.	73	965	868	74	1,184	947
Irish potatoes.....bu.	1,736	260,512	208,410	1,061	106,100	53,050
Sweet potatoes.....bu.	120	24,100	19,280	84	12,600	12,600
Sorghum.....gals.	436	47,987	23,993	743	85,445	42,722
Castor beans.....bu.	531	6,372	11,894	1,615	22,610	22,610
Cotton.....lbs.	61	12,350	1,235	31	5,270	527
Flax.....bu.	1,955	17,595	29,325	314	3,454	3,626
Hemp.....lbs.	74	74,500	4,283	.....	.....	.....
Tobacco.....lbs.	32	25,704	2,570	30	22,200	2,220
Broom corn.....lbs.	173	139,000	5,560	166	132,800	4,980
Millet and Hung'n.....tons	2,178	4,356	30,492	3,140	9,420	37,680
Timothy meadow.....tons	220	275	1,926	673	1,144	5,720
Clover meadow.....tons	152	304	2,133	84	168	840
Prairie meadow.....tons	5,738	5,738	22,952	11,004	18,706	54,249
Timothy pasture.....	212	.....	.....	50	.....	.....
Clover pasture.....	1	.....	.....	28	.....	.....
Blue-grass pasture.....	195	.....	.....	137	.....	.....
Prairie pasture.....	25,585	.....	.....	26,590	.....	.....
Totals.....	139,784	.....	.....	146,998	.....	.....

CROPS.	1878.			1879.		
	Acres.	Product.	Value.	Acres.	Product.	Value.
Winter wheat.....bu.	33,135	430,755	\$279,990	26,389	395,835	\$376,043
Spring wheat.....bu.	19	190	104	42	336	285
Corn.....bu.	65,985	2,243,490	426,263	77,549	2,946,862	736,715
Oats.....bu.	13,376	454,784	72,765	16,746	385,158	100,141
Rye.....bu.	368	6,992	2,097	289	4,335	1,734
Barley.....bu.	69	2,070	1,035	75	1,350	675
Buckwheat.....bu.	154	3,090	2,472	80	1,211	1,090
Irish potatoes.....bu.	1,312	78,720	45,657	1,004	45,180	38,403
Sweet potatoes.....bu.	95	10,836	7,910	128	8,988	8,988
Sorghum.....gals.	688	79,134	39,567	986	113,390	51,025
Castor beans.....bu.	1,900	26,607	33,258	6,603	79,242	79,242
Cotton.....lbs.	1	255	22	17	2,975	267
Flax.....bu.	370	3,705	3,705	575	4,025	4,025
Hemp.....lbs.	4	230	13	.....	.....	.....
Tobacco.....lbs.	13	10,278	1,027	23	17,412	1,741
Broom corn.....lbs.	36	28,904	1,083	130	91,133	3,189
Millet and Hung'n.....tons	2,021	6,063	24,252	2,830	8,490	33,960
Timothy meadow.....tons	1,139	1,937	9,687	1,735	2,603	13,016
Clover meadow.....tons	209	418	2,092	347	555	2,778
Prairie meadow.....tons	24,783	42,131	122,179	10,376	13,488	39,117
Timothy pasture.....	251	.....	.....	167	.....	.....
Clover pasture.....	23	.....	.....	30	.....	.....
Blue-grass pasture.....	475	.....	.....	632	.....	.....
Prairie pasture.....	31,831	.....	.....	30,792	.....	.....
Totals.....	178,258	.....	\$1,075,188	177,549	.....	\$1,492,438

TABLE showing the acres, product and value of field crops in Labette county.

CROPS.	1880.			1881.		
	Acres.	Product.	Value.	Acres.	Product.	Value.
Winter wheat..... bu.	35,628	434,420	\$412,699	40,518	405,180	\$445,698
Spring wheat..... bu.	13	104	88	11	55	52
Corn..... bu.	70,806	2,265,792	566,448	94,061	1,696,098	981,996
Oats..... bu.	12,192	426,720	110,947	8,052	249,612	82,371
Rye..... bu.	372	5,580	2,232	436	6,104	4,761
Barley..... bu.	52	780	390	8	208	166
Buckwheat..... bu.	32	384	345	48	576	432
Irish potatoes..... bu.	1,297	129,700	110,245	3,097	77,425	116,137
Sweet potatoes..... bu.	113	14,736	14,736	184	10,120	15,180
Sorghum..... gals.	536	61,709	27,769	506	43,010	20,644
Castor beans..... bu.	6,885	82,620	82,620	8,071	104,923	146,892
Cotton..... lbs.	175	29,750	2,677	222	66,600	6,660
Flax..... bu.	1,092	9,828	9,828	680	5,440	7,616
Hemp..... lbs.	21	25,500	1,530	5	4,200	294
Tobacco..... lbs.	6	4,440	444	25	17,500	1,750
Broom corn..... lbs.	37	22,650	792	430	279,500	12,577
Rice corn..... bu.	20	400	160	9	90	58
Pearl millet..... tons	111	445	1,780	463	1,620	8,910
Millet and Hung'n..... tons	4,049	12,147	48,588	3,719	8,368	62,760
Timothy meadow..... tons	1,056	2,112	10,560	923	1,615	12,112
Clover meadow..... tons	371	649	3,248	644	1,288	9,660
Prairie meadow..... tons	9,975	14,963	43,392	15,892	22,249	144,618
Timothy pasture.....	288	.....	.....	509	.....	.....
Clover pasture.....	62	.....	.....	115	.....	.....
Blue-grass pasture.....	808	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other grasses.....	.....	.....	.....	583	.....	.....
Prairie pasture.....	29,502	.....	.....	39,139	.....	.....
Totals.....	175,501	.....	\$1,451,522	218,350	.....	\$2,081,350

CROPS.	1882.			1883.		
	Acres.	Product.	Value.	Acres.	Product.	Value.
Winter wheat..... bu.	25,571	562,562	\$450,049	34,667	416,004	\$353,603
Spring wheat..... bu.	25	300	210	483	4,347	3,042
Corn..... bu.	83,125	3,325,000	1,163,750	89,249	4,016,205	1,204,861
Oats..... bu.	12,907	516,280	139,395	13,870	624,150	156,037
Rye..... bu.	566	10,754	5,914	994	.....	.....
Barley..... bu.	41	1,148	516	.....	.....	.....
Buckwheat..... bu.	43	344	258	35	315	236
Irish potatoes..... bu.	1,030	82,400	57,680	1,632	130,560	78,336
Sweet potatoes..... bu.	94	7,050	7,050	140	12,600	12,600
Sorghum..... gals.	709	63,810	28,714	754	66,352	27,867
Castor beans..... bu.	12,036	110,754	110,754	2,931	32,241	48,361
Cotton..... lbs.	130	24,050	2,405	76	17,100	1,539
Flax..... bu.	2,004	24,048	22,845	1,400	14,000	15,400
Tobacco..... lbs.	16	11,290	1,120	25	20,000	2,000
Broom corn..... lbs.	165	82,500	3,712	215	107,500	3,762
Rice corn..... bu.	22	352	176	56	1,120	392
Pearl millet..... tons	196	588	2,352	.....	.....	.....
Millet and Hung'n..... tons	5,579	16,737	100,422	8,941	29,058	101,703
Timothy meadow..... tons	1,684	3,368	20,208	2,159	4,318	21,590
Clover meadow..... tons	224	560	3,360	672	1,512	7,560
Prairie meadow..... tons	25,058	37,587	150,348	.....	.....	.....
Other tame grasses..... tons	.....	.....	.....	1,818	4,091	14,318
Prairie, under fence..... tons	.....	.....	.....	70,200	91,200	273,780
Timothy pasture.....	318	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Clover pasture.....	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other grasses.....	1,118	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Prairie pasture.....	56,934	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals.....	229,610	.....	\$2,271,242	230,317	.....	\$2,326,991

TABLE showing the acres, product and value of field crops in Labette county.

CROPS.	1884.			1885.		
	Acres.	Product.	Value.	Acres.	Product.	Value.
Winter wheat.....bu.	35,404	672,676	\$417,059	11,873	142,476	\$106,857
Spring wheat.....bu.				54	486	365
Corn.....bu.	95,474	3,914,434	861,175	102,808	2,570,200	771,060
Oats.....bu.	13,612	558,062	128,361	16,007	560,245	140,061
Rye.....bu.	791	15,029	7,514	748	7,480	3,740
Buckwheat.....bu.	14	112	72	34	408	204
Irish potatoes.....bu.	1,776	222,000	155,400	1,489	89,340	62,538
Sweet potatoes.....bu.	54	7,020	5,616	81	3,240	2,592
Sorghum.....gals.	385	38,500	15,400	351		11,730
Castor beans.....bu.	2,708	35,204	52,806	6,448	64,480	103,168
Flax.....bu.	1,395	16,740	18,414	1,791	10,746	9,671
Tobacco.....lbs.	1	850	85	4	3,200	320
Broom corn.....lbs.	85	46,750	1,636	75	45,000	1,800
Rice corn.....bu.	163	3,260	1,238			
Millet and Hung'n.....tons	10,922	36,042	198,231	14,587	43,761	175,044
Timothy.....tons	3,025	5,808	37,752	1,791		
Clover.....tons	1,697	3,818	22,908	2,715		
Orchard grass.....tons				547	30,498	152,490
Blue grass.....tons				2,497		
Other tame grasses.....tons	2,796	6,990	34,950	781		
Prairie, under fence...tons	66,916	95,020	403,835	66,676	47,959	167,856
Totals.....	237,218		\$2,362,455	238,275		\$1,700,497

CROPS.	1886.			1887.		
	Acres.	Product.	Value.	Acres.	Product.	Value.
Winter wheat.....bu.	17,812	213,744	\$149,621	15,816	316,320	\$189,792
Corn.....bu.	104,383	1,878,894	657,612	85,063	2,126,575	744,301
Oats.....bu.	20,494	614,820	184,446	23,926	837,410	209,352
Rye.....bu.	749	11,984	5,992	138	2,070	828
Barley.....bu.	5	100	30	20	400	160
Buckwheat.....bu.	22	330	198	42	630	472
Irish potatoes.....bu.	1,511	90,660	54,396	1,302	104,160	78,120
Sweet potatoes.....bu.	48	4,800	4,800	101	10,100	10,100
Sorghum.....	524		17,495	592		19,540
Castor beans.....bu.	5,769	57,690	86,535	8,946	89,460	80,514
Cotton.....lbs.	11	3,300	264			
Flax.....bu.	643	6,430	5,787	830	8,300	7,055
Tobacco.....lbs.				2	1,200	120
Broom corn.....lbs.	253	126,500	4,427	165	99,000	3,465
Millet and Hung'n.....tons	11,431	22,862	114,310	5,250	10,500	42,000
Timothy.....	16,418			14,268		
Clover.....	3,138			2,793		
Orchard grass.....tons	388	37,143	216,618	292	* 5,437	38,059
Blue grass.....	2,406			1,896		
Other tame grasses.....	1,366			1,208		
Prairie, under fence...tons	63,250	41,227	164,908	43,555	24,049	96,196
Totals.....	250,621		\$1,667,440	206,205		\$1,520,075

* Product of 1886.

TABLE showing the acres, product and value of field crops in Labette county.

CROPS.	1888.			1889.		
	Acres.	Product.	Value.	Acres.	Product.	Value.
Winter wheat.....bu.	14,066	267,254	\$221,820	22,703	431,357	\$267,441
Spring wheat..... bu.	70	1,120	784	26	416	199
Corn.....bu	80,702	2,501,762	650,458	80,577	2,417,310	410,942
Oats.....bu	17,495	804,770	169,001	14,418	360,450	50,463
Rye.....bu	271	5,420	2,439	383	9,575	2,681
Barley.....bu.	30	900	315			
Buckwheat.....bu	36	540	405	13	130	78
Irish potatoes.....bu.	1,027	92,430	60,079	1,349	134,900	53,960
Sweet potatoes.....bu	114	10,290	10,260	120	12,000	4,800
Sorghum.....	1,215		40,269	1,007		36,252
Castor beans.....bu.	2,306	20,754	20,754	2,431	17,017	30,630
Cotton.....lbs.	7	2,100	168	14	4,200	336
Flax.....bu.	725	5,800	5,220	682	5,456	5,456
Hemp.....lbs.				1	700	35
Tobacco.....lbs.	86	51,600	5,160	2	1,200	120
Broom corn.....lbs.	56	44,800	1,568	10	6,000	210
Millet and Hung'n.....tons	5,430	10,860	43,440	5,077	10,154	40,616
Timothy.....	10,393			10,809		
Clover.....	1,628			3,057		
Orchard grass.....tons	170	* 4,829	28,974	209	† 7,972	31,888
Blue grass.....	1,688			2,271		
Other tame grasses.....	5,628			606		
Prairie, under fence.....tons	45,066	27,808	83,424	71,149	30,969	92,907
Totals.....	188,209		\$1,344,540	216,914		\$1,029,016

CROPS.	1890.			1891.		
	Acres.	Product.	Value.	Acres.	Product.	Value.
Winter wheat.....bu.	21,380	256,560	\$223,207	43,542	740,214	\$577,366
Spring wheat.....bu.	10	100	82	5	80	60
Corn.....bu	42,254	1,056,350	422,540	62,187	1,243,740	460,183
Oats.....bu	15,752	472,560	165,396	44,121	1,147,146	321,200
Rye.....bu	230	2,990	1,495	494	7,410	4,594
Barley.....bu.				30	750	375
Buckwheat.....bu	2	32	32	112	1,680	1,512
Irish potatoes.....bu.	1,341	80,460	80,460	723	43,380	24,726
Sweet potatoes.....bu.	20	1,600	1,600	55	4,785	4,067
Sorghum.....	424		15,264	442		17,680
Castor beans.....bu.	3,727	37,270	46,588	2,640	21,120	26,400
Cotton.....lbs.	28	11,200	896	20	5,000	400
Flax.....bu.	1,192	21,920	27,400	10,542	63,252	50,601
Hemp.....lbs.				10	7,000	350
Tobacco.....lbs.				2	1,200	120
Broom corn.....lbs.	48	9,600	288	69	34,500	1,121
Millet and Hung'n.....tons	3,055	4,582	18,328	2,770	5,540	22,160
Alfalfa.....				10		
Timothy.....	9,768			12,650		
Clover.....	2,856			3,693		
Orchard grass.....tons	89	† 8,229	57,603	52	‡ 8,541	42,705
Blue grass.....	1,553			1,456		
Other tame grasses.....	792			695		
Prairie, under fence.....tons	48,315	19,809	60,331	63,363	23,783	83,240
Totals.....	153,836		\$1,130,510	249,683		\$1,638,865

* Product of 1887. † Product of 1888. ‡ Product of 1889. § Product of 1890.

TABLE showing the acres, product and value of field crops in Labette county.

CROPS.	1892.		
	Acres.	Product.	Value.
Winter wheat.....bu.	37,170	520,380	\$286,209
Spring wheat.....bu.	49	490	245
Corn.....bu.	59,317	889,755	284,721
Oats.....bu.	30,749	737,976	184,494
Rye.....bu.	112	1,456	655
Barley.....bu.	8	96	40
Buckwheat.....bu.	8	80	60
Irish potatoes.....bu.	484	19,360	14,520
Sweet potatoes.....bu.	43	3,440	3,784
Castor beans.....bu.	1,625	11,375	14,218
Sorghum.....bu.	274	.....	6,632
Cotton.....lbs.	10	2,500	175
Flax.....bu.	3,711	25,977	22,080
Tobacco.....lbs.	1	600	60
Broom corn.....lbs.	65	26,000	845
Millet and Hungarian.....tons	1,962	2,988	11,952
Timothy.....	12,237	.....	.....
Clover.....	2,302	.....	.....
Blue grass.....	1,668	* 9,706	48,520
Alfalfa.....tons	7	.....	.....
Orchard grass.....	48	.....	.....
Other tame grasses.....	506	.....	.....
Prairie, under fence.....tons	38,957	23,603	70,800
Totals.....	191,343	.....	\$950,031

* Product of 1891.

FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS.

Almost from the commencement of our history the farmers have in one form or another been more or less effectively organized for the promotion of agriculture, and the advancement of their interests.

FARMERS' CLUBS.

The first organization of this kind of which I have any knowledge was the Farmers' Club, of Oswego township, which was organized in October, 1870. F. Swanwick was elected president, and J. P. Jones secretary.

The Richland Township Farmers' Club was organized April 6, 1872, although steps toward the organization of a club seem to have been taken a year previous. S. K. Thomas was chairman and J. N. Watson secretary of the temporary organization, and T. J. Calvin and J. N. Watson were the permanent president and secretary.

In January, 1881, the Hackberry Club was organized, with D. B. Crouse as president.

It is not improbable that clubs were organized at other points, of which I have received no information.

FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

On May 20, 1882, a Farmers' Alliance was organized at Chetopa, with Isaac Butterworth president and A. E. Bartlett secretary. I know of no other alliance being organized prior to the general move some years later.

FARMERS' UNION.

The only account I have of this organization is the following announcement for a 4th of July celebration, made by them June 14, 1873:

"There will be a basket picnic and meeting of the Farmers' Union of the county at Hart's Mill, two and one-half miles northwest of Labette City, on the Labette river; not only for the purpose of celebrating our nation's anniversary, but for the purpose of declaring our independence and emancipation from the thralldom of monopolies and corporations that now, through their moneyed influence, oppress the laboring classes (the bone and sinew of the nation) to an extent more alarming than the tyranny our forefathers emancipated themselves from.

J. F. PIPER,
RICHARD BAKER,
W. HOUCK,

Committee."

GRANGE.

The farmers' organization known as "The Grange," or "Patrons of Husbandry," was introduced into this county in the summer of 1873. I do not know where the first grange in the county was organized, but John Nelson, of Neosho township, was county organizer, and on September 11, 1873, he organized the Pleasant Valley Grange, in District No. 3.

On October 15, 1873, Richland Grange was organized, at Watson's school-house, with D. J. Doolen master, J. C. McKnight overseer, and John N. Watson secretary.

COUNTY ORGANIZATION.—On December 19, 1873, the various granges of the county met at Labette, to form a council. J. F. Hill was chosen chairman, and C. W. Olmstead secretary. At this meeting a constitution which did not allow women to vote was adopted, but it was unsatisfactory to the local organizations. On December 27th an adjourned meeting was held, in which 70 delegates were present representing 20 granges. Women, who had been excluded from the former convention, were admitted to this. The county organization was now completed, and the following officers were elected: J. J. Woods, master; J. F. Hill, overseer; John Richardson, treasurer; D. C. Thurston, secretary; S. W. Collins, business agent; and the following executive committee: J. T. Lampson, S. M. Canaday, and T. A. Fellows. The first meeting after its organization was held February 24, 1874. At this meeting the secretaryship was

changed, and given to I. W. Patriek: and a grange store was authorized to be started as soon as possible. H. C. Cook was appointed county organizer.

STORE.—In 1874 a grange store was opened at Labette, with an authorized capital stock of \$4,000. S. W. Collins, the business agent of the council, was salesman. In June, 1875, J. T. Lampson was appointed agent of the grange store in the place of Samuel Collins. From a financial standpoint the store never proved a success, and quite an amount of money was sunk in the enterprise.

CONDEMNATORY ACTION.—On March 20, 1875, at a meeting of the county council, it was, on motion of J. C. Murphy, “*Resolved*, That the county council condemn the late action of the County Commissioners in regard to their refusal to accept aid to the destitute of Labette county.” At the same time the following resolutions were adopted:

“*Resolved*, By the Labette County Council of Patrons of Husbandry in its regular session, that we, as a body, asking boot from no one, and in sympathy with our unfortunate yeomanry of this State, do bitterly denounce and condemn the late action of the Senate of the State of Kansas in regard to relief to the destitute of this State, as miserly, misanthropic in its nature, wrong and injurious to its loyal destitute, and a shame and a disgrace to the fair name of grateful Kansas.

“*Resolved*, That we will heartily indorse any action of the Governor of this State, by way of appropriating a portion of the surplus accumulated funds of the treasury of this State, to render aid, relief and assistance to those requiring the same from the destitution that visited the State last season.

“*Resolved*, That we will not support for office anyone who would not be willing that the next legislature legalize the same.”

These organizations were maintained in the county but two or three years, or at least there was no active work done after that, although there may have been a few local organizations kept up somewhat longer.

EXAMINING COUNTY OFFICES.—In July, 1874, the county council of Patrons of Husbandry appointed a committee of five, consisting of Col. J. J. Woods, chairman, John F. Hill, secretary, S. M. Canaday, Thomas Bates, and J. Merwin, to make a thorough examination of the county offices “for the purpose of ascertaining where the money goes.” The committee spent some time in the court-house, and at the end of their investigation made an exhaustive report, filling over five columns of newspaper. A number of recommendations were submitted by the committee, pointing out defects in the law which should be remedied and of administration which should be corrected. It is not improbable that good re-

sulted from this examination, if in nothing else than in making a large proportion of the people better acquainted with the way their business was conducted.

FAIR ASSOCIATIONS.

LABETTE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL SOCIETY.

On January 31, 1868, a number of the citizens of the county formed an organization for the purpose of locating fair grounds on the southwest quarter of section 16, township 33, range 21; and N. L. Hibbard, W. S. Newlon, C. H. Bent, Isaac Butterworth and others filed a charter in the office of the Secretary of State on February 13th for the incorporation of the Labette County Agricultural and Mechanical Society. W. S. Newlon was elected president and W. P. Bishop secretary. The second issue of the *Neosho Valley Eagle* contains a notice that the books of the society are open for subscription to its capital stock. This organization never succeeded in starting a fair, or doing anything that looked practically to that end.

LABETTE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

In the latter part of June, 1870, a call was made through the *Oswego Register* for those interested in the organization of a fair to meet at the court-house on July 2d for the purpose of taking steps to secure such result. On that day there was quite a gathering of the citizens of the county, who effected a temporary organization by electing D. B. Crouse chairman and Nelson Case secretary. The establishment of a fair was discussed, and it was finally agreed to organize the Labette County Agricultural and Horticultural Society. A board of directors representing all parts of the county was selected, and the following officers chosen: D. B. Crouse president, Jonas Clark vice-president, C. H. Lewis secretary, William Steele treasurer. Under this management a fair was held on the south bank of the Neosho river, on the northwest quarter of section 15, in Oswego. The fair was a success. Annual fairs were thereafter held under the auspices of this society up to and including 1883. Most of these were successful both in the matter of securing a good display of the products of the county and in financial management. In 1873 a new charter was obtained, and the association put on a firmer basis. Fair grounds were purchased in the northeast part of Oswego city, and a commencement made toward improving and fitting them up for the holding of fairs. As indicating what the success of some of the first fairs were, I may mention that in 1873 the receipts were \$2,135.15, and the disbursements \$1,957.61; in 1874 the receipts were \$2,279.84, and disbursements \$2,356.09. The following two years the receipts were not

enough to pay expenses and premiums, and a small indebtedness was thereby created. The next year or two was more successful. In 1880 a large amphitheater was erected, whereby an indebtedness was created, to secure which a mortgage on the company's grounds was executed; and this finally was foreclosed, and the property sold thereunder. In 1883 the association virtually disbanded, and made no other attempts at holding a fair. The following is a list of the presidents and secretaries of this association after the first fair: Presidents—1871, D. B. Crouse; 1872, Isaac Butterworth; 1873, C. M. Monroe; 1874-5, J. J. Woods; 1876, F. A. Bettis; 1877-8, R. W. Wright; 1879, J. P. Updegraff; 1880, R. W. Wright; 1881, C. O. Perkins; 1882-3, C. Montague. Secretaries—1871, C. H. Lewis; 1872-4, C. B. Woodford; 1875-7, C. A. Wilkin; 1878, C. B. Woodford, 1879-83, C. A. Wilkin.

NEOSHO VALLEY STOCK ASSOCIATION.

In the summer of 1884, it having become apparent that the Agricultural and Horticultural Society was not going to hold a fair that season, a new organization under the name of the Neosho Valley Stock Association was formed, of which D. B. Crouse was president, Isaac Butterworth vice-president, and C. B. Woodford secretary. Under its auspices a fair was held on the fair grounds in Oswego, commencing the last of September. No premiums were paid, but diplomas were given according to merit. The treasurer's report at the close of the fair shows the total receipts to be \$164.40, and expenses \$156.65. In 1885 the officers were: J. F. Hill, president; D. Doyle, vice-president; C. B. Woodford, secretary; and J. W. Marley, treasurer. Quite a successful fair was held, commencing September 8th.

LABETTE COUNTY HORTICULTURAL AND AGRICULTURAL FAIR ASSOCIATION.

No attempt was made at holding a fair at Oswego from 1885 to 1891. During the summer of 1891 a number of the citizens organized the Labette County Horticultural and Agricultural Fair Association, and elected R. W. Wright president, J. D. H. Reed secretary, J. G. Bradley treasurer and superintendent. A fair was held September 14th to 16th. The exhibits and attendance were encouraging. The receipts were large enough to pay all expenses, which amounted to \$260.

In 1892 the association held its second fair, from September 29th to October 1st. The officers this year were: J. B. Montgomery, president; J. D. H. Reed, secretary; George Pfaff, treasurer; and J. G. Bradley, superintendent. The receipts were \$600, and all premiums and obligations were paid in full. *

LABETTE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL, HORTICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL ASSOCIATION.

In the summer of 1872 a number of the citizens in the vicinity of the town of Labette organized the Labette County Agricultural, Horticultural and Mechanical Association, for the purpose of holding a fair at that point. F. C. Burnette was elected president and Wm. Houck secretary. A fair commencing the 8th of October of that year was held, with a fair degree of success. The following officers were elected for 1873: President, S. W. Collins; vice-president, J. F. Piper; secretary, William Houck; treasurer, Harvey I. Cox. It was decided to hold a fair in the fore part of October, but no fair seems to have been held; and this, apparently, was the last of this association.

PARSONS FAIR AND DRIVING-PARK ASSOCIATION.

Early in 1882 steps were taken by some of the citizens of Parsons to form an organization for the purpose of holding a fair at that place. The Parsons Fair and Driving-Park Association was formed, with a board of directors composed of its leading business men, of which G. W. Gabriel was president and J. R. Brown secretary. Good grounds were secured and improved, and from 1882 to 1886, inclusive, successful fairs were held. After that no fair was held till 1892, when another effort was made, with a good result.

STOCK ASSOCIATION.

In August, 1884, the Short-Horn Breeders' Association was organized, with the following officers: Dr. B. R. Van Meter, president; Chas. W. Stoddard, vice-president; M. E. Williams, secretary; J. C. Christian, treasurer.

LABETTE COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Those engaged in horticulture and fruit-growing were only a little behind those interested in agriculture and stock-raising, in taking steps to unite their interests for mutual improvement in growing and disposing of their products. The early records of the Labette County Horticultural Society have been lost, and I am not able to give the date of its organization; but it was sometime prior to 1877. Nearly all of the fruit-growers in the vicinity of Oswego and a number in other parts of the county have been members and active workers of this society. Among those who have been most prominent as workers in the society I may mention the following: H. S. Coley, J. L. Williams, N. Sanford, J. A. Gates, John F. Hill, J. B. Draper, D. Doyle, Isaac Butterworth, W. S. Newlon, G. A. Stover, Wilf. Cooper, Henry Tibbitts, George Pfaff. I do not wish to be understood as giving in this list the names of all of those who have been prom-

inent workers in this society, but only such as now occur to me. Had I the records of the society the list might be very much enlarged. During the summer the society frequently holds picnics, at which all phases of the question of fruit-growing are fully and carefully discussed, and much of the success of the fruit-growing business may be fairly attributed to the work of this society.

OTHER COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS.

COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

There is no existing record of the organization of this society. It was probably organized early in 1869. The first minutes I have been able to find of its meetings are those for a semi-annual meeting held at Oswego on November 7, 1870; the society was then called the Osage and Southern Kansas Medical Association. C. M. Gilkey was president and Robert Steele secretary. At this meeting it was voted to change the name to the Labette County Medical Association: W. S. Newlon was elected president, George Lisle vice-president, Robert Steele secretary, and J. W. Wier treasurer. A uniform schedule of fees was adopted.

On June 8, 1871, a meeting of the society was held, at which W. S. Newlon was president and D. D. McGrath secretary.

On June 16, 1875, after a lapse of two or three years, a meeting was held, and the association revived. George Lisle was elected president, W. S. Newlon vice-president, C. Humble secretary, and B. R. Van Meter treasurer.

On May 18, 1885, the society again organized, and elected J. J. Kackley president and A. H. Garnett secretary.

The society now maintains an organization and holds regular meetings.

BAR ASSOCIATION.

On September 15, 1881, the members of the bar met at the court-house and organized a county bar association, with the following officers: H. G. Webb president, Nelson Case and George S. King vice-presidents, J. H. Morrison secretary, J. A. Gates treasurer. This association was never very active, and after a brief existence it was abandoned; since which time no effort has been made to organize or maintain an association.

HOOSIER ASSOCIATION.

On June 19, 1886, the former residents of Indiana met at Labette City and organized a Hoosier Association. Wilf. Cooper was elected president and W. W. Cook secretary. This association has held several annual meetings since then, and maintains a feeling of friendship and pride among the old "Indianians."

OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION.

Several attempts have been made to secure a permanent organization of the old settlers in the county. As early as April 16, 1884, there was a preliminary meeting held at the court-house in Oswego, at which a committee was appointed to report a plan for enrollment at an adjourned meeting to be held thereafter. D. B. Crouse was chosen chairman and C. B. Woodford secretary. One or two other meetings were held the following month, and a form of constitution was adopted. However, this organization never did anything more than to have these preliminary meetings. In 1888 another effort was made to secure an organization, and a meeting of the old settlers was called through the *Independent*, to be held on the 22d of February of that year. A committee was appointed at this meeting to call a public meeting and arrange for a large attendance of the old settlers throughout the county. This committee called such meeting to be held at the fair grounds in Oswego on May 10, 1888. An organization was formed at this time, and since then some two or three other meetings have been held: but the general interest has not yet been secured which it is to be hoped will be shown by those who have done so much to make the county what it is.

THE LABETTE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

In its issue of July 6, 1878, the Oswego *Independent* contained a notice of about a half-dozen lines stating that a meeting of the citizens of the county would be held at the court-house on Tuesday evening following, for the purpose of taking steps to organize a historical society. It was understood that this notice was inserted by J. S. Waters, who was then doing editorial work on the *Independent*. On July 9, 1878, a few parties met at the court-house, pursuant to said notice. Alexander Duncan, of Canada township, was made temporary chairman, and J. S. Waters temporary secretary. The matter of a historical society was talked of, and before the adjournment of the meeting a committee consisting of Nelson Case, W. A. Starr and R. M. Donley, was appointed to prepare a plan for organization to be submitted in one week from that time. On Tuesday evening, July 16, the meeting met as per adjournment. The committee appointed to prepare the plan reported through Nelson Case, its chairman, recommending the formation of a society on a very simple basis, "keeping in view sooner or later the incorporation of a society," and submitting the draft of a constitution. The report of the committee was adopted, and the following officers elected: President, Nelson Case; vice-president, George Lisle; secretary, J. S. Waters; corresponding secretary, M. W. Reynolds; treasurer, C. M. Monroe; with vice-presidents from each of the townships. There has never been any change in the

presidency since its organization. In 1879 W. A. Starr was elected secretary in place of Mr. Waters, who moved away: this position he continued to hold until his death. On November 21, 1881, the society became incorporated by filing its charter in the office of the Secretary of State. Since Mr. Starr's death E. B. Baldwin and J. R. Hill have filled the office of secretary; H. C. Cook and M. E. Williams have held the office of treasurer.

The society has as near complete files of the county papers as it has been able to obtain, and has collected quite a number of relics and objects of interest connected with the early history of the county, and it is to be hoped that its work of usefulness has but just commenced.

COUNTY CENTENNIAL BOARD.

On Saturday, September 19, 1875, a meeting was held at Oswego, which was attended by citizens from various parts of the county, for the purpose of organizing a board auxiliary to the State board to secure a proper representation at the Centennial Exposition. The constitution and by-laws recommended by the State board were adopted, and a board of managers elected, consisting of the following individuals: W. S. Newlon, P. T. Rhodes, F. B. McGill, Henry Tibbitts, J. F. Hill, J. J. Woods, A. Gebert, H. C. Cook, and J. M. Cavaness. A quorum of the board being present, a meeting was held, and the permanent officers of the board chosen, with the following result: President, J. M. Cavaness; vice-president, F. B. McGill; secretary, J. F. Hill; treasurer, J. J. Woods. The board of officers constituted the executive committee. The committees whose duty it was to make collections of the various articles requested by the State board were all chosen.

COLUMBIAN CLUB.

On August 26, 1892, a meeting of the ladies of the county was held at the parlors of the Oswego House, for the purpose of seeing the county properly represented at the Columbian Exposition. The following permanent officers were elected: Mrs. M. M. Woodruff, president; Mrs. Mary E. Perkins, vice-president; Mrs. Alice Greene, secretary; Mrs. Elizabeth Elliott, treasurer. Mrs. Woodruff having declined to serve, Mrs. Lyda A. Baldwin was elected president in her place.

G. A. R.

Pea Ridge Post, No. 118, is located at Chetopa, and was organized August 21, 1882. Post commanders: Capt. Thomas O'Hare, Col. J. B. Cook, James F. Sterling, L. M. Bedell, S. T. Herman, W. O. Breckenridge, Robert Orme, William Stevens, and H. J. Schock.

Antietam Post, No. 64, is located at Parsons, and was organized June

6, 1882. There are now 263 names on the roll. The post has a tract of ground in Oak Wood Cemetery, in which all old soldiers are buried free of expense if the friends so desire. On this lot they have already buried 67. Nearly \$3,000 has been expended on this burial-ground. Post commanders: W. H. Morris, Luther Gilmore, H. L. Partridge, T. D. Ganer, W. P. Scholl, W. H. Porter, R. D. Talbot, J. D. Scott, and A. M. Sourbeer.

Mound Valley Post, No. 139, was organized November 9, 1882. There are 110 names on its roll of old soldiers who have been members of this post. Only about 25 are in good standing: five have died, and the others have withdrawn by suspension or removal. The following have been commanders: Josephus Moore, W. W. Harper, A. J. Ginger, L. C. Wilmoth, Ivy Prescott, L. E. Hanson, N. W. Wallis, and Ivy Prescott.

Oswego Post, No. 150, was organized January 10, 1883, and has had the following commanders: John F. Hill, D. H. David, E. B. Baldwin, George P. Hall, J. C. Patterson, H. C. Cook, W. L. Burch, and R. W. Wright.

Topping Post, No. 268, is located at Altamont, and was organized September 8, 1883. Commanders: Daniel Reid, Ezra Bonebrake, J. C. Murphy, J. J. Miles, A. H. Waite, R. A. Davis, J. F. Huffman, T. J. Hun, and T. H. Murray. It has a membership of twenty-two, and has lost three by death.

Knoxville Post was organized at Kingston, May 18, 1883, with E. B. Baldwin commander.

CRIMINAL MATTERS.

On August 6, 1868, Charles Van Alstine killed J. C. Wheeler, near a saloon in Oswego in which they had been drinking. Van Alstine was tried and convicted of murder, and sent to the penitentiary. This was the first murder trial in the county.

In the latter part of 1868 a half-breed Indian was intoxicated and making a disturbance on the streets of Chetopa. He was arrested by an officer, who asked him where he got his whisky; he told the officer if he would go with him he would show him. He went to a shanty on the outskirts of town, opened a door, and stooping down to his saddle-bags took therefrom a revolver, saying, "That is where I got my whisky," and fired, the ball striking the officer on the forehead, but glanced instead of penetrating the skull. The Indian was again arrested, and taken before the justice. A somewhat rough character called Bob Broadus told him he would be killed, and, if he had an opportunity, to run. The Indian soon started off, and was at once fired upon by a number of parties and killed.

In 1870 John D. Coulter was postmaster at Oswego, and also agent of all the express companies that did business at that place. In the latter part of November of that year, without giving notice of his intention so to do, he left town, and was never seen here thereafter. He proved to be a defaulter to the Government and also the express companies in the sum of several hundred dollars.

Anthony Amend and John Pierce, living in Neosho township, had a difficulty over a child. Pierce shot and killed Amend, and then attempted to hide in the woods and tall grass. The grass was set on fire, and to escape, Pierce jumped into the Neosho and swam across. He was caught and taken to Jacksonville, where a vigilance committee hung him. This hanging took place in Neosho county. Several parties were arrested as being connected with it, but no one was ever convicted.

On October 3, 1874, on the fair grounds at Oswego, John Bagby stabbed William Hogsett and Charles H. Westfall, both of whom were special police. Hogsett soon died, while Westfall, after a protracted confinement, recovered. Bagby was sent to the penitentiary.

On November 2, 1870, Erastus E. and Liston P. Hopkins killed their

brother-in-law, John M. May, by beating and wounding him with poles and clubs. In June, 1871, they were tried for this offense. The State was represented by Judge D. P. Lowe, M. V. Voss, and Jesse C. Harper, together with the county attorney. The defense was principally conducted by M. V. B. Bennett and J. D. Gamble. The defendants were convicted of murder in the second degree, after a protracted trial. A notable incident of this trial was in reference to the court driving a witness named Chas. H. Butts from the witness stand during the giving of his testimony. It appeared by the testimony of Butts that he was a detective, and had been placed in the jail with the Hopkins brothers under the pretense of being guilty of some kind of a crime, for the real purpose of getting admissions from them to be of use on the trial. On these facts appearing, the presiding judge said that such a person was unworthy of credit, and should not be allowed to give testimony in his court; he was directed to leave the stand, which he did.

On February 24, 1871, John Clark was killed at Chetopa by Frank Huber. Huber was tried, and convicted of murder in the first degree, and sentenced to be hung on September 1st; on August 31st a respite was granted until September 30th. Huber had been taken to Fort Scott after his trial for more safe confinement until the time of his execution. The last of August he was brought from Fort Scott to Oswego, where a gallows had been erected in front of the old jail, and where on the morrow he was to be hung. After the respite arrived, and before the time of his execution, as then fixed, the Supreme Court granted him a new trial because of a defect in the form of the verdict. Preferring not to undergo the excitement of another trial, Huber succeeded in removing some of the stones and other rubbish that separated him from the outside world, and on the night of November 23, 1871, made his escape from the county jail, since which time he has never been heard of at this place. His case was the nearest we have ever been to having a legal execution in this county.

On August 14, 1872, B. W. Harwood had a difficulty with the Blye brothers, and was very badly beaten and bruised by them. Later in the day he went to their home and fired into a crowd of people that were there assembled, slightly wounding two persons. On the 15th he was arrested, and gave bond for his appearance at trial. On the morning of August 16th he was found on his premises, riddled with bullets. Three of the Blye brothers and a number of neighbors were arrested and tried for the murder. While people generally had no doubt about their guilt, the State failed to produce sufficient evidence to convict, and the defendants were all acquitted.

On May 27, 1875, R. B. Myers absconded. It appeared from examination made that for months he had been embezzling from the Adams Express Company, for whom he was agent. A statement was made by the general manager to the effect that as far back as December previous he had been detected in defalcation. In the fall of 1879 he was brought back from the west where he was found, on requisition, and on examination was bound over to court. In proceedings pending the trial it was developed that the company was defectively organized, its charter being imperfect; and there being no law punishing embezzlement by an agent of a joint-stock company, Myers was permitted to go at liberty.

On April 1, 1878, while Milton Engler and Samuel Clevinger were going to their homes in Cherokee county from Chetopa in a state of intoxication, they got into a quarrel; the former stabbed the latter with a knife, from the effects of which he soon died.

On Sunday morning, August 25, 1878, R. H. Clift, who was marshal of Chetopa, was shot and killed near town by John Richmond, a horse-thief whom he was attempting to arrest. Richmond had passed through town a few days before with a stolen mule in his possession, and was now returning to Missouri. Word having come that he was guilty of stealing the mule, parties in town who had seen him pass through informed the marshal of the circumstances, and he immediately started in pursuit. He soon overtook Richmond and ordered him to stop, telling him that he was under arrest. Richmond replied that he would return with him, but at once drew a revolver and shot Clift through the neck: he died that night. On the Wednesday following the Sunday on which Clift was shot, Richmond, having reached his home in Missouri near the village of White Hall, in Laurence county, was there arrested for stealing the mule at a camp meeting. The next morning, August 29th, he was being taken to Mount Vernon, when Bently came up and informed the officers that Richmond was guilty of the murder of Clift. This was the first that the shooting of Clift was known at the home of Richmond. Richmond was taken to Mount Vernon, where he was held until Bently could get a requisition, and as soon as the same could be obtained Bently and United States Deputy Marshal Graham secured his delivery to them, and at once started with him for this county. Instead of taking the train at Carthage to Oswego, they decided to go the route through the Indian Territory, transferring to the M. K. & T. Rly. at Vinita. They arrived at Chetopa on the midnight train Thursday night, September 5th. Masked men appeared in the train as soon as it stopped at Chetopa, and compelled the officers to take Richmond out: they took him out and proceeded to get into a 'bus. The mob surrounded the

'bus and train, took Richmond from the officers, marched him a mile southwest of town, and strung him up to an old bridge, where he was left hanging until the next afternoon. This cold-blooded murder of Richmond was without excuse. His crime was a terrible one, but there would have been no difficulty in convicting and punishing him for it. No one except the participants know who were the criminals engaged in the second murder, and no effort was made to apprehend or punish them.

One of the most brutal murders ever committed took place in Canada township, about the last of October, 1878. Theodore Munsterman and William Hunt some time previous thereto had had difficulty over the entry of a claim. On the day of the murder Hunt and his wife had been to Oswego, and during their absence Munsterman had been seen around the premises. On their way home from Oswego, Hunt overtook Munsterman going in the direction of their home. He got in and rode with them. It was late in the evening when they arrived home. Hunt and Munsterman talked over their previous difficulty, and agreed to bury all differences. Munsterman was making his home with his sister several miles away, and it was suggested that he stay all night with Hunt. They had but one bed, and they made a pallet for him upon the floor in the same room in which they slept. During the night Mrs. Hunt awoke and found Munsterman at their bedside bending over her; she asked him what he wanted; he said he wanted to kiss her. Later in the night Munsterman got up and shot both Mr. and Mrs. Hunt in the head. Hunt was evidently killed at once. Probably Mrs. Hunt made some move, and to finish the job Munsterman took a hatchet and broke in her skull. He left them both in bed where they had slept, went out, locked the door, and took Hunt's team and moved off. He was seen the next day with the team, which he said he had borrowed and was going to the Territory for coal. It turned out that he took the team and hitched it in a ravine, and himself went to Chetopa. That evening one of the neighbor boys went to the house, but could not get in. He heard a groaning inside, and went and told his mother. Several of the neighbors were aroused and came to the house and broke open the door. They found Hunt dead, and Mrs. Hunt unable to speak and nearly dead. Munsterman was found, and at once arrested on suspicion that he had committed the murder. His account of having the team and of his whereabouts was entirely unsatisfactory, and he was placed in the county jail. By the time of the next term of court, when the case came on for trial, Mrs. Hunt had so far recovered as to be able to talk. She came upon the witness stand and identified Munsterman as the murderer, giving the story of the transaction substantially as here recorded. Munsterman was convicted of

murder in the first degree. He died in the penitentiary, November 25, 1888.

On November 3, 1879, an obstruction in the shape of a hand-car, with old irons and other material, was placed on the Frisco Rly., near Big Hill station. A detective was employed to ascertain the guilty parties, and thereafter Albert C. Tolliver was arrested for the offense. Tolliver made confession, and implicated James Henry Barnes, sr., and his son in the crime. The old man Barnes was not found, but the younger Barnes was tried, and, by what is believed to be the most successfully planned and carried out conspiracy for perjury ever attempted in this court, participated in by a large number of his friends and neighbors, was acquitted.

On December 2, 1879, Quincy Harris was arrested for operating an illicit distillery on Hackberry creek, and John and Josiah Johnson for assisting by furnishing corn. Harris was taken in charge by the U. S. Marshal.

On July 10, 1880, Daniel Tucker killed a colored man named William Dudley, near Mound Valley. Tucker had been lying around Chetopa for several days, and hired Dudley to take him to Neodesha with his team, on the pretense that he desired him to bring back a load of goods. On Sunday, July 11th, parties passing west of Mound Valley saw where some one had encamped the night before, and noticed clots of blood and other evidences of a hard struggle. Physicians were called, and after examination pronounced the blood and brains found to be those of a human being. That evening someone found the body of a colored man in a ravine some three miles away, and parties immediately started out to find the murderer. They soon found a wagon with a man and woman in it, and the team was identified as the one which had encamped the night before where the body was found. The man was arrested and proved to be Tucker, the murderer of the colored man, William Dudley. He was convicted of murder in the first degree.

On March 4, 1881, on a south-bound passenger train on the M. K. & T. Rly., just as it was leaving Chetopa, James Hayden, who was from Lebanon, Ky., and a passenger on the train, commenced firing his revolver promiscuously among the passengers. He shot and killed William Lewis, of McAlister, I. T., and wounded two others. He was at once arrested and taken from the train and lodged in jail. Soon thereafter, it being supposed that he was insane, an inquisition was held, in which it was determined that he was of unsound mind. His friends came from Kentucky and took him home. The shooting was caused by his supposing that he was in danger of his life from the Indians, as he was nearing the Indian Territory.

On September 27, 1884, John Douglas killed Harry Fox, at his home

in Canada township. Douglas escaped and went to Ohio, from whence he was brought back a year after, and on trial was convicted.

At the May, 1885, term of the district court, Frank P. Myres was tried and convicted of stealing a span of mules. On his application he was granted a new trial. On the night of July 7, 1885, Winfield Scott Crouse, who was a prisoner in the county jail charged with murder, J. J. Thompson with liquor-selling, and a colored man, Mat Lingo, with assault and battery, broke jail and compelled Myres to go with them. The latter, however, did not leave town, but next morning returned and gave himself up. On the night of July 26th Myres with others broke jail again, but he was soon found, at Vinita, and was returned to jail on the 28th. On the night of August 4th Myres was taken from jail. To secure his escape from jail, five locks had to be broken or unlocked. The next morning the locks were all found fastened and in good order. How the doors were opened is an unsolved mystery. On August 6th Myres's body was found in the Neosho river, just above the Oswego dam.

During Myres's imprisonment Jacob McLaughlin and Wash Berkaw were part of the time confined in jail with him on the charge of selling liquor. It is supposed that they feared testimony which Myres might give if called as a witness on their trial, and that they, after their release on bail, secured Myres and took him from the jail on the 4th of August. On April 14, 1886, McLaughlin and Berkaw were arrested for the murder of Myres. On their examination Frank and George Davis, who were also confined in the jail at the time when Myres was taken therefrom, testified that McLaughlin, with the assistance of Berkaw, took Myres from jail. The defendants were both held to answer the charge of murder. On the trial of McLaughlin and Berkaw on the charge of murder in the district court, the Davis boys gave testimony directly contrary to what they had testified on the preliminary examination, and said that what they had testified to before was false. It was developed on the trial that after the preliminary examination had been had, the Davis boys went to the office of E. C. Ward, in Parsons, who was attorney for McLaughlin and Berkaw, where it was arranged between them that in the event of their giving testimony of the character which they did give upon the final trial, they should receive a certain sum of money. The money was deposited in bank, subject to their order upon the final acquittal of the defendants. The defendants were acquitted on the trial, although probably no one had any doubt of their real guilt.

At the close of the trial the court appointed a committee to investigate the conduct of E. C. Ward in connection with this transaction. The committee in the report found that he had been guilty of bribery, and

recommended that he be disbarred. Charges were preferred against him, and change of venue was had upon his application to the district court of Neosho county, where he was tried and found guilty, and a judgment of disbarment was entered.

On the night of February 21, 1885, Marcus A. Justice and Mayfield Carr, two colored men who had had some jealous feeling in reference to a woman, were in company near the M. K. & T. depot at Oswego. The next morning Carr was found dead in the cut of the Frisco Rly. between the M. K. & T. and the brick mill. Justice was charged with the murder, and on trial had on May 27, 1885, was convicted of murder in the first degree.

On November 16, 1885, George W. Gregson shot and killed W. A. Collins, in the Grand Central Hotel at Parsons. On February 19, 1886, he was convicted of murder in the first degree.

In September, 1886, Wilf. Cooper got upon a freight train at Parsons to ride to his home at Labette City. There were some three or four other parties in the car, who proved to be tramps. Before arriving at Labette City they attacked Cooper and threw him out of the car. He recovered himself sufficiently to get to Labette City and telegraph to Oswego for the arrest of the parties, who were tried, convicted, and sent to the penitentiary.

On June 26, 1888, the marshal at Chetopa had a warrant for the arrest of a colored man who was supposed to be engaged in the illegal sale of liquor, and who had made his boast that no officer could arrest him. The marshal called a man to his aid, and started to serve the warrant. Another colored man had allied himself with the one they were seeking to arrest, and, seeing one of the officers coming, one of them secreted himself behind the building, and the other from across the street leveled his gun at the officer. Both opened fire on the officers, and wounded them in a number of places in a way that was at the time supposed would prove fatal. The colored men ran at once, and secreted themselves in the loft of an old house. It was ascertained that they were in the house, and finding themselves hemmed in, they surrendered. The mayor put them under guard and sent for the sheriff, who arrived at Chetopa in the evening. It was not thought advisable to bring them to the county jail in the night-time. In the meantime the guard which had been placed over them was continued. They were placed in the city hall, the sheriff and guard remaining with them. A mob of masked men broke into the room, put a revolver in the face of the sheriff and guard, blew out the light, slipped a noose over the head of each of the prisoners, dragged them to the rear end of the building, put them on a scaffold which had

been piled upon a wagon standing by the side of the building, fastened the rope inside, and then drew the wagon from under them, where they were left to hang until the next morning. No serious attempt was ever made to discover the murderers of these men, and no prosecution for the crime was ever instituted.

On April 1, 1890, Carrey S. Arnold killed John Bobzien, in the west part of the county, for which he was afterwards tried and convicted.

On October 22, 1892, William H. Mills, while sitting in a restaurant at Chetopa, was shot through the head by some party on the outside of the building, and instantly killed. G. A. Luman was arrested on suspicion, but has not yet had his trial.

On December 17, 1892, Albert Shoemaker shot and killed his brother Allen. He claimed that the killing was in self-defense. His trial has not yet taken place.

THE BENDER SLAUGHTER-PEN.

About the last of 1870 a family of Hollanders, or Germans, consisting of four persons—a man, his wife, son, and daughter—moved on the northeast quarter of section 13, township 31, range 17, in Osage township. The man was known as William Bender, the son and daughter as John and Kate. They erected a small frame house, 16x24 feet, which was divided into two parts by studding, on which hung an old wagon-sheet for a partition. In the front part they had a few articles for sale, such as tobacco, crackers, sardines, candies, powder, and shot. Just outside the door was a plain sign, "Groceries." In the front room were also two beds. They also pretended to furnish lunch and entertainment for travelers. In the back room, almost up against the partition studding, a hole just large enough to let a man down had been cut in the floor, the door to which raised with a leather strap. Under this an excavation had been made in the ground, leaving a hole some six or seven feet in diameter and about the same in depth. It was supposed that when a victim was killed in the daytime he was thrown into this hole until night, when he would be taken out and buried. Little was known of the family generally. They repelled rather than invited communication with their neighbors. Kate traveled over the county somewhat, giving spiritualistic lectures and like entertainments, but created very little stir or comment. The two young people occasionally went to church and singing-school, and the men frequently attended public meetings in the township. The place was on the road, as then traveled, from Osage Mission to Independence. During 1871 and 1872 several parties had traveled the road, making inquiries for persons who were missing, and who had last been heard of at Fort Scott or

Independence. About March 10, 1873, a public meeting was held at Harmony Grove school-house, in District No. 30, to discuss the herd law. The matter of so many people being missing, and the fact that suspicion rested upon the people of Osage township, were spoken of. It was said a vigorous search should be made, under the sanction of a search-warrant. Both of the Benders were present. Father Dick said, "Commence the search at my house," and father Dienst responded, "Yes, and go directly from there to my house." Old man Bender, who sat between them, made no reply. About the 1st of March, 1873, Dr. William York had left his home on Onion creek, in Montgomery county, in search of a man and child by the name of Loucher, who had left Independence for Iowa during the previous winter and had never thereafter been heard of by their friends. Dr. York reached Fort Scott, and started to return about March 8th, but never reached home. In the fore part of April, Col. A. M. York, with some fifty citizens from Montgomery county, started from Independence to make a thorough search for his brother. They went as far as Fort Scott, but could get no clue to the missing man. On their return they visited the Bender place and tried to induce Kate, who professed to be a clairvoyant, to make an effort to help discover the Doctor. But Kate was able to successfully elude their efforts without throwing any suspicion on herself. That night the Bender family left their place, went to Thayer, where they purchased tickets to Humboldt, and took the north-bound train at 5 o'clock on the following morning. A day or two thereafter their team was found hitched a short distance from Thayer, and apparently nearly starved. It was about the 1st of May that a party passing the Bender place noticed the stock wandering around as though wanting care. On going to the stable he found the team gone, and a calf dead in a pen, evidently having starved to death. He then went to the house, but found no one there. He notified the township trustee, who, with other parties, went to the premises and broke into the house, where they found nearly everything in usual order, little if anything aside from clothing and bed-clothing having been taken. A sickening stench almost drove them from the house. The trap-door in the back room was raised, and it was discovered that in the hole beneath was clotted blood which produced the stench. The house was removed from where it stood, but nothing further was found under it. In a garden near by a depression was noticed, and upon digging down the body of Dr. York was found buried, head downward, his feet being scarcely covered. His skull was smashed in, and his throat cut from ear to ear. On farther search seven more bodies were found, all of whom, except one, were afterwards identified by their friends, viz.: Loucher and his little girl, seven or eight years old, buried in one

hole; William Boyle, McCratty, Brown, and McKenzie. The other body was never identified. It is altogether probable that other parties were murdered, whose bodies were never found.

From the victims the Benders seem to have procured, as far as it was afterwards ascertained, about the following money and property: From Boyle, \$1,900; from McCratty, \$2,600; from Brown, \$37, a team of horses and a wagon; from McKenzie, 40 cents; from Loucher, \$38 and a good team and wagon; from Dr. York, \$10, a pony and saddle. A part of the property which they had disposed of was afterwards recognized and restored to the friends of the murdered men. Those who attempted to follow the Benders became satisfied of the following facts: They took the train at Thayer and all went as far as Chanute, where John and Kate got off and took the M. K. & T. train south, on which they went to Red river, in the Indian Territory, which was then the terminus of the road. Here they were subsequently joined by the old folks, who seemed to have gone to St. Louis after John and Kate left them at Chanute. Detectives thought they were able to trace their wanderings through Texas and New Mexico. Parties supposed to be the Benders were apprehended in many parts of the country, and several were brought back to this county for identification, who proved to have little if any resemblance to this butcher gang. Two women, supposed to be the old woman and Kate, were arrested in Michigan in 1890, and brought to this county on requisition. On habeas corpus proceedings they were released, the court being satisfied that they were not the Benders. However, some parties who were well acquainted with the Bender family still assert that these were the real Bender women. Several parties who lived near the Benders were supposed to be implicated with them in their crimes, and some of them were arrested, but on examination they were discharged, there not being sufficient evidence to hold them for trial. One or two of those thus arrested brought suit for false imprisonment, and obtained a verdict for a small amount as damages.

VIGILANCE COMMITTEE.

Members of this organization claim that it was formed at Luray, Clark county, Mo., in September, 1863, by persons living along the borders of Iowa and Missouri, to protect themselves from horse-stealing and other crimes, and that from there the organization spread to other parts, and among them to Kansas. I am not interested in tracing its origin, but as a matter of public history it should probably be said that on one or two occasions they have made something of a stir in our county.

In August, 1872, a secret organization of many of the citizens in the

western part of the county attempted to relieve the county of the presence of a few parties who were then residing there, among them William M. Rogers, John Kramer, W. D. McBride, and W. H. Carpenter. These parties were visited at night by masked men and warned to leave the county within a limited time. Some of them for a time disappeared in answer to this, but it was not long until the better-thinking portion of the community made its sentiments felt, and the proposition to have men's right to live there determined by a secret council was shown to be too unpopular to succeed. It was deemed best to allow people who were charged with objectionable practices to have a fair chance for vindicating themselves before any summary proceedings were taken to require them to disappear.

On September 9, 1874, delegates from this and several adjoining counties met at Stover school-house, in Fairview township, in grand council. The names of several of our prominent citizens, and some of them among the most respectable and conservative, were connected with this meeting, and with the organization as then perfected. The business of the meeting was of course secret, but a series of resolutions was passed and given to the papers for publication. The tone of these resolutions indicates that the organization was assuming prerogatives which did not belong to any private organization, whether open or secret. It is quite likely that the organization has accomplished some good as an aid to the civil officers in taking up and driving from our borders bands of men engaged in larceny and other illegal transactions, and possibly for these services some of its utterances may be overlooked which cannot be justified.

There have been a number of instances in the history of the county in which some of these secret organizations have played quite a conspicuous part in the settlement of criminal transactions, the facts in reference to which I have not within my control, and therefore in reference to them I will not attempt to speak; but it may be said that this county has probably been as free from transactions which cannot claim the sanction of law as has any county in a new State.

CITIZENS' PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION.

In 1879 there were various local organizations formed for the purpose of aiding each other in resisting payment of what they claimed to be illegal obligations. Their contention was that they had made loans through loan agents representing Eastern capitalists, and that as the loan was not made until the application was received in New York and accepted by the money-lenders there, and the notes were made payable in New York, it became a New York contract; and as the notes bore a rate

of interest greater than was allowed by the law of New York, they were absolutely void under those laws. They received some encouragement in the way of legal counsel in the position they had taken, and some few efforts were made to defeat actions which were commenced for the collection of these notes. But the move was not as popular with the mass of the people as the leaders in it supposed it would be, and never resulted in anything more than expense to those engaged in it. A county organization was formed early in its history, of which J. B. Graham of Jacksonville was president, A. J. Robertson of Oswego vice-president, J. A. Robeson of Ripon secretary, J. W. Breidenthal of Ripon corresponding secretary, J. O. McKee of Parsons treasurer, T. P. Lane of Labette City marshal. These names are given as published at the time in the county papers. It is probable that the object of the organization was somewhat broader than here stated, but it was short lived, and is only mentioned as one of the incidents showing the tendency of public opinion on matters of finance and political economy.

MISHAPS.

In every community during a course of years there are more or less occurrences which are generally regarded as misfortunes, some of which are the result of accidents and some of carelessness or mismanagement. Of these there have been quite a number in the history of the county. A few of these have either come under my own observation, or the knowledge of them has come to me while searching for facts on other subjects. I have made no effort to obtain this class of facts, but think it will not be out of place to mention a few of those about which I have learned.

On August 31, 1868, C. A. Kelso and Augustus Melvin, while crossing the Neosho in a skiff above the mill-dam at Oswego, ran into a drift which carried them over the dam; Mr. Kelso succeeded in getting to shore, but Mr. Melvin was drowned.

On September 18, 1869, the boiler to the saw-mill engine located on Big Hill creek, in Osage township, burst, and killed Messrs. Waymire and Worley, two of the proprietors.

On April 20, 1870, Wm. Patterson and Henry Bodine were examining a revolver in a street near the Oswego House. The revolver was accidentally discharged by Mr. Patterson and Mr. Bodine was instantly killed. The deceased was at the time under-sheriff, and his death caused a good deal of annoyance in reference to official papers, as well as trouble to his family.

In June, 1870, some parties came to the office of Dr. J. H. Lane, in Elston, in the night-time, and desired him to go several miles in the country to see a sick child. He lighted a lamp to dress by, but it was almost at once blown out, either by a gust of wind or by the parties in the room. He became unconscious. The last that he remembered in reference to this transaction was that he was on his horse going somewhere—he knew not where. When he awoke to consciousness again he found himself in Missouri, and learned that several weeks' time had elapsed since he left his home. When he left he had quite a large sum of money on his person, most of which was gone when he found himself in Missouri. He was never able to give any account of the cause for his loss of consciousness, nor to intelligently trace his wanderings.

Only a week or two after the mysterious disappearance of Dr. Lane, the County Surveyor, E. G. Davidson, living near Daytonville, mysteriously disappeared, and some time thereafter found himself in Oregon. He was never able to give any more satisfactory account of his trip than was Dr. Lane of his. After an absence of a few months Mr. Davidson and Dr. Lane both returned to their homes.

In the summer of 1871 old Mr. Hart with his little daughter were attempting to cross Pumpkin creek, at Duncan's ford; the creek was very high, but so strong was Hart's belief that he would not die until the second coming of Christ that he drove in, and he and his daughter as well as the team were drowned.

In the fall of 1871 two children of Wm. Chatfield, in the north part of Mount Pleasant township, were burned to death. While the parents were both away from home, the boys, aged about four and six years, got some matches and were playing prairie fire. The mother, who was at a neighbor's, saw the fire, and started home. The children got into a hen-house built of hay, and shut the door; the fire caught into this, and in spite of the mother's efforts the children were burned beyond recognition before they could be rescued.

On March 13, 1872, C. B. Pratt, postmaster at Ripon, was found dead in the road between his home and Chetopa, he having fallen from his wagon and been run over by one of the wheels.

In May, 1878, a family came into Oswego and located in the east part of town, and almost immediately a part of the family broke out with small-pox; several members died of the disease.

About the middle of December, 1880, while Richard Sloan was painting the Frisco House, at Oswego, he fell from the scaffold and was killed.

In April, 1881, Alexander Bishop lost a number of head of stock from hydrophobia, and a few months after that some twenty-three head near Edna had to be killed on account of the same malady.

In the summer of 1881 quite a large number of cattle in different parts of the county died from hydrophobia.

On September 20, 1881, the boiler of a locomotive on the M. K. & T. exploded near the residence of Ben Roberts, and killed the engineer and fireman and also two other engineers who were running with them, and tore the freight train almost to pieces.

On December 12, 1881, while W. P. Wilson and his son Thomas J. were crossing Pumpkin creek, the water in which was then very high, their wagon capsized and young Mr. Wilson was drowned.

On May 13, 1882, a locomotive on the M. K. & T., while stopping at Oswego, by some means got started while both the engineer and fireman

were in the depot getting orders. It ran a mile or two north, where it collided with a passenger train and smashed both engines, but killed no one.

On July 24, 1883, Edgar Stonecipher, a little son of Mrs. Sallie J. Stonecipher, died of hydrophobia. A little play dog had a few days before that made a scratch on his hand, which was not at the time thought sufficient to be at all dangerous, but from the effects of which the boy died.

During the high water of June and July, 1885, travel over the Labette bottom above Parsons had to be by boat. On July 2d, Master Mechanic W. E. Phillips, having Chester Jones and T. Fox in the boat with him, was drawn into a current, and all were drowned.

In July, 1886, the boiler of the National Mills, at Parsons, exploded, and caused a great destruction of property.

In July, 1886, a family of movers stopped just before crossing the bridge north of Oswego, and for some cause their team commenced backing and backed the wagon off the bluff to the right. The mother was badly injured and a little boy had his leg broken.

In April, 1892, the barn of William Kollenberger, of Elm Grove township, was struck by lightning. Five horses and two cattle were killed, and the barn, with its contents of tools, grain, etc., burned.

WEATHER.

1865.—Fore part of the season pleasant. July 4th, Neosho higher than has ever been known at any time down to 1885. Fall pleasant. Stock did well during winter, grazing on river bottom.

1866.—About usual weather up to May. June wet; all the streams were overflowing. What little crop was planted did well where it was not killed by overflow. In September the grasshoppers came in great numbers, and ate up everything that was green, completely filling the earth with their eggs. Fall and winter very mild.

1867.—January and February were very warm; the leaves were started in February, and grasshoppers' eggs were hatching this month. March was disagreeable, and colder than either of the winter months; it froze hard, and the young grasshoppers were all killed; they gave no trouble that season. Crops were not planted until the last of April. May and June pleasant. Latter part of June and July extremely wet; ground too wet to get on it with machines; grain had to be cut with cradles; streams overflowed. Very dry during the fall; streams got very low. A little cold weather during December.

1868.—There was considerable cold weather during January, the thermometer indicating 3 or 4 degrees below zero, and the ice on the Neosho being six to eight inches thick; the cold extended into the fore part of February. February was milder: some corn planted the last of the month made a good crop. A few showers during the fore part of March; snow and hail storms about the middle; it was a very windy month. Corn was generally planted about the first of April; cattle turned out to grass about the 10th. Several good showers during May. June was very dry, grass injured; corn badly damaged by hot and dry weather; harvest commenced about the last of June. The middle of July the thermometer ranged from 110 to 115. The latter part of August was the first time the ground had been soaking wet for a year. September, heavy rains; streams overflowed. Wheat-sowing took place in October. Middle of November the ground was frozen. Latter part of November and fore part of December severe sleet and snow-storm, and the same during the latter part of December.

1869.—January and February were mild and wet; the Neosho was over-bank; cattle did well on the range with little or no feed. February 25th was the coldest day of the winter; thermometer 5 degrees below zero; little snow during the winter. March was windy, rainy and disagreeable; cattle turned on the range the first of April. Corn mostly planted the latter part of April. Plenty of garden truck the latter part of May and fore part of June; frequent rains during June. Wheat harvest commenced the first of July. August was dry and hot. Plenty of rains during the fall. Snow the 16th of November, and December 10th it fell to the depth of fourteen inches.

1870.—There were several cold days in January, but no extremely cold weather; several slight snows during January and February. February pleasant. Quite a hard snow on the 12th of March; the last of March a good rain, which was the first hard rain during the spring. On April 16th there was a hard frost which cut down the corn and potatoes. Wheat harvest commenced about the middle of June; latter part of June and fore part of July very hot. Latter part of July and fore part of August hot and dry; heavy rains the latter part of August. The fall very seasonable. High water during the latter part of October. Several inches of snow the latter part of December.

1871.—January 1st was pleasant; lettuce was growing in the gardens large enough to eat; January 12th to 15th heavy snow-storms; extremely cold; snow fifteen inches deep. February 3d a heavy rain, accompanied by wind. April 21st heavy frost, which killed grass and fruit. Last week of June was very warm; thermometer stood at 90 to 104 degrees: wheat harvest commenced the 1st of June. On the 1st of July a good rain fell. August and September were dry. November 13th, the first freeze; 18th, first snow. December cold, with little snow.

1872.—January cold, but generally pleasant; 7th, fourteen inches of snow. February 1st, sleet and snow. March dry, and wheat suffering. Middle of May a good rain; last of May new potatoes were in market. Wheat harvest commenced about the 20th of June. Part of last half of December very cold.

1873.—Fore part of January sleet; snow and showers during latter part of month. February was fine, with showers of rain, and snow. Severe hail-storms during April; one very severe on the 5th: on the 8th it snowed and sleeted all day; at night the ground was covered with snow to the depth of four inches. During May and June there were heavy rains; Neosho river overflowed; harvest commenced about the 20th of June. August was very dry.

1874.—January pleasant, little snow or cold. Season all that could

be desired for crops up to July. Chinch-bugs work on wheat some this year; harvest commenced about June 10th. July and August extremely hot; corn greatly injured; in August grasshoppers came. November 18th a sleet, and first freeze.

1875.—January was cold, but little snow. More snow in February. Oats sown about the 10th of March. Corn planting commenced about the 1st of April, and continued until June on account of two crops being eaten off by the grasshoppers.

1876.—Opened with a hard rain; no snow during January; weather cold, but not severe. No snow in February and considerable cold weather. March 19th, ten inches of snow on the ground, and the weather cold. Year closed with a cold spell and hard snow-storm.

1877.—Fore part of January sleet and snow and weather somewhat cold, but generally the month was pleasant. During February and March there was much rain and roads muddy. Heavy rains in April and May. The fore part of May Professor Riley was in the county investigating grasshoppers; the eggs were then hatching. June 5th to 8th heavy rains and streams at high-water mark; houses on bottoms surrounded with water, corn crop washed out; June 28th one of the hardest rains ever known, accompanied by wind and hail. This season the corn was replanted two and in some instances three times. There was plenty of rain during July and August. November 8th wind and snow. December was wet and muddy; no snow during the latter part.

1878.—January generally wet; roads muddy; wheat looked fine. February continued wet, but generally pleasant. In May the Neosho river overflowed; boats used for travel on the bottom-lands; many families had to leave their homes and go to higher grounds; the San Francisco track was washed out; the streams were all out of bank. During June it rained almost incessantly; the ground too wet to harvest with machines; wheat cutting commenced about the 6th of June; most of it had to be cut with cradles; much of it was lost because of inability to get on the ground to harvest. Latter part of July and August were dry and hot. No frost until the 1st of December; about the middle of December heavy sleet; December 17th and following, Neosho frozen over—ice six to eight inches thick.

1879.—The first part of January was cold, with six inches of snow on the ground; more snow during the latter part of the month. New potatoes in market about the middle of May. Wheat-cutting commenced June 10th; rain during the latter part of June. July and fore part of August hot; some fine rains. Good rains about the middle of August. The grasshoppers create a scare in September, but do no great amount

of damage. The fall was dry and warm; November 10th a good rain. The year closed with the ground covered with ice and snow.

1880.—January warm; very little ice or snow. February, oats were sown and garden made. March was colder than January or February. April 28th, Prof. John Tice visited Oswego and lectured on cyclones: came to make scientific investigation on this subject. Plenty of rain during May and June; crops look well. Summer very seasonable. Last part of August dry. October 7th, six inches of snow. November 16th, snowed all day, and was snowy and disagreeable until the 20th. December 23d, 12 degrees below zero; ice on the Neosho six inches thick.

1881.—Large quantities of ice were taken from the river the fore part of January. February 11th, hard snow-storm; 23 degrees below zero. March, snowy. The summer was generally dry and hot. Rains commenced about the first of October. November 25th, sleet and ice.

1882.—January warm and muddy during the first part of the month. with cold weather the last part. February, a good deal of rain and little winter. May 12th, sleet and frost. Much rain during May and June. Hot wind in September. Considerable snow in December.

1883.—First part of January, good sleighing and cold weather; January 5th, 20 degrees below zero; the month generally cold, with plenty of ice and snow. Fore part of February, a severe storm. The streams were all frozen from Christmas of 1882 up the middle of February; generally frozen to the bottom, so that it was difficult to get stock-water: February 14th, ice commenced breaking up; latter part of February, rained so that by the opening of March roads were almost impassable. Spring was very cold and backward. June was very hot; 14th, the streams were out of their banks. Good rains during July. November 12th, a hard freeze. December 3, five inches of snow, and more snow during latter part of the month.

1884.—January 1st, five degrees below zero; ground covered with snow; January 3d, fifteen to twenty degrees below zero; January one of the most disagreeable months for years. February was also wet and disagreeable; February 12th, one of the very hardest sleets ever experienced in this part of the country; many trees broken down. Spring did not really open until about the middle of March. May 1st, river high. Plenty of rain all summer. December 11th, snow storm; latter half of the month cold.

1885.—First part of January rainy; 23d, six inches of snow fell. February mostly cold, with considerable snow; March 17th, ground covered with snow, weather cold. This year was noted for its floods, no less than three occurring during the season. Heavy rains during April

resulted in all the streams rising almost, if not quite, as high as had ever before been known; by the 22d of the month all of the bottom lands were submerged and crops destroyed; fences were washed away, and very much stock was drowned. On May 8th there was a slight freeze, and snow; corn was re-planted, and very largely injured by the web-worm. In the latter part of June the rain again set in, and by the opening of July the bottom was a second time entirely overflowed, this time the water being several inches higher than had ever before been known; families had to be brought out of the bottom to save them from perishing; many hundred acres of wheat that had been cut was washed away, and all crops that had been planted on the bottom lands were ruined; railway tracks in many places were entirely under water, and all trains were for a time stopped. On the San Francisco road, east of Oswego, a train-load of cattle was attempting to cross, but was stopped at the Neosho river bridge because of its dangerous condition, and before it could back up to high ground a large section of embankment had become washed away, leaving the train standing in the middle of a lake several miles in width. An attempt was made to drive out a part of the stock; a number of them were drowned, and for days feed was shipped to the remainder of them in boats. Passengers and mail were transported from the east side of the river in boats for a number of days; freight shipments were completely blocked. The third overflow this season occurred in September, and while the water did not reach the height of either of the other two, yet all of the bottom land was inundated, and all crops thereon were destroyed. October and November were so muddy that farmers could hardly get into the fields to gather corn; in the middle of November the ground was frozen, and several inches of snow. December 25th, ten degrees below zero.

1886.—January opened warm; damp and a little snow the first few days; several days of quite cold weather about the middle of the month; moderate the last half. Quite a snow-storm the first of February, but the month was generally pleasant. March was a cold month; several snow-storms and little spring weather until the last of the month. April and May were pleasant and seasonable months. July was a hot month. December opened and closed with cold weather; the thermometer standing several degrees below zero most of the month.

1887.—January and February pleasant; little snow and no very cold weather. March cold and quite a snow at the close of the month. July dry and hot. Good rains during August. November 10th first freeze; latter part of the month cold. December moderate and little snow.

1888.—A few cold days during January, but most of the month pleas-

ant. February somewhat colder. Little spring weather until the middle of March; March 28th ground covered with snow. July very hot; corn damaged. November 10th the first snow. December a little snow; weather generally moderate.

1889.—January quite wet; little cold. Latter part of February six inches of snow and several cold days. March and fore part of April damp and cold. July hot. December a very pleasant month.

1890.—January 7th sleet and snow-storm; latter part of the month and first part of February very pleasant. Considerable cold weather during latter part of February and fore part of March. April dry. May 16th a hard frost. June and July extremely hot and dry. Good rains in August; August 17th a severe hail and electrical storm. September was cold. October 27th the first freeze. November wet and cold. December 7th eight inches of ice and snow; latter part of December mild.

1891.—Fore part of January cold; most of the month mild. February wet and very cold. March 7th snow storm. Spring backward. June, river banks full. Fall dry and hot. Wheat could not be gotten in until latter part of October and fore part of November. November 12th quite a hard freeze; latter part of November and December pleasant and mild.

1892.—Severe snow during January; little weather that was very cold. Middle of March quite cold, and considerable snow. Spring backward: oats not sown until April. Heavy rains in May; streams up. Latter part of June wet weather interfered with harvesting. August and September dry. Wheat generally sown about the last of October. November, good rains; month pleasant. December generally damp, cloudy and chilly, but no very cold weather till Christmas evening, when it turned cold and so continued for several days; several slight snows during the month, but not enough at any time to make sleighing. Year closed with very little snow on ground, and ground slightly frozen.

STORMS.

1871.—July 10th, hard wind followed by rain, at Parsons. August 27th, hard wind-storm at Chetopa; several houses blown down (among them Lockwood's house, four miles west); tornado from northwest to southeast over Elm Grove and other townships; over 20 houses badly damaged and several completely destroyed; Mrs. Scott and child, in Howard township, killed; one man had arm broken; Alfred Swope's house all blown to pieces; Mat. Sharp's house, with 16 in it, blown over.

1873.—Night of April 5th hail-storm broke out all window lights in west side of buildings in Oswego. May 22d storm at Jacksonville blew down several buildings and killed seven persons.

1877.—June 6th wind-storm at Chetopa blew down chimneys, tore off roofs, etc. June 18th, one of the hardest rains ever known, accompanied by wind and hail. August 18th, cyclone, water-spout, and hail-storm. from southwest to northeast, between Chetopa and Oswego.

1878.—March 1st, cyclone between Labette and Parsons; J. M. Wilson's large barn picked up, carried some distance, and demolished; E. Wells's barn, in North township, blown to pieces; picked his house up and put it down some two rods away; demolished R. Kimball's barn; took his house from foundation and turned it around; blew down stone building for E. H. Taylor. June 6th, tornado over Labette City, which demolished the school-house and did some other damage.

1879.—May 30th, severe wind-and-rain storm at Chetopa; signs blown down, etc. June 14th another hard wind-storm, from west to east, over southern portion of county, partly removed Kingston Presbyterian church from foundation, and blew in one or two buildings in Chetopa. July — wind blew down east span of Chetopa bridge, then in process of erection.

1880.—April 2d, severe hail-storm in Walton, and also in northern part of county generally. May 8th, small cyclone west of Chetopa damaged W. E. Liggett's kitchen and orchard. December 11th, severe rain-and-wind storm at Chetopa; partly removed Catholic church from its foundation; also other buildings.

1881.—September 29th, a small tornado in Oswego scattered some of Sharp's lumber, blew down Tuttle's porch, etc.

1883.—May 13th, a cyclone from the Territory came in west of Cecil, blew Cecil M. E. church to pieces, throwing the capstones to the windows through the air, but leaving Bible and hymn-book untouched on the box used for a pulpit; blew M. U. Ramsburg's house to atoms, partly tore down other buildings, and uprooted trees. The storm occurred about 6 p. m., just after church was out. At the same time both houses at Fishkill were reported to have been torn down.

1884.—July 2d, tornado blew Cecil church to atoms; destroyed houses, barns, grain; heavy hail.

1885.—September 11th, hail-storm at Parsons and vicinity.

MUNICIPAL TOWNSHIPS.

While we were still a part of Neosho county we were recognized by its authorities as being of sufficient importance to be provided with at least apparent municipal privileges. The first official record which I have found, directly tending to give us these privileges, was made March 6, 1865, by the Commissioners of Neosho county, at which time, in dividing the county into municipal townships, they formed Mission township, and made it embrace all south of Cauville township as far south as the county line, and established Osage Mission as the voting-place of the township. By this order of the Commissioners the southern part of Neosho county, and all of what is now Labette county, was embraced in one township, with Osage Mission as the headquarters thereof. The next official action affecting our municipal affairs was made by the Commissioners of Neosho county on July 2, 1866, the record of which is as follows:

“On motion, it was resolved that the south line of Mission township shall be designated as follows: By a line running due east and west across three miles due south of Osage Catholic Mission.

“On motion, it was resolved that there be a township organized to be called Lincoln township, and to be bounded as by a line running due east and west from a point two miles north of the mouth of Hickory creek across the county, on the north by Mission township, on the east by the county line, and on the west by the county line. Place of voting, Trotter's ford, on the Neosho river, at Patterson's store.

“On motion, it was resolved that there be a new township organized south of Lincoln township, to be called Grant township, bounded as follows: On the north by Lincoln township, on the east by county line, and on the south by line running due east and west from Reaves's mill-site on the Neosho river, on the west by county line. Place of voting, Montana.

“On motion, it was resolved that there be a new township organized south of Grant township, to be called Labette township; said township to be bounded as follows: On the north by the south line of Grant township, on the east by county line, on the south by county line, on the west by county line. Place of voting, J. S. Steel's house.”

This provision made a strip something over a mile in width of what is now Labette county a part of Lincoln township, and the remainder of Labette county was divided into Grant and Labette townships.

Before the organization of Labette county the Governor appointed two justices of the peace: one, George Bennett, residing at Montana; and the other, C. H. Talbot, residing at Oswego. From the record in the office of the Secretary of State, it would seem that two orders were made for the appointment of Mr. Bennett—one on May 15, and the other on June 8, 1866. I do not know what was the cause of this. On July 3, 1866, the Commissioners of Neosho county approved Mr. Bennett's bond as justice of the peace, which made him the first legally qualified civil officer residing in what is now Labette county. Mr. Talbot was appointed September 24, 1866, and probably qualified soon thereafter, although I have not the date of his qualification.

Upon the appointment of the Commissioners for the organization of the county, before calling an election, they divided the county into nine precincts: four in range 21, the south one of which they named Chetopa; three in the central part of the county, designated North, Labette and Hackberry; and two in the western part, which they designated Timber Hill (or possibly Big Hill, as Mr. Dickerman, then County Clerk, says), and Pumpkin Creek. However, this name is not given at all in any record we now have, but in the first reference to this part of the county in the Commissioners' proceedings, it is called Canada. Of the division thus made there was no change until November 21, 1867, excepting to more definitely organize Timber Hill and Canada townships. The only change subsequently made was to divide some of these townships and create new municipalities.

NEOSHO TOWNSHIP.

The settlement of this township commenced in the summer of 1865. I have found no one who knows the date of the first settlement, nor even who the first settler was. Much of the information from which this account is made is derived from James W. Galyen, who settled on the south half of section 8, township 31, range 21, December 25, 1865. When he came there were already along the river several families, all of whom had come that fall and winter; so that it may be safely said that the settlement of the township did not commence prior to September of that year. It is probable that the first settlers in the township were a company who came from Texas, composed of a Jones family and a Cox family, each containing quite a number of individuals, and some others. They seemed to have been on their way north, without any very definite point of destina-

tion in view, and were camping along the river in this township, allowing their stock to feed, when they heard of the proposed treaty with the Osages and concluded to locate there. Among those who were located when Mr. Galyen came were: Jesse Frye, on section 9; a man by the name of John Buck, on the east side of the river; Newton Lowery, on section 5; and Mr. Spriggs, on section 16. Mr. Spriggs had a pole shanty on his claim at this time, but never brought his family here, and sold his claim to Asa Rogers. Craig Coffield and Clark Coffield located on section 28, in November; Holland and Baldwin were located on section 4. At the close of 1865 it is probable that there were not to exceed a dozen families in the township, and some of these were only there for the purpose of holding the claims until they could get something out of them and then leave. In 1866 many more settlers came in, and much was done toward improving the claims taken. Messrs. Brown and Sampson R. Robinson brought a saw-mill from Bourbon county and located it on section 4, in the fall of 1866, and soon had it in operation. This was the first mill in operation in the county, and from it Mr. Gaylen got the first lumber that was made, which he used to make a floor for his cabin. All the cabins up to this time had nothing but dirt floors. Of the settlers who came about this time I may mention William Logan, who came early in 1866. He ran a blacksmith-shop at Jacksonville; was the first trustee of the township, having been elected at the election in April, 1867, and was elected County Commissioner in the fall of 1867, and figured quite largely in the local affairs in that part of the county. Nathan Ames came in latter part of 1866, and settled on sections 16 and 17, and at once became one of the leading spirits in the new settlement. Messrs. Pringle and Marguad settled on section 21 the same fall.

CELEBRATIONS.

On July 4, 1866, the first celebration in that part of the county was held, in Kenney's grove on the northwest quarter of section 23. All the settlers in that part of the county gathered here to see each other and participate in the celebration. Dr. Thurman, who lived on section 22, read the Declaration of Independence. On July 4, 1867, another celebration was held, this time in Logan's grove, at which J. F. Bellamy, who had shortly before that time moved into the vicinity, gave the address.

RELIGIOUS EXERCISES.

A Mr. Owens was located on the northeast quarter of section 5, in 1866. His wife was an enthusiastic worker, and that summer opened in their own house and conducted the first Sunday-school in the township,

which was continued until the winter. We have no account of any preaching in the township until 1867, when Joseph Rogers, who was a Methodist local preacher living on section 16, west of the river, commenced holding services at private houses at different points in the township. After the school-house in district 16 was completed, Rev. Jackson Statton commenced preaching there, and continued for some time to hold services.

SCHOOLS.

The first school in the township was taught by Mrs. Abigail Ames, wife of Samuel Ames, in their own house on the northwest quarter of section 14, in the spring of 1863. That fall E. H. Taylor commenced teaching school in a house on section 5, and finished in the log school-house which the citizens turned out and constructed that fall. In this school-house, as soon as it was finished, a literary society was organized, of which Mr. Taylor was president, and at the meetings nearly all the people in that part of the county were present.

INDIANS.

West of the Neosho river on both sides of the county line, partly in section 5 in this county, partly in Neosho county, was situated one of White Hair's towns. This was abandoned about the time the white settlers commenced coming in here. About one hundred graves could be counted on this site, in some of which the frame of the occupant was still sitting and well preserved. The burying was done by piling stones over the lower extremities, leaving the body in a sitting posture, and then piling up stones around it. When the settlers came here they found the remains of an old building on section 4, the posts still standing, giving evidence that at some prior time the Catholics from the Mission had probably had a station. The mile-posts between the Cherokee Neutral Lands and the Osage Reservation were still standing as they had been placed there by the surveyors when the lines had been run.

INCIDENTS.

T. D. G. Marquand and Mary Buck were married, it is said, in April, 1866; if this is correct, it must have been the first marriage in the county after the war.

In May, 1866, Mr. and Mrs. Hampton had born to them twins, named John and Mary.

ORGANIZATION.

There has been no change in the boundary of the east tier of townships from the time of their organization. They were all laid off by the Commissioners appointed for the organization of the county, prior to the first

election. There is no record of their organization prior to November 21, 1867, when the whole county was laid off into townships, at which time it was declared, "Neosho township No. 1 shall include town 31, R. 21." Two voting precincts have been maintained in the township almost from its organization—one on the east and the other on the west side of the Neosho. There is no record showing who were elected officers in April, 1867, but on October 23, 1867, the resignation of John W. Ankron as justice of the peace is accepted, and the record subsequently shows J. B. Graham to be one of the justices of the peace. On January 14, 1868, "It is hereby ordered, that the office of township trustee in Neosho township be declared vacant, as the present holder of said office has been elected to a county office." This evidently refers to William Logan, who had been elected and qualified as one of the County Commissioners, and it is safe to say he was the trustee elected in April, 1867. On the day on which the office was declared vacant as above, Anthony Amend was appointed to fill the vacancy. For some reason which I do not know, no election was held in this township in April, 1868, and the following officers were appointed by the Commissioners: Anthony Amend, trustee; N. H. Hopkins, clerk; S. K. Robinson, treasurer; J. B. Thurman and William Fish, justices of the peace; John Summers and Noah Frye, constables; John Radfield, road overseer.

BRIDGES.

The officers of this township were the first to take steps toward bridging the streams. The action of the trustee created a good deal of dissatisfaction. It was claimed that a "job was put up" by which a large amount of money was to be paid by the township and received by some one for inferior bridges. A tax of $1\frac{1}{4}$ mills was levied in 1868 for building bridges.

NORTH TOWNSHIP.

In the spring of 1866 a firm of millers at Iola sent some teams loaded with flour and meal down the Neosho, to sell to the settlers along the river. Two teams came into what is now Labette county, and on their return made such a favorable report of the county that several in that vicinity, and some connected with the mill, came down. Among these were Messrs. Carr, McBride, Wells, Ballentine, and Smith; the latter settled at the junction of the Big and Little Labette, and put up a small shanty. Mr. Ballentine paid Mr. Smith \$60 for this claim, which took in most of the timber at this point. Just previous to this Zack Fultz had laid a foundation on a claim adjoining this on the east, and when the survey was made, the improvements of the two claims were found to be

on the same quarter. Mr. Fultz paid Mr. Ballentine \$200 for his improvements, and got the claim. Mr. Ballentine then bought Mr. Hart's claim, on section 36, where he settled and made his home. Mr. Hart then moved over to the Labette, in Liberty township, just below the mouth of Bachelor creek. Fred Latham settled on section 27, and his father-in-law, Mr. Keys, upon a claim just west of the creek. About the same time William Tolen settled in the northern part of the township, and gave the name to a little stream, "Tolen Branch." In July, 1867, the following settlements were made: Albert Porter and W. H. Porter, on section 20; Wm. Fultz, on section 17; Abraham Cary, on section 18; John Kendall, on section 19.

SAW MILL.

In the fall of 1868 Moses Steel and his brother Len Steel brought a saw mill and put it in the forks of the Little and Big Labette, and had it in operation early in 1869.

In June, 1869, Abraham Cary brought from Lawrence the first reaper and mower that was had in this part of the county.

ORGANIZATION.

Originally North township included its present territory and also the east half of what is Walton township, and on November 21, 1867, in re-forming the townships, the Commissioners ordered that "North township No. 7 shall include town 31, R. 19, 20," and it continued with these bounds until Walton township was detached. There seems to have been no election held in this township in April, 1867, at the time when the first county and township officers were elected. On October 4th an order was made by the Commissioners for an election to be held for township officers in this township at the November election following. At this time the following officers were elected: Samuel Ballentine, trustee; William Scott and David B. Stevens, justices of the peace; James M. Clayton and D. W. Reed, constables; and John Steward, road supervisor. These were the first township officers. There is no record of either clerk or treasurer being elected at this time. On April 7, 1868, the following officers were elected: Samuel Ballentine, trustee; J. D. Keys, clerk; F. W. Latham, treasurer; William Porter and A. Medkiff, justices of the peace; William Fultz and Oscar Knowles, constables; and Z. Fultz, road overseer. In April, 1869, H. Singleton was elected trustee, and Samuel Ballentine treasurer. By some arrangement made at the time, which does not appear of record, Mr. Ballentine, instead of taking the office of treasurer, was continued as trustee for another year.

WALTON TOWNSHIP.

The first settler in Walton township was Jefferson Davis, who came in June, 1866, and located on the southeast quarter of section 22. In August of that year the Weekly family, consisting of Luther, Perry, John, and Mary, located on section 17, and David Edwards on the northeast quarter of section 23. In the spring of 1867 Merrit Mason came, and bought the northeast quarter of section 17 from Mr. Weekly, and thereon made his home. In the fall of 1866 John Collins settled on the southeast quarter of section 36. Perhaps during these years there may have been a few other settlers along the Little Labette, but if so I have not learned the names of such. In 1869 the township received a large number of settlers. On May 1st Nelson Parker settled on the southwest quarter of section 27, and about the middle of May J. A. Jones settled on the northeast quarter of section 26; not far from the same time Alexander Ables and William Ables on the east half of section 29, George T. Walton on section 16, J. M. Gregory on section 26. W. A. Disch, E. P. Emery, S. R. Hill, John Parker, C. C. Kinnison and R. P. Clark were all there before the opening of 1870; and on February 5, 1870, S. B. Shafer settled on the southwest quarter of section 21.

CATHOLIC SETTLEMENT.

During the summer of 1869 quite a large number of Catholics settled in the northern part of the township, and have ever since been among the most thrifty and progressive settlers of that vicinity.

ORGANIZATION.

Walton township was a part of North township as originally constituted. An order of the Commissioners was made on April 6, 1870, on the petition of G. T. Walton, M. S. Mason, T. O'Conner, and some fifty other electors, for the organization of township 31, range 19, into a municipal township to be called Walton, and the following officers were appointed: Merrit S. Mason, trustee; A. C. Perkins, clerk; Timothy O'Conner, treasurer; Jason Luncinford, constable. On account of ill-health Mr. Mason was granted permission to appoint a deputy to assist in performing the duties of trustee.

OSAGE TOWNSHIP.

The settlement of what is now Osage township dates from the fall of 1866. The first person to locate within the present bounds of this township was Thomas May and family, who settled upon the northwest quarter of section 5, township 32, range 18, in September, 1866, where he

died the following year. There being no lumber in that locality, the neighbors sawed up a wagon-bed and made a coffin in which to bury him. The next settler was Milton A. Buckles, who came December 3, 1866, and settled on the northwest quarter of section 33. Isaac Vance located with his family on the southeast quarter of section 29, township 31, range 18, on which he died, in 1870. Harvey Beggs settled on the southeast quarter of section 7, township 32, range 18, and after living on it several years moved away in 1871. Solomon Adams and family resided on the northwest quarter of section 6, township 32, range 18, till 1870, when he moved away. On the southeast quarter of this same section Harvey Waymire made his home, and put up the first saw-mill in the township in May, 1869. In the fall of 1869 the engine with which the saw-mill was run exploded, and killed Mr. Waymire and Mr. Worley.

In 1867 many settlers came in, of whom I will mention a few. Felix Oliphant, John Oliphant, Frank Laberdy, John Frost, Thomas J. Vance, George Vance, W. H. Carpenter, J. H. Dienst, Jacob D. Dick, Henry Griffith and Alexander W. King are among those who that year helped to develop the county. Of those who came in 1868, F. M. Webb, W. H. Webb, J. H. Beatty, J. A. Newman, W. M. Rogers and Leroy F. Dick may be mentioned as active promoters of the general spirit of enterprise.

William A. Starr, William Dick, J. L. Jaynes, John Carson, C. J. Darling, P. B. Darling, J. S. Masters, J. B. Swart, Jacob Warner, John Robinson, W. H. Thorne, G. W. Blake and W. W. Blake settled in 1869 and 1870, and each added a fair share to the prosperity and development of the township. Did I know all the settlers and were I acquainted with all the facts, others might probably be mentioned who are as worthy as any whom I have named; but these are named as a fair sample of those who first settled and developed this northwest corner of the county.

FIRST SCHOOL.

Mrs. Elizabeth A. King, who with her husband, A. W. King, had settled on the southwest quarter of section 28, township 31, range 18, in June, 1867, taught the first school in the township, in the summer of 1868, as I am told by Mr. King, in their cabin on his claim. It was a free school for the few children then in the neighborhood.

CELEBRATION.

The first celebration in the township was July 4, 1869, on the northwest quarter of section 29. Milton Buckles read the Declaration of Independence. The day was principally given up to a picnic and social enjoyment.

RELIGIOUS EXERCISES.

In the fall of 1867 the citizens met and put up a log house on Pleasant May's claim in the bottom on the west side of the creek, on section 5, in township 32, to be used for religious and other gatherings. In this the first Sunday school was organized, in the spring of 1868, with Pleasant May as superintendent. A. W. King was the first preacher in the township. He, with David Stanfield, J. S. Harryman, and Sheldon Parker, of the Methodist church, and J. L. Masters, of the Christian church, dispensed the gospel for several years over quite a portion of the new settlements in the western part of the county.

BUSINESS.

The first store in the township was started in 1868, on the southeast quarter of section 33, township 31, range 18, by Luther Weakly and Frank Laberdy. In the fall of 1869, G. W. and W. W. Blake put in a stock of general merchandise in a building erected on the town-site of Timber Hill, which they continued to deal in till 1871.

Dr. Lakins was the first in the township to offer his services as an aid to those desiring relief from physical ailments. He died a number of years ago, but his faithful mule, "Joab," it is said, still survives him. In 1869 Dr. Boutillier opened a small drug store, which he ran in connection with his practice.

The following letter may be appropriately inserted here :

"COFFEYVILLE, KANSAS, Jan. 18, 1892.

"*Judge Nelson Case, Oswego, Kansas*—DEAR SIR: I settled in Osage township, Labette county, in the autumn of 1866, in company with Harry Weymire and Isaac Vancil. There was but one man before us, a Mr. May, who had built his cabin just before our arrival. Others followed fast, and when the spring of 1867 had opened we had quite a settlement on the Big Hill creek. In July, 1867, I was appointed a committee to visit the Commissioners at Oswego and procure an order for the organization of a municipal township, which was effected at once. I remember well that when I found the Commissioners' court, which I had some trouble in doing, the Commissioners were sitting astraddle of the sleepers in a hewed log house in Oswego. There was neither door, floor, nor windows, the house not being finished at the time.

"The first child born in the township was Rolla Wood, son of Zachariah and Matilda Wood.

"Our nearest postoffice was Rogers's store, where Chanute now is. We did our milling at Humboldt, and hauled lumber from the Neosho. I believe I am the only survivor of the first settler of Osage township.

Very respectfully yours,

MILTON A. BUCKLES."

ORGANIZATION.

I am not quite sure whether the first name by which this territory was known was Timber Hill or Big Hill township. The Commissioners appointed to organize the county laid off the west part into two precincts, which Mr. Dickerman says were designated Timber Hill and Pumpkin Creek; but no voting-place was designated in either of them at that time, probably for the reason that there was not a sufficient number of residents to justify the holding an election therein. The first official record we have relating to this township is the order of the Commissioners made June 5, 1867, declaring that "Timber Hill township shall include townships 31 & 32, range 18, and the west half of townships 31 & 32 of range 19, and as far west as the county line." In this order, as it appears in the *original* record, written on foolscap paper, the name of the township is first written Big Hill, and a line is drawn through "Big," and "Timber" is written above it. On July 1, 1867, it was "Ordered, that a precinct be established at Timber Hill at the residence of Mr. Frank Larberdy, in Timber Hill township, T. 31 & 32, R. 18 & 19." On October 21, 1867, it was "Ordered that Timber Hill township to be changed to Big Hill," and at the same time it was ordered that the voting precinct be changed from Mr. Larberdy's to Mr. Eli Sparks's. The first election in the township was held November 5, 1867, at which the following officers were elected: J. S. Blair, trustee; Isaac Van Sickle and Eli Sparks, justices of the peace; H. Waymire and J. Courtney, constables; Z. C. Wood, road overseer. On November 21, 1867, the Commissioners made an order more definitely fixing and somewhat changing municipal townships, by the provisions of which it was declared that "Big Hill township No. 8 shall include town 31 & 32, R. 17 & 18." On April 6, 1868, a petition therefor having been made to the Commissioners, they ordered "That the township commonly known as Big Hill shall hereafter be known in all official transactions as Osage township," and at the same time made an order establishing the south line of Osage township so as to include the north half of township 32, in ranges 17 and 18.

AN ORDER NOT ACTED ON.

On November 12, 1870, on the petition of Albert Allison and forty-nine other citizens for a division of the west tier of townships into four instead of three, forming a new township out of parts of Osage and Mound Valley townships, it was ordered that township 32, ranges 17 and 18, be detached from Osage and Mound Valley townships and organized into a municipal township under the name of Big Hill township, for which the following officers were appointed: William Johns, trustee; Albert Alli-

son, clerk; S. C. Hockett, treasurer. I find no action of the Commissioners changing or revoking this order; nevertheless, the order was never acted upon, the officers appointed never qualified, and Osage and Mound Valley townships remained as though no such order had ever been made.

STOCK.

On May 30, 1871, on the petition of William Dick and sixty-nine others, the Commissioners made an order restraining stock from running at large at night-time for a term of one year.

PIONEER ASSOCIATION.

On September 17, 1875, the Osage Pioneer Association was organized, with S. C. Hockett as president, Joel Bergess vice-president, W. A. Starr and — Lindsey secretaries, and William Dick treasurer.

MOUND VALLEY TOWNSHIP.

1866.

There were two early settlers in this county who would be in Mound Valley township except for the fact that in 1870 more than two miles of our territory was given to Montgomery county. On June 3, 1866, Mr. Rutherford settled on the northeast quarter of section 4, in township 33 of range 17, and on December 10, 1866, R. M. Bennett, afterwards County Treasurer, settled on the southeast quarter of section 5, in the same township.

The first white people to make settlement in Mound Valley township as now constituted were the families of Mr. McCormick and Mr. Courtney. If anyone was there before them, he left no trace of his habitation. Joseph McCormick, with his wife Martha and his son Joseph C., and in company with them John M. Courtney and his wife Mary, came from Danville, Ill., and on July 24, 1866, took their respective claims in this township. Mr. McCormick settled on parts of sections 23 and 24, township 32, range 17, where he made his home until his death, on December 10, 1871, his wife having died the March preceding. Mr. McCormick lived in his wagon until he could build a log house, which he completed in about two months. He soon brought on a few goods, with which he traded with the Indians for their buffalo meat and such other things as they had to dispose of that he could use. Mr. Courtney settled on a part of section 26, township 32, range 17, which he improved and on which he lived till he moved to Cherryvale, where he now resides. John McMichael came in September, 1866, and settled on the same section as Mr. Courtney. In November, 1866, Eli Sparks settled on the southeast quarter of section 18, township 32, range 18.

1867.

Green L. Canada settled on the northeast quarter of section 17, township 33, range 18, January 12, 1867. William Jones and John M. Stigenwalt came February 20, 1867. Mr. Jones settled on the section with Mr. Courtney and Mr. McMichael, and Mr. Stigenwalt settled on the section with Mr. Sparks, where he lived on a well-improved farm until August 25, 1892, when he died from the effects of a kick by a horse, received the day before. John W. Claspell came in September, 1867. Samuel C. Hockett near that time settled on section 18, together with Mr. Sparks and Mr. Stigenwalt, while his daughter, Josie Hockett, took a claim north of him, on section 7, in Osage township.

1868.

J. G. Penix settled on the northwest quarter of section 25, township 32, range 17, on April 8, 1868, where he lived for fifteen years, made a good farm, and is now in Cherryvale, enjoying the fruits of his industry. D. S. Muncie took the southwest quarter of section 25, township 33, range 18, on which he built, in 1869, a one and one-half story frame house, 16x24 feet. The lumber for this he hauled from Chetopa. This was the first frame house in this part of the township. In 1870 Mr. Muncie sold this farm to J. H. Tibbits.

ORGANIZATION.

Mound Valley township was originally a part of what afterward became Osage and Canada townships. It was not until June 13, 1870, that, upon the petition of Henry Rohr and some fifty other residents of its territory, the Commissioners made an order for the organization of four tiers of sections lying north and the same number lying south of the line between townships 32 and 33 in ranges 17 and 18, into a municipal township with the name of Mound Valley. The following officers were appointed for the new township: Josephus Moore, trustee; Alexander Honrath, clerk; J. M. Richardson, treasurer. At the same time, on the petition therefor, the order of the Commissioners was made restraining stock from running at large in the night-time for the term of five years. On July 28, 1870, Jonas Parks was appointed constable, and S. C. Hockett was recommended for the appointment of justice of the peace.

LABETTE TOWNSHIP.

The first settlement of this township as now constituted commenced in the fall of 1868, but there were only a few who came before the spring of 1869. The first settlers were scattered along Bachelor creek. Of these I may mention Leveret Wood, who came in the fall of 1868, and

settled on the northeast quarter of section 1; the next spring John Singleton settled on the northwest quarter of section 1, and James H. Martin on the northeast quarter of section 2; Millard Sargent on the northwest quarter and his brother on the southwest quarter of the same section; Edward C. Sanford on the northwest quarter of section 3, Major Hope on the southeast quarter, and Calvin S. Tracy on the southwest quarter, of section 36. All of these parties were located prior to the middle of July, 1869, at which time John J. Miles settled on the southwest quarter of section 34.

With the opening of 1870 many new parties came into the township, of whom I may mention Thomas Mahar and his sons, who settled on section 21. The settlement of this township was nearly completed when James Beggs, on March 16, 1871, settled on the southwest quarter of section 19.

ORGANIZATION.

In the original division of the county into municipal townships, made by the Commissioners prior to the first election in the spring of 1867, the central portion of the county, embracing what is now Liberty, Labette, Mount Pleasant and Fairview townships, was made to constitute the township of Labette. The first official record we have of the formation of this township is an order of the board made November 21, 1867, in which Labette township is numbered 6, and is declared to include townships 32 and 33, in ranges 19 and 20. It is possible that there was an election held in the township in the spring of 1867, and probably one was held in the fall of that year, but as to both of these the record is silent. The first election of which we have any record was held on April 7, 1868. At this election H. P. Reeding was elected trustee, M. H. Logan clerk, J. F. Molesworth treasurer, E. Reed and J. P. Peterson justices of the peace, G. W. Springer and T. M. Abbott constables, and Sam Lewis road overseer. At the election in April, 1870, the following officers were elected: Newton Connor, trustee; J. L. Williams, clerk; Calvin Tracy, treasurer; G. P. Peters and G. J. Connor, justices of the peace; William Hanson and W. F. Hamman, constables. Within the next two months all of the territory, excepting township 32, range 19, which had theretofore been embraced in Labette township, was detached therefrom, and formed into other municipal townships. All the officers last elected resided within the territory thus detached, which left Labette township without any officers or organization. The last of June or fore part of July, 1870, a meeting of the citizens was held on the premises of John Alspaw, on the southwest quarter of section 15, and the following persons selected for township officers: Calvin Tracy, trustee: John Cald-

well, clerk; William Collins, treasurer; William Hamman and Silas Rich, justices of the peace; John J. Miles and George Tracy, constables. It was decided to ask that the name of the township be changed from Labette to Mound. On July 11, 1870, the action of this meeting was presented to the Commissioners. The request for a change of name for the township was refused, as the board considered they had no authority to change the name of the township. The officers selected at the citizens' meeting were appointed in part, and some of the offices seem to have been left vacant.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP.

The settlement of this township commenced early in the spring of 1866. The first person whom I have been able to trace to this township is David C. Lowe, who settled on the southeast quarter of section 34, and about the same time James Springer on the northeast quarter of the same section, and William Springer jr. on the southeast quarter of section 27. After these the following settlements were made: James Shelledy, John V. and James Lewis, — Latham, Enos Reed, James F. Molesworth, William Keiger, and Ed. Mercer. In June, A. W. Richardson bought from Wm. Springer jr. the claim on which he had settled, paying therefor \$400. Mr. Springer had at the time some four or five acres broken out and planted to corn and garden truck. Rev. G. W. Richardson at the same time bought from Mr. Shelledy his claim to the northwest quarter of section 27, paying therefor \$50. In December of this year G. P. Peters settled on the southwest quarter of section 36, and John Elliott on the southeast quarter of the same section. In the fall of 1867 Dr. W. J. Conner made his settlement in this township, and commenced the practice of his profession.

CELEBRATION.

On July 4, 1867, the first celebration in the township was held, on the claim of David C. Lowe. Wagon-boxes were turned upside down for tables; Samuel Cherry read the Declaration of Independence, and Elihu Greene delivered the oration. The drinking water was cooled with ice which G. P. Peters procured at Oswego.

BUSINESS.

The first business in the township was a store conducted by William and John Conner. It was located on section 35, which had been selected for the site of Neola, and was opened in the spring of 1868. Early in 1867, G. P. Peters commenced running a blacksmith shop at his home, and in the spring of 1868 built a shop at Neola, on section 35. There

was no other business aside from farming until Labette was started, in 1870.

ORGANIZATION.

Township 32, range 20, originally formed a part of Labette township, and was detached therefrom and organized into a municipal township on May 20, 1870, on the petition of Enos Reed and fifty-one other citizens. The following officers were appointed: Samuel Lewis, treasurer; William R. Williams, clerk; R. W. Campbell, constable; Samuel T. Cherry was recommended for appointment as justice of the peace.

CARE OF STOCK.

The Commissioners made an order on July 27th, on the petition of T. D. Bickham and sixty-eight other residents of the township, restraining stock from running at large in the night-time for five years, excepting during the months of January and February.

RELIGIOUS EXERCISES.

In 1868 the Methodists commenced holding services at the house of James F. Molesworth, on section 8; the ministers in charge of the Oswego circuit preached here.

MONTANA TOWNSHIP.

There seems to be no dispute about Samuel J. Short being the first white settler in this township. It is said that he had located here before the war, and was driven off by the rebel Indians, and I am disposed to think that this is correct; but I shall only refer to his settlement in the summer of 1865. He came, probably the latter part of July, or early in August, and located on the southeast quarter of section 22, on the east side of the Neosho. During that fall a number of parties made settlement in the township, and of these I have learned the following names: Granville Reeves and William White came there the fore part of October, and located on section 34. On October 18th, Charles E. Simons and his brother Benjamin F. Simons arrived, and located, the former on the southwest quarter of section 4 and the latter on the northwest quarter of section 9. Charles Simons at once went back and brought his family, arriving with them on his claim November 18th. John and William Olford and Andrew Hammond also arrived in October. In November Nathan D. Tower settled on the southwest corner of section 27, but the next summer moved to the southeast quarter of section 30. Samuel Dunham located on section 29; Nelson Shipley on section 28; Charles Stewart on section 27; Samuel Coffield on section 27; Samuel and Jonathan Wilcox on section 16, the former on the east and the latter on the

west side of the river; John Modisett on section 4. In December John Halford settled on the southwest quarter of section 16, and Mr. Lee on section 33. On December 24th Julius S. Waters arrived, and camped on Mr. Simons's claim, but soon thereafter located on section 33, in Neosho township; subsequently, however, he came back, and was for a long time a resident of Montana township. It will thus be seen that at the close of 1865 the township had quite a body of settlers, most of whom became permanent residents, and several of whom are still residing there.

Of those who came in 1866 I shall only attempt to mention a few. Dr. D. D. McGrath settled on the southwest quarter of section 4; Nehemiah Sage on the northwest quarter of section 8; Uriah Davis on the southwest quarter of section 7; Frank and Albert Brockus on the northeast quarter of section 20; R. S. Cornish on the southwest quarter of section 21; Robert Haggard on section 30; Bergen Van Ness on the northeast quarter of section 16; Alfred W. Jones on the northeast quarter of section 17. In December, John S. Anderson located on the southwest quarter of section 8; Vincent Anderson on the southeast quarter of section 6; and Terry Anderson on the northeast quarter of section 7.

SAW-MILL.

About the first of February, 1867, the Anderson brothers brought a saw-mill and located it upon C. E. Simons's claim, on section 4, and by the middle of the month had it in operation. From the lumber sawed here it is claimed the first frame house in the county was built.

SORGHUM MILL.

At quite an early day R. S. Cornish put up a sorghum mill on his place, and for a number of years has carried on quite an extensive business in making sorghum for himself and his neighbors. He also raises a great many melons.

ORGANIZATION.

Montana township was laid off as it now exists at the time of dividing the county into precincts prior to its first election. There is no record of the formation of this township prior to November 21, 1867, when in the division of the county into townships it was ordered, that "Montana township No. 2 shall include town 32, range 21." George Bennett, who resided in Montana township, was appointed justice of the peace June 8, 1866, by the Governor, and was the first civil officer in the county. I can find no record in any way referring to its officers for 1867, but it is probable A. W. Jones was its first trustee. At the election held April 5, 1868, C. B. Woodford was elected trustee; T. M. Brockus, clerk; D.

Shultz, treasurer; Henry M. Minor and James Livesay, justices of the peace; John Livesay and Jonathan Wilcox, constables; and A. Warlow, road overseer.

OSWEGO TOWNSHIP.

1865.

The first settlers in Oswego township were Austin T. Dickerman and Samuel W. Collins, who located on section 31, Mr. Dickerman on the northwest quarter, and Mr. Collins on the southwest quarter, on July 15, 1865. In August, Jabez Zink settled on the northwest quarter of section 30, and in September Norris Harrer on section 19. The next settlement in the township was on what is now the town-site of Oswego, and is spoken of in connection with the history of Oswego city.

In November, 1865, D. M. Clover and C. C. Clover rode ponies from Kansas City, crossing the Neosho at Trotter's ford, and arriving at Little Town about the middle of the month. There they found Clinton Rexford and N. P. Elsbree encamped, but no start yet made toward the erection of any building. They looked over the country for a few days, and on November 20, 1866, took four claims—one for each of them, and one each for D. W. Clover and John Clover. D. M. Clover's claim was located on the southeast quarter of section 10; C. C. Clover the northeast quarter of section 15. In taking his claim C. C. Clover had in view the establishment of a mill, and selected this place as affording the best water power he was able to find along the river. About the first of December they started back for their families, provisions, and material. D. M. Clover went only as far as Fort Scott, where he bought oxen and wagons, with which he returned to their claims and commenced getting out logs for houses. C. C. Clover went back to Iowa, where he purchased material for a saw-mill and laid in a supply of groceries and provisions.

In November or December, 1865, about the time the Clovers located, W. C. Watkins settled on section 4, and two of the Kingsbury boys located in the southwest part of the township.

1866.

In January, 1866, C. C. Clover and his brother John R. Clover, together with H. A. Victor and one or two others, started from Iowa for this county, having three wagons with two horses each. They left Oska-loosa, Iowa, about the middle of January, and got to Oswego about the 10th of February. They found snow all the way down to Kansas City, but from there down to Oswego had pleasant weather and good roads. D. M. Clover had already commenced the construction of houses on each

of the claims. That season Mr. Clover commenced the construction of a dam across the Neosho at a point some distance above the present dam, and about where the river makes the bend to the east. He did not succeed in getting his mill in operation until the fore part of 1868.

In the spring of 1866 John Clover went back to Iowa, and in July of that year again arrived in Oswego, having with him his father and mother, D. W. Clover and wife, James Stice, Wiley Jackson, — Mason, John Burgess, and David Stanfield. They located in the southeastern part of the township, some of them on the river and some on the prairie. On August 6th Cloyd G. Braught settled on the southwest quarter of section 34, and in September Simeon Helbrook on section 3 and Randal Bagby on section 5, and in October Lewis W. Crain on section 4. On November 9th William Herbaugh and Moses B. Jacobs arrived; the former located north and the latter south of the town-site.

1867.

About November 1, 1867, C. Montague settled on the southwest quarter of section 5, and on November 11th F. Swanwick bought the claim of W. C. Watkins and located on section 4.

CELEBRATION.

On July 4, 1866, the settlers of this part of the county assembled at Oswego and held their first celebration.

MILL.

Capt. Clover had some of the machinery here for his mill in the spring of 1866, but it took so long to build the dam across the Neosho that he did not get it running till 1868. The first mill to be put in operation in the township was brought here November 9, 1866, by M. B. Jacobs, but he did not get it started till the spring of 1867. It was located on his claim, just south of town. It was thought better to haul the logs from the woods to the mill on the prairie and thus have the lumber where it could be procured easily, than to locate the mill in the woods and thus cause the lumber to be hauled out over the muddy bottoms.

ORGANIZATION.

This township from the first has had the same territory as is now included within its limits. It was organized at the time of the division of the county into precincts for the first election. The first official record of its organization now to be found is the order of the Commissioners made November 21, 1867, dividing the county into townships, in which they ordered that "Oswego township, No. 3, shall include town 33, R. 21." The first officer in this township was C. H. Talbott, who was appointed justice of the peace by the Governor in the fall of 1866. He seems to have appointed Andy Kaho constable, to serve whatever process was is-

sued by him. These were probably the only civil officers of the township prior to its organization. I have not been able to learn the names of all the officers who were elected in April, 1867. D. W. Clover was one of the justices of the peace elected at that time, and probably J. F. Newlon was the other; Andy Kaho was elected constable. On April 5, 1868, the following officers were elected: R. W. Wright, trustee; S. Reardon, clerk; Norris Harrer, treasurer; R. J. Elliott and J. F. Newlon, justices of the peace; A. Kaho and F. D. Howe, constables; Ephraim Shanks, road overseer.

FAIRVIEW TOWNSHIP.

As far as I have been able to learn, but two parties had settled in this township prior to 1866. Francis Wall settled on the southwest quarter of section 10, and Mr. Allen on the northwest quarter of section 13, in the fall of 1865.

During the year 1866 a number of parties came into the township. Early in the spring William Springer settled on the southwest quarter of section 2, M. V. B. Coffin on the northwest quarter of section 3, and William Cline on the northwest quarter of section 4. James Logan came in March, and located on the northwest quarter of section 11, and James M. Logan on the southeast quarter of the same section. In May, Charles Wadsack settled on the northwest quarter of section 12, and Frederick and Ernest Wadsack in the same vicinity. In June, John Richardson bought Mr. Springer's claim for \$200, to which he moved from the claim taken in Liberty township, and where he has since made his home.

Among those who made settlement during 1867 were W. S. Park, James Dike, S. H. Spurr, and Charles Kelso. Mr. Spurr bought J. M. Logan's claim, and the latter settled on the northeast quarter of section 16.

INDUSTRIES.

M. V. B. Coffin was the first blacksmith in the township; he opened a shop at his home soon after settling there in the spring of 1866. He had been a soldier with Kit Carson, was a good workman, and had a good run of business. He died in January, 1867; Mr. Peters bought his tools. In 1867 J. M. Logan constructed a wooden mill for grinding cane, of which he and his neighbors raised quite large patches. He made a large amount of sorghum molasses.

ORGANIZATION.

In the original division of the county, what is known as Fairview township formed a part of Labette. On the application of A. S. Spaulding, Frank Williams, J. R. Sweet and some fifty other electors, the Commissioners, on April 26, 1870, made an order organizing township 33,

range 20, into a municipal township with the name of Fairview, and fixing the voting-place of the township at the office of Dr. A. S. Spaulding, on section 21. The following officers were appointed to serve until April, 1871: L. W. Patrick, trustee; W. W. Babbitt, clerk; A. S. Spaulding, treasurer; W. H. Umbarger and John Robinson, constables. A. S. Potter and James Paxton were recommended for appointment as justices of the peace.

STOCK.

On May 20, 1870, the Commissioners, on a petition therefor, made an order that stock be not allowed to run at large in the night-time for the term of three years.

MOUNT PLEASANT TOWNSHIP.

W. F. Hamman was the first settler in this township. He erected his house upon the northwest quarter of section 2, in April, 1869. Soon thereafter Mr. Moray located upon the northeast quarter of section 11. In July, E. A. Wait and his brother A. H. Wait settled on section 12, and Henry C. McClelland on the southwest quarter of section 14. A little later in the season the northwest part of the township was settled. Benjamin H. Greer, George Greer, James Armstrong and Lewis C. Hill were the first settlers in this part of the township.

RELIGIOUS EXERCISES.

In the fall of 1869 A. W. King, of Osage township, commenced preaching at the houses of Benjamin Greer and Lewis Hill. Services were kept up at private houses with more or less regularity until the Pioneer school-house was built, when they were held there. They were principally conducted by Methodist preachers in charge of the Timber Hill circuit.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

While Mr. Moray and his wife were camped upon their claim above referred to, before they had their house erected, the first child in the township was born to them. On October 1, 1869, W. F. Hamman lost his son Henry, which was the first death in the township. The first marriage in the township was that of George R. Greer and Mary A. Hill.

ORGANIZATION.

Mount Pleasant township was originally a part of Labette township. On May 20, 1870, G. W. Moray and sixty other electors petitioned for the organization of township 33, range 19, into a municipal township, which petition the board granted, and named the township Mount Pleasant. Thereupon the board appointed the following officers: H. C. McClelland, trustee; Walter Downing, clerk; Henry Story, treasurer; Florence Hamman and C. E. Woodin, constables. Ezra A. Wait and

John Hamblin were recommended for justices of the peace, and they were afterward appointed.

CARE OF STOCK.

On June 23, 1870, on a petition of its citizens the board made an order restraining the running at large of stock in the night-time for a period of five years.

CANADA TOWNSHIP.

On January 23, 1867, Alexander and Milton Duncan located on section 7, township 34, range 18, and were the first settlers in what is now Canada township. A little later in the season Jonathan Hill settled on section 28, Gresham Gokey on section 29, and sometime during the year John Nellis, J. Roberts, George Mays and Lewis Scott settled in the township. John McNeal came in October, 1868. I do not find the names of other settlers prior to those who came in the spring of 1869. During this year quite a large immigration came into the township, among whom may be mentioned H. Hedemann, D. M. Pitt, J. F. Walford, H. A. Linn, Wm. Walters, David Ross, Howard Phenis and sons, John Phillips, Mrs. Mary Price, Ola Olson.

Mr. Phenis and his sons had a shingle-mill, in 1869, on section 32, from which they supplied the settlers in that neighborhood with shingles for their cabins.

The first child born in the township was Milton Duncan, son of Alexander Duncan, on February 12, 1868. The first death was that of an old man named Munk.

ORGANIZATION.

In the absence of any record I take the statement of Mr. Dickerman, who was then County Clerk, that, of the nine precincts into which the county was divided, in March, 1867, by the Commissioners appointed for its organization, the southwest part was called Pumpkin Creek. No election was held therein at the first election for county officers. When the Commissioners met and organized, on June 5, 1867, they made an order for the organization of the two west precincts, in which it was provided that "Canada township shall include 33 & 34, range 18, and the west half of town 33 & 34, range 19, and as far west as the county line." This is the first official record we have relating to this township, or giving it a name. It was not until October 21, 1867, that a voting-precinct was designated for the township; at that time it was fixed at J. M. Duncan's. On November 21, 1867, the Commissioners made a new order dividing the county into townships, in which it was ordered that "Canada township, No. 9, shall include town 33 & 34, R. 17 & 18." On April 6, 1868, the north half of township 33, in ranges 17 and 18, was attached to Osage township. The first election in the township was held November 5, 1867,

at which J. R. Shippey was elected trustee, J. M. Duncan and G. W. Mays, justices of the peace; John Nellis and John Scoville, constables. The record does not show who the opposing candidates were; but the vote was a tie on justices between Mr. Mays and some one else, and Mr. Mays was successful in the casting of lots for the office. By an order made April 14, 1869, township 35, ranges 17 and 18, was attached to this township.

PROTECTING CROPS.

On May 27, 1871, on the petition of E. B. Baldwin and forty-two others, the Commissioners made an order restraining stock from running at large in the night-time for a term of two years.

HOWARD TOWNSHIP.

The first settler in what is now Howard township was John Kennedy, who located on the southwest quarter of section 12, township 35, range 17, in 1867.

The settlement of this township fairly commenced in 1869, and among those who located here that year are the following: W. H. Godwin, on the northeast quarter of section 3; Clinton Hawley, on section 2; Jesse McClintock, on the northeast quarter of section 11; E. R. Lee, on the southeast quarter of section 33; Lee Lverage, on the southwest quarter of section 33; W. S. Getzendaner, on section 13, range 17; H. H. Long, on the northeast quarter of section 5.

In March, 1870, E. B. Baldwin located upon the northeast quarter of section 2, and during the same season settlements were made by William Blackford on the southwest quarter of section 4, — Scott on the southeast quarter of section 24, B. W. Harwood on the northwest quarter of section 10, George McKee on the southeast quarter of section 10, David McKee on the southwest quarter of section 14, J. M. Hart, on the northeast quarter of section 11, Dana H. Fuller and Aldin Fuller on section 4, Banks Hall and John W. Hall on section 13, D. Smallwood on section 1, Frank Pfiester on section 7.

On March 5, 1871, W. J. Millikin took the southeast quarter of section 22, and sometime during the season, some early in the spring and some not till fall, settlements were made by P. B. Clark on the northwest quarter of section 24, Samuel Smith on the northwest quarter of section 12, James Bennett on the northeast quarter of section 20, Walter Bennett on the northwest quarter of section 29, William Reasor on the southeast quarter, John Reasor on the northwest quarter, and George H. Goodwin on the northeast quarter of section 27. James Steel took the southwest quarter, William Steel the northwest quarter, Boon Thompson the southeast quarter, and J. K. Russell the northeast quarter of section 23; John

Vance the southwest quarter and Christian Lieb the northeast quarter of section 24; Lincoln Clark, and William and John High section 1. W. M. Mabrey located on the southwest quarter of section 11, in range 17.

ORGANIZATION.

The territory of which I am now speaking was a part of Canada township until after the spring election of 1872. At that election the opposing candidates for justice of the peace were J. M. Hart and H. H. Long, both residing in what is now Howard township. The vote between them being a tie, lots were cast resulting in the choice of Mr. Hart, who thereby became the first officer of the new township. On April 5, 1872, E. B. Baldwin presented the petition of himself and eighty-one other electors asking the Commissioners for the formation of a new township, embracing all the territory in ranges 17 and 18 lying south of the line running east and west through the middle of township 34, leaving three tiers of sections in township 34 in the old township, and putting three tiers of sections in township 34 and all of fractional township 35 in the new township. This petition was granted, and the order of the Commissioners made creating said territory into a municipal township, which they named Howard in honor of the County Clerk. Thereupon the following officers were appointed for the township thus organized: E. B. Baldwin, trustee; William J. Millikin, clerk; Joseph Buckley, treasurer; J. J. Breeding, constable. Mr. Buckley failed to qualify, and the Commissioners soon thereafter appointed William Blackford treasurer in his place.

BUSINESS.

There have been several places in the township at different times where small stores have been conducted. Capt. J. W. Hall started a store on his premises in the summer of 1870, which he conducted only a short time. W. H. Godwin and F. W. Noblett kept a small stock of groceries at the Dora post-office. The town of Willeyville, afterward called Deerton, while it existed was in this township, and the business houses in operation there have been spoken of in connection with that name.

INCIDENTS.

John McClintock and Nettie Smallwood, on December 22, 1872, were joined in marriage, being the first couple married in the township, and the marriage of H. F. Jones and Mary McClintock followed some two or three weeks later. Among the first births in the township were sons in the families of W. J. McClintock and D. H. McKee, in the summer of 1870, and on August 15, 1870, a daughter, Julia A., to Colonel Baldwin and wife. A son of G. B. McKee was injured by falling into a well from which he died; this was the first death in the township, and I un-

derstand that B. W. Harwood, who was murdered on August 15, 1872, was the second person who died in the township.

ELM GROVE TOWNSHIP.

The first party to locate in Elm Grove township was William Bowen, who took his claim on sections 3 and 10 early in the spring of 1867, the old settlers say, although no one whom I have met is able to fix the date of his settlement. Probably the next settlers in the township were R. P. and Amos Totten, who located on section 10, as it is thought, in the summer of 1867. A few parties made settlement here in 1868. Madison Sharp came in June and located on the northeast quarter of section 13, although he did not bring his family until the following February. At the same time Thomas Sharp located on the southeast of the same section. In 1869 many more families came in. C. M. Keeler located on same section with William Bowen, Daniel McIntyre on the southwest quarter of section 12, Joseph Gray on the northeast quarter of section 3, A. J. Moler on the southwest quarter of section 13, James Woodville on section 12, in township 35. Wesley Faurot came July 29th this year, and settled in the extreme southeast corner of the township; Harvey Jones also settled in the southern part of the township. In July, C. B. Pratt took the northwest quarter of section 3, in township 35, and opened thereon the first store in the township; he was appointed postmaster of the postoffice at that point, which was called Ripon. In October Dr. D. P. Lucas settled on the northwest quarter of section 12, in township 35; and during the season Thomas Summerfield settled in the same locality, on the southeast quarter of section 9. Probably still more families whose names I have not mentioned came in this year. The settlement of the southwestern part of the township did not commence until the spring of 1870. In June, Peter Shufelt found a small house on the southwest quarter of section 20 which had been put there by some one who had left. He took possession of this and made claim to this quarter, afterward paying the man for his house. Harrison Sword settled on the southwest quarter of section 30, A. J. Lots on the southwest quarter of section 7, Peter Rhodes on section 18, H. H. Lieb and R. W. Lieb also in that vicinity. During the season Owen Wimmer and sons located on section 29, but did not bring their families until the spring of 1871; Alfred Elliott located on the northwest quarter of section 30. In 1871, Junius, Peter and Lewis Goodwin settled on section 31.

ORGANIZATION.

By the division first made, what is now Elm Grove township was a part of Canada and Hackberry townships. After November 21, 1867, until its organization by itself, it formed a part of Hackberry township

only. On July 27, 1870, W. H. Bowen and fifty-five others having petitioned therefor, the Commissioners made an order for the organization of townships 34 and 35, in range 19, into a municipal township, with the name of Elm Grove; and on July 29th appointed the following officers: D. McIntyre, trustee; John Lane, clerk; John Freeman, treasurer; Charles Ballard and S. Bentley, constables; and recommended W. H. Bowen and T. H. Noslen for appointment as justices of the peace.

STOCK.

On April 12, 1871, upon a petition of its citizens, the Commissioners ordered that stock be prohibited from running at large in the night-time for the term of three years.

OMITTED.

This township had the misfortune not to be named in the apportionment of 1871, and it was not until 1873 that it was made a part of any legislative district.

CEMETERY.

In the fall of 1869 James M. Woodfill died, and was the first person to be buried in the cemetery then started on section 12, in the south part of the township. His wife Sarah soon followed him, and was the second to be interred in this cemetery.

HACKBERRY TOWNSHIP.

A few parties settled in this township in the fall of 1865. James Moss, Robert Hastings and Mr. Cawthorn located on section 1, Mr. Henderson on section 12, and Mr. Chandler near by. A few more parties came in the following year, and among them Mr. Redfield, who settled on the northwest quarter of section 1, Luman Reed on the northeast quarter of section 25, and Robert Gill on section 22. Many settlers came in 1867, commencing early in the spring and continuing to arrive during the summer. In June, Gilbert A. and J. T. Cooper located on the south half of section 14, and about the same time Alexander Bishop settled on the northwest quarter and Jerry Strickler on the northeast quarter of the same section; William Newcomb settled on section 11, and Henry G. Pore on section 12. In July, George W. Franklin and L. C. Howard located on section 2; William Sullivan, Robert Johnson, Abner DeCou, Benjamin Hiatt, James Sloan, Walter Pratt and Caleb Phillips came sometime during the year. It is possible that some of the parties named came in 1866 instead of 1867. Elder Cooper settled on section 8 early in 1868, and was the first Baptist minister in that vicinity. In October, William Hannigan bought the northwest quarter of section 9 from Cal. Watkins, who had taken it sometime previous thereto. About the same time Martin Jackson, Aaron Young and Mordecai Ramsey came in. In

February, 1869, D. C. Constant settled on the southeast quarter of section 18; on March 9th, G. W. Jenkins on the northeast quarter of section 33; and in July, J. L. Jones on the northwest quarter of section 5, township 35.

ORGANIZATION.

In the first division of the county, Hackberry township included township 34, range 20, and the east half of range 19. By the new division, on November 21, 1867, it was ordered that "Hackberry township, No. 5, shall include town 34, R. 19 & 20." On April 14, 1869, township 35, lying in these ranges, was attached as a part of the township. The first election in the township was held at the time of the election of the first county officers, April 22, 1867, but there is no record of the result. At the election held April 7, 1868, the following officers were elected: G. W. Franklin, trustee; William Johnson, clerk; H. G. Pore, treasurer; L. C. Howard and D. M. Bender, justices of the peace; D. Day and William Hiatt, constables; and William E. Pratt, road overseer.

CARE OF STOCK.

October 4, 1869, the residents having petitioned therefor, the board ordered that stock be not allowed to run at large in the night-time for the period of five years.

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP.

The first settlement of this township has been spoken of in another part of this work. It may be said to have been the first part of the county settled by the whites, but the settlement was entirely broken up in 1863. The settlement as it now exists commenced in the fall of 1865. Among those who came that season were Thomas King, who settled on the northeast quarter of section 18, William Busby on the northwest quarter of section 17, William Puitt on the southeast quarter of section 7, Zephaniah Woolsey on the southeast quarter of section 27; a man by the name of Baker and his three sons. Berry, John and William, and two sons-in-law, Dotson and Maxwell, along the Labette creek on sections 22, 23 and 26; G. W. Yandel and his sons-in-law, David Lewellin and Chas. A. Rankin, came in November, 1865, and took claims, but did not bring their families until the following spring. These parties and also Mr. Yandal's son, Columbus, settled on sections 6, 7 and 8. About the same time George W. Kingsbury settled on section 6.

During 1866 many parties came into the township, some coming early in the spring and others later in the season. In the spring the Rice brothers, Benjamin, John and James, John Green, Orville Thompson, John W. Wiley, Gilbert Martin, Samuel Braught, Allen Barnes, Mancel Garret, Lorenzo Braught, James Smith, and perhaps others, settled in

the northeastern part of the township north of the Labette. In May, S. R. Southwick settled on the northeast quarter of section 29, William Shay on the southeast quarter of section 20, John Kinney and sons on the northwest quarter of section 28, George Lane on the southwest quarter of section 28, Abraham Ewers on the southwest quarter of section 31. In June, Samuel Gregory settled on the southeast quarter of section 26, and in August Mr. Yunker on the northwest quarter of section 29, and Mr. Bedicker on the northeast quarter of section 32. On August 12th Franklin Asbell bought the northeast quarter of section 18 from Thomas King and became a permanent settler thereon. On October 10th, David U. Watson settled on the southwest quarter of section 21, and John N. Watson on the southeast quarter of section 29; about the same time Marshall J. Lee settled north of Labette creek, Milton Helm on the northeast quarter of section 29, and Riley Hawkins on the southwest quarter of section 20; Stephen Bright bought the southwest quarter of section 7 from Woolsey; John and Cass Steel settled on section 8, Salina Grant on the northwest quarter of section 30.

On January 1, 1867, Moses Powers located on the northwest quarter of section 21; in April, Isaac Butterworth bought the northwest quarter of section 30 from Salina Grant, and made his home thereon.

BUSINESS.

The first store in the township, aside from those located in Chetopa, was kept by Orville Thompson, a little north of Labette creek, on the east road leading from Oswego to Chetopa; it was started in the spring of 1866. Soon after this the town of Labette was started, on the Neosho.

DRAINAGE.

For many years a large part of the land south of the Labette was covered with water so great a portion of the year that it was practically of little use. In 1882 a ditch was dug, draining this swamp into the Neosho, thereby making a large tract of land capable of cultivation.

CEMETERY.

In April, 1874, John F. Hill deeded three acres of land in section 9, on which the Pleasant Valley Cemetery was laid out; George Gennoa was the first person buried therein. This cemetery has been nicely improved and quite extensively used.

ORGANIZATION.

The Commissioners appointed for the organization of the county, in laying it off into precincts constituted township 34, range 21, a township, which they named Chetopa. The first official reference we have to this township is on July 2, 1867, when it was "Ordered, that the township called Chetopa, the southern township of Labette county, be changed ac-

ording to the request of the petitioners, to be called Richland township hereafter." On November 21, 1867, in dividing the county into townships, the Commissioners ordered that "Richland township, No. 4, shall include town 34, R. 21." While we have no record showing the names of the persons who were elected officers at the election held April 22, 1867, we soon thereafter find J. N. Watson acting as justice of the peace. He resigned on October 23, and on November 19 the Commissioners appointed G. H. English, and two days later they also appointed William H. Reed justice of the peace. On April 7, 1868, the following officers were elected: Robert Steel, trustee; R. B. Wallan, clerk; Daniel Quinby, treasurer; George Kinkade and B. B. Baker, justices of the peace; J. W. Wiley and A. P. Kinkade, constables; Allison Hasty, road overseer. On April 14, 1869, an order of the Commissioners was made attaching township 35, range 21, to Richland township.

TOWNS AND CITIES.

PROPOSED TOWNS.—“IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.”

LABETTE.

No less than three towns christened Labette have been started in this county. The first of the three was located in the fall of 1866, by Gilbert Martin, on the banks of the Neosho, in section 14, Richland township. In 1867 Mr. Martin put in a saw-mill, to which was attached a set of corn buhrs. The mill got quite a trade at this point. A store building was erected by L. D. Bovee, for Mr. Smith, who put in a stock of groceries. This building was afterward sold to School District No. 3, and was moved from its location on the town-site to the public road, where it now stands, and is still in use as a school-house. Another building was erected, for R. G. Tileston, who put in quite a large amount of groceries. In January, 1868, Martin, Tileston and Bovee put up quite a quantity of ice, fully eight inches thick. With the cold weather of the spring and winter of 1867 and 1868 the hopes of this town vanished, and during the spring all of its business was moved away.

The second town of this name was located on parts of sections 20 and 21, in Richland township, just south of Labette creek. In May, 1868, a number of parties, among whom were G. A. Cooper, R. G. Tileston, L. D. Bovee, Allen Barnes, Gilbert Martin, and Isaac Butterworth, formed themselves into a company for the purpose of laying out this town, and on June 18 their charter was filed in the office of the Secretary of State. Mr. Tileston put up quite a large two-story building, and removed his stock of groceries from the former old town of Labette, lying to the northeast of this, and added thereto so that he had quite a respectable store. Moses Powers had a blacksmith shop, and quite a number of parties built small dwelling-houses; so that during the summer of 1868 there were probably twelve to twenty buildings of all descriptions on the town-site. The town was also known by the name of Soresco as well as by the name of Labette. Its proprietors supposed that they were in the line where the M. K. & T. Rly. would necessarily be located. With the close of

1868 the prospects of an important town being built up at this point disappeared. Mr. Tileston became interested in Chetopa, to which point he moved his stock of groceries, leaving his store building, however, as a watch-tower in the desert to mark the spot which had been the scene of so many bright anticipations.

DAYTON.

The town of Labette having been started in the southeastern part of Liberty township, it was thought by some that a more desirable location for a town would be farther up Labette creek, and in May, 1870, J. F. Newlon, E. K. Currant, Peterson Cherry, W. H. Porter, and a number of others, became incorporated, the charter being filed June 20, 1870, and a town-site was selected upon the west bank of the Labette, below the mouth of Bachelor creek, on sections 9 and 16, township 32, range 20. But few houses were ever erected on the town-site. William H. and John I. Sipple put up a fair store building and opened up a store. E. K. Currant put up a building and opened a branch of his main store, which was at Montana. There were two or three other business houses. In November following the town was moved to Parsons.

JACKSONVILLE.

This town was located in four counties, but principally in Neosho county. It embraced, however, a part of section 3, township 31, range 21, in Labette county. On December 23, 1867, a paper purporting to be a charter for the incorporation of the town was filed in the office of the Secretary of State, but there was no pretense of complying with the law. On January 23, 1868, a new charter was filed. Among the incorporators were William Logan, G. D. Dement, David Evans, and Samuel Correll. After the first two or three years there was little left to indicate what this town once was.

CHERRYVILLE.

On January 30, 1869, the charter for the town of Cherryville, incorporating James H. Beggs, James McMains, John Oliphant, and others, was filed in the office of the Secretary of State. The town was to be located on the south half of section 12, township 32, range 17. The proprietors seem to have soon become satisfied that they were not going to be able to build up a town at this point, and concluded to abandon it.

VERBENA.

A town with this name was proposed to be located on section 13, township 32, range 17, in Osage township. R. D. Hartsorn, John W. Claspill, W. O. Hartsorn, Lionel A. Whitney and Samuel C. Hockett were charter

members of the town company. The charter was filed with the Secretary of State June 16, 1869.

KINGSBURY.

The above name was chosen for a town that was to have been located on the northeast quarter of section 30, in Osage township, if the line of the L. L. & G. R. R. had run through that quarter as it was expected to. Mr. Kingsbury, one of the surveying party, assured the owners of claims in that vicinity that the road would surely be located on that line. Perhaps it would have been had not the general course of the road been changed so as to pass through Montgomery instead of Labette county. On the strength of these assurances a town company was organized, of which W. H. Carpenter was president and L. F. Dick secretary. When the line of the railroad was located west of them the project of building this town was abandoned.

TIMBER HILL.

A company consisting of Alexander W. King, Mahlon A. King, J. H. Beatty and others, was incorporated April 12, 1869, for the purpose of laying off the town of Timber Hill. It was located on the south half of the northeast quarter and the north half of the southeast quarter of section 34, township 31, range 18. About the middle of September, 1869, George W. Blake and William Blake opened a store at this place: they continued to sell goods till the spring of 1871, when they closed and moved on their farms.

BIG HILL.

Joseph McCormick, David Stanfield, John A. Helpingstine, Thomas Harrison and Jesse Bishop, became incorporated February 22, 1870, for the purpose of laying off the town of Big Hill, on parts of sections 23 and 24, township 32, range 17.

NEOLA

Was intended to cover 320 acres in section 35, township 32, and section 2, township 33, both in range 20. Gilbert Martin, John N. Watson, David C. Lowe, Julius S. Waters, Chas. A. Kelso, Benjamin A. Rice, and others, became incorporated for the purpose of laying off the town. The charter for the same was filed in the office of the Secretary of State December 24, 1867. By the most liberal construction of its language it can hardly be said to contain any of the statutory requirements for a charter, but it is probable that this is not the reason why the town never succeeded in acquiring any more growth than one store and a blacksmith shop.

ELSTON.

On September 8, 1869, there was filed in the office of the Secretary of State a charter incorporating John Elston, John T. Weaver and others into the Elston Town Company, for the purpose of laying off a town on section 6, township 33, range 20. During that summer this town had quite a growth. The parties composing this company were men of some means, who came from Johnson county and wanted to build a town nearer the center of the county than any other town had then been located, with the avowed purpose of making it the county seat. They erected quite a large hotel and a number of store buildings, and for a time had considerable trade, and the town seemed to be on the road to prosperity, but its growth was of short duration, and in a few years not a single building remained to mark the site of this once ambitious place.

KINGSTON.

Kingston was located on sections 31 and 32, in township 34, and sections 5 and 6, in township 35, range 19. It was started in the summer of 1877 by the erection of a flour mill by Eastwood & Reamer. Soon after, Mr. Jones started a blacksmith shop; Thomas Bruner put in a drug store; Aaron Humes a broom factory; Anderson & Weaver a general merchandise store; C. W. Campbell was postmaster, as well as physician; S. E. Ball was the only lawyer. In 1879 the engine was sold out of the mill, and thereafter was not put in again. The place continued more or less prosperous until the construction of the railroad through the southern portion of the county, in 1886, when it was abandoned and united with Edna.

DEERTON.

Named from the abundance of deer that were found in that vicinity by the early settlers. It was located by the Willie brothers on the north half of section 20, township 34, range 18, on the line between Howard and Canada townships. The first store in Deerton was opened in 1880, by Aaron Humes, who was soon after appointed postmaster. Charles M. Keeler next followed with another store of general merchandise. Blacksmith shops, a wood-worker and a broom factory were among the industries of this town. On the completion of the railroad through Howard township, in the fall of 1886, the town was all moved to Valeda.

CITIES, TOWNS AND STATIONS AS AT PRESENT
EXISTING.

ANGOLA.

C. H. Kimball, Lee Clark and others filed a charter in the office of the Secretary of State on November 29, 1886, authorizing them to lay off a town-site and dispose of lots on the northeast quarter of section 8, township 34, range 18. The plat was filed February 12, 1887, acknowledged by Lee Clark, president of the town company. There has never been much growth—only two or three business houses of any kind, and the stock-yards.

PENFIELD

Is a station on the P. & P. Rly., located on the northeast quarter of section 27, township 33, range 18. This location was formerly called Barton.

WILSONTON

Is located on the line of the Parsons & Pacific Rly., on sections 16 and 17, in Labette township. It was surveyed in August, 1887. The first store was started in the spring of 1888, by Samuel Jameson. Mrs. Ella B. Wilson is proprietor of the town, and has devoted much energy to its development and upbuilding. It has received its principal amount of advertising by the distribution of the *Wilsonton Journal*, which is published here.

IDENBORO

Is a station on the Parsons & Pacific Railroad south of Parsons.

MORTIMER

Was laid out by Emanuel Mortimer, on the north half of the northeast quarter of section 25, township 31, range 17. The plat was filed January 7, 1883.

DENNIS.

The first house in Dennis was the railroad depot, erected in the fall of 1880. In the spring of 1881 William Current put up a store building, in which he placed a stock of groceries; this was the first store in town. John Webb and John Milligan put in another store in the spring of 1882, their stock consisting of general merchandise. A second stock of general merchandise was put in by W. H. Thorne, in the fall of 1883. Mr. Thorne also put in a corn elevator and shipped grain, and put up the first substantial residence house in town. Subsequently John Mason put in a harness shop, L. Pedan a lumber yard, Wm. Cline a drug store, J. L. Wilson a hardware store, and Nelson Dunn a livery stable. The first

hotel was put up by Mr. Acre, in the summer of 1885. It was not till December 21, 1883, that the plat of the town was filed in the office of the Register of Deeds, locating the town on sections 14 and 15, on the line of the Gulf Railroad, in Osage township. Lee Wilson was born to L. J. Wilson and wife December 24, 1884—the first child born in town.

LANEVILLE

Is a station on the Fort Scott & Gulf Railroad, located on the southeast quarter of section 20, in Neosho township. It was started just after the building of the railroad, and has one store.

MATTHEWSON.

The plat of this town located it on section 15, township 31, range 21, and was filed in the office of the Register of Deeds April 30, 1879. The first house in Matthewson was built in the spring of 1879, by William Downs; in this he had his residence, the store, and postoffice. The next store building was put up by G. W. Watson and C. Hamilton, who put in a fair stock of goods and did a good business until McCune was started, when they moved to that town, leaving but one store-house in Matthewson.

STOVER

Is a station on the Frisco, located on section 15, in Fairview township. The only business that has been conducted here has been one store, owned by J. N. Santee; a blacksmith shop, by G. W. Brock; and a part of the time H. M. Debolt has run a saw-mill, with which he has connected a set of corn buhrs, and has also been engaged in the grain business.

BIG HILL

Is a station on the Frisco Railroad, in Mound Valley township.

STEVENS.

On February 23, 1874, the charter of Stevens was filed in the office of the Secretary of State, incorporating Alfred Large, Jonas Clark, L. M. Bedell and others with authority to locate a town on sections 33 and 34, township 34, range 21. The plat was acknowledged by R. W. Officer, president of the town company, and was filed in March, 1874. A few years ago this place was incorporated as a part of the city of Chetopa.

CECIL

Is located on the northwest quarter of section 5, township 35, range 20. In 1869 Mr. Head put in a small stock of general merchandise, which he continued to sell until the fall of 1870, when it was closed. Allen McNeal has had a blacksmith shop since 1871. George Burge opened a

store in 1881, which he has continued to conduct up to the present time. From 1885 to 1887 C. W. Fowler had a store in connection with the post-office. The Methodists have a church and cemetery at this point.

MONTANA CITY.

Soon after coming to the county Frank Simons brought a small stock of groceries, which he commenced selling in his cabin. Early in the spring of 1866 he put up a hewed log house on what was thereafter to be the Montana town-site, but which had not yet been laid off, and in March opened therein a store. This was the first building on the town-site, and this was the first store in the township. Soon thereafter, Yates & Fagan built a frame store building on the town-site and put therein a stock of groceries. This is said to have been the first frame building in the county. Soon after this they built a frame residence. The next spring Frank Simons built a frame store building into which he moved his stock of groceries.

TOWN COMPANY.

The Montana Town Company had been agreed upon some time previously, but was not incorporated until May 28, 1868. Among those who were members of the company were Levi Seabridge, J. S. Anderson, Henry Minor, S. S. Watson, J. S. Waters, and D. M. Watson. S. S. Watson was president and J. S. Waters secretary of the town company. The town was located on section 8, township 32, range 21.

FERRY.

Abner Furgeson was granted a ferry license on July 11, 1867, and at once he, in connection with Jonah Wilcox, commenced the operation of a ferry across the Neosho near where it is spanned by the iron bridge.

HOTEL.

In 1868 Henry M. Miner erected a two-story building and opened therein the first hotel in town.

PHYSICIANS.

D. D. McGrath was the first physician of standing to locate here. He was soon followed by Dr. Frye, and they in turn by Dr. J. M. Mahr, all of whom were good citizens as well as good physicians, and did their part toward building up the place. Doctors Hall, Gapen, Taylor and Keys are among the other physicians who came to the place. Of all who have located here, Dr. Wheeler, who at present is rendering professional services to the community, is the only one that remains.

MILL.

In 1870 W. E. Livesay and J. O. Charles erected, and in the spring of 1871 put in operation, the grist mill which ever since then has been an important industry of the town.

MASONIC LODGE.

Evergreen Lodge, A. F. & A. M., numbering 86, was organized about the close of 1870, with eleven charter members. A. W. Swift was the first W. M. After an existence of several years the lodge surrendered its charter.

IMPROVEMENTS.

In 1868 the town commenced a rapid growth, which was continued during the next two years, and at one time it contained thirteen general stores, three hotels, three saloons, two livery stables, two wagon shops, besides a great number of other shops and stores of various kinds, and a population of not less than 500 people. Failing to get the M. K. & T., which was built in 1870, and also other projected lines which were intended to pass through her boundaries failing to be built, it was evident that for a time at least she had reached the height of her prosperity; and when the town of Labette sprang up on the line of the railroad but a few miles from her, many of her firms removed their business there, and some of them took with them their business houses.

GOVERNMENT.

In 1873 the Legislature passed an act authorizing the town to incorporate as a city of the third class, and in pursuance of its provision an order was made by the district judge, on July 3, 1877, for the incorporation of the city of Montana, and an election ordered for July 14th. At the first election Col. J. J. Woods was elected mayor, E. D. Keirsey police judge, and the following persons members of the council: A. B. Chaplain, G. T. Peak, J. P. Bradfield, Samuel Ballentine, and J. M. Mahr. A pretense of a city government was maintained until 1884. In April, 1883, Martin Wilcox was elected mayor, and was the last person on whom that honor was conferred. It became generally understood that the act authorizing the incorporation was unconstitutional, and the form of going through an election of officers who had no legal authority to act was abandoned.

BARTLETT.

The plat of the town of Bartlett, located on the southwest quarter of section 27, township 34, range 20, acknowledged by Robert A. Bartlett, was filed in the office of the Register of Deeds, June 5, 1886. The first lot was sold to Jerome Calahan, who erected thereon the first building which was put up on the town-site. It was a two-story frame, in the first story of which he put a general stock of merchandise, which was the first store in town; the upper story was a hall, in which were held religious and other meetings. B. F. Cox built the first dwelling in town, and started the first blacksmith shop; the second dwelling was erected by H. L. Whiting. In 1891 William Jarrett put in a cider-mill, and in

connection with it buhrs for grinding meal and feed. The Methodists are now erecting a church.

ELM CITY

Was laid out by Jesse A. Edmundson, on the northwest quarter of section 27, township 34, range 19, in Elm Grove township, soon after the completion of the railroad through that section, the town plat being acknowledged July 21, 1886. The first building on the town-site was erected by J. F. Shields and J. A. Edmundson, soon after the town was platted, and was occupied by Wilson & Vanbibber with a stock of general merchandise. Brown & Waugh and Smith & Edmundson soon followed with stocks of notions and groceries; Henry Robinett and N. L. Addis opened blacksmith shops; D. Wilson sold furniture. In 1892 the Christian church erected a neat frame building. Quite a large amount of grain is shipped from this point, and a good business is done by dealers in most of the lines of merchandise.

EDNA.

On June 20, 1876, Mr. Booth and Alex. Patterson opened a general store in a claim shanty 11x14 feet, belonging to Jephtha Lackey, on the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 30, in Elm Grove township. This was the first start of the town of Edna. That same fall this firm brought from the town of Chanutte the material of a frame building which they had torn down, and with it they put up at Edna, on the same quarter, the first store building in the place. This building still stands. They continued to conduct the business until 1879, when they sold to Frank Clark. Other stores were opened from time to time. In 1883 Dunlap & Co. started a hardware store, but there were no very important enterprises started or any large amount of building done until the construction of the railroad through there in 1886, with the exception of the flour-mill, which was erected in 1883, by H. S. Wimmer and William Gear. This mill was put in operation in the spring of 1884, and has ever been one of the most substantial features of Edna's prosperity. The town was not regularly laid off until the location of the railroad, in the summer of 1886. A plat of the town embracing a portion of sections 29 and 30, township 34, range 19, was filed August 21, 1886.

FIRES.

There have been two quite extensive fires in Edna: one on February 13, 1889, on the west side of Delaware street, burning out the business houses of G. W. Reasor, W. P. Dollar, and Josiah Arnold; the other in December, 1891, on the east side of Delaware street, consuming the business houses of Frank Martin, Frank Holton, L. Powell, Alexander Dunlap, and C. M. Rinker.

STONE BUILDINGS.

There are no brick buildings in Edna, and but two of stone, the first being the two-story bank building erected by C. T. Ewing, in 1887, and the second a one-story building adjoining it erected by G. W. Reasor, in 1891.

GOVERNMENT.

On the application of its citizens an order was made by the Board of County Commissioners on July 3, 1892, incorporating the town as a city of the third class, and on July 20 its first election was held, at which the following officers were elected: Mayor, J. H. Hoole; police judge, J. H. Reasor; councilmen, G. W. Reasor, T. G. Harris, H. H. Clark, A. C. Veach, and J. C. Arnold. The first meeting of the mayor and council was held July 25, 1892, at which J. E. Blunk was appointed and confirmed as city clerk.

On August 9 four ordinances were passed. The first levied an occupation tax on all the various kinds of business conducted there; the second provided for the maintenance of the peace; the third prohibited stock from running at large; and the fourth provided for licensing dogs.

BANK.

On January 25, 1887, C. T. Ewing, who was in the banking business at Thayer and Cherryvale, opened the International Bank at Edna, with J. M. Berry, cashier. C. H. Zabriska succeeded Mr. Berry as cashier on November 1, 1888, and continued in charge of the bank until it failed, in May, 1892.

VALEDA.

The site for this town is on a part of section 33, township 34, range 18, and was owned by the Excelsior Town and Mining Company. The plat was filed July 7, 1886. The first building in the town was put up by Stone & Willie, who placed therein a stock of merchandise. About the same time C. M. Keeler erected a store building and put in a stock of goods, and Dr. Kenworthy started the first drug store. During the fall of 1866 all of the town of Deerton was moved to the Valeda town-site.

LABETTE.

This town is located near the center of section 26, in Liberty township. It was started with the avowed purpose of making it the county seat, and leading citizens from the southern part of the county as well as those in the near vicinity, took interest in the enterprise. Among the charter members were Dempsey Elliott, J. S. Waters, James H. Crichton, W. A. Hodges, John W. Horner, W. J. Conner, and many more of like character and responsibility. The town company was incorporated

May 3, 1870. The charter specified that the town was to be located near Neola. It was not until September that the town plat was acknowledged by W. J. Conner, president of the town company; however, the building of the town commenced immediately upon the organization of the town company. The first families to be located upon the town-site were Robert Cooper, Wilf. Cooper, Dr. W. J. Conner, and Jacob Weider. Wilf. Cooper entered a part of the town-site, and had resided thereon since 1868. Probably the first business house upon the town-site was that of Jacob Weider, moved there from Montana the latter part of May, in which he at once opened a bakery and saloon. Another saloon was opened some time after this by a Mr. Woolsey; neither had license to run, and yet both were conducted for months without being interfered with. Before the close of June, 1870, a meat market was conducted by Lewis & Smith; a lumber yard by Mr. Wilkins; a boarding-house by Mr. Brady; a shoe shop by Mr. Moon, and a grocery store by Bates & Co. At this time it was said that there were fifty-two houses on the town-site. During the next few months the town built rapidly, and by the close of the year was represented by nearly every line of business.

Failing to secure the county seat, the success of the town began to be questioned, and of those interested therein some commenced to take their departure. For a number of years past it has remained what it became after the boom had subsided—a village with a fair business for two or three stores, and a shipping point for the grain raised in the vicinity. About 1875 a mill was erected by Bowen & Williams, of Che-topa. Some two years thereafter A. W. Diggs bought it, but soon sold it to other parties. The machinery was then removed, and the mill has never since been in operation.

Soon after the town was started, cemetery grounds were selected north of town. Mrs. Sarah Cooper was the first person whose body was interred therein.

ALTAMONT.

I. N. Hamilton, Henry G. Hamman, J. J. Miles, and others were members of the town company which was chartered February 4, 1875, for the purpose of laying out a town on the south half of section 2 and the north half of section 11, township 33, range 19. This company does not seem to have accomplished its purpose, and on September 5, 1879, a new charter was filed, by I. N. Hamilton, S. O. Noble and others, for the purpose of locating a town on the northeast quarter of section 11, township 33, range 19. This land the company purchased from William Miller. The town plat was acknowledged by J. B. Jones, president, and S. O. Noble, secretary, and was filed January 21, 1880. I. N. Hamilton was first president, but was soon succeeded by J. B. Jones as president and Scott

O. Noble as secretary. The first house erected on the town-site was the residence of Scott O. Noble; this was built in October, 1879. In December of the same year J. B. Jones put up the next building, in which, about the first of January, 1880, James Hershberger opened the first store in town.

MILLS.

In 1875, before there seemed any prospect of building a town near there, E. C. Gordon and A. B. Hammer erected a frame building on the northwest quarter of section 2, belonging to I. N. Hamilton. The machinery for a grist-mill was put in the next season, and a custom flouring-mill was conducted quite successfully for several years. In 1878 J. W. Giles erected a small mill on the southwest quarter of section 2. This was not operated very long. Mr. Giles afterwards moved the building onto the town-site, and out of it constructed a hotel. The mill now in operation was built in 1881, by Martin A. Renner and Daniel Reid. The town company donated the land, constructed the pond, and gave them \$75 in money, in order to secure the mill.

HOTEL.

The first hotel was built in the spring of 1880, by Samuel Sharp. Afterwards J. W. Giles moved his mill building on the town-site, and out of it constructed quite a good hotel building.

GOVERNMENT.

September 29, 1884, the town was incorporated, and on October 14, 1884, the first election was held, which resulted in electing H. C. Blanchard mayor, L. W. Crain police judge, and the following councilmen: R. B. Gregg, W. M. McCoid, D. Reid, C. S. Newlon, A. J. Garst. W. F. Hamman was elected city clerk. Mr. Blanchard was elected mayor by two majority over J. B. Jones.

MAYORS.

1884, H. C. Blanchard; 1885, C. S. Newlon; 1886, W. P. Wilson; 1887, A. W. Mackie; 1888-89, J. B. Jones; 1890, R. B. Gay; 1891, A. W. Mackie; 1892, C. S. Newlon.

CLERKS.

1884, W. F. Hamman; 1885, A. A. Farmer; 1886, B. F. Godfrey; 1887-88, C. M. Pool; 1889, J. B. Libbey; 1890, W. S. Haughton; 1891, Harry Mills; 1892, W. F. Hamman.

BRICK BUILDINGS.

In 1886 P. Lane erected a substantial two-story brick business house. Prior to this all the buildings had been frame. The only other brick building in town is the school-house, erected in 1891.

BANK.

February 1, 1886, J. H. Macon and S. A. Duval opened a bank, which was run some time, but finally the management was such that it was found to be unprofitable, and it was closed.

CHURCHES.

The Presbyterians put up a church building in the spring of 1881; the Methodists in 1882; the Baptists finished their house in June, 1884; and in 1892 the Christians purchased the old frame school-house and moved it onto their lots for a church.

MOUND VALLEY.

J. P. Allen, W. A. Lewis, Charles Beggs, N. L. Hibbard, Chas. Lierly, C. H. Lewis and others became incorporated July 13, 1868, with the authority to locate a town on section 2, township 33, range 18. The first building on the town-site was put up in the summer of 1869, by the town company in connection with Alexander Honrath and Henry Rohr, the upper story of which was to be used as the town company's office and the public hall, and the lower story by Honrath & Rohr for a general store. Among those who followed Messrs. Honrath & Rohr were L. F. Nicholas, who put in a stock of drugs; J. B. Kremer, who had a grocery and hardware store; and E. H. Stevens, the postoffice.

No title to the land on which the town was located was obtained from the Government until the passage of the act of 1876. In February, 1877, the occupants petitioned the Probate Judge to enter the town-site as he was authorized to do under the law. This he did, and in July, 1878, a certificate of entry was issued to him for the benefit of the occupants of the said town-site.

PROFESSIONAL MEN.

Several parties who had been or claimed to be lawyers have had their office in this town. W. M. Rogers was the first of this class to locate here. Without attempting to mention a number of those who subsequently attempted to practice in justice court, some of whom were and some of whom were not admitted to the bar, I may mention W. F. Schoch, who for several years was located at this point, and did a good business. The first doctor to locate in this vicinity was Charles H. Lewis, who settled here in 1869. He had a claim on which he lived; he had quite a good practice. E. Tanner came in February, 1870, and N. M. Miller later in that year. Doctors Pattie, Woods, Towel, Wenner, Tustison, Stansbury, McEwen, Sanders, Allen, Lemon, Lake and Strother have offered their services to the public, and several of them have done a good business and made a good reputation.

BANKS.

On October 7, 1883, C. M. Condon and W. H. Gandy opened a bank, which they continued to run until September, 1889, when they dissolved, since which time the bank has been conducted by Mr. Condon.

GAS.

In 1883 an effort was made to sink an artesian well for the purpose of supplying the town with water, and with the hope of finding coal. After drilling to a depth of over 750 feet, the parties became doubtful of obtaining the object sought; it was, however, discovered that the well contained a large amount of gas, and in 1884 tubing was put in with the view of utilizing the gas.

SANITARIUM.

The gas well above referred to was found to afford water highly impregnated with minerals which it was believed would be good for medicinal purposes. Authority was obtained from the Legislature to use the proceeds of the sale of the township railroad stock in the erection of a large house, which was done, and it has become quite a resort for invalids. It is lighted and heated by natural gas from the well already spoken of.

MILL.

In 1881 W. C. O'Brien and W. W. Harper erected a mill on the bank of the Labette, which proved to be a very good institution for the place, but not always a profitable investment to the owners. The mill was entirely consumed by fire on November 23, 1892.

STONE AND BRICK BUILDINGS.

There is one stone and one brick building in town. The first was built by Joseph Riff, in 1883; the latter, a very fine structure, was built by F. P. Dicus & Co., in 1890.

FIRES.

The first fire in town was on October 6, 1872, when the town company building with the stock of Honrath & Rohr was entirely consumed. This was probably as heavy a loss to the town as the great fire which occurred in 1889, when a whole block of buildings was consumed with the greater part of the stocks in it. The grist-mill was burned on November 23, 1892.

GOVERNMENT.

On August 2, 1871, on petition of Alexander Honrath and others, an order of the Probate Court was made for the incorporation of the town, and the following persons were appointed trustees: Alexander Honrath, Wm. M. Rogers, John B. Campbell, E. Tanner, and Alexander McBride.

On January 9, 1884, an order of the Judge of the District Court was made incorporating the town as a city of the third class. The first election was held January 24th.

MAYORS AND CLERKS.

MAYORS—E. Tanner, W. W. Harper, E. Tanner, William Clark, Josephus Moore, W. W. McEwen, and F. E. West.

CLERKS—W. N. McCoid, J. M. Smith, N. M. Miller, S. B. Richardson, Isaac Hill, Rufus Thrall, and W. N. McCoid.

CHETOPA.

Of the early settlement of this part of the county I have spoken in other parts of this work. The first white settler within the present corporate limits of Chetopa of whom I have any account, was John McMurry, who lived at a point on the Neosho river at or near where the west end of the Neosho river bridge is now located. When the settlement was destroyed in 1863, his house was torn down. I have not been able to learn at what date he settled here, but Dr. Lisle found him there when he came, and he continued to reside there up to the breaking-up of the settlement in 1863. Dr. Lisle made his settlement upon a piece of ground ever since by him claimed as his home, on April 18, 1857. That summer he erected his house and shops on what is now a part of block 24. In August he went back to Ohio and brought his family with him, arriving in Chetopa in November. From that time to the present his absence from Chetopa has been but temporary.

Willoughby Doudna came to see Dr. Lisle in fall of 1857 and stayed with him some time. The next year he went back to Ohio and married. In the fall he and his wife came to Chetopa, but in the spring of 1859 they located near Baxter Springs, and did not come back to Chetopa until after the war.

The early settlement at and around Chetopa was broken up November 19, 1863, by a force of United States troops numbering probably some two or three hundred, under the command of Captain Willits, Adjutant Ahle and Lieutenant Josylen. All of the buildings in the vicinity were burned or otherwise destroyed and all the settlers were driven away. This was done, as the officers claimed, by command of their superior officers to prevent the property falling into the hands of the rebels. Dr. Lisle and family went to Council Grove. They remained until September, 1865, when he came down and looked over the ground, and in November of that year brought his family back to Chetopa.

PERMANENT SETTLEMENT.

The permanent settlement of Chetopa really commences with the year 1866. In the spring of that year Ephraim Doudna and Dr. George Lisle built the first house upon the town-site. It was a "shake" house, and stood on the west side of what is now Third street, and north of Maple street, near the alley. In this house Ephraim Doudna opened the first

store in town. He had a small stock of goods consisting of dry goods, groceries, and provisions. Soon after this a man by the name of Hoffman built a cabin and blacksmith shop south of where Maple street now is, and between Second and Third streets. These were the only buildings in town at the close of 1866 of which I have been able to learn, although it is probable there were two or three more log houses built that year. Perry Barnes moved into town on election day, in November of that year, and was allowed to vote; it was considered that everybody who was here with the intention of settling had a right to express his preference at the first election. D. U. Watson and Wm. Shay were two of the judges of this election, and S. R. Southwick was one of the clerks.

In February of 1867 Willoughby Doudna, who had a saw-mill on the east side of the Neosho river just above the mouth of Canville creek, in Neosho county, moved it to Chetopa and located it on the west side of the Neosho near the foot of Maple street as afterwards located. He began sawing on February 20th, and had a buhr for grinding corn in operation the fore part of May. The only other mills at this time in the county were in Neosho and Montana townships. W. H. Reed operated this mill, sawed the first tree made into boards in Chetopa, and during the spring built the first frame house that was erected in town. It stood at the northwest corner of block 60. From this time on frame houses made of native lumber began to be built where before either the log or "shake" shanties had been made to answer. In the early summer of this year a rough survey for the town-site was made by S. R. Southwick, and Maple and Third streets were located. In June, Perry Barnes built a house on the southeast corner of Third and Maple streets, designed for a hotel and store. In this, about the first of July, he opened a stock of groceries and a hotel: this was the first hotel in town, and the second store. About the same time a small cabin was erected on the southwest corner of First and Maple streets and called "Bachelors' Hall," or the "Cabinet Shop." That summer Z. A. Woodard bought out Mr. Doudna, and in the building by him occupied put in a general stock of goods. In this store, from the first, was kept the postoffice. Thus the first building erected upon the town-site contained not only the first store, but also the first post-office. William Craft and family came in October of that year, and at once commenced the erection of a hotel on the northwest corner of Third and Maple streets. It was a frame building, 24 by 26 feet, two stories high. It was completed and opened for guests that fall, under the name of the Chetopa House, and was the first building erected exclusively for a hotel. In the "Bachelors' Hall" or "Cabinet Shop" above referred to, in September of this year, was opened the first Sunday school in

town, with G. H. Hard as superintendent. Occasionally preaching services were also had. On October 23d, this year, Emma Reed was born to Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Reed. This was the first birth in town.

The important events of 1868 were the securing of a title to the town-site, the organization of the town company, and the definite survey and laying-out of the town. As several of the then residents of Chetopa had settled there before the war, they were able to enter their lands under the 4th article of the treaty with the Osages of September 29, 1865. On January 21, 1868, Dr. George Lisle entered the southeast quarter of section 34; Willoughby Doudna and George Hanson part of section 35. The lands thus entered embraced the site of Chetopa, and so much as was within the limits of what was intended for the town was deeded to the town company. Thus, while her neighbors had to make their improvements on Government land, Chetopa could offer homes to which a perfect title could be secured. This was an important item in her favor.

IMPROVEMENTS.

In the spring of this year the California House was erected, on the northeast corner of Maple and Third streets. In the latter part of the summer Spaulding's Hall, on the corner of Fourth and Maple streets, was erected: it was a good-sized two-story building, and furnished the first place in town suitable for holding religious and public meetings. Another enterprise started this year, and one destined to add as much to the development of the town as almost any that was started in an early day, was the planing mill, sash and furniture factory of Taft, Brown & Co. This was built in the fall, and ready for operation the first of December. They sent out a large amount of house-furnishing material and furniture to adjacent counties and neighboring towns. During the fall of this year Oliver Marsh opened a large dry-goods store, and Dr. M. H. Dursham started a drug store, which he conducted in connection with his professional practice. On April 4th James H. Crichton walked into town as the vanguard of a long line of attorneys who were to grace the bar at that place, and during the early summer he put up a two-story frame building on the north side of Maple street, and had it plastered; this was the first *plastered* house in town. At the close of 1868 there was quite a large settlement of industrious and enterprising people who were successfully conducting various lines of business, and the town presented the appearance of a thriving and progressive village.

THE TOWN COMPANY.

Dr. Lisle had from the first intended the location of a town upon the land on which he settled, and early in 1868 he arranged with influential men for the organization of a town company. It was not, however, until

March 30 of this year that the town company was incorporated. The charter members consisted of George Lisle, George Hanson, Willoughby Doudna, N. S. Goss, John Secrest, J. D. Torbert, and Watson Stewart. The company organized by the election of George Lisle president and Willoughby Doudna secretary. The town was located and laid off upon sections 34 and 35. Liberal donations were made to the various church organizations, and to such enterprises as it was thought would tend to upbuild the town.

IMPROVEMENTS IN 1869.

I shall not attempt to describe the continued multiplication of new buildings, both business houses and private residences, as they appear during this and succeeding years. The two important features of the town's history in 1869 were the establishment of the *Advance* and the incorporation of the town. By donation of lots made by the town company and the securing of a fair limit of paid subscribers, John W. Horner and A. S. Cory had been induced in the latter part of 1868 to bring a printing-press from Baldwin City, Douglas county, to Chetopa, and in the first week of 1869 they gave to the public the first issue of the *Advance*. It is not likely that any donation ever made by its citizens did more for the upbuilding of Chetopa than that which secured them this paper. Its publishers displayed a wonderful amount of enterprise in the gathering of news and extending the circulation of their paper. The advantages which the town offered were thus made known to all who had any disposition to learn.

In March W. A. Hodges brought quite a large nursery stock, which was the first to be brought to this part of the county. The first flouring-mill in town was erected in the fall of this year, and in October commenced its operation. Gilbert Martin was the proprietor.

AN IMPORTANT YEAR.

The year 1870 was an important one in the history of Chetopa. The fact that every one confidently anticipated the completion of the railroad sometime during the early part of the year, gave a great impetus to business, and speculations ran high. A large number of new buildings were erected, and large numbers of new firms opened up in business.

BRICK BUILDINGS.—Up to 1870 there had been nothing but wooden structures in town, but early this summer several brick business houses were erected. Among the bricks erected were one by F. A. Drake, one by Dr. Halderman, and one by Hornby & Lewis; others were also arranged for and built the following year. In June of this year the cars were running into Chetopa, and the fact that it was the end of the line brought there a large number of emigrants—not only those who were intending to stop here, but also those who were anticipating going farther

south and southwest. From this point travelers laid in their supplies, and the merchants of Chetopa conducted almost a wholesale business.

FOUNDRY.—In the latter part of 1870, John Torrance located his foundry at this point. This was a valuable addition to the business of the town, bringing to it an element of trade which before that had been compelled to go to Fort Scott and other points north.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.

In January, 1880, a branch of the State Freedman's Aid Society was organized for the purpose of furnishing aid to the destitute refugees who had settled here. C. H. McCreery was president and J. D. Graham secretary.

ORPHANS' HOME SOCIETY.—A number of years ago this society was formed in aid to the State Home for Orphans. The ladies met regularly, and worked on articles either to be used in the Home itself, or to be sold and the proceeds applied to the aid of the Home. Through their exertions a number of orphans were provided with homes.

A. F. & A. M.—On November 5, 1868, a Masonic lodge was organized, with J. H. Crichton, W. M.

I. O. O. F.—August 10, 1869, a lodge of the Odd Fellows was organized.

A. O. U. W.—A lodge of the United Workmen was organized December 17, 1879, with J. B. Cook, M. W.

K. of P.—A lodge of this order was organized May 9, 1883.

OAK HILL CEMETERY.

On September 13, 1869, a meeting was held in Spaulding's Hall to consider the matter of a cemetery. Jonas Clark, W. B. Gregory and T. B. Lake were appointed a committee to select a site. In October the committee selected twenty acres on the east side of Mr. Hard's farm, south-east of town. No title could be procured to this ground for some years; nevertheless, the burying proceeded. The Legislature authorized the trustee of Richland township to appropriate money to help pay for this cemetery ground; the township and city thereupon appropriating enough money to purchase and procure title to the land. The cemetery association was incorporated in June, 1883, with L. M. Bedell president, and George Eddington secretary and superintendent.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

On April 12, 1869, on petition of her citizens, the Probate Judge made an order incorporating the town of Chetopa, and appointed William Gage, Leander Brown, M. G. Pratt, A. S. Cory and Henry Lisle as its board of trustees. On April 14, 1869, these trustees met, and organized by electing William Gage chairman, and appointing W. H. Fisher clerk.

On June 28th Mr. Fisher resigned as clerk, and C. F. Webster was appointed to fill the vacancy. Sometime between August 16th and December 8th, 1869, H. R. Dobyms was appointed clerk.

On March 9, 1870, an ordinance which had just been passed was published, declaring Chetopa a city of the third class; and on April 4th the first city election was held. A Republican caucus had previously been held, and nominated S. A. Marsh for mayor, W. B. Gregory, C. H. Ludlow, Wm. Nix, C. A. Degraff, and Dr. L. P. Patty, for councilmen. The opposition concentrated their strength upon the office of mayor, and, many Republicans joining, brought out F. M. Graham for that office, who, after a spirited contest, was elected, with all the above-named candidates for council. Upon organizing, the new government continued Mr. Dobyms as city clerk till May, 1870, when he was succeeded by N. S. Storrs.

In March, 1871, the city was by ordinance declared a city of the second class under the special act of the Legislature providing for its organization as such, along with Oswego. There was a lively contest for the city officers at the April election that year. George W. Fox was supported by those generally designated as the "bummer element," by the *Advance*, and of course by many good citizens. C. F. Smith was supported by the Mechanics' Association which had recently been organized, and by the more conservative class of citizens. Mr. Fox was elected. On April 12, 1871, the new city council organized, and the following officers were appointed: Clerk, J. M. Cavaness; treasurer, Hiram Butterworth; assessor, C. P. Spaulding; street commissioner, R. G. Tileston; attorney, J. J. Long. On September 1st Mr. Cavaness resigned as city clerk, G. W. Houston filling the place temporarily till October, when I. R. Minor was appointed, and was succeeded by Leroy Neale in November.

The city government was characterized by a spirit of profligacy in the expenditure of money and the incurring of debt which soon brought it into disrepute with nearly all of the business part of the place. The mayor claimed high prerogatives unknown to the law. The saloons were the most powerful features in the local administration. During the fall and winter the *Advance*, which had favored their election, opened a war on the city administration. It said, "The rogues are having their own way to their hearts' content." For weeks before the next election both sides — the administration and the reformers — conducted an active canvass. But when the election came off, in April, 1872, those in favor of changing the administration made a clean sweep and elected their full ticket.

For a second time F. M. Graham became mayor. C. F. Smith was soon appointed clerk, and in June was succeeded by M. S. Parker. The old debt was bonded, the expensive contracts for street improvements

were modified as far as possible in the interest of economy, and a feeling of financial security began again to inspire the people. It was evident that a new order of things had been inaugurated.

MAYORS.

1870, F. M. Graham; 1871, G. W. Fox; 1872, F. M. Graham; 1873, George Lisle; 1874, N. Elliott; 1875, Alfred Large; 1876, S. B. Fisher; 1877, L. M. Bedell; 1878, S. B. Fisher; 1879, J. H. Crichton; 1881-7, J. B. Cook; 1888, James Brown; 1889, George Eddington; 1891-2, C. Cranwell.

CLERKS.

1869, W. F. Fisher, C. F. Webster, H. R. Dobyns; 1870, N. S. Storrs; 1871, J. M. Cavaness, G. W. Houston, I. R. Minor, Leroy Neale; 1872, C. F. Smith, M. S. Parker; 1873, G. M. Caldwell; 1874-7, Henry Frye; 1878-87, John W. Breidenthal; 1887, A. F. Sloane, J. B. Snevely; 1888-9, I. H. Frye; 1890, A. R. Bell; 1891, J. M. Cavaness; 1892, E. W. Min-turn.

BANKS.

Near the close of 1868 C. P. Spaulding started the first bank in the town. He had very little capital, and attempted a much larger business than he was able to conduct. He continued to operate this bank till the spring of 1870, when, unable to meet his obligations, a number of suits were commenced against him and he was forced to quit business.

KETCHAM & Co.—W. B. Ketcham and F. H. Ketcham opened a bank about July 1, 1870, which they conducted till the fall of the following year.

NATIONAL BANK.—The First National Bank was the successor of Ketcham Brothers. It was opened for business December 4, 1871, with James E. Marsh, of Kansas City, president, E. J. Stewart (then post-master) vice-president, F. H. Ketcham cashier, Lee Clark assistant cashier. Some time thereafter R. W. Officer succeeded Mr. Marsh as president. The bank had an authorized capital of \$50,000, and a paid-up capital of \$25,000. In March, 1873, the bank moved into its fine brick building, which it had just completed on the northwest corner of Third and Maple streets. In September, 1873, the stringency of the money market caused this bank to temporarily suspend payment. On July 19, 1875, the bank decided to go into liquidation, and Lee Clark was put in charge and settled up its affairs.

SAVINGS BANK.—The Chetopa Savings Bank was organized July 1, 1871, with a paid-up capital of \$30,000. Charles H. Safford was president, L. F. Fisher secretary, and George S. Newman cashier.

PRIVATE BANKS.—January 1, 1876, F. H. Ketcham, R. W. Officer and Lee Clark commenced business as Ketcham & Co., and succeeded to

the business of the First National Bank. Lee Clark bought out the interest of his partners in June, 1876, and in August following associated with him Arthur D. Sturgis under the firm-name of Clark & Sturgis. January 1, 1879, Lee Clark went to Parsons to become cashier of the First National Bank of that place, and later in the year Mr. Sturgis removed to Mansfield, Ohio, leaving Edgar W. Clark in charge of the bank. August 1, 1879, Lee Clark purchased Mr. Sturgis's interest, and soon thereafter sold a half-interest to George H. Bates. Clark & Bates as thus constituted continued in business till the death of Mr. Bates. in February, 1883, when Florence E. Bates succeeded to the interest of her husband. Afterwards Lee Clark sold his half-interest in the bank to Edgar W. Clark, who, with Mrs. Bates, is still conducting the business.

LOAN AND INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

Col. J. B. Cook in 1875 opened a real estate and loan business, and during the next few years did an extensive business, both in the way of selling real estate and making real-estate loans. January 1, 1884. L. M. Bedell and J. W. Breidenthal became associated with him in the loan business, the firm being known as J. B. Cook & Co.

By March 1, 1885, the Neosho Valley Investment Company was formed as the successor to the business of J. B. Cook & Co. J. B. Cook was president, J. W. Breidenthal secretary, L. M. Bedell treasurer. Subsequently R. Haines Passmore succeeded Mr. Cook as president, and still more recently other changes have been made in its officers.

MILLS.

October, 1869, Gilbert Martin commenced operating a flouring-mill which he had just finished on the Neosho.

July 1, 1871, Hunter & Williams's flour-mill, which had been erected during the early part of the year, was finished and opened for business. Since then other mills have been established.

MECHANICS' ASSOCIATION.

On March 3, 1871, the mechanics of the town organized an association for mutual help and protection, of which J. M. Bannan was secretary and the controlling spirit. This organization sought to unite the mechanics' interest in the town by an effort to control the work of that locality to those residing therein rather than allowing it to be done by persons brought there from abroad, and also to secure a fair remuneration to all who were engaged in mechanical pursuits.

OPERA HOUSE.

In December, 1882, the opera house company was organized, with G. H. Bates president, B. S. Edwards vice-president, William Lehman secre-

tary, and E. W. Clark treasurer; and the following year the opera house was constructed and opened.

FIRES.

On September 17, 1871, a big fire broke out, and nearly one block, known as the Sturgis block, was burned. August 14, 1882, a great fire took place, starting in G. A. Luman's hardware store on the south side of Maple street, and consuming nineteen buildings before its force could be arrested. On May 3, 1884, Marsh's block was burned.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

On February 18, 1875, the Ladies' Library Association of Chetopa was organized, with a membership of eighty-one. Mrs. M. A. Shields, Mrs. J. F. Hunter, and Mrs. H. Butterworth, by the payment of \$10 each, were made life members of the association. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. M. A. Aldrich; secretary, Mrs. B. S. Edwards; treasurer, Mrs. M. A. Shields; librarian, Miss Fannie Shields. On May 14, 1875, the library was formally opened, with 116 volumes on the shelves. In February, 1882, the association disbanded, and did nothing for three years. On March 7, 1885, it was reorganized as the City Library Association, with a membership of ninety. The payment of \$1 a year entitled one to the use of a book each week. The association now has 582 books in the library.

LITERARY.

A number of winters, more especially in her early history, Chetopa has maintained a good literary society; frequently the business men have been among the leading spirits in it. In 1870 C. H. Ludlow was president, and that year, as well as in 1872-3, most of the leading men took part in the debates. In 1873 a temperance literary society was organized, of which Dr. C. Humble was president.

An organization of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle was effected here in 1884.

CHINAMEN.

In 1884 a couple of Chinamen came to town and opened up a laundry. Some of the citizens conceived a great antipathy to these workmen, and concluded that the proper thing to do was to dispense with their presence. The Chinamen were informed that they would do well to take their departure from town, but not heeding the request, other measures were taken to induce them to find a more congenial home. The authorities, ascertaining what was going on, took steps to interfere; the result was the arrest of some two dozen men engaged in the attempt to depopulate, and after a protracted and hotly-contested suit four of the parties were convicted and fined \$25 each.

CELEBRATIONS.

Chetopa has ever taken a pride in getting up fine celebrations. The first one was held on July 4, 1867, in an arbor provided for the occasion north of Maple and east of Third streets, at which the Declaration of Independence was read by Harry Shannon, of LaPorte, Indiana. Speeches were made by Captain Secrest and others, and in this arbor in the afternoon of that day Rev. Mr. Cox, from Indiana, preached the first sermon of which we have any account since the breaking-up of the settlement in 1863. At the same place in the evening a dance was held, and those participating therein took their refreshments at Barnes's Hotel, which had just been opened across the street to the south. The next celebration of note was on July 4, 1869, at which Congressman Sidney Clarke and Colonel Hoyt made speeches to a large crowd of people. Another important celebration was held July 4, 1875, when George T. Anthony spoke to a large crowd of people.

OSWEGO.

1865.

Of the settlement of Mathews upon the present site of the city of Oswego, I have spoken in another part of this work. The first settlement of the town aside from the Mathews settlement dates from the fall of 1865. In the latter part of October of that year Clinton Rexford and N. P. Elsbree located, the former on the southeast quarter of section 16, and the latter upon the southwest quarter of section 15, township 33, range 21, and were the first white men to make their homes upon the present site of Oswego after the death of Mathews. Messrs. Rexford and Elsbree were directed to this site by A. T. Dickerman and Jabez Zink, who had a short time before that located upon the Labette, and who found them encamped near the mouth of that stream in search for a location and contesting with the Bakers for claims taken by them. They had not much more than gotten fairly located upon their claim until other parties came into the neighborhood. But as the location of these new settlements were outside of the limits of what became the town, and have been spoken of in treating of the settlement of the township, I will not repeat it here. Late in 1865, Rexford and Elsbree brought on a small stock of provisions and opened up the first store or trading-post in the town, and in fact the first in this part of the county. Their store building was a rough log shanty, and stood near the center of what is now block 66. In the street near the northwest corner of this block is a spring from which all the early settlers were supplied with water. The old Government road, coming from a northwesterly direction, passed between what is now blocks 61 and 66.

1866.

The first hotel in the place was started in the spring of this year by Wm. A. Hogaboom. It was a log cabin, and stood on what is now the east part of block 61. While it was not a very commodious affair, it served the purpose of furnishing entertainment to the few new settlers who commenced coming early that season. Among those who came this year were the following: Dr. John F. Newlon, C. H. Talbott, Andy Kaho, the Sloane Family, Thos. J. Buntain, Hiram Hollingsworth, Thos. J. Flouronoy, J. Q. Cowell, H. C. Bridgman, Jas. Jones, H. W. Thompson, Nelson F. Carr, and C. H. Bent. Carr and Bridgman bought from Rexford and Elsbree the small stock of groceries which they had put in the fall previous, and added somewhat thereto; and during that year J. Q. Cowell put up a small addition to the Carr and Bridgman store, in which he opened up a small stock of groceries and drugs. This was the first drug store in the county.

1867.

The treaty with the Osages having been ratified and proclaimed by the President, settlers came in this year in greater numbers, and with more assurance of finding here a home than had those who had previously come. D. W. Clover had come into the vicinity the July previous, and had stopped with his sons down on the bank of the river. Directly after coming he had gone into the organization of the town company, making preparations for helping build up the town. During the winter he had gotten out logs, and in the spring of this year erected on the southeast corner of block 25 a hewed log house in which he at once opened a hotel, naming it the Oswego House; ever since which time the principal hotel in the place has been maintained on that corner under the same name as first started.

The principal new business firms that were started this year were A. Waskey & Sons, Dr. R. W. Wright, and H. L. Woodford. All of these came here during the summer and got their business houses open in the fall. J. F. and T. P. Waskey conducted the business for their house, opening first in the Buntain building and the next season erecting their own building, in block 33, into which they moved.

Prior to this year there had been no saw-mills in the county, and all of the buildings had been built of logs—some of them rough log houses, and some hewed. Those who built this year were able to get boards, and several frame houses were erected. Thomas J. Buntain put up a two-story frame about 20 x 40 feet, on the southwest corner of block 25; Dr. R. W. Wright put up a one-story frame on the northwest corner of block 31, in which he thereafter put his drug store; Dr. W. S. Newlon built a frame residence on the lots ever since occupied by him. Several other

smaller frame houses, either for business or residence, were also built. In addition to Dr. Wright, Dr. Newlon, and the Waskey brothers, whom I have mentioned as having come this year, I may name A. L. Austin, Rev. Thomas H. Canfield, Jerry D. McCue, and Walter P. Bishop. At the close of 1867 there were in Oswego ten frame buildings and eleven log houses, with a population of sixteen families, numbering about 100 individuals. There were in all five stores, two of which were kept on the site first occupied, on the edge of the bluff, one by Carr & Bridgman and one by J. Q. Cowell. H. L. Woodford had a small feed store in the same vicinity. The other two stores were within the present business site—one by the Waskeys in the Buntain building, and the other by Dr. Wright in his own building, as above described. In addition to these there was one blacksmith shop and one hotel.

During this summer Mrs. Herbaugh taught the first school, and the first religious services were also held, a Sunday school having been organized and maintained during the summer, and preaching services having been instituted in the fall by Rev. Thomas H. Canfield, who had been sent here by the Congregational Society, and by Rev. John Mark, a local Methodist preacher, who had settled in the township. Thos. J. Flournoy, a Baptist minister, also preached occasionally.

1868.

A very great addition was made to the growth and improvement of the town during this year. Several firms of quite large means started in business, and a number of substantial residences were put up. Read Bros., a firm composed of John S. Merrit, and Elijah T., came early in the year, and at once commenced the construction of their store building on the west side of Commercial street, where they have ever since been in business. They built a large two-story frame building, and put therein the first stock of hardware brought to town. C. M. Condon came in the spring, and put up a two-story frame, placing therein a large stock of general merchandise. Israel R. Fisher (Samuel Fisher, his brother, being then with him) located and put up a two-story frame, in which he commenced the sale of groceries, which he has continued until the present. Several other business houses of less magnitude than those I have mentioned were started this year: so that at the close of the year there were 100 frame buildings in town, a very fair proportion of which were occupied by business of one kind or another. Nearly all of the lines of business usually found in frontier towns were at that time fairly represented.

The town had been started on an Indian reservation before the treaty with the Indians releasing their rights thereto had been approved, and even at this time the title to the same was in the General Government,

and no provision had yet been made for anyone acquiring a title to his home; yet the people who had come here had commenced preparations for permanent homes, and most of them had no thought of making a change. Those in business were making money, and all seemed contented and prosperous, and the year closed with Oswego having apparently as good a prospect as any of her competitors for making a prosperous and permanent growth.

TITLE TO TOWN-SITE.

The town company had originally claimed and bought the right of the original occupants to the southwest quarter of section 15 and the southeast quarter of section 16. Under the ruling of the land office the odd sections could not be entered under the joint resolution of April 10, 1869, but the even sections could. It was arranged that the southeast quarter of section 16 should be entered by D. W. Clover, who was then the oldest resident living upon the same. Immediately after making entry Mr. Clover conveyed the title to this quarter to the town company, which was thus enabled to make title to the several occupants then living and doing business thereon. As no titles could be obtained to lots on the southwest quarter of section 15, few persons settled thereon after that became known. After the contest with the railroads ended in the decision of the court against their claim, the passage of the law by Congress in 1876 provided for the entry of town sites by the municipal authorities, when the town was incorporated, for the benefit of the occupants thereon. Someone had secured a provision to be inserted in the act authorizing town companies to enter town-sites under certain conditions. A contest sprang up between the Oswego Town Company and the mayor and councilmen of the city of Oswego, for the entry of the southwest quarter of section 15. The city was represented in this contest by its city attorney, and the town company by Colonel W. B. Glasse. The decision of the local land office was in favor of the city authorities. From this an appeal was taken to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, and then to the Secretary of the Interior, both of whom sustained the decision of the land office in favor of the city authorities. This contest was ended in March, 1880, and thereupon the city conveyed title to the occupants for the lots occupied by them respectively.

THE TOWN COMPANY.

Up to July, 1866, the place we now designate Oswego had been known as Little Town "from a time when the memory of man runneth not to the contrary."

Prior to the incorporation of the town company there were no records kept of its transactions except upon slips of paper. I have gone through

the records thus kept so far as they have been preserved, and from them find the following facts: J. F. Newlon, William A. Hogaboom, C. H. Talbott and D. C. Rexford seem to have been the parties instrumental in organizing the town company; at any rate they are the ones who received for the money paid for shares in the town company, so far as I can now ascertain from these fragments of records. The first records of any kind that I find are receipts, coming by date in the following order:

“NEOSHO COUNTY, KANSAS, July 9, 1866.

“Received of N. Sloan thirty-one dollars, being one-half payment for said share in the town. Balance to be paid when the company is organized and title perfected. If not perfected, the money refunded.

WILLIAM A. HOGABOOM.”

“NEOSHO COUNTY, KANSAS, July 10, 1866.

“Received of A. Kaho one-half payment for one town share, in a watch; if title not perfected, the watch returned in good order.

WM. A. HOGABOOM.”

“NEOSHO COUNTY, KANSAS, July 11, 1866.

“Received of Daniel Matthias thirty-one dollars, being the one-half the money for a town share on the Matthews place. The balance due when the company perfect their arrangements and a good and sufficient title is had, but the above money to be returned if said arrangements are not consummated.

WM. A. HOGABOOM.”

“Received of D. W. Clover thirty-one dollars, being one-half the pay of a share in Little Town.

C. H. TALBOT.

“LITTLE TOWN, July 12, 1866.”

The first record of the minutes of any meeting being held is the following:

“LITTLE TOWN, NEOSHO COUNTY, KANSAS, July 12, 1866.

“The shareholders of the Town Company of Little Town met for the purpose of organization. Mr. D. W. Clover was called to the chair. On motion, Dr. J. F. Newlon was elected president *pro tem.*, Wm. A. Hogaboom vice-president *pro tem.*, and H. C. Bridgman secretary *pro tem.* Moved that a committee of three be appointed to draft by-laws for the company. Carried.”

It will thus be seen that upon July 12, 1866, the proposed town is still designated Little Town. The first time I find the word “Oswego” written is in the following instrument:

“OSWEGO, KANSAS, July 17, 1866.

“This entitles the holder, T. J. Buntain, to one full share in the Town

Company of Oswego, Neosho county, Kansas, on his complying with the rules and regulations of the Town Company of said town of Oswego.

J. F. NEWLON, *President.*

H. C. BRIDGMAN, *Secretary, Town Co."*

There is no record now to be found of the exact time when it was done, nor of the action taken in changing from Little Town to Oswego, but it is apparent from the instruments copied above that sometime between the 12th and 17th of July the change of name was made. I am informed that at a meeting of the town company D. W. Clover suggested the name of Oswego for the proposed town, and some other member of the company, probably J. Q. Cowell, suggested Vernon. A ballot was taken, and a majority of the stockholders voted in favor of choosing the name "Oswego"; and from that time on Oswego was the designation of the settlement formerly known as Little Town.

On August 3, 1867, J. Q. Cowell, C. C. Clover, J. F. Newlon, D. W. Clover, T. J. Flouronoy, T. J. Buntain and D. M. Clover signed articles of incorporation, which were acknowledged before D. W. Clover, justice of the peace, and the charter thus prepared and signed was, on August 10, 1867, filed in the office of the Secretary of State, and the company had a corporate existence from that date. The company's book contains no record of the meeting, but on a scrap of paper I find the minutes of a meeting held September 24th, and while the figures representing the year are not very distinct, I take it to be 1867. This being soon after the incorporation, it was evidently the first meeting of the incorporators after receiving the charter. The minutes show that "on motion to organize and elect directors," the following were elected: J. F. Newlon, T. J. Flouronoy, D. W. Clover, D. M. Clover, and N. F. Carr. On the same day J. F. Newlon was elected president, D. W. Clover vice-president, Nelson F. Carr secretary, and D. M. Clover treasurer. On November 26, 1867, R. W. Wright was elected secretary in place of Mr. Carr, resigned. On February 10, 1868, a new board of directors having been elected, D. W. Clover was elected president, R. W. Wright secretary, and A. L. Austin treasurer. On January 9, 1869, J. F. Waskey was elected president, and M. Reed secretary of the company, and they remained the officers of the company during its further corporate existence.

ENCOURAGEMENTS TO IMPROVE.

To the town company thus organized and operated, Oswego owed a very large degree of her growth and prosperity. While the town company could secure no title to its site until the fall of 1869, it promised from the first liberal donations to all enterprises which it was believed would be for the public good. Each church organization was given lots

of its own selection to an extent of 100 feet front; one-half block was donated for a school-site; a building was erected and donated to the county for a court-house; a county jail was erected; donations were made to the first newspapers; and, until the close of 1869, anyone building a house of a certain dimension had donated to him the lot on which it stood.

STONE AND BRICK BUILDINGS.

The first stone building to be erected in the place was the school-house, in 1869. During this year the Congregational church was commenced, and finished about the close of the year. The first stone business house was erected on the southwest corner of block 32, in the summer of 1869, by W. M. Johnson. The walls were laid that year, but it was not completed until 1870. In 1874 H. S. Coley, W. H. Roby and Nelson Case purchased lots 1 and 2, block 38, and laid a foundation thereon with a view of erecting a brick building. These parties sold the lots, however, to Samuel Carpenter, who erected the brick building now standing thereon; this was the first brick building in the place. One room of it was occupied June 1, 1875, by the firm of Montgomery & Carpenter as a store, and the other room was occupied by Hobart & Condon as a bank. In 1879, the Masons put up their temple on the west side of block 32. The opera house was built in 1879, on the north side of Fourth avenue. In 1880, after the fire on the west side of Commercial street, arrangements were made for the erection of brick buildings in their place, and during that season the entire east side of block 33, with the exception of the northeast corner building, was covered with a row of uniform brick buildings. The following year Mr. Symmes completed the row by the erection of the one at the north end. The city building, at the southeast corner of block 38, was commenced in 1883 and finished early in 1884. In 1887 L. Sawyer & Co. erected a fine two-story stone building on the east side of block 38. The First National Bank building was erected in 1885; this was the first three-story brick in town. In 1890 Mr. Knight put a very fine three-story building at the southeast corner of block 25, in place of the old frame Oswego House. Oswego was thus furnished with one of the best hotels in this part of the State.

WATER-POWER.

It was believed by our citizens that the Neosho cut-off, commencing just below the dam and running south near the foot of the bluff and striking the river again at a point as nearly as possible south from the place of beginning, would furnish an immense water-power. The river at this place taking such a large bend to the east, the fall in several miles of its flow could, it was thought, be concentrated into a comparatively

short space by turning the channel down this cut-off. In 1871 a survey was made, and a report published that 19 feet of fall could thus be secured. But no steps were ever taken to make available this apparently wasting power, farther than to organize a company and make plans on paper. In January, 1874, W. T. Cunningham and others obtained a charter for the Oswego Canal and Manufacturing Company.

STORMS.

On the night of April 5, 1873, a severe hail-storm came from the southwest, and broke nearly every pane of glass on the south and west sides in very nearly all the houses in town. The following day was Sunday, and the town had a forlorn appearance. Not enough glass could be found in town to replace those broken, and for several days bed quilts and other garments furnished a conspicuous protection from the weather.

September 29, 1881, a wind-storm in the nature of a cyclone passed over Oswego, scattering the lumber of Sharp's lumber yard, blowing down the porch at Mr. Tuttle's house, north of the Congregational church, and doing some other damage.

FIRES.

The following fires occurred according to their respective dates: Jennings's packing establishment, on July 2, 1879; the south end of the frame row on the west side of Commercial street, March 8, 1880; Grant's livery barn, with thirteen horses, February 18, 1882; Frisco depot, December 11, 1882; Miller's mill, February 21, 1884; the row of buildings opposite the Oswego House, February 10, 1886; Shotliff's wagon factory, April 27, 1885; Hall's flour-mill, January 14, 1886; Judge Barnes's dwelling-house took fire and burned July 4, 1874. The Champion fire extinguisher, which had recently been purchased, had been taken that day to the celebration at Montana, and the fire company were much annoyed on reaching home and learning that in their absence this fire had taken place.

POSTOFFICE ELECTION.

November 28, 1870, a vacancy existing on account of J. D. Coulter, the postmaster, absconding, and there being several applicants for the position, an election was held to determine who should be appointed. A. W. Pickering, who had been Coulter's deputy and who had charge of the office, was chosen over E. O. Kimball, J. W. Minturn, J. A. Miller, R. J. Elliott, and C. M. Gilkey. These were not the days when the spirit of civil-service reform predominated, and the election cut no figure in the matter of the appointment.

LITERARY AND MUSICAL.

In the fall of 1870 Nelson Case, B. W. Perkins, H. C. Hall and some other parties organized for the purpose of securing lectures and aiding in

literary enterprises, and on October 6th of that year obtained a charter for the Oswego Library and Lecture Association. Under its auspices Henry Clay Dean delivered his lecture on "The Old Senate." This was about the extent of the work of this association.

On July 19, 1870, a musical association was formed, with E. W. Davis as president. They at once arranged to give a concert on September 9th. This concert proved to be a great success, and on October 24th and 26th they rendered the cantata of Queen Esther. February 27, 1871, a brass band was organized, under the leadership of William Wells. In January, 1872, Mr. Wells organized a ladies' cornet band, which soon became quite proficient, and was in favor at public entertainments. In January, 1873, Prof. Perkins held a musical institute. In May, 1874, a new musical institute was formed, of which J. A. Gates was president. On October 15, 1877, a musical institute commenced, under the direction of Prof. Teats, of New York. F. B. McGill, H. S. Coley, E. W. Ross, F. Beal and L. C. Howard worked hard for its success, and it proved a great benefit in developing the musical talent of the town.

WORKMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

April 27, 1872, the mechanics and workmen of Oswego formed an association for their mental as well as financial improvement. J. A. Miller was elected president and George C. Sarvis secretary. F. B. McGill, David Branson and James T. Pierson were appointed a committee on lectures and educational matters. A reading-room was opened, and supplied with reading-matter by the members bringing books and periodicals, so that each had the advantages of what all controlled. It was not a very long-lived institution; its history, like that of so many undertakings, shows that it is easy to start almost any kind of an enterprise for the public welfare, but that if it is to be made permanent and to be a lasting benefit, some one must be willing to sacrifice himself for the good of others: such a person is not always to be found.

MUTUAL BENEFIT SOCIETY.

About the last of January, 1874, a society was formed by those who had been inclined to dissipation, to assist in at least a partial reformation. They agreed not to drink, either not at all for a certain length of time, or to abstain from drinking under certain circumstances. It was said to have had quite a perceptible influence on its members, and, at least for a time, to have seriously affected the receipts of the saloons. William Wells was president and L. C. Howard secretary of the organization. A charter was obtained January 28, 1874.

THE AGGASSIAN SOCIETY.

In 1873 a number of Oswego citizens who were somewhat inclined to

literary and scientific studies organized a society for the purpose of study, and the discussion of subjects in which they were interested and which might be deemed beneficial and of practical importance. Meetings were usually held weekly, at the residence of some of the members of the society. Some one was appointed to prepare a paper to be read at a subsequent meeting, and the paper thus presented formed a basis for discussion. This society was kept up for several years, and proved to be of very great interest and benefit. Among those who were prominently connected with the work were C. O. Perkins, Dr. W. S. Newlon, Mary A. Higby, Ferd. Beyle, F. B. McGill, together with many others who were less conspicuous in its workings.

OSWEGO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The Murphy temperance meetings which had been held during the fall of 1877 resulted in the organization of a society for the purpose of opening a reading-room. A donation of a few books and periodicals was secured, and a subscription was taken to raise money to pay the necessary expenses of opening the room. Nelson Case wrote an article which appeared in the *Independent* in October, 1887, urging that steps be taken to make this reading-room, for which a start had been made, a permanent institution. His suggestion met with favor, and a committee was appointed to secure a charter. The charter having been prepared and properly signed and acknowledged, it was filed in the office of the Secretary of State on December 24, 1877. A board of thirteen directors was appointed. On January 5, 1878, the directors met and organized, electing the following officers: President, C. O. Perkins; secretary, C. L. Wyman; treasurer, B. F. Hobart; executive committee, Nelson Case, chairman, Merrit Read, F. H. Atchinson. Mr. Perkins remained president as long as he lived. F. H. Atchinson before the close of the first year succeeded Mr. Wyman as secretary, and continued to fill that position during the next nine years. Mr. Case remained chairman of the executive committee during its first ten years. Upon the death of Mr. Perkins, on April 30, 1887, the duties of the president were performed by the chairman of the executive committee until the annual meeting in December of that year, when Nelson Case was elected president, J. R. Hill secretary, C. M. Condon treasurer, F. H. Atchinson, E. P. Sawyer and R. L. Sharp executive committee. The following year Mr. Hill was made chairman of the executive committee in place of Mr. Atchinson, the other officers remaining as last announced, all of whom have held the same positions to the present. The association has maintained a free reading-room, kept open daily with very slight exceptions, from the time of its organization to the present. It has never invested very largely in books, but has acquired quite a fair library. Its tables have constantly

been kept supplied with the best periodicals. For a number of years the association had its reading-room in the city building, but during the past two or three years it has maintained its reading-room, in connection with the Y. M. C. A. rooms, in the center of the business part of town. The association has provided a course of literary entertainments, consisting of lectures and concerts, nearly every season since its organization. A number of the best lecturers on the platform have been secured, as well as first-class musical talent. In more recent years the policy of home lectures has been inaugurated, and some of the leading men of the State have been secured to give lectures in these courses. By this means the people have been furnished with a class of entertainments of high standard, and the association has reaped something of a revenue to assist in maintaining its reading-room.

GOVERNMENT.

On February 8, 1870, a majority of the residents having petitioned therefor, the Probate Judge made an order incorporating Oswego as a town, and appointed R. W. Wright, J. F. Waskey, Merrit Read, John F. Newlon and W. M. Johnson trustees. The trustees met February 23d, and organized by electing W. M. Johnson chairman, and appointed John D. Coulter clerk. Nelson Case was employed by the trustees as counsel, and assisted them in preparing ordinances.

On March 21, 1870, a census was taken, which showed more than 1,000 inhabitants in the town. An ordinance was passed declaring Oswego organized as a city of the third class. The first election was held April 4th, at which the following officers were elected: Mayor, J. F. Newlon; councilmen, D. W. Clover, R. W. Wright, William Wells, J. T. Pierson, and E. R. Trask. On April 6th the mayor and councilmen organized, and held their first meeting. J. D. Coulter was appointed clerk, James R. Morrison marshal, and F. A. Bettis attorney. On March 16, 1871, an ordinance was passed declaring Oswego a city of the second class by virtue of chapter 59 of the laws of 1871, permitting certain cities therein named to organize as cities of the second class. The city has continued to act as a city of the second class from that time to the present. However, in 1890, in a case wherein Oswego township was plaintiff and Joseph Anderson was defendant, the Supreme Court decided that the act above referred to was unconstitutional, and therefore the organization as a city of the second class thereunder was illegal. In fact, it was always considered doubtful whether or not this act had any validity, and in 1880 the necessary steps were taken to secure an organization as a city of the second class under the general laws. On June 18, 1880, the Governor issued a proclamation declaring Oswego a city of the second class.

MAYORS.

1870, J. F. Newlon; 1871, Merrit Read; 1872, J. F. Waskey; 1873-76, R. W. Wright; 1876-87, C. M. Condon; 1887-89, H. C. Cook; 1889-91, J. W. Marley; 1891-93, J. M. Grant.

CLERKS.

February 23d to August 15, 1870, J. D. Coulter; August 15, 1870, to February 6, 1871, J. B. Zeigler; E. E. Hastings was appointed, but did not qualify; March 10, 1871, to April 10, 1871, H. E. Porter; April 10, 1871, to May 16, 1872, C. F. Winton; May 16, 1872, to April 30, 1878, Nelson Case; May 6, 1878, to January 3, 1890, Thomas Bulwer; January 3, 1890, to April 10, 1891, J. D. H. Reed; April 10, 1891, to —, W. K. Orr.

BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

POTTERY.—In 1868 Mr. Shanks operated a pottery, and turned out several kilns of stone-ware. In the spring of 1870, D. and C. E. Watts established a pottery in the east part of town, from which they sent out quite an amount of stone-ware that season.

PORK-PACKING.—Mr. Jennings was the first to start this enterprise. He erected a stone building in the southwest part of the town, in which, in 1878, he commenced the slaughter and packing of hogs. Edgar Leonard and George Schwartz succeeded Mr. Jennings in the business. The establishment having been mostly destroyed by fire, the business was discontinued after having been conducted with a fair degree of success for two or three years.

WAGON FACTORY.—In June, 1882, J. Shotliff commenced work on his wagon factory in the south part of town, which was put in operation before the close of the year. Mr. Shotliff operated this until it was destroyed by fire, in 1885. On account of the loss then sustained, he was unable to again commence business. During the time he was running his factory he turned out a large number of wagons, and did a good business.

TILE FACTORY.—In June, 1885, H. C. Draper moved his tile factory to Oswego from across the river, where he had operated it for several years.

COTTON GIN.—In November, 1888, D. S. and J. C. Romine and A. Chambers purchased machinery and commenced the operation of a cotton gin. On December 11, 1888, they shipped six bales of cotton over the Frisco to St. Louis, which was the first shipment from this point. The gin was run several years, but was finally moved to Chetopa. C. A. Wilkin was interested in its operation a part of the time.

A **CHEESE FACTORY** was started on the south side of Fourth avenue

near the M. K. & T. depot, in 1892, which it is hoped will prove successful.

While no one else has ever carried on the manufacture of wagons at this place on such an extensive scale as did Mr. Shotliff while he conducted the business, there have been others who have done a good business in a smaller way. During the lifetime of David Branson, he and Mr. Marsh made wagons. J. C. Patterson has been engaged in the business almost from the start of the town. Mr. Gordon and Mr. Peters have likewise been in the business, and W. K. Orr has conducted a carriage-trimming shop for many years.

EVAPORATOR.—Two or three parties have for a time conducted the business of drying and evaporating fruit. In 1892 a small plant was put in with the expectation of enlarging it and adding a canning factory.

MILLS.

In September, 1870, Macon, Krell & Cowell commenced the operation of their steam mill, the erection of which had been in progress for about a year. This firm were not able to continue the operation of their mill a great length of time, owing to financial embarrassment, and it was for a while in 1871 in the hands of Mr. Ross as receiver. The mortgage on the property was foreclosed, and the sale had through court. In October, 1873, R. S. Mathews became the owner of this mill.

In October, 1870, Howell & Rathburn commenced the foundation of a three-and-one-half story frame flouring-mill on the bank of the river north of Oswego, which was run by water except when the river was low.

In June, 1881, Mr. Eickerman arranged for the erection of the brick mill in the west part of town, the walls of which were put up during the summer, and at the close of the year it was ready for business. Mr. Eickerman and G. W. Bird were the original proprietors. There have been several different ownerships of the mill.

In the summer of 1892 Kiddoo, Black & Co. erected a new mill south of the Frisco road, between Illinois and Michigan streets.

BANKS.

THE FIRST BANK.—The first bank in the county was started in Oswego, by W. M. Johnson, in October, 1868. During that year and the fore part of 1869 it was conducted on the north side of Fourth avenue. In the summer of 1869 he erected a small frame building on the northeast corner of block 38, in which he thereafter conducted the business. For a short time only A. L. Austin was associated with Mr. Johnson in the banking business. This bank continued to do business until the spring of 1870, when Mr. Johnson was forced to make an assignment. His failure was caused by attempting to build a town instead of confining

himself to conducting a bank. He had great confidence in the outcome of the county and of the town, and expected to realize very large profits from the money he could invest in real estate. He secured two corners, viz., the southwest corner of block 32 and the northeast corner of block 38, and on these intended to erect, for the time, very fine buildings. He went far enough to get the walls completed for the building on the southwest corner of block 32, now owned by Mr. Perkins; in doing so he had used more money than he was able to control belonging to himself, and during the spring of 1870, when depositors were wanting their money, he found himself unable to cash their checks. Every dollar of his property was consumed, and still his creditors were far from being paid. What might have been a very profitable business proved his financial ruin, simply because he indulged in a spirit of speculation.

About the middle of July, 1870, B. F. Hobart and H. L. Taylor came to Oswego and opened the next bank that was started in the town. About July 1, 1871, Mr. Taylor retired from the business, and was succeeded by J. C. Longwell, Mr. Hobart's father-in-law. Mr. Longwell having died, the business came under the management of B. F. Hobart. On July 1, 1877, C. M. Condon became a partner of Mr. Hobart, and thereafter the firm of Hobart & Condon conducted the business until the summer of 1882, when Mr. Hobart sold his interest to Mr. Condon, who has since had entire control thereof. He has a very extensive business.

STATE BANK OF OSWEGO.—On August 18, 1870, the State Bank of Oswego, with a paid-up capital of \$25,000, M. S. Adams being president and J. H. Folks cashier, commenced business. It only continued in business a few months, however, not finding a sufficient amount of business for two banks.

The next bank to open its doors to the public was that conducted by George Brockway and H. C. Draper. It commenced business March 2, 1874. Mr. Draper desiring to retire, in 1876 C. F. Smith, upon the close of his official term as treasurer, became associated with Mr. Brockway in this bank, and afterwards, in March, 1877, the sole manager of the same. This bank discontinued business September 1, 1877.

In 1880 H. A. Marley and his son J. W. Marley opened a bank and loan office, which business they conducted until April 11, 1887, when they were succeeded by the First State Bank, which in turn was succeeded by

THE OSWEGO STATE BANK, on May 5, 1888. This bank has a paid-up capital of \$50,000, and has done a profitable business for a number of years. Its board of directors have been J. W. Marley, E. T. Reed, H. C. Cook, John M. Grant, Lee Williams, H. A. Marley, Fred Perkins; in 1891 Scott Taylor succeeded Mr. Cook.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK was chartered in July and opened its doors for business the last of August, 1883. Its first officers were R. P. Clement, president; J. B. Montgomery, vice-president; F. C. Wheeler, cashier; C. F. Winton, assistant cashier. In January, 1885, C. Abbey succeeded Mr. Clement as president. The last of 1886, Mr. Wheeler resigned, and was succeeded by H. C. Cook as cashier. On April 1, 1887, F. W. Keller became cashier, and served until September 16, 1890, when he was succeeded by J. M. Berry. On October 26, 1888, R. O. Deming was elected president, since which time he has continued in that position. The bank has a capital of \$60,000, and does a large and profitable business.

LOAN AND INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

THE OSWEGO BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION.—This institution was organized in June, 1884, with an authorized capital of \$50,000. H. C. Draper was president, L. C. Howard secretary, and E. T. Reed treasurer.

THE DEMING INVESTMENT Co.—On the last of December, 1887, the Deming Investment Company was organized, and opened business on the first of January, 1888, with a paid-up capital of \$50,000, since which time it has been increased, and is now \$60,000. The firm of Winton & Deming had been in the loan business previous to this time for a number of years, and upon the organization of this company it succeeded to the business of said firm. Nelson Case has been president, and R. O. Deming treasurer and manager of this company from its organization.

THE EASTERN KANSAS INVESTMENT Co.—About the first of 1889, Fred Perkins, C. F. Winton, C. A. Wilkin, M. E. Williams, and a few other parties organized the Eastern Kansas Investment Co. for the purpose of conducting a loan business. The company has done a good business.

PARKS.

Upon laying out the town, the town company designated block 52 as the city park. For a number of years it remained entirely unimproved. A few years ago a number of the citizens undertook the work of its improvement, and set it out to trees. It begins now to present quite an attractive appearance.

LADIES' ENTERTAINMENT SOCIETY.

On February 12, 1887, about forty ladies of the city formed themselves into a ladies' entertainment society, with the following officers: Mrs. Mary E. Perkins, president; Mrs. Hettie C. Hall, vice-president; Mrs. Franc Wilkin, secretary; and Mrs. Anna Sharp, treasurer. The purpose of the organization was to secure a site for and to improve a park. A number of entertainments were held, by means of which some money was raised, and in addition to this quite a sum was raised by subscription. A tract of ground was selected and purchased lying on the bluff of the

river north of the city and east of the water-works engine-house. This is about as far as the society has ever gone in its work of providing a park. There are a number of locations near the city with sufficient natural advantages to make a delightful resort, were a reasonable amount of money expended upon the improvements.

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS.

For several years the only sidewalks in town consisted of platforms in front of the stores and public buildings. As the space between these buildings grew less by the erection of other new buildings, the platforms were connected and planks put down, so that there was a continuous sidewalk on the principal street so far as the stores extended.

As early as July 21, 1870, notice was given by direction of the council for the construction of certain sidewalks, but no further action was ever taken thereunder. The first sidewalk constructed outside the *business* part of town, and the first one built by direction of the city council, was on Illinois street, extending from block 9 in Johnson & Folks's addition, to the Methodist church. This was built in pursuance of an order made by the council on March 6, 1874, on the petition of the requisite number of property-holders along the line. From this time on, sidewalks began to be gradually petitioned for and to be built over the residence part of town, and for several years past nearly all streets of the city that are thickly inhabited have been supplied with good sidewalks.

During the summer of 1878 Commercial street was graded from Fourth avenue to the Frisco depot, and put in good condition for travel. It was not until June, 1885, that a good plank sidewalk was laid on the south side of Fourth avenue from Commercial street to the M. K. & T. depot.

TREES.

Few cities are better supplied with shade trees than is Oswego. All of the principal streets were at an early day set out with lines of trees, which have made a good growth, and now furnish abundant shade. The yards are also supplied with beautiful shade and ornamental trees, and in the summer the place presents almost the appearance of a city built in a forest.

TELEPHONE.

Early in 1882 a telephone plant was put in operation, connecting many of the business and dwelling-houses, and was quite extensively used. During the summer a line was put in connecting Oswego with Parsons, which was completed July 20th. This plant was only used for a few months to any great extent, and after a time all of the instruments were taken out.

WATER-WORKS.

During 1887 a system of water-works was constructed, supplying the city with water from the Neosho river north of town. They were put in

operation in the fall, and were accepted by the city about the last of November.

ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

An electric light plant was put in during the spring and summer of 1888. On July 12th of that year the lights were first turned on. After being run a few months, its operation was for a time suspended. A change of ownership, however, was had, and the lights were soon again turned on, and have been in operation ever since. The streets are lighted with arc lights, and many dwellings and business houses with incandescent.

PARSONS.

THE COMMENCEMENT.

On June 19, 1869, W. K. Hayes located on the north half of the southwest quarter of section 19, North township, and in connection with Milton W. Eves opened a small stock of general merchandise. Mr. Hayes was on September 25, 1869, appointed postmaster of a new postoffice established at that point and named Mendota—"the place of meeting." Whether it was the place of meeting of the two branches of the Labette, or of the two branches of the M. K. & T., neither of the latter of which was then located, or of the traveling public, perhaps it is too early to write with interest. When a hundred years of tradition and myth shall have gathered round it, the future historian can write a chapter upon the founding of the office which will be read with delight. But as a sober, historical fact, and to somewhat curtail the wings of mythology, it may be recorded that it was because of the proximity of the site to the confluence of the Big and Little Labette that the name Mendota was chosen. In the winter of 1869 Mr. Hayes took his goods to a house he had built farther south, near Steel's mill, at the junction of the two Labettes; but in the spring he removed back to his old stand.

In 1870 J. J. Pierson succeeded Mr. Eves as a partner of Mr. Hayes, and the firm Hayes & Pierson continued in business at this point until November, 1870, when, the town-site of Parsons having been located, they moved to a point on the east side of the railroad track, northeast of the passenger depot, and just north of where the Belmont House now stands.

THE SITE.

Sections 18 and 19 in North township, and 13 and 24 in Walton township, formed the body of land selected by the company on which to lay out a town. Most of this land was already occupied by actual settlers, some of whom had acquired, or could obtain, title, and some of whom had only a squatter's right. John Leonard was on the southeast quarter of section 19, Abraham Fults on the northeast quarter, John Kendall on the northwest quarter, W. K. Hayes on the north half and Aaron Midkiff

on the south half of the southwest quarter of the same section; John Davis was on the northeast quarter of section 18, Abraham Cary on the northwest quarter, and Mr. Simpson on the southwest quarter of the same section; Anson Kellogg was on the southwest quarter and S. Eves on the northeast quarter of section 24; Henry F. Baker was on the southeast quarter of section 13, and H. L. Partridge on the southwest quarter and George Briggs on the northwest quarter of the same section. Some of the remainder was claimed by non-residents. Several of these parties were unwilling to dispose of their interest, and negotiations to secure title were in progress for some time.

THE SITE SELECTED.

The first intimation that the public generally had that a town was to be located at this point was on October 26, 1870, when L. F. Olney, a civil engineer, got off the train and inquired of some parties at work on the ground where the city of Parsons is now built, if they could tell him where Parsons was located, saying he had come to lay off a town. Nothing was done by him for several days excepting to look over the ground and make observations. On Sunday, November 6, 1870, C. G. Wait, the railroad engineer, located the connection of the Sedalia and Junction City branches of the M. K. & T., and two days later Frye & Pierce, grade contractors, broke dirt at this junction. It was known that here was to be the railroad town, and, before the survey commenced, in addition to two or three business houses which preceded it, on November 11, 1870, John Austin had on the ground the first dwelling put thereon, aside from those which were there at the time of the location. He put it upon what proved to be the northeast corner of Central and Crawford avenues, and at once occupied it for a dwelling, and also for keeping boarders. In front of this building the next spring he set out some maple trees, which were the first trees planted in the place. On these premises Dr. G. W. Gabriel has for many years had his home. It was about the middle of November when Mr. Olney commenced the survey of the town-site, and it was not completed until about the middle of January.

THE TOWN COMPANY.

Isaac T. Goodnow, N. S. Goss, F. C. White, O. B. Gunn, Norman Eastman and Robert S. Stevens were the incorporators of the town company. The charter was filed in the office of the Secretary of State October 24, 1870, and authorized the company to purchase lands and lay off a town at and adjacent to section 19, township 31, range 20. The company was formed expressly for the purpose of laying off and building a railroad town. It was believed that the junction of the two branches of the M. K. & T. was the most feasible point for the location of a town, where would almost certainly be located the machine-shops and offices. Of

course these parties knew the point where this junction must be made before their incorporation, for not only was section 19 designated in the charter as the central point, but their surveyor was on the ground before the railroad engineer had actually designated the connecting point. The intention being to have a railroad town, of course no more appropriate name could have been selected than that of the president of the road, who would thereby, if for no other reason, be interested in its support and growth.

DIFFICULTIES.

The town having been located, the company soon encountered difficulties in acquiring title to as large a body of land as they hoped to secure, and we may readily believe that it was for the purpose of influencing these parties to make terms that the action of the town company—an account of which is given below—was taken, rather than with any serious intention of carrying out the determination therein expressed, for no steps were taken looking to an abandonment of the site which had been selected and partly surveyed; but for some purpose, probably by the company's direction, certain resolutions by it adopted were published in several papers, and more or less was said through the press on "Parsons defunct." I will here refer to what appeared in but one paper, although the same was copied in the county papers and more or less commented on.

Near the close of 1870 the following appeared in the *Humboldt Union* :

"NEOSHO FALLS, KAN., Dec. 22.

"EDS. UNION: Inclosed you have resolutions passed by the directors of Parsons Town Company, and confirmed by the president of the M. K. & T. Co. You will see that the present town-site of Parsons is abandoned, as the orders are to erect not even a station house there. If you think these facts are of sufficient interest to your readers, you are at liberty to publish the accompanying resolutions.

Very respectfully,

I. T. GOODNOW.

"At a meeting of the board of directors of the Parsons Town Company, held at Sedalia, Mo., on the 14th inst., the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, The Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway Company having decided to locate its machine-shops and other important buildings elsewhere than at the junction of its Sedalia and Neosho divisions, thus rendering the building-up of any large town at the junction impracticable:

"Resolved, That the board of directors of the Parsons Town Company hereby abandon all idea of locating or building a town on sections 18 or 19, in town 31, of range 19 east, or anywhere in the vicinity, the decision of said railway company above referred to rendering such action necessary.

"Resolved, That the treasurer of said town company is hereby directed to sell all lands intended for town-site purposes at such price as he may deem fit and proper, at the earliest day practicable.

R. S. STEVENS, *President*.

JNO. R. WHEAT, *Secretary*."

SALE OF LOTS.

The difficulties encountered by the company in acquiring title having been overcome, and the plat having been surveyed and placed on record, the sale of lots commenced on March 8, 1871. Prior to this time all who had located had done so without any written permission or promise of obtaining title, but with the understanding that when the company had perfected its arrangements, they would be entitled to procure their lots at a reasonable price. There was quite a strife for the honor of being the purchaser of the first lot. Colonel Willard Davis was the agent of the town company, and Abraham Cary was successful in bringing enough influence to bear to get from him the first deed issued by the town company. It was for lots 14, 15 and 16 in block 42, where the opera house now stands. The other parties on the ground obtained title as fast as deeds could be executed and terms agreed on, and from this time on the permanency of building and business was assured.

BUSINESS HOUSES.

When so many were coming in about the same time, and no records of the names when locations were made having been kept, it is difficult to speak with certainty as to the precise order in which firms were established, and as to who is entitled to the honor of being the first one to open up his line of business in the new town, but the old settlers seem to agree substantially upon the following: Sipple Brothers from Dayton and Hayes & Pierson from Mendota were on the ground about the same time, and there is a difference of opinion as to which was there first.

Aside from the houses that had been placed by the settlers prior to the location of the town, the first house to be put upon the town-site, probably, was a store building belonging to William H. and John I. Sipple, which they had put up during the summer at Dayton, some five or six miles below Parsons, and which they moved on wagons and located upon what was afterwards laid off as lots 1, 2, and 3, in block 19, subsequently occupied by the Abbott House. They arrived with their building on November 5, 1870, and were the first to open a stock of goods, which consisted principally of groceries and provisions. If I am right in assigning Sipple Brothers the first location, then the next store to be opened was by Hayes & Pierson, who almost immediately after the arrival of Sipple Brothers, if they did not precede them, removed their little frame building from where Mr. Hayes had at one time kept store, at Steel's mill at the forks of the Labette, as already described, and located it on the east side of the railroad track, just about where the Belmont House now stands, and opened therein a general stock of merchandise. The building afterwards formed a part of the Belmont premises. E. K. Carrant brought his store building from Dayton and located it upon what

became lot 1 of block 25, on Skiddy, now Washington avenue. He associated with him in business Messrs. Cook and Allen, and opened out the most extensive stock of general merchandise that was then kept in town. Adam Gebert and Abraham Cary located on lot 2, block 25, next to Mr. Currant, and opened the first hardware store in town. The first lumber yard to be started was put in by Melville, Plato & Co.: and the first drugs were sold by T. R. Warren, who came from Leavenworth county, and before the close of the year had put up a small building on the northwest corner of Washington and Central avenues, and had placed therein a stock of drugs. The houses from Dayton had only just arrived when those from Ladore, located about the same distance north as Dayton was south, began to make their appearance. It was said that from fifty to seventy-five houses were moved from Ladore during the winter.

BOARDING-HOUSES AND HOTELS.

At the time of the location of the town, Henry F. Baker was living in a log house where the round-house now stands; and the town was scarcely located until John Austin moved his dwelling-house down from Ladore and placed it on the northeast corner of Central and Crawford avenues. Both of them at once commenced keeping boarders. Mrs. Catharine Hurton soon after erected a respectable-looking building, which she opened up as a boarding-house. W. P. Squires was on the ground about the same time; Finus Smith had a two-story 24x40 feet building at Ladore, which he tore down and brought to Parsons, and erected it on the northwest corner of Central and Johnson avenues. The proprietors of all of these houses, as well as several parties who only had tents, were furnishing board in November, 1870. It was not long until the Parsons House was opened up by Knapp, Noyes & Chamberlain. On March 8, 1871, E. B. Stevens and U. L. C. Beard commenced the erection of the Belmont House; the same month the Lockwood was commenced, and finished so as to be opened on the 8th of May. It was not until June 1st, 1872, that J. C. Karr commenced the construction of the St. James, on the northwest corner of Central and Forest avenues. This was a three-story brick—one of the finest buildings in the city. Of the numerous other houses which followed these I will not attempt to speak, only to mention that about 1880 the Abbott House became the principal hotel in the city, and thus remained until the Matthewson House was erected, in 1886.

SALOONS.

The saloon-keeper was not long behind anyone else who proposed to start business in the new town. John Austin, Wm. Dana, Z. T. Swigert, Chas. Hazard, and probably others whose names I have not learned, were all on the ground engaged in the sale of liquor in November, 1870. Mr.

Hazard moved a two-story building from Ladore and located it on the north side of Johnson avenue next to Smith's hotel, which stood on the corner. This was the first building moved from Ladore.

OTHER PIONEER HOUSES.

Conrad Hinkle and wife Lena were the first to furnish meat to the new comers. For a time they brought it in a wagon, but soon had a general meat shop opened. Dr. C. B. Kennedy removed a large livery stable from Ladore and located it on what became block 110, where the Catholic church is now being constructed. J. Moore had the first furniture store; Fred Walker opened the first blacksmith shop; and Walker & Thomas were the first real-estate agents. B. Sandercook was the first shoemaker; W. G. Douglas was the first tailor; E. P. Flummer opened the first bakery; A. J. Peabody was the first harness-maker. Most of these houses were in operation before the close of 1870, and all of them when the sale of lots commenced, in March, 1871.

PROFESSIONAL MEN.

A. L. Hutchison and T. R. Warren were the contestants for the honor of being the first physician in town; and of attorney, J. G. Parkhurst, T. V. Thornton and E. E. Hastings could hardly tell who was there first—but perhaps the race was won by Mr. Parkhurst.

THE FIRST RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

The first religious services of a public nature upon what became the town-site were held in Abraham Cary's log house on the northwest quarter of section 18, in North township, in the summer of 1870, conducted by A. W. King, of Osage township. Mr. King preached here frequently during the summer and fall. John Leonard, who lived on the southeast quarter of 19, was a Christian preacher, and sometimes preached in Mr. Cary's house after King had commenced holding services. The first sermon preached in the town proper was over Mr. Hazard's saloon, on December 15, 1870, by A. W. King. Rev. H. H. Cambern was the next preacher on the ground. No religious exercises of any kind were held regularly during the winter of 1870 and 1871. There was no place provided for holding such services, and whenever they were held it was in some business room temporarily fixed up for the purpose—probably in a saloon almost as frequently as in any other room. Of the organization and building of the various churches, I speak in another part of the work.

GOVERNMENT.

On February 22, 1871, on the petition of Simon Saddler and others, the Probate Judge made an order incorporating the town of Parsons, and appointed Abraham Cary, E. K. Currant, J. G. Parkhurst, John I. Sipple and John W. Rhodus as trustees. Thomas V. Thornton was the first

clerk appointed by the trustees; H. L. Partridge was justice of the peace in Walton township at the time of the settlement of Parsons, and became the first justice of the peace in Parsons. From November 8, 1870, to March 8, 1871, he tried seven criminal and twenty-six civil cases. He also married the first couple in town, they being Z. T. Swigert and Josephine E. Parker.

The town was organized as a city of the third class, and on April 17, 1871, the first city election was held, at which the following officers were elected: Mayor, Willard Davis; police judge, H. L. Partridge; councilmen, Abraham Cary, William Dana, Charles Watson, S. B. Plato, and John W. Rhodus. The first meeting of the mayor and council was held April 28, 1871. On organizing, G. C. West was appointed city clerk. The city having attained a population of over 2,000 inhabitants, the evidence of which was furnished by a census taken by order of the city council, the Governor issued his proclamation, dated February 25, 1873, declaring Parsons a city of the second class.

Since the organization of the city it has had the following mayors and clerks:

MAYORS.—April 17 to November 22, 1871, Willard Davis; November 22, 1871, to April, 1874, E. B. Stevens; April, 1874, to April, 1875, Angell Matthewson; April, 1875, to April, 1877, G. W. Gabriel; April, 1877, to April, 1879, P. Y. Thomas; April, 1879, to April, 1881, J. W. Thompson; April, 1881, to April, 1885, G. W. Gabriel; April, 1885, to April, 1887, A. O. Brown; April, 1887, to April, 1889, G. W. Gabriel; April, 1889, to April, 1891, A. F. Neely; April, 1891, to —, J. M. Gregory.

CLERKS.—April to November 22, 1871, G. C. West; November 22, 1871, to April, 1872, H. L. Partridge; April, 1872, to April, 1873, Edgar E. Hastings; April, 1873, to April, 1875, G. W. Hawk; April, 1875, to April, 1876, A. M. Fellows; April, 1876, to March, 1877, Frank L. Gage; March, 1877, to April, 1878, E. S. Stevens; April, 1878, to April, 1882, A. A. Osgood; April, 1882, to April, 1883, R. T. Halloway; April, 1883, to October, 1884, Ira F. Adams; October, 1884, to May, 1885, Will W. Frye; May, 1885, to April, 1887, N. F. Mills; April, 1887, to April, 1889, Mrs. Mary S. Outland; April, 1889, to April, 1891, R. D. Talbot; April, 1891, to —, A. H. Tyler.

LITERARY, MUSICAL, ETC.

On November 2, 1871, a meeting was held which decided upon organizing a literary society and library association. On the 8th of the same month the organization was completed by electing W. H. Maxwell president and A. B. Truman secretary. During the winter literary exercises were maintained, participated in by the leading men of the town. On

December 29th the library received its first donation of books, amounting to twenty-two volumes, and during the next few weeks several other donations were made of a like character. On October 26, 1872, the association held its first annual meeting, and reëlected W. K. Maxwell president, and elected E. B. Stevens vice-president, and James Wells, jr., secretary. This seems to have ended the efforts at that time for the establishment and maintenance of a library.

In the summer of 1879 a new lyceum was organized, and Rev. P. M. Griffin elected president. Literary exercises were conducted by it for some months.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

In 1877 Mrs. Ella B. Wilson, Mrs. Kate Grimes and Mrs. Polly L. Cory secured the formation of a library association. In this association they remained, as I am informed, the controlling spirits, Mrs. Wilson taking the principal part in its management. She traveled over a large part of the United States, soliciting funds for the erection of a building, as well as books and works of art for the foundation of a library. Large sums of money were contributed, and very fine donations of books, statuary and other articles of interest and value were gathered. Practically it was a gift of the country generally to Parsons at the earnest solicitation of one woman. With the funds thus contributed as a basis of operation, a site was secured on the southeast corner of Forest avenue and Nineteenth street, on lots 14, 15 and 16, in block 53, and the erection thereon of the building started. A loan of \$10,000 was procured, and the lots and building mortgaged to secure the payment of the same. A very fine three-story building was erected and finished, which, on December 25, 1883, was formally opened by appropriate exercises, among which was an address by Governor Glick.

In the second story of this building were placed the books and works of art which had been contributed, and it was believed the hardest part of the work was then accomplished of securing a large, prosperous and permanent library. But times changed; contributions of money did not come in; there was no means provided for paying the indebtedness contracted in the erection of the building; the mortgage was foreclosed, the property sold, and the seeming bright prospect for a great library vanished from sight.

BAR ASSOCIATION.

On January 24, 1872, the attorneys in town established a bar association, and for some weeks thereafter had public lectures from its members on different phases of law.

THE PIONEER ASSOCIATION

Was organized in the *Sun* office, March 8, 1872. Dr. T. R. Warren was the first president.

ALPHA LITERARY SOCIETY.

On November 17, 1880, a number of ladies met at the home of Mrs. T. P. Atchison, and organized a society under the name given above. The following officers were elected: Mrs. David Kelso, president; Mrs. M. F. Stevens, secretary; Mrs. W. H. Wagoner, treasurer. The society has maintained a continuous existence, and has done a great amount of literary work.

MACAULAY CLUB.

This society was organized December 8, 1881. Miss Phrone Emery was its first president, and Mrs. Jennie Davis secretary. It was at first called the Young Ladies' Reading Society, but in September, 1885, was named the Macaulay Club. Since then it has been an active factor in the literary work of Parsons.

ATHENEUM READING CIRCLE.

The existence of this circle dates from the spring of 1883, when five ladies began reading together without any formal organization. On October 24th of that year a number of new members were admitted to the circle, a formal organization was had, and the following officers elected: Mrs. Wells H. Utley, president; Mrs. B. B. Brown, vice-president, and Miss Emma June secretary and treasurer. The active membership is limited to 16. Its object is purely literary.

BANKS.

BANKING HOUSE OF ANGELL MATTHEWSON.—On June 6, 1871, S. P. Crawford and Angell Matthewson, of Parsons, and W. P. Bishop, of Oswego, formed a partnership, and on June 19th opened the bank of Crawford, Matthewson & Co. The first depositor was Oliver Duck; the first draft was issued to Currant, Cook & Allen. On July 31st Mr. Matthewson purchased the interest of the other two partners, and the business continued under the name of the Banking House of Angell Matthewson.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK.—On April 8, 1872, Matthewson's Bank was succeeded by the First National Bank, of which A. D. Jaynes, of Sedalia, Mo., was president, and Angell Matthewson cashier. This bank had a paid-up capital of \$50,000, and started with over \$37,000 in deposits turned over to it by Matthewson's bank. On January 19, 1875, R. S. Stevens succeeded Mr. Jaynes as president. During January and February, 1877, while Mr. Matthewson was in the Senate, George W. Hawk, the teller, performed the duties of cashier. January 1, 1879, Lee Clark succeeded Mr. Matthewson as cashier, and held the position until October, 1890, when he became president, F. C. Stevens having been president immediately preceding him. E. B. Stevens became cashier on July 1, 1890, and still retains the position.

THE PARSONS SAVINGS BANK was organized in May, 1874, with Augustus Wilson president and Joshua Hill cashier; having a paid-up capital of \$50,000. The first draft was issued to A. W. Gifford. On July 1, 1878, this bank was reorganized as

THE PARSONS COMMERCIAL BANK, of which Joshua Hill was president and George W. Hawk cashier. The latter has continued to fill the position of cashier ever since. For several years past E. H. Edwards has been president of the bank. It has long been one of the established institutions of the city.

CITY BANK OF ANGELL MATTHEWSON & Co.—This bank was organized May 1, 1879, with a capital of \$20,000; Angell Matthewson and Merrit Noyes being the owners. On October 1, 1880, F. H. Snyder was admitted to the partnership and made cashier. Mr. Noyes died in 1883, and in November, 1884, Wm. H. Taylor was admitted to the partnership and the capital stock made \$60,000, which was increased to \$100,000 on February 1, 1888. L. E. Weeks was appointed cashier September 1, 1891.

BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION.

On July 14, 1879, the Parsons Building and Loan Association was organized, of which C. A. King was president and J. G. Gray secretary.

SANITARY.

During the early part of 1884 much complaint had been made about the condition in which the private and public premises, as well as many of the private alleys and yards, were kept, and the *Eclipse* was especially vigilant in looking after and giving publicity to these grievances. In July of that year the mayor and council appointed J. B. Lamb health officer. It was thought by some that this appointment was made rather as a burlesque in retaliation for the frequent appeals to the authorities to do a general cleaning-up; but whatever was the spirit that prompted the move, it turned out to be a very wise one. The Doctor went at the work vigorously, and did good work in securing the cleaning-up of the filth which had been allowed to accumulate, and probably saved the place a great amount of sickness. The work thus commenced showed the advisability of having some permanent arrangement for removal of filth and the preservation of the public health.

SEWERAGE.

In 1885 steps were taken to put in a system of sewerage, and this was pushed forward until the business part of the city was well supplied with means for the removal of all filth and the carrying away of the waste water.

WATER WORKS.

During the summer of 1882 the matter of supplying the city with water was discussed, and a company was formed for the purpose of carrying

out the contemplated project. On September 15th, by an almost unanimous vote of the electors, the city gave its assent and promised aid. During the following year the works were put in under the general direction of C. W. Hill, but it was not until July, 1884, that they were completed and accepted by the city. Reservoirs were made upon the banks of the Labette some distance above the city, from which stream the water was procured. The city paid \$3,000 per year for fifty hydrants. Soon after the completion of the works, C. H. Kimball and E. H. Edwards became the principal owners of the stock of the company and had the general management of its business. The operation of the works under the original construction never gave general satisfaction, and they were believed to be far inadequate to meet the city's needs. Early in 1892 steps were taken to secure a better supply by obtaining water from the Neosho instead of from the Labette. Mains were laid from the Neosho to the old reservoirs on the Labette and into the city. A new stand-pipe, one of the largest in the State, was erected in the city, and under the present arrangements the water system is very complete.

GAS.

On December 11, 1882, the city council passed an ordinance giving an exclusive franchise for twenty-one years to Angell Matthewson to construct and operate gas works. The franchise was assigned to the Parsons Light and Heat Company, and in 1883 the works were completed, since which time those who desired it have been supplied with gas.

ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

On May 25, 1887, an ordinance was passed authorizing J. J. Everingham to erect electric works in the city of Parsons, and within a month thereafter this franchise was transferred to the Parsons Light and Heat Company, which was operating the gas plant. A system of arc lights was at once put in, and put in operation on September 25th. In the summer of 1892 the incandescent system of lights was added, and the capacity of the plant much enlarged.

TELEPHONE.

In 1882 a system of telephones was put in providing for communication in the various parts of the city, and also a line was built connecting the city with Oswego; and on July 20th of that year Mayors Gabriel and Condon exchanged congratulations. The line between Parsons and Oswego was not maintained for any great length of time, nor was the city system very largely used after a few months of trial.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS.

One of the wisest investments made by the city in the way of improvement was that of building sidewalks and macadamizing its streets. The

work of macadamizing commenced in 1878, and was gradually pushed forward for the next two or three years, until the streets in the principal business part of town were all macadamized, and good sidewalks have been laid in nearly all of the streets that have any large amount of travel.

STONE AND BRICK BUILDINGS.

The first building to be erected of material other than wood was put up early in 1871, on block 25, on the north side of Johnson avenue, by Ed. Foley. It was constructed out of cut sandstone, and made a very creditable appearance. The first brick buildings in town were erected in 1872. They were the passenger depot, the First National Bank building, the St. James Hotel on the corner north from the First National Bank, and the second ward school-house. The same year two or three brick business houses were put up—one by W. C. Calkins, on lots 13 and 14, block 33, and one by A. Royer, on lot 1, block 34. During this year T. C. Cory tore down his brick residence at Ladore and rebuilt it on the southeast quarter of section 24. This was the first brick residence in town.

FIRES.

On October 7, 1871, the *Sun* published an article advising the people to turn out the first still day and burn around the town to protect it from fires. I do not know whether or not this advice was heeded, but it seems that no damage resulted from fire from that quarter.

During the history of the city there have been several quite extensive fires, but none that were at all destructive; in fact, most of them, in the business part of the city, while they may have damaged individuals, were a public benefit so far as the city was concerned, for it secured in the place of the buildings destroyed, others of a very much better quality. One of the first, if not the first fire in town to do any large amount of damage, was the burning of John Rhodus's boarding-house. On July 29, 1875, a fire occurred on Fourth avenue which destroyed nine business houses. The loss by this fire was estimated to be from \$75,000 to \$100,000. On December 26, 1875, the Lockwood House was burned: and on May 23, 1883, the City Hotel, which was one of the original hotels. Among the losses that have occurred from fire have been several of the mills and factories; one of the largest of which was on August 1, 1892, being the destruction of the National Mills. A number of other quite extensive fires have taken place at various times, the particulars of which I have not learned.

MACHINE-SHOPS.

Of all the enterprises which have contributed to the prosperity of Parsons, none have approached that of the railroad influence, and especially the machine-shops thereof. Work on the machine-shops commenced in October, 1871, and by the close of 1872 they were completed and ready for operation. The round-house was not completed until May, 1873.

EDUCATIONAL.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

THE FIRST SCHOOL IN THE COUNTY.

An account of the first school in the county, while not a public school, is still necessary for a history of our educational growth. Of this school I will let one of its founders, Dr. George Lisle, give the account, which is as follows:

“On or about the middle of May, 1858, James Childers, George Walker, William Blythe, Larkin McGhee, Benjamin Todd, Millard Rogers, John McMurtrie, James Hethrington and myself got together and concluded to build a school-house that would be large enough to have preaching in as often as we could get the preacher. A committee was appointed to select a site and fix upon size of house and call the people together to approve the same. The next Saturday was appointed, and everybody turned out and agreed to build it at a small spring in a branch one and one-half miles south of where Chetopa now stands. The people agreed to meet and go to work on Monday morning, which they did with such success that by Saturday night they had a house 22 by 24 feet square, floored with puncheons, seated and desked with the same, covered and lined with split and shaved clapboards; door and window fastenings were of boards cut with a whip-saw; and on Sunday it was dedicated in order. On Monday, Joseph C. Henry commenced a school by the month, which he kept up almost one year; then Jeff. Jackson taught one term of three months; Pleasant McGhee taught one term; and Helen Hardin was teaching when the war broke out and ended our school, but not its effects.”

The history of the public schools of the county commences with the election of Dr. John F. Newlon as County Superintendent of Public Instruction, at the first election, held on April 22d, 1867. How soon after his election he commenced work I have no means of knowing, but a number of the school districts must have been formed early in May of that year, for as early as June 1st we find the residents of one of the districts petitioning for a change of boundary. On account of the imperfection of our records as originally made, and of the entire loss of some of them, I am unable to speak with absolute definiteness in reference to the organization and history of many of the districts. Just how many districts were organized during Dr. Newlon's term of office I cannot say positively, and yet I may say with a reasonable degree of certainty that

twenty is the number. From the appearance of the records the number cannot have exceeded twenty-one or twenty-two, I think, and there is nothing showing clearly, nor hardly intimating anything beyond twenty. The order for the organization of District 20 appears in Dr. Newlon's own writing. This cannot be said of any subsequent number so far as the records now show. It is quite likely some of these first twenty districts had scarcely any existence aside from on paper. Most of them, however, were at once organized and steps taken for the establishment of schools. The county having just been organized, there was of course no public money, nor any public schools before the fall of 1867, and I can learn of but two private schools having been taught that year, viz., one in Oswego District, No. 1, and one in District No. 2. However, levies for school purposes were made that summer and taxes collected the following fall and winter, and from this time on the public schools were regularly held for a greater or less length of time in most of the districts. In the Jacksonville district, No. 11, only a part of which was in this county, a public school was taught in the summer of 1867; that school was not in this county, although as a joint district, report of the school was made to our County Superintendent, as well as to the Superintendent of Neosho county.

OSWEGO DISTRICT, NO. 1.

All of Oswego township lying west and south of the Neosho river, excepting the two southern tiers of sections, was, by the first order made by Supt. Newlon, formed into School District No. 1. In June, 1867, Mrs. Augusta Herbaugh commenced teaching the first school in the district. It was of course a private school, no public funds having yet been raised with which to employ a teacher. She taught in a small log building with dirt floor, situated near the northeast corner of section 21. The first officers elected were: T. J. Flouronoy, director; Henry Jacobs, clerk; and J. Q. Cowell, treasurer. The first report of the district is dated August 14, 1867, and signed by H. Jacobs, clerk, and shows 30 male and 39 female children in the district, 17 males and 15 females having attended the private school taught by Mrs. Augusta Herbaugh at \$2.50 per scholar, which commenced on the 24th of June. At that time there was standing on lot 1, block 33, now occupied by Mr. Symmes's drug store, a small frame building, in which most of the meetings, both religious and secular, were held. The board secured the use of this building for school purposes, and by a "bee" slabs were furnished with legs, and thus seats were provided; and in this room thus furnished, about the first of November, 1867, R. J. Elliott commenced teaching the first public school in the district, and one of the first, if not the very first, in the county. Public schools were taught that winter in several dis-

districts, but there are no records showing which was commenced first. Mr. Elliott's school continued for three months. There was no further school taught until the next fall. The second report is dated September 14, 1868, signed by J. F. Waskey, clerk, and shows a total enumeration of 176 children in the district, 77 of whom had attended a three-months school, taught by R. J. Elliott at a salary of \$50 per month, the average attendance being 41. On March 26, 1868, the following were elected: E. Hammer, director; J. F. Waskey, clerk; A. L. Austin, treasurer. On February 9, 1869, Mr. Waskey resigned, and W. S. Newlon was appointed clerk in his place. During the summer of 1868 a subscription was taken up among the business men of the place, and a frame building was erected on the southeast corner of block 39, designed for public meetings as well as for school and church purposes. The only seats with which this building was furnished were rough slabs. In this building, in December, 1868, Rev. Cornelius V. Monfort and Miss Sallie Elliott commenced a term of school. Mr. Monfort was not especially adapted to public-school teaching, and at the expiration of two or three months found it advisable to give up his employment, and R. J. Elliott was again placed in charge of the school in connection with his sister Sallie. On March 10, 1869, on a vote of the district to issue \$5,000 in bonds to build a new school-house, there were 84 votes for and 8 against the proposition. The board elected on March 25, 1869, consisted of W. S. Newlon, director; George C. Sarvis, clerk; and R. W. Wright, treasurer. These officers had charge of the construction of the new school-house. Dr. Wright took the bonds to Leavenworth, where he negotiated them and secured funds for paying for the building as it was erected. The town company donated the west half of block 16, on which, during the summer of 1869, a two-story stone building was erected, containing four good school-rooms capable of seating fifty pupils each. The building was furnished throughout with patent seats and desks. In this building, late in the fall of 1869, a school was opened, with George C. Sarvis principal, Miss Louisa M. Allen teacher of the intermediate and Miss Sallie Elliott teacher of the primary department. On September 14, 1869, George C. Sarvis, clerk, reported a total enrollment of 350, of whom 123 had been in school the preceding year; the average attendance being 98. In March, 1870, Henry Tibbits was elected director, J. F. Waskey clerk, and R. W. Wright treasurer. Mr. Waskey failed to qualify, and George C. Sarvis was appointed to fill the vacancy. With the opening of the school year in the fall of 1870, David Donovan was employed as principal, in which position he was continued for three years. In 1871 the board consisted of W. S. Newlon, director; A. B. Close, clerk; C. M. Condon, treasurer. In the spring of 1872 Nelson Case succeeded Mr. Close as clerk; Dr.

Newlon remained as director and Mr. Condon as treasurer, and the board as thus composed remained in office until the organization of the board of education in 1873. In April, 1872, at the city election the following persons were chosen members of the board of education: First ward, Henry Tibbits, Joseph Nelson; second ward, Mrs. Mary B. Franklin, J. W. Minturn; third ward, Mrs. Mary E. Case and Alexander Mackie. Some of these parties not desiring to serve, it was concluded not to organize the board of education, and the school continued under the charge of the district board as formerly elected. At the April election in 1873 a board of education was elected, consisting of Joseph Nelson and H. P. Nelson from the first ward, G. C. Sarvis and Dr. S. P. Hurbut from the second ward, and H. W. Barnes and R. J. Elliott from the third ward. The board organized by electing Mr. Nelson president and Mr. Sarvis clerk; Nelson Case was elected superintendent of schools. Until the fall of 1883 the plan of the board was to have the teacher of the high school the principal of the school, and to employ a superintendent who was to have the general direction of school affairs, but who was not on the teaching force. Under this plan the superintendents were Nelson Case, Mary A. Higby, W. S. Newlon, W. A. Starr, F. H. Atchinson, D. H. Mays, and M. Chidester. During this time the principals of the school were: April, 1873, David Donovan, who resigned at the end of the month, and Mrs. E. Williams was put in charge until the close of the school; 1873-76, A. C. Baker, three years; 1876-78, J. B. Hoover, two years; 1878-79, Mrs. J. R. Boulter, one year; 1879-81, A. C. Baker, two years; 1881-83, O. R. Bellamy, two years. Commencing with the fall of 1883 the superintendent of schools has been one of the teachers; sometimes he has also been principal of the high school, and sometimes there has been a separate principal of the high school. Under this arrangement the superintendents have been: 1883-86, M. Chidester, three years; 1886-90, J. W. Weltner, four years; 1890-91, Evelyn B. Baldwin, one year; 1891-92, H. C. Long, two years. Presidents of the board: 1873, Joseph Nelson; 1874, H. W. Barnes; 1875, Nelson Case; 1876-77, John A. Pigg; 1878-79, R. W. Wright; 1880-83, Nelson Case; 1884-88, J. B. Montgomery; 1889-90, Nelson Case; 1891, J. B. Montgomery; 1892, David Jennings. Clerks of the board: 1873, George C. Sarvis; 1874, John W. Montfort; 1875, J. W. Montfort and R. J. Elliott; 1876, C. A. Wilkin; 1877, John S. Read and Charles H. Willhalf; 1878, J. C. Boulter; 1879, F. C. Helsel; 1880, N. Sanford and F. H. Atchinson; 1881-82, William Houck; 1883, F. H. Atchinson; 1884-85, John F. Hill; 1886-92, A. T. Dickerman. At the close of school in April, 1884, the first graduating class went out, consisting of Eunice Crane, Samuel Carpenter, D. S. Waskey, and Merrit C. Reed. The graduates now number 54; of this

number, one, John Ford, was a colored boy. For some time prior to 1882 the stone school-house was entirely insufficient to seat the pupils of the district, and rooms had to be secured in such places as they could be had. Of course very inferior accommodations could be provided in this way. During 1880 and 1881 the board submitted several propositions to the electors for the issuance of bonds for a new school-house, which were voted down. In his annual report in 1881, and again in 1882, the president of the board urged the erection of a new house, and on June 6, 1882, a proposition to issue \$12,000 in bonds was carried. With this the north half and the central part of the south half of block 4, in Cowell's addition, was secured for a site, on which the west school building was erected during the summer and fall, and in January, 1883, was occupied for school purposes. In 1886 the old stone school-house was torn down and a new brick erected on the same site, at a cost of \$6,000.

LADIES' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.—June 16, 1871, at the close of the county teachers' association the ladies of Oswego formed an educational association, of which Mrs. Mary E. Perkins was elected president and Mrs. Amy B. Howard secretary. On June 15, 1872, they held their first annual meeting, and elected Mrs. M. E. Donovan president and Mrs. E. Williams secretary. At the annual election of 1873 Mrs. M. E. Donovan was re-elected president, Mrs. E. Williams secretary, Mrs. A. M. Taylor treasurer. The association was maintained for several years, and did a great amount of good. Through their exertions the school-house grounds were fenced, the trees which now adorn the east school-house yard were planted under their superintendency, the city authorities were induced to assist in securing sidewalks leading to the school-house, and in many ways their influence on the school was felt for good.

STICE DISTRICT, NO. 2.

The original order for the formation of District No. 2 is now on file, and shows that it was located in the southeast corner of Oswego township. The first report of the district is dated August 9th, 1867, signed by William F. Mason, clerk, showing 46 children in the district, 26 being in attendance on a private school taught by Mrs. Sarah Braught, wife of Cloyd G. Braught. Mrs. Braught taught in their own cabin, situated on section 34, in Oswego township. John W. Burgess, clerk, makes two reports, one dated September 14th, 1868, showing 55 children in the district, 33 having attended a three-months school taught by W. Leonard at \$25 per month; the average daily attendance being 16. O. Whitney was clerk in 1869, and shows by report that Mary E. Biggs had taught a three-months school the preceding season at \$25 per month.

GORE (OR MARTIN) DISTRICT, NO. 3.

The original order for the organization of District No. 3 is not among the public records; but on June 1st, 1867, a petition of a number of the residents of that district living in Richland township, north of the Labette and west of the Neosho river, petitioned for a change of boundary so that it should include all of the township lying north of Labette creek, and west from the Neosho as far as and including a part of sections 17, 8 and 5, which petition Superintendent Newlon granted. The report of the district for 1867 has evidently been torn and mutilated, so that at present no information can be gathered therefrom. The first report we have is dated November 9th, 1868, signed by M. J. Lee, clerk, showing 25 males and 20 female children in the district, and that a school had been taught by Cass Steel. Mr. Lee again reports as clerk, in 1869; the report shows a three-months school having been taught by Miss Lizzie Kingsbury, with an average daily attendance of 22, at a salary of \$25 per month. On June 12th, 1869, a special meeting was held, at which 16 votes were cast, all in favor of issuing \$350 in bonds with which to build a school-house. With this money the district purchased a frame store building which L. D. Bovee had put up for Mr. Smith at the old town of Labette, and moved it out to the Oswego and Chetopa road. This building has served the district as a school-house ever since.

CHETOPA DISTRICT, NO. 4.

All of the original records we have in reference to the formation of the early districts in the county are on slips of paper. There is no record whatever now on file of the formation of any district in the county numbered 4; but the original records describing District No. 5 completely fit the territory which has ever since been recognized as District No. 4, and the description of District No. 6 fits the territory which was thereafter recognized as District 5; and as there is little or no record of any business in District 6 prior to the establishment of such a district in 1872, it may be fairly inferred that the Superintendent in writing out these orders made a mistake in numbering them, leaving out 4 entirely. I shall assume that the original order for the establishment of District No. 5 was intended for and was thereafter uniformly applied to District 4. It embraced two miles in width on the east line of the county, extending from Labette creek on the north to the State line on the south. We have no record showing who composed the first board of this district, but the first report is dated August 14th, 1867, and is signed by Henry Shannon. The only thing the report shows is that there are in the district 20 males and 16 females of school age. We have then this negative testimony that no school was taught in this district prior to that time. During 1868 the school board consisted of William Craft, director; Daniel J. Doolen,

clerk; Z. A. Woodard, treasurer. The report dated August 29th, 1868, shows the school population to be 137, and that a three-months school of 26 males and 29 females, and a total average daily attendance of 30, had been taught by Miss Ellen Craft at a salary of \$25 per month. During the winter of 1868-9 a school with two departments was taught; one by Mrs. Abigail Horner, and the other by Miss Ellen Craft. No school building had yet been erected, but early in 1869 a contract was made for the erection of a school building. At the election on March 25th, 1869, the following officers were elected: J. L. Taft, director; John W. Horner, clerk; C. P. Spaulding, treasurer. On December 5th, 1869, the schools were opened in Spaulding's Hall, in charge of Newton Bowles and his daughter, Miss Eva Bowles. On February 3d, 1870, the new frame school-house having been completed, it was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. On the 7th of the same month the schools were opened in this new building, which even then was found to be too small to accommodate the children who were ready to attend. At the election in the spring of 1870 N. S. Storrs was elected director, J. W. Horner clerk, and J. L. Taft treasurer. During the summer Mr. Storrs resigned and Jonas Clark was appointed in his place. J. J. McBride was appointed principal of the schools for the following year, but in January resigned, and for a time Miss M. L. Ela, who had been one of the assistant teachers, was put in charge, but in March she resigned, and Mr. Griswold was elected principal. At the district election in 1871, Jonas Clark was elected director, C. H. McCreery clerk, J. L. Taft treasurer. The city having been organized into a city of the second class about this time, on March 29th, 1871, Mayor Fox assumed, with the assent of the council, to organize the board of education, and appointed as members thereof the following: Jonas Clark, Dr. John Birch, C. F. Smith, and Rev. C. H. McCreery. On May 1st these parties met as the board of education and proceeded to organize by electing Mr. Clark as president, Mr. Birch vice-president, Mr. McCreery clerk, and Mr. Smith treasurer; they then appointed J. M. Cavaness superintendent of schools. In September, 1871, the schools were opened under the superintendency of Edward Mason. On June 10th, 1872, by a vote of 147 for to 54 against, it was decided to issue \$25,000 in bonds to build a new school-house. In due course of time preparations for building were made. The board pushed forward the work as rapidly as possible. The building was completed and dedicated on July 4th, 1873, and was at that time the finest school-house in the county. A separate building was then erected for colored children. The first graduating class consisted of Nellie McGinley, Allie Horner, Jessie Sellman, and Harry W. Sterling. This class went out in 1873. In all, there are now fifty-eight graduates. J. M. Cavaness, C. H. McCreery, J. Paulsen and J. D.

Graham at various times have acted as city superintendent. In recent years the principals of the high school have also been superintendents. The principals, term commencing in the fall of the year named, have been: 1871, Edward M. Mason; 1872, L. J. VanLandingham; 1873, J. W. Horner; 1874, P. Fales; 1875, J. A. R. Smith; 1876, Buel T. Davis; 1877-78, Robert Hay; 1879, L. J. VanLandingham; 1880, O. V. Hays; 1881-84, J. W. Weltner; 1885, J. W. Weltner and W. W. Lindsey; 1886, Buel T. Davis; 1887-88, S. D. Crane; 1889-91, E. A. Herod; 1892, Clay D. Herod. Presidents: 1871, Jonas Clark; 1872, Dr. John Burch; 1873, J. M. Bannan; 1874, L. J. VanLandingham; 1875, F. A. Hunter; 1876, William Alexander; 1877, L. J. VanLandingham; 1878, C. H. Guntler; 1879-82, Lewis Williams; 1883-85, J. C. Witt; 1886-87, G. D. Boon; 1888, G. W. McEwen; 1889, G. D. Boon; 1890, B. F. Danforth; 1891, J. C. Witt; 1892, Mrs. C. N. Bush. Clerks: 1871, C. H. McCreery; 1872, J. M. Bannan; 1873, C. H. Ludlow; 1874, C. Humble; 1875, L. J. VanLandingham; 1876-77, C. Humble; 1878, C. M. Williams; 1879-80, N. S. Van Ausdale; 1881, A. G. Drake and L. M. Bedell; 1882-89, A. G. Drake; 1890-92, G. W. McEwen.

WATSON DISTRICT, NO. 5.

As I said in describing District No. 4, I must assume that the superintendent in preparing the records which have come down to us made a mistake in numbering these districts, as the description of what he has numbered 5 applies to the district which was thereafter designated 4, and the district he has numbered 6 applies to that which was thereafter acted upon as 5. The original order for the formation of District 5, as numbered on said order, made it to embrace the east part of Richland township, including the town of Chetopa; but all subsequent proceedings make it evident that that order was intended to be for District 4, or at least that it was thereafter acted upon as No. 4. As I have before assumed that the order by the superintendent numbered 5 was intended for 4, so I must assume that the order for the formation of District 6 was intended to be, as it was thereafter regularly recognized, District 5. It commenced at the northwest corner of section 1, in Hackberry township, and extended south to the State line; thence east three miles; thence north to the Labette river; thence up said stream to the place of beginning. This seems to leave the middle tier of sections running north and south in Richland township out of either school district. Perhaps the Superintendent's intention was to put District 6 in Hackberry township, and after running south to the State line, instead of running east, he should have made his order read, "thence running west." Or it may be that at that time, in some way, Districts 4, 5 and 6 were understood to embrace all of Richland township south of Labette creek, notwithstand-

ing the imperfect description in the orders forming them. But that the west part of Richland township was organized District 5, rather than District 6, is made clear by a petition which was presented sometime during Mr. Newlon's administration, although the date is not given, wherein Moses Powers, John Kenney, William Shay, John N. Watson, S. R. Southwick and a number of others represented themselves as being residents of District 5, and asked that the district might be made to commence at the southwest corner of said township, which would be, as then constituted, the southwest corner of section 31, and to extend three miles east and three miles north. William Shay was the first director, S. R. Southwick the first clerk, and John Kinney the first treasurer of this district. The first report is dated September 5, 1867, and shows 39 children of school age in the district. No public school was taught in the district until the fall of 1868. The clerk's report, dated September 12, 1868, shows 51 children of school age, and that Matilda Quinby had taught a three-months subscription school, with an attendance of 11 males and 13 females. The next winter S. R. Southwick taught a three-months school at \$35 per month, and in the spring Miss Frankie Hull taught a three-months school at \$25 per month. The first school was taught in David Wagoner's vacant house on the southwest quarter of section 18. The first school meeting was held on the open prairie of John N. Watson's claim, on the northwest quarter of section 29. It was there agreed that each person should bring in a few logs, and that they would put up a log school-house. This project was not carried out, and in the spring of 1869 they put up a frame house. D. U. Watson is credited with having been present at every school meeting that has ever been held in the district.

BLACKFORD DISTRICT, No. 6.

What I have said in speaking of Districts 4 and 5 may be referred to at this place for a fuller statement in reference to this district. Aside from the order granting District 6, which I have heretofore assumed to be intended for a description of District 5, I find only these matters of record which would indicate that at any time there was any district designated as No. 6 prior to 1872. There is a report dated August 15th, 1867, signed by J. B. Huntly, clerk, which he represents to be a report for District 4, but at the bottom, evidently in the handwriting of the Superintendent, it is marked District 6, and is said to be in Oswego township; and in May, 1871, by the notices of election returns, it seems that Stanley Foland was director, Joseph Watson clerk, and Wm. H. Payne treasurer of District 6. On May 28th, 1872, Superintendent Horner gave notice that he proposed to take the northeast quarter of section 27 and the southeast quarter of section 22, township 34, range 20, from District 6. If there was originally a district of this number organized it seems to have lost its

organization very soon, and its territory must have been embraced in other districts. The policy of the Superintendent seems to have been, when a district of any number became extinct, to give that number to the next new district which should be organized, and this number was given to an entirely new district, situated in the central-southern part of Howard township. This district was formed by an order made March 17th, 1872, on a petition dated March 9th, 1872, signed by H. C. Long, William Blackford and others. The first school meeting in this new district was held at the house of E. R. Lee, on March 30th, 1872, and the following officers elected: R. M. Roberts, director; John Morse, clerk; Wm. Stevenson, treasurer.

BISHOP DISTRICT, NO. 7.

The original order for the formation of this district located it in the southwest corner of Oswego township, and a portion of Richland township lying north of Labette creek. A report dated September 14, 1867, signed by Francis M. Brockus, shows thirty-one children of school age in the district. This was the only item in the report, and this was the only report of the district as thus located which is now on file, and it seems that within the next few months this territory was absorbed by other districts, and this district became extinct. On December 14, 1869, Abner DeCou, Alexander Bishop, D. S. Bishop, Henry Newcomb and Henry G. Pore petitioned for the formation of a district to embrace sections 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, in Hackberry township; and by an order made on the 17th of that month this territory, and also section 7 in Richland township, was formed into a new district designated as No. 7. A school-house was built in the fall of 1870, but before the erection of a school-house one term of school had been taught in a private house belonging to Henry Pore, on section 10. This first school was taught, commencing in the fall of 1869, by Miss Esther Biggs.

SHILOH DISTRICT, NO. 8.

This district is located in the southwestern part of Montana township. The first officers were: Samuel Dunham, director; R. S. Cornish, clerk; Joseph Brown, treasurer. The first report of this district is dated September 1, 1868, signed by R. S. Cornish, clerk, and shows 37 children of school age in the district, but no school having been taught therein. The first school in the district seems to have been taught in the spring of 1869, by A. A. Biggs. The report dated September 10, 1869, signed by E. G. Robinson, clerk, shows 37 children of school age, and an attendance of 21 at school, the average daily attendance being 15, and the salary of the teacher \$24 per month. A log school-house was put up in 1868, and in 1871 a good frame building took its place.

BED ROCK (OR RED BUD) DISTRICT, NO. 9.

This district is located in Montana township, east of the Neosho river. It must have been formed in 1867, although there is no record of its organization; nor indeed is there any record showing anything in reference thereto prior to 1870, when the district board is reported to have been composed of David M. Watson, Benjamin F. Hanson, and James H. White. On December 5, 1881, the school-house was destroyed by fire; and as the limit allowed by law for bonds had previously been reached, and the bonds were still outstanding, it was determined to raise funds by subscription with which to build. Considerable outside aid was secured, especially from the business men of Oswego. In this way the district was again soon supplied with a house.

LABETTE CITY DISTRICT, NO. 10.

This district was originally organized by Superintendent Newlon, embracing two miles in width on the north side of Fairview township and three miles in width on the south side of Liberty township, from the east line of said township five miles west. Wm. H. Cline was the first clerk, and on September 11th, 1867, reported no school having been taught in the district, but an enrollment of 24 males and 19 females of school age. The first school in the district was taught by Wm. H. Cline, as is shown by the report of W. J. Conner, clerk, dated September 1st, 1865, (evidently intended for 1868,) at a salary of \$33.33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per month. The school was taught in a claim cabin on the southeast quarter of section 27, belonging to the estate of A. W. Richardson. The attendance at this school was 10 males and 3 females, with an average attendance of 3 $\frac{1}{8}$. John Richardson succeeded W. J. Conner as clerk, and in the winter of 1868 James F. Molesworth taught a three-months school at a salary of \$35 per month, with an average attendance of 14 $\frac{1}{2}$. This school was taught in the new hewed-log school-house which had just been erected on the southwest quarter of section 35. This house was built by subscription with the understanding that the parties should be repaid when the district could raise funds, which was done. The town of Labette was started in June, 1870, and thereafter the school was taught in town. The first school in town was opened in a rented room on the east side of the railroad track, October 6, 1870, by J. L. Williams. In December the board bought a two-story frame building on the west side of the railroad track, known as Bates's Hall. The lower part was occupied by the publishers of the *Sentinel* as a printing-office. The school was moved to the second story of this building, where Mr. Williams and his wife, Rachel Williams, both taught in one room. This building served as the school-house until June 6, 1878, when it was blown down and entirely destroyed.

by a tornado. Dr. Conner, seeing that his barometer indicated a storm, went to the school-house and directed school to be dismissed. The scholars were scarcely home till the house was in fragments. A new house was at once erected, and ready for occupancy that fall.

JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT, NO. 11.

This was a union district, embracing the northeastern part of Neosho township, lying west of the river, and a part of Neosho county, with the school-site at Jacksonville, in Neosho county. On September 12th, 1867, David Evans, clerk, reported that Jennie McDonald had taught a three-months school at a salary of \$23.33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per month, with an enrollment of 15 scholars, and an average attendance of 9. The following year O. Herraman and A. J. Kennedy, the former at a salary of \$60 and the latter \$25 per month, taught a four-months school, with a total enrollment of 55.

BOWMAN DISTRICT, NO. 12.

This district lies in the western part of Fairview township. There is no doubt but that a district was formed having this number by Superintendent Newlon, although there is nothing on file showing its original organization, nor anything in respect to the district, until after 1869. On February 11, 1870, an order was made for the formation of the district, and the first election directed to be held at the house of William Wood, on February 23, 1870. Whether the district of this number formed in 1867 embraced entirely different territory, the organization of which never became perfected, or whether it originally embraced the same territory as is now comprised in the district, I am unable, with the information I now have, to decide; I am, however, disposed to think that District 12 as formed by Superintendent Newlon was never fully organized, but was laid off when there was little settlement, and contained within its bounds the territory forming that district as we now know it. The first officers as now shown by the records were, in 1870, Frank Williams, director; I. W. Patrick, clerk; A. S. Spaulding, treasurer.

MONTANA DISTRICT, NO. 13.

The first report on file is not dated, but it is supposed to be the report for 1867. It is signed by B. W. Bennett, clerk, and represents the district as being in Big Hill township. It is otherwise blank, excepting the statement that there are 8 males and 10 females in the district. The next report is signed by Henry M. Minor, clerk, and is dated August 31, 1868, showing 22 males and 20 females in the district, and that there has been a three-months school taught in the district, but not by a qualified teacher; of course this was a private school. While the report does not show it, the fact is this was a subscription school, taught in the summer of 1867 by Alice Biggs, in the old log store building belonging to B.

F. Simons—the first house built on the town-site. Mr. Minor remained clerk the following year, and reported 82 children of school age in the district, 46 of whom were attending school. A three-months school had been taught by John Hudson, at \$26.33 $\frac{2}{3}$ per month. This first public school was taught in an old log house on the southwest quarter of section 8, township 32, range 21, in the spring of 1869. In 1870 the board consisted of J. J. Woods, director; H. M. Minor, clerk; and A. Gebhart, treasurer. Capt. A. Gebhart and J. J. Woods were the building committee for the erection of a new school-house. Bonds in the sum of \$3,000 were voted, and the house cost \$2,200. It was dedicated November 19, 1870, Colonel Horner delivering the address. Soon thereafter the first school in the new house was taught, by E. D. Graybill.

CENTRAL DISTRICT, NO. 14.

The original order for the formation of this district is not to be found: but a petition dated March 6, 1868, signed by J. H. Hart and some twenty more residents of the district, asking for a change in the boundaries of the district, seems to have been granted March 9, 1868. The first report is signed by James F. Molesworth, clerk, and dated September 1, 1868. It shows 18 children in the district, and that a public school was then in progress. This was the first school in the district. It was taught by Mrs. Almeda Molesworth, in a cabin standing on the southeast quarter of section 17, belonging to S. T. Cherry. The following year Mr. Molesworth reported 46 children in the district, 38 of whom were attending school, the average attendance being 17, and that Almeda Molesworth had taught a three-months school at a salary of \$22 per month. The school-house was built in 1869; it was a frame building, covered with walnut siding.

NEW HOPE DISTRICT, NO. 15.

This district is located near the north part of Neosho township, east of the Neosho river. The first report is dated September 1, 1868, signed by Edward Spicer, clerk, and shows only that there were 34 children in the district. The next report is signed by O. Sweet, clerk, and shows 50 children in the district, with 42 attending school, the average attendance being 24, and that Miss Jennie M. Beck had taught a three-months school at a salary of \$15 per month.

CONCORD DISTRICT, NO. 16.

On January 29th, 1868, L. A. Rogers and James W. Galyen presented a petition for the formation of this district. It was made to embrace the northwestern part of Neosho township and the northeastern part of North township. Prior to this, Superintendent Newlon seems to have formed, or to have contemplated the formation of, this district, but no order for

such formation is to be found. The first report, dated August 1, 1868, signed by L. A. Rogers, clerk, shows 33 children in the district, with 37 attending school, and an average attendance of 16. Mrs. Pauline A. Ames had taught a three-months school, at a salary of \$20 per month. A. P. Gore succeeded Mr. Rogers as clerk, and the following year makes two reports—one in August, showing 39 children in the district, 20 of whom had been attending school, and one in October, showing 78 children in the district, 57 of whom had been attending school. E. H. Taylor had taught a three-months school, at a salary of \$33.33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per month. The first school-house in the district was built of logs, the settlers turning out and doing the work; it was located on section 7, in Neosho township, and was put up in the fall of 1868. Subsequently the site was changed to North township, and a good frame building was erected.

LIBERTY DISTRICT, NO. 17.

The original order for the formation of this district is not among the public records. But probably in 1868 Supt. Reed, on the petition of L. N. Shelledy, Samuel Lewis, W. H. Scott, Ed. Mercer, and other residents of the district, made an order for the subdivision of said district; the boundary of this district thereafter to commence at the northeast corner of Liberty township, thence extending south three and one-half miles, to Labette creek. The first report of this district is signed by W. B. Jones, clerk, dated September 14, 1868, and simply shows 21 children in the district. In a report dated September 14, 1869, signed by Charles Denend, clerk, it is shown that there are 53 children in the district, with 10 attending a three-months school, taught by Miss Mary Bowlu, at a salary of \$12 per month; but there is also a report on file dated September 15, 1869, signed by Eli Sayers, clerk, showing 66 children in the district, 44 in school, but not giving the name of the teacher. Evidently one of these is intended for some other district, but both purport to be for District 17.

WOODS DISTRICT, NO. 18.

This district was formed during Superintendent Newlon's administration, but the record thereof is not now to be found. On April 4th, 1868, on the petition of F. W. Latham, it was reorganized and made to embrace a tract three miles square in the southwestern part of what is now North township. The first report, dated September 8th, 1868, signed by Aaron Midkiff, clerk, shows 24 children in the district, but no school. F. W. Latham, clerk, in a report dated August 31st, 1869, reports 45 children in the district, but no school taught. In the spring of 1873 a school-house was erected and well furnished, from the proceeds of \$1,000 in bonds which had been voted.

M'CORMICK (AFTERWARDS CUNNINGHAM) DISTRICT, NO. 19.

According to the records now on file, this district was formed October 7th, 1868, and embraced the northwest part of what is now Mound Valley township. The district seems to have been contemplated in 1867, but the record of its organization, if one was had at that time, is lost. The first report, dated October 15th, 1868, signed by William Jones, clerk, shows 18 children in the district, but no school. On August 14th, 1869, the first meeting was held, at which it was decided to locate the school-house on the northwest corner of Mrs. McMichael's claim, and to circulate a subscription paper for material for building a school-house. J. Bishop, clerk, reported 13 children in the district at that date. The first school in the district was taught in a "shake" claim-house, with dirt floor, on section 26, township 32, range 17, by Mrs. Mollie Courtney, commencing in September, 1869. This was a subscription school, and continued for three months. In 1870 the board consisted of J. H. Beggs, director; H. B. Griffith, clerk; and J. M. Courtney, treasurer.

WILD CAT DISTRICT, NO. 20.

The original order for the formation of this district is in the handwriting of Supt. Newlon, and seems to have been the last district formed under his administration. It is located in Montana township, east of the Neosho. Aside from the order for its organization, there is nothing on file showing that anything had been done therein prior to April 20, 1870, when the petition of Daniel Hoy and others was presented for a change in this district, which seems to have been made; also reorganization thereof had in the early part of 1874. The first report on file is dated September 12, 1870, signed by James White, clerk.

RED ELM DISTRICT, NO. 21.

This district is located in the southwest corner of Neosho township. There is nothing of record, either original or copies, showing when it was organized. It must have been during Supt. Newlon's administration, or very soon after Supt. Reed came into office. The first report, dated September 10, 1868, is signed by Newberry Cooper, clerk, in which he says that they have had no school, but will have the following winter if they can get their house completed in time. The report shows 54 children in the district. September 15, 1869, Mr. Cooper again reports, showing 68 children in the district, 47 of whom have attended a three-months school taught by Miss Mary Slane, who has received \$2 per scholar, there being no public money in the district.

SPRING HILL DISTRICT, NO. 22.

On a petition of Harvey I. Cox and others, dated January 19th, 1869, this district was formed, embracing the southwestern corner of North

township. The first election was held at the house of Harvey I. Cox, on February 13th, 1869. Harvey I. Cox was the first clerk. In 1870 a frame school-house was built, which was replaced with a fine brick house some five years ago.

CLOVER DISTRICT, NO. 23.

Under date of March 28th, 1869, Superintendent Elliott made an order for the formation of District No. 23, in the northeast part of Oswego township, north and east of the Neosho river, and appointed the first school meeting to be held at the house of D. M. Clover, April 7th, 1869. On August 31st, 1870, what is marked as the second annual report was made by L. W. Crain, which is the first now on file. It shows 33 children in the district, 24 of whom were attending school, with an average attendance of 20. The school-house was not plastered until 1871.

OAK GROVE DISTRICT, NO. 24.

On March 11th, 1869, the petition of W. S. Newlon, R. W. Bagby, S. Holbrook, C. Montague, F. Swanwick and others was presented for the formation of a new district. Upon this petition the order of the Superintendent was made, forming District 24, embracing the north part of Oswego township and the south part of Montana township. The first officers were: C. Montague, director; Henry Lively, clerk; F. Swanwick, treasurer, chosen at the first meeting, which was held at the house of W. Lane, April 10th, 1869. The first report is dated September 14th, 1869, signed by Henry Lively, showing 42 children in the district, 38 in attendance upon school, with an average attendance of $13\frac{1}{3}$, and a subscription school having been taught by Miss Amanda Powers. This was the first school in the district, and was taught in a cabin on the southeast quarter of section 5, Oswego township. In January, 1870, a log house was built at the southwest corner of section 33, in Montana township; it was built by subscription for church and school purposes. The first public school in the district was taught by Henry Lively, commencing in this house as soon as it was completed. The next school was taught by John P. Jones, commencing November, 1870. On September 27, 1873, at a public meeting of the district, a new school-house site was selected, on section 5, and it was voted to erect a stone school-house thereon.

BREESE DISTRICT, NO. 25.

February 15, 1869, C. M. Fentriss, M. Huntley, G. W. Yandle, L. W. Leak, and several other residents of the territory, petitioned for the formation of a district in the northwest corner of Richland township, lying east of Labette creek. The petition was granted, and District 25 was organized. There are no officers reported until 1870, when the board consisted of Lewis W. Leak, director; L. F. Summers, clerk; and H. C.

Hardway, treasurer. The school-house was built in the summer of 1871, and in it, in the fall of that year, John Lawrence commenced teaching the first school in the district.

HIATT DISTRICT, NO. 26.

On April 17, 1869, an order was made for the formation of District 26. No boundaries are given in the order, but it seems to have been situated in Hackberry township. The first meeting was held at the house of G. W. Franklin, April 30, 1869. On September 14, 1869, James McRoberts, clerk, reported 40 children in the district, but that no school had been taught. In 1870 the board consisted of J. M. McCoon, director; G. W. Franklin, clerk; George S. Downing, treasurer.

DICKERMAN DISTRICT, NO. 27.

On April 18, 1869, this district was formed, and embraced the central portion of Fairview township, extending east as far as Labette creek. The first meeting was held at the house of Joseph Barker, on April 6, 1869. September 7, 1869, A. S. Potter, clerk, reported 56 children in the district, no school having yet been taught therein. In the fall of 1869 a subscription school was taught by Esther Biggs, in a log house on the northwest quarter of section 23. Thomas Bulwer was director, A. S. Potter clerk, and E. Wiggins treasurer, in 1870. In the fall of 1870 the first public school in the district was taught, by Mary E. Dickerman, in a frame house on the northwest quarter of section 27. A school-house was built in the spring of 1871, which, on May 21, 1885, was burned to the ground.

LOCKARD DISTRICT, NO. 28.

This district is situated in the central part of Hackberry township, south of Hackberry creek. The first official document which I now find among the public records relative to District 28 is an annual report dated August 31, 1870, signed by John Shumeker, clerk. The only item of information contained in this report is that they have 24 children in the district; no school is yet reported. I can find nothing further among the public records indicating when it was organized.

STOVER DISTRICT, NO. 29.

This district was formed April 29, 1869, on a petition of J. P. D. Mouriquand, J. M. Logan, George Pfaff, and others, and embraced a tract in the north part of Fairview township extending west from Labette creek. The first election was held at the house of J. S. McManis, on May 11, 1869. September 8, 1869, M. H. Logan, clerk, reported 34 children in the district, but that no school had been taught. The first school-house was built in the fall of 1869.

HARMONY GROVE (OR CARPENTER, NOW MORTIMER) DISTRICT, NO. 30.

This district is located in the central part of Osage township. A log

house was used for the first school-house in the district, and in it William Jeans taught the first school, in the summer of 1869. In the summer of 1871 a frame house was built, and in it the following winter the first school was taught, by John Stroud. The first school board consisted of Leroy F. Dick, director; William H. Carpenter, clerk; and Henry Reed, treasurer. Another reports the board to have been: W. H. Carpenter, director; George N. Jeans, clerk; and J. H. Dienst, treasurer.

PRAIRIE VALLEY DISTRICT, NO. 31.

This district must have been organized in 1869, although the records concerning its organization are not to be found. As originally constituted, it embraced the entire northwestern quarter of North township; subsequently its territory was much reduced, District 104 having been taken therefrom. There is no report or other official record whatever on file with reference to the district prior to 1871, when the board were: S. Hardman, director; James F. Harris, clerk; A. J. Ingraham, treasurer.

HEACOCK (OR STONE PALACE) DISTRICT, NO. 32.

This district is situated in the northern part of North township. The record of its organization, if one was made, is lost. The first we have is a report made August 31, 1870, by A. Fagan, clerk, showing they have 50 children in the district, 30 attending school, with an average attendance of 22. In 1871 the board was composed of George Miner, J. C. Merwin, and C. W. Rictor.

PARSONS DISTRICT, NO. 33.

A petition dated February 23, 1869, made by R. T. Caldwell, Anson Kellogg, A. Midkiff, S. N. Fultz, A. Fultz, Maria Hussey, George Brock, and several others, was presented to the Superintendent, on which he soon thereafter made an order for the organization of District No. 33, embracing, in addition to the territory now composed in that district, several additional sections. The first meeting was held at the house of Aaron Midkiff, at which the following officers were elected: Anson Kellogg, director; George M. Wilson, clerk; Joseph Simpson, treasurer. September 10, 1869, George M. Wilson, clerk, reported 20 males and 14 females in the district on the 31st of August, 15 of whom—10 males and 5 females, with an average attendance of 10—were in school, in progress at that time, taught by Maria Hussey, at a salary of \$16.66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per month. This school was taught in an out-house belonging to A. Midkiff, on the southwest quarter of section 19, North township. The next school was taught from September to December, 1870, by Miss Sophronia Emery, in a vacant log house belonging to Samuel Eves, on the northeast quarter of section 24, in Walton township. This was the first public school taught in the district. On March 31, 1870, the first annual meeting was held, at

the house of Aaron Midkiff, and the following officers elected; Anson Kellogg, director; H. L. Partridge, clerk; George Brock, treasurer. The latter failing to qualify, W. K. Hayes was soon after appointed to fill the vacancy; and this same board was continued in office during two years. In March, 1872, they elected Dr. G. W. Gabriel director, T. C. Cory clerk, and Dr. T. R. Warren treasurer. At the meeting held March 31, 1870, the board were directed to take steps to build a school-house. On September 17th of that year, bonds in the sum of \$1,000 were voted, and the board purchased lots 15 and 16 in block 72, and on this, during the winter of 1870 and the spring of 1871, a one-story frame building was erected as the first school-house in the district. It was not completed until June, and was accepted by the board August 1, 1871. On May 8, 1871, Miss Kate Squires and Miss Sophronia Emery began a subscription school in the new school-building, which was then inclosed but not fully completed. On August 10th the board decided to enlarge the building by adding six feet on the west end, making two school-rooms. This house was afterward bought by the colored people, to be used as a church. The house thus completed was built with the proceeds of the \$1,000 in bonds. In the fall of 1871 the school opened in the new school-house, with E. H. Taylor and Miss Sophronia Emery as teachers. On October 3, 1871, on a vote to issue \$15,000 in bonds with which to erect a new school-house, there were 108 votes in favor of the proposition, and but 5 against it. The bonds were sold at 87½ cents on the dollar. In January, 1872, the contract for the erection of this building was let to T. B. Douglas, of Clinton, Missouri, for \$11,993. On his failure to give bond satisfactory to the board, they attempted to take the contract from him and give it to Martin Mason, also of Clinton, Missouri, at the agreed price of \$13,000; but the district assumed to overrule this action, and allowed Mr. Douglas to go on with the work. He failed to complete his contract, and the district had the loss to sustain. The building was completed and ready for the opening of school in the fall of 1872. In March, 1873, Parsons was incorporated as a city of the second class, whereupon the board of education was elected at the city election, in April. Presidents of the board: 1873, George A. Reynolds; 1874, O. L. Hall, George W. Briggs; 1875, G. C. West; 1876-79, A. Wilson; 1880-81, R. H. Patrick; 1882, William Moir; 1883, S. W. Kniffin; 1884, J. M. Gregory; 1885, W. J. Quick; 1886, I. N. McCreery; 1887, J. M. Caldwell; 1888, R. D. Talbott; 1889-90, J. T. Tinder; 1891, A. H. Tyler; 1892, O. H. Stuart, G. H. L. Cope-land. Clerks: 1873, J. H. Metier, W. A. Gillam; 1874, P. M. Griffin; 1875, M. Noyes; 1876, George Thornton; 1877-81, James Grimes; 1882-86, A. H. Tyler; 1887, C. W. Duzan and A. G. Thurman; 1888, A. H.

Tyler, A. G. Thurman; 1889, Mary S. Outland and J. W. Iden; 1890-92, J. W. Iden. Principals: 1872, J. H. Griffith; 1873, David Donovan; 1874, Mrs. E. J. Collins; 1875, Mrs. Jennie Arthur. Up to 1876 the schools were superintended by citizens who were not teachers, and who were expected to do little more than have a general oversight, to know what the schools were doing. J. G. Parkhurst and M. W. Reynolds were two of the parties who filled this position. Commencing with 1876, the superintendents had charge of the school, and did more or less teaching. Superintendents: 1876, B. F. Hickey; 1877-79, M. Chidester; 1880, O. M. McPherson; 1881-87, L. Tomlin; 1888-90, C. H. Harris; 1891-92, H. C. Ford. The first graduating class was in 1882, and consisted of but one pupil, Maud G. Keyser. Those who have graduated from the school up to this date number 75. There are now five brick school-buildings in the city, viz.: the first, built in 1872, in the second ward, on the west half of block 3, costing \$15,000; the second, erected in 1880, in the third ward, between Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth streets and between Belmont and Corning avenues, costing \$10,000; the third, erected in the first ward, in 1881, on block 111, cost \$6,000; the fourth, erected in 1884, in the fourth ward, situated west of block 160, cost \$12,000; the fifth, in the third ward, erected in 1889, on block 210, cost \$10,000. A high-school building, to cost \$35,000, is now in process of construction.

WHEATLAND (OR HARD-PAN) DISTRICT, NO. 34.

This district was formed July 8th, 1869, and embraced a tract in Mound Valley township, west of Pumpkin creek and north of the line between townships 32 and 33. The first election was held at the house of C. Lyerly, July 2d, 1869. J. M. Richardson was the principal one interested in the organization of this district. The first school taught in the district was in a house belonging to Mr. Richardson, by his son, J. M. Richardson, jr. The school was taught for several years in this house. Bonds were thereafter issued, and a new school-house erected. In 1870 the officers were: J. M. Richardson, director; William Reeder, clerk; John B. Campbell, treasurer.

SNOW HILL DISTRICT, NO. 35.

This district was formed July 9th, 1869, and embraced a tract in the southwest part of Osage township, most of it lying in what is now Montgomery county. The first election was held at the house of A. W. Cook, July 20th, 1869. When this territory was attached to Montgomery county this district became disorganized. In 1872 a new district was organized, in the extreme southwestern corner of the county, and was given this number. Its first officers were; Wm. Mabrey, director; W. S. Getsyendinger, clerk; W. B. Roberts, treasurer. Mr. Mabrey was director for

fourteen years. Some time thereafter a storehouse in Parker was purchased, and moved out to the district for its first school-house.

MOUNT ZION DISTRICT, NO. 36.

This district was formed July 10th, 1869, and lay in the southwest part of Osage township. The first meeting was held July 20th, 1869. Miss Josie Hockett taught her first school in a log cabin on the southeast quarter of section 6, township 32, range 18. The first board now shown by records was that for 1870, and was composed of S. C. Hockett, director; Charles Beggs, clerk; and William Johns, treasurer.

TIMBER HILL DISTRICT, NO. 37.

This district was formed July 10th, 1869, and lay in the southern part of Osage township. The first election was held at the house of F. Labadie, July 20th, 1869. In fall of 1869, E. D. Graybill induced the settlers to put up a log house on the southwest corner of Timber Hill town-site, in which that winter he taught the first school in the district. The following winter W. A. Starr taught in this building. A. W. King was clerk in 1870; he is the only officer reported prior to 1871.

DENNIS DISTRICT, NO. 38,

Was formed July 10th, 1869, and lay in the central part of Osage township, and embraced the present town-site of Dennis. A log house was put up in this district in the spring of 1870, in which Mrs. Lapham taught a three-months school. After the location of Dennis in this district a new frame school-house was erected in town, in the summer of 1885. The district board in 1870 consisted of N. P. Lapham, director; George W. Major, clerk; Jacob Beaty, treasurer.

BRADFORD DISTRICT, NO. 39.

On July 10, 1869, an order was made for the formation of this district, but probably it was not acted on, for another order was made on April 6, 1870, under which the district was formed, and lay in the northwest corner of Walton township. The first meeting was held at the house of M. S. Mason, on April 16, 1870, at which George T. Walton, M. S. Mason and John Lunciford were elected the board for that year.

MOUND VALLEY DISTRICT, NO. 40,

Is situated in the central-eastern part of Mound Valley township, and includes the town of Mound Valley. This district was formed in the summer of 1869, although there is nothing now on file showing that fact. The first annual report was made August 31st, 1870, by Alexander Honrath, clerk; it shows 33 children in the district, 22 in school, with an average attendance of 11. In 1870 the board was composed of Josephus Moore, Alexander Honrath, and L. C. Wilmoth. A new two-story build-

ing was erected in the summer of 1882, and in 1885 an addition was made thereto.

ENTERPRISE DISTRICT, NO. 41.

While there is no record thereof, an attempt must have been made in the summer of 1869 to form this district, which probably failed. It was formed May 12th, 1871, and lay in the southeastern corner of Mound Valley township. The first meeting was held May 27th, 1871, on petition therefor, signed by Joseph Moore, Alexander Honrath, John Campbell, S. W. Slocum, E. Tanner and others. The first school in the district was taught in 1879, by Della Wilson, in a cabin on section 23, belonging to Rev. F. L. Walker. A school-house was not built until 1880.

SALEM DISTRICT, NO. 42.

On June 7th, 1870, E. P. Emery, Wm. R. Ables, and others, petitioned for a district in the southwestern corner of Walton township. I find no record of its formation, but it seems to have been organized soon after the presentation of the petition. S. B. Shaffer, J. A. Jones and G. B. Hughes are reported as the board in 1870. A school-house was built near the southeast corner of section 20 in the spring of 1871. In 1890 this first building was replaced by a new and much better one. The first school in the district was taught by Miss Sophronia Emery, in a log house on R. P. Clark's claim, in the fall of 1870.

ALTAMONT DISTRICT, NO. 43,

Was formed October 4th, 1869, and embraced the southeast corner of Labette township and the northeastern corner of Mt. Pleasant township, and includes the city of Altamont. In 1870 the board were G. Conner, J. C. Murphy, and John Elston. The first school-house was built in 1872, and was used until the number of scholars became so great that it would no longer accommodate them in any way, when it was sold to J. T. Waller, by whom it was moved across the street, where it still stands, and is used for a dwelling. In 1880 the district employed J. B. Jones to erect a new house upon the same site formerly occupied by the old one. The district again outgrew this house, and in 1884 another room had to be added. The building thus improved accommodated the district until 1891, when \$4,000 in bonds were voted, the old school-house was sold to the Christians for the purpose of being reconstructed into a church building, and a new two-story brick school-house was erected under a contract with J. B. Jones, occupying the same site as its predecessors.

SPRING VALLEY (OR CATALPA) DISTRICT, NO. 44.

In 1870 the petition of John Connor, John W. Logan and other citizens was presented for the formation of a district in the southwest corner of Liberty township, which petition was granted, and on January 29, 1870, an order made under which District 44 was organized. William F. Gross

William J. Iliff and S. W. Collins were the first board, elected at the first meeting of the district, held at the house of W. J. Iliff, February 11, 1870.

ELLIS DISTRICT, NO. 45,

Is situated in the northeastern part of Elm Grove township. I find no record whatever in reference to it prior to 1871, except the names of the board for 1870; they were Daniel McIntire, John Lane, and Madison Sharp. The district must have been formed early in 1870. The first school in the district was taught in the summer of 1870, by Sarah Ackerson, afterwards the wife of Henry G. Pore, in her own claim cabin on the northeast quarter of section 14. The school-house was built in 1872, and Lon Blanchard taught the first school in it.

LANEVILLE (OR HARD SCRABBLE) DISTRICT, NO. 46,

Is in the central part of Neosho township, west of the Neosho river. The record is entirely silent as to the date of its formation, and I find no report prior to 1871, but in 1870 the board are reported to be E. H. Taylor, Samuel Frank, and E. H. Wells.

HIATT DISTRICT, NO. 47,

Was formed March 24, 1870, and embraced a tract of land in the southwest of Liberty township and the southeast of Labette township. This district was formed on the petition of Caleb Haskill, T. M. Gibson, and others, dated December 30, 1869. The first school meeting was held at the house of C. T. Haskill, April 4, 1870. P. M. Gibson, Edward Hiatt and C. F. Haskill are the officers reported for 1871.

PLEASANT VALLEY, MORNING, OR KNOT-HOLE DISTRICT, NO. 48,

Is situated in the northeast corner of Liberty and northwest corner of Montana township. In the spring of 1870 the first school was taught, in George Metcalf's old log house on the northeast quarter of section 13, by Miss Sidney Johnson; this was a subscription school. In the spring of 1871 an old store building was moved from Labette and placed on the northeast corner of the southwest quarter of section 12, township 32, range 20; this was the first school-house. Two years later it was moved over onto the southeast quarter. The first school board, as now shown on the county records, was in 1870, and consisted of James Morning, director; S. S. Saytor, clerk; George Morning, treasurer. I judge from all that appears that the district was probably organized early in 1870.

RIPON DISTRICT, NO. 49,

Is situated in the central-southern part of Elm Grove township, bordering on the State line. I have no means of telling from the public records when this district was formed. The first official paper relative to it which I have been able to find is the report made by Jonas Burris, on

August 31st, 1870, showing 48 children in the district, with an average attendance of 21 at school. I find among the records a letter signed by Ben M. Smith, dated September 8th, 1870, in which he says that the district is composed mostly of single men; that their school has been kept but two weeks, the teacher having been paid off and quit; and that in reality the district has no organization. The officers reported for 1870 were: Colton B. Pratt, director; B. M. Smith, clerk; and W. D. Scoggans, treasurer. It is therefore likely the report made by Mr. Burris should be credited to some other district.

STAR DISTRICT, NO. 50.

This district was probably formed in 1870, lying in the southeastern part of Elm Grove township. The first school was taught by Miss Unthank, in the house of Harvey Jones. The first board were: Ira Peck, director; Dr. D. P. Lucas, clerk; and George W. McGeyor, treasurer. The first public school was taught in the winter of 1871 and 1872, by Miss Frank Hall.

DRESSER (NOW VALEDA) DISTRICT, NO. 51.

There is nothing of record showing any successful effort at organizing this district till December 29th, 1875, when an order for its formation was made, and the first election had on March 6th, 1876. The first school-house in this district was an old store building bought and moved from Parker to near the center of section 20, township 34, range 18, in 1879. In 1886 this building was sold, changes were made in the boundary of the district, and the school-house site was changed and placed at Valeda, which had just been started. A new school-house was erected in 1886.

RAYBURN DISTRICT, NO. 52.

This district lies in the central-eastern part of Mount Pleasant township. It was organized under an order made June 8, 1870, and the first election was directed to be held at the house of John R. Eldridge on June 20, 1870. The following officers were elected: (William Skilling, director, but declined to serve); Henry Story, director; G. A. W. Grant, clerk; John Eldridge, treasurer. In 1871 the board consisted of Henry Story, director; G. A. W. Grant, clerk; W. Jones, treasurer. In the fall of 1870 Susan Story taught a subscription school in the Morrison claim house, on S.E. quarter of section 14. In the spring of 1871 the school-house was built, in which, commencing that fall, John Hamblin taught the first public school in the district.

O'CONNOR DISTRICT, NO. 53,

Was organized June 13, 1870, embracing the central-northern part of Walton township. The first school meeting was held at the residence of James Cahill, June 25, 1870. The first officers were William O'Brien, James Cahill, and Timothy O'Connor.

MAPLE GROVE DISTRICT, NO. 54.

On June 20, 1876, Ernest Wadsack, John Richardson, and some twenty more residents of that territory, petitioned for the formation of a district in the northeast corner of Fairview township, which on July 6th was granted and District 54 was organized. This district was, however, originally organized much earlier than this, although there is no record of the fact. In 1870 the board consisted of John Richardson, director; J. L. Williams, clerk; —, treasurer. These are the first officers now shown by the records. The first school in the district was taught by Mrs. W. S. Park, in a cabin on the Dike farm, in the winter of 1870.

FRANKLIN DISTRICT, NO. 55,

Is located in the northwestern corner of North township. There is no record showing the time of its formation, but I learn it was organized in 1868 through the efforts of Mr. Ballentine; perhaps the organization was not till the next year; at least, there is no record of any officers reported in 1869. The neighbors built a small board shanty on the northwest quarter of section 36, in which Elvira Bingaman, daughter of A. W. Jones, taught the first school, in the fall of 1868. A year or two after that the district was enlarged, and a new school-house costing \$700 was built on section 25, in 1872. In 1870 the district board was composed of George Skelton, director; Samuel Ballentine, clerk; Robert C. Livesay, treasurer. This is the first that appears on the county record respecting this district.

ANGOLA DISTRICT, NO. 56,

Was organized in the central part of Canada township, July 13th, 1878. The first meeting was held August 19th, 1878, officers elected and organization perfected. I find no account of any earlier organization, although it seems probable that one must at least have been attempted.

CAMPBELL DISTRICT, NO. 57,

Is located in the south-central part of Oswego township, and must have been organized early in 1870, although there is no record showing such fact. On August 31, 1870, T. Clark reported 47 children in the district, 41 attending school. The officers reported for 1870 are: John Overdeer, director; William Steel, clerk. Alice Spaulding was first teacher, her school commencing in the fall of 1871, in the new school-house which had just been built.

ROCK CREEK (OR ARNOLD) DISTRICT, NO. 58,

Was organized in the eastern part of Canada township, July 23, 1878, and the first meeting held August 21, 1878. No record of any earlier organization exists, so far as I have discovered.

PIONEER DISTRICT, NO. 59,

As originally constituted, embraced the northwest quarter of Mt. Pleas-

ant township. I find nothing on record showing anything of the formation of the district, or anything in reference thereto prior to 1870. For that year the district board are reported to be B. F. Jones, S. M. Canady, and O. B. Clark. The school-house was built in the summer of 1871, and the first school was taught by Mrs. H. Pottinger, wife of Samuel Pottinger.

LAKE CREEK DISTRICT, NO. 60,

Is situated in the central-western part of Hackberry township. There is nothing on record showing when it was formed or what it did prior to 1871, when R. M. Roberts, John M. Morse and William Stevenson are recorded as the officers.

CLOSSAR (OR UNION) DISTRICT, NO. 61.

A petition of Daniel Corell and a number of the neighbors was presented for the formation of a district in the southwest corner of Richland township. There is no record of the date of this, but it seems to have been formed sometime in 1870. The officers for that year were: J. F. Chamberlain, director; F. M. Mendenhall, clerk; and Samuel Hull, treasurer.

FROG POND DISTRICT, NO. 62,

Was formed May 18, 1872, on a petition of P. H. Cherry, G. Spicer and others, and is situated in the southeast corner of Neosho township.

MOUNT TRIUMPH DISTRICT, NO. 63.

James M. Kinnamon, Isaac Wylch and others presented a petition for the formation of a district in the central-northern part of Mound Valley township. It was formed June 18, 1872, an order for its formation having been made on May 20th, 1872. It lies in both Osage and Mound Valley townships.

CRANSTON DISTRICT, NO. 64.

A petition of James Cahill, Wm. O'Brien, Timothy O'Conner and a number of others was presented to the Superintendent for the formation of a school district embracing the central-northern part of Walton township. This petition seems to have been acted upon, and the district formed in June, 1870. There is no record giving anything definite as to its formation farther than is here stated. November 10, 1871, on the application of Wm. M. Rogers, the first election was called for this district.

GLOBE DISTRICT, NO. 65.

Miss Ida Stevenson taught the first school in the district, in the fall of 1870, in a small claim building belonging to J. O. Stotts. There is no record showing when the district was organized, but it was probably early in 1870. The record shows the board in 1870, which must have been the first board, consisted of — Ames, director; O. F. Presson, clerk; and George McDole, treasurer. The first public school was taught by Mrs. H. A. Boleman, in one of the rooms of her dwelling, commencing in the

fall of 1871; she taught several terms in succession there. The district is located in the northeastern part of Mound Valley township.

LEE DISTRICT, NO. 66,

Is situated in the northwestern corner of Labette township. We have no record of its formation or work prior to 1872, when Alfred H. Lee, E. D. Graybill and John B. Daniel were reported as the board.

M'CLINTOCK (OR TRENTON) DISTRICT, NO. 67,

Was organized December 15, 1870, and embraced the southeast corner of Howard township. The first meeting in the district was in the house of E. B. Baldwin, on April 8, 1871, at which the following officers were elected: W. J. McClintock, director; E. B. Baldwin, clerk; Benjamin Wade or J. M. Hart, treasurer. This was the first district organized in Howard township. The first school in the district was taught by J. M. Hart, in a little cabin on his place, in the fall and winter of 1871. This was a subscription school. In the spring of 1872 a new school-house was built, and, commencing April 22, 1872, W. J. Millikin taught the first public school in the district.

FAIRVIEW DISTRICT, NO. 68,

Is located in the western part of Mound Valley township. C. H. Lesley, E. Stapleton and Alexander Moore were interested in the securing of its organization, which was effected under an order made December 30, 1870. The first school-house was built by subscription, out of native lumber, and a school taught therein by Mrs. Hess, in 1871. That year bonds were voted, and the house was remodeled and fixed for a winter school, which was held the following winter. After the division of the district in 1883, additional bonds were voted, and a new school-house was built in 1884. Elisha Stapleton, J. J. Dickens and A. Moore were the first officers.

UNION DISTRICT, NO. 69,

Was formed January 31, 1871, and embraced the southwest corner of Labette township. The first meeting was at the house of Isaac Padget, February 20, 1871. In the summer of 1871 the first school-house was built in the district; this was the first school-house in the township. The first school in the township was taught in this building by Miss Carrie M. Beggs, commencing the first of December, 1871. Andrew J. Heaton, Robert Vance and S. M. Hinshaw were the first officers; in the spring of 1871, John P. Hight, Isaac Padget and S. M. Hinshaw were elected.

FOLAND DISTRICT, NO. 70,

Was formed February 8, 1871, and lay in the eastern part of Hackberry township and western part of Richland. The first meeting was held at the house of Isaac Butterworth, in February, 1871. The first officers

were Samuel Cellars, L. H. Reed, and L. H. Lockwood. The school-house was built, but not plastered, in the fall of 1871, and in that winter James Dickey taught the first school. A new school-house was erected in 1892.

NEWELL DISTRICT, NO. 71,

Was formed May 1, 1871. It lay in the southwest corner of Fairview and the northwest corner of Hackberry. The first meeting was held at the house of G. W. Williams, and the following elected as the board: James Newell, director; Samuel B. Good, clerk; James Pottenger, treasurer. The first school was taught in a building belonging to James McCoy.

VALLEY DISTRICT, NO. 72,

Was formed May 3, 1871. It lies in the central-eastern part of Elm Grove township. The first meeting was held at the house of Henry Pitman, on May 15, 1871. L. Edmondson, D. S. Robbins and C. — were the first officers.

WIMMER (NOW EDNA) DISTRICT, NO. 73.

An order was made May 3, 1871, for the formation of District No. 73, lying in the central part of Elm Grove township, and an election called for May 15, 1871, at the house of Owen Wimmer. The district failed to organize under this order, and on May 30, 1872, a new order was made for the organization of the district, and the first election called for May 30, 1872, at the house of P. C. Goodwin. The building in the district was erected in the fall of 1872, and completed the fore part of December. It was completed on Monday, and on Tuesday W. J. Millikin opened therein the first school in the district. The building stood in the southeast corner of the northwest quarter of section 30, township 34, range 19, and when the railroad was laid out the projected line ran directly through the building. It was then sold to Thomas Bickham, and moved a little to the north and used as a Free Methodist church. In the fall of 1886 a new four-room school-house was erected and furnished, at a cost of \$2,000.

PATRICK (OR SHROUT) DISTRICT, NO. 74,

Embraced a tract of land lying north and west of Oswego, extending from the Neosho river to the west side of the township, and was organized May 8, 1871, on a petition dated April 14, 1871, signed by J. H. Holt, R. P. Bagby, Elisha Hammer, A. C. Baker, and others. The first election was held May 19, 1871. This district has undergone many changes since its organization. After the organization of the district the school was taught for some time in the old college building. After that was torn down and removed a new school-house was built.

ELMWOOD (OR SLOCUM) DISTRICT, NO. 75,

Is located in the central and northern part of Mound Valley township, and was on the petition of Josephus Moore, Seth Wells, R. W. Simpson,

and others, organized by order dated May 12, 1871. The first was held May 25, 1871. The first school officers were S. W. Slocum, Wm. Robbins, and Henry Terwilliger. The school-house was built in the summer of 1871. The following winter a three-months school was taught by Mr. Jones, at a salary of \$25 per month.

ST. JOHN DISTRICT, NO. 76.

This district is situated in the central and western part of Osage township. I have not been able to find any record giving an account of its formation, nor have I found any of the old settlers who can give such information. But the order for its formation was evidently made in 1871. It is said that the first teacher in the district was Miss Sadie Chambers. This has been one of the most enterprising districts in the county, and the school has always stood high.

PLEASANT HILL DISTRICT, NO. 77.

On July 27, 1871, George W. Blake, J. A. Jamison, P. Stevenson, and a great many others petitioned for a district in the southeast part of Osage township, on which the superintendent made an order October 20th, 1871, forming it into District 77, and appointing the first school meeting to be held at the house of J. L. Hills. The first officers consisted of J. T. Hills, director; George W. Blake, clerk; P. Stevenson, treasurer.

WILLOW BRANCH DISTRICT, NO. 78,

Lies in the western part of Mount Pleasant township and eastern part of Canada, and was organized on an order made October 20, 1871. The first meeting was held at the house of S. Briuer, November 19, 1871. W. H. Steel was elected director, D. S. Jackson treasurer, W. H. Mapes, clerk. The first school-house was built by subscription, and in this the day and Sunday schools were held until the erection of the new house.

SYLVAN DALE DISTRICT, NO. 79.

This district is situated in the northwest part of Osage township, and was organized in 1870, on the petition of Wm. Padget and others. The first school was taught by Miss Maxwell; Maggie Adams and Edna Blake were early teachers. The first officers were David Lensy, Paulus Easley, and A. H. Lockhart.

ELSTON DISTRICT, NO. 80,

Was formed January 3, 1872, on the petition of J. T. Waller, John Elston, J. O. King, Thomas D. Bickham and others, on December 19, 1870, in the corners of Fairview, Liberty, Labette and Mount Pleasant townships. The first meeting was held January 20, 1872, at the house of M. V. B. Watson. The following officers were elected: Silas Prayther, director; M. V. B. Watson, clerk; J. O. King, treasurer.

MILLER (OR THE BRICK) DISTRICT, NO. 81.

On June 10, 1872, an order was made for the organization of District 81, in the northwest corner of the county, on the request of J. B. Quinn, It seems that this territory was thereafter formed into a union district. and on March 18, 1875, a new district with this same number was organized, in the southeast corner of Walton township. The first meeting was held April 24, 1875.

CALDWELL DISTRICT, NO. 82,

Originally embraced three miles square in the northeast corner of Labette township, and was formed January 10, 1872. The first meeting was held at the house of John M. Caldwell, January 5, 1872, at which the following officers were elected: L. A. Wood, director; John M. Caldwell, clerk; James Martin, treasurer. Miss Carrie M. Beggs taught the first school, in a private claim house. School-house completed in 1872.

HENDERSON (NOW WILSONTON) DISTRICT, NO. 83.

On January 1, 1872, E. M. Reeder and a number of others petitioned for a district in the central and western part of Labette township. On May 15, 1872, an order for its formation was made, and the first meeting called for May 30th, at the house of William Collins. In the summer Miss Carrie M. Beggs taught the first school, in a claim house. School-house built in 1872.

EMMONS DISTRICT, NO. 84.

This district was formed in the northwest part of Canada township, on an order made March 5, 1872. The first election was held at the house of J. Herrington, March 28, 1872. Otho Wilson taught the first school. Bonds in the sum of \$1,000 were issued, and a house was built in the fall. Alexander Duncan taught the first school therein. The first board was composed of J. J. Higgins, Alexander Duncan, and James Sweet.

LIEB DISTRICT, NO. 85.

On March 26, 1872, Christian Lieb and a number of others petitioned for the formation of a district in the southeast of Canada and northeast part of Howard townships, and on May 15th an order was made for its formation. The first election was called for May 30th, at the house of Christian Lieb. This school-house was built in the summer of 1872, and that winter J. K. Russell taught the first school therein. The first board consisted of Christian Lieb, John D. Vance, and Jonathan Pearson.

SUNNY SIDE DISTRICT, NO. 86,

Was formed June 3, 1872, in the territory adjoining Chetopa on the north. The first meeting was held in the house of J. C. Wright, June 14, 1872, at which the following officers were elected: J. C. Wright, director; L. D. Bovee, clerk; J. B. Sartain, treasurer. A house was built that year.

CECIL (OR LIGGETT) DISTRICT, NO. 87.

Is situated in the southwest corner of Hackberry township. The record of its organization and early history is all a blank. A house costing \$600 is said to have been built in 1872; and the first officers are said to have been William Liggett, director; W. B. Trissol, clerk; A. J. Barnes, treasurer.

EXCELSIOR DISTRICT, NO. 88.

Was formed in the northern part of Mound Valley township, May 3, 1873. The first meeting was held July 30, 1873. Samuel Mayginnis, J. D. Ellison and J. F. Butts were the first school officers. The first school was taught by J. F. Finley, in a house belonging to J. F. Butts, in 1873. The school-house in the district was built in 1874.

NOBLE DISTRICT, NO. 89.

In 1872 a large petition was presented for the formation of a district in the southeast corner of Mount Pleasant township. There is no record of the formation thereof until the spring of 1873. The first meeting was held and the officers elected May 27, 1873.

KEELER DISTRICT, NO. 90.

Was organized in the northwest corner of Elm Grove township, April 26, 1873. The first meeting was held June 5, 1873.

BELLE DISTRICT, NO. 91.

Was formed in the west part of Mount Pleasant township, December 31, 1873. The first meeting was held January 31, 1874.

HAWKINS (OR KINGSTON) DISTRICT, NO. 92.

Is located in the southwest corner of Elm Grove township, and was organized January 29, 1874. The first meeting was held March 3, 1874.

TWIN MOUND DISTRICT, NO. 93.

Was formed in the northwestern part of Osage township, April 4, 1874. The first meeting was held May 23, 1874.

RICHLAND (OR YOUNG) DISTRICT, NO. 94.

Was formed in the northern part of Canada township, June 18, 1874. The first meeting was held August 1, 1874. A school-house was built in the district in the fall of 1874. The first school in the district was taught by Richard McKenzie.

JANES DISTRICT, NO. 95.

April 15, 1872, W. H. Mapes and others petitioned for the formation of a district in the southwest corner of Mount Pleasant township. It does not appear to have been organized prior to June 18th, 1874, when the order therefor was made and the organization completed, August 1, 1874. The first school meeting was held at the residence of Noah Guyman. John Hulse was elected director and Milo Hildreth clerk. The

first school was taught in the summer of 1874, by Mrs. Mary Owens, in a house belonging to Mr. Decker, with an average attendance of less than 4 scholars. School was held in rented buildings until the fall of 1878, when a new school-house was erected, the first school in which was taught by Mrs. Eliza Rust.

HAZEL DELL DISTRICT, NO. 96,

Is a joint district, situated near the northwest corner of the county, in connection with territory in Montgomery county. It was organized in 1872, or at least steps were taken as early as that to secure an organization, and a house was built very soon after its organization. The first board consisted of W. T. Fallon, director; J. T. Finley, clerk; J. W. Phebus, treasurer. The first school was taught by John Stroud.

M'KENNAN DISTRICT, NO. 97,

Was formed in the northwestern part of Howard township, March 11, 1873. The first meeting was held April 10, 1873. The school-house in this district was first built on the west side of Pumpkin creek, and was thereafter removed to the east side of the creek.

BAYLOR DISTRICT, NO. 98,

Located in the southeastern part of Hackberry township, was formed March 12, 1873. The first meeting was held April 15, 1873.

BELL MOUND DISTRICT, NO. 99,

Was formed in the southeastern part of Mound Valley township, March 14, 1873. The first meeting was held April 11, 1873. The first officers were Cyrus Hopkins, M. F. Wakefield, and Ira Ross. In December, 1873, Herman Wade opened the first school. Colin Hodge was treasurer of this district for a number of years.

PIETY HILL DISTRICT, NO. 100,

Was formed in the southeastern part of Richland township, April 15, 1873. The first meeting was held May 22, 1875. That fall a school-house costing \$900 was erected.

WOODRUFF (OR MILL VALLEY) DISTRICT, NO. 101.

Notices of formation of this district were posted October 8, 1880. Officers were elected and organization completed November 8, 1880. This district is situated in the western part of Oswego township.

MAPLE GROVE DISTRICT, NO. 102,

Was organized July 16, 1881, in the northwestern part of Osage township. The first meeting was held at the house of M. E. Sparks, July 16, 1881.

COOK DISTRICT, NO. 103,

Is situated in the southern part of Richland township, and was organized July 28, 1881. The first meeting was held at the house of Wm. Cook,

July 28, 1881. Daniel Corell, E. C. Albrook and a number of other parties petitioned for the formation of this district. The order is dated June 18, 1881.

M. K. & T. DISTRICT, NO. 104,

Is located in the northwestern part of North township, and was organized June 10, 1882. The first meeting was held at the house of S. E. Cornelius, June 10, 1882.

PLEASANT VIEW DISTRICT, NO. 105,

Is located in the eastern part of Mound Valley township, and was organized December 8, 1883. The first meeting was held at the house of R. Terhume, December 8, 1883. The first school officers were A. B. Gibs, H. K. Baker, and J. C. Lesley. A school-house was built in 1884, and the first school was taught there in the winter of 1884, by Miss Lina Gibs.

BALLOU DISTRICT, NO. 106,

Is situated in the northern part of Labette township: was organized February 16, 1884. The first meeting was held at the house of Robert N. Davis, January 11, 1884.

MOOREHEAD DISTRICT, NO. 107,

Is located in the northwestern corner of Osage township, and is a joint district.

ROSEDALE DISTRICT, NO. 108,

Located in the western part of Fairview township, was organized May 6, 1884. The first meeting was held at the house of F. M. Poe, May 16, 1884.

ROSE HILL DISTRICT, NO. 109,

Located in the south-central part of Elm Grove township, was organized April 30, 1884. The first meeting was held April 30, 1884.

BARTLETT DISTRICT, NO. 110,

Is situated in the central part Hackberry township, including the town of Bartlett, and was organized June 3, 1889. The school-house was built that fall, and in it, commencing in December, J. L. Edmundson commenced teaching the first school in the district.

JARBOE DISTRICT, NO. 111.

On February 27, 1892, J. A. Jarboe and William Scott applied for the formation of a new district, and on March 1st the order was made for the formation of a district embracing territory in Walton and Osage townships. An appeal having been taken from the action of the County Superintendent, it was not until July 5th that the hearing was had before the Commissioners, when the action of the Superintendent was sustained. The first election was held July 15th, at which the following officers were elected: William Turner, director; William Scott, clerk; J. A. Jarboe, treasurer. Bonds were soon issued, and a new school-house costing \$500

was erected on the southeast corner of section 13, in Osage township, in which, on October 10th, the first school was opened, by Lillie Willi.

GRADING COUNTRY SCHOOLS.

Prior to 1889 no attempt had been made toward securing uniformity in the course of study and standard of scholarship in the various country schools. At the request of the County Superintendent the County Commissioners made an order on July 3, 1889, authorizing a set of Welch's Classification Records for the use of each school district in the county, together with proper blanks for making reports, etc. A circular letter was sent out by the County Superintendent to each of the teachers, giving information in reference to the examinations that would be required for promotion and graduation. Nearly all the schools in the county adopted the prescribed course of study and made preparations for their students to take part in the examinations that should thereafter be held. The first examination under this arrangement was held on April 18, 1890, at a designated place in each township, where schools in such township could be represented. Ninety-nine applicants were examined, 34 of whom (5 boys and 29 girls) attained the required average, and passed. Commencement exercises were held during the early part of June at several places in the county, and on July 1st the final commencement for all of those who had passed the examination was held at the opera house in Oswego. This work has been continued each year since, with very gratifying results. The entire graduation thus far is as follows: 1890, 5 boys, 29 girls, total 34; 1891, 16 boys, 34 girls, total 50; 1892, 23 boys, 32 girls, total 55.

INSTITUTES.

The first teachers' institute in Labette county was held in Oswego, June 1-4, 1869. It was called and conducted by R. J. Elliott, County Superintendent, with the assistance of the teachers of the county. Peter McVicar, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, was present one day, and lectured in the evening. On November 9-12 of the same year a second session was held, at Chetopa, under the same general direction, with an attendance of 24 teachers. On July 12, 1870, the next session was held in Chetopa, under the charge of the Superintendent. Prof. B. F. Mudge was present at this institute, and rendered valuable assistance. The next session was held in Oswego, commencing June 12, 1871, with Colonel J. W. Horner in charge, and 28 teachers in attendance. General Fraser, State Superintendent, visited this institute, and lectured. Two sessions of the institute were held in 1872, the first at Oswego, commencing February 5th, with 35 teachers in attendance; the second at Chetopa,

commencing November 25th. At the close of this latter session, on November 28th, a county teachers' association was formed. In January, 1873, Miss Mary A. Higby came into office as County Superintendent, and continued to hold the position for six years. Under her superintendency the institutes were even more successful than they had formerly been. One session each year was held at Oswego during the first four years of her administration, viz., 1873-'76, all of which were well attended and gave good satisfaction.

NORMAL INSTITUTES.

In the winter of 1877 the Legislature provided for a four-weeks session, with paid instructors, and a charge to those who attended. Previous to this the institutes had been only from two to five or six days; the instruction had been free, generally given by the County Superintendent and some of the leading teachers in the county. On August 6, 1877, the first institute under this law opened in Oswego, with Prof. J. B. Holbrook as conductor, and over 100 teachers in attendance. The most satisfactory results were attained. This institute went far toward popularizing the idea of a long institute under paid instructors. With the exception of two years, all of the normal institutes, commencing with 1877, have been held in Oswego. Those for 1880 and 1892 were held at Parsons. Up to 1885 the attendance at the institute ranged from about 100 to 135. Since that time, with possibly one exception, the attendance has been considerably larger, reaching 200 in 1891 and 302 in 1892; the latter being, it is said, the largest normal institute ever held in the State. The institutes have been under the charge of a conductor, with usually two and sometimes more assistant instructors. The following is a list of the conductors: 1877-78, J. B. Holbrook; 1879-80, L. M. Knowles; 1881, Buel T. Davis; 1882, Lee Tomlin; 1883, J. N. Ross; 1884, Lee Tomlin; 1885-86, J. W. Weltner; 1887, D. E. Sanders; 1888, J. N. E. Monroe; 1889, C. H. Harris; 1890, T. W. Conway; 1891, C. H. Harris; 1892, J. W. Weltner.

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

No formal organization of the teachers of the county was had prior to 1872, although teachers' institutes had been held since 1869. On November 28, 1872, the teachers' institute having just closed, the teachers who had been in attendance came together and organized a county teachers' association. Miss Mary A. Higby, who had just been elected County Superintendent, was elected its first president, and Mrs. E. Williams secretary. An association has been maintained most of the time since then, a part of the time in a very efficient condition, but sometimes indications of life were scarcely discernible. The meetings have been sometimes

quarterly, and sometimes not so frequently. Nearly all parts of the county have been favored with these meetings, and they have done much toward unifying the work in the county and maintaining a sympathy between the teachers and the patrons of the schools.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

A number of parties at one time or another have started private schools in various parts of the county, some of which have run for quite a length of time, and others have been short-lived. At the close of Miss Mary A. Higby's term as County Superintendent she conducted a private school for a number of months. Subsequently Mrs. J. R. Boulter taught a private school for quite a length of time. C. C. Robins started a school in Oswego, but only conducted it a short time, because of its not being sufficiently attended to justify his continuance. B. R. Cunningham as well as other parties in Chetopa conducted classes for a greater or less length of time. Several similar enterprises have also been had at Parsons. In 1884 Lyman N. Judd opened an institute at Altamont, but failing to get a sufficient amount of patronage removed it to Oswego, but here, too, he met with less success than he had hoped, and after a short time abandoned it.

COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL.

No provision has yet been made for establishing a high school in the county under the provisions of the law now in force, but during the summer of 1892 the County Superintendent arranged for a school to be opened at Altamont, with a course of study similar to that contemplated by the law for a county high school. T. B. Hanna was secured to take charge of the school; the school board of the Altamont district furnished him a room in the new school-house, and on September 15, 1892, he opened with an attendance of 18 boys and 15 girls. The charge is \$2 per month. It is hoped that this may be the start of a real county high school.

HOBSON NORMAL INSTITUTE.

The Friends' Yearly Meeting of Iowa having decided to establish a school for colored children, a committee by them appointed to locate the same decided upon its location at Parsons, and on March 23, 1882, the school was opened. The basis of the fund for starting this school was \$1,000, from a legacy left by Mr. Hobson to be used for the benefit of colored people, and in his honor the school was named Hobson Normal Institute. Prof. D. W. Boles had charge of the school from its organization until his death, in July 8, 1890, since which time A. W. Hadley has been principal. Both Messrs. Boles and Hadley have been assisted by

their wives, and also scholars in the higher grades have done some teaching. The institute has a fine two-story frame building on the corner of Gandy avenue and Twenty-fourth street. It is furnished with maps, charts, reference books, and other material adapted to the instruction in the common branches and the natural sciences. Eighteen have already graduated from the teachers' advanced course, and a larger number have completed the teachers' elementary course. Many of these have themselves become teachers in schools at other points. The school has done a good work, and is likely to prove of permanent worth and to accomplish great good.

OSWEGO COLLEGE.

The first private school of a high grade established in the county was planned and inaugurated by Rev. R. P. Bukey, under the above designation. It was located on the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 17, township 33, range 21, a little northwest of the city of Oswego. In the summer of 1870 Mr. Bukey erected a very nice-appearing two-story frame building, 20 by 36 feet, which contained two good school-rooms. Under his employment Miss Mary E. Claypool opened the school the first week in September, 1870. She remained in charge of the school until the close of the school year the following June, and was the only teacher till the close of December. After the school opened the attendance was so good and the prospects were so flattering that Mr. Bukey planned to largely increase its capacity and to provide for boarding those who came from a distance. He secured the coöperation of John D. Gillette, who was a man of some means, and during the fall and winter of 1870 erected a two-story 20x26 feet frame addition, and also a kitchen and accompanying rooms, which were ready for occupancy in January, 1871. The teaching force was increased by securing Prof. Allen C. Baker as teacher of mathematics. Rev. J. H. Leard was also elected president of the college, but his relation to it was only nominal that year. The following year the faculty consisted of Rev. J. H. Leard, president; Prof. A. C. Baker, teacher of mathematics; Miss P. D. Bullock, teacher of languages; Miss Ella School, teacher of music. Judge S. P. Moore was also announced as teacher of commercial law, but nothing was ever done in his department. There were several boarding students. Neither of the owners had any practical knowledge of school matters, nor was the president able to add any strength to the school. The college opened with very bright prospects, and its first year's history gave promise of its becoming a permanent and flourishing school. Nothing but the inability on the part of those in control to comprehend and provide for its wants prevented its success. After the second year the

school hardly had an existence. The original building was purchased by Mrs. Bettis, who removed it to town and transformed it into a residence. The addition was also brought to town, and out of the material a store was constructed.

OSWEGO COLLEGE FOR YOUNG LADIES.

At a meeting of the Neosho Presbytery, held at Garnett, Kansas, October 3, 1882, a resolution was adopted looking to the establishment of a college within the bounds of the presbytery, and a committee was appointed to report thereon. The committee having reported favorably, Rev. Austin Warner was appointed a committee to lay the matter before the synod, which he did at its October meeting at Ottawa, 1882; and on October 6th, upon the report of the committee, the synod authorized the presbytery to proceed with the establishment of a school as by them proposed. The next day, at a called meeting of the presbytery, a committee of five was appointed to take into consideration the matter of the establishment of such school. A special meeting of the presbytery was called, to be held at Oswego, May 8, 1883, at which it was voted to establish the school at Oswego, and the following were elected as a board of trustees, viz.: Rev. C. H. McCreery, Rev. D. M. Moore, Rev. W. C. Porter, Rev. A. Warner, Rev. John Elliott, B. W. Perkins, C. M. Condon, C. O. Perkins, and Porter Sawyer. Of this board of trustees, B. W. Perkins was elected president, Rev. John Elliott secretary, and C. M. Condon treasurer. A few changes were subsequently made in the board. Rev. W. S. Davis was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the removal of Mr. Moore, and upon his removal from the State, E. P. Allen was elected to fill the vacancy. C. O. Perkins having died, on October 4, 1887, Nelson Case was elected to fill vacancy caused by such death.

On December 23, 1883, the college was incorporated, a charter therefor having on that day been filed in the office of the Secretary of State. On October 4, 1884, on the request of the presbytery therefor, the Synod of Kansas took the college under its jurisdiction.

In the fall of 1885, the citizens of Oswego purchased the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of S. 21, T. 33, R. 21, and presented it to the college as a site for the school. This property was at the time valued at \$17,000. It had upon it a large brick residence, which was considered one of the finest in the county. In December, 1885, Miss Louise Paull was elected principal of the school, and authorized to select other members of the faculty; and with the faculty thus chosen the school was opened in the brick residence above referred to, January 14, 1886. In 1886 C. H. McCreery was elected (nominally) president of the school, with the view of

his taking entire charge of its financial management, and devoting his time to the raising of funds with which to make improvements and provide an endowment. His employment was in no way to affect the control of the principal in the management of the school proper. Mr. McCreery had served but a few months when family afflictions compelled him to resign. Miss Paull continued in charge until the close of the spring term, in June, 1887. Miss Susan H. Johnson was thereupon elected principal, which position she has continued to fill until the present. In the summer of 1887 a large, new frame building was erected upon the college grounds, at a cost of about \$12,000, exclusive of furniture.

CHAUTAUQUA LITERARY SOCIETY CIRCLES.

Among the organizations of a literary character which have been formed in the county there has probably been no other that has maintained such a permanent existence and done as much good work as have the several branches of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle which have been organized and carried on in the county. Small circles were organized at Chetopa and Mound Valley, and regular work was done by these for two or three years, but neither circle awakened as much interest as did those of Oswego and Parsons.

CASE CIRCLE.

This was the first C. L. S. C. to be formed in the county. It was organized at Oswego, September 26, 1878, and was maintained for the next ten years. Three of its members graduated in the first class in 1882. This circle had an average of about 20 pursuing the work designated by the general officers.

GRECIAN CIRCLE.

This circle was organized at Parsons, April 28, 1885, with a membership of 12. Its officers were as follows: President, W. J. Wirt; vice-president, Minnie Merriman; secretary, E. G. Roberts. In October following, the circle took up the regular course of study, and had an enrollment of 35 members; 13 of its members have graduated, and for six years the circle has quite regularly attended the Ottawa Assembly.

CARNATION CIRCLE.

In the summer of 1889 a new circle with the above designation was organized, the number pursuing the course having become too great to do effective work in the Grecian circle, as was thought. This new circle had nearly as large a membership as its parent, the Grecian, and has done effective work.

RAILROADS.

RAILROADS ATTEMPTED TO BE SECURED.

Before speaking of the railroads that have been constructed, it may be interesting to briefly consider some of the projects which were formed on paper, but which never proceeded far enough to materialize into a road composed of wood and iron. If Labette county has succeeded in securing a large number of miles of railroad within her limits, it has only been after repeated efforts and many failures. I shall not attempt to speak of all the projects that have been instituted for bringing roads to this county, but will mention a few on which some work of a preliminary character was done.

O. FT. S. & S. RLY.

On December 19, 1868, J. F. Newlon and other citizens of the county obtained a charter for the Oswego, Fort Scott & Sedalia Railroad Company, the purpose of which was to secure the building of a road from Sedalia to Oswego. So far as I know, this was the first railroad charter obtained by our people. The subsequent building of such a line of road to Parsons shows that this first attempt on the part of our citizens was not without some basis on which to rest.

O. P. & EL P. RLY.

On June 30, 1870, a charter was obtained by R. W. Wright, C. H. Bent, and others, for the construction of the Oswego, Parker & El Paso Railway. The intention was to secure a road from the northeast to Oswego, and thence southwest to Parker and through the Territory. A great many public meetings were held in the interest of this contemplated road, and in the fall of 1870 a preliminary survey was made from Cherokee through Oswego to Parker. All that seemed lacking to secure the success of this enterprise was the necessary financial aid.

F. M. & C. R. RLY.

Among the visions of the eccentric Colonel Hartshorn was one of a railroad running from Florida to the Columbia river through Labette county. John Elston, R. D. Hartshorn, and others associated with them, procured a charter on October 27, 1870, for the construction of the Florida, Memphis & Columbia River Railway. It was some time before the definite location of this road through the county was agreed upon, and such

location was to depend upon the aid that could be secured; but it was finally decided to locate it from Columbus through Montana and Parsons. During 1871 a number of townships voted bonds to aid in the construction of this road.

M. & N. W. RLY.

My impression is that the Memphis & Northwestern Railway Company was a reorganization of the F. M. & C. R. Rly. Co., of which I have just spoken, or at any rate, that the two were some way covering the same territory. This company did quite an amount of work in the winter of 1872-3 on the line of road from Columbus to Parsons. Watson Bros. & Co., of Montana, were the contractors, and secured a large amount of grading to be done and the abutments to be put in for a bridge across the Neosho at that point. This was as far as the work went, and the contractors lost what they had expended in pushing it thus far.

S. FT. S. & S. F. RLY.

Among the many efforts to secure a road from Sedalia or some other point to the northeast of this county, was one by the town of Labette, soon after its location, in 1870. The Sedalia, Fort Scott & Santa Fé Railway Company was organized, and in September, 1870, a preliminary survey was made from Fort Scott to Labette. Arriving at the latter place, the surveying party received a warm welcome, and were feasted at the principal hotel.

P. & S. F. RLY.

Parsons was never content with her railroad facilities. There are few points in any of the adjoining counties to which she has not at some time had a projected railroad. In 1872 the proposition was to build a road southwest to Independence, and a very large amount of the paper work was done to secure it, and some propositions for municipal aid were voted upon.

P. & M. RLY.

The preliminary work for this road was legally done in 1876. It was to run southeast from Parsons through Montana.

C. O. & W. RLY.

In 1883 a company was organized to build a road from Oswego through the county in a southwesterly direction, and thence on west. Some municipal aid was voted to this road, but not enough to secure its construction.

S. C. & S. E. RLY.

In 1886 the Salina, Colorado & Southeastern Railway Company was organized, with a view of running a road through Parsons, Montana and Columbus, extended from these points both northwest and southeast. A right-of-way was secured, and some grading was done. Municipal aid was voted along the line to quite an extent.

CHETOPA'S PROJECTS.

Chetopa was scarcely behind Oswego in her efforts to secure railroad advantages. At a very early day steps were taken by her citizens to induce the building of a road from some point on the Kansas City & Gulf Railway so as to give her an outlet to Kansas City and northeastern points. Representatives of Mr. Joy visited Chetopa, and delegates from that place went to Kansas City, and negotiations were conducted for a long time. Possibly we may say the building of the Minden branch was a realization of these anticipations. Chetopa also made an effort to secure the Atlantic & Pacific, and has always had in view railroad connections with Baxter Springs and the east.

RAILROADS CONSTRUCTED.

From these ineffectual attempts at railroad-building, I wish now to turn to those which resulted in securing the end sought. From the first settlement of the county two lines of road were confidently expected: one from the north and the other from the east. What course they would pursue on entering the county was only a matter of conjecture. Both Oswego and Chetopa expected these two roads, and each took active steps toward securing them. While the first efforts of our people were made toward securing an eastern outlet, the road from the north was the one which their efforts seemed the most likely to secure first.

M. K. & T. RLY.

The Union Pacific, Southern Branch, had received a large railroad grant with the view of securing its construction down the Neosho valley, and it was now in process of building from Junction City in a southeasterly direction. R. S. Stevens was now the general manager, and had under him a corps of enthusiastic lieutenants. The chief, with one or more of his aides, was early on the field to see what could be secured from the municipalities of this county through which it was proposed to construct the road. Their expectations of aid were very large. There were no bounds to the promises they were ready to make as to what the road would do for the various communities through which it was to be built, and the demands made of these communities were proportionate to the benefits promised. It seemed improbable to secure county bonds, nor was there much hope of obtaining aid from any township which did not have within it a town of some importance. The railroad officers had finally to look to Oswego and Chetopa, and the townships in which they were situated, as the chief if not the only points in this county from which they could expect to receive any aid. These places were repeatedly visited, and the matter of railroad municipal bonds was very largely discussed. Both places felt that they were unable to meet the demands

which the officers were making upon them. Where the railroad officials failed to win through the promises of benefits to be derived, they were more successful in securing a compliance with their demands by the disaster which seemed likely to follow their threatened change of route. It being apparent that these municipalities were not likely to extend to the road the amount of aid which they had demanded, the railroad officials proceeded to change the line, which had been originally designated along the Neosho river, and a survey for a new route was made, commencing near the north edges of the county and going west of the Labette river, and striking the State line several miles west of Chetopa. The citizens of Oswego and Chetopa became alarmed. It was evident, as they thought, that the construction of a road where thus located would build up towns on its line which would compel the abandonment of the sites occupied by them. The result was what the railroad officials undoubtedly supposed it would be. These towns were now ready to meet all the demands the company might make upon them. On February 25, 1870, an immense railroad meeting was held at Chetopa, which favored \$100,000 county bonds, and if they could not be secured, then township bonds. But one man in the town was opposed to the project. About this time Messrs. Stevens, Walker, Goss and other railroad officials visited Oswego and Chetopa, and arrangements were finally entered into for the construction of the road at—or, as it afterwards proved, near—these places, on condition of their issuance of bonds as agreed upon. Oswego township, which could with her assessed valuation legally issue bonds to the amount of perhaps \$50,000 or \$60,000, was called upon and did vote bonds to the amount of \$100,000 to aid this road; Richland township gave \$50,000, and Chetopa city \$25,000 for the same purpose. The voting, issuance and delivery of these bonds was secured to the railroad company by a personal obligation entered into between the citizens of these two places to see the contract complied with. Little opposition was had in either place to the voting of the aid thus agreed upon. Of the litigation in respect to these bonds, and the compromise entered into for their payment which afterward took place, I need not here speak. With the aid thus promised and secured, the building of the road was rapidly pushed forward. After reaching the north line of the county, twenty miles of road were laid in eleven days, and in one day four miles and 100 feet were put down. Having reached and passed through Oswego and Chetopa, on Monday, June 6th, the State line was reached, at which time appropriate ceremonies were had. The last spike on the Kansas line was driven by Col. R. S. Stevens, the general manager, and the first spike across the line in the Indian Territory by Col. E. C. Boudinot, the famous Cherokee

who had always favored the building of this road. In the evening of June 6, 1870, the first passenger train which ever entered Labette county passed over the road in charge of John C. Hall, conductor, and David Dunham, engineer. The Sedalia branch of this road was thereafter pushed forward to completion as rapidly as could be done, and on February 3, 1871, the connecting rail was laid uniting it with the Junction City branch at Parsons; and on the 5th of that month the first through passenger train from Sedalia to Chetopa passed over the road in charge of L. S. Hamilton, conductor.

MACHINE SHOPS.—It was the general understanding, when Parsons was designated as the point where the two branches would unite, that shops would be located at that place. In October, 1871, George W. Chess, contractor, broke ground for the round-house and machine shops, under the supervision of George Thornton, civil engineer. In December following, Proctor and Pardee, contractors, commenced the mason work, and by the close of 1872 the machine shops were so far completed as to be ready to commence operation, and in May, 1873, the round-house was ready to receive engines.

GENERAL OFFICE.—Theoretically, the general office of the company has been at Parsons almost from the first building of the road, but it was not until 1892 that practically the offices were located at that point.

M. K. & C. RLY.

The Memphis, Kansas & Colorado Railway Company was organized for the purpose of securing a road from Cherokee, on the Fort Scott & Gulf road, to Parsons, with a view of its extension both ways. The company was formed early in 1877. Parsons first voted \$10,000 to aid this enterprise, and subsequently, after a protracted discussion, some favoring the project and others opposing making any donation, it was voted to take stock to the amount of \$30,000, the bonds to be delivered upon the completion of the road into Parsons. Neosho township voted \$5,000 in bonds. In April, 1878, the track-laying commenced from Cherokee west, and on July 1, 1878, at 10 o'clock at night, the first train arrived in Parsons. The officers of Parsons refused to deliver the bonds, on the ground that the road was not completed by the time specified in the contract. Litigation ensued, which was carried to the Supreme Court, where it was finally determined that the city was not liable, and the bonds were never delivered. In February, 1880, this road was sold to the Kansas City, Fort Scott & Gulf Railway Company, and steps were at once taken to extend it from Parsons to Cherryvale. No municipal aid was voted along the line, but the people of Cherryvale secured the right-of-way as an inducement to its construction. The road thus built from Cherokee

to Cherryvale was narrow gauge; some two or three years after its completion to Cherryvale it was made into a standard-gauge road.

P. & P. RLY.

In December, 1885, the Parsons & Pacific Railway Company was chartered to build a road from Parsons to Coffeyville. C. H. Kimball and Lee Clark were the leading spirits in the movement, and with the aid of eastern capitalists whom they enlisted in the enterprise the road was constructed, in 1886. On September 20, 1886, the first train ran from Mound Valley to Parsons. The company received municipal aid, from Parsons \$40,000, from Mound Valley township \$20,000, Canada township \$20,000, and some from Montgomery county.

K. C. & P. RLY.

During the building of the Parsons & Pacific road to Coffeyville, a company in which the same parties were interested, was formed for the purpose of extending it from Parsons north to Kansas City. In aid of its construction Parsons voted an additional \$20,000, and the municipalities in the counties north, through which the road ran, extended liberal aid. The road was pushed quite rapidly along, and a connection formed with the Kansas City, Fort Scott & Gulf, at Paola.

D. M. & A. RLY.

As early as 1884 an organization was formed of prominent men living along the proposed line of the Denver, Memphis & Atlantic Railroad for the purpose of doing the preliminary work, of securing the right-of-way, municipal aid, and putting the work in such shape that capitalists would be willing to take hold of the enterprise and build the road. Most of the members of this company lived at and between Larned and Chetopa. Col. J. B. Cook was the representative from this county in the company. Maj. Joseph Henson and Col. John Doniphan, of St. Joseph, Mo., who had had some experience in railroad matters and were men of some capital, were also members of the company. Municipal aid was voted in nearly every township through which the road was to be run. A survey and plat was made, and negotiations commenced with Jay Gould for the construction of the road. The time in which the road was to be built under the conditions of the aid first voted having expired before any work was done, a second election had to be held and the aid voted again. The first plan also was to build a narrow-gauge road. In changing to a broad gauge the technical requirements of the law were not observed, and legislation had to be secured to cure defects, so that it was not until May 22, 1886, that the work began at Chetopa extending the road west from that point. Quite an amount of work had been done, commencing at Larned and extending east, prior to that. Two days later than this

the construction train was put on, and by the close of June it was completed as far west as Edna. On July 2, 1886, the first train arrived in Chetopa from Edna, and during the summer Coffeyville was reached. The following aid was extended to secure the construction of this road through this county: A subscription of several hundred dollars by the citizens of Chetopa, and municipal aid: from Hackberry township, \$10,000; from Elm Grove township, \$20,000; and from Howard township, \$20,000.

NEVADA & MINDEN BRANCH.

During the fall and winter of 1885-6 efforts were made by different citizens of the county to secure the extension of the road from Nevada, Mo., in a southwesterly direction, but it was finally determined to build it to Chetopa; that place securing for it the right-of-way for about twenty miles and giving it thirty acres of ground in the city for depot and yard purposes. During the spring the work on it was rapidly pushed forward, and on April 6, 1886, the first train over this branch arrived in Chetopa.

L. L. & G. R. R.

It was at first expected that this line of road would run through the western part of the county its entire width from north to south, but on the organization of Montgomery county it was proposed to change the route, and that county voting liberal aid, the proposed location was changed so that the road only crosses the northwestern corner of this county a short distance and then enters Montgomery.

ST. L. & S. F. RLY.

To secure connection with St. Louis was among the first things that the citizens of Oswego desired after the town was fairly started. The first effort in this direction of which I have any knowledge was the organization of a local company known as the Oswego, Carthage, Mount Vernon & Springfield Railway Company, for which R. W. Wright and others secured a charter January 27, 1869. On December 9, 1870, the *Oswego Register* published an account of the proposed extension of the Southern Pacific Railway from Springfield to Wichita. About that time delegates from Oswego attended meetings at Carthage and Columbus, at which the project was talked up.—On May 21, 1870, on the petition of quite a number of citizens, the Board of County Commissioners made an order submitting to the voters of the county a proposition to issue county bonds in the sum of \$150,000 to the Southern Kansas Railway Company on condition of its building a road through the county seat, and west as near the center of the county as practicable. This left out important points in the county through which the road could not pass, and before the day fixed upon for voting the proposition was withdrawn.—On December 20, 1870, a meeting was held at Oswego, at which it was determined to have

an east-and-west road. On May 23, 1871, Oswego voted \$75,000 in bonds for the Atlantic & Pacific Railway. On this proposition there were but five votes against the bonds. On June 28, 1871, delegates from Montgomery, Labette and Cherokee counties met at Oswego, and decided to form a local company to aid in procuring the road from Springfield west. On August 13, 1871, a charter having been procured, the directors of the State Line, Oswego & Independence Railway met at Oswego, and organized by electing H. G. Webb of Labette county president, Milton Douglas of Cherokee county vice-president, A. W. Jay of Cherokee county secretary, J. B. Emerson of Montgomery county treasurer, and J. J. Browne of Labette county attorney.—In September, 1872, a survey for the line of road from Minersville to Oswego was made. Another local company, designated the Memphis, Carthage & Northwestern Railway Company, had been formed, and contracts for the construction of the road as far as Oswego were entered into. A large force of hands was put upon the road, and the grading was nearly completed. While the bonds which had been voted could not be legally issued until the road was completed to Oswego, still, to aid its construction, by general consent of the citizens a part of the bonds of Oswego township were sold and the proceeds applied towards paying for the grading. Without going into details, it is sufficient to say that this local company failed, and for some time nothing further was done toward the extension of the road. On January 4, 1875, Joseph Seligman bought this Memphis, Carthage & Northwestern road, and in February a new company was formed. On March 22, 1875, the Pierce City & Kansas Railway Company was consolidated with the State Line, Oswego & Independence Railway Company, the consolidated companies taking the name of the Missouri & Western Railway Company. Joseph Seligman was president and Edward Livingston secretary and treasurer. Additional bonds were voted by Oswego city and township. To show the interest which Oswego felt in securing this road, it may be mentioned that one evening at a public meeting held in the court-house personal aid to the amount of \$32,745 was promised, all of which was afterwards paid, to secure this enterprise. On June 15, 1876, definite arrangements were made with Seligman for the construction of the road. Hobart & Condon were awarded the contract for preparing the road-bed from Minersville to Oswego. From this time the work progressed satisfactorily, and on Thursday, December 14, 1876, just at dark, the construction train reached the foot of Commercial street, in the city of Oswego. The end of the road remained at Oswego until 1879, when arrangements were made for pushing it westward, and during that season it was completed as far as Wichita. This construction was done in

the name of a local company and with Hobart & Condon as chief contractors, but as soon as it was completed it came under the management of the Frisco company.

STRIKES.

There have been at least three strikes upon the M. K. & T. which have more or less affected the people of this county. In July, 1877, the workmen at other points on the road struck; the men engaged in the shops at Parsons did not formally strike, but appointed a committee to confer with the strikers; work was suspended for some time, but matters were finally arranged between the company and its employés so that no strike was made in this county.—In March, 1885, the workmen in the shops at Parsons, as well as the train-men generally, went out on a strike. For a number of days freight traffic was completely blocked, but passenger trains continued to be operated. The differences between the company and its hands were satisfactorily settled, and they all, or nearly all, were taken back into the company's employ.—The most serious of all the strikes was in March, 1886. It extended all along the line of the road. On March 6th the machine shop whistle at Parsons sounded at 10 o'clock A. M., and the entire force of railroad employés ceased work and marched out. An effort was made by the Governors of Kansas and Missouri to effect a settlement of the matters of difference between the company and its hands, but they were unsuccessful. New men were employed by the company, but were not allowed to work, the old employés being of sufficient force to prevent their performing their duties. The strikers placed a guard around the company's property to prevent its being injured, but would not allow anyone to assist in moving trains. Adjutant General Campbell came down from Topeka and conferred with the strikers, but could not prevail upon them to come to any terms. Toward the last of March many of the strikers became more desperate and defying than they had been at first. Not only was force used to prevent freight trains from running and to "kill" the engines on all trains that attempted to pull out, but some went so far as to interfere with passenger travel. The track just north of the Bachelor creek bridge was loosened, and the north-bound passenger train was ditched. Had the train been going south instead of north it would have been plunged into the creek, and the result would necessarily have been fatal to many persons. Attempts were also made to burn some of the bridges. The citizens of Parsons organized for the purpose of assisting the company in running its trains, but the striking force was so strong that they were not able to accomplish their object. On the evening of April 2d seven car-loads of the State militia came into Parsons over the Neosho division,

and about the same time several more car-loads over the Sedalia division, and soon thereafter several more cars arrived over the Gulf road. The arrival of the soldiers was a complete surprise to the strikers, as they had not learned that the militia had been called out. The soldiers at once took control of the entire railroad property and prevented anyone from entering the premises, placed those who had been employed by the company in charge, and at once trains commenced to move. The strike was over. The soldiers remained several days, until everything was quiet and the citizens' organization felt itself strong enough to preserve the peace. The leaders among the strikers were arrested on a criminal charge, and a number of them were tried and convicted. They were punished by fine and imprisonment in the county jail. The great body of those who participated in the strike permanently lost their places in the railroad employ, and many of them were practically financially ruined.

POLITICAL.

I give the following letter as bearing upon the organization of political parties in the county :

“LAKE CITY, COLO., April 5, 1892.

“FRIEND CASE: I am not much at writing history, and can only give you some of the points where I was interested and so remember them. You are right about the organization of the party at Trotter's ford and Jacksonville. It was there agreed to make no opposition to the organization of the southern part into an independent county. It was also agreed that they were to nominate all the candidates for Neosho county from the northern part, and that we from the south part should abstain from voting for or against them, and should organize on our own account, and trust to the Legislature to legalize our action. According to that agreement, a mass meeting of the Republicans was called soon after, and met in the open air outside of Carr & Bridgman's store, in the east part of what is now Oswego. Dr. J. F. Newlon was elected as its chairman, and the meeting then proceeded to nominate candidates for Representative and for county officers. I was nominated for Representative, Ben. Rice for Sheriff, Sam. Collins, John Rice, and I think Norris Harrer, for County Commissioners; A. T. Dickerman for County Clerk, I think. You can verify these names from the records. After my admission to the Legislature the programme was carried out. Although our action was irregular, I found all the members and State officers willing to render any assistance in their power. A resolution was at once introduced legalizing my election, and I was admitted to my seat. I then went to Governor Crawford with our petition for appointment of temporary county officers, and had those elected in the fall appointed.

“The Democratic party in 1866 nominated W. C. Watkins for Representative. Very truly yours,
C. H. BENT.”

GREENBACK ORGANIZATIONS.

The introduction of greenbacks into the politics of this county (not as an element of bribery, but as an organized body of voters) dates from 1877, when the first ticket was put into the field by the Greenback party. But of course there was some work done before that time in the way of organizing clubs and disseminating the principles of the party. I am not able to say definitely when and where the first organization was effected. The first mention which I have found of this organization is a card published in the *Advance* of September 16, 1875, signed by J. W. Caldwell, calling a meeting of those who were favorable to organizing a greenback club, to be held at Drake's Hall, Chetopa, September 18, 1875. I have

no information as to whether or not the organization was effected, but probably it was not, or if so did not live long. Sometime in 1877 a club was organized at the Slocum school-house, District No. 75, in Mound Valley township. On May 18, 1878, a club was organized at the Valley school-house, District No. 72, in Elm Grove township. During this spring a number of clubs were organized and a more perfect county organization was effected in a convention held at Parsons in April. After 1883 there was little life manifested by this party under its organizations as then existing.

THE FARMERS' AND LABORERS' UNION

Was organized at Mound Valley in the latter part of 1885. It was conducted with open doors as a reform club till June 9, 1886, when a secret work was adopted and a secret organization perfected by the following charter members: George Campbell, Dr. E. Lemon, J. K. Russell, I. M. Evans, W. N. McCoid, William Clark, Joseph Riff, J. White, N. Clark, B. F. Miller, B. F. Ralls, and E. H. Barnhart. Under the leadership of Mr. Campbell a number of lodges were instituted in this and adjoining counties, and the organization was extended to other States. In 1886 Mr. Campbell established and during 1887 conducted a paper called *United Labor*, for the purpose of giving publicity and strength to the new organization. Whatever may have been the good effects of this effort on others I do not know, but it proved a very disastrous undertaking financially to Mr. Campbell. After spending several thousand dollars in the attempt to put it on a paying basis, the publication of this official organ ceased, after being conducted about a year. In 1889 this organization was merged in that of the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union.—In the meantime, out of this and other labor organizations there had sprung up a new political party, which took the name of the Union Labor party, which was organized at Cincinnati, February 22, 1887. John W. Breidenthal, being one of the delegates from Kansas, was made chairman of the State committee. He at once took active steps towards organizing the party in this county. The first club in the county was organized at Edna, in March. This was soon followed by others. A mass convention was called, to meet at Altamont, August 5, 1887. This meeting was largely attended. George E. Stone, of Howard township, was made chairman. To prevent being imposed upon, a pledge was required of all parties participating in its proceedings to support the Union Labor ticket: 137 signed this pledge. The party was then organized, and Wm. Cook was made chairman of the central committee. To Mr. Breidenthal is, in a large measure, due the victory which the party achieved that fall, for he was instrumental in bringing a number of their best speakers into

the county, among whom were Gen. J. B. Weaver, H. A. Streeter, Jesse Harper, Moses Hull, and Capt. Geo. W. Bell. With the exception of Commissioner, this party elected the entire county ticket that fall.

FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

This organization so far as it relates to this county dates from January, 1889, when Mount Zion Sub-Alliance was organized, in Osage township. This was followed by Pleasant Hill, in the same month, and on February 12th Globe Alliance was organized, in Mound Valley township. These organizations were formed by C. McIlvain. According to one report Angola Alliance was organized before either of those above named. The County Alliance was formed at Altamont, on May 18, 1889. It has had the following officers: Presidents—G. J. Coleman, E. A. Richcreek, Daniel Pfaff, G. J. Colmena, Ben Johnson. Secretaries—C. L. Albin, Walter Phillips, Harry Mills, George Campbell.—Out of this, and the organizations which preceded it, in 1890 sprang the People's party.

POLITICAL CONVENTIONS.

REPUBLICAN COUNTY CONVENTIONS.

The Republican party in this county was organized in 1866. The following are the steps taken to secure such organization, and to hold the first convention.

The fore part of August, 1866, a number of Republicans were assembled at the store of Roe & Dennison, at the Erie postoffice, about a mile north of the present site of Erie. Political matters were talked over, and it was decided to call a convention at Trotter's ford, to organize the Republican party. Afterwards, by request of those residing in the southern part of the county, (in what is now Labette county,) the place of meeting was changed from Trotter's ford to Jacksonville. Delegates having been selected from all parts of the county in such way as each locality chose, they met in convention in a grove some two or three hundred yards north and about the same distance west of what is now the southeast corner of Neosho county, on Saturday, September 8, 1866. A Mr. Nugent (?) was chairman, and J. A. Wells secretary. At the request of the delegates from the southern part of the county, the nominations for the county officers were all made from those residing in the north half, with the agreement on their part that at the next session of the Legislature the county should be divided. On motion of G. W. Kingsbury, it was voted that when the division was made the southern part should be called (as they then wrote the word) La Bet county. J. S. Waters was recognized as the chairman of the delegation from the southern half of the county.

Following we give a summary of various political conventions which have been held in Labette county, from 1866 to 1892, inclusive:

In October, 1866, a Republican convention was called for the proposed new county of "La Bet" (alluded to above). It met in the open air near Carr & Bridgman's store, Oswego; J. F. Newlon chairman, A. T. Dickerman secretary. The following ticket was nominated: County clerk, A. T. Dickerman; sheriff, Benjamin A. Rice; clerk district court, Elza Craft; register of deeds, George Bent; county assessor, Jabez Zink; probate judge, David C. Lowe; county treasurer, C. C. Clover; superintendent public instruction, J. F. Newlon; coroner, G. W. Kingsbury; representative, Charles H. Bent; commissioners, S. W. Collins, C. H. Talbot, and Bergen Van Ness.

J. S. Waters, chairman central committee.

March, 1867, open air, near Carr & Bridgman's store, Oswego; J. F. Newlon chairman, A. T. Dickerman secretary. County clerk, A. T. Dickerman; county treasurer, C. C. Clover; sheriff, Benjamin A. Rice; county assessor, Francis Wall; clerk district court, R. S. Cornish; probate judge, Bergen Van Ness; register of deeds, Elza Craft; superintendent public instruction, John F. Newlon; coroner, George W. Kingsbury; surveyor, Z. Harris; commissioners, Nathan Ames, William Shay, and David C. Lowe.

September 1, 1867, Benj. A. Rice, chairman. Representative Eighty-fifth district, J. S. Waters; sheriff, John N. Watson; coroner, G. W. Kingsbury; county clerk, C. E. Simons; county attorney, W. J. Parkinson; county treasurer, Bergen Van Ness; probate judge, David C. Lowe; commissioners, Isaac Butterworth, William Logan, J. F. Molesworth; superintendent public instruction, Enos Reed; clerk district court, R. S. Cornish; county surveyor, S. R. Southwick; register, Charles Beggs; county assessor, J. R. Morrison.

C. H. Bent chairman central committee, J. S. Waters secretary.

September, 1868, Oswego.* Representative Eighty-fifth district, Dr. D. D. McGrath; probate judge, H. M. Minor; superintendent public instruction, R. J. Elliott; county attorney, Walter P. Bishop; county clerk, Charles C. Beggs; clerk district court, Robert Steele; county commissioner first district, Elisha Hammer.

E. R. Trask chairman central committee, W. H. Carpenter secretary.

September 17, 1869, court-house, Oswego. Probate judge, W. H. Witlock; treasurer, Harvey I. Cox; sheriff, J. C. Wilson; county attorney, J. S. Waters; county clerk, L. C. Howard; register, P. H. Cherry; surveyor, E. G. Davidson; coroner, James Logan; commissioners, first district Gilbert Martin, second J. S. Anderson, third James H. Beggs.

E. Hammer chairman central committee, E. D. Graybill secretary.

September 17, 1870, court-house, Oswego; J. W. Horner chairman, C. H. Lewis secretary. Representative Eighty-fifth district, J. M. Mahr on third ballot over I. W. Patrick and C. H. Bent; probate judge, B. W. Perkins on third ballot over J. Demorst and Davis Vulgamore; county attorney, J. S. Waters, by acclamation; superintendent public instruc-

*In all cases where possible, the names of chairmen and secretaries are given, but in some instances no record of these could be found.

tion, J. W. Horner on first ballot over R. J. Elliott and D. C. Constant; clerk district court, D. S. Morrison on first ballot over Robert Steel and E. D. Graybill; surveyor, G. T. Walton by acclamation, provided Davidson does not get back; commissioner first district, Samuel Ballentine on first ballot over David Stanfield.

T. E. Clark chairman central committee, E. D. Graybill secretary.

October 7, 1871, held at the court-house, Oswego; J. W. Horner chairman, E. E. Hastings secretary. Sheriff, L. S. Crum on first ballot over J. C. Wilson; register, I. W. Patrick on second ballot over J. G. Steel, R. E. Holloway, Levi Seabridge, and Thomas Irish; county clerk, L. C. Howard on first ballot over R. J. Elliott, E. D. Graybill, and George T. Walton; treasurer, C. F. Smith on first ballot over N. Sanford; coroner, J. F. Newlon on first ballot; surveyor, S. R. Southwick, by acclamation; commissioners, first district Henry Stewart, second J. H. Tibbits, third W. H. Carpenter.

J. W. Horner chairman central committee, T. C. Cory, secretary. August 7, 1872, Horner resigned as chairman of the central committee, and J. S. Waters was elected in his place, and F. B. McGill secretary.

October 5, 1872, at court-house, Oswego; E. B. Stevens chairman, I. O. Pickering secretary. Senator Fifteenth district, J. H. Crichton, on third ballot, over J. S. Waters and J. J. Woods; probate judge, B. W. Perkins, by acclamation; county attorney, E. C. Ward on second ballot over David Kelso, W. B. Glasse, T. L. Darlow; clerk district court, R. J. Elliott, on third ballot, over Wm. Houck, John Hamblin, D. S. Morrison; coroner, William Pinkerton, by acclamation; superintendent public instruction, Mary A. Higby, on first ballot over W. A. Starr, E. H. Taylor, Keirsey Cook; commissioner second district, J. B. Cook, who declined nomination, and George Farland was substituted by central committee.

F. B. McGill chairman central committee, S. O. Fletcher secretary.

October 11, 1873, at court-house, Oswego; Josephus Moore chairman, H. L. Partridge secretary. Probate judge, S. L. Coulter; treasurer, C. F. Smith; sheriff, S. O. Fletcher, on second ballot over J. N. Watson; county clerk, J. B. Cook, on first ballot over L. C. Howard and Saml. Collins; register, I. W. Patrick, by acclamation; surveyor, Samuel F. Terrill, by acclamation; coroner, D. B. Crouse, by acclamation; commissioners, first district John Nelson, second P. B. Clark, third W. A. Starr. Decided to make no nomination for representative of the Forty-third district: Forty-fourth district, W. H. Mapes.

R. J. Elliott chairman central committee, Willard Davis secretary.

September 26, 1874, at court-house, Oswego; E. B. Stevens chairman, L. M. Bedell secretary. Senator Fifteenth district, J. H. Crichton on second ballot over T. C. Cory, D. Kelso, and W. H. Mapes; clerk district court, H. C. Cook on second ballot over R. J. Elliott, E. B. Newton, and Wm. Houck; superintendent public instruction, Mary A. Higby on first ballot over J. G. Coleman and Allen C. Baker; county attorney, Willard Davis, by acclamation; coroner, J. G. Coleman, by acclamation.

C. H. Bent chairman central committee, V. J. Knapp secretary.

October 2, 1875, court-house, Oswego; J. S. Waters chairman, G. W. Hawk secretary. Treasurer, George M. Caldwell, by acclamation; sheriff, S. B. Abbott on first ballot over J. H. Golden and J. A. Mapes; county

clerk, S. T. Herman, by acclamation; register, I. W. Patrick, by acclamation; coroner, D. B. Crouse, by acclamation; surveyor, S. R. Southwick on second ballot over George Thornton and Charles McClung; commissioners, first district J. J. Woods, second W. M. Mabery, third W. A. Starr.

J. M. Cavaness chairman central committee, S. O. Fletcher secretary.

September 16, 1876, court-house, Oswego; Major H. W. Martin chairman, George Thornton secretary. Senator Fifteenth district, J. H. Crichton on seventh ballot over M. W. Reynolds, J. G. Coleman, H. G. Webb, and W. B. Glasse; probate judge, S. L. Coulter, by acclamation; clerk district court, H. C. Cook, by acclamation; county attorney, J. S. Waters, by acclamation; superintendent public instruction, Mary A. Higby on first ballot over L. J. VanLandingham, Keirsey Cook, A. C. Baker.

W. B. Glasse chairman central committee, F. B. McGill secretary.

September 22, 1877, court-house, Oswego; Major H. W. Martin chairman, C. A. Wilkin secretary. Treasurer, G. M. Caldwell, by acclamation; register, I. W. Patrick on first ballot over W. A. Starr; county clerk, T. A. Fellows, by acclamation; sheriff, D. M. Bender on fourth ballot over S. B. Abbott, J. W. H. Golden, and George Campbell; surveyor, George Thornton; coroner, W. R. Moore; commissioners, first district H. S. Coly, second W. J. Herrod, third J. B. Swartz.

F. B. McGill chairman central committee, George Thornton secretary.

September 14, 1878, court-house, Oswego; D. Kelso chairman, L. M. Bedell secretary. Clerk district court, H. C. Cook; county attorney, J. S. Waters; superintendent public instruction, Allen C. Baker; commissioner first district, T. E. Clark.

C. H. Kimball chairman central committee, D. M. Bender secretary.

April 24, 1879, opera house, Oswego; R. W. Wright chairman, L. M. Bedell secretary. Treasurer, George Thornton on first ballot over M. M. Kingsbury; sheriff, D. M. Bender on first ballot over J. W. H. Golden, D. H. David, and C. B. Woodford; register, I. W. Patrick on first ballot over J. M. Morgan, E. B. Baldwin, and George Poland; county clerk, W. H. Keirsey on first ballot over A. T. Dickerman, and F. G. Hunt; surveyor, J. M. Wells, by acclamation; coroner, W. W. English on first ballot over Dr. N. M. Miller; commissioner second district, A. N. Russell on second ballot over George Hildreth, J. W. Mason, D. F. Noblett, Michael Noel, and A. W. Darling.

C. H. Kimball chairman central committee, R. W. Wright secretary.

September 25, 1880, opera house, Oswego; J. S. Waters chairman, F. W. Felt and A. H. Tyler secretaries. Senator Fifteenth district, W. B. Glasse on third ballot over C. H. Kimball, M. W. Reynolds, and H. W. Martin; probate judge, Nelson Case on first ballot over A. H. Ayres, Wm. Starr, and H. W. Martin; county attorney, L. C. True on first ballot over J. D. Conderman and J. E. Bryan; clerk district court, H. C. Cook, by acclamation; superintendent public instruction, M. Chidester on second ballot over J. F. Hill, Nathan Williams, and Allen C. Baker; commissioner third district, J. J. Henderson.

J. S. Waters chairman central committee, J. E. Bryan secretary.

September 24, 1881, Oswego; J. S. Waters chairman, E. W. Bedell sec-

retary. Treasurer, George M. Caldwell on first ballot over George Thornton and G. S. McDole; register, A. M. Fellows on fifth ballot over I. W. Patrick, Marshall Johnson, Jesse M. Morgan, and James Paxton; sheriff, D. M. Bender on second ballot over J. W. Wilson, S. B. Abbott, D. H. David, J. W. H. Golden, and C. E. Simons; county clerk, F. W. Felt on second ballot over W. A. Starr and W. H. Keirsey; surveyor, B. R. Cunningham, by acclamation; coroner, Lewis Peterson on first ballot over S. M. Gregory.

J. S. Waters chairman central committee, J. H. Morrison secretary.

September 29, 1882, Oswego; Thomas O'Hare chairman. L. M. Bedell secretary. County attorney, L. C. True on first ballot over T. C. Cory and J. E. Bryan; probate judge, Nelson Case, by acclamation; clerk district court, H. C. Cook, by acclamation; superintendent public instruction, Anna C. Baker on third ballot over O. M. McPherson, M. Chidester, B. R. Cunningham, and W. F. Schoch; coroner, H. C. Richardson, by acclamation; commissioner second district, C. M. Keeler on first ballot over A. N. Russell and A. T. Dickerman.

T. J. Calvin chairman central committee, L. M. Bedell secretary.

October 20, 1883, Oswego; J. E. Bryan chairman, O. M. McPherson secretary. Treasurer, C. W. Littleton on first ballot over M. L. Trotter; register, Asa Smith on first ballot over E. B. Baldwin and N. M. Miller; county clerk, F. W. Felt, by acclamation; sheriff, J. T. Lampson on second ballot over Andrew Kaho, C. E. Simons, C. B. Woodford, and W. H. Webb; surveyor, B. R. Cunningham, by acclamation; coroner, Ed. Dorsey, by acclamation; commissioner third district, J. E. Brooks, by acclamation.

J. H. Morrison chairman central committee, Jess Brockway secretary.

September 6, 1884, Oswego; Thomas O'Hare chairman. S. W. Kniffin secretary. Senator Ninth district, C. H. Kimball on first ballot over J. B. Swartz and J. E. Bryan; county attorney, J. D. Conderman on third ballot over W. B. Glasse and J. H. Morrison; clerk district court, E. B. Baldwin on first ballot over W. W. Cook; probate judge, S. L. Coulter on first ballot over Isaac Hill; superintendent public instruction, Mrs. Anna C. Baker, by acclamation; commissioner first district, D. A. Jones on second ballot over J. F. Hill, Louis VonTrebra, and J. C. McKnight; commissioner second district, to fill vacancy, J. M. Mason on third ballot over Peter Shufelt, J. N. Tibbets, M. Noel, and William Slaughter.

T. C. Cory chairman central committee, S. O. Fletcher secretary.

October 17, 1885, opera house, Oswego; J. B. Swartz chairman, S. T. Herman secretary. Treasurer, C. W. Littleton, by acclamation; register, Asa Smith, by acclamation; sheriff, C. B. Woodford on first ballot over I. N. Corneliuss, J. T. Lampson, W. H. Sharp, and Joseph Craft; county clerk, W. W. Cook on second ballot over O. E. Woods and W. J. Quick; surveyor, W. W. Dentler on first ballot over J. M. Hart; coroner, E. W. Dorsey, by acclamation.

H. H. Lusk chairman central committee, A. H. Tyler secretary.

On October 10, 1885, a convention was held at Edna, at which James Wilmoth was nominated for commissioner of second district.

October 9, 1886, opera house, Oswego; J. W. Marley chairman, J. W. Weltner and L. M. Bedell secretaries. County attorney, T. C. Cory on first ballot over J. D. Conderman and Jess Brockway; probate judge, T. J. Calvin on first ballot over Isaac Hill and F. H. Atchinson; clerk district court, E. B. Baldwin on first ballot over W. E. Crawford; superintendent public instruction, Mrs. Anna Hickenbottom on second ballot over Mrs. Anna C. Baker, C. C. Robbins, L. Tomlin, J. W. Iden, and Mrs. Susan C. Keefe; commissioner third district, J. E. Brooks.

J. W. Marley chairman central committee, M. E. Williams secretary.

August 27, 1887, Oswego; S. T. Herman chairman, Abe Steinbarger and H. H. Lusk secretaries. Treasurer, W. F. Thorne on first ballot over B. R. Van Meter and William Slaughter; register, J. A. Flora on fifth ballot over O. S. Kliser, Ella Wood, Wilf Cooper, and J. A. Lough; sheriff, J. T. Lampson on seventh ballot over C. B. Woodford, D. M. Bender, I. N. Cornelius, and A. M. Newman; county clerk, Wylie W. Cook, by acclamation; surveyor, E. P. Bayless, by acclamation; coroner, J. T. Finley on first ballot over Rep Smith; commissioner first district, D. A. Jones.

S. T. Herman chairman central committee, Joseph Craft secretary.

September 1, 1888, Oswego; J. B. Swartz chairman, W. F. Thrall secretary. Senator Tenth district, C. H. Kimball, by acclamation; county attorney, J. H. Morrison on fourth ballot over A. A. Osgood, F. H. Atchinson, M. E. Williams, J. D. Conerman; probate judge, T. J. Calvin, by acclamation; clerk district court, Colin Hodge on fourth ballot over J. S. Hileman, Ira F. Adams, H. H. Graue, W. H. Hunter, and George Hildreth; superintendent public instruction, Agnes Baty on third ballot over A. D. Martin, S. L. Fogleman.

L. S. Crum chairman central committee, W. W. Cook secretary.

August 31, 1889, Parsons; J. B. Swartz chairman, Thomas O'Hare and Evelyn B. Baldwin secretaries. Treasurer, William Slaughter, by acclamation; register, J. A. Flora on third ballot over B. R. VanMeter, J. S. Odell; sheriff, W. H. Sharp on fifth ballot over J. E. Brooks, S. B. Shaffer, J. B. Pickering, A. J. Kirby, and W. J. Webb; county clerk, George Tilton; surveyor, J. W. Boggess; coroner, Thomas J. Finley; commissioner, J. W. Scott on first ballot over C. J. Darling.

W. W. McEwen chairman central committee, J. L. Maginnis secretary.

August 23, 1890, Oswego; J. B. Cook chairman, A. H. Tyler secretary. County attorney, W. F. Schoch, by acclamation; probate judge, R. M. Hart, by acclamation; clerk district court, Colin Hodge, by acclamation; superintendent public instruction, Fannie Smith on first ballot over Samuel Wade; commissioner first district, B. D. Roberts.

L. S. Crum chairman central committee, W. W. Cook secretary.

September 5, 1891, Mound Valley; M. Byrne chairman, W. W. Cook secretary. Treasurer, William Slaughter; county clerk, Geo. W. Tilton; register, J. C. Richcreek on third ballot over J. W. Fee, J. A. Flora, L. G. Bigwood; sheriff, A. Kaho on third ballot over W. H. Sharp, I. N. Cissna, A. W. Newman, D. M. Bender, J. E. Brooks, and J. W. Bennett; coroner, T. J. Finley on first ballot over Jacob Crump and S. O. Clayton; surveyor, M. C. Gaffey on first ballot over J. W. Boggess.

W. F. Schoch chairman central committee, Colin Hodge secretary.

August 16, 1892, Parsons; W. G. Hoover chairman, W. K. Hayes and C. S. Newlon secretaries. Senator, W. W. McEwen, by acclamation; county attorney, A. D. Neale on third ballot over M. Byrne, J. W. Iden, and D. H. Wilson; probate judge, H. H. Graue was nominated on first ballot over A. T. Dickerman and W. F. Grierson, but as he had not been a candidate for that office he declined to accept the nomination, and W. F. Grierson was nominated on second ballot over A. T. Dickerman; clerk district court, E. C. Clark on first ballot over H. H. Graue; superintendent public instruction, A. D. Martin, by acclamation; commissioner third district, J. W. Scott, by acclamation.

D. C. Rockhold chairman central committee, U. S. Harr secretary.

REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATIVE CONVENTIONS.

Forty-third District.—October 7, 1871, Oswego: W. H. Carpenter chairman, H. L. Partridge secretary. Joseph J. Woods nominated on third ballot over W. H. Carpenter and Josephus Moore.—October 12, 1872, Parsons; J. J. Woods chairman, S. O. Fletcher secretary. W. W. Harper on first ballot over J. H. Tibbets.—October 11, 1873, Oswego; W. W. Harper.—1874, Parsons; J. J. Woods.—October 9, 1875, Parsons; A. North chairman, R. E. Holloway secretary. M. W. Reynolds, by acclamation.

Forty-fourth District.—October 7, 1871, Oswego. D. C. Constant on first ballot over Alexander Bishop.—October 5, 1872, Oswego; B. W. Perkins chairman, Sylvester Cook secretary. W. H. Mapes, by acclamation.—October 11, 1873, Oswego; W. H. Mapes.—September 26, 1874, Chetopa; W. P. Bishop chairman, N. Sanford secretary. J. C. McKnight on first ballot over R. W. Wright and S. M. Canady.—October 9, 1875, Chetopa; J. C. Watson chairman, E. W. Bedell secretary. Owen Wimmer on third ballot over R. W. Wright, C. H. Bent, and E. Johnson.

Forty-fourth District.—October 7, 1876, Parsons; S. Mayginnis chairman, W. L. Winter secretary. M. W. Reynolds on first ballot over W. A. Starr.—September 28, 1878, Parsons; A. H. Ayres chairman, Wm. Horsfall secretary. M. W. Reynolds on first ballot over Frank Webb.—September 27, 1880. J. B. Swartz on first ballot.

Forty-fifth District.—September 9, 1876, Oswego; W. H. Mapes chairman, W. B. Glasse secretary. F. A. Bettis on first ballot over James Paxton and R. W. Wright.—September 4, 1878, Oswego; E. D. Keirsey chairman, S. M. Canaday secretary. F. A. Bettis on thirtieth ballot over F. B. McGill, H. W. Barnes, J. L. Williams and others.—September 25, 1880, Oswego. J. S. Waters on fourth ballot over R. W. Wright and J. L. Williams.

Forty-sixth District.—September 23, 1876, Chetopa; G. W. Jenkins chairman, S. T. Herman secretary. J. H. Tibbits on first ballot over H. W. Martin and Owen Wimmer.—September 21, 1878, Chetopa; Tim Kay chairman, George H. Bates secretary. T. J. Calvin on sixtieth ballot over H. W. Martin, Alex. Duncan, and J. H. Crichton.—September 22, 1880; L. M. Bedell chairman, J. F. Hill secretary. T. J. Calvin, by acclamation.

Thirty-third District.—September 9, 1882, Parsons; S. Mayginnis chairman, Lee Clark secretary. W. L. Simons nominated on first ballot

(informal), but declined; on second ballot J. W. Fee nominated over J. B. Swartz and S. L. Obenchains.—September 23, 1884, Parsons. David Kelso on first ballot.

Thirty-fourth District.—September 29, 1882, Oswego: E. D. Keirseay chairman, A. Kaho secretary. J. S. Waters on first ballot over H. C. Richardson.—September 6, 1884, Oswego: James Paxson chairman, Wm. Houck secretary. H. C. Cook, by acclamation.

Thirty-fifth District.—September 28, 1882, Chetopa: Wesley Fautot chairman, E. W. Bedell secretary. J. H. Crichton on first ballot.—September 22, 1884, Chetopa: R. A. Bartlett chairman, Joe R. Hill secretary. J. B. Cook, by acclamation.

Twenty-eighth District.—September 25, 1886, Parsons. F. R. Morton.—September 2, 1888, Parsons; J. H. Beatty chairman, V. J. Knapp secretary. W. W. Cranston nominated on first ballot.—August 30, 1890, Parsons; W. H. Thorne chairman, M. Byrne secretary. A. H. Tyler on second ballot over J. M. Birt and C. J. Darling.—October 4, 1890, a second convention was held to act on the matter of Mr. Tyler's withdrawal, he having signified to the central committee his willingness to withdraw. His action was accepted, and J. M. Birt was nominated in his place.

Twenty-ninth District.—October 9, 1886, Oswego; J. W. Marley chairman, M. E. Williams secretary. J. H. Morrison on first ballot over H. C. Cook.—September 13, 1888, Altamont; W. F. Schoch chairman, M. E. Williams secretary. H. S. Coley on first ballot over J. J. Miles.—September 13, 1890, Altamont; H. M. Debolt chairman, W. K. Orr secretary. J. H. Morrison, by acclamation.

Thirtieth District.—October 16, 1886, Chetopa: J. C. McKnight chairman, Bayard T. Burnes secretary. J. J. Slaughter on second ballot over J. S. Hileman, B. D. Roberts, Colin Hodge, and Isaac Butterworth.—October 2, 1888, Edna; J. E. Snevely chairman, Presley McKnight secretary. J. S. Hileman, by acclamation.—September 6, 1890, Edna: E. A. Herrod chairman, M. N. Baldwin secretary. W. J. Raymond, by acclamation.

Twenty-sixth District.—September 3, 1892, Parsons: J. W. Fee chairman, J. D. Lusk secretary. D. M. Bender on first ballot over Arch Wade.

Twenty-seventh District.—September 20, 1892, Chetopa: T. J. Calvin chairman, Dr. C. S. Newlon secretary. W. G. Hoover, by acclamation.

DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CONVENTIONS.

In October, 1866, an informal Democratic caucus was held at a spring on Short's claim, in section 22, Montana township. D. M. Clover was chairman and M. A. Victor secretary. It was attended quite generally by the Democrats in the community, and the sentiment was to vote a Democratic ticket. In view of this they nominated a full county ticket. I have obtained only partial information respecting it. A part of the ticket was as follows: W. C. Watkins for representative, H. C. Bridgman for county clerk, Nelson Carr for county treasurer, Samuel Dunham superintendent public instruction.

October, 1867, Democratic caucus in Buntain building, Oswego. W. C. Watkins nominated for representative Eighty-fifth district, H. C.

Bridgman for county treasurer. The rest of the ticket was left for parties to run independent. Dr. J. B. Thurman ran for probate judge.

September 19, 1868, Fleming building, Oswego; J. D. McCue chairman, J. F. Waskey secretary. Representative Eighty-fifth district, W. C. Watkins: superintendent public instruction, Jacob Ruble: county commissioner, G. W. Franklin; county attorney, N. L. Hibbard; county clerk, D. W. Clover; clerk district court, E. Wells: probate judge, John Richardson.

In 1869 no convention was held, a caucus deeming it best to let parties run independent who wished to oppose the Republican ticket.

Saturday, July 23, 1870, court-house, Oswego. M. V. B. Bennett made a speech, and steps were taken to effectually organize the party in the county: what had been done theretofore having been rather informal, and hardly regular party action. A county convention was called for September 10, 1870, at Oswego, which assembled, and adjourned to September 24th, after electing W. P. Lamb and M. V. B. Bennett delegates to the state convention.

September 24, 1870, Oswego: D. J. Doolen chairman, George Huston secretary. D. C. Hutchinson, representative Eighty-fifth district: J. A. Cox, probate judge: L. F. Fisher, county attorney: J. J. Browne, superintendent public instruction: J. M. Cunningham, clerk district court: J. M. Richardson, commissioner third district.

M. V. B. Bennett, chairman central committee. August 5, 1871, J. J. Browne elected in the place of Bennett, resigned; J. F. Waskey secretary.

October 21, 1871, Oswego: J. J. Browne chairman. Sheriff, G. W. Franklin; treasurer, J. F. Waskey; county clerk, G. W. Houston: register, Frank Campbell; surveyor, Wade H. Prichard: coroner, G. D. Boon: commissioner first district, D. J. Doolen; third district, J. M. Richardson; representative Forty-fourth district, Gilbert A. Cooper.

J. J. Browne, chairman central committee.

August 24, 1872, Oswego: J. J. Browne chairman, J. F. Waskey secretary. Democratic and Liberal Republican conventions in session at same time: H. L. Taylor chairman and J. M. Mahr secretary Liberal convention. Each convention instructed its central committee to confer and unite in calling a county convention to nominate a fusion ticket.

October 18, 1872, court-house, Oswego; H. L. Taylor chairman. J. J. Browne secretary: Democratic-Liberal convention. Senator Fifteenth district, William Dick: probate judge, Thomas H. Bruner; county attorney, R. M. Donally; clerk district court, J. H. Macon; superintendent public instruction, David Donovan: coroner, A. P. Johnson: commissioner second district, C. M. Monroe: representatives, Forty-third district T. C. Cory, Forty-fourth Christian Lieb.

No convention held in 1873.

In 1874 the Democrats united with Liberal Republicans, and held a Democratic-Reform convention, October 14, 1874, Labette City: William Dick chairman. Senator Fifteenth district, J. M. Mahr on first ballot; district clerk, R. C. Taylor on first ballot over A. J. Cary; county attorney, J. G. Parkhurst, by acclamation; probate judge, H. C. Blanch-

ard on first ballot over S. L. Coulter (not present); superintendent public instruction, E. H. Taylor on first ballot over Mary A. Higby; representative Forty-third district, Wm. Dick on first ballot over C. M. Monroe and J. C. Merwin; representative Forty-fourth district, W. T. Cunningham and D. J. Doolen were successively nominated and declined, after which Henry Tibbets was nominated by acclamation.

J. B. Lamb, chairman central committee.

October 8, 1875, Oswego; R. M. Donally chairman, Dr. M. M. Milligan secretary. Treasurer, A. J. Cary, by acclamation: sheriff, Nixon Elliott on first ballot over J. H. Macon and W. M. Rogers: county clerk, L. C. Howard, by acclamation: surveyor, Wade Prichard, by acclamation; register, R. C. Taylor, by acclamation; coroner, Dr. M. M. Milligan, by acclamation; commissioners, first district D. J. Doolen, second Christian Lieb, third J. H. Martin; representative Forty-third district G. W. Graybill, Forty-fourth H. G. Webb.

J. B. Lamb chairman central committee, T. B. J. Wheat secretary.

September 23, 1876, court-house, Oswego; R. M. Donally chairman, Nixon Elliot secretary. Senator Fifteenth district, Angell Matthewson, by acclamation; county attorney, W. P. Talbot on first ballot over G. W. Fox; probate judge, D. J. Doolen on first ballot over Dr. J. Spruill; clerk district court, I. H. Fry, by acclamation: superintendent public instruction, Mrs. Hattie Coleman, by acclamation.

G. W. Fox chairman central committee, W. J. Herman secretary.

September 29, 1877. Central committee decided not to hold convention. G. W. Fox chairman, W. J. Herman secretary.

September 21, 1878, Oswego; G. W. Fox chairman, J. B. Lamb secretary. Probate judge, P. Y. Thomas; representatives, Forty-fourth district J. H. Martin, Forty-fifth H. C. Blanchard; clerk district court, J. K. Russell; county attorney, I. S. Jones; superintendent public instruction J. Covalt; commissioner first district, D. J. Doolen.

G. W. Fox chairman central committee, D. H. Mays secretary.

August 25, 1879, Oswego; G. W. Gabriel chairman, H. C. Hall secretary. Treasurer, T. P. Waskey; sheriff, J. H. Macon; register, W. T. Berry; county clerk, L. C. Howard; surveyor, S. R. Southwick (W. H. Godwin substituted); coroner, J. B. Lamb; commissioner second district, I. D. Johnson.

G. W. Fox chairman central committee, J. M. Hall secretary.

October 9, 1880, Oswego; G. W. Fox chairman, F. C. Helsell secretary. Committee having consulted with committee from Greenback party, reported in favor of union on following basis: Greenback nominees for senator, district clerk and superintendent to be indorsed, and the Greenbackers to withdraw their candidates for and indorse Democratic nominees for county attorney, probate judge, and representatives in Forty-fourth, Forty-fifth and Forty-sixth districts. Adopted.—County attorney, George F. King on first ballot over W. P. Talbot; probate judge, W. P. Talbot on first ballot over James Barton; senator Fifteenth district, Geo. Campbell; clerk district court, J. K. Russell; superintendent public instruction, M. T. McCarty indorsed; commissioner third district, A. H. McCormock indorsed.

G. W. Fox chairman central committee, F. C. Hiesell secretary.

October 11, 1881. Central committee decided not to hold convention. Mr. Fox resigned as chairman central committee, and J. M. Mahr was elected chairman, F. C. Hiesell secretary.

August 12, 1882. court-house, Oswego; George S. King chairman, C. F. Winton secretary. Probate judge, A. G. Drake, by acclamation; county attorney, R. T. Holloway, by acclamation; clerk district court, R. C. Taylor. Authorized committee to fill vacancies.

October 7, 1882. Central committee accepted A. G. Drake's withdrawal as probate judge, and agreed to leave that place, and also superintendent, vacant, and to support Greenback nominees. Nominated C. M. Monroe commissioner second district.

J. M. Mahr chairman central committee, G. S. King secretary.

September 22, 1883, Oswego; J. M. Mahr chairman, George S. King secretary. Sheriff, J. P. DeJarbett on first ballot over J. J. Freeman and A. J. Mapes; treasurer, E. C. Dent on first ballot over J. F. Waskey; register, J. M. Cunningham over C. M. Monroe on first ballot; county clerk, F. W. Fry on first ballot over J. M. Bannon; surveyor, A. B. Bushnell, by acclamation; commissioner third district, M. E. Carson.

W. H. Morris chairman central committee, George S. King secretary.

October 14, 1884. court-house. Oswego; J. R. Brown chairman, W. H. Cook secretary. Senator Ninth district, J. J. Kackley; probate judge, F. M. Smith; clerk district court, J. M. Cunningham; no nominee for superintendent; W. H. Cook, commissioner first district, indorsed.

J. R. Brown chairman central committee, J. M. Landis secretary.

October 28, 1884. Central committee accepted the withdrawal of J. J. Kackley, and placed W. J. Conner's name in his place; also nominated George S. King county attorney, and J. Covalt superintendent. Afterward chairman Brown and others published a card denouncing action of committee in placing Conner's name on ticket, etc.

October 6, 1885, Oswego; J. P. DeJarnett chairman, W. W. Fry secretary. Treasurer, E. W. Ross; register, George Miller; sheriff, H. R. Lewis; county clerk, J. S. Odell; surveyor, A. B. Bushnell, coroner, T. A. H. Lowe; commissioner second district, Lewis Goodwin.

George W. Gabriel chairman central committee, J. M. Landis secretary.

October 12, 1886, opera house, Oswego; A. H. Garnett, chairman, I. H. Fry and A. W. Mackie secretaries. Probate judge, G. W. Gabriel, by acclamation; county superintendent, G. Guy Morris on first ballot over Fanny Cooper; representative Twenty-ninth district, Gilbert A. Cooper. Motion carried to make no farther nominations, in interest of State and Congressional tickets.

G. W. Gabriel chairman central committee, A. H. Garnett secretary.

During this canvass Dr. Gabriel withdrew as candidate for probate judge, and the central committee placed J. J. McFeely on the ticket in his place.

September 13, 1887, Oswego; A. H. Garnett chairman, J. S. Odell secretary. Treasurer, James L. Wilson; sheriff, Samuel Ledgewood; reg-

ister of deeds, I. H. Fry; county clerk, D. H. Martin; surveyor, A. B. Bushnell; coroner, Caesar Wilson.

G. W. Gabriel chairman central committee, A. H. Garnett secretary.

September 11, 1888, Mound Valley; G. W. Gabriel chairman, J. F. Waskey secretary. Senator Tenth district, R. L. Sharp, by acclamation; probate judge, J. W. Deatherage, by acclamation; county attorney, F. M. Smith, by acclamation; clerk district court, E. W. Ross, by acclamation; superintendent, Fannie Cooper, by acclamation; representatives, Twenty-eighth district M. V. B. Davis, Twenty-ninth George S. King, Thirtieth W. G. Reamer.

J. F. Waskey chairman central committee, Geo. S. Liggett secretary.

September 26, 1889, Chetopa: E. C. Dent chairman, F. M. Smith secretary. Treasurer, J. F. Waskey; sheriff, W. H. Swartzell; register, I. D. Highleman; county clerk, I. M. Hinds; surveyor, J. H. Dersham; coroner, A. H. Wells.

J. M. Kleiser, chairman central committee.

August 30, 1890, Parsons; J. M. Kleiser chairman, J. J. Rambo secretary. Clerk district court, Isaac M. Hinds; county attorney, G. S. King.

August 20, 1891, court-house, Oswego; J. F. Waskey chairman, F. W. Frye secretary. Treasurer, J. W. Galyen; sheriff, W. H. Swartzel; register, W. S. Houghton; county clerk, J. J. Freeman; coroner, G. S. Liggett; surveyor, J. H. Dersham; commissioner third district, W. A. Huff.

F. W. Frye chairman central committee, George S. Liggett secretary.

September 29, 1892, Chetopa: George S. Liggett chairman, A. J. Austin secretary. The convention indorsed the full ticket theretofore nominated by the People's party.

J. M. Landis chairman central committee, J. F. Waskey secretary.

DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT CONVENTIONS.

Usually there was a fusion of the Democrats with some other party on candidates for the Legislature; the names here given are those for whom the Democrats generally voted. Sometimes they were nominated by a convention, sometimes indorsed by the convention, sometimes by central committee, and sometimes no definite action at all was taken upon their candidacy.

Forty-fourth District.—October 4, 1876, Parsons. A. Wilson nominated on first ballot; vote was reconsidered, and on second ballot G. W. Gabriel nominated.—In 1878, J. H. Martin.—September 25, 1880, Parsons; W. H. Morris.

Forty-fifth District.—October 7, 1876, decided not to make any nominations.—October 16, 1880, Oswego. Joint convention of Democrats and Greenbackers; Thomas Wilson chairman, George S. King secretary. J. C. Murphy on second ballot over D. Doyle.

Forty-sixth District.—October 7, 1876, Chetopa; A. G. Drake chairman, W. J. Milliken secretary. George E. Stone, by acclamation.—October 16, 1880, Chetopa. A. D. Martin.

Thirty-third District.—In 1882, G. W. Gabriel; in 1884, W. H. Porter.

Thirty-fourth District.—In 1882, George Campbell; in 1884, J. W. Deatherage.

Thirty-fifth District.—October 14, 1882, Chetopa, W. P. Wilson; in 1884, H. H. Lieb.

Twenty-eighth District.—In 1886, W. H. Utley; in 1888, — Davis.— August 30, 1890, Parsons; S. C. Rickart chairman. Jas. Tanner indorsed.

Twenty-ninth District.—October 12, 1886, Oswego; Levi Metier chairman, Walter Phillips secretary. G. A. Cooper on first ballot over E. Tanner.—In 1888, G. S. King. In 1890, central committee indorsed P. A. Morrison.

Thirtieth District.—In 1886, R. S. Lyberger; in 1888, R. S. Lyberger. In 1890, central committee indorsed candidacy of Alexander Duncan.

GREENBACK COUNTY CONVENTIONS.

October 23, 1877, city hall, Parsons; A. N. Sourbeer chairman, A. H. McCleary secretary. Treasurer, A. J. Cary; sheriff, J. H. Macon; county clerk, L. C. Howard; register, H. E. Ingraham; surveyor, W. H. Pritchard; coroner, B. D. Ellis; commissioner third district, P. W. Shick.

F. A. Briggs chairman central committee, A. S. Harper secretary.

April 6, 1878, delegates from various Greenback clubs met at Parsons for permanent organization, and elected an executive committee, of which J. W. Briggs was made chairman and S. M. Bailey secretary.

August 20, 1878, grove near Labette City; R. M. Donnelly chairman, S. M. Bailey secretary. Probate judge, W. A. Starr on first ballot over Noah Guymon; county attorney, J. A. Ball on first ballot over A. B. Hacker; superintendent, J. Covalt, by acclamation; district clerk, J. K. Russell, by acclamation; representative Forty-sixth district, J. M. Bannan.

August 21, 1879, Labette City; J. O. McKee chairman, J. W. Breidenthal secretary. Sheriff, J. O. McKee, by acclamation; treasurer, W. H. Porter on second ballot over John Hoffman, W. P. Wilson, and Noah Guymon; county clerk, S. M. Bailey on first ballot over W. P. Wilson; register, Lewis Goodwin on first ballot over Nelson Curl and J. J. McFeely; coroner, Moses Steel, by acclamation; surveyor, W. H. Godwin; commissioner second district, J. C. Murphy.

M. Snook, chairman central committee.

August 14, 1880, Parsons; D. Doyle chairman, W. H. Potter secretary. Senator, George Campbell; clerk district court, J. K. Russell; probate judge, J. M. C. Reed; superintendent public instruction, M. T. McCarthy.

J. J. McFeely chairman central committee, L. Garneau secretary.

October 16, 1881, Mound Valley; J. J. McFeely chairman, George Campbell secretary. Register, John W. Breidenthal on first ballot over W. P. Wilson, T. J. Finely, and W. J. Millikin; treasurer, A. H. McCormick on first ballot over W. J. Millikin; county clerk, T. J. Finley on first ballot over J. Reasor and T. L. Cotton; sheriff, W. P. Wilson on first ballot over John Hoffman; coroner, William Rowe; commissioner first district, D. Doyle.

J. M. Bannan chairman central committee, John W. Breidenthal secretary.

October 7, 1882, Oswego; J. J. McFeely chairman, C. L. Albin secretary. District clerk, J. K. Russell, by acclamation; probate judge, J. J. McFeely, by acclamation; county attorney, no nomination; superintendent public instruction, J. Covalt on first ballot over Angelia Bishop and Mary Bradbury; coroner, W. J. Millikin, by acclamation; representatives, Thirty-fourth district George Campbell, Thirty-fifth W. P. Wilson; commissioner second district, M. Breidenthal.

J. M. Bannan chairman central committee, J. W. Breidenthal secretary.

October 23, 1883, Mound Valley; J. W. Breidenthal chairman. Treasurer, L. Garneau; sheriff, J. C. Murphy; register, W. Miller; county clerk, J. W. Fleming; coroner, U. Osborne.

J. W. Breidenthal chairman central committee, L. N. Thompson secretary.

October 27, 1884, Parsons: representative Thirty-third district, W. H. Porter.

GREENBACK DISTRICT CONVENTIONS.

Forty-fourth District.—August 17, 1878, Parsons. James H. Martin nominated.—September 25, 1880, Parsons. James H. Martin representative, and A. H. McCormick commissioner.

Forty-fifth District.—August 14, 1878, Altamont. H. C. Blanchard.—October 16, 1880, Oswego; Thomas Wilson chairman, George S. King secretary. Joint convention of Democrats and Greenbackers. J. C. Murphy on second ballot over D. Doyle.

Forty-sixth District.—1878, Chetopa; John M. Bannan.—October 15, 1880, Kingston. W. P. Wilson.

TEMPERANCE CONVENTIONS.

September 24, Oswego, 1874: adjourned to October 6; C. Humble, chairman, Nelson Case secretary. The convention indorsed the following nominations that had been made by party conventions: Willard Davis and J. G. Parkhurst, county attorney; J. D. McCue, district judge; H. C. Blanchard, probate judge; Mary A. Higby, superintendent public instruction; J. G. Coleman, coroner; representatives, William Dick — district, Henry Tibbits Forty-third, J. C. McKnight Forty-fourth; J. J. Woods was nominated for senator Fifteenth district. The matter of indorsing S. L. Coulter for probate judge and H. C. Cook for clerk district court was left to be acted on by a committee after investigation was had as to their temperance faith.

August 15, 1876, Parsons; M. G. Brown chairman, C. T. Smith secretary. Senator, M. G. Brown: county attorney, Nelson Case; probate judge, S. L. Coulter; clerk district court, H. C. Cook; superintendent public instruction, Hettie Coleman.

August 24, 1882, on call of the Oswego Temperance Union, a meeting was held in a grove near Labette City: Rev. John Elliott chairman, J. M. Bowman secretary. Resolved to form the Labette County Prohibition Union. Favored only temperance men for officers, and demanded enforcement of the prohibitory law.

PROHIBITION CONVENTIONS.

September 30, 1891, Parsons; W. S. Newlon chairman, G. W. Marley

secretary. Treasurer, W. S. Newlon; sheriff, J. B. Jones; register, Mary Scott; county clerk, T. O. Emerson; commissioner, C. B. Bennett.

August 6, 1892, Parsons; W. S. Newlon chairman, G. W. Marley secretary. Senator, J. M. Magie; representatives, Twenty-sixth district G. W. Marley, Twenty-seventh B. F. Lucas; probate judge, O. F. Walker; clerk district court, James Beggs; superintendent public instruction, Mary Scott; commissioner second district, W. E. Snyder.

W. S. Newlon chairman central committee, G. W. Marley secretary.

UNION LABOR COUNTY CONVENTIONS.

September 15, 1887, Parsons; W. H. Utley chairman, W. J. Bryant, F. W. Dauth and A. W. Mackie secretaries. Treasurer, W. H. Porter on second ballot over H. Leib, Alexander Duncan, A. H. Mickey, John Richardson, Frank Briggs; county clerk, W. J. Millikin on second ballot over A. H. Mickey, C. C. Robbins, Milo Hildreth, A. Moore; register, J. K. Russell on second ballot over B. F. Rolls, Thomas Lawrence, C. F. Turner, W. F. Grierson; sheriff, W. P. Wilson on third ballot over William Cook, Ed. Foyle, J. R. Duncan, Frank Briggs, Wm. Orr, D. W. Butler; surveyor, C. C. Robbins on first ballot over John M. Hart and Levi Ferguson; coroner, A. R. Clarady on first ballot over Peter Hogan; commissioner first district, S. N. Woodruff.

W. H. Utley chairman central committee, W. H. Porter secretary.

August 21, 1888, Chetopa; J. W. Breidenthal chairman, Geo. Campbell and A. A. King secretaries. Senator Tenth district, George Campbell on second ballot over A. J. Hixon, W. J. Gillette, R. W. Wright; clerk of the district court, L. F. Dick on fifth ballot over A. W. Mackie, R. S. Lybarger, J. M. Morgan, J. R. Hill; probate judge, Nelson Abbott on third ballot over C. T. Bridgman, J. M. C. Reed, J. W. Evans, R. S. Lybarger, S. T. Cherry, J. R. Hill, John Richardson; county attorney, Jess Brockway on second ballot over J. J. McFeely, M. Byrne, G. W. Hendricks, C. C. Robbins, R. S. Lybarger; superintendent public instruction, Mrs. Lucy Best, by acclamation.

Wm. Cook chairman central committee, Nelson Abbott secretary.

September 7, 1889, Parsons; J. W. Breidenthal chairman, L. F. Dick secretary. Treasurer, W. H. Porter, by acclamation; sheriff, Wm. Cook on second ballot over E. A. Riehereek, J. R. Duncan and W. P. Wilson; county clerk, A. H. Mickey on fourth ballot over J. A. Jones and W. J. Millikin; register, J. K. Russell on first ballot over F. C. Turner, C. L. Albin and George Campbell; surveyor, A. B. Bushnell, by acclamation; coroner, Wm. Rowe, by acclamation.

Wm. Cook chairman central committee, J. R. Hill secretary.

UNION LABOR REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT CONVENTIONS.

Twenty-eighth District.—September 8, 1888, at Parsons. A. J. Hixon nominated by acclamation.—June 11, 1890, at Parsons. James Tanner nominated by acclamation.

Twenty-ninth District.—September 8, 1888, at Oswego; A. W. Mackie chairman, A. A. King secretary. George Pfaff on first ballot over — Harmon and Milo Hildreth.—July 29, 1890, in connection with People's county convention at Parsons. P. A. Morrison.

Thirtieth District.—September 1, 1888, at Edna; J. H. Reasor chairman, E. H. Breidenthal secretary. R. S. Lybarger on first ballot over C. W. Holman and Levi Ferguson.—July 29, 1890, in connection with People's county convention at Parsons. Alexander Duncan.

PEOPLE'S PARTY COUNTY CONVENTIONS.

Parsons, July 29, 1890; E. A. Richcreek chairman, A. H. McCormick and Harry Mills secretaries. Clerk of the district court, J. A. Jones on second ballot over I. M. Waldrop, R. A. Johnson, L. F. Dick, J. M. Morgan, W. N. McCoid, W. H. Porter; probate judge, E. A. Richcreek on first ballot over J. H. Reasor, A. J. Hixon, J. W. Harrah, John Richardson; superintendent public instruction, Mrs. Lucy Best, by acclamation; county attorney, J. R. Hill on third ballot over M. E. Williams, W. J. Gillette, G. S. King; commissioner first district, G. A. Cooper; representatives, Twenty-ninth district P. A. Morrison, Thirtieth Alexander Duncan.

E. A. Richcreek chairman central committee, Harry Mills secretary.

September 3, 1891, Parsons; E. A. Richcreek chairman, Harry Mills secretary. Treasurer, Martin V. Davis on second ballot over John Richardson and Ben Johnson; sheriff, William Cook on first ballot over A. B. Funk, J. R. Duncan, A. Sharp; register, A. W. Mackie on first ballot over George Blank, F. T. Deinst, W. N. McCoid; county clerk, D. H. Martin on first ballot over W. J. Millikin, I. N. Watson, I. M. Waldrop; surveyor, A. B. Bushnell; coroner, J. Miller.

Harry Mills chairman central committee, A. W. Mackie secretary.

August 9, 1892, Parsons; J. F. Hill chairman, L. F. Dick and Harry Mills secretaries. Senator, John H. Riley, by acclamation; probate judge, George Campbell on third ballot over E. A. Richcreek, A. J. Hixon and H. Summers; clerk district court, Jesse M. Morgan on first ballot over A. W. Jones and R. A. Johnson; county attorney, M. E. Williams on first ballot over H. G. Webb; superintendent public instruction, Lucy Best, by acclamation; commissioner second district, J. A. Jarboe.

William Cook chairman central committee, D. H. Martin secretary.

PEOPLE'S PARTY DISTRICT CONVENTIONS.

Twenty-sixth District.—June 20, 1892, Parsons; Dr. E. Tanner chairman, H. C. Sourbeer secretary. J. L. Humphrey on first ballot over A. F. Neely and Daniel Pfaff.

Twenty-seventh District.—August 13, 1892, Chetopa; G. A. Cooper chairman, M. E. Williams secretary. P. A. Morrison on first ballot over John Ford.

SENATORIAL CONVENTIONS.

Sixteenth Senatorial District.—October —, 1866, Republican convention held at Iola. Dr. J. W. Scott was nominated over J. C. Carpenter and J. S. Waters.

The Democratic convention was held at Humboldt, and Col. Willoughby Doudna was nominated.

October 15, 1868, Republican convention met at Erie; R. W. Wright was chairman, and J. C. Redfield secretary. J. C. Carpenter was nominated on eleventh ballot over E. R. Trask and A. A. Aiken.

October 24, 1868, Democratic convention convened at Osage Mission, and F. M. Frost was nominated.

September 29, 1870, Republican convention was held at Humboldt; J. M. Beardsley was chairman, and P. I. B. Ping secretary. J. H. Crichton was nominated on tenth ballot over J. W. Dowe and G. P. Smith of Allen county, A. Miller of Wilson county, J. C. Carpenter of Neosho county, and H. W. Martin of Labette county.

October 6, 1870, Democratic convention met at Humboldt. J. M. Richardson, of Labette county, was nominated over Moses Neal and others.

September 21, 1870, Settlers' Protective Association held a convention at Prairie du Chien, in Neosho county; G. W. McMillen was chairman, and George T. Walton secretary. Major H. C. Whitney was unanimously nominated.

JUDICIAL CONVENTIONS.

In 1867 N. F. Acres and John R. Goodin were opposing candidates for judge of the Seventh judicial district.

October 10, 1870, Republican convention met in Oswego, with four delegates each from Montgomery, Labette and Crawford counties, and five from Cherokee: T. E. Clark chairman, W. W. Jones secretary. On the 64th ballot the delegates from Labette county changed their vote from W. P. Bishop to W. M. Matheny, and nominated him over W. P. Bishop, John T. Voss, and Thomas Harrison, as a candidate for judge of the Eleventh judicial district. H. G. Webb ran as an independent candidate.

In 1873 B. W. Perkins, H. W. Barnes, J. M. Scudder and J. G. Parkhurst were opposing candidates, each running independent.

In 1874 a "Reform Convention" convened at Parsons, September 23d, with J. H. Waterman chairman, and C. O. Stockslager secretary. J. D. McCue was nominated on second ballot over J. N. Ritter, A. A. Fletcher, and B. F. Purcell. B. W. Perkins again ran independent.

September 12, 1878, a Greenback convention assembled at Parsons, and nominated J. F. Broadhead. Opposed to him at the polls were B. W. Perkins and W. B. Glasse, each running independent.

On October 3, 1882, a Republican convention met at Cherokee; J. R. Hallowell chairman. On the 264th ballot George Chandler was nominated over W. B. Glasse, John N. Ritter, and John T. Voss. Opposed to him W. M. Matheny ran as an independent candidate.

In 1886 George Chandler was an independent, with no opponent.

A Republican convention assembled in Independence October 1, 1889, with S. L. Coulter chairman, and W. T. Yoe secretary. John N. Ritter was nominated by acclamation. J. D. McCue ran independent.

A Republican convention was held at Parsons on September 11, 1890: George W. Wheatley chairman, W. H. Coulter secretary. A. B. Clark was nominated by acclamation. Opposed to him was J. D. McCue, as an independent candidate.

POLITICAL CONVENTIONS OF A MISCELLANEOUS CHARACTER.

FARMERS' CONVENTION.

A Farmers' convention was called for and was held on October 17, 1873, at Labette City. It was a secret session. The following nominations were made: Probate judge, Davis Vulgamore; sheriff, F. G. Bur-

nett; treasurer, C. F. Smith; register, I. W. Patriek; county clerk, Sam. W. Collins; coroner, A. S. Spaulding; surveyor, S. R. Southwick; representatives, Forty-third district J. L. Williams, Forty-fourth Isaac Butterworth; commissioners, first district D. J. Doolen, second H. M. Debolt, third William Thornborough.

GRANGE CONVENTION.

On October 10, 1874, a Grange convention met at Labette City, which soon divided into two sections: one elected N. Cooper chairman and C. W. Stephenson secretary, and denounced political action; the other elected J. J. Woods chairman and C. Merwin secretary, and nominated the following ticket: Senator Fifteenth district, John F. Hill; probate judge, S. L. Coulter; clerk district court, H. C. Cook; superintendent, Mary A. Higby; representatives, Forty-third district S. M. Canady, Forty-fourth Henry Tibbetts.

"LABORING MEN'S CONVENTIONS."

One was held at Parsons, on September 20, 1875; B. D. Roberts was chairman part of the time, and Isaac Butterworth a part; J. L. Williamson secretary. The following ticket was nominated: Representatives, Forty-third district M. W. Reynolds, Forty-fourth F. B. McGill; treasurer, William Dick on third ballot over A. J. Cary, George Caldwell, and Fred Perkins; sheriff, Nixon Elliott on second ballot over W. C. Church, J. J. Freeman, and S. B. Abbott; register, R. C. Taylor; county clerk, L. C. Howard, by acclamation; coroner, D. B. Crouse, by acclamation; surveyor, Wade Prichard on first ballot over George Thornton; commissioners, first district J. F. Hill, second C. M. Monroe, third J. H. Martin.

J. L. Williams was chairman of the central committee.

On October 9, 1877, at Keeler's school-house, a mass convention was held, of which Samuel Newell was chairman, and Newton Guymon secretary. A ticket was nominated as follows: Treasurer, A. J. Cary; register, Wash Knapp; county clerk, T. A. Fellows; coroner, Dr. W. S. Newlon; surveyor, Wade Prichard; commissioner second district, H. M. Debolt.

"PEOPLE'S MASS CONVENTIONS."

A convention with the above title was held in the Methodist church in Mound Valley, on October 20, 1881; J. M. Cavaness was chairman, and T. C. Cory secretary. The following ticket was nominated: Treasurer, Andy Cary on first ballot over G. S. McDole; register, J. M. Cunningham on first ballot over J. W. Breidenthal and Thomas O'Hare. The Republican nominees for sheriff, county clerk, surveyor and coroner were indorsed.

Another "People's Mass Convention" was held on October 10, 1884, at Altamont: B. R. Van Meter was elected chairman and S. M. Bailey secretary, and the following nominations were made: Senator Ninth district, W. J. Conner, by acclamation; county attorney, H. G. Webb, by acclamation; clerk district court, C. L. Albin on first ballot over J. M. Cunningham; probate judge, J. M. Cunningham, by acclamation; superintendent public instruction, J. Covalt.

A "FARMERS' AND LABORERS' CONVENTION"

Was held at Altamont on August 20, 1886; A. M. Fellows was chairman, and J. W. Breidenthal secretary. After electing delegates to the State convention and calling a county convention for Altamont on September

sth, it adjourned. On September 8th the convention met as per adjournment; J. J. McFeely was chairman, and J. W. Breidenthal secretary. A ticket composed of the following was nominated: Superintendent, Alice Metier; probate judge, A. T. Shroust; county attorney, H. G. Webb; clerk district court, W. J. Millikin. A. M. Fellows was made chairman of the central committee, and R. S. Lybarger secretary.

October 9, 1886, another "Farmers' and Laborers' Convention" met at Parsons, and nominated W. H. Utley as representative for the Twenty-eighth district.

ELECTIONS.

The rapid growth of the county is in a measure indicated by the increased vote cast from year to year. The first election held in Neosho county was in 1864, at which there were but 35 votes cast in the whole county. At this time there was probably no one in what is now Labette county who had the legal qualifications of an elector, but had there been there was no provision made for the casting of votes. It was not until July, 1866, that the Commissioners of Neosho county established voting precincts in what is now Labette county. Our citizens might have participated in the election in November, 1866, had they been disposed to do so, but, as I have elsewhere stated, there was a mutual understanding between those residing in what is now Neosho county and those residing in what is now Labette county, that the latter would refrain from voting for the officers of Neosho county, and that at the ensuing session of the Legislature the county should be divided. However, at that election the people in the south half of the county voted for a full set of county officers for themselves. Of course this vote was without any legal significance. No record of the result was kept, and I have been unable to ascertain anything in reference to the number of votes cast. C. H. Bent, who was elected to the Legislature at this time, was the only officer elected who was permitted to perform official duties by virtue thereof. I might here state that at this election there were something over 300 votes cast in Neosho county. For State Senator, J. W. Scott received 225 votes, and Willoughby Doudna received 82 votes. This is probably the average vote between the two parties in the county. The first legal election held in Labette county was on April 22, 1867. At this election a full set of county officers were elected, to serve until the ensuing regular election in the fall; and the question of locating the county seat was also voted on. The record of the canvass of this vote has been lost, and I have now no means of ascertaining the number of votes cast; but some time thereafter there was published what was said to be the correct vote on the question of locating the county seat, from which statement it appears that the entire vote cast on that subject was 380. This may fairly be presumed to be the total vote of the county at that time.

At the November election in 1867 the canvass does not show the total number of votes cast, nor the votes cast for each candidate, except for the office of Judge of the District Court. For this position N. F. Acres received 202 votes, and J. R. Goodin 192 votes. On the question of locating the county seat there were cast 397 votes. This was probably the highest number of votes cast at that election. At the election held November 3, 1868, each precinct in the county returned its vote. The Presidential Electors received 783 votes; 617 of which were cast for the Grant Electors, and 166 for the Seymour Electors. The candidates for the several State offices on the two tickets received substantially the same proportion of the votes. The political lines were not as strictly drawn on the county offices.

On November 5, 1869, the board met to canvass the vote cast on the 2d of that month. For some informalities, which presented an excuse but did not amount to a reason for their action, the Commissioners rejected the vote of every precinct in the county except those of Oswego and Hackberry. If it had required the rejection of either of these to enable them to count in the parties whom they desired to have elected, it may be presumed that on some pretense it would have been done. By the course pursued a set of officers were declared elected who had been overwhelmingly defeated at the polls, and those who had been elected by a large majority of the votes actually cast were deprived of their positions, some of them for a year and some of them during their whole term. I do not mean to say that every officer declared elected had been defeated; no record has been preserved of the complete vote, and I have no means at hand of ascertaining what the vote of the entire county was; but certain it is that the Sheriff, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, and a part of the Commissioners who were elected were compelled to contest for their offices or to be deprived of them entirely. Mr. McCue, who had been beaten for County Attorney by a large majority, but who was declared elected, refused to qualify, and Mr. Waters, who had been elected but counted out, took the office without opposition. Some of those who had been counted out contested for the office, while others declined to go through the trouble and expense of a litigation. After a protracted contest through all the courts, the true result was finally ascertained, and those who were determined to secure their rights even at a sacrifice were finally awarded their offices.

At the November election in 1870 as many as 1,706 votes were cast for some of the positions, but generally the aggregate vote on any one office was a few short of 1,700. The Republican State ticket generally received about 1,025 to 1,050 votes, and the Democratic candidates about

640 to 660 votes; while on the county ticket the vote for the respective candidates of the two parties was more nearly equal.

In 1871 there were 1,794 votes cast for Sheriff; of these G. W. Franklin, the Democratic candidate, received 959, and L. S. Crum, the Republican candidate, 835. I. W. Patrick, the Republican candidate for Register of Deeds, was elected by a majority of 150. In 1872 the Grant Electors received 1,779 votes, and the Greeley Electors 1,014, making a total vote on the National ticket of 2,793. The candidates on the two tickets for State offices received substantially the same proportion of votes. In 1873 S. L. Coulter, the Republican candidate for Probate Judge, received 1,765 votes, while Davis Vulgamore, the Democratic candidate, received but 487. C. F. Smith, the Republican candidate for Treasurer, had no opposition, and received 2,346. In 1874 the total vote was 2,076. For the office of Governor, Thomas A. Osborn received 1,108 votes, James C. Cusey 730, and W. K. Marshall 77. In 1875 the total vote was 2,450. S. B. Abbott, Republican candidate for Sheriff, received 1,252 votes, and Nixon Elliott, the Democratic candidate, 1,112. In 1876 the total vote was 3,529. The Hayes Electors received 2,092, the Tilden Electors 1,372, the Cooper Electors 8, and the Smith Electors 17. In 1877 but 2,683 votes were cast. For Chief Justice, A. H. Horton, the Republican candidate, received 1,562; Samuel A. Riggs, the Greenback candidate, 824; and W. R. Wagstaff, the Democratic candidate, 253 votes. In 1878 the vote was 3,385. J. P. St. John, the Republican candidate for Governor, received 1,594; J. R. Goodin, the Democratic candidate, 968; D. P. Mitchell, the Greenback candidate, 804. There were 3,102 votes cast in 1879. The Republican candidate for Treasurer received 1,591; the Democratic candidate, 886; the Greenback candidate, 574. In 1880 the total vote was 4,672. The Garfield Electors received 2,721; the Hancock Electors, 1,462; and the Weaver Electors, 420. In 1881 the vote was 3,163. The Republican candidate for Treasurer received 1,340; the Democratic candidate, 1,311; the Greenback candidate, 474. In 1882 the vote was 4,020. For Governor, St. John received 1,941 votes, Glick 1,669, and Robinson 329. In 1883 there were 4,015 votes. The Republican candidate for Treasurer received 2,057, the Democratic candidate 1,571, the Greenback candidate 242. In 1884 the Blaine Electors received 3,475, the Cleveland Electors 2,094, the Butler Electors 316, and the St. John Electors 149. In 1885 the vote was 3,763. The Republican candidate for Treasurer received 2,378 votes, and the Democratic candidate 1,347. In 1886 the vote was 4,802. For Governor John A. Martin received 2,427 votes, Thomas Moonlight 2,195, and C. H. Branscomb 125. In 1887 there were 4,799 votes cast. For Treasurer

the Republican candidate received 1,903, the Union Labor candidate 2,448, and the Democratic candidate 417. This was the first election in the county in which the Republican party received a general defeat. Not infrequently one or more of the opposition ticket had been elected, but at this election, with one exception, the entire Union Labor ticket was elected. In 1888 the vote was 6,072. The Harrison Electors received 2,870 votes, the Cleveland Electors 976, the Streeter Electors 2,125, and the Fisk Electors 85. In 1889 the vote was 4,733. The Republican candidate for Treasurer received 2,120 votes, the Union Labor candidate 2,086, the Democratic candidate 507. In 1890 the vote was 5,555. For Governor, Humphrey received 2,165 votes, Willits 2,434, Robinson 914, Richardson 21. In 1891 the vote was 5,125. For Treasurer the Republican candidate received 2,333 votes, the People's party candidate 2,449, the Democratic candidate 275, the Prohibition candidate 40. In 1892 the total vote was 6,174. The Weaver Electors received 3,116 votes, the Harrison Electors 2,950, and the Bidwell Electors 93.

The result of the votes which I have given above in the several years fairly represents the average strength of each of the parties. Especially in county matters the votes on different offices have varied quite largely, local and personal considerations entering into the result very much more than in State and National matters.

COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS.

On June 5, 1867, an order was made dividing the county into three districts as follows: District No. 1, townships 31 and 32, in range 21; District No. 2, townships 33 and 34, in range 21; District No. 3, the remainder of the county.

On July 7, 1870, a new division was made, and the several districts were constituted as follows: District No. 1, all of range 21; District No. 2, townships 33, 34, and 35, in all of the ranges west of range 21; District No. 3, townships 31 and 32, in all the ranges west of range 21. This division has remained ever since it was thus made.

It is evident that between these two divisions another one was made which does not appear of record; for at the November (1869) election the person elected from the first district resided in the second, and the person elected from the second district resided in the first, as the districts were constituted in 1867.

LEGISLATIVE APPORTIONMENT.

Labette county, without any bill making it such, was recognized as the Eighty-fifth Representative district from 1867, when our first member was admitted, to 1871, when the next apportionment was made, at which

time it was divided into two districts, the northern half constituting the Forty-third and the southern part the Forty-fourth. In this apportionment Elm Grove township was entirely left out of any district, and it was not until 1873 that it was made a part of the Forty-fourth district. We were a part of the Sixteenth Senatorial district up to 1871, when we were made the Fifteenth district.

In the apportionment of 1876 we were continued as the Fifteenth Senatorial district, and divided into three Representative districts, the northern portion being the Forty-fourth, the central portion the Forty-fifth, and the southern portion the Forty-sixth district.

In 1881 we were made to constitute the Ninth Senatorial district, and, commencing as before, on the north, the 'Thirty-third, Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth Representative districts.

In the 1886 apportionment we were constituted the Tenth Senatorial district, and the Twenty-eighth, Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth Representative districts, numbering from the north.

In 1891 the act of apportionment made us the Eleventh Senatorial district, and gave us but two instead of three Representatives, as we had theretofore had. The townships of Mound Valley, Osage, Walton, Labette, Liberty, North, Neosho, and the city of Parsons, were made to constitute the Twenty-sixth Representative district, and the remainder of the county the Twenty-seventh district.

LIST OF OFFICERS.

JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT.—1867, William Spriggs; 1868-69, John R. Goodin; 1870, William C. Webb; 1870-73, Henry G. Webb; 1873-82, Bishop W. Perkins; 1883-89, George Chandler; 1889, John N. Ritter; 1890-, Jerry D. McCue.

STATE SENATOR.—1867-68, J. W. Scott; 1869-70, John C. Carpenter; 1871-72, Henry C. Whitney; 1873-76, J. H. Crichton; 1877-80, Angell Matthewson; 1881-84, W. B. Glasse; 1885-92, Charles H. Kimball.

REPRESENTATIVES.—*Eighty-fifth District*: 1867, Charles H. Bent; 1868, W. C. Watkins; 1869, Dr. D. D. McGrath; (on account of sickness, Dr. McGrath did not take his seat in the Legislature;) 1870, Walter P. Bishop; 1871, Dr. J. M. Mahr.—*Forty-third District*: 1872, J. J. Woods; 1873, W. W. Harper; 1874, J. L. Williams; 1875, J. J. Woods; 1876, M. W. Reynolds.—*Forty-fourth District*: 1872, D. C. Constant; 1873, W. H. Mapes; 1874, W. H. Mapes; 1875, R. W. Wright; 1876, H. G. Webb.—*Forty-fourth District*: * 1877-78, G. W. Gabriel; 1879-80, J. H. Martin; 1881-82, J. B. Swart.—*Forty-fifth District*: 1877-78, F. A. Betts; 1879-80, H. C. Blanchard; 1881-82, J. S. Waters.—*Forty-sixth District*: 1877-78, J. H. Hibbets; 1879-80, T. J. Calvin; 1881-82, T. J. Calvin.—*Thirty-third District*: 1883-84, G. W. Gabriel; 1885-86, David

* This was the *new* Forty-fourth district, established by the apportionment of 1876.

Kelso.—*Thirty-fourth District*: 1883-84, J. S. Waters; 1885-86, H. C. Cook.—*Thirty-fifth District*: 1883-84, J. H. Crichton; 1885-86, J. B. Cook.—*Twenty-eighth District*: 1887-88, F. R. Morton; 1889-90, W. W. Cranston; 1891-92, J. I. Tanner.—*Twenty-ninth District*: 1887-88, J. H. Morrison; 1889-90, H. S. Coley; 1891-92, P. A. Morrison.—*Thirtieth District*: 1887-88, R. S. Lybarger; 1889-90, J. S. Hileman; 1891-92, Alex. Duncan.

PROBATE JUDGE.—The party who was elected April 22, 1867, failed to qualify in time. June 5, 1867, Bergen Van Ness was appointed, and reappointed July 3d; 1868, D. C. Lowe; Jan. to Sept. 1869, Henry M. Minor; Sept. to Nov. 1869, Merrit Read; Nov. 1869 to July 1870, W. H. Whitlock; July to Dec. 1870, Walter P. Bishop; Dec. 1870 to March 1873, B. W. Perkins; March 1873 to July 1880, S. L. Coulter; July 1880 to Jan. 1885, Nelson Case; 1885-86, S. L. Coulter; 1887-90, T. J. Calvin; 1891-92, E. A. Richereek.

COUNTY ATTORNEY.—1867, W. J. Parkinson; 1868, C. H. Bent, W. P. Bishop; 1869, W. P. Bishop, B. W. Perkins; (J. D. McCue and J. H. Gunn special County Attorneys;) 1870-72, J. S. Waters; 1873-74, E. C. Ward; 1875-76, Willard Davis; 1877-80, J. S. Waters; 1881-82, Lewis C. True; 1883-84, George S. King; 1885-86, J. D. Conderman; 1887-88, T. C. Cory; 1888, A. A. Osgood; 1889-90, John H. Morrison; 1891-92, Joseph R. Hill; May 20 to Nov. 12, 1892, Frank H. Atehinson; Nov. 12, 1892-, M. E. Williams.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.—1867, John F. Newlon; 1868, Enos Reed; 1869-70, R. J. Elliott; 1871-72, J. W. Horner; 1873-78, Mary A. Higby; 1879-80, J. Covalt; 1881-82, M. Chidester; 1883-86, Mrs. Anna C. Baker; 1887-88, Mrs. Anna Hickenbottom; 1889-90, Miss Agnes Beaty; 1891-, Mrs. Lucy Best.

REGISTER OF DEEDS.—1867, Elza Craft; 1868-69, Charles Beggs; 1870-71, James W. Peace; 1872-81, I. W. Patrick; 1882-83, J. M. Cunningham; 1884-87, Asa Smith; 1888-89, J. K. Russell; 1890-91, J. A. Flora; 1892-, Andrew W. Mackie.

SHERIFF.—1867, Benjamin A. Rice; 1868 to April 5, 1869, John N. Watson; 1869, Frank D. Howe; 1870, John T. Weaver; Oct. 1870-71, Joseph C. Wilson; 1872-75, G. W. Franklin; 1876-77, S. B. Abbott; 1878-79, J. H. Macon; 1880-83, D. M. Bender; 1884-85, Jonas T. Lampson; 1886-87, C. B. Woodford; 1888-89, Jonas T. Lampson; 1890-93, Wm. Cook.

COUNTY SURVEYOR.—1867, Z. Harris; 1868 to April 5, 1869, S. R. Southwick; April 5, 1869, to 1871, E. G. Davidson; 1872-73, Wade H. Prichard; 1874-75, Samuel Terrill; 1876-77, Wade H. Prichard; 1878-79, George Thornton; 1880-81, J. M. Wells; resigned in Sept. 1881, and B. R. Cunningham was appointed; 1881-85, B. R. Cunningham; 1886-87, W. W. Dentler; 1888-89, C. C. Robbins; 1890-91, J. W. Boggess; 1892-93, A. B. Bushnell.

COUNTY ASSESSOR.—April 22, 1867, Francis Wall elected, but failed to qualify; A. W. Jones appointed; 1868, J. R. Morrison.

CLERK DISTRICT COURT.—1867-68, R. S. Cornish; 1869-70, Robert Steel; 1871-72, D. S. Morrison; 1873-74, R. J. Elliott; 1875-84, H. C.

Cook; 1885-88, E. B. Baldwin; 1889-90, Colin Hodge; 1891-92, J. A. Jones.

COUNTY TREASURER.—April to Sept. 1867, C. C. Clover; Sept. 3, 1867, James C. Watson appointed but failed to qualify; Oct. 1867 to July 1868, R. M. Bennett; 1868-69, Henry C. Bridgman; Jan. to Oct. 1870, Wm. Logan; 1870-72, Henry C. Bridgman; 1872-76, Charles F. Smith; 1876-80, George M. Caldwell; 1880-82, George Thornton; 1882-84, Geo. M. Caldwell; 1884-88, C. W. Littleton; 1888-90, W. H. Porter; 1890-92, William Slaughter; 1892-, M. V. Davis.

COUNTY CLERK.—March to July 1867, Austin T. Dickerman; July to Dec. 1867, D. W. Clover; Jan. to Nov. 1868, Charles E. Simons; Nov. 20th 1868 to Jan. 6th 1869, Charles C. Beggs; Jan. 6th to Nov. 1869, John D. Coulter; Nov. 1869-79, L. C. Howard; 1880-81, W. H. Keirse; 1882-85, Frank W. Felt; 1886-87, W. W. Cook; 1888-89, W. J. Millikin; 1890-91, Geo. W. Tilton; 1892-, D. H. Martin.

AUDITOR.—W. A. Starr, July 14, 1882, to his death, Dec. 14, 1883; W. B. Glasse, March 4th 1884-88; George S. King, Jan. 3 to Nov. 27, 1891.

HEALTH OFFICER.—June 1st 1885 to April 13th 1891, Elmer E. Liggett; April 13th 1891-, L. T. Strother.

CORONER.—1867-69, George W. Kingsbury; 1870-71, J. H. Logan; 1872, J. F. Newlon; 1873, William Pinkerton; 1874-77, D. B. Crouse; 1878-79, W. R. Moore; 1880-81, W. W. English; 1881-82, Lewis Peterson, who resigned in 1882, and P. Davis was appointed; 1883-87, E. W. Dorsey; 1888-89, A. A. Clarady; 1890-91, T. J. Finley; 1892-, J. H. Miller.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.—March 10, 1867, Governor Crawford appointed Samuel W. Collins, Charles H. Talbott and Bergen Van Ness commissioners to organize the county. April 22, 1867, William Shay, David C. Lowe and Nathan Ames were elected; Mr. Shay failing to qualify, John G. Rice was appointed in his place. 1868, 1st, William Logan; 2d, Isaac Butterworth; 3d, James F. Molesworth. 1869, 1st, William Logan; 2d, Elisha Hammer; 3d, James F. Molesworth.

Subsequent to 1869 the commissioners were as follows: *First District*: 1870, William Steel; 1871, Gilbert Martin; 1872-77, D. J. Doolen; 1878, H. S. Coley; 1879-81, D. J. Doolen; 1882-84, W. G. Hoover; 1885-90, D. A. Jones; 1891-, Gilbert A. Cooper.—*Second District*: 1870-71, J. W. Morey; Nov. 1871, Abner De Con was elected, but died before taking his seat; Feb. 10th 1872-73, George Foland; 1874-75, H. M. Debolt; 1876-77, C. Leib; 1878-79, H. M. Debolt; 1880-82, A. N. Russell; 1883-84, M. Breidenthal; April 5th 1884, Mr. Breidenthal died, and E. B. Baldwin was appointed in his place, and served from April 18th to Dec. 3d, 1884; Dec. 3d 1884-88, Lewis Goodwin; 1889-, Milo Hildreth.—*Third District*: November 3, 1869, J. P. Hutton declared elected, but died before qualifying; July 7, 1870, W. H. Carpenter was appointed; November, 1870, J. M. Richland was elected, but Carpenter claimed there was no vacancy, and Richland never took his seat; W. H. Carpenter continued to serve until the following November election; Nov. 1871-73, William Dick; 1874-77, W. A. Starr; 1878-80, P. W. Shick; 1881-83, J. J. Henderson; 1884-89, J. E. Brooks; 1890-92, J. W. Scott.

List and Terms of Chairmen of Board of County Commissioners.—1867, David C. Lowe; 1868, William Logan; 1869, James F. Molesworth;

1870, William Steel; Nov. 14, 1870, to Jan. 12, 1871, J. W. Morey; 1871, W. H. Carpenter; Nov. 1871 to Jan. 1872, J. W. Morey; 1872-73, William Dick; 1874-77, D. J. Doolen; 1878, H. S. Coley; 1879-81, D. J. Doolen; 1882-83, J. J. Henderson; 1884, W. G. Hoover; 1885-86, J. E. Brooks; 1887, D. A. Jones; 1888-89, J. E. Brooks; 1890, D. A. Jones; 1891-92, Milo Hildreth.

COUNTY DEPOSITORY.

October 10, 1882, to July 11, 1891, bank of C. M. Condon; July 11, 1891, First National Bank of Oswego up to fifty thousand dollars, and Oswego State Bank for amounts beyond what the National Bank is to have.

LIST OF OFFICIAL PAPERS.

1868, January 14th, proceedings ordered published in Humboldt Union; subsequently the Neosho Valley Eagle was established at Jacksonville and did a part of the county printing; later the Oswego Register was established and did most of the county printing; 1869, Register; 1870, Register; 1871, Advance and Register; 1872, Advance; 1873, Advance; 1874, Independent; 1875, Register, during year transferred to Independent; 1876, Herald; 1877, Independent; 1878, Independent; 1879, Independent; 1880, Democrat; 1881, Independent; 1882, Independent; 1883, Independent; 1884, Republican; 1885, Independent; 1886, Independent and Democrat; 1887, Bee and Sun; 1888, Bee and Sun; 1889, Independent and Sun; 1890, Independent and Sun; 1891, on January 9th the Independent was designated as the official paper; this order was revoked on February 9th, and an order made that Mills's Weekly World be the official paper, and on February 10th this order was revoked and another one made designating the Labette County Statesman as the official paper; 1892, Mills's Weekly World.

THE STRUGGLE FOR TEMPERANCE.

The license system was not put in operation in this county without a vigorous opposition on the part of the temperance people. So far as I can ascertain, the first attempt to obtain license to sell liquor in this county was in the summer or fall of 1867, when J. Q. Cowell, who was running a small drug store in Oswego, got a sufficiently signed petition to authorize the issuance of a license; but before it was presented to the board, H. C. Bridgman, who was conducting a general store next to his, in some way got possession of the petition and destroyed it. This seems to have been the last attempt made by Cowell to get license, but probably not the last attempt to sell liquor. The sales, however, if made, were without any authority of law.

Some time after this transaction John R. Clover got a petition containing sufficient signatures to authorize a license to be issued to him, but Mrs. Augusta Herbaugh managed to get possession of it, and it suffered a fate similar to Mr. Cowell's.

THE FIRST LICENSED SALOON

In the county was kept at the northwest corner of block 39, in Oswego, by Jones & Stewart, who on January 11, 1868, presented to the Board of County Commissioners a petition said to contain the names of a majority of the residents of Oswego township, asking that a license to sell liquor be granted to them. The board granted this petition, and directed the clerk to issue license for one year, upon the payment by said Jones & Stewart of the sum of \$50. This firm soon sold out to H. E. Porter and A. J. DeCou, the latter of whom in a few weeks sold his interest to his partner, and thereafter Mr. Porter ran the business alone. This saloon had been running less than seven months when, on the night of August 6th, J. C. Wheeler and Charles Van Alstine, with several more persons, spent the evening there in drinking and carousing until after midnight. Van Alstine and Wheeler got into a dispute over the question of indebtedness of the latter to the former, and after leaving the saloon, under the influence of liquor, remained by the side of the building disputing for some time, until all the other parties had gone away, and H. E. Porter, the bar-keeper, had closed the door. The next morning Wheeler was found by the saloon unconscious, his head bruised by

blows from a club, from which he soon thereafter died. Van Alstine was arrested, and at the next term of court convicted of murder in the second degree and sentenced to the penitentiary for ten years. I am informed that his family was left to be provided for by the public, as was also the family of Wheeler. Subsequently the Commissioners paid the expense of sending Wheeler's children back to their friends in Ohio. The cost to the county of convicting and sending Van Alstine to the penitentiary, and caring for the destitute families of the murderer and his victim, is said to have been over \$2,000. Comparing this sum paid out of the public treasury, for a matter which may fairly be said to be traceable directly to the saloon as its cause, with the paltry sum of \$50 paid into the county treasury for the saloon license, the transaction would not look like a very profitable one for the public to engage in.

The next party authorized by the board to make drunkards according to law was William B. Gregory, who on May 16, 1868, presented to the board a petition signed by 182 citizens of Richland township, asking that he be granted a dramshop license for said township. Whereupon the board ordered that, upon the payment of \$100 into the county treasury, license be granted him for one year from that date. The last action of the board preceding their granting Gregory license to keep a saloon was their appointment of him to the office of constable of said township.

The practical workings of this licensed saloon do not seem to have been altogether satisfactory to the people of Chetopa. On February 9, 1869, a large temperance meeting was held at Spaulding's Hall, at which stirring temperance speeches were made by a number of citizens, and also by Rev. C. R. Rice, who had remained over a day or two after his quarterly meeting. Strong resolutions were passed denouncing those who were disgracing the town with their drunkenness, and calling upon the officers to see that the law was enforced. Temperance meetings were frequently held subsequently to this, and a temperance organization was effected. About the same time attempts were made by other parties to obtain license, but with less success.

On July 21, 1868, a petition dated July 6, 1868, was presented to the board, asking them "to grant Charles Sipes a license to keep a grocery and first-class billiard saloon" in Oswego; whereupon, "the board having considered said petition, and being satisfied that said petition is not made by a majority of the residents in said township as the law requires, and that the masses of the citizens are opposed to the granting of dramshop license in said township, as evidenced by the remonstrance presented to this board, therefore said petition is not granted." On the same day the record shows that W. S. Newlon presented to the board the following petition:

“To the County Board of Labette County, Kansas: The undersigned, residents of Oswego township, over the age of 21 years, respectfully ask you not to grant license to establish a dramshop at Oswego at your next meeting.”

And then follows their action thereon :

“And the board having duly considered the same, do and it is hereby ordered that the board will not bind nor circumscribe its powers, but will endeavor to act at all times and upon all subjects according to law and justice. Wherefore, said petition is not granted.”

There seems to have been no other saloon license granted until January 7, 1869, when John R. Clover and H. H. Stanley were granted a license on a petition said to contain the names of a majority of the citizens of Oswego township. The record shows that Commissioner Molesworth voted to fix the amount charged for the license at \$500, but that Commissioners Logan and Butterworth agreed to charge but \$100 therefor. A year thereafter these parties had their license renewed by the Commissioners, at the same price.

After 1870, Oswego and Chetopa being organized under city government, the manner of regulating the sale of liquor in these places passed from the Board of County Commissioners to that of the City Council. The jurisdiction of the Commissioners was confined to the rest of the county.

The first record which I have found of a license being applied for outside of Richland and Oswego townships was that of Thomas Phillips to keep a saloon in Montana; this was at the meeting of the board in January, 1872. A remonstrance was also presented, and the license was refused. However, at their meeting in July of the same year the board granted a license to William T. Trapp, for a fee of \$150. This was not the first saloon, however, that was kept in Montana. Several parties at different times were engaged in the saloon business who conducted it in defiance of law.

At the January, 1874, meeting of the board, two saloons were authorized to be licensed in Montana, at a fee of \$100 each — one to be kept by Edward Wilcox, and the other by William T. Trapp and Andrew Dixon.

On February 2, 1875, J. S. Waters presented the petition of himself and 168 others, asking that license be granted to Andrew Dixon, and on the same day the petition was granted, the fee to be charged therefor to be \$300; but soon thereafter Mr. Waters appeared before the Commissioners and recommended that the fee be but \$100. On consideration, the board finally fixed the fee at \$200. In 1876 Dixon's license was again renewed, the fee charged this time being but \$100. It was not long after its renewal until Mrs. Waters appeared before the board and showed that some of the names on the petition for license were not legal petitioners,

and she succeeded in getting the board to make an order revoking the license. At the next meeting, however, Mr. Dixon appeared with his attorney before the board, and by making them believe that they had no authority to revoke a license once granted, induced them to rescind their former action and leave his license in force.

It was not long after the town of Labette was started until saloons were opened and run without the sanction of law, and yet without receiving any great amount of molestation from the law officers.

During 1872 and 1873 there was little organized effort at any place in the county to prevent the obtaining of license, or for the purpose of seeing that the law against illegal sales was practically enforced. Some temperance meetings were held, and some protests were made by the temperance people, but nothing very effective was done.

THE CRUSADE SPIRIT.

The spring and summer of 1874 was one of the most exciting times upon the temperance question that had ever been known in the county. The spirit of the "crusaders," which in many places in the East had led the women to make raids on the saloons and pour liquor into the gutter, manifested itself in this county in a milder but scarcely less determined form. No saloons were raided, but in Oswego the women held prayer meetings in the churches, and visited the saloons and requested the proprietors to give up their business. Of course these requests were not complied with. But the ladies' organization was kept up, the entire city was thoroughly canvassed, immense petitions were secured praying the Council to issue no license at all, and demanding that the law requiring a petition of a majority of the residents of the ward to be presented before a license should be issued, should be enforced. At that time the law of the State required a petition of a majority of the residents of the township or ward, male and female, to be presented requesting such action before any dramshop license could be granted, but provided that the mayor and council of cities of the first and second class might, by ordinance, dispense with such petition. At the request of the ladies the Mayor called a special meeting of the Council, which was held on May 4, 1874, at which time a large delegation of ladies appeared before the Council and presented their petitions, and had several arguments made in favor of carrying out the spirit expressed therein. Prior to this no ordinance had been passed dispensing with the necessity of a petition, but the Council had entirely disregarded the law requiring a petition, and had uniformly granted license on the simple petition of the applicant himself. It being now apparent that such action would not be tolerated, at the close of the argument in favor of granting the ladies' petition a

motion was made instructing the committee to prepare and present an ordinance to dispense with the necessity for a petition by a majority of the residents of the ward, as they were authorized to do by statute. The vote on the passage of this motion resulted in a tie of the Council, and the Mayor gave the casting vote in opposition thereto, thus establishing the rule that licensed saloons could not exist in any ward until a majority of the adult residents thereof, male and female, should petition therefor. For this action the Mayor received a vote of thanks from the ladies' association.

Less than a week later another meeting of the Council was called, at which an ordinance dispensing with the necessity for a petition containing the names of a majority of the residents of the ward before a license could be granted was introduced, and on motion to adopt the same the vote of the Council, as at the previous meeting, stood a tie, and the Mayor gave the casting vote in favor of its passage, and thereby inaugurated the policy in the form of law, which since the incorporation of the city had been practiced in defiance of law, of allowing the Mayor and Council to grant license without an express wish of the people therefor. This action on the part of the Mayor and Council created great excitement. A public meeting was immediately called, and strong resolutions of disapprobation of this action were unanimously passed. Temperance meetings continued to be held and public sentiment aroused.

At the time Oswego was having this earnest action, rousing temperance meetings were held weekly at Parsons, and were addressed by leading and influential citizens, as well as by the clergy. A little later, similar steps were taken at Chetopa. Public meetings were held and speeches made disapproving the licensing of saloons, and petitions were circulated and largely signed asking the Council to grant no license until petitioned for by a majority of the residents of the ward as required by law. These petitions, however, were unavailing, and at the close of the month a large number of saloons were licensed over the earnest protest of the temperance people.

The temperance people were now intent on preventing the issuance of license in the cities unless the same were petitioned for by a majority of the residents of the ward; and at the county temperance convention held on October 6, 1874, on motion of Nelson Case it was unanimously —

“*Resolved*, That we are in favor of the immediate repeal of the *proviso* of section 1 of the dramshop act, and request our entire delegation in the Legislature to use their utmost exertions to secure such result.”

Early in 1874 a party decided it would be a profitable thing to open a saloon in Mound Valley, and set about obtaining a petition asking the Commissioners to grant him a license for that purpose. As soon as this

was known a public meeting was called and held at the school-house, on February 2d, and rousing temperance speeches were made, and a determination expressed that no saloon should be opened in that place. A remonstrance was circulated, and a large majority of the people signed the same. During the winter of 1873 and 1874 the temperance sentiment in Chetopa was sustained by the maintenance of the weekly temperance literary society, in which a temperance paper was read, temperance debates were had, and all phases of the question were discussed. Nearly all of the temperance workers in the place took part in this society.

REFORM CLUB.

On July 8, 1877, quite a number of the men of Oswego who were in the habit of indulging somewhat freely in intoxicating liquors organized themselves into a reform club, with William Wells as president and L. C. Howard as secretary. The purpose of the club was to assist its members either in abstaining altogether from the use of liquor, or to abstain therefrom excepting under certain conditions.

BREWERIES.

As early as 1870, Max Muehlschuster started a brewery on the Neosho river at Chetopa, and soon opened in connection therewith a beer garden on the east side of the river. These were conducted by him until his death, in July, 1871.

In 1870 a building for a brewery was erected in the north edge of Oswego by John Seiber and Edward Eckle, but on account of financial embarrassment on the part of the proprietors it was never put in operation.

Early in 1873 John Apperger commenced the construction of a brewery just on the brow of the hill in the east part of Oswego, south of the section-line road running to Columbus, which was dedicated by a free-beer frolic on Sunday, April 21, 1873. Apperger ran the brewery for some four years, but finally, in November, 1877, it was closed by the Collector of Internal Revenue for illicit transactions, and soon thereafter Apperger moved away.

MURPHY MEETINGS.

Murphy meetings in the county commenced in Oswego, where, about the 1st of October, 1877, a series of meetings was begun in the Methodist church, under the general direction of the pastor, which were kept up nightly for quite a length of time, and at which nearly all of the citizens who at any time spoke in public, as well as persons from abroad, made speeches. Miss Amanda Way was present on one or two occasions. The meetings resulted in securing the signatures of over five hundred of the citizens to the Murphy pledge. At its close steps were taken for opening a library and reading-room.

Soon after the opening of the meetings in Oswego a series of meetings was held at Chetopa, conducted by Mrs. S. A. Williams, which resulted in securing something like six hundred signatures to the Murphy pledge.

About the same time similar meetings were conducted at Parsons by Miss Amanda Way, at which about eight hundred parties took the Murphy pledge. Steps were taken at the close of these meetings looking to the opening of a free reading-room.

During that winter Murphy meetings were held in a large number of the school-houses throughout the county, especially in the southern part. T. J. Calvin took a leading part in getting them started, and provided for their being frequently conducted. From these temperance meetings organizations were secured in the Baylor school-house, with W. G. Baylor as president, and in the Lockard school-house, with A. B. Hammer as president. At Montana during the same period, Murphy meetings were scarcely less successful than at either of the other points in the county. The whole neighborhood was thoroughly aroused, and a very large proportion of the people took the pledge.

DISPENSING WITH PETITION.

On May 28, 1877, the City Council of Parsons by unanimous vote passed an ordinance requiring the presentation of a petition of a majority of the residents of a ward in order to obtain a license. The Mayor, however, vetoed this ordinance, and the Council declined to pass it over his veto. The strong argument against the passage of the ordinance seemed to be that thereby some of the nine saloons then running in the city would not be able to procure the necessary petition, and the city would thereby be deprived of the \$200 fee charged therefor. A public meeting was had, at which a vote of thanks was tendered the three Councilmen who voted for the passage of the ordinance notwithstanding the Mayor's veto.

Following up the Murphy movement in Oswego, petitions were presented to the Council requesting the repeal of the ordinance dispensing with the necessity of petition, in compliance with which the Council did, on November 2, 1877, repeal the ordinance on that subject, and thereby made it practically certain that licensed saloons must cease with the last of the year, for with the sentiment as it then existed, there was no probability of anyone obtaining a sufficient petition to entitle the Council to grant license, were they so disposed. On the 1st of January, 1878, Oswego for the first time since the granting of the first license ten years before, was without a licensed saloon; nor did she have one running during the next three months. In February, 1878, C. B. Woodford presented a petition sufficiently signed to authorize the Council to issue a license, provided they

had chosen to issue it, for the purpose of selling "spirituous, vinous, and malt liquors in this city for medical, culinary, sacramental and mechanical purposes." Signatures to this petition were obtained on the theory that it was not for the purpose of securing license to open a saloon, but only for the sale of liquor for the purposes therein named. However, the Council refused to grant the petition, and passed a preamble and a resolution that no license would be issued until after the people had had an opportunity to express themselves at the polls whether they desired license to be restored. At the city election the only question was whether or not a mayor and council should be elected in favor of granting license, and the people decided in favor of license by a majority of more than one hundred. Of course with such a verdict in favor of a change of policy from that which had been pursued for the three months past, the Council was not long in granting license to those who had been anxiously waiting for an opportunity to open saloons, and from this time on until the State prohibitory law went into effect Oswego was able to furnish those who wished to buy, all the liquor they needed, not only for "culinary and medicinal," but also for *intoxicating* purposes.

On January 1, 1878, in compliance with request of a petition very largely signed by the citizens of Chetopa, the Mayor and Council of that city unanimously passed an ordinance repealing the ordinance then in force dispensing with petition, thereby making it incumbent on the applicant for license to get a majority of the ward, male and female, to petition therefor before he could obtain license to sell liquor. It was supposed that this would be sufficient to do away with saloons in that town. However, just one week thereafter a petition of the residents of the first ward was presented to the Council, containing the requisite number of signatures, and a saloon was duly licensed. From that time the temperance war was carried on in earnest. Public meetings were frequently held, and every step possible taken to consolidate the sentiment in favor of no-license. This was the direct issue at the city election in April, 1878, and by a small majority the temperance people succeeded in electing officers opposed to the issuance of any license. At the expiration of the licenses then in existence, on June 30th, legalized saloons ceased in Chetopa, and were not again introduced. In the spring of 1879 little interest was taken in the election, and the result was that one license Councilman was elected, which made the Council stand a tie. Soon thereafter, petitions were circulated to secure signatures asking that license again be granted. A vacancy soon occurred in the City Council; a special election resulted in the election of a temperance man, which again gave a clear majority of the Council opposed to license, and thereby, as was supposed, determined the matter of saloons for another

year. But later in the season further efforts were made by the liquor men to obtain license, and by direction of the Council the Mayor called a special election, to be held on September 23, 1879, of all persons of lawful age, both male and female, to determine by ballot whether or not the Council should grant dramshop license. The vote was taken, resulting in 66 men and 113 women voting against license, and not one vote in favor thereof. Prior to the election in April, 1880, a vigorous effort was made to arouse the temperance sentiment both in the town and surrounding country. Petitions were sent out to secure the signatures of farmers who preferred to trade in a temperance town, and of course a vast majority of them signed it. The election, however, resulted in the choice of one Councilman opposed to license and one in favor, thereby making the Council a tie upon that question.

TEMPERANCE ORGANIZATIONS.

I. O. G. T.

OSWEGO.—The first lodge of this order established in the county was organized at Oswego on November 14, 1869. Several temperance workers, feeling the necessity for something being done to save young men from drunkenness, applied to the officers of the grand lodge for a charter. J. J. Browne was appointed deputy to institute the lodge; Nelson Case was elected W. C. T., and A. B. Close W. S. After some years this lodge became somewhat disorganized. On May 10, 1876, a district Good Templars' meeting was held at the Congregational church in Oswego, at which steps were taken to reorganize a lodge at this place. A number of persons signified their willingness to go into such an organization, and a lodge was soon thereafter instituted, which, with more or less regularity, maintained its existence until June, 1882, when, prohibition having been adopted, its members deemed it unwise longer to continue its operation, and it was suspended. The money in the treasury, amounting to \$30, was donated to the library association.

CHETOPA.—The second lodge formed in the county was organized at Chetopa, where, by the aid of the members from the Oswego lodge, one was instituted on January 24, 1870, with G. L. Courtney as W. C. T., and S. T. Beck W. S. With some interruptions a lodge was maintained at Chetopa as late as 1877. Lodges were had at one time at Montana, the Lockard school-house, the Breese school-house, and probably at other points in the county. None of these were of very long duration.

MOUND VALLEY.—On October 10, 1877, under the leadership of Mrs. Williams, a grand lodge deputy, a lodge was instituted at Mound Valley, and was maintained for some eight years, when it became disorganized. Robert R. Coleman was its first W. C. T., and he and his family were

active workers during the history of the lodge. November 2, 1885, a re-organization was had, and the lodge from this time was maintained regularly till May 9, 1887, when it was again discontinued. Very much of the temperance sentiment of Mound Valley may be ascribed to the principles instilled into the minds of the young, and to the correct temperance education given in this lodge.

PARSONS.—On November 12, 1874, through the instrumentality of Rev. J. P. Hight, a lodge was organized with M. G. Brown as W. C. T., Mrs. M. M. Hill W. V. T., Jas. Grimes W. S., M. Johnson W. T. With slight interruptions the lodge maintained its organization until the adoption of the prohibitory amendment, after which time it was allowed to die. Mr. Grimes, who was the first secretary of this lodge, afterward became quite prominent in the order, being at one time secretary and afterward G. W. C. T. of the Grand Lodge of the State, and several times represented the State in the R. W. G. Lodge.

C. T. U.

In 1877 local organizations of the Christian Temperance Union were formed at two or three places in the county. On October 25th one was formed at Chetopa, with T. J. Calvin president and J. M. Cavaness secretary. Sometime that fall or winter one was formed at Oswego, and one also existed at Montana. On March 20, 1878, a county union was formed, with H. G. Webb president, Mary A. Higby secretary, Robert L. Curl treasurer, and J. S. Waters organizer.

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The illegal sale of liquor in Altamont, resulting in the repeated and continued intoxication of several men, became so unbearable that in July, 1884, there was organized the Ladies' Temperance Alliance, with Mrs. Lizzie Hughes as president. This organization did much good in creating a public sentiment in favor of putting a stop to the illegal sale of liquor, and inducing those who were drinking to refrain therefrom.

In 1883 the ladies of Mound Valley maintained a local union, which rendered efficient aid to the cause in the way of encouraging and aiding those who were engaged in securing the enforcement of the law.

The Oswego Temperance Union was formed in January, 1880, and under its management the entire city was canvassed for signers to a pledge against the use of liquor and also against aiding in securing a license for a saloon.

W. C. T. U.

On November 16, 1883, a union was organized in Chetopa by Mrs. Drusilla Wilson. Mrs. Julia R. Knight was elected president, Miss Agnes Baty recording secretary, Mrs. Nancy Anderson corresponding secretary, Mrs. Isabel Cavaness treasurer. About July 28, 1880, a union

was formed at Parsons, with Mrs. A. Nealy secretary. On March 5, 1885, Mrs. M. E. Griffith, State organizer, held a week's meeting at Mound Valley, and at its close organized a union. After continuing its operation for a few months this organization became disbanded, but on August 10, 1886, it was reorganized, with Mrs. E. A. West president, and Mrs. H. Beggs secretary. This union still maintains a vigorous organization.

On March 2, 1885, a union was formed at Oswego, with Mrs. E. Elliott president and Mrs. Lydia A. Baldwin secretary. Among the other ladies who were associated with them in this work were Mrs. Augusta Herbaugh, Mrs. Mary E. Case, Mrs. Sallie J. Stonecipher, Mrs. M. L. Newlon.

COUNTY UNION.

In March, 1886, delegates from the several unions in the county met and organized a county union, electing Mrs. Z. L. Janes, of Parsons, president, and Mrs. E. A. West, of Mound Valley, secretary. Mrs. West was reelected secretary in 1887 and 1888. In 1887 Mrs. E. W. Ross was elected president, and Miss M. E. Scott in 1888. Miss Scott has continued to fill the position of president from that time to this. Mrs. Hattie A. Coleman was first elected secretary in 1889, and has since then continued to hold the position.

THE PROHIBITION CANVASS.

Early in 1880 steps were taken by the temperance people of the county to thoroughly present the claims of the pending constitutional amendment, to prohibit the sale and manufacture of intoxicating liquors, to the intelligent and conscientious consideration of the electors of the county. In August, 1880, Mrs. Lang lectured at Chetopa, at the close of which a prohibition society was formed, which soon thereafter adopted a constitution, and elected C. H. McCreery president and F. D. Allen secretary. In Elm Grove township a healthy prohibition club was organized early in September, with the avowed intention of thoroughly canvassing the township. In the same month a series of meetings lasting over a week was held in Oswego, at which E. B. Reynolds of Indiana and Col. C. N. Golding were the principal speakers. During that fall nearly all of the prominent workers in the county were engaged more or less in canvassing for the amendment. The cause was aided very materially by prominent workers from abroad, among whom, in addition to those above named, may be mentioned Gov. St. John, Judge Layton, Frank J. Sibley, and George W. Bain. The result of the effort was, that at the election in November 2,082 votes were polled for the amendment and 2,123 against it. While the friends of temperance had hoped to have a majority in favor of prohibition, they felt quite well satisfied that the result

was so small a majority against it. The constitutional amendment having been adopted in the State, and the law for its enforcement having gone into effect on May 1, 1881, it was not long until most of the saloons were closed. A few held out with the idea that the law would not be enforced, but the majority in that business preferred to transfer their operations to more favorable fields.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY.

On May 1, 1882, the temperance people of the county celebrated the first anniversary of prohibition by a public meeting held at Oswego. Gov. St. John was present, and made the principal address. The day was unfavorable, a heavy rain falling almost continually from 9 o'clock until after the proceedings had closed; yet notwithstanding this an immense crowd assembled, coming from nearly all parts of the county. Even the enemies of prohibition had to concede that the celebration was a success, and its friends were strengthened in their determination to see the saloon permanently driven out.

ORGANIZATIONS FOR ENFORCING THE LAW.

It was not long after this, however, until the friends of prohibition in the county who were gifted with any measure of discernment were satisfied that its enforcement meant a long and hard struggle. Those who had been accustomed to reap the enormous profits which are incident to the sale of liquor, and whose disposition was to furnish all means possible for man's downfall, were not disposed to surrender the privilege they had for such a length of time enjoyed, so long as they could find any means by which they could successfully defy the law. The number of those engaged in the traffic being so much larger at Parsons than at any other point in the county, and they having more capital invested in the undertaking, made that the headquarters for the liquor-men of the county.

E. R. Marvin, the proprietor of the Belmont House, was the leader of this law-defying class. As good attorneys as could be found in the county were employed in the defense of Marvin, and those arrested with him, for the violation of the law. A protracted legal contest ensued, in which for a time it seemed as though the defyers of the law were to be triumphant because of the inability to secure a jury who would render a verdict of conviction even when the most positive and convincing testimony was presented to them. Occasionally, however, a jury of honest men could be secured, and witnesses who knew something of the obligations of an oath could be put upon the stand, in which case verdicts of guilt were found. To aid the officers in the enforcement of this law, various local organizations were formed from time to time as necessity

seemed to require, and the wisdom of the temperance people judged advisable. The first of these which was at all prominent and effective was The Labette County Law Enforcement Society, which was organized in the court-house in Oswego January 27, 1883; Rev. John Elliott was elected president, W. L. Simons vice-president, A. A. Osgood secretary, and J. M. Bowman treasurer. This meeting was largely attended by delegates from all parts of the county. Prior to this, however, local organizations had been formed in Oswego, Chetopa, and Parsons. In July, 1882, a prohibition association was formed at Oswego. The Law Enforcement Society continued in force for some two years, during which it raised quite large sums of money with which to employ counsel to assist the County Attorney and to meet the expenses necessary to a protracted litigation. It was thought best to raise this money by private subscription, so that the public expenses attendant on the enforcement of the law would not make it obnoxious to those tax-payers who might not have any particular interest in seeing it made a success.

On May 9, 1885, Hon. Albert Griffin lectured in Oswego, and at the close of the lecture a committee consisting of Nelson Case of Oswego, T. J. Calvin of Chetopa, and Rev. H. A. Tucker of Parsons, was appointed to effect a county organization. Thereafter, on October 20, 1885, the Labette County Temperance Union was organized, at the office of Nelson Case, in Oswego, a public meeting having been called at said office for that purpose. Rev. H. A. Tucker was elected president, several parties in different parts of the county vice-presidents, Nelson Case secretary, and C. U. Dorman treasurer. This organization proved more effective than any that had hitherto been formed for the purpose of enforcing the prohibitory law. Mr. Tucker devoted a large amount of time canvassing the county, forming local associations, creating public sentiment in favor of the law, and uniting the earnest temperance workers into a solid organization for active duty. The result was that every saloon in the county was closed; scarcely a "boot-legger" or "jointist" was foolhardy enough to risk his liberty for the amount of profit to be realized from the sales he could hope to make. Not a very large amount of money was raised or expended by this organization, but a very large amount of earnest work was done by a few who were determined to see that the law was enforced, and it was practically demonstrated that prohibition could be made to prohibit when the officers, backed by a healthy public sentiment, were determined that it should be.

DRUGGISTS' REPORTS.

It was thought by some that the druggists who had been licensed to sell liquor under the law during 1882 had sold a larger quantity than was

really needed for "medicinal, scientific and mechanical purposes." With the opening of 1883 the Probate Judge, while yet there was no law requiring reports to be made by those licensed to sell liquor, prepared blanks which he distributed to all of the druggists to whom license had been granted, requesting them to make monthly reports, verified by their affidavit to be true and correct, showing under the following heads what they had done in the way of making sales, viz. : "No. of sale," "Date," "Name of physician making prescription," "Person for whom liquor was prescribed," "Person to whom the liquor was delivered," "Kind of liquor sold," "Amount of liquor sold." Most of the druggists complied with this request without objection, and made their reports. Some of the reports showed a very large amount of liquor sold, and whether or not it was sold illegally seemed to depend principally upon whether or not the druggist had a right to fill all prescriptions made by practicing physicians, or whether he was bound to know that a prescription for liquor every day or oftener was in fact a subterfuge in order to enable the party to procure liquor to use as a beverage and not as a medicine. It became evident that the great bulk of prescriptions were made by a few physicians, and that they were made regularly to parties who thus obtained liquor almost as frequently as was desired. Some druggists refused to make reports as requested: to all such the Probate Judge refused to renew their license when those that already had been given had expired. This caused a little friction, but in the end the plan adopted very largely secured the end sought, viz., to license only the druggists who were found not to abuse the privilege of the permit and under cover of the druggists' license carry on a real saloon. Two years after the adoption of this policy by the Probate Judge the Legislature enacted a law substantially requiring what he had been doing without any law on the subject. It was found that very few responsible druggists cared to have the files of a public office contain the evidence of their carrying on a saloon business. In many ways the practice of requiring reports to be made, and thus giving publicity to all sales of liquor, was found to be conducive to the cause of temperance and to tend to lessen the amount of liquor sold and consumed.

"ORIGINAL PACKAGE" HOUSES.

In April, 1890, the Supreme Court of the United States, in a cause brought there by writ of error from the Supreme Court of Iowa, decided that a liquor-seller in one State might send his liquors into another, there to be sold in the original packages as they were shipped, notwithstanding the laws of the latter State absolutely prohibited the sale of liquor within its boundaries. This decision announced a rule entirely opposed to the

opinion which was generally entertained by the legal profession respecting the clause of the Federal Constitution giving to Congress the power to regulate interstate commerce: and by virtue of it a century's practice of police regulation was upset, and a new system instituted as contrary thereto as could have been effected by a legislative enactment. Seldom has anything transpired which has been hailed by the saloon-men with a greater degree of delight than was manifested by them on the announcement of this decision. They were not long in making their arrangements to open saloons under the designation of "original-package houses" in nearly every town where public sentiment would at all tolerate them. In many places the temperance people made such a bold resistance to their introduction that the proprietors deemed it unwise to force them upon the people.

This state of things was not left to be continued for a great length of time under the sanction of law. On August 8, 1890, the Congressional enactment known as the Wilson bill was approved, whereby the old rule of allowing the States under their power of police regulation to prescribe such rules as they desired, governing or prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors within their respective jurisdictions, was revived. Very soon thereafter the original-package saloon, like its predecessor of some other name, took its departure from our county.

A party brought a lot of liquors to Oswego, and attempted to rent a room in which to open out an original-package saloon. He found trouble in securing a room. Finally some one, to see what effect it would have, got a sign painted and put it up over the door of a vacant room belonging to John Clover. The town was soon astir with excitement. Mrs. Clover came up town, and, learning of the sign being on their building, at once proceeded to have it torn down. The determined opposition to the opening of such a saloon deterred any farther attempt in that direction.

In both Parsons and Chetopa these original-package houses were opened, several in both places running until after the passage of the Wilson bill. As is often done by saloon-men, those opening these houses were not content to sell under the law as it had been interpreted by the court granting them the authority so to do, but, disregarding the legal restrictions which the law had thrown around the sale, they carried on an open saloon. Prosecutions were soon commenced against them, and probably had the Wilson bill not been passed most of these houses could have been closed and their proprietors confined in the county jail; but the passage of the law and the criminal prosecutions instituted by our officials effectively removed from our boundaries the last original-package house.

POSTOFFICES AND POSTMASTERS.

Altamont.—Name changed from Elston Feb. 1, 1875. Postmasters appointed as follows: Henry E. Hammon, Feb. 1, 1875; Jane Huston, Nov. 19, 1878; William M. Paramore, Sept. 18, 1884; Andrew J. Garst, Oct. 21, 1885; Martha E. Davis, July 22, 1889.

Angola.—Name changed from Arnold Jan. 31, 1887. Postmasters appointed: Isaac N. Watson, Jan. 31, 1887; Alfred Elliott, March 29, 1889.

Arnold.—Established Aug. 1, 1881. Postmasters appointed: Allen S. Meek, Aug. 1, 1881; James M. Sage, Jan. 4, 1884. Name changed to Angola Jan. 31, 1887.

Bartlett.—Established Sept. 15, 1886. Postmasters appointed: Jerome Callahan, Sept. 15, 1886; Ira W. Clark, April 11, 1889; Haly J. Reece, Oct. 10, 1889.

Big Hill.—Established June 8, 1868. Postmasters appointed: Joseph McCormick, June 8, 1868; David Stanfield, March 24, 1871. Discontinued Sept. 18, 1871.

Barton.—Established Jan. 11, 1877. Postmasters appointed: John H. Tibbets, Jan. 11, 1877; William Paramore, March 28, 1884; George E. Nichols, July 28, 1884. Discontinued March 19, 1886.

Cecil.—Established February 15, 1881. Postmasters appointed: John Lyons, Feb. 15, 1881; George Berge, May 8, 1882; Cornelius W. Fowler, Dec. 9, 1885; Mrs. Elizabeth Lewman, April 4, 1887; George Berge, May 15, 1889.

Chetopa.—Established April 15, 1867. Postmasters appointed: Wiloughby Doudna, April 15, 1867; Zachariah Woodward, May 8, 1868; Ephraim J. Stuart, Jan. 13, 1870; Jefferson J. Hibbetts, April 22, 1872; James M. Cavaness, Oct. 29, 1875; Josephus P. De Jarnett, May 18, 1885; Joseph Craft, July 18, 1889.

Clymore.—Established Nov. 15, 1869. Postmaster appointed: John W. Lushbaugh, Nov. 15, 1869. Discontinued May 7, 1872.

Creswell.—Established March 25, 1870. Postmaster appointed: Edward Spicer, March 25, 1870. Discontinued Sept. 11, 1871.

Crouse.—Established April 23, 1880. Postmasters appointed: Daniel B. Crouse, April 23, 1880; M. Jennie Sacks, April 7, 1884; Jennie M. Hunter, May 1, 1884. Discontinued Oct. 23, 1885.

Dennis.—Established June 8, 1881. Postmasters appointed: John S. Milligan, June 8, 1881; John N. Webb, Nov. 21, 1881; James L. Wilson, Sept. 1, 1885; Louis R. Powell, Dec. 16, 1887; John Raney, July 24, 1889.

Dora.—Established Dec. 24, 1869. Postmasters appointed: William H. Godwin, Dec. 24, 1869; Francis W. Noblett, Nov. 24, 1877; John I. Martin, Nov. 26, 1884; Mrs. Ada James, Jan. 23, 1885. Discontinued Nov. 11, 1886.

Daytonville.—Established Aug. 12, 1870. Postmaster appointed: Elisha K. Current, Aug. 12, 1870. Discontinued July 7, 1871.

Deertown.—Established Sept. 5, 1881. Postmasters appointed: Aaron Humes, Sept. 5, 1881; Charles M. Keeler, Sept. 4, 1884. Name changed to Valeda Sept. 3, 1886.

Edna.—Established April 4, 1878. Postmasters appointed: Alexander Pattison, April 4, 1878; Frank A. Clark, Jan. 30, 1880; John S. Odell, Nov. 20, 1886; Frank W. Martin, June 12, 1889.

Elm City.—Established Sept. 24, 1886. Postmasters appointed: Zachariah H. Roberson, Sept. 24, 1886; Lewis F. Smith, Dec. 19, 1888; James H. Brown, Feb. 28, 1889; Thomas Greenup, May 21, 1891.

Elston.—Established May 18, 1870. Postmasters appointed: John B. Laurence, May 18, 1870; David L. Adams, July 24, 1870; Martin V. B. Watson, Feb. 24, 1871. Discontinued June 11, 1873. Reestablished Aug. 19, 1873. Postmasters appointed: John Elston, Aug. 19, 1873; Susan A. Prather, Jan. 7, 1874; Henry A. Hammon, Oct. 21, 1874. Name changed to Altamont Feb. 1, 1875.

Fishkill.—Established July 3, 1878. Postmaster appointed: William H. Fish, July 3, 1878. Discontinued July 2, 1879.

Gorham.—Established June 11, 1875. Postmaster appointed: Park B. Clark, June 11, 1875. Discontinued Sept. 5, 1878.

Grant.—Established May 8, 1876. Postmaster appointed: William J. Harshaw, May 8, 1876. Discontinued Dec. 13, 1876.

Hackberry.—Established April 1, 1875. Postmaster appointed: Theodore A. Fellows, April 1, 1875. Discontinued July 13, 1876.

Idenbro.—Established Oct. 18, 1887. Postmaster appointed: Thomas T. Iden, Oct. 18, 1887.

Iuka.—Established Dec. 10, 1866. Postmasters appointed: John P. D. Mouriquand, Dec. 10, 1866; Zachariah Harris, April 11, 1867; Jesse Fry, March 17, 1868. Discontinued Aug. 31, 1868. Reestablished February 15, 1869. Postmaster appointed: Aaron P. Grover, Feb. 15, 1869. Discontinued Dec. 14, 1869.

Kingston.—Established Jan. 9, 1878. Postmaster appointed: Charles W. Campbell, Jan. 9, 1878. Discontinued Nov. 20, 1886.

Labette City.—Established June 1868, 16. Postmasters appointed: Richard G. Tileston, June 16, 1868; George H. English, July 20, 1869. Discontinued April 8, 1870.

Labette.—Name changed from Neola July 3, 1870. Postmasters appointed: David C. Lowe, July 3, 1870; James W. H. Goulden, Oct. 3, 1870; Samuel W. Collins, March 16, 1875; Jonas T. Lampton, June 30, 1875; James W. H. Golden, Jan. 5, 1876; John S. McClain, Nov. 4, 1885; Alonzo C. Lamm, April 16, 1889.

Laneville.—Established May 29, 1884. Postmasters appointed: Isaac W. Galyen, May 29, 1884; John W. Morning, April 16, 1886; Benjamin Franklin, Nov. 13, 1886; Samuel Ballentine, Nov. 1, 1887; Ira P. Merrill, April 9, 1888.

Lake Creek.—Established Dec. 5, 1870. Postmaster appointed: Oscar C. Ketchum, Dec. 5, 1870. Discontinued March 29, 1872.

Matthewson.—Established August 15, 1878. Postmasters appointed: William T. Carter, Aug. 15, 1878; William McDown, June 24, 1879; Gustavus V. Watson, April 3, 1882; William McDown, April 21, 1882; Marshall E. Thompson, Jan. 22, 1883; William McDown, Nov. 17, 1885.

Minerva.—Established Dec. 8, 1874. Postmasters appointed: William H. Bower, Dec. 8, 1874; Charles M. Keeler, July 23, 1877; Morris W. Monroe, Nov. 13, 1878; Daniel W. Butler, Nov. 10, 1879; Russell A. Curry, Jan. 24, 1882; Martha E. Butler, May 11, 1882; Mary E. Adams, July 6, 1883; Russell A. Curry, July 20, 1883; Mary E. Adams, Nov. 15, 1883.

Montana.—Established Oct. 4, 1866. Postmasters appointed: Benjamin F. Simons, Oct. 4, 1866; Samuel S. Watson, Jan. 21, 1868; Charles E. Simons, May 21, 1872; Samuel Ballentine, Jan. 22, 1877; Jonathan J. Freeman, Sept. 2, 1885; Samuel Ballentine, July 15, 1889.

Mortimer.—Established Jan. 12, 1883. Postmasters appointed: James T. Mortimer, Jan. 12, 1883; William J. Iliff, July 11, 1883; James G. Finley, Feb. 18, 1884; James B. Hibbard, Feb. 24, 1886; Geo. Lohman, July 9, 1886; Emanuel Mortimer, Nov. 1, 1886; William H. Makeany, April 20, 1889.

Mound Valley.—Established May 18, 1870. Postmasters appointed: Alexander Honrath, May 18, 1870; Lewis F. Nicklace, Dec. 23, 1872; Francis M. Anderson, Nov. 7, 1873; Lilburn W. Sloeum, Nov. 9, 1874; Milton Dunn, June 11, 1875; Robert Blackley, Nov. 29, 1875; Newton M. Miller, March 17, 1880; George Lutz, Aug. 1, 1884; Peter W. Shick, Aug. 26, 1885; James M. Richardson, Aug. 27, 1886; John Dudley, July 10, 1889.

Mendota.—Established Sept. 25, 1869. Postmaster appointed: William K. Hayes, Sept. 25, 1869. Name changed to Parsons Dec. 9, 1870.

Neolu.—Established Oct. 12, 1868. Postmasters appointed: William J. Conner, Oct. 12, 1868; David C. Lowe, March 28, 1870. Name changed to Labette July 5, 1870.

Oswego.—Established Oct. 4, 1866. Postmasters appointed: Nelson S. Carr, October 4, 1866; John Q. Cowell, May 7, 1868; John D. Coulter, March 29, 1869; Abel W. Pickering, Dec. 12, 1870; Hiram P. Newlon, April 13, 1871; Littleton S. Crum, April 13, 1876; John M. Landis, December 2, 1886, not confirmed, but again appointed March 7, 1887; Frank D. Allen, Aug. 2, 1889.

Parsons.—Name changed from Mendota Dec. 9, 1870. Postmasters appointed: Wm. K. Hayes, Dec. 9, 1870; Samuel O. Fletcher, March 22, 1878; Frank W. Frye, Aug. 7, 1885; Harry H. Lusk, April 23, 1889.

Ripon.—Established January 12, 1870. Postmasters appointed: Carlton B. Pratt, Jan. 12, 1870; Mrs. Almira L. Pratt, April 3, 1872; Thomas H. Bruner, April 13, 1874; Thomas Greenup, Oct. 31, 1877. Discontinued Dec. 15, 1884. Re-established May 6, 1886. Postmasters appointed: Thomas Greenup, May 6, 1886; John Triplett, Jan. 10, 1887. Discontinued Jan. 9, 1891.

Stover.—Established Oct. 9, 1883. Postmaster appointed: Henry M. Debolt, Oct. 9, 1883. Name changed to Debolt July 16, 1884. Postmaster appointed: Henry M. Debolt, July 16, 1884. Name changed to

Stover Jan. 28, 1886. Postmasters appointed: Clark M. Monroe, Jan. 28, 1886; Rufus T. Monroe, April 17, 1888; Henry M. Debolt, April 16, 1889.

Sylvan Dale.—Established March 29, 1876. Postmaster appointed: Geo. S. Anderson, March 29, 1876. Discontinued Jan. 21, 1878.

Snow Hill.—Established Jan. 13, 1879. Postmasters appointed: Wm. Geyer, Jan. 13, 1879; William B. Roberts, July 12, 1880; James Cool, April 5, 1884. Discontinued July 16, 1884.

Timber Hill.—Established Dec. 22, 1869. Postmasters appointed: Francis Labadie, Dec. 22, 1869; Winfield S. Gotzenbaum, June 26, 1870; C. L. Boutillier, March 31, 1871; William J. Boutillier, Dec. 13, 1876; John T. Weakley, May 8, 1879. Discontinued Nov. 17, 1879.

Trenton.—Established Jan. 30, 1872. Postmasters appointed: John W. Hall, Jan. 30, 1872; James M. Arthur, Feb. 25, 1874. Discontinued May 10, 1875.

Valeda.—Name changed from Deerton Sept. 3, 1886. Postmasters appointed: Charles M. Keeler, Sept. 3, 1886; William Blackford, Nov. 11, 1886; John G. Willey, March 26, 1889.

Wilsonton.—Established Sept. 9, 1887. Postmasters appointed: John J. Melick, Sept. 9, 1887; Survilda A. Modlin, Sept. 18, 1888; Shelby W. Bonebraker, Dec. 5, 1888; Morris T. Baker, Aug. 10, 1889; Andrew R. Werning, Feb. 18, 1890; John M. Gordon, March 28, 1891.

THE PRESS.

For some time after the settlement of the county commenced, the settlers had to depend on verbal and written communications for the transmission of local news. The first paper to be published in this part of the State was the *Neosho Valley Eagle*, the first issue of which is dated May 2, 1868—just a month before the first publication appeared in Labette county. While the *Eagle* was published at Jacksonville, in Neosho county, it was issued from an office only a few feet north of the county line, and was regarded by the settlers in this county almost as their own paper. B. K. Land was editor and publisher, and until the establishment of the *Register* his paper was considered the official paper of this county, and was very generally patronized by our citizens.

PAPERS PUBLISHED AT OSWEGO.

THE OSWEGO REGISTER

Was the first paper to be published in Labette county. The town company arranged with E. R. Trask, of Emporia, to bring a press and establish a paper at this point, and guaranteed him 300 paid subscribers, office rent for one year, and a building lot. The first issue of the paper appeared June 5, 1868. Trask continued to publish the paper until June 4, 1869, when he sold out to C. C. Clover and F. B. McGill, who thereafter published it until December 30, 1870, when McGill sold his interest to Clover, but continued as editor until June 1, 1871. About August 19, 1871, John Shorten took charge of the paper as editor and publisher, although there were associated with him in its ownership, and probably in its management, some who had been longer residents of the county. December 27, 1871, Shorten retired from the control of the *Register*, and B. W. Perkins took charge as editor. On May 21, 1872, E. R. Trask became joint owner with Perkins in the paper, and together they published it until May 1, 1873, when R. J. Alexander and J. C. Smith became the owners and publishers, and so continued until the 17th day of the month, when its issuance ceased, and no paper was issued until October 3, 1873, when J. R. Wilson became editor, with L. S. Crum as publisher. This arrangement continued until about the last of January, 1874, when W. P. Bishop succeeded Mr. Wilson as editor, and L. S. Crum continued as business manager. The last issue under this management was on November 27, 1874. E. R. Trask succeeded Bishop, and for some

time thereafter E. R. Trask and H. P. Newlon had control of the paper. About the last of February, 1875, they arranged for its sale to F. B. McGill, and on March 12, 1875, appeared the last issue of the *Register*; and from henceforth it became incorporated into the outfit of the *Oswego Independent*.

THE FIRST DAILY.—On May 13, 1869, Trask issued a little sheet which he styled the "*Oswego Daily Register*," and which was marked "Vol. 1, No. 1." This was filled with matter relating to Oswego and Labette county, and was intended simply as an advertising medium. No. 2 of this "daily" never made its appearance. About September 10, 1871, Shorten started the *Oswego Daily Register*, which was the first daily paper published in this part of the State. He thought to make it a success by supplying the neighboring towns with a daily paper the same day of publication, and as soon as the issue was out a messenger started with a bundle of them to Chetopa and other points. This daily was short lived, only about forty issues appearing, and it finally closed November 15.

OSWEGO INDEPENDENT.

W. J. Lea had been one of the publishers of the *Independent* at Columbus for some time prior to its removal to Oswego. F. B. McGill, having no connection with any paper at that time, arranged for the purchase of a half-interest in the paper, the other half being retained by W. J. Lea, and they two moved it to Oswego, and on June 15, 1872, the *Oswego Independent* first made its appearance. Lea was one of the publishers up to November 23, 1872, when he sold his interest to F. B. McGill, who thereafter was editor and proprietor up to September 5, 1874, when J. W. Monfort became a joint owner and publisher, and continued as such up to June 10, 1875, when McGill again assumed exclusive ownership and control, and continued the editor and publisher until his death, on August 18, 1879. J. S. Waters, who had done some editorial work for Mr. McGill prior to his death, while he was unable to do the work himself, succeeded Mr. McGill as editor, and continued as sole responsible editor to October 8, 1881, at which time the name of J. E. Bryan appears with that of J. S. Waters as editors. Mr. Bryan had, however, for some time before this done more or less editorial work. Waters and Bryan were joint editors up to April 29, 1883, when Mr. Waters retired, and Mr. Bryan became sole editor, and continued to act as such up to November 27, 1885. At that time Nelson Case became editor. Mr. Bryan's name continued to appear as one of the editors up to September 3, 1886, but he did very little work after Mr. Case took charge. Mr. Case continued to edit the paper to March 1, 1889. Since that time Mrs. McGill and her son W. F. McGill have been the editors. Of course the local

work has been done by many different parties. W. F. Thrall was local editor for some time, and the McGill children have for many years done a large part of the local work. Mrs. Mary A. McGill has been the publisher and business manager ever since the death of her husband. It will thus be seen that the *Independent* has been under the control of the McGill family from its start on June 15, 1872, up to the present.

THE DAILY INDEPENDENT.—On Wednesday, October 5, 1881, the first issue of the Oswego *Daily Independent* appeared, with J. S. Waters and J. E. Bryan as editors. Mr. Bryan had for some time been doing more or less editorial work on the *Independent*, but not until the commencement of the daily did he appear as associate editor. Mrs. McGill continued to publish the daily until January 25, 1883, when its publication ceased. It may fairly be stated that the daily was not started nor its publication continued with the idea on the part of the publishers or the editors that the best interest of all concerned required the publication of a daily in this place; but the Oswego *Republican* being at that time opposing a part of the Republican ticket, it was thought by some of the political managers that the oldest Republican paper in the place, and the one recognized as the most reliably Republican, should issue a daily to meet the opposition of the *Daily Republican*. It was under these circumstances that the *Daily Independent* was started and maintained as long as it was, and its publication discontinued only after its owner had made it evident that Oswego was not a large enough place to justify the publication of a first-class daily paper.

THE OSWEGO DEMOCRAT.

In the spring of 1870 M. V. B. Bennett came to Oswego from Iowa, bringing with him material for a newspaper office, from which he soon issued the Oswego *Democrat*, which he continued to publish until November 27, 1870, when he moved the establishment to Independence, from which place he continued to issue the paper.

OSWEGO ENTERPRISE.

On September 27, 1878, Volney Moon, of Webb City, issued the first number of the Oswego *Enterprise*, which he published weekly until November 20 of the same year, when, claiming that he failed to get a sufficient support to justify its continuance, he sold the establishment to J. F. McDowell, who moved it to Baxter Springs.

THE LABETTE COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

This paper was founded October 16, 1879, by George S. King, D. S. Capell, and Frank W. Frye. Mr. King did the main part of the editorial work, Mr. Frye the local work, and Mr. Capell had charge of the job office. On May 30, 1880, Mr. Capell sold his interest to his partners and

retired from the firm. Messrs. King and Frye continued together until February 11, 1881, when Mr. Frye sold his interest in the paper to Mr. King, who was its editor and publisher until December, 1882, when G. F. King became editor—his father, however, remaining publisher. This arrangement continued until July 1, 1883, when the paper was purchased by J. M. Landis and A. D. Carpenter, who continued in charge until March 13, 1884, when Mr. Carpenter sold his interest to Mr. Landis. On September 13, 1887, C. E. Hughey and H. A. Harley leased the office, and continued in its management until the first week of December, when Mr. Landis again assumed control, and has ever since been the editor and publisher. However, with the close of 1892 the paper, so it is announced, passes under the control of J. D. H. Reed.

THE LABETTE COUNTY STATESMAN.

On August 29, 1889, the first number of this paper was issued from its Oswego office as the successor of the *Chetopa Statesman*, which for four years preceding had been published at Chetopa. Nelson Abbott, with his wife a part of the time and his son a part of the time associated with him, was the editor and also the publisher of this paper from its first issue until its publication ceased at his death, which took place January 20, 1892. The last issue of the paper under Mr. Abbott's management appeared January 8, 1892, although one or two small sheets subsequently appeared during his sickness explaining the cause of the paper failing to issue. In March, 1892, R. B. Claiborne purchased the office from Mrs. Abbott and renewed the publication of the *Statesman*, the first number under his management being on March 10, 1892. When the *Times* suspended and passed under the control of the *Democrat*, Mr. Claiborne purchased the right to use its name, and on July 14, 1892, the name of the paper was changed to the *Times-Statesman*.

THE AMERICAN CRANK

Is published by W. W. Whetstone, at Oswego. The first number appeared November 18, 1892. Harry Mills is its editor.

THE OSWEGO REPUBLICAN.

About Aug. 1, 1881, a sandy-complexioned, medium-sized man, named H. H. Brooks, whose speech at once gave token of his English origin, made his appearance upon the streets of Oswego, hailing at that time from some point in Texas. It was not long after until the material for a printing establishment appeared at the depot, and on Monday, August 8, 1881, No. 1 of the *Oswego Daily Republican* was scattered among the reading public. On Thursday of that week appeared the *Weekly Republican*, and from that time on both the daily and weekly *Republican* made their regular appearance. Upon March 7, 1883, the daily ceased, but the

weekly continued until the close of 1886, being at that time changed into the *Bee*. I. W. Patrick, who was a joint owner with Brooks from the start, did not appear as one of the editors or publishers until Sept. 30, 1881. Brooks and Patrick continued as joint owners until August 3, 1882, when Brooks sold his interest to Patrick, and retired. Patrick continued to run the paper until April 23, 1885, when it was sold to C. A. Wilkin and Jess Brockway. In the fall of 1884 J. M. Hutton became associate editor, and in Patrick's absence as Indian agent did all the work on the paper. Wilkin and Brockway as editors, and F. G. Moore as publisher, ran the paper until August 27, 1885, when they sold to Abe Steinbarger, who, from September 1st to the close of 1886, had complete control as editor and publisher, when its publication ceased under the above title.

THE OSWEGO BEE.

On January 1, 1887, the first number of the *Bee* appeared as the successor of the *Republican*. It was run by Abe Steinbarger as a weekly, on very much the same plan as he had theretofore run the *Republican*, up to October 6, 1888, when he sold to R. W. Wright and J. H. Macon, who conducted it until January 26, 1889, when it passed into the hands of a publishing company with Jess Brockway as editor, under which management it continued until May, 1889, when its publication ceased.

THE DAILY BEE made its appearance March 7, 1887, and continued until September, 1888.

THE OSWEGO COURANT

Was published from the old office where the *Bee* had been gotten out, and was considered a successor of that paper. Its first issue was dated May 25, 1889, and it continued to appear until February 27, 1891, when its subscription list and good-will were sold to the *Independent*. It was started by S. C. Steinbarger and A. L. Utterback: December 14, 1889, Mr. Utterback retired, and the paper was continued to its close by Mr. Steinbarger.

THE OSWEGO TIMES

Was started by S. C. Steinbarger, June 13, 1891, and was conducted under the same management until July 9, 1892, when its subscription list and good-will were sold to the *Labette County Democrat*, and the *Times* was discontinued. Mr. Landis sold Mr. Claiborne the right to use the name of the suspended paper in connection with that of the *Statesman*.

LABETTE COUNTY BULLETIN.

In 1877 Parnell & Houck started this paper as an advertising medium. Its publication continued for several months.

REAL ESTATE EXPRESS.

In July, 1885, C. R. Waters, a real-estate agent at Oswego, issued a sheet with this title, through which to let the people know what he was doing in the real-estate business.

THE DAILY INSTITUTE

Was a sheet edited and published in Oswego by O. V. Hays and S. A. Rendall during the session of the institute in August, 1881. It was devoted mainly to matters connected with the institute.

THE LABETTE COUNTY SCHOOL JOURNAL

Is a monthly journal published at Oswego by J. M. Landis, with Mrs. Lucy Best as editor. The first number was issued in October, 1892. It is confined to educational interests.

THE GOLDEN ROD

Is an irregular publication, conducted by Dr. W. S. Newlon as an advertising medium, and also a vehicle through which he conveys to the public much of his general information.

CHETOPA PAPERS.

THE CHETOPA ADVANCE.

Col. John W. Horner and A. S. Cory brought to Chetopa from Baldwin City, Douglas county, a printing-press and outfit, in December, 1868, and the first issue of the second paper in the county appeared under the above designation, January 6, 1869. J. W. Horner was editor, and Horner & Cory were publishers. From the first, J. M. Cavaness was foreman of the office. On the last day of May following Mr. Cory retired from the paper, leaving Colonel Horner as sole owner and editor, which he continued to be until the first of January, 1870, when he associated with him S. A. Fitch in the management and editorship of the paper. At this time the name of the paper was changed to that of

THE SOUTHERN KANSAS ADVANCE.

The last of July, 1870, Mr. Fitch retired, leaving Mr. Horner again as sole owner. On July 1, 1872, James M. Cavaness became the owner of a half-interest in the paper, and its business manager. Mr. Horner sold his half-interest on February 27, 1873, to L. J. Van Landingham, and the paper was then conducted by Cavaness & Van Landingham. August 27, 1874, Nixon Elliott bought from Mr. Van Landingham his half-interest, and became the business manager, with Mr. Cavaness as editor. Mr. Cavaness, by the purchase of Mr. Elliott's interest, became the sole owner of the paper on February 25, 1875. The name of the paper was on April 4, 1878, changed back to the

CHETOPA ADVANCE.

On February 4, 1886, A. F. Sloane and W. A. Shanklin leased the office from Mr. Cavaness, and became its editors and publishers. With the opening of 1887 Mr. Shanklin retired, and Mr. Sloane continued as sole editor and publisher until June 30 of the same year, when R. M.

Roberts succeeded him in that position. On October 5, 1887, Mr. Roberts's engagements calling him elsewhere, A. G. Drake assumed the control of the paper, in which position he continued for one year. On October 4, 1888, Mr. Cavaness, having all the time retained the ownership, again took charge of the paper as its editor and publisher, and has continued in that relation ever since.

CHETOPA HERALD.

On March 4, 1876, this paper made its appearance under the editorial charge of J. H. Hibbits, the publication of which he continued until September 1, 1877, when he announced its suspension on account of want of support. On December 15, 1877, Frank W. Frye, who had been employed in the *Herald* office under its publication by Capt. Hibbits, resurrected the paper in a much-diminished size, it being a five-column quarto, and being changed from a Republican to a Democratic sheet. It was continued under this management until February 16, 1878, when the office outfit was finally sold, and the paper ceased.

THE KEYSTONE

Was a temperance paper, edited and published by J. M. Cavaness and J. H. Hibbits. The first number appeared May 1, 1883.

SOUTHERN KANSAS DEMOCRAT.

The 1st of April, 1872, the first issue of this paper appeared, under the editorial management of F. D. Harkrider, in time to advocate the election of Geo. W. Fox for mayor. Its publication was continued until September, 1872, when the outfit was advertised by the sheriff to be sold on execution.

THE CHETOPA TIMES

Made its appearance in June, 1884, with R. F. Brown as editor. On January 22, 1885, its publication was suspended, arrangements having been made with the *Advance* to fill out its unexpired subscription list.

CHETOPA DEMOCRAT.

Under the management of J. J. Rambo as editor and publisher, this paper was started March 16, 1888, ever since which time it has been continued under the same management.

CHETOPA STATESMAN.

No. 1, volume 1 of this sheet appeared August 6, 1885, with Nelson Abbott and Mrs. R. M. Abbott editors and proprietors. At the close of its fourth volume the material of the office was removed to Oswego, and the *Labette County Statesman* appeared as its successor.

SETTLERS' GUIDE.

J. B. Cook, doing a large land business at Chetopa, and desiring to advertise the same, started a paper with the above name, which he issued quarterly from 1873 to 1880 inclusive.

PARSONS PAPERS.

THE ANTI-MONOPOLIST.

On January 5, 1871, the first issue of this paper appeared, purporting to be issued from Parsons, but being printed in fact at the *Monitor* office, in Fort Scott. Perry D. Martin was its editor and proprietor. After the issuance of a few numbers its publication was suspended, but it was again resurrected about the middle of the year, appearing at this time as issued at Osage Mission. But two issues, however, appeared from its new home; and a disagreement between Martin and his associates arising, Martin was forced to retire, and the paper was succeeded by the *People's Advocate*.

THE PARSONS SUN

Shed its light through No. 1, volume 1, on June 17, 1871, M. W. Reynolds and Leslie J. Perry editors and proprietors. It was started as an eight-column, all home print. On August 12th of this year Mr. Perry sold his interest to Angell Matthewson, who continued with Reynolds as publisher until February 13, 1872, when he sold to G. C. West, from which time Reynolds & West conducted the paper until November, 1872, at which time West retired as associate editor, and was succeeded by Harry L. Gosling. In May, 1874, Reynolds, having theretofore been appointed Receiver of the U. S. Land Office, retired from the management of the *Sun*, and G. C. West assumed full control, which he continued until April, 1875, when the *Sun* again passed under the control of Reynolds. Gifford & Winter, who up to about this time had been publishing the *Parsons Surprise*, soon thereafter consolidated it with the *Sun*, the management of which was now under the control of Reynolds, Gifford & Winter, who continued its publication until November 11, 1876, when its publication as a weekly was discontinued, appearing occasionally thereafter, more as an advertising medium than anything else. On May 12, 1877, its publication was renewed by Reynolds, and by him continued until December 14, 1878, when the entire outfit was sold to H. H. Lusk, who has continued its publication ever since.

DAILY SUN.—On the morning of September 5, 1880, the *Daily Sun* made its appearance, and has continued regularly to appear since that time as the only morning daily paper published in the county, with the exception of once or twice when one of the other papers appeared as a morning issue for a short time.

THE WESTERN ENTERPRISE

Was conducted at Parsons by T. C. Cory and V. J. Knapp. It was started September, 1872, and published monthly thereafter until January, 1873. It was a five-column, eight-page paper, nicely gotten up, carefully edited, with a large amount of reading matter intended to give

a good idea of the great West to all persons seeking information in respect thereto.

PARSONS WEEKLY HERALD.

On Thursday, May 22, 1873, this paper was started by O. Edwards, A. W. Gifford, and A. C. Covell, and its publication continued for something less than one year, when it failed for want of support.

PARSONS ECLIPSE.

About the first of April, 1874, the *Parsons Weekly Herald* was sold on chattel mortgage and bought by J. B. Lamb, with which outfit the *Parsons Eclipse* was started by J. B. Lamb and J. B. Taylor as editors and proprietors. The first number appeared April 9, 1874. On March 29, 1877, at the end of the third volume, Taylor withdrew, from which time its publication was regularly conducted by J. B. Lamb & Sons until the death of Dr. Lamb, December 26, 1890, since which time his sons have conducted it.

THE DAILY ECLIPSE was started May 9, 1881, and is farther spoken of under the head of dailies.

THE SURPRISE.

About the middle of April, 1873, A. W. Gifford started the *Surprise*, which suspended after a few weeks' existence, and the force united with the *Herald* outfit. The latter having finished its career about the last of February, 1874, the *Surprise* was resurrected, being published by A. W. Gifford and W. L. Winter, and continued until January 26, 1875, when it surrendered to the inevitable.

THE PARSONS SUNDAY LEADER

Was started in October, 1882, by G. F. Kimball as editor and proprietor: it continued but a short time.

SOUTHEASTERN KANSAS ADVERTISER.

In July, 1879, Copeland & Brewster, of Parsons, issued a real-estate sheet under the above title.

THE JOURNAL.

The *Daily Journal* having been discontinued in January, H. C. Sourbeer, on May 1, 1891, commenced the publication of the *Journal* as a weekly, which was continued by him until November 13, 1891, when it was merged into the *Mills's Weekly World*, and its publication under the title of the *Journal* ceased.

THE PARSONS PALLADIUM.

Frank W. Frye and Will W. Frye were the founders of this paper, the first issue of which appeared February 24, 1883. From August, 1883, to February, 1885, E. S. Stevens had charge of the job department of the paper. From February to October, 1886, George S. King had charge of the editorial department. Will W. Frye then did the editorial work for

some time. On June 1, 1889, Frank W. Frye purchased the interest of his brother in the establishment, since which time he has been sole editor and proprietor.

THE CLARION

Was started in the summer of 1888, by Sheward & Gregg. After a few months Mr. Gregg sold his interest, and L. S. Sheward became the sole editor and proprietor. In January following, A. H. Tyler became editor, in which position he continued until the close of the year, at which time Mr. Sheward again became its editor as well as publisher. Its publication was continued, with few interruptions, until near the close of 1890, when it altogether ceased.

SETTLERS' ADVOCATE.

About the first of August, 1872, Bancroft & Cory issued the first number of the *Settlers' Advocate*, at Parsons, and continued the publication as a monthly until the spring of 1873, when they issued a weekly edition.

THE NEOSHO VALLEY LAND GUIDE.

In September, 1871, Walker & Thomas, real-estate agents at Parsons, started the publication of a real-estate paper under the above title, to advertise their land business, the publication of which continued for some two or three years.

PARSONS ADVOCATE.

Matthewson & Biggs issued this paper as a medium for advertising their real-estate and loan business, from December 1, 1884.

KANSAS BANNER.

This paper was started as an organ to enable religious and educational associations to meet the public. It was more especially under the direction of the Y. M. C. A. Each organization was expected to prepare the material ready for publication that it desired to have appear; thereby little editorial work was required. The first issue was dated July 15, 1886, and but six monthly numbers were issued.

A WORD FOR YOU

Was a publication of a religious character, started in 1891 by Rev. P. M. Griffin. After a few issues other parties became associated with him, and the name of the paper was changed to that of

THE HOME VISITOR.

Under this designation it lasted till the summer of 1892, when it ceased for want of support.

MILLS'S WEEKLY WORLD

Was removed from Altamont to Parsons in the middle of November, 1891, and on the 17th of that month the first issue of the paper from the Parsons office appeared; it was conducted by H. C. Sourbeer and Harry Mills. At the end of about three months Mr. Mills's connection with it terminated, since which time it has been conducted by Mr. Sourbeer.

KANSAS PROGRESS.

From June to August, 1883, H. C. Sourbeer published this paper almost exclusively as an advertising medium. The profits were supposed to be derived from advertising, though a little revenue came in through subscriptions.

KANSAS STATE ALLIANCE.

This paper was published at Parsons; it was started July 1, 1890, and, with some interruptions, continued till near the close of 1891. W. H. Utley was its business manager at the start, but he sold out in the course of a few months, and it was conducted by several members of the County Alliance. George Campbell was its first editor; afterwards H. A. White edited it for a time; then A. H. McCormick, and still later other parties.

THE ARBITRATOR.

J. M. Jones, James Tisdale, and perhaps others, were members of the firm of Jones & Co., who were the publishers of this paper. M. Byrne was secured as its editor. It was started in the summer of 1886, and its publication was continued for perhaps two months, when the arrest of its editor and publishers on the charge of criminal libel forced it to suspend. A part of the defendants escaped punishment on the ground that the evidence did not directly connect them with the publication of the libelous matter.

THE BUSINESS COLLEGE JOURNAL

Was started in October, 1892, by C. E. Ball, as an irregular publication through which he could advertise his business.

THE PARSONS DAILIES.

THE DAILY RECORD.

This was the first daily paper published in Parsons, and was started in the fall of 1876, in September or October, by J. P. Coffin. It was a very diminutive sheet, but served as a means of giving the local news. Mr. Coffin continued its publication till May 5, 1877, when he suspended for the purpose of becoming traveling agent for the *Sun*.

THE DAILY OUTLOOK.

On August 20, 1877, the first number of this sheet appeared as the successor of the *Daily Record*, and, as the latter had been, under the management of J. P. Coffin. On January 31, 1878, he wrote his valedictory, the substance of which was, "Died for want of support."

THE INFANT WONDER

Was started December 24, 1878, by McCarter Brothers, who conducted it as a daily until August 12, 1879, from which time to September 4 it appeared as a tri-weekly, on which last date it again resumed its daily issue, and continued as such till the last of April, 1880.

THE DAILY REPUBLICAN.

Frank H. McCarter, proprietor of the *Infant Wonder*, which had just suspended publication, associated himself with William Higgins in the publication of the *Republican*. The first issue appeared on May 10, 1880, with William Higgins editor. On March 22, 1881, Mr. Higgins retired from the paper and Mr. McCarter assumed full control. It was merged in the *Eclipse*, and its publication suspended May 9, 1881.

THE DAILY ECLIPSE

Was started May 9, 1881, by J. B. Lamb and F. H. McCarter, the latter doing most of the work thereon for some time. The management of the daily was entirely separate from that of the weekly *Eclipse* for some months. For a number of years it has been conducted by the Lambs alone, and has been a well-established daily, with a liberal support.

THE DAILY WONDER,

As a continuation of the *Infant Wonder*, was resurrected about November, 1881, by F. H. McCarter and E. R. Marvin, after the former had become disconnected with the *Eclipse*. In January, 1882, E. C. Burnett bought out Mr. Marvin, and in connection with Mr. McCarter continued to conduct the *Wonder* till September of that year, when its publication was again suspended.

THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

Was started in Parsons in October, 1882, by E. C. Burnett, who continued its publication till January, 1883.

THE DAILY SUN

Was started September 5, 1880, and is spoken of in connection with the *Weekly Sun*.

THE EVENING STAR

Was first seen a little before sunset on Wednesday, April 6, 1881. It was published by M. W. Reynolds and George Higgins for gratuitous distribution. On September 2, 1881, Mr. Higgins retired, and removed to Paola to engage in the newspaper business at that place. The *Star* continued to give out more or less light till about the time of the fall election in 1881.

THE DAILY JOURNAL.

W. H. Martin was the founder of this paper, and conducted it from November 10, 1889, to September 10, 1890, when he sold the plant to H. C. Sourbeer & Son, who continued its publication until January 15, 1891, at which time it was discontinued.

THE DAILY ELI

Was started in the fall of 1890, and continued to appear for several months—perhaps nearly a year. It was under the same general management as the *State Alliance*. A. J. Miller was its editor a part, and perhaps all of the time it ran.

ALTAMONT PAPERS.

ALTAMONT TIMES.

On or about January 17, 1884, the first number of this paper made its appearance under the management of — Gastin and Milton Fuller, and continued under their charge until about the 1st of June, when the material was purchased by C. Len. Albin.

ALTAMONT SENTINEL.

C. Len. Albin, having purchased the outfit of the *Times*, started the *Sentinel*, the first number of which appeared July 4, 1884, and was continued by him until July 10, 1885, when he sold the paper to H. C. Blanchard. B. F. Godfrey was associated with Albin in the editorship of the *Sentinel* for a short time before Albin sold to Blanchard. Blanchard conducted the paper alone from the time of his purchase until September 11 of that year, when he sold one-half interest therein to Frank Wilkins, from which time Blanchard & Wilkins published it until January 15, 1886, when Blanchard sold his interest therein to Harry Mills; and on the 29th of the same month Mills also bought Wilkins's interest, and became sole editor and proprietor. On January 4, 1886, C. S. Newlon having bought a half-interest, the paper appeared under the management of Mills & Newlon. On March 14, 1886, Mr. Mills sold his interest to Dr. Newlon, and Mrs. Lizzie Newlon became editor and publisher, which she continued till January 5, 1889, when she was succeeded in the editorial chair by W. H. Conner. On October 23, 1889, W. J. Lough took charge as editor and publisher, and conducted the paper till July 16, 1890, when its publication ceased.

ALTAMONT NEWS.

After C. Len. Albin sold his interest in the *Sentinel*, he associated with him W. T. Pickett, and they two purchased a printing-office outfit, and on September 11, 1885, started the *Altamont News*, which was a five-column quarto. After two issues of the paper Albin sold his interest therein to Mr. Pickett, who at once made arrangement for its removal to Mound Valley.

MILLS'S WEEKLY WORLD.

About the first of December, 1888, Harry Mills started a small sheet with the above title, at Cherryvale, Kansas. The first week in March, 1889, he removed the plant to Altamont, from which place he issued it from that time until the middle of November, 1891, when he sold an interest therein to H. C. Sourbeer, who removed the plant to Parsons, from which place it has since been issued.

EDNA PAPERS.

THE EDNA ENTERPRISE.

December 8, 1886, the first number of this paper appeared, with J. J. Fields as editor and Harry Mills as publisher. It was a small six-column folio. The publication continued some five or six weeks, when the goodwill of the office was sold to C. M. Brown, of the Mound Valley *News*.

THE EDNA ERA

Succeeded the *Enterprise*. It was started by C. M. Brown, January 19, 1887. He moved the Mound Valley *News* office to Edna, where he published the *Era* about three months, when it ceased, and Edna was again without a paper for a short time.

THE EDNA ENTERPRISE.

On April 15, 1887, J. D. McKeehen, as editor and proprietor, brought out No. 1 of the Edna *Enterprise* under his management, he having theretofore purchased the material of the old office. He continued its publication until September of that year.

THE EDNA STAR.

John Truby and W. A. Peffer jr. started the publication of this paper, the first number appearing October 28, 1887. The last of April, 1888, J. H. Morse became its editor, and continued its publication until the close of June of that year.

THE EDNA INDEPENDENT

Was started December 14, 1889, by G. W. Liever and A. C. Veach. In June, 1890, Mr. Liever sold his interest to Mr. Veach, since which time the latter has conducted it alone.

MOUND VALLEY PAPERS.

MOUND VALLEY TIMES.

The first paper credited to Mound Valley was designated *The Times*, and was started December 16, 1881. It was printed by Brooks & Patrick, at the *Republican* office, in Oswego, and appeared as under the editorship of George Campbell. However, all the paper except a few local items was the same as the Oswego *Republican*. This arrangement was unsatisfactory to the citizens of Mound Valley, and the paper ran only a few weeks.

MOUND VALLEY HERALD.

The first issue of the *Herald* appeared April 6, 1882, with George Campbell as editor and proprietor. Mr. Campbell conducted it until the fall of that year, when he sold to C. L. Albin, who continued to edit and publish it until May 1, 1884, when it came under the control of W. F. Thrall, who has since then been its editor and publisher.

MOUND VALLEY NEWS.

About the first of October, 1885, L. C. Wilmoth and W. C. Pickett became the joint owners of the office material from which the *Altamont News* had been printed. This they removed to Mound Valley, and commenced the publication of the *News* at that point. In the spring of 1886 a company of several of the business men of Mound Valley was formed, under the title of "The Mound Valley News Company," for the purpose of publishing this paper. About June 1, 1886, C. M. Brown and T. Rowen jr. became owners of the paper, and with L. C. Wilmoth as editor conducted it until September 9th, when Mr. Rowen retired and Mr. Brown became editor and proprietor, continuing Mr. Wilmoth as associate editor. The publication of the paper was suspended about the middle of January, 1887.

UNITED LABOR.

The first number of this paper was dated February 19, 1887. It was, however, issued ahead of its date. It purported to be published by the Farmers' and Laborers' Coöperative Union, and edited by E. H. Barnhart. In June, 1887, C. L. Albin appeared as editor. During August and September its publication was suspended, but was resumed again in October, with G. S. Worthington editor. Its publication was continued until the early part of 1888. During all of its existence George Campbell was its principal, if not entire owner, and while he does not appear as editor, yet the paper was principally conducted by him.

LABETTE.

THE LABETTE SENTINEL.

On Thursday, September 8, 1870, a well-filled seven-column paper under the above title appeared from the printing-office just started at the town of Labette, with J. S. Waters as editor and proprietor. On October 13th Mr. Waters associated with him in the management of the paper, Thomas Irish. Mr. Waters having been elected County Attorney at the November election in 1870, he retired from the editorship of the *Sentinel* on November 24th, from which time it was conducted by Mr. Irish until sometime in March, 1871, when its publication ceased for a short time. About the first of April, however, it was revived by the Albin Brothers, who carried on its publication for some time, when it was given up by them as a losing venture. About May 10, 1872, Sheldon & Johnson attempted its resurrection, and tried to put it forth for some months, when it again became defunct. On the suspension of the *Oswego Register*, in May, 1873, Smith, one of the former proprietors of that paper, bought the *Labette Sentinel* material and moved it to Nevada, Mo., and there used it in starting a new paper at that point.

WILSONTON.

THE WILSONTON JOURNAL

Was started at Wilsonton, May 1, 1888, by Mrs. Ella B. Wilson, since which time she has continued to conduct it as editor and proprietor. It is published monthly.

PAPERS PUBLISHED BY THE COLORED PEOPLE.

KANSAS ADVOCATE.

The first issue of this paper was dated at Parsons, September 1, 1881. It was a small eight-page paper, started by W. B. Avery, a colored minister, and was intended as a medium for furnishing the colored population with a line of reading-matter in which they would be specially interested, to be issued only monthly. But Mr. Brooks, of the *Oswego Republican*, entered into an agreement with Mr. Avery for publishing his paper at the *Republican* office. It was very much enlarged in size, and issued weekly instead of monthly. While continuing under the editorship of Mr. Avery, the most of the material was the same as that which simultaneously appeared in the *Weekly Republican*. The colored people did not furnish a sufficient patronage to justify its continuance, and its publication ceased after some three or four months.

THE EYE-OPENER

Was started by the colored people of the county as an avenue by which to make known to the public their views, wants, and intentions, and as a means of educating their young people in the duties of citizenship. It was issued from Parsons. The first number is dated July 9, 1892. E. M. Woods was editor and E. W. Dorsey business manager. But in a short time Mr. Dorsey withdrew, to become president of the *Blade* company. At the time this account closes the paper is under the control of Mr. Wood.

THE BLADE.

A little disagreement arising between the proprietors of the *Eye-Opener*, a division of interest seemed advisable to them, and on August 20, 1892, the Parsons *Weekly Blade* was started, with S. O. Clayton editor, E. W. Dorsey president, and Chas. A. Morris business manager; and at the time this account is written the paper is still appearing under the same management.

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.

THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

On January 11, 1869, a call signed by about twenty prominent citizens of Chetopa and Oswego was furnished for publication in the *Advance* and *Register*, for a meeting to be held on January 21st, for the purpose of organizing a Bible society. At that time quite a large number of the citizens of the county met at the office of Dr. W. S. Newlon, in Oswego, and adopted a constitution, and elected the following permanent officers of the society: Rev. T. H. Canfield, president; J. L. Taft, vice-president; W. M. Johnson, secretary; Dr. C. M. Gilkey, treasurer; and also a board of five directors. Adjourned to meet in Chetopa, on February 7th following.

At this time a meeting was held in Spaulding's Hall, at 3 o'clock p. m., at which a large congregation gathered. Addresses were made by Rev. T. H. Canfield, Rev. C. R. Rice, and others. A subscription of something over \$40 for the benefit of the society was taken up. This was the commencement of an organization which was kept up for a number of years, holding its meetings somewhat frequently, and doing very much toward furnishing the new communities with Bibles. After a few years, when the growth of several of the towns of the county had been such that each felt the need of separate organizations, the county society was discontinued, and city organizations were formed.

Y. M. C. A.

OSWEGO ASSOCIATION.

The following account of the organization of the Oswego Young Men's Christian Association is taken from an address by Fred C. Wheeler, delivered at the second anniversary of the organization of the association:

"On Saturday evening, December 8, 1883, in response to invitations that morning received through the postoffice from him, there were gathered at the home of Nelson Case, in Oswego, Rev. John Elliott, Rev. H. McBirney, Fred Lee, Chas. Carpenter, M. Chidester, M. E. Diehl, Thos. O'Halloran, W. F. Thorne, and F. C. Wheeler. Mr. Case made a statement showing the need of such an organization especially adapted to reach young men, and proposed the organization of a Young Men's Christian Association. All present concurred in the views expressed, and a committee was appointed to consider and report at same place on December 12, to which time we adjourned.

“On December 12 Harry and Will Mitchell, Will Skilling, Chas. Carpenter, Rev. H. McBirney, Thos. O’Halloran, Mr. Case, and F. C. Wheeler, met as per adjournment. A draft of a constitution was presented, and the matter of organization was definitely decided on. It was voted to adjourn to meet at the M. E. church, on Tuesday evening, January 1, 1884, to complete the organization. On the evening of that date some six or eight met at the appointed place, adopted the uniform constitution provided by the national association, and organized by electing Nelson Case president, F. C. Wheeler vice-president, Chas. Carpenter secretary, and Harry Mitchell treasurer. The necessary committees were also appointed.”

During its earlier years the association did more aggressive work, perhaps, than it has since then, although it has always shown a fair degree of vitality. A Bible-training class was maintained for two or three years, and did very efficient work. The young men for some time had a literary organization connected with the association. A boys’ branch was organized at the opening of the second year of the work, and in that alone enough work was done to justify the organization of the association. Some years ago an outfit was purchased for a gymnasium, and a room has been kept open ever since. A salaried general secretary was employed a few months at one time, but with that exception the work has been done entirely by the home members. For the past few years the association has been somewhat intimately connected with the Library Association. Since its organization it has had the following presidents and secretaries: 1884-85—President, Nelson Case; secretary, Charles T. Carpenter. 1886—Charles T. Carpenter, president; Howard Merriam, secretary. 1887—Howard Merriam and W. F. Thorne, presidents; F. G. Mitchell, secretary; 1888-89—Nelson Case, president; W. G. Mitchell and W. A. Bibbitt, secretaries. 1890—A. B. Kegg, president; Ed. M. Baldwin, secretary. 1891—W. W. Flora, president; H. H. Beard, secretary. 1892—W. W. Flora, president; Fred. W. Beymer and W. B. Covalt, secretaries. The last-named president and secretary are now serving.

PARSONS ASSOCIATION.

The Parsons Y. M. C. A. was organized December 5, 1885, with C. F. Hodgman president, Cyrus G. Emerson vice-president, W. H. Martin and Thomas Clark secretaries, and F. H. Foster treasurer. The following year it was incorporated, and the following officers elected: M. E. Crowell, president; E. C. Read, vice-president; A. H. Whitmarsh, secretary; F. H. Foster, treasurer. A ladies’ auxiliary was organized early in the history of the association, and rendered valuable aid in furnishing rooms and giving entertainments. The most of the time since its organization the association has maintained a paid general secretary. The following persons have served in that capacity: Chas. L. Helmick was

the first, and served from August, 1877, to February, 1889; James R. Smith succeeded him, and served to July, 1889; T. R. Breese, B. C. McQuesten, J. W. Shingley, W. Russell and — Hopper have since then successively held the office. A reading-room, bath-rooms, as well as reception and parlor-rooms, have been provided, and much good work has been accomplished.

CHETOPA ASSOCIATION.

During the month of August, 1886, steps were taken looking toward the formation of an association at Chetopa, and on September 20, 1886, a number of the members of the Oswego and Parsons associations visited Chetopa and assisted in the formation of this organization. At that time the following officers were elected: President, W. A. Shanklin; vice-president, W. H. Pinkerton; secretary, George Campbell; treasurer, T. O. Breckenridge. For a few months in 1889 John G. Lear was employed as general secretary for this and the Oswego association, giving about half of his time to each. This is the only time that a salaried officer has been employed. W. S. Henry was president the second year of the organization, and F. M. Smith the third year; J. P. Slaughter was the second secretary, and was succeeded by H. F. Stewart. The association has a part of the time kept open a reading-room and conducted various lines of meetings.

Y. W. C. A.

On January 2, 1886, at the Methodist church in Oswego, an organization of this association was effected. For a year past the association has been practically disorganized, although it still does some work in an unofficial way. A training-class and a Bible class were conducted in the association for several years; also a girls' Bible class. The association has had the following presidents: Mrs. Annetta Cook, Mrs. Mary E. Case, Miss Sarah Crane, Miss Blanche Case, Miss Eunice Crane.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

In giving an account of the work of the Sunday schools of the county I separate it from the account of the other church work, not because I consider them a separate institution from the church, properly speaking, but because, especially in the early work in the county, there were many union schools, connected with no church in particular, and also because the Sunday-school work is one of the most important and best developed departments of church work, and is entitled to special mention as such.

I will first give an account of the schools which have been at least a part of the time classed as union, (although some of them might properly be spoken of as denominational,) and will then mention the denominational schools, connecting those of each denomination wherever situated

in the county, instead of classifying by localities. No one can realize more than I do the imperfect history which I here present of these schools, but all the information is given which I have been able to gather. It is regretted that parties who might have furnished more definite information have failed to do so. One reason why this information is not accessible and has not been furnished, is that in many instances no record whatever has been kept of the school work, and in many other cases records that were kept at the time have been misplaced or lost. Some of this information has been furnished me from people's memory, and of course contains more or less errors, but in the main, so far as it goes, I think it is as reliable as could be expected. From it some one may be able to construct a more perfect account of this important department of work.

UNION SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

CHETOPA.

The first Sunday school in the county was organized by the early settlers at Chetopa, before the war. In a letter referring to these early times Dr. Lisle says: "Mr. Bryan organized a Sunday school sometime in 1858, which was kept up most of the time until the Rebellion." The Mr. Bryan here referred to is Rev. J. E. Bryan, then a minister of the M. E. Church South, in charge of the work of the circuit including Chetopa, and in 1871 pastor of the M. E. Church of Oswego, and still more recently a practicing attorney in this county. This Sunday school was held in the school-house, an account of the building of which is given at page 186.

After Chetopa began to resettle, at the close of the war, the first Sunday school to be organized was in the summer of 1867, in a small frame building standing on the southeast corner of First and Maple streets, sometimes called the "Cabinet Shop," but more generally designated "Bachelors' Hall." G. H. Hard was the superintendent of this school. Later, arrangements were made for holding the school in the Ephraim Doudna store building. The school was closed during the winter, and opened in the spring of 1868. James H. Crichton sr., father of the attorney who has lived there so long, spent a part of the summers of 1867 and 1868 at Chetopa, and assisted in superintending the school. The first Sunday in September, 1868, the school having previously been very poorly classified and organized, a reorganization was had, and Edward Johnson was elected superintendent, F. H. Mendenhall assistant, and D. J. Doolen secretary. Early in 1869 J. M. Cavaness was elected superintendent, and continued to serve until the organization of the denominational schools, in 1870.

PARSONS.

The first Sunday school in Parsons was organized in April, 1871, by the joint efforts of Rev. G. W. Pye and Rev. H. H. Cambern. It was started and for some time maintained as a union school. It had a hard time to maintain an existence. With no permanent place of meeting, driven from vacant store buildings, offices, and shops, as they were needed for other purposes, it finally found a somewhat permanent and comfortable home in Cary's Hall. T. C. Cory was its first superintendent. After a few months of service he resigned, and J. E. Wilkes succeeded him. In January, 1872, E. B. Stevens was elected superintendent; M. G. Brown was elected in 1873, and M. Wallace in 1874. During a part of this time some schools which had started as denominational were merged with the union. On the organization of the denominational schools this school ceased.

OSWEGO.

The Sunday-school work in Oswego dates from the early spring of 1867, when a Sunday school was organized in the log cabin owned and then occupied by Dr. J. F. Newlon. It stood at the northeast corner of block 26, just south of where he afterwards made his home. William Herbaugh was elected superintendent. It was kept open only during the summer, and was reorganized the following spring. It met in such vacant houses as could be secured, holding scarcely more than two or three Sundays consecutively in any one place. In the fall of 1868, when the building was erected which was afterwards donated to the county for a court-house, the Sunday school found therein a somewhat permanent home. From this school the denominational schools were established as follows: The Methodist in 1868, the Congregational and Presbyterian in 1870, and the Baptist in 1871.

NEOSHO TOWNSHIP.

Concord District, No. 16.—The school-house in this district is now in North township, but when first built was in Neosho. In the summer of 1867 Mrs. Owens organized a Sunday school in their house on the northeast quarter of section 5, which was maintained during that summer, and when the school-house was built a reorganization was had, locating it in that building, where it was continued for a number of years.

New Hope District, No. 15.—In 1869 there was a log cabin about half a mile north of where Matthewson now stands, known as the Sweet school-house. Rev. R. P. Bukey preached there frequently. In that house was started the first Sunday school in that part of the county. Wm. McDown was its superintendent. It was not long until the new

school-house was built. A Sunday school was conducted in this district during the summer months for a number of years, commencing with 1869. It was generally conducted as a Methodist Episcopal school. W. D. Bevans superintended most of the time. W. T. Carter was superintendent at one time. Rev. J. A. Harvey is the present superintendent.

Hopkins District, No. 62.—From 1875 to 1882 a prosperous Sunday school was conducted in this district. W. D. Bevans was one of its principal workers, and a part of the time its superintendent.

Lone Elm District, No. 21.—Sunday school has been started here occasionally, but has not been regularly maintained.

Hard Scrabble District, No. 46.—The effort to maintain a Sunday school in this district was not so persistent as to meet with good success.

NORTH TOWNSHIP.

Township Association.—In 1876 an association was formed in this township, but was not effective the following year, and the various schools in the township met and reorganized a township association on April 7, 1878, electing J. M. C. Reed president and S. L. Obenchain secretary. Since then the association has held annual meetings, sometimes more frequently.

Woods District, No. 18.—Organized in 1878. Superintendents: S. Stephenson, N. T. Chambers, T. J. Van Horn, F. A. Edwards.

Spring Hill District, No. 22.—Organized in 1874. Superintendents: Samuel Cherry, J. W. Scott, Messrs. Milligan, Wilson, Chambers, Millard.

Heacock District, No. 32.—Organized in 1875. Mrs. Anna Heacock was superintendent for several years; afterward I. P. Merrill.

Franklin District, No. 55.—Organized May, 1870, and maintained during the summer months every year since. Superintendents: G. W. Goodman, J. Harlan, E. H. Taylor, — Brandon, H. McIntosh, E. H. Wells, S. L. Obenchain, T. J. Van Horn, and Robert Toles.

Prairie Valley District, No. 31.—Organized in May, 1871, and maintained since. Superintendents: Philip La Cornu, William Burdit, J. G. Duval, J. M. C. Reed, R. Brown, E. C. Barker, W. B. Truax, and J. N. Hardman. For two or three years two schools were maintained at this place—one a union and one a Methodist South; one met in the forenoon and one in the afternoon.

WALTON TOWNSHIP.

Salem District, No. 42.—School was organized in this district in 1871, and has been kept open every summer since. Alex. Ables was its first superintendent. James Venable and Amos Welch have been effective workers, and frequently have superintended. Charles Birt is now superintendent.

Bradford District, No. 39.—A school was organized in this district in the house of Merit Mason, in 1870, and has since been maintained nearly every year during the summer months. Among its superintendents have been J. C. Bradford, Frank J. Smith, and T. J. Rich.

OSAGE TOWNSHIP.

Mount Zion District, No. 36.—In the fall of 1867 the neighbors got together and built a log house on the northwest quarter of section 5, in township 32 of range 18, in which to hold religious services and other meetings of a public character. A Sunday school was organized in this house in the spring of 1868. This was the first Sunday school in the township. Harry Beggs was superintendent. The school has been maintained ever since. In the spring of 1871 it was reorganized as a Methodist Episcopal school, which relationship has continued, that district being one of the points where that denomination has regularly held services. Rev. E. M. Bussart, William Johns, C. L. Darling, S. C. Hocket, Phelix Oliphant and Perry Nixon are some of those who have been prominent workers in this school.

Four-Mile District, No. 38.—The first school-house in this district was a little log building which stood in the middle of the road at the northwest corner of section 22. From this it was known as "the little log school-house in the lane." In this a Sunday school was organized in 1870, with J. M. Armstrong superintendent; it was reorganized in the spring of 1871, with Jacob Masters superintendent. The school was maintained till 1883.

Harmony Grove District, No. 30.—A Sunday school was organized in this district in the spring of 1870, with Mr. Pierce superintendent, which has continued until the present—a part of the time running all the year, and a part of the time closing in the winter. It was first held in Mr. Gibson's dwelling-house on the northwest quarter of section 30. William Dick, F. H. Dienst and D. D. Lindsey were early and efficient workers here.

Timber Hill District, No. 37.—This Sunday school was organized in a log school-house on the southeast corner of the Timber Hill town-site, in the spring of 1870, with Mr. Baker superintendent. Some years ago it was organized as a German Methodist school, and as such still maintains its existence and does good work. The Hookey, Breshler and Schrader families have been efficient workers.

Maple Grove District, No. 102.—This Sunday school was organized on February 5, 1882, with J. T. McKee superintendent, and George W. Hierronymus assistant. It has not had a continuous existence—some years kept up, and at other times has remained dormant. Miss Blankenship and J. R. Duncan have been recent superintendents.

Baptist Union Sunday school was organized in the Baptist church on section 23, in 1877, and was maintained there as a union school until the church was removed to Dennis.

Sylvan Dale District, No. 79.—A school was organized in this district in 1872, with George Anderson superintendent. The next spring it was reorganized, with J. D. McKeever superintendent, which position he held for a number of years. S. M. Bailey was an active worker in this school while he lived in the neighborhood. The school moved to Dennis in 1883.

Pleasant Hill District, No. 77.—A Sunday school was organized in the new school-house in this district in the spring of 1873, which was maintained in the place till the completion of

Bethel Chapel, on southeast quarter of section 30, in township 31, range 19 (Walton township), in 1889, when it was removed to that place. It has always been recognized as a Methodist school. George W. Blake, James Woodyard and a Mr. Brown were early superintendents.

Muddy Corner District, No. 76.—A little box school-house stood on the southwest corner of section 24, township 31, range 17, in which a Sunday school was organized in 1872. A new school-house was thereafter built on the southeast quarter of section 35, and named

St. John's, in which a Sunday school has been maintained ever since. Israel Foster, J. B. Swart and Adam Funk were earnest workers in this school.

Twin Mound District, No. 93.—J. R. Douglas, John Carson and others were leading workers in a Sunday school organized in this district in 1873. It did well for several years, but after that was maintained only at irregular times.

Osage Township Sunday School Association.—This association has been maintained the longest and has been conducted with the most enthusiasm of any of the various township associations in the county. During 1871 a picnic was held on section 7, in township 32, range 18. In 1872 an organization was formed and a picnic held on the old campground on the Leroy Dick farm, in section 29, township 31, range 18. When the county association commenced to organize township associations for the purpose of holding conventions to discuss Sunday school topics, this was one of the first townships to respond. Contrary to the wish of the county officers, however, the local workers insisted on keeping the picnic idea in the foreground, and it has ever maintained the ascendancy which it early acquired. In 1878 the ground near the north-east corner of section 20, on William Dick's farm, was secured as permanent picnic grounds, and there every summer large crowds, frequently reaching into thousands, congregate and spend a day in the woods. This gathering has proved to be a favorite resort for local politicians, giving

them, as it does, a fine opportunity to meet many whose support they think it expedient to secure. The picnic is held regularly on the last Wednesday in July, and the association holds its meeting for the discussion of Sunday-school interests at Harmony Grove school-house each spring, on the call of the president. The association is chartered, and has its grounds nicely improved. Some eighteen schools, a part of which are situated in Montgomery and Neosho counties, are connected with this association.

MOUND VALLEY TOWNSHIP.

Bell Mound District, No. 99.—A Sunday school was organized here in 1879, with M. F. Wakefield superintendent. It has ever since maintained its existence.

Mound Valley District, No. 40.—A Sunday school was organized at this place in the summer of 1870, with Joseph Wilmoth as its first superintendent. It was kept up during the summer of each year, and sometimes during the winter, until the organization of the denominational schools, about 1880. J. H. Tibbits, H. W. Savage, the Coleman families and others were active workers in the school.

McCormick District, No. 19.—A Sunday school was organized in this district in the spring of 1870, with John Claspill superintendent, and has been kept up with a good degree of regularity since then.

Mount Triumph District, No. 63.—A Sunday school was organized in this district in 1883, with Mr. Robinson superintendent. Sometimes run as a union, sometimes as a Methodist Episcopal, sometimes as a United Brethren, but several years ago was reorganized as a Protestant Methodist school.

LABETTE TOWNSHIP.

Caldwell District, No. 82.—Organized in 1882. Among its superintendents have been David Caldwell, J. B. Cosatt, J. Covalt, J. J. Decker, and Mrs. McIntosh.

Hiatt District, No. 47.—Organized in the spring of 1874. Superintendents: R. Birt, Mr. Baker, and Wm. Campbell.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP.

Pleasant Valley District, No. 48.—Organized in 1871. Superintendents: Tobe H. Taylor, James Morning, A. Gager, Frank Crawford, Lon Kiter, John Smith, Anna Arnold, David Beyle.

Labette District, No. 10.—Organized January 15, 1871. Superintendents: R. Baker, G. K. Sipple, C. Fentress.

Liberty District, No. 17.—Organized in 1870. Superintendents: Mr. McIntosh, G. K. Sipple, Silas Fentress, G. L. Whitnah, G. W. Giton, E. L. Pugh, J. C. Christian, R. H. Thresher.

MONTANA TOWNSHIP.

Montana District, No. 13.—The first school in Montana township was

in Montana district, No. 13. The first school organized in this district was in 1868; H. M. Minor was its superintendent. It was reorganized in the spring of 1869, with Charles Gray superintendent. Its sessions were held in an old store building a part of the time, and when they had preaching the Sunday-school services were held in the same building where the preaching took place. The location was changed from time to time, according to their opportunity to secure room. Mr. Gray remained superintendent for a number of years. A. Gager was one of the early workers in the school. Since Mr. Gray's time, among the superintendents the following have served the school: Thomas Clark, Rev. S. W. Griffin, W. F. Schoch, B. Lanham, D. Beyle, O. E. Woods, Wm. Woods.

Shiloh District, No. 8.—Organized 1870. Superintendents: Geo. Fagan, Andy Livesay, Nathaniel Woods, Lewis Crain, W. J. Webb, J. R. Youmans, Thos. Clinton, Z. Atchinson, S. D. Holmes, Mrs. Elnor E. Pierce.

OSWEGO TOWNSHIP.

Oak Grove District, No. 24.—This school was organized in the log church in the spring of 1871, with Wm. Herbaugh superintendent. The following year Mr. Bagby acted as superintendent. In 1876 it was organized in the new stone school-house, with A. Brown superintendent. Since then the superintendents have been P. S. Hughart, J. W. Brown, J. M. Ricker, and J. W. Park.

Stice District, No. 2.—A Sunday school was organized in this district in 1877; A. Kaho, superintendent. It has had but an irregular existence.

Clover District, No. 23.—A Sunday school has been kept in this district at intervals for quite a number of years, but it has not been continuous enough to be of great force.

Campbell District, No. 57.—A Sunday school was held in this school-house during the summer months during a part of the seventies, but in later years no attempt has been made to keep it up.

Woodruff District, No. 101.—Soon after the building of the school-house in this district a Sunday school was organized, with S. N. Woodruff superintendent, but it was maintained only a year or two.

FAIRVIEW TOWNSHIP.

Stover District, No. 29.—In the summer of 1870 a Sunday school was organized in a small house on the southeast quarter of section 17, but removed to the school-house as soon as it was built, and with more or less regularity has been maintained nearly ever since. It has generally been known as a union school, although the Methodists, as a rule, have furnished the larger part of the force that has done the work. Among its superintendents have been L. W. Patrick, George Pfaff, John and Jerry Winbiger. The Seventh-Day Adventists have also maintained a school at this point a part of the time.

Newell District, No. 71.—The first Sunday school in this vicinity was organized in the McIntosh house, in the spring of 1870. A lady rode on horseback to Chetopa and secured Bibles and song-books for the school. During its stay in this place it had no regular superintendent, but different members were appointed from Sunday to Sunday to take charge. The school was taken to the school-house as soon as it was completed, where it has been maintained for the most of the time since. It has had for superintendents among others the following: A. B. Hammer, Josiah Rayburn, G. D. Fellows, Mr. Young, James Paxton, and J. M. Magee.

Bowman District, No. 12.—Organized in 1872, and maintained only a part of the time since.

Maple Grove District, No. 54.—This school has had an existence more or less of the time since 1873, and has had among its superintendents Joseph Scott, Sallie Bottenfield, J. L. Williams, and John Richardson.

MOUNT PLEASANT TOWNSHIP.

Pioneer District, No. 59.—The Sunday school in this district was organized in May, 1871, with B. F. Jones superintendent. Among other superintendents were S. M. Canaday, Joseph Vance, and George Geer.

Rayburn District, No. 52.—The Sunday school in this district was first organized in May, 1871, in the claim cabin of D. S. Morrison, on the southeast quarter of section 14, and was moved to the school-house when it was built. It was maintained for several years. Among its early superintendents were Jacob Hagerman, Henry Story, George Hildreth.

Noble District, No. 89.—This Sunday school was organized in April, 1874. Josiah Rayburn, Michael Noel, George Hildreth and Henry Sleath successively superintended it.

Bell District, No. 91.—A Sunday school was organized in this school-house in the spring of 1875. B. Johnson, J. Bell sr. and J. Williams were early superintendents.

Janes District, No. 95.—This school was organized in April, 1879. Homer Hulse, Milo Hildreth and James Curnutt superintended it.

Altamont District, No. 43.—A Sunday school was organized in a store building in Elston in 1870, with Martin Gore as superintendent. At the same time a school was conducted in Major Hokes's house, on the southeast quarter of section 36, Labette township, with Thomas D. Bickerman as superintendent. The workers connected with these schools went to make up the union school which was organized at Altamont in 1871. It was maintained until the organization of the various denominational schools, when the union schools ceased. Among those who superintended the school were A. B. Hammer, James Perry, William Thompson, I. N. Hamilton, Perry Daniels, S. J. Hershbarger, Daniel Ferrier.

CANADA TOWNSHIP.

Richland District, No. 94.—In 1874 a Sunday school was organized in a log house on Ola Olson's claim, by J. H. Tibbits, and he was elected superintendent. The cabin being very small and uncomfortable, an arbor of poles and brush was made, in which the school was held during the summer. A school-house was built the next winter, and in the spring the Sunday school was reorganized in it, with J. H. Tibbits superintendent.

Emmons District, No. 84.—This Sunday school was organized in May, 1871, at the house of James Sweet, where it was kept till the spring of 1873, when it was organized at the school-house, where it has been held ever since. Buel Crone was the first superintendent, and B. H. Sharp has been superintendent several years since. James Sweet and Joseph Kearns have been active and efficient workers.

HOWARD TOWNSHIP.

Dresser District, No. 51.—Organized in 1876, with James Bennett superintendent, and maintained up to the time of the organization of the Congregationalists and Methodists.

McKennon District, No. 97.—R. V. Shipp, Mrs. McKennon and James Hunt were associated with others in the organization of the school in this district, in 1877. Among the superintendents of this school have been R. V. Shipp, Mr. Mills, Ella Hunt, James Hunt, Mrs. Mary McKennon.

Trenton District, No. 67.—In the spring of 1871 a Sunday school was organized in the house of John McClintick, where it was maintained until the erection of the school-house in this district, when it was removed to that place. J. M. Hart, Jacob French, W. J. Millikin and E. B. Baldwin have superintended it at different times.

Snow Hill District, No. 35.—A school was maintained at this point for a number of years, commencing in 1870. W. J. Herrod was at one time superintendent and an active worker in the school.

Blackford District, No. 6.—As early as 1874 a school was organized at this point, and maintained thereafter with a fair degree of regularity. Mr. Geyer was its first superintendent; W. J. Millikin and George Ash have also superintended.

Valeda.—A union school was organized in the Congregational church, in the spring of 1887, since which time it has been regularly maintained during the summer. W. J. Millikin was its first superintendent: following him there have been William Preston, V. Wallingford, Samuel Nelson, and Mrs. McKennon.

Lieb District, No. 85.—Organized in the spring of 1873. George H. Goodwin and W. J. Millikin were early superintendents.

ELM GROVE TOWNSHIP.

Ripon District, No. 49.—A Sunday school was organized in March, 1870, in the house of Dr. D. P. Lucas, on the northwest quarter of section 12, township 35, with Rachel Lucas superintendent, and afterward was held in a house belonging to Robert Marrs, standing on the southwest quarter of section 10; and was also held a part of the time in J. H. Jones's house, on the northeast quarter of section 11. Thos. Summerfield followed Mrs. Lucas as superintendent. In 1872 it was reorganized in the school-house, and Thomas H. Bruner was superintendent; other superintendents, T. D. Bickham, Mrs. Cook, Henry Faurot, and Mrs. B. M. Smith.

Starr District, No. 50.—Organized in 1871. Wesley Faurot has been one of the leading workers in the Sunday school since its organization.

Ellis District, No. 45.—In 1870 a Sunday school was taught in Simon Bradfield's house, on section 4, and a part of the time in Thomas Dowell's, on the southwest quarter of section 24. From the time the school-house was built a school has been maintained most of the time during the summer months. J. B. Ellis and Timothy Kay have superintended a good share of the time.

Rose Hill District, No. 109.—Organized in 1885. Mrs. Lyda Edmundson, Jesse Edmundson, Mrs. Anna Bickham, Rev. A. Allison, and Mrs. I. C. Wall, have successively superintended.

Edna District, No. 73.—In 1872 a Sunday school was held in Peter Goodwin's granary, on the northwest quarter of section 21, with George Goodwin superintendent. In April, 1873, the school was reorganized in the new school-house, with J. W. Millikin superintendent; he was followed by W. R. Lackey, Owen Wimmer, and Mr. Mills. The school was always a prosperous one, and continued in active existence until the organization of the denominational schools.

Valley District, No. 72.—A prosperous Sunday school has been maintained in this district a good portion of the time for a number of years. Mrs. C. W. Gray has been a faithful worker, and has superintended the school a part of the time.

HACKBERRY TOWNSHIP.

Foland District, No. 70.—A Sunday school was organized in this school-house in 1873. Chandler Stevenson, Samuel C. Coulter, Mrs. G. W. Leap, J. F. Holman, John Foland and Samuel McCullough are among the number closely identified with the school's growth. Samuel C. Coulter, A. H. Mickey, G. W. Jenkins and J. F. Holman have been some of the superintendents. The school has not been kept up since 1888.

Baylor District, No. 98.—As early as 1870 Samuel Coulter, T. J. Calvin, Mr. and Mrs. S. Lyon, E. G. Eggers and other workers organized a

Sunday school at the house of S. Lyon, and elected him superintendent. It continued during that year, but was not reorganized again until the school-house was completed. In 1874 it was again organized, and held in the school-house. Its superintendents have been W. G. Baylor, Samuel Coulter, T. J. Calvin, G. W. Jenkins, E. G. Eggers, Mrs. S. Lyon, and Dr. Owens. With 1884 the school ceased as a union school, and was merged in the school organized by the Baptists in their new church, and known as the Pleasant Hill Sunday school.

Liggett District, No. 87.—This school was originally a part of the one organized in Dr. Lucas's house, in Elm Grove township, and which thereafter became the Ripon school. When the school-houses were built two Sunday schools were formed, one in the Ripon school-house and one in the Liggett school-house. Among the early superintendents of the latter school were Ephraim Welch, Mr. Hoy, and Wm. Liggett. This was maintained as a union school until the erection of the Cecil church, when it was merged in the Methodist school organized in that building.

Bishop District, No. 7.—This school was organized May 1, 1871. Abner DeCou, William Newcomb, H. G. Pore, Alexander Bishop, H. W. Sandusky and G. A. Cooper were among those most prominently identified with its organization and early management. Mr. H. W. Sandusky was its first superintendent, and he was followed by G. W. Jenkins, G. A. Cooper, W. S. Bishop, Alexander Bishop, Miss Rose Dorland, W. W. Bradbury, A. M. Newman, and Mrs. Catharine Miller.

Lockard District, No. 28.—The Sunday school in this district was organized in the spring of 1873, by many earnest workers, among whom may be named George Tilton and wife, Thomas Sharp, S. L. Whiting, H. J. Reece, W. F. Legg, Mrs. Flora B. Illingsworth, and Mrs. Clara Wimmer. Its superintendents have been A. B. Hammer, Thomas Sharp, S. L. Whiting, W. F. Legg, W. G. Faurot, and Mrs. F. B. Illingsworth.

Bartlett District, No. 110.—This school was organized May 1, 1887, with S. L. Whitney superintendent. He has served as such since its organization, excepting in 1891, when Mrs. Allie Crane superintended.

Lake Creek Sunday School, District No. 60.—In the spring of 1872, Mrs. Julia Knight, G. W. Jenkins, W. W. Baty, A. D. Robinson, Mrs. Warren Chamberlain, and several others, feeling the need of religious services, organized a Sunday school at the home of H. D. Knight, with Mrs. Julia Knight as superintendent. The next year the school was moved to the Lake Creek school-house, District No. 60, and Mrs. Knight was again elected superintendent. Those who succeeded her as superintendent while it remained a union school in the school-house were: G. W. Jenkins, W. W. Baty, William Priest, Mrs. Warren Chamberlain, J. N. Allison, and W. F. Legg.

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP.

Gore District, No. 3.—In the fall of 1866 a few of the settlers in that neighborhood organized a Sunday school in James Rice's cabin, with Mrs. Rice as superintendent. The next summer it was reorganized, with the same superintendent, and maintained during the summer. In the spring of 1868 it was reorganized in Orville Thompson's store building, with Thompson Palmer superintendent. After this it was held in the school-house in that district. Benjamin A. Rice was superintendent in 1869. Other superintendents have been John F. Hill, Solomon Pierson, and L. Baker. It was merged in the Methodist Sunday school at Fletcher Chapel on the organization of the latter.

Watson District, No. 5.—In the spring of 1870 a school was organized in a claim cabin on J. C. McKnight's place on the southeast quarter of section 20, with T. J. Calvin superintendent. A part of the time it was held in a log cabin on R. T. Goudy's place. It was reorganized in the school-house upon its completion, with Samuel F. Doolen superintendent. From 1872 till his death, in 1878, James C. Watson superintended, and through his energy and devotion to the school it always did effective work. J. M. Morgan superintended for a time after Mr. Watson's death.

Breese District, No. 25.—A school has been maintained during the summer months in this district most of the time from 1872, until the erection of Fletcher Chapel. A. J. Swagerty and Mr. Hardaway were early superintendents.

Closser District, No. 61.—Organized 1875. Superintendents: F. M. Mendenhall, Samuel Wade, D. M. Closser, and H. W. Cook.

Piety Hill District, No. 100.—Organized 1875, and maintained a good portion of the time since. W. G. Hoover has been one of the workers in this school.

Cook District, No. 103.—A school has been kept up in this district a part of the time of late years. H. W. Cook has been one of the workers.

COLORED SCHOOLS.

OSWEGO.

In April, 1871, Dr. D. B. Crouse, with several teachers from the Methodist Sunday school, got quite a number of colored people together in the Congregational church, and organized them into a Sunday school, which was conducted the most of the time during that summer. During a part of the next year Rev. F. A. Armstrong got a few of the colored people together on Sundays and taught them from the Bible.

The African Methodist Episcopal Sunday School was organized in July, 1877, by Nelson Case and Alexander Mackie, who superintended

it alternately for about three years, after which Nelson Case superintended alone till 1886. It was entirely conducted by white officers and teachers till about 1886. Mr. and Mrs. Case, Dr. Newlon, Mr. Mackie, and one or two other white teachers, assisted in the school till the colored people had learned to read and were able, in a measure, to teach. At the request of Mr. Case, the school at one time, before Mr. Nelson took charge of it, elected John Boka superintendent; nevertheless the management of the school remained in the hands of the white teachers. Since 1886 Edward Nelson has superintended most of the time, up to 1891.

The Second Baptist Sunday School.—As soon as this denomination inclosed their church, in 1882, they organized a Sunday school, and have maintained it, with few interruptions, since. Mrs. Mary E. Case and Miss Sarah Crane assisted them in their work for several years. The school has had the following superintendents: A. J. Harper, G. W. Parks, M. A. Sumner, Thomas Scott.

Second Methodist Episcopal.—This school was organized in 1880. Henry Smiley has been superintendent ever since its organization, with the exception of 1877-78, when George W. Winn superintended. Mrs. Mary E. Case and Miss Sarah Crane taught in this school for a number of years.

MONTANA.

June 20, 1880, a Sunday school was organized in the Presbyterian church for the colored people, of which the officers of the Presbyterian Sunday school were in charge. It was maintained during that summer only.

CHETOPA.

In the fall of 1873 the Sunday-school workers of Chetopa organized a school among the colored people. It met from time to time in nearly all the churches in town. It was conducted entirely by white officers and teachers. Dr. C. Humble superintended until he went away, in 1877; after that John A. Lough and Mrs. Julia A. Knight superintended. After the organization of the denominational schools in the colored churches this school was given up.

Second M. E.—Rev. Robert Rector, pastor, secured the organization of this school in 1881. Its superintendents have been George Winn, Mr. Faghem, and Mrs. Frances Wilson.

African M. E.—Organized about 1881—perhaps a few years later. Superintendents: Harrison McMillan and Nelson Williamson.

Baptist.—Organized in 1882. Superintendents: Jerry Houston, Shack Porter, S. Gilmore.

PARSONS.

African M. E.—Soon after the organization of the A. M. E. church in Parsons, the pastor, Rev. J. H. Daniels, also secured the organization of

the Sunday school. The school dates from May, 1876. I have not been furnished with a list of its superintendents, nor an account of its work.

New Hope, Baptist.—On May 28, 1876, Rev. Thomas Wilson secured the organization of a Sunday school in connection with this church. I have no account of its work or officers.

DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS.

BAPTISTS.

Labette.—The school was organized in the spring of 1875, and has had the following superintendents: R. K. Jones, John Richardson, William E. Crawford, J. P. Christy, W. V. McDonell, T. J. Reel, J. S. McLain, Elisha Richardson, E. L. Christy. W. E. Crawford is now superintendent.

Chetopa.—Prior to 1881 the Baptists and Christians had maintained a union Sunday school. In 1881, with the assistance of Rev. J. P. Ash, a Baptist Sunday school was organized, with J. C. Witt superintendent. Following Mr. Witt as superintendent there have been F. M. Smith, Mrs. M. E. Stevens, Miss Eva Merrill, and Robert Williams.

Oswego.—Organized January 1, 1871, in an old store building on the west side of block 39, with D. E. Bent superintendent. Other superintendents have been: Dr. J. Spruill, Henry Glitz, J. N. Miles, Z. Eaton, Merritt Read, A. C. Baker, N. A. Douglas, Porter Sawyer, William P. Steel, Nellie Harrison, Rev. C. N. H. Moore.

Altamont.—Organized in the spring of 1883. Superintendents: Morris Bayless, E. Estes, Geo. Hildreth, A. I. Ross, J. Self, and Cyrus Baker.

Dennis.—The Baptist Sunday school in Dennis was organized April 2, 1883, and came almost entirely from the Baptist union school, which was transferred from the country to town. William Scott, John Garrison, Mr. Payne, and G. W. Everhart have been faithful workers in this school.

Barton.—This school has existed since the erection of the church, in 1885. J. H. Tibbets and family have been among its best workers.

Pleasant Hill Sunday School.—The Baptists having completed their church building, in 1885 they organized a Sunday school with Rev. C. T. Floyd as superintendent. He has been followed in the superintendency by W. W. Lewellen, — Witt, H. J. Schock, and Mrs. A. Austin.

Parsons.—This school was first organized in the city hall in 1874, with J. B. Stilwell superintendent, and an attendance of about ten scholars. During the year it disbanded, and was not reorganized till about 1878, when J. W. Fee was elected superintendent. The school at this time numbered about 50. W. W. Neighbour succeeded Mr. Fee, and was succeeded by C. F. Hodgman, and he by I. J. Uzzell. W. C. Main has superintended since Sept. 1886. The average attendance is now about 140.

Mound Valley.—The Baptists of Mound Valley worked in the union school until the erection of the church, in 1882, since which time they have had a school of their own. Among the superintendents have been H. W. Savage, P. G. Shanklin, J. H. Elmore, William Wilson.

Edna.—In the spring of 1883 the Baptists organized a Sunday school at the Hawkins school-house, in District No. 92, where it was conducted until their church building was erected at Kingston, when it was removed to that place. In 1887 the church was moved to Edna, and of course the Sunday school with it. The school has had the following superintendents: J. Reasor, Rev. G. H. Goodwin, Julius Goodwin, J. W. Reasor, J. Reasor, Rev. T. M. Cooper, G. W. Reasor, and Lewis Goodwin. The last report showed 4 officers, 5 teachers, 55 scholars, average attendance 30.

CHRISTIANS.

Chetopa.—Until 1883 the Christians had united with the Baptists in holding a Sunday school. In March, 1883, a Christian school was organized, with W. J. Latta superintendent.

Parsons.—Organized 1879, with C. R. Millard superintendent.

Central.—Upon the organization of the Central Christian Church in Parsons, in 1890, a Sunday school was also formed, which has been maintained ever since.

Oswego.—The Christian Sunday school was organized in the court-house, in the spring of 1876. Superintendents: 1876-77, John Overdeer; 1878-81, D. H. May; 1882-85, H. C. Draper; 1886-92, David Jennings.

Mound Valley.—The Christians have had a Sunday school for several years, but I have been unable to learn any particulars of its work.

CONGREGATIONAL.

Oswego.—Organized January 23, 1870, and maintained most of the time since. However, there have been two or three occasions when for several months at a time no school has been maintained. The school has no continuous record, and I find no one who remembers definitely who its officers have been, but the following list of superintendents is probably nearly complete: Dr. W. S. Newlon, Dr. W. E. Austin, W. M. Johnson, Dr. W. S. Newlon, Dr. H. J. Martin, O. Whitney, C. U. Dorman, Mrs. Louise Morrison, Burton Thorpe, J. D. H. Reed, Rev. Park A. Bradford and wife, C. E. Coleman.

Parsons.—Organized July 20, 1873. Superintendents: P. M. Griffin, A. H. Ayers, I. Dickson, A. P. Wilson, E. C. Ward, J. H. Motic, G. W. Ragland.

Deerton.—On the completion of the church, in 1880, a Sunday school was organized, which was maintained until the church was moved to Valeda, in 1886. Rev. James Cooper superintended it while he was pastor.

UNIVERSALIST.

During the time the Universalists had an organization and sustained preaching services in Oswego, they also maintained a Sunday school, of which John F. Hill was superintendent.

UNITED BRETHREN.

Parsons.—Organized 1876, with Abraham Cary superintendent. Since that, W. F. Grierson, — Butler, A. B. Hacker, and Mrs. Sandercook.

Union District, No. 69.—Organized in 1870, with Joseph Vance superintendent, and maintained until 1874.

Dennis.—The United Brethren Sunday school was organized in 1882, and came mainly from the Sylvan Dale and Four-Mile schools; Alvin Miller was its first superintendent. It is maintained with a fair degree of prosperity. J. D. McKeever and Noah Huff are reported as having superintended since Mr. Miller.

EVANGELICAL.

A Sunday school was organized by this denomination in the spring of 1886, in its church in Dennis. W. W. Blake was superintendent for several years. William Dick was one of the workers as long as he was able to be around. Jacob Eisenhood and B. F. Dienst have also superintended.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL.

Oswego.—The first denominational Sunday school to be organized in the county was the First Methodist Episcopal Sunday School of Oswego. In the summer of 1868 the Methodists first organized a school, of which Ansel Gridley sr. was superintendent. This, like all the other Sunday schools of that time, was run only during the warm weather; it closed before the cold weather of winter came on. This school as now conducted claims an existence only from Sunday, April 9, 1869, when it was again organized, since which time it has had an uninterrupted existence, and since the time when Mr. Case took the superintendency the school has not missed a single session. It is by over a year the oldest school that now has an existence in the county. At the organization of the school, on April 19, 1869, Ansel Gridley sr. was again elected superintendent; he served as such till September 18, 1870, when Nelson Case, having been elected superintendent, first took charge of the school. Mr. Case then served continuously a little over fifteen years; he tendered his resignation on September 28, 1885, and it was accepted on October 5. The pastor, Rev. J. A. Hyden, superintended from this time till the close of the year. W. F. Thorne superintended during 1886, and Rev. J. B. Ford, the pastor, during 1887. At the close of 1887 Nelson Case was again elected superintendent, and since January 1, 1888, has continued in that position.—The school was organized in Crouse's Hall, on lot 5 in

block 39, where it held its sessions during the summer of 1869; the following winter it met in two or three different places—a part of the time in Wells's Hall. In the summer of 1870 the new church building was erected, and as soon as it was inclosed the school commenced meeting in it. In the fall of 1870 the superintendent instituted a teachers' meeting, which has been maintained weekly since. Normal classes have also been conducted in connection with the school work for several years.

Chetopa.—Organized July 17, 1870, with J. M. Cavaness superintendent, who served until July, 1872, when W. W. Sweet was elected superintendent. In January, 1873, L. J. Van Landingham was elected, and served three years; he was followed by S. B. Sloan. In 1877 Mr. Cavaness was elected, and served, with the exception of a year or two when D. O. Ditzler superintended, till 1886, when he went into the ministry. Following him B. S. Edwards superintended until 1889, when Mr. Cavaness was again placed in charge, since which time he has held the position.

Montana.—The Presbyterians having organized their school upon the completion of their church, in 1878, the Methodists then organized a denominational school, the two having theretofore been conducted as a union school in the school-house.

Attamont.—Organized in 1884. Superintendents: O. P. Van Slyke, J. O. King, Arthur J. Rust, W. J. Lough, P. H. Riepie, E. D. Keinze.

Parsons.—In the summer of 1873 a Methodist Sunday school was organized, with the pastor, Rev. C. R. Rice, superintendent. Owing to the straitened circumstances and unorganized condition of the work, the school did not maintain a continuous existence, but part of the time united with other workers in carrying on a union school. Besides Rev. C. R. Rice, the early superintendents were: M. Wallace, M. G. Brown, and J. W. Cowles. In January, 1876, T. H. Cunningham was elected superintendent, and continued to act as such until the close of 1890. In January, 1891, J. L. Kennerer was elected superintendent, and in January, 1892, M. E. Wolf was elected, and is now serving.

Center Chapel.—Upon the completion of this church building, in the spring of 1887, a Sunday school was at once organized therein. It was conducted as a union school until the close of 1890, with the following superintendents: Mrs. M. E. Casky, A. W. Meador, and F. M. Morrison. In January, 1891, it was organized as a Methodist school, with F. M. Morrison superintendent; in January, 1892, W. E. Snyder succeeded him.

Labette.—Organized in 1876. Superintendents: 1875, J. K. Sipple; 1877-84, J. B. Payne; 1885, J. E. Williams; 1886, J. B. Payne; 1887-92, A. C. Lamm.

Dresser District, No. 51.—The Methodist school at this point was organized in the spring of 1883, and was maintained until the fall of 1886,

at which time the class was changed from this to Valeda. W. J. Millikin was superintendent the first two years, after which a man with the same name, excepting that his name is spelled with an "e" instead of an "i" in the last syllable (W. J. Milliken), superintended.

Mound Valley.—Organized in the fall of 1880, by E. A. Graham. Superintendents: J. J. Decker, A. B. Hammer, R. W. Simpson, O. B. Moore, Isaac Hill, Alexander Moore, and E. A. Graham.

Fletcher Chapel.—When this church was inclosed, in the fall of 1883, the Sunday school was moved from the Breese school-house to it. Solomon Pearson was first superintendent. Of those who have succeeded him I have not been furnished a list, but understand that among them have been Fannie Kirby and R. A. Hill.

Hopewell.—This school has ever been known as the "Evergreen," from the fact that while most of the schools in the country closed during the winter months, this was kept running the year round, from its first organization. It was organized in April, 1871, in a granary on the place of James Beggs, and was afterward held in a dwelling-house until the Henderson school-house was completed, when it was removed to that building, where it was held until Hopewell church was completed, since which time its home has been in that structure. From its organization until 1884, James Beggs was its superintendent, with the exception of one year, when George McDole filled that place. Since 1884 it has had several superintendents, among whom have been L. C. Masters, W. T. Beggs, M. Daniels, and James Monroe.

Pleasant Hill.—Organized in 1890, and has had for superintendents James Woodyard, Mrs. Barker, and James Venable.

Excelsior.—Organized in 1892.

Edna.—Almost from the first organization of Sunday-school work in Edna it was largely under the control of the Methodists; but it was not till they went into the new church, in the spring of 1883, that the Methodists organized a distinctively denominational school. The following persons have superintended the school: E. B. Baldwin, L. Powell, H. S. Wimmer, Charles Long.

Cecil.—As soon as the Methodist church at Cecil was inclosed, the Sunday school which had been previously conducted at the Liggett school-house was moved to the church; this was done in March, 1883. J. N. Thompson was its first superintendent, and since then there have been J. D. Lombard, J. P. Lewman, Lydia A. Owens, Noah E. Barriek, Elizabeth Laman.

PRESBYTERIAN.

Mound Valley.—Organized December 7, 1884; Dr. L. D. Strother, superintendent; 48 scholars, divided into eight classes. The school has been maintained ever since. C. M. Brown superintended for a year or two.

Chetopa.—Organized July 17, 1870, with C. S. Montague superintendent, and on August 25, 1872, Dr. C. Humble was elected superintendent. He continued to serve till he went away, in 1877. Following him the school has been superintended by C. H. McCreery, S. O. Barnes, Fred. Allen, Jesse M. Morgan, Julia R. Knight, and Arnold D. Robison.

Parsons.—Organized in December, 1872, with Harry L. Gosling superintendent. Succeeding him there have been the following superintendents: M. B. Park, I. N. McCreery, G. C. Hitchcock, S. M. Cambern, Frank Mulford, S. A. Scott, F. L. Schaub, W. H. Martin, J. L. Morrison.

Oswego.—Organized in May, 1870, with Cornelius V. Monfort superintendent. He was followed by J. J. Browne, J. W. Monfort, E. B. Newton, Alexander Mackie, Chas. Coit, Andrew Mackie, Albert A. Smith, R. P. Carpenter, Fred. C. Wheeler, Henry L. McCune, Fred. W. Keller, E. P. Mossman, and J. M. Berry.

Montana.—When the Presbyterian church was built at Montana, in 1878, the Sunday school was at once organized therein, with James Morning superintendent, since when it has been maintained only a part of the time.

Lake Creek.—The Lake Creek Presbyterian church having been built, the Sunday school which had been maintained at the school-house was removed to it, in 1884, where it was opened as a Presbyterian school, and the union school was discontinued. Since removing to the church, its superintendents have been: A. D. Robison, Thomas E. Baty, Mrs. J. H. Sellers, Irwin A. Robinson, and again Thomas E. Baty.

Edna.—This school was organized in their church in Kingston, in 1879, where it was continued until the church was moved to Edna, in 1887. John T. Watt was superintendent while the school remained at Kingston and for a year after it was moved to Edna. In 1889 H. Allen was superintendent. No school was maintained during 1890 and 1891. It was reorganized in January, 1892, with J. T. Watt as superintendent.

The Chetopa United Presbyterian Sunday School was organized in Thomas's Hall in May, 1871, and on the completion of the church building in the fall of that year, the Sunday school there found its home, where it has had a continuous existence to the present time, meeting in the morning before preaching, except for a short time, when it was held immediately after preaching. Two features of this school are worthy of special commendation, the first being the fact that nearly all the congregation is in the Sunday school, thus giving it probably the largest per cent. of adult attendance of any school in the county; the other item referred to is a mission collection on nearly every Sunday. Rev. J. C. McKnight has continuously served as Bible-class teacher from the organ-

ization of the school. John Torrence and William Wade have been successful teachers respectively of the classes for young men and young women. T. J. Calvin was the first superintendent, and held the position for ten years, from 1871 to 1881. Succeeding him were the following parties: Samuel Wade six months, I. N. Anderson three years, John Torrance five years, David Burnside one year, Mrs. Robert McCaw one year, and Mrs. R. J. Stewart is the present superintendent.

COUNTY SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

In the spring of 1872 several of the Sunday-school workers of Chetopa joined in issuing a call for a meeting to form a county Sunday school association. Pursuant to this call, quite a number met in the Presbyterian church in Chetopa, on March 21, 1872, and effected a temporary organization by electing J. M. Cavaness temporary president and C. S. Montague temporary secretary. A constitution was adopted, and the following officers elected: President, I. W. Patrick; secretary, C. S. Montague; treasurer, T. J. Calvin; executive committee, J. M. Cavaness, Nelson Case, J. F. Hill, Amy B. Howard. Meetings have been held annually, with two exceptions, and several years two or more meetings have been held. No meeting was held in either 1888 or 1890. The annual meetings have been held as follows: Oct. 15, 1872, Oswego; Oct. 21, 1873, Chetopa; Sept. 23, 1874, Oswego; Sept. 26, 1875, Chetopa; Sept. 27, 1876, Parsons; Sept. 19, 1877, Oswego; Sept. 18, 1878, Mound Valley; Sept. 22, 1879, Labette; Sept. 21, 1880, Montana; Oct. 6, 1881, Oswego; March 21, 1882, Chetopa; May 3, 1883, Mound Valley; May 7, 1884, Altamont; May 21, 1885, Labette; May 12, 1886, Altamont; Oct. 5, 1887, Mound Valley; Jan. 3, 1889, Edna; March 17, 1891, Oswego; Feb. 29, 1892, Mound Valley; Dec. 13, 1892, Chetopa. Presidents: March 21, 1872, to Oct. 22, 1873, I. W. Patrick; 1873-77, Nelson Case; 1877-79, Rev. F. L. Walker; 1879, D. G. Brown; 1880, Rev. R. M. Scott; 1881-83, Rev. C. H. McCreery; 1883-86, J. M. Cavaness; 1886, Rev. J. B. Ford; 1887-88, J. H. Elmore; 1889, John Slaughter; 1890-92, F. L. Schaub; 1892-93, Agnes Baty. Secretaries: 1872, C. S. Montague; 1872-73, Rev. J. H. Metier; 1873-77, C. Humble; 1877, Nelson Case; 1878, L. J. Van Landingham; 1879, G. K. Sipple; 1880-85, Charles T. Carpenter; 1885-87, William Paramore; 1887-88, Hattie Beggs; 1889-92, Agnes Baty; 1892-93, Nellie Harrison.

TOWNSHIP ASSOCIATIONS.

Before even the county association had been formed, the Sunday-school workers in Oswego met on September 26, 1869, and formed a local organization, of which Nelson Case was elected president. This was the first association organized in the county. After the formation of the

county association, the cities organized or reorganized their associations on a basis uniform with the township associations. At the annual convention of the county association in October, 1875, it was resolved to try and secure the organization of the several townships as fast as possible, and within the next two years an organization was effected in each township and city in the county. Many of these associations, however, were short-lived. Their original organization was the result of visits and work by one or more of the officers of the county association, and when these visits ceased most of the township associations ceased to hold meetings. Two or three townships have maintained their organizations, and have regularly held conventions, among them North and Osage; and in all of the townships quite an amount of local work has been done.

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS.

A few families holding the belief of this denomination early settled in Osage township, and soon commenced to hold meetings in private houses, occasionally going to the different school-houses to hold their services. About 1880 they bought from the Christians the church building the latter had erected on section 26, in which they have since continued to hold meetings. In the fall of 1869 John Madison commenced preaching in William Logan's log house on section 9, in Fairview township, and ever since that time they have maintained regular services in the Stover school-house. J. H. Cook, H. C. Blanchard and L. D. Santee have been among those who have preached at this point. For some ten years past services have been held with a good deal of regularity in the southwest part of the county: Valeda is now the center of that work. Services are held occasionally at Chetopa, Parsons, Oswego, and probably other points.

CHURCH OF GOD.

Zion Hill.—This church was organized in the fall of 1883, by Mrs. Clara Utsey, with 15 members. Services were conducted by her in the Stover school-house until the completion of their church building. The church was erected in the fall of 1884, on the northwest corner of section 10, in Fairview township. Besides Mrs. Utsey, Rev. Mr. Barterbaugh and Rev. Mr. Cross have preached for this congregation. It has for some time been without a pastor.

Center Bethel was organized about the same time as Zion Hill. A church house was erected in the spring of 1884, on the northwest corner of section 21, in Liberty township. The same ministers who have supplied Zion Hill have also preached for this congregation.

Janes.—An organization of this church was effected at the Janes school-house, in District No. 95, in the fall of 1884. It has had the same ministers as Zion Hill church.

MORMONS, OR LATTER-DAY SAINTS.

Quite a number of this persuasion were among the first settlers along Pumpkin creek, in the southern part of Mound Valley and Canada townships. Among those who were prominent were the families of Hart, Richard and Benjamin Davis, Phineas and Charles Fultz. There were several among them who were recognized as preachers. Services were held from house to house quite regularly. When the school-house was built, in 1877, in District No. 94, they organized, and removed their services to that place, where they have since been regularly continued.

UNIVERSALISTS.

In January, 1883, an organization of this denomination was effected at the home of Rev. J. Davis, in Oswego. Meetings were conducted in the court-house, and part of the time in Liggett's Hall. Rev. J. Davis was elected pastor, and continued to serve as such till about the middle of April, 1885, when the organization was practically disbanded. Services were not maintained regularly, however, during all of that time.

BROTHERHOOD OF HUMANITARIANS.

January 13, 1884, an organization taking this title was formed in Liggett's Hall, in Oswego, as follows: Mrs. E. Smith, president; Mrs. I. C. Pierce, vice-president; Mrs. M. A. Hurlbut, secretary; Dr. R. W. Wright, treasurer. I do not know to what extent they maintained meetings.

THE SALVATION CHURCH OF CHRIST

Was formed by Thomas D. Bickham as a new religious organization, in Chautauqua county, in 1880, and the following year a class was organized at Rose Hill school-house, in District No. 91, which has been maintained since then. This is the only class in the county belonging to this organization. Since the death of Thomas D. Bickham, in 1889, his son, Ezra E. Bickham, has been the leading spirit in this church.

NEOSHO VALLEY CHURCH.

The southwest corner of section 33, township 32, range 21, was deeded to F. Swanwick and Randall Bagby, for the use of all religious denominations. The neighbors contributed work and logs, and in January, 1870, a log church was erected upon this ground, and a cemetery was also started thereon. Nearly all denominations at one time or another held services here: possibly the preachers of the Methodist Church South used it as much as any other. The building was used for both school and church purposes until the new school-house was built in District 24, after which the building was torn down. The burying-ground is still used.

CHURCH OF WILSONTON.

This church professed to be organized on the plan of the old apostles, of having one church in a place. The first meeting looking toward its organization was held October 27, 1889, in the hall at Wilsonton. Rev. George E. Thrall was elected chairman and Mrs. Ella B. Wilson secretary. A constitution was adopted and officers elected.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Chetopa.—Father Schoenmaker and other priests had visited along the Neosho as soon as settlers had commenced to arrive, and had done considerable religious work; but no church was organized by them till 1871. On July 16, 1871, Father Dougherty took charge of the work, and began holding services in Drake's Hall. A building was erected, and on May 31, 1874, dedicated by Rev. E. Bononcini, pastor, and Rev. F. Swemberg, of Emporia. Father Bononcini had charge of the work for some time prior to December, 1880, when he was succeeded by C. Haspenthal.

Oswego.—Priests from neighboring parishes visited Oswego from time to time and held services. In 1878, largely through the instrumentality of F. Beyle, a building was erected, which was dedicated October 13th of that year, by Rev. Paul M. Ponziglioni. A priest has supplied this in connection with other points.

Parsons.—St. Patrick's congregation was organized by Father Philip G. Calloten, in the summer of 1872, and lots 1 and 2 in block 122 were secured on which to commence the erection of a frame church. In December, 1876, he was succeeded by Father Joseph Dreason, who served till August, 1881, when Father Rose took charge. Under his direction the property at the head of Central avenue was secured and converted into a convent. Five sisters from St. Agnes convent at Osage Mission were secured to conduct the school. Changes were also made in the church building and grounds. Fathers Hodgden, Reil, and Ward, the latter now in charge, have been successors of Father Rose. Under the management of Father Ward work has commenced on a large new cathedral, which will be a fine building when completed.

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL.

Oswego.—In 1870, and for a year or two thereafter, Episcopal services were held now and then at Oswego, and some steps were taken towards organizing a parish. If it was accomplished at all, it did not live long nor show many signs of life.

Chetopa.—During 1871 the Episcopalians held occasional services in some of the churches in Chetopa, and gathered together some strength that naturally tended to that body. In May, 1872, St. Paul's parish was formed, with Rev. Thomas L. Smith as rector. The church never developed much strength.

Parsons.—St. John's Memorial Church was organized in June, 1874, as a memorial to Ezra Williams Howard, of Providence, R. I., whose widow, through Bishop Vail, gave \$2,000 towards its erection. The first board of trustees consisted of Angell Matthewson, W. C. Holmes, J. R. Brown, James Barton, George Thornton, S. O. Fletcher, and William Horsefall. Dr. J. B. Lamb was the first senior warden. Rev. Benjamin Mower was at once secured as the first rector, and he continued to act as such for something over a year. He immediately commenced raising money for the erection of a church. On Sunday, September 27, 1874, the corner-stone was laid, under the direction of the Masons and Odd Fellows, and on April 4, 1875, the church was opened by Bishop Vail. Prior to the completion of their own church they had held services in the Methodist tabernacle. Mr. Gay, D. W. Cox, Mr. Talbot, W. T. Bowen and C. W. Harris are among those who have served as rectors.

CHRISTIAN CHURCHES.

[It is probable that some of the organizations which I have grouped under this head might be more properly designated, according to their own claim, by some other name, but I have no information by which I can make any better classification than this.—N. C.]

Concord.—Soon after the completion of Concord school-house, in District No. 16, in the fall of 1868, Rev. Jackson Statton commenced holding services in it. He and other ministers frequently preached there during the next year. In 1874 Rev. J. S. Masters began preaching here, and organized a church, which was maintained for some five years.

Franklin was organized at Center school-house, District No. 14, in 1869, by Peterson Cherry and William McIntosh. Some two years later it was moved to the Liberty school-house, in District No. 17, and some three or four years later to the Franklin school-house, in District No. 55, where it has since been maintained. It has had for its pastors Elders Berry, Randall, Murray, and Cole.

Pleasant Hill.—A church was organized in the log school-house in District No. 38, in April, 1871, by Rev. Jacob S. Masters, who preached for them a number of years. In 1878 they built a frame church on the northeast quarter of section 26, township 31, range 18. After Mr. Masters moved away the organization ceased, and the church building was sold to the Seventh-Day Adventists.

Lockard.—An organization was formed at the Lockard school-house, in District No. 28, by Rev. J. N. Allison, who has preached there for some time.

Star.—Rev. J. S. Masters organized a church in the Star school-house, in District No. 50, in 1874, and preached there several years. It was then consolidated with the South Hackberry church.

South Hackberry (now Elm City).—This church was organized at the Valley school-house, District No. 72, by Rev. J. S. Masters and Rev. G. W. Goodman, April 6, 1873, and has maintained services ever since. Rev. J. S. Masters and his brother Rev. J. L. Masters have preached for the church the greater part of the time, but it has also had other preachers. The services were changed in 1887 from the Valley school-house to Rose Hill school-house, in District No. 109. The church in the summer of 1892 erected a house of worship at Elm City, which was dedicated Oct. 9, 1892, by Rev. J. S. Masters. Philander Davis, A. Humphries, J. Allison, and F. Fallie, besides the Masters brothers, have been pastors.

Emmons District, No. 84.—In 1877 Rev. Skelton Riley, a preacher in the Christian denomination, commenced preaching in this school-house, and as there were several in the neighborhood who wanted to have a church connection, he soon succeeded in forming quite an organization of those who had belonged to various denominations. The understanding was that no particular denominational creed should be preached. Everything went off smoothly for about a year, but finally the preacher mixed in his sermons quite a large amount of his peculiar denominational views, which was distasteful to a large proportion of his members. The membership gradually decreased, and after an existence of something like two years the organization became entirely disbanded.

Bell Mound District, No. 99.—A Christian church was organized at this point several years ago, which has since been maintained. A. D. Skaggs and Job Padget have done considerable preaching for them.

Chetopa.—On September 11, 1870, Rev. Allen Crocker, of Burlington, preached at Spaulding's Hall. This was the first service held by this denomination in Chetopa. This church was organized with 36 members, in January, 1876, by Benjamin H. Smith, who served it as pastor for about eighteen months, preaching for them once a month. In 1878 Elder M. J. Jenkins held a series of meetings, the use of the Baptist church being secured for that purpose. For the next three years the church was occasionally served by Prof. Robert Hay. The church then became disbanded, partially for want of a place to meet. In 1883 a room in the California House was secured as a place for meeting, and F. S. Young and P. A. Millard were secured to hold a series of meetings in April. These resulted in a reorganization of the church, with 24 members. A Sunday school had been organized by them a few weeks before. P. A. Millard served them as pastor for a year or more, after which they had preaching occasionally till the spring of 1886, when M. J. Jenkins became pastor, giving them half of his time for some six months. In 1884 a frame church 32x44 feet was erected, at a cost of about \$1,400, and

dedicated December 14, 1884, by W. C. Pool. On April 30, 1889, the church traded this house of worship with the Baptist denomination for its building, and thereupon the two denominations exchanged places of meeting. In 1888 Elder M. Ingles preached one-half the time, and G. W. Leonard once a month in 1891. A. J. Garrison was pastor in 1892, preaching two Sundays each month, until November, when he resigned.

Labette.—This church was first organized at Liberty school-house, District No. 17, in 1871, by William McIntosh, who preached to them most of the time for several years. In September, 1877, the organization was removed to the town of Labette, where it has since been maintained. They have not had regular pastors much of the time, but have had occasional preaching by Peter Shick, Frank Harman, Elder Jenkins, A. D. Skaggs, Thomas Cole, and others.

Montana.—This church was organized at the residence of Dr. R. M. Taylor, December 2, 1886, at which time J. J. Freeman, Crowell Cook and R. H. Gaston were elected trustees. Lots 7 and 8 in block 14 were secured, and a church building was erected thereon in 1887, at a cost of about \$600. The church has been supplied with regular preaching but a small portion of the time. Rev. A. D. Skaggs preached for them some time in connection with his work at other points in the county. In 1892 they sold their church building to the Methodists.

Parsons.—The First Christian Church of Parsons was first organized in 1873, with 12 members, and was reorganized in 1875, with 35 members. A brick church building was completed in 1879. Its first elders were Phineas Davis and John Leonard; its first deacons, J. F. Van Meter and W. L. Daily; J. B. Graves was first pastor; following him there have been C. C. Cline, C. O. McKinney, O. E. Ebert, — Thomas, J. P. Witt, J. T. Tucker.

Central.—In May, 1890, J. P. Witt, who had been preaching for the First church, organized the Central Christian church of Parsons, with a membership of about forty, and became its first pastor. He was succeeded by D. M. Harris, and he by — Brown. The church has as yet erected no building.

Altamont.—This church was organized in March, 1877, by Elder Frank Harmon, with thirteen members. James Perry and William P. Daniel were its first elders, and F. L. Hamilton and James Daniel its deacons. It has been served by the following ministers: Frank Harmon, J. Padget, P. W. Shick, John Owen, B. F. Lucas. In 1892 this church purchased the frame building which had previously been the public school building, which they have removed and repaired for use as a church.

Oswego.—The Oswego Christian church was organized in May, 1875,

by Rev. J. W. Randall, with a membership of about twenty soon after completing the organization. For a time they held services in the Baptist church, and afterwards in the court-house. In 1879 they erected a house of worship, which was dedicated January 25, 1880, by Rev. Kirk Baxter. The pastors have been as follows: J. W. Randall, M. J. Jenkins, Kirk Baxter, H. S. Kline, Thomas E. Shepherd, D. R. De Schullie, A. H. Mulkey, R. A. Thompson, J. W. Ferrell, M. Ingels, J. H. Blake, and E. N. Tucker.—An organization of the Y. P. S. C. E. was effected October 12, 1890, and has done a good line of work in Bible study. David Jennings has been its president since its inception.

Mound Valley.—An organization was effected at the residence of E. Stapleton, in May, 1871, by Rev. J. W. Randall. This organization, however, only lasted for a short time. In March, 1882, Rev. J. Padget conducted a series of meetings in a school-house, and a reorganization was formed. A house of worship was erected that summer.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES.

Oswego.—The Congregational church of Oswego was the first church to be organized in the county. The meeting at which it was organized was held in the building at the northeast corner of block 33, then used for school and church purposes, Jan. 9, 1868. There were present Rev. T. H. Canfield, Dr. W. S. Newlon, Mrs. M. W. Newlon, Mrs. Lucinda Newlon, William Herbaugh, Augusta Herbaugh, and A. L. Austin. W. S. Newlon was elected clerk, A. L. Austin and William Herbaugh deacons. On the following Sunday, January 12th, the public organization of the church took place. Rev. Thomas H. Canfield was sent out by the Board of Home Missions in the fall of 1867, and soon commenced preaching. He was the first regular preacher on the ground who came more as a preacher than as a settler, although the Methodists had several local preachers here before he came. Early in 1869 they commenced the erection of a stone church, which was inclosed about the last of the year, and cost some \$2,000. The church was first occupied on January 23, 1870, although it was not yet completed. Mr. Canfield resigned in 1870, and was succeeded for a few months by Rev. J. F. Morgau, who was followed by Rev. F. A. Armstrong—a man with a large amount of wisdom and goodness, but with less *practical* sense. As a consequence, he and his members did not see things alike, and he was finally left as pastor of a church almost without a membership. The church remained closed for a number of months, but finally A. Bixby was employed, and preached most of the time for some two or three years—from 1876 to 1879. John F. Flint served a few months in 1880. E. F. Smith was called in the spring of 1881, and served until the summer of 1882. J. N. Branch

preached for them the last half of 1883. O. M. Van Swearingen came in the spring of 1884, and stayed a little more than a year. From the fall of 1886 to the spring of 1887 Wm. T. Blenkarn supplied the pulpit: it then remained vacant till the spring of 1891, when Park A. Bradford was employed, and remained most of that year. In the summer of 1892 Chas. H. Currans filled the pulpit. The church is now without a pastor.

Parsons.—Early in 1872 several citizens of Parsons who leaned toward Congregationalism, after consulting some of the officers of the Home Missionary Society decided to organize, and secured the incorporation of "The First Congregational Church Society of Parsons," with E. C. Ward, E. S. Stevens and C. L. Whitney as trustees. Hewes's Hall was rented, and Rev. Mr. Storrs and other ministers promised to preach till the arrival of the Rev. P. M. Griffin, who was to be sent out by the Home Missionary Society as soon as he finished his course at Andover. As the Methodists and Presbyterians were already occupying this hall on alternate Sabbaths, the Congregationalists could only hold services occasionally. This hastened their action in building a church. The town company donated lots 1 and 2 in block 49, and the church purchased lots 3 and 4 adjoining. Mr. Griffin arrived on the ground and commenced work September 1, 1872. A brick building 27x65 was constructed as rapidly as could be done, and was completed in the following July. On July 12, 1873, Edmund S. Stevens, Mrs. Elizabeth Stevens, Mrs. Emily Fellows, Rev. Presley M. Griffin and Mrs. E. J. Griffin formed themselves into and organized the First Congregational Church of Parsons. On the following day, Sunday, July 13, 1873, the church building was dedicated by Dr. P. McVicar; the church was reorganized, and the pastor was ordained and installed by an ecclesiastical council. Mr. Griffin remained pastor till August 19, 1879, when he resigned, and was duly dismissed by the council. During Mr. Griffin's pastorate the church membership was increased from five to sixty-two, and the entire church indebtedness was canceled. Mr. Griffin was succeeded by Rev. H. M. Burr, who came in November, and continued till May, 1880, when he was compelled by ill-health to resign. From this time till September 1, 1881, the church was without a pastor; at that time Rev. C. Hartley came and stayed till June, 1882, when he resigned. In December, 1882, Rev. W. H. Utley became pastor, and continued till February 1, 1886. In May of that year Rev. C. L. McKesson accepted a call, and remained some two years. The church was then closed till the summer of 1890, during which time it seemed that the life of the church had entirely fled: but the membership again rallied, repaired the church, and extended a call to their first pastor, Rev. P. M. Griffin, who accepted, and began work September 1, 1890, and continued till sometime in 1892. During

his last pastorate a Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor was formed, and new vitality was put in the church in many ways.

The Deerton Congregational Church was organized in the Dresser school-house, District No. 51, July 22, 1877, by Rev. S. D. Storrs, with seven members. Rev. Alanson Bixby, of Oswego, was chairman of the meeting, and after the organization of the church he was at once chosen pastor; he served this church in connection with the church at Oswego. There were seventeen accessions during the year. At the close of that year Rev. Uriel Farmer was chosen pastor, and during the year steps were taken to erect a church and parsonage. George E. Wiley donated three acres of land on the northwest quarter of section 21, township 34, range 18, near the north line of Howard township, for church and parsonage. The parsonage was built during 1878. The church building was erected in the fall of 1879, and was dedicated January 24, 1880, the corner-stone having been laid October 18, 1879. Mr. Farmer having served two years, he retired, and Rev. Mr. Flint temporarily supplied the pulpit. Early in 1882 Rev. James Cooper became pastor, and served to the close of 1883. During his pastorate about fifty names were added to the list of members. With the opening of 1884 Rev. Howard Gilchrist entered on his pastorate, which continued till near the close of 1885, when Rev. Park A. Bradford preached for a time. This closed the work while the building remained at Deerton.

Valeda.—In the fall of 1886 the church building was removed from Deerton to Valeda. No services were held by the church until the fall of 1891. On Sept. 27, 1891, the church was reorganized, with 33 members. Rev. S. B. Dyckman was chosen pastor, and has continued since to serve in that capacity. The parsonage still remains at Deerton.

BAPTISTS.

Altamont.—On June 18, 1882, a few families,—viz. : of the Bonebrake families, Frank, May, S. M., Ezra, Amanda J., Luella; of the Baker family, Isaac, Aseneth, Thomas L., May C., Allen T., Melvina; George and Margaret Chapman, Jonathan and Sarah Self, and Adeline Burns—presented letters from other churches, and organized the Altamont Baptist church. Rev. T. C. Daniels was chosen as the first pastor; he only served till Nov. 19, 1882, when he was followed by J. M. C. Reed, who served for three years. E. Estes, W. G. Slinker and W. T. Jackson have been the subsequent pastors. In 1883 a building costing about \$1,500 was completed, and dedicated Jan. 29, 1884, by Rev. A. S. Merrifield. The church has a membership of about fifty.

Oswego.—The First Baptist Church of Oswego was organized at the court-house April 28, 1869, with the following members: Rev. Thomas

Clark and wife D. Clark. Rev. Zachariah Harris and wife Anna J. Harris, Rev. T. J. Flouronoy and wife Virginia Flouronoy, and mother Nancy P. Flouronoy, John S. Read and wife E. C. Read, Elijah Read and wife Sarah Read, Sarah N. Carr, Anna M. Bridgman, Jerusha P. Smith, John Garrett, Jemima Garrett, and George W. Kingsbury. Rev. M. A. Clark, home missionary, was present, and acted as clerk. Rev. C. A. Bateman, of Chetopa, was also present, and gave the right hand of fellowship. Rev. Thomas Clark acted as moderator. John S. Read was elected clerk, Thomas J. Flouronoy deacon, John S. Read, T. J. Flouronoy and G. W. Kingsbury trustees.—On May 8, 1869, a meeting was held, at which it was voted, on motion of Mr. Flouronoy, to proceed to build a house of worship. Subscription papers were put in circulation and reference is made to the matter at several meetings during the year, but no results are reported.—On June 9, 1869, “the subject of foot-washing in connection with the supper was introduced by Bro. Flouronoy. There being no second to his motion, there was no action had upon the subject.” There seems to have been no employment of a pastor during 1869 or 1870, but Rev. Thomas Clark preached quite regularly the first year.—On May 20, 1870, Rev. F. L. Walker arrived in Oswego, and at once took charge of the church, and to his faithful labors during the next twelve years, more than to any other human agency, are the Baptists indebted for the privileges they enjoy to-day. In September of that year a building committee was appointed, lots on which to build were selected and donated by the town company, and preparations were commenced in earnest to have a church building. The foundation was laid early in the spring of 1871, and was inclosed by midsummer of the following year. Though not finished, the church held their first services in the new house on July 13, 1872, with thirteen persons present, only eight of whom were members. Services continued to be held there till winter, when other quarters had to be secured. The next year the church was plastered and seated. Mr. Walker continued as pastor of the church till the close of 1881, when he severed his relation and went further west.—In April, 1882, Rev. C. T. Daniel accepted a call, and at once entered upon his pastorate, which was continued till March, 1883, when he resigned, and the church remained without a pastor until April, 1884, when Rev. J. M. Lackey accepted a call, and remained only till September. During the summer of 1883 the church was re-furnished inside and re-seated.—In February, 1885, Rev. Chas. J. Bowles accepted a call, and served the church until close of 1886.—In March, 1889, Rev. Robert Smith became pastor, and continued as such to July, 1890. The church was then without a regular pastor until April, 1891, when Rev. C. N. H. More commenced his services as pastor, which he still contin-

ues.—B. Y. P. U. was organized in April, 1891, with Miss Nellie Harrison as president. Since then it has had for presidents T. F. Kaho and Fluta Owens.

The Second Baptist Church of Oswego was organized by the colored people, in 1880. Cornelius Johnson secured its organization, and became its first pastor. Since then the church has had the following pastors: A. W. Green, J. J. Johnson, J. R. White, T. T. Ward, D. T. Carriway, N. C. Robinson. In 1882 the church put up quite a good frame building on the southwest corner of block 2, in which they held services till September, 1884, when it was burned. Services were then conducted in the A. M. E. church for some time. In July, 1885, they commenced the erection of a new church on the site of the old one, and got it inclosed that fall, although it was not completed till the next year.

Mound Valley Township.—A Baptist church was organized in the fall of 1871, at the home of J. G. Phenix, in the west part of Mound Valley township, by Rev. N. L. Davis. This organization was maintained some three or four years, when it was disbanded on account of other churches being organized, which drew away the members.

Wilsonton.—The Wilsonton Baptist church was organized June 5, 1892, with Rev. J. D. Hopper as pastor, and a membership of seven or eight.

Hackberry church was organized November 26, 1870, in the residence of Mr. DeGraw, in Hackberry township, by Rev. F. L. Walker. J. B. Ellis and Isaac Strickland were elected deacons. Services have ever since been maintained in the Ellis school-house, in District No. 45. Its pastors have been F. L. Walker, George Richardson, William Richardson, C. T. Floyd, George Goodwin, and W. G. Slinker.

Pleasant Hill church is located on the northwest corner of section 12, in the southeast corner of Hackberry township. It was organized in the spring of 1885, by Rev. C. T. Floyd, the membership coming principally from the Chetopa church. On May 25, 1885, work commenced on a church building, which was completed, and on Sept. 6 of that year was dedicated, by Rev. J. P. Ash.

Dennis.—In the fall of 1877 Rev. Mr. Garrison held a protracted meeting in the school-house in District No. 38, and organized a church. In 1878 they built a small frame church on the northeast corner of section 23, but after a time moved it to the southwest quarter of section 24. After Dennis was started they moved this building there, where they still use it as their house of worship.

Mound Valley.—J. H. Tibbits, Sarah Tibbits, Milo Hildreth, Samuel Guthrey, Judson Wilson, H. W. Savage and Allison Savage constituted the first membership of the first Baptist church of Mound Valley, which was organized at the home of J. H. Tibbits, three miles south of Mound

Valley, on April 1, 1871, by Rev. F. L. Walker. On the following day, Sunday, Mr. Walker preached at the school-house in the town of Mound Valley, at which place services were thereafter held till the completion of their church building in 1882. In January, 1880, lots were procured; in February a building committee was appointed, and in September the work of building was begun. As the building was mostly erected by volunteer work, it was some time in course of construction. It was dedicated, free of debt, on October 29, 1882. Mr. Walker remained in charge of the church for seven years, and was succeeded by Rev. George Goodwin, who remained about a year, when Rev. G. W. Slinker was called, and continued as pastor for seven years, at the close of which Rev. C. T. Floyd became pastor. R. R. Coleman, who died in January, 1882, was one of the efficient workers of the church. In January, 1885, this church joined with the Methodists in their building in holding a revival meeting under the leadership of Rev. W. H. Hulbert, an evangelist. This was one of the most remarkable revivals ever held in the place. The Baptists realized from it an addition of 52 members. The present membership of the church is about 60.

Parsons.—First Baptist Church: In the summer of 1871 Rev. F. L. Walker, of Oswego, visited Parsons and held some meetings. Perhaps other ministers may also have rendered them some services. A few Baptists in that vicinity got together, and even went so far as to commence the foundation for a church, but they were so few in number and so scattered that the enterprise was for a time abandoned. On March 2, 1873, Rev. Robert Atkinson preached in the Methodist church, and took the first steps toward organizing a church at that place. The organization was perfected March 30, 1873, with a membership of twelve, composed of George, Susan and Emma Everhart, Lettia Rockhold, Isaac Neptune, Benjamin F., Martin W., Mary B. and Lizzie Elliott, Ella Hall, Alice Scholl, and R. M. Donley. The following officers were then elected: Rev. Robert Atkinson, pastor and moderator; R. M. Donley, clerk; Mrs. Lettia Rockhold, treasurer; W. P. Scholl, J. B. Stilwell, J. R. Bennett, Mrs. Lettia Rockhold, trustees; J. W. Fee, W. P. Scholl, J. B. Stilwell, deacons.—F. L. Walker and Thomas W. Green served as pastors till 1874; during that year Elihu Gunn preached for them a while, after which the church was inactive till September 1, 1877, when it was reorganized by Rev. Mr. Garrison, and a room secured on Forest avenue in which meetings were held till the church was erected.—In October, 1879, the foundation for the new church was laid, and on January 31, 1880, the building was occupied. In 1887 the building was enlarged and improved, at a cost of over \$3,000, and on February 5, 1888, was dedicated by Rev. Robert Atkinson.—The church has had two quite

marked revivals, one in 1884 and the other in 1887.—The following have served as pastors: F. M. Iams, H. M. Carr, W. H. Irwin, L. J. Dyke, A. J. Essex, W. C. Harvey, J. T. Haye, H. M. Carr, C. H. De Wolfe.—Several years ago (about 1877) a Young People's Society of Christian Workers was organized in this church, of which H. F. Hixon was elected president; Rev. J. T. Hoyer, G. H. L. Copeland and T. W. Flitton also served as presidents. The name was changed to that of the Baptist Young People's Union, and of this Ray L. Hudson is now president.

Second (or New Hope) Baptist Church.—This church was organized by the colored people April 29, 1876, with 13 members. Rev. Thomas Wilson, of Ottawa, and Rev. David Payne, of Humboldt, were the ministers who effected the organization, and Mr. Payne became the first pastor. A building was erected during the summer of 1876.

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church is located in Parsons, and is also composed of colored members. It was organized May 27, 1886, Rev. G. W. Parks, of Oswego, acting as moderator, and J. W. Brown secretary. W. A. Walton was its first pastor.

Richland.—A Baptist church was organized in the Richland school-house, in District No. 94, in May, 1877. Rev. F. L. Walker preached the organization sermon, and Rev. J. L. D. Williams gave the charge to the church. Mr. Williams was the first pastor, and served one year. Following him the church has been served by George Goodwin, Mr. Merry, C. A. Daniels, J. S. Johnson, and W. G. Slinker.—In 1885 a new church building was erected on the northwest quarter of section 26 in Canada township. The first service was held therein on November 1, 1885, and the house was dedicated on December 6, 1885, by Rev. E. Estes, of Altamont.

Edna.—On Feb. 2, 1872, Rev. F. L. Walker, of Oswego, assisted in organizing what was then called the Mount Zion Baptist Church. Services were held in the Lieb school-house, in District No. 85, and also in other of the school-houses in that part of the county. In the fall of 1883 work was commenced on a church building in Kingston: the following summer it was finished and dedicated. The town of Kingston having been abandoned and the business consolidated with Edna on the completion of the railroad, in 1886, this church building was removed to Edna.

Labette.—Rev. G. W. Richardson commenced preaching in a log cabin on section 27, belonging to A. W. Richardson's estate, in the fall of 1867. He continued to preach at intervals in that vicinity until the church was organized. The organization of the Labette Baptist church took place on (or about) July 25, 1870, at the residence of R. K. Jones, with the following members: Elder, G. W. Richardson; R. K. Jones, Martha Jones, Victoria Jones, and John Richardson. It was not until 1877 that

a house was erected by the church. Before that, meetings were held in various places, but principally in the hall or school-house. Quite a portion of the time the church has been without a pastor. The following is a list of those who have served as pastors: G. W. Richardson till 1879, J. W. Sage two years, C. T. Floyd six months, F. M. Bowman sixteen months, C. J. Bowles one year, E. Estes one year, J. T. Crawford two months in his vacation, J. W. Jones one year, W. T. Jackson since February, 1892.

Chetopa.—Of the work of the Baptists before the war, Dr. Lisle says: “The Baptists had preaching at our school-house occasionally, but had no organized church in the neighborhood; there were several respectable members of that church here.” The first service of the Baptist denomination in Chetopa after the war of which I have learned was a sermon by Rev. C. A. Bateman, on April 18, 1869; a preliminary meeting of those desirous of organizing having been held on April 10, 1869. The First Baptist church of Chetopa was organized on April 24, 1869, by W. A. Clarke, who was Sunday-school missionary of the Baptist Publication Society, and C. A. Bateman, the latter of whom at once became its pastor, in which capacity he served the church till after the dedication of its building. To his enthusiasm was largely due the rapidity with which their building was pushed forward. On February 9, 1870, they commenced work, and on August 14, 1870, their house was dedicated, the sermon being preached by Rev. F. M. Ellis, of Lawrence. In November, 1870, Rev. A. L. Rigby accepted a call to the pastorate of the church, and remained two years, during which time the chairs with which the church was first seated were removed and good pews put in their place, the grounds were fenced, and other improvements made. From the close of 1872 on for several years the church was without any regular pastor, and consequently suffered very materially in its strength. Mr. Walker, of Oswego, gave them some help; in 1874 Rev. W. W. Kane, of Tennessee, preached for them a few months, and other ministers occasionally gave them some service. In July, 1879, Rev. C. T. Floyd became pastor, and remained in charge till 1882. In January, 1883, Rev. William Wilbur accepted the pastoral call tendered him, and continued as such till September, 1885. In 1887 the church called Elder — Knapp, who served them one year. Rev. D. W. Harvey became pastor in 1888, and remained two years; Elder White followed him, and is still pastor.

The Second Baptist Church of Chetopa is composed of colored members. It was organized in 1882, and has a building free from debt. It has had the following pastors: Jerry Houston, P. Botts, C. T. Tillman, A. W. Green, R. Cartwright, J. R. White, — Steward, J. A. D. Jenkins, M. C. Cox, S. S. Alexander.

German Baptists.—An organization of German Baptists, or Dunkards, was formed in the latter part of 1878, at the Lockard school-house, in District No. 28, with a membership of about 125. Meetings since that time have been held in various school-houses. Altamont has been rather headquarters for the brethren. Among those who have ministered to this people have been J. W. Eikenbury, Samuel Renger, Nicholas Trapp, J. B. Lear, Simon Long, C. H. Keingley. Sidney Hodgden and Samuel Edgcomb have been elders. In November, 1881, Elders Sidney Hodgden and Martin Nehr formed an organization in the school-house in District No. 21, in Neosho township. In the fall of 1882 some twenty members from this organization withdrew and formed a new organization called the

Brethren. They organized at Pleasant Valley school-house, in District No. 48, where they have since been ministered to by Rev. A. J. Hixon.

The Predestination Baptist Church.—An organization of this denomination was formed at the Hawkins school-house, in District 92, about 1875, by Noah Showalters, who became its pastor, and continued as such for several years. T. B. Lee and Isaac McCarty have also been pastors of this church

PRESBYTERIAN.

In 1872 Rev. J. W. Alexander organized a *Cumberland Presbyterian* church in Harmony Grove school-house, in District No. 30, to which he preached for some time, but after a few years it was allowed to lapse.

Chetopa.—Rev. J. A. Adair was the first *United Presbyterian* minister to preach in the county. He visited Chetopa and vicinity, and preached several times in the spring and summer of 1868. On May 4, 1869, the United Presbyterian congregation was organized, with a membership of 10, Rev. E. C. Cooper preaching, and presiding at the organization. Cranston Taylor, J. A. Endsley and Edwin Johnson were elected elders, and were ordained on May 10, 1869. Mr. Cooper supplied the church for some months, and on September 12th held the first communion service. On March 28, 1870, a church meeting was held, and a constitution and by-laws adopted. William Liggett, Robert Phillips, John Haughey, Edwin Johnson and T. J. Calvin were elected trustees. On July 18, 1870, a congregational meeting was held, and action taken looking toward the building of a church; and on Sept. 24, 1870, at another congregational meeting, it was resolved to erect a brick building, 36x40 feet. A building committee was appointed, and the work commenced at once. The building was completed in the spring of 1871, and on October 29, 1871, it was dedicated, Rev. J. A. Heron preaching the dedicatory sermon. Before the building was completed the south wall was blown down, which added to the cost and extended the time required for completing the building. The lots for the church and parsonage were donated

by the town company; \$1,500 was furnished by the Church Extension Society. The church cost about \$5,000.—Previous to securing a regular pastor, Rev. J. C. McKnight did considerable preaching for the church. On January 4, 1871, a call was extended to Rev. W. A. Findley to become pastor, which he accepted, and continued to serve in that capacity till the close of 1872. Some two or three calls for a pastor were extended and declined. Finally, on Dec. 22, 1875, a call was made to Rev. J. D. Graham, which was accepted, and he faithfully served the church during the next ten years, demitting his charge January 19, 1886. Rev. J. A. Thompson was the next pastor called, and he was installed April 27, 1886. Rev. J. A. Thompson was the next pastor called, and he was installed April 27, 1887, but was released on July 14th following, to accept the presidency of a college. Rev. J. P. Gibson, having accepted a call, entered upon his pastoral duties in December, 1887, and closed them in October, 1889. During his pastorate, in 1888, a parsonage was erected, at a cost of about \$1,300. In 1890 Rev. L. W. Williams became pastor, which relation he still holds. The membership of the church is 120; the total membership since its organization being 274.

Montana.—Rev. Seth T. Smalley, a *New School Presbyterian* minister, commenced preaching in Montana in 1869, and possibly as early as 1868, and served that people more or less for some time thereafter. In May, 1869, Rev. D. P. Emerson preached for them, and the next Sunday Rev. C. V. Monfort, of Oswego, preached. These were the only Presbyterian services at Montana of which I learn, prior to the arrival of Mr. Griffin. The Presbyterians in all of this part of the county seem to have been interested in, if not members of, the church which was formed at Daytonville, on Willow Branch. In March, 1870, Mr. Monfort commenced preaching at the residence of Mr. Martin, west of Labette creek, and continued his appointments during the next few weeks. On June 25, 1870, the Daytonville church was organized, with G. W. White, Margaret Ellen White, Margaret Jane White, Jane Amanda White, George Cubbison, Alexander Cubbison, Rachel Cubbison, Martha Lewis, James Morning, Caroline Morning, members received by letter, and Sarah Ellen Hartin, John Henry Hartin, Nancy Shelady, and Louisa Cubbison, received an examination as members. George Cubbison was chosen chairman. G. W. White and Alexander Cubbison were elected ruling elders, and George Cubbison and J. H. Hartin deacons. Their first communion service was held November 27, 1870. On May 7, 1871, Mr. Monfort preached at the town of Labette, after which a church was organized by a union of the Daytonville church and the Presbyterians living around Labette and Montana. Mr. Monfort remained pastor of this Labette church till his death, on Aug. 10, 1872, at which time the church had 16

members. There seem to have been no regular services held after Mr. Monfort's death. On March 15, 1874, Rev. C. H. McCreery, of Chetopa, and H. W. Stratton, of Oswego, who had been appointed a committee by the presbytery, visited the Piper school-house, in District No. 17. Mr. McCreery preached, after which the Labette Presbyterian church was organized, or, perhaps more properly, reorganized, with the following members: James Morning, Charles Morning, John H. Hartin, Matthew Lewis, George Morning, George Cubbison, Louisa Cubbison, Margaret Hawkins, Jane Shelady, J. F. Piper, Mrs. E. Piper, Miss P. Piper, Lina Piper, Miriam Piper, A. B. Piper, Ray Piper, and Mrs. Mary Bennet. James Morning and Ray Piper were elected elders. The place of meeting was then changed to the Morning school-house, in District No. 48, where services continued to be held until the erection of the Montana church. Evening services were also held at Labette and Montana. At the time of organizing above referred to, Rev. S. W. Griffin was elected pastor, in which relation he continued till about the close of 1882. Following him, S. W. LaGrange and W. Price filled the pulpit. For several years past the church has been without a pastor. Occasionally the minister at Oswego or some one else has preached for them. In 1878 a church building was erected in Montana, at a cost of about \$1,500.

Oswego.—Rev. Cornelius V. Monfort was the first Presbyterian minister to locate in this county. He came to Oswego in March, 1868, and on April 26 preached the first Presbyterian sermon in the place. On June 30 a meeting was held at his house, at which eight were present, to consider the organization of a church, and on Sunday, July 25, 1868, an organization was effected, with the following eleven members: Cornelius V. Monfort and wife S. E. Monfort, Dr. C. M. Gilkey and wife S. M. Gilkey and daughter Mary Gilkey, Mrs. R. A. Botsford, John Hutchinson, Mary Gaston, Alexander Cubbison and wife Rachel Cubbison, and Francis Swanwick. F. Swanwick, C. M. Gilkey and John Hutchinson were elected trustees, and Dr. C. M. Gilkey and Alexander Cubbison were elected elders. On Nov. 15, 1868, Dr. Gilkey was ordained elder. The church records say the church was organized July 28, 1868, but this record as it now exists was probably copied some time after the occurrence, and the party who did it has evidently made a mistake and written the date the 28th instead of the 25th. Col. Swanwick kept a diary, which I now have, and under date of July 25, 1868, he says: "Went to town to assist in organizing First Presbyterian Church, Old School, of Oswego; eleven members present: Dr. Gilkey and Mr. Cubbison elected elders." On Jan. 31, 1869, Rev. C. H. McCreery was present, and with Mr. Monfort held the first communion service. In August Mr. Monfort began taking subscriptions for a church. In July, 1870, I. C. McGinnis

and Alexander Mackie were made elders and T. N. Sickles and D. McArthur deacons. Mr. Monfort resigned, and preached his farewell sermon on October 9, 1870. Rev. S. N. D. Martin supplied the pulpit the next year, preaching his first sermon June 4, 1871; and he was succeeded during the spring or summer of 1872 by Rev. N. A. Rankin. Rev. H. W. Stratton filled the pulpit from April, 1873, to January, 1875. During his pastorate the church erected its house of worship, at a cost of about \$4,000, which was dedicated Dec. 28, 1873, by Rev. S. A. Stoddard. On June 27, 1879, the house was struck by lightning and one end somewhat shattered, but still not seriously damaged. A. F. Hale, A. Bixby (a Congregationalist), A. A. Trimper (a Lutheran), J. G. Venable, William Coleman, John Elliott, A. C. Junkin, A. G. Evans, and J. N. McClung, have been its pastors since Mr. Stratton left.

Y. P. S. C. E.—In the fall of 1886 the young people started a prayer meeting, which was kept up until February, 1891, when it was organized into the Westminster League, with a membership of 16, and the following officers: President, Margaret Carpenter; vice-president, Blanche Waskey; secretary and treasurer, Myrtle Stonecipher; organist, Marie Park. On April 7, 1892, this league was changed to a Young People's Christian Endeavor, with 18 members, and officers as follows: Lincoln J. Allen, president; Belle Holenberg, vice-president; recording secretary, Blanche Waskey, corresponding secretary and treasurer, James McClung.

Edna.—Originally this church was organized as the Ripon Presbyterian church. Rev. C. H. McCreery preached at the Ripon school-house, in District No. 49, during the summer of 1874, where, on Nov. 8 of that year, assisted by Rev. H. W. Stratton, he organized the church, with a membership of 12, of whom James Scott and Thomas H. Bruner were elected ruling elders. Mr. McCreery supplied the pulpit till 1881, since which time J. N. Young, J. M. Crawford, and J. S. McClung have been its pastors. Mr. Crawford served either as pastor or supply from April 1, 1883, to November, 1889, and again took charge March 1, 1892. In the fall of 1878 preparations were made for a church building at the town of Kingston, which was erected the following spring, and on June 8, 1879, was dedicated by Rev. Timothy Hill. In one week thereafter a cyclone partly removed the church from its foundation. In 1884 the presbytery changed the name from Ripon to Kingston. In 1887 the building was removed to Edna, and the name changed from Kingston to Edna.

Altamont.—Rev. C. H. McCreery commenced preaching at the residence of D. C. Constant, in Hackberry township, as early as 1870, and on June 9, 1871, at that place, assisted by Elam S. Hitchcock and Samuel Cellars, organized the Hackberry Presbyterian church, with the following members: Nancy A. Dougham, Margaret S. Blyner, James Emory,

Mary Emory, Jennie Fellows, Michael Noel, Mary Noel, David C. Constant, Antoinette C. Constant, Josiah Raybourn, Lucretia Raybourn, Mary J. Hannigan. Michael Noel and David C. Constant were elected ruling elders. The place of meeting was afterwards changed to the Newell school-house, in District No. 71. This church was ministered to by C. H. McCreery, C. V. Monfort, and H. W. Stratton. In April, 1879, the name of Hackberry church was ordered stricken from the roll, and a committee was appointed to organize a new church. The Elston church, as successor of the Hackberry church, was organized at the Elston school-house, in District No. 80, on June 29, 1879, by Rev. S. W. Griffin and Rev. C. H. McCreery. James Paxton and Martin Reamer were elected ruling elders. The following year the name was changed to Altamont. A church building was erected in Altamont in 1880, Rev. S. W. Griffin preaching the first sermon therein on May 16th. It has had these pastors: S. W. Griffin, J. N. Young, J. D. Todd, S. W. LeGrange. For some years the church has had no pastor, and only supplied irregularly.

Lake Creek.—Eighteen members of the church at Chetopa took letters and united in forming the Lake Creek Presbyterian church, which was organized Jan. 6, 1884, by Rev. C. H. McCreery, assisted by E. S. Hitchcock. Arthur Baty was elected ruling elder. A church building was erected the following spring, at a cost of about \$1,200, which was dedicated in April, by W. S. H. Keyes. Mr. McCreery had preached at the Baty school-house, in District No. 60, for several years before the organization of the church. After its organization Rev. J. M. Crawford became pastor, in April, 1884, and served until November, 1889. From April 1, 1890, to April 1, 1891, Rev. J. S. McClung was stated supply. Rev. J. S. Griffes supplied the church a part of the time during 1891. Rev. J. M. Crawford came March 1, 1892, and is now pastor. Its elders are Samuel Cellars, William Buckley, J. L. Goldsmith, and Thomas E. Baty.

Bartlett.—The first Presbyterian sermon in Bartlett was preached in the school-house, Nov. 3, 1889, by Rev. J. M. Crawford. Rev. J. S. McClung preached there occasionally while he had charge of the Lake Creek church, and Rev. J. M. Crawford has preached there every two weeks since March 1, 1892. As yet the Presbyterians have effected no organization at this point.

Chetopa.—The First Presbyterian Church of Chetopa was organized on Sept. 20, 1868, by Rev. C. H. McCreery, assisted by Rev. James Lewis, with the following members: Samuel Cellars, Mrs. Martha Cellars, Mrs. Margaret J. Lenhart, Samuel H. Carr, George F. Smith, and Lorenzo Billington. Of these, Samuel Cellars and Samuel H. Carr were installed as ruling elders. The first trustees were W. Doudna, S. H. Carr, Samuel Cellars, C. P. Spaulding, and C. P. Smith. For the first two years the

services of the church were held in Spaulding's Hall, over a saloon, on the southeast corner of Third and Walnut streets. The town company having donated a number of lots to the church, a part were sold, and about \$1,000 realized therefrom. Generous subscriptions were also made by the citizens, and in the fall of 1869 preparations were made for erecting a building, and the work was commenced. On Dec. 1 of that year the frame of the building was raised, and by August, 1870, it was entirely finished, at a cost of about \$4,500. Quite a feature of the financial history of this church, as it was more or less of that of many of the churches in the county, especially during the early years of their work, was that of raising money by festivals. In July, 1869, this church held one of its most successful festivals, at which over \$300 was cleared. The church was dedicated, free of debt, Aug. 28, 1870, by Rev. Timothy Hill, D.D.—One of the noteworthy events in connection with this church is the long-continued pastorate of Mr. McCreery, extending from its organization, in 1868, to May 1, 1886. No other church in the county has had such an experience. Before the close of Mr. McCreery's pastorate, his health becoming impaired, he took a vacation for a year, during which time the pulpit was supplied by Rev. V. M. King. Mr. McCreery was followed in July, 1886, by Rev. Isaac Brundage, who served until his death. Since then J. L. Griffes has been pastor.—For some time past there has been a Y. P. S. C. E., in which the young people have been at work.

Bethel.—S. W. Griffin and W. B. Truax, being directed by the presbytery so to do, organized a Presbyterian church in the school-house in District No. —, on Nov. 29, 1892. S. E. W. Brown, James Venable and J. S. Gulick were elected ruling elders, and L. T. McElroy and Monroe Mathers deacons. S. W. Griffin acted as pastor till June, 1885, when he was succeeded by A. S. Sharpless.

Mound Valley.—In November, 1879, Rev. C. H. McCreery and S. W. Griffin organized a Presbyterian church at Mound Valley, with 10 members. Wm. D. Allen and Wm. Culp were elected ruling elders. S. W. Griffin and J. N. Young preached for them. The members having mostly moved away in the spring of 1883, the presbytery disorganized the church and struck the same from the roll. Rev. J. D. Todd, who had been employed by the synod to preach at different points and look after the church's interest in vacant fields, came to Mound Valley and talked with several who then or who had formerly held church relations with the Presbyterian church, and at his solicitation a meeting was held at the Methodist church, on March 30, 1884, at which some eight or ten were present; J. C. McEwen presided and Dr. J. Lemon acted as clerk. It was there resolved to organize a Presbyterian church at that point as soon as arrangements could be made to do so. They adjourned to meet

in four weeks, and on April 27, 1884, Rev. J. D. Todd preached a sermon; after which Mrs. E. A. Copelantz, Eliza Copelantz, J. C. McEwen, Mrs. Olive McEwen, James W. Evans and wife, H. K. Baker, Mrs. Myra J. Baker, E. M. Bell, Mrs. J. T. Bell, Dr. J. Lemon, Mrs. A. Lemon, Henry Allen, Mrs. Jane Allen, Josie Allen, Mary B. Allen, Robert A. Foresman, Mrs. Jane Forseman, Mrs. Henrietta Foresman, Mrs. Roxanna Savage, and Joseph Crawford, presented their credentials, which were approved. A third meeting was held at the same place on May 10, 1884, at which H. K. Baker was chairman and Henry Allen clerk; whereupon it was resolved to proceed with the organization of a church by the election of two ruling elders and two deacons. J. C. McEwen and Henry Allen were chosen as elders and Dr. J. Lemon and H. K. Baker as deacons. On May 25, 1884, the church was duly organized, by Rev. S. W. Griffin, of Cherryvale; C. H. McCreery, of Chetopa; and J. D. Todd, of Independence, who were sent there as a committee of the Neosho presbytery. Mr. Griffin preached the sermon, after which the elders and deacons were ordained. Arrangements were made for holding services in the Baptist church, and Rev. J. D. Todd was employed to preach every other Sabbath, in the afternoon. In August, 1884, the church bought a building known as Pattison's Hall, which had been built by the Methodists as their first house of worship; after they sold it, it was removed to its present location, in block 22. That fall and winter the building was occupied by a department of the public schools, and by the church only on Sunday. In April, 1885, this building was suitably fitted up as a place of worship. Mr. Todd closed his labors as pastor on May 31, 1885, and was followed on June 7th by Rev. A. S. Sharpless, who stayed till July, 1886. The pulpit remained vacant till October of that year, when Rev. J. M. Crawford was employed to preach every two weeks in connection with his work at Edna. This continued till March, 1888, when Mr. Todd again took charge, and continued till Oct. 1 of the same year. Little religious life was manifested from this time till April, 1889, when Rev. J. S. McClung was called to the work, where he remained till September, 1891. October 15, 1891, Rev. James H. Clark took charge and is still ministering to them. On June 10, 1885, the church was incorporated. In 1890 it finished paying for its building and stood clear of debt. From its organization up to the fall of 1891 the church had had 86 different communicants, of whom 44 still remained.

Emmons.—On Jan. 8, 1873, Rev. Mr. Lackey, of Illinois, organized a Presbyterian church at the Emmons school-house, in District No. 84. James Sweet, Joseph Kearns and Jacob Crane were elected and ordained elders, and Alexander Duncan and Otto Wilson deacons. On March 5, 1873, Rev. Sidney Allen was installed as pastor, Rev. S. A. Stoddard

preaching the installment sermon. After an existence of some two years the organization was abandoned.

Parsons.—While a Methodist preacher who came of his own accord preceded them, the Presbyterians claim to have *sent* the first preacher to hold services in Parsons. Rev. H. H. Cambern, under the direction of the Board of Home Missions, came to Parsons in February, 1871, and commenced preaching in a saloon. Mr. Cambern held services frequently during the spring and summer.

The First Presbyterian Church of Parsons was organized Sept. 24, 1871, by H. H. Cambern as moderator. J. V. Thornton, J. E. Wilkins and J. J. Blause were elected elders. The membership at organization was sixteen. In December, 1871, they commenced to take subscription for a church building, but ground was not broken till August, 1872. The church was completed and dedicated Aug. 2, 1874, by Rev. C. H. McCreery. In the meantime Rev. S. F. Farmer was installed as pastor. An addition was made to the church in 1882, another one in 1883, and a third in 1891. In May, 1872, Rev. J. H. Metier was employed to succeed Mr. Cambern as pastor. Since then the following have supplied the pulpit, some as supply and others as pastor: Joel Kelsey, S. F. Farmer, H. G. Miller, F. R. Morton, W. S. H. Keyes, J. K. Fowler, — Shields, W. S. Davis, Edward F. Walker, and J. M. Wright. At present the church has a membership of about 400.

In 1882 a Young People's Society was organized for the purpose of holding devotional meetings. At different times it had for its president Miss Montgomery, E. H. McCreery, F. H. Shaub, W. H. Martin, Lena Venable, W. J. McKnight, George B. Comings. On September 8, 1892, a reorganization of the Young People's Society was had, and formed into the Y. P. S. C. E. with George B. Comings as president.

UNITED BRETHERN.

Parsons.—In February, 1868, a class of about ten members was formed at the house of James Beaver, some few miles from the present site of Parsons, by J. Buckmaster as pastor, James Beaver as class-leader, Reason Tippie steward, and P. M. Grant elder. Those comprising this class were Reason Tippie, Rachel Tippie, N. M. Portrum, C. Portrum, J. Beaver, J. L. Beaver, A. Pringle, G. Sheckell, G. Botsford, and C. Billings. This class was maintained in that part of the county with more or less cohesiveness for several years, and formed the basis of the class at Parsons, which was organized in February, 1875, with a membership of about fifteen, including Abraham Cary and wife, James Beaver and wife, N. M. Portrum and wife, Seth Fisher and wife, Lizzie Kellogg, and having J. W. Gossett for pastor. Jan. 3, 1877, the church provided a lot and

moved thereon the tabernacle which they had purchased from the M. E. church. They have used it as a house of worship ever since. The church flourished quite well until the great division of the church throughout the country, in 1885, which has ever since continued to cripple her work.

Dennis.—In the winter of 1870–71, Rev. Mr. Goodwin, of the United Brethren church, held protracted meetings in the log school-house in District No. 38, which resulted in several conversions and accessions to that denomination. Among these probably the most active in his after-work was J. H. Beatty. A church was then organized, which has maintained its work ever since. In the spring of 1883 they built a church at Dennis, and in the fall of 1884 the conference of the State held its session there. Among its pastors have been Revs. Messrs. Evans, Stallard, Hammers, Winrick, Gossett, Himer, Chambers, French, Rice, Hammell, Shope.

Altamont.—A class was formed in a school-house near the southeast corner of Labette township, in 1872, which was moved to Altamont in 1874. It has been maintained but a part of the time.

Trenton.—A class was organized at the school-house in District No. 67, in Howard township, March 31, 1885, with A. Bessy as leader. Services continue to be held there.

Mortimer.—Almost from the first settlement of the county, religious services have been held in the Carpenter school-house, in District No. 30—sometimes by one denomination and sometimes by another. Of late years preaching has occasionally been conducted by ministers of the United Brethren church. In the spring of 1891, Rev. Mr. Hammel, of this denomination, held a protracted meeting which resulted in the organization of quite a strong class. It was soon felt that a church building was needed, and the Mortimer family were active in securing its erection at the Mortimer station. Its first board of trustees consisted of Emanuel Mortimer, James T. Mortimer, J. K. Duncan, T. E. Killian, and G. A. Waid. The church cost about \$1,000, and was dedicated June 5, 1892, by Bishop Castle.

Haackberry.—In the fall of 1881 Rev. J. M. Magie, assisted by Rev. T. D. Bickham, held a protracted meeting at the Hiatt school-house, in District No. 26, and at its close organized a United Brethren class. A part of the time since then the preachers who have supplied this class, among other appointments, have preached at Pleasant View, Bowman and Trenton school-houses; also at Altamont and Parsons. Pastors: 1883, J. A. Evert; 1884, W. H. Sapp; 1885, S. W. Redman; 1886, Mrs. J. M. Magie and J. A. Evert; 1887, D. B. Finch; 1888–89, F. M. Gillett; 1890, Rev. Mr. Huffman; 1892, D. W. Juday. The following persons have served as presiding elders: B. A. Spring, J. R. Chambers, G. H. Hinton, C. H. Jones, J. K. Spencer. The following have been secre-

taries of the quarterly conference, each one or more terms: J. M. Magie, E. S. Bessy, Anna Riddick, A. H. Mickey. At the last quarterly conference in 1891, John Riddick, Christian Helwig, David Romine, Louis Zink and A. H. Mickey were elected trustees, and directed to take steps to secure the erection of a church building, which has since been erected on the northwest quarter of section 1 in Hackberry township, at a cost of about \$800.

METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH.

Sometime in the seventies a class of this denomination was formed at Parsons, and during its existence had N. K. Shimp and — McKesson among its ministers. After doing some work, the class became entirely disorganized. In 1880 Rev. J. H. Luse held a protracted meeting in the southwestern portion of the county, and formed a class or two. A church has been erected at Morton station, in the edge of Montgomery county. A class has also been organized at Mt. Triumph school-house, in District No. 63, in Mound Valley township. Rev. A. Slater and Rev. Abner Green, with others, have preached in several places in the county.

THE METHODIST CHURCH.

A class of this branch of the great Methodist family was organized at the Emmons school-house, in District No. 84, as early as 1873, and was maintained for several years, but finally abandoned. The only two ministers they had, so far as I have learned, were Revs. Messrs. VanCleve and Wayland.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH.

In the winter of 1870-71 Rev. Mr. Mathill held meetings, principally in the dwelling-houses of J. H. Dienst and William Dick, in Osage township, and organized a church. They continued to have preaching in the school-houses in Districts 30 and 79 until 1887, when they erected a frame church in Dennis, and all the classes united there. William Dick was one of the active workers in this denomination. It has had for pastors Revs. Messrs. Keiser, Flickinger, Bowers, Fannel, and Stinemitz.

FREE METHODISTS.

A few classes of this branch of the church have existed in the county for quite a number of years. They have been somewhat few in number, and have never attempted the erection of any church building, so far as I have learned. They have held meetings at various points in school-houses. At one time Rev. Thomas D. Bickham, before he started the Salvation Church of Christ, was a preacher in this denomination, and some time prior to 1880 O. P. Lineback had ministerial oversight for the county.

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Parsons.—Rev. A. H. Daniels, of the A. M. E. church, came to Labette county in the spring of 1876, and organized classes at Oswego and Parsons. In June of that year he commenced to raise funds with which

to build a church at Parsons. Lot 17 in block 17 was secured as a site in July, 1876, and soon thereafter a building was commenced. Messrs. French, Cavanaugh and Miller were the first trustees. This and the Oswego church were jointly served by the same pastors for several years.

Oswego.—The class at this place was organized in the spring of 1876, about the same time as the one at Parsons. The organization was effected by Rev. A. H. Daniels, who acted as pastor that year. During the year a neat frame church was erected on lot 3, in block 16. A few years thereafter a dwelling-house was purchased and moved onto lots 1 and 2 just north of the church, to be used for a parsonage. The pastors of the church have been: A. H. Daniels, W. F. Hedgman, L. W. McCormick, J. W. Walton, J. E. Weir, John Brewer, J. L. Hatton, W. F. Hedgman, A. M. Ward, Thomas Mudd, Pompey Johnson, John Boyd, J. E. Bricus, S. H. Baker, A. J. King. Their church building has been rented by the board of education for several years, in which to hold one department of the colored school.

Chetopa.—The class at this place dates from 1881, and has not maintained services all the time since then. It has a church building. Its pastors have been those who were at the same time serving the Oswego church, and who are named in connection with that work.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH

Was the first Protestant denomination to hold religious services in this county. Dr. Lisle says: "The first preaching in Chetopa was by an old missionary of the Methodist Church South, on or about the first of December, 1857, and once every four weeks until spring." The name of this preacher was J. P. Barnaby. He was succeeded in October, 1858, by Rev. J. E. Bryan, who preached every three weeks during the next two years, when he was sent to Council Grove. In the fall of 1860 Mr. Foresman succeeded Mr. Bryan and remained a year, when Mr. Robbins was sent to the charge. The latter was in sympathy with the Rebellion, and was about to be hung by some Kansas soldiers who caught him in Cherokee county. He was let go on condition that he would leave the country, which he did, going directly to Texas. This closed the work of the church till after the war. Of these services Dr. Lisle says: "The preaching was in some settler's house until the school-house was built, in the spring of 1858, when it was in that regularly. It being about the center of the settlement, gave all parties a chance to attend, which they did pretty generally." When the county commenced to settle after the war, there were quite a number came who had been members of this church in their former homes, but scarcely enough in any one settlement to form and maintain a class. In fact, I do not know of the formation

of a class at any place in the county, although there may have been some formed. However, preachers of that denomination, either local or those in charge of work in adjacent territory, occasionally preached at a few places in the county. Among the places where they sometimes held services was the log church, between Oswego and Montana.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Several local preachers of this denomination settled in the county and commenced preaching and holding services in their respective localities as early as the fall of 1867, and perhaps even earlier in the year. Oswego was the only point at which a class was formed prior to the meeting of conference on March 30, 1868. At that conference the Oswego circuit was formed, embracing all of Labette county, and included in the Emporia district, of which Rev. C. R. Rice was presiding elder. The work remained a part of the Emporia district the following year also, under the charge of Mr. Rice. In March, 1870, the Oswego district was organized, including within its limits all of the county, with Rev. C. E. Lewis, P. E. The work remained in the Oswego district with the same presiding elder until April 1, 1873, when it was placed in the Humboldt district, in charge of Rev. A. K. Johnson, P. E. This arrangement continued two years. In March, 1875, Parsons was placed in the Fort Scott district, where it has ever since remained. At the same time, the Independence district was formed, and all the county except Parsons has ever since been in that district. The presiding elders of the Fort Scott district have been: 1875-77, D. P. Mitchell; 1877-81, B. Kelley; 1881-85, E. C. Boaz; 1885-91, A. G. Robb; 1891-92, J. E. Brant. The presiding elders of the Independence district have been: 1875-79, S. E. Pendleton; 1879, D. P. Mitchell; 1880-82, A. T. Burris; 1882-86, Ananias Cullison; 1886-90, J. A. Hyden; 1890-92, S. S. Murphy.

German.—While there may have been occasional preaching prior to that time, the Methodist Episcopal German work was regularly started in this county in the spring of 1892, by Rev. John Koehler, who commenced preaching at the Timber Hill appointment. In July, 1892, work was commenced on a new church three and a half miles south of Dennis. It was finished, and on August 28th was dedicated by their presiding elder, Rev. C. Harriman. At their conference the last of August the work in the county was organized into the Parsons circuit, and put in charge of John Koehler again. A class was to be formed at Parsons at once.

Oswego.—The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Oswego was organized March 1, 1868, in the little frame building that then stood at the northeast corner of block 33. John Mark, a local preacher living in the

township, effected the organization, with 13 members, including himself, as follows: John Mark, wife and daughter, Elisha Hammer and wife, John Logan and wife, William Logan and wife, Job Beal and wife, Eliza Elliott, and Mary A. Cowell. Mr. Mark had been preaching in town for some weeks previous, alternating with Mr. Canfield, Congregationalist, Messrs. Richardson and Flouronoy, Baptists, and perhaps others. But one service was held in town at a time, all meeting in the room above referred to. At the ensuing conference, which convened on March 30, 1868, a young man living in what was then known as the Labette City settlement, near the mouth of Labette creek, named John S. Harryman, was admitted into the conference on trial. All of Labette county was formed into the Oswego circuit, and Mr. Harryman was sent to it as its first pastor. At the first quarterly conference, which was held June 6, 1868, in Read Brothers' hardware store, which was then just inclosed, but into which they had not yet moved, Elder Rice appointed David Stanfield, a local preacher, as assistant to Mr. Harryman, and during the balance of the year the two occupied the field as best they could. Since the first year the pastors have been as follows, commencing after conference in March or April of the year named: 1869, Patterson McNutt; 1870, H. W. Conley; 1871, J. E. Bryan; 1872-73, J. B. Orwig; 1874, B. C. Swarts; 1875-76, P. T. Rhodes; 1877, M. L. Gates; 1878-79, D. T. Summerville; 1880-81, T. S. Hunt; 1882-84, H. McBirney; 1885, J. A. Hyden; 1886-87, J. B. Ford; 1888-90, R. P. Hammons; 1891-92, Ananias Cullison. There have been no records preserved of the first year's work, and I have not been able to learn who were the officers for that year. J. F. Molesworth was elected recording steward for the ensuing year at the fourth quarterly conference, Feb. 6, 1869. When conference met, the north part of the county in which he lived was put into another work; so that he never served. At the first quarterly conference for 1869 A. S. Cory was elected recording steward, but only served for that session, and at the second quarterly conference the office was declared vacant, and J. Q. Cowell was elected and served out the balance of that year. At the fourth quarterly conference for that year, held on Dec. 29, 1869, Nelson Case was elected recording steward, and by reëlections continued to serve till conference in March, 1879. The following year I. W. Patrick served in that position. At the close of that year David Zimmerman was elected, but declined to serve; and at the first quarterly conference for the following year, held May 3, 1880, Nelson Case was again elected recording steward, which position he has held, by annual reëlections, since.—At the close of the first year the quarterly conference asked the presiding elder to secure a division of the work. This was done, and during 1869-70 Oswego and Chetopa,

with the intervening territory, constituted a circuit. This arrangement lasted but a year, for at the conference in March, 1870, both Chetopa and Oswego were substantially made stations; each had, a part of the time after that, one or two appointments in the county attached to them, in which the ministers at these points would preach Sunday afternoons.—At the close of the first year the presiding elder reported that a subscription of \$1,500 had been secured with which to build a church at Oswego. However, little or nothing came of this subscription. Before the close of Mr. McNutt's pastorate he had secured rock to be placed on the ground for a foundation, he and Mr. Mark doing a large part of the work themselves. When Mr. Couley came, all felt that the first thing to do was to secure the erection of a church. During Mr. McNutt's pastorate services were held in Dr. Crouse's building on lot 5 in block 39, which was now found inadequate to the demands, and Wells's Hall, near the northeast corner of block 32, was rented. Work was commenced on the church building early in the summer, and by the middle of summer it was inclosed. Services were then held in it in its unfinished condition. In the fall the spire was built, the house plastered and seated, and on Dec. 18, 1870, it was dedicated by Dr. W. R. Davis. The parsonage was built during Mr. Orwig's pastorate.

Epworth League: On July 24, 1889, an Epworth League was organized in connection with this church, with Blanche Case president and Cloe McLane secretary. The League has been maintained with a good degree of prosperity up to the present.

The Second M. E. Church is composed of colored members. It was organized in April, 1879, and has had the following pastors: Robert Rector, W. B. Avery, Daniel Ross, Thomas Allen, M. Bell, J. A. Lee, E. Q. Plummer, C. P. Thompson, James J. Cable. Soon after organizing, the members bought a two-story store building and moved it to lot 12 in block 15, the lower room of which they used for a church, and the upper part for a parsonage. The building becoming somewhat racked, they caused it to be cut down to a one-story building, which they still occupy for church purposes.

Neosho Township.—More or less preaching in various parts of the county was undoubtedly done by the Methodist local preachers who settled in the county, of which no account has been preserved. Rev. Joseph Rogers was a local preacher who settled in Neosho township in the spring of 1867. Very soon after his settlement there, it is said, he commenced preaching in private houses in several places. This was the first preaching they had in that township. After the school-houses were built, more regular services were held in them. Classes were formed at the Hopkins school-house, in District No. 62; at the New Hope school-

house, in District No. 15; at the Lone Elm school-house, in District No. 21; and perhaps at other points. But in few, if any, of these points were permanent classes formed or services held regularly, for many years. It may be said that Center Chapel is an outcome of some of this work.

Center Chapel.—About the year 1878 Rev. C. A. King preached at the Franklin school-house, in District No. 55, and organized a class. Soon after this it was put with the Labette and Montana work, where it has been since. In 1887, under the charge of Rev. J. S. Budd, the chapel was built, on the northwest corner of section 19, in Neosho township, and dedicated by Rev. Allen Buckner. The building was erected on mortgaged land, and the mortgagor failing to pay, the mortgage was foreclosed, and the land, together with the church, was sold in the summer of 1892. It cost the church nearly \$500 to redeem their property.

Montana.—As early as 1868 a class seems to have been formed at Montana, with James Livesay as class-leader. Preaching was had occasionally by ministers in charge of neighboring work. In 1871 the Montana circuit was formed, and placed in charge of Rev. T. B. Palmer. From that time on to the present it has been united with Labette and has been served by the same ministers, a list of whom is given under that head. The church was incorporated Jan. 23, 1892, and soon thereafter purchased from the Christian church their house of worship, which the Methodists now own and occupy.

Labette.—The Methodist class at Labette was organized in the spring or summer of 1871, by Rev. T. B. Palmer, who was in charge of the Montana circuit. Services were held in the school-house. The next year it formed a part of the Parsons circuit, in charge of Rev. J. W. Fox. In 1873 this, with Montana, was supplied by Rev. H. W. Conley, and the same arrangement continued during 1874. In March, 1875, Rev. J. W. McIntosh was appointed to the Montana and Labette circuit. In 1876 Rev. P. A. Pearson was appointed, but failed to take charge of the work, and it was supplied a part of the year by Rev. Jesse Williams, who was again appointed to the work in March, 1877. In March, 1878, the South Parsons circuit was organized, and included Labette. Rev. W. B. Poinsett and Rev. A. S. Freed had charge of the work, the former living north of Mound Valley and the latter at Montana. In March, 1879, Labette and Montana were cut off from the South Parsons circuit and put in charge of W. B. Poinsett, who got the people at Labette to purchase a house and put on the church lots, which had been donated, for a parsonage, and moved into it, and stayed there for three years. The school-house having been blown down, Mr. Poinsett preached for a time in the depot, and afterwards in the Baptist church. The same year the church was built, and on Oct. 5, 1879, was dedicated by Rev. D. P. Mitchell.

During the winter a protracted meeting was held, resulting in quite a large number of conversions. In March, 1881, Rev. D. F. Holtz was sent to Labette, and the following year Rev. William Shambaugh. He was followed in 1883 by Rev. C. W. Swarts. The next year Rev. H. J. Walker was appointed, but failed to come; Rev. J. S. Budd was then appointed, and remained for three years from March, 1885. In March, 1888, Rev. Salem Hedges was put in charge of the work, and served as pastor till March, 1892, when he was succeeded by Rev. J. D. Skaggs.

Spring Valley.—About 1869 or 1870 an acre of ground was purchased on the northwest corner of section 32, in Liberty township, which was set out to trees and a cemetery laid out thereon. About 1871 a frame store building was purchased and removed to it from Elston. This was remodeled into a church. This has formed one of the regular appointments of the Labette circuit almost from its organization, although at that time it belonged to the Elston circuit and the next year to the Timber Hill circuit, both of which were in charge of Rev. R. P. Bukey.

Stover.—In the fall of 1869 a class was formed on Deer creek, in the west part of Fairview township, with I. W. Patrick leader, and was admitted into the Oswego work. Rev. P. McNutt, pastor, went out there occasionally and preached for them. Services were held in a private house or a vacant claim house. When the school-house was built in District No. 29, the class moved to that point, where it has since been maintained. The class was organized at the Stover school-house about the last of December, 1869, or first of January, 1870, by Rev. R. P. Bukey. E. B. Wheeler was the first to hand in his letter, and George Pfaff was the second. For a number of years it was attached to Oswego, but in 1880 it was made a part of the Labette work.

Dennis.—This circuit was formed at the conference held in March, 1885, and J. W. D. Anderson was appointed to the work. However, he never took charge of the work, and M. U. Ramsburg was appointed in his place. During the year a parsonage was secured in the town of Dennis. In March, 1886, P. H. Fisk was placed in charge of the circuit. During the next two years the work was divided, a part being united with the Galesburg circuit, under the charge of Rev. R. M. Cullison. In March, 1889, the Dennis circuit was re-formed, and placed in charge of Rev. W. T. York. The work embraced the classes at St. Johns, Mt. Zion, Excelsior, Pleasant Hill, Dennis, Moorhead; also, Shiloh, in Neosho county. The following year Rev. H. M. Hughes became pastor, but after six months' service was succeeded by Rev. Thomas Deaton. Rev. S. W. Gamble became pastor in March, 1891, and is still in charge.

Excelsior.—At an early day a class was formed at the Mt. Triumph school-house, in District No. 63. Some few years ago this class was

moved to the Excelsior school-house, in District No. 88. Here services were conducted till about the fall of 1891, when, under the pastorate of Rev. S. W. Gamble, a nice frame church 26 x 48 feet was erected on the southwest quarter of section 21, in north Mound Valley township. It was dedicated January 17, 1892, by Rev. B. Kelley. During the year the organization of a Y. P. S. C. E. has been effected.

Pleasant Hill.—A class was formed a number of years ago at the Pleasant Hill school-house, in District No. 77, where services were regularly held till 1889, when a new church was built, under the pastorate of Rev. W. T. York, on the southwest corner of section 30, in Walton township, at a cost of about \$1,200. It was dedicated, free of debt, on Dec. 15, 1889, by Rev. J. E. Brant.

Moorehead.—A new church was built at this place, just in the edge of Neosho county, in 1891. Quite a large portion of the membership lives in Labette county.

Fletcher Chapel.—This class succeeds one of the oldest classes in the county. There were a number of Methodist families among the early settlers in the northeast part of Richland township, among them the Rice families, the Greens, and Rev. David Stanfield. A class was organized, probably as early as April or May, 1868. Arrangements were soon made for erecting a building; a site was selected on the east side of the east road leading from Oswego to Chetopa, near the northwest corner of the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 10, and a foundation laid that spring. L. D. Bovee had the contract for putting up the building, and had it inclosed that season. A store building at old Labette, on section 14, was torn down, and out of the material the church was partially constructed; but it was never finished, and the class weakened rather than gained in strength. However, services were kept up and meetings were held in the school-house in District No. 3. The class was attached a part of the time to Oswego and a part of the time to Chetopa. It was decided to make another attempt to secure a building, and in the summer of 1883 a church was commenced, and by fall it was inclosed, and so far completed that services were held in it in winter. It is located on section 4, in Richland township. It was completed during the spring, and dedicated June 22, 1884, by Rev. F. M. Sisson.

Chetopa.—This church shares the misfortune of many early enterprises, of having no record of its organization. It is said the first Methodist sermon in Chetopa, aside from the preaching before the war by ministers of the M. E. Church South, was preached in September, 1867, in W. H. Reid's home, by Thomas B. Palmer, who carried the mail from Osage Mission to Chetopa, and who was also a local preacher. No regular preaching was had and no organization was effected till after the

appointment of the preacher in 1868. Tradition says the church was organized in June, 1868, with thirteen members. Soon after the organization a building committee, consisting of James C. Watson, G. W. Hoover and D. J. Doolen, was appointed, and had charge of the erection of the church building, which was commenced in November, 1868, and finished in 1870, the dedication sermon being preached by Rev. Thomas Bowman, D.D., on Sept. 4, 1870. In 1868 the church was under the charge of Rev. John S. Harryman, of Oswego, who had all of Labette county for his circuit. In the spring of 1869 Rev. Patterson McNutt was appointed to the joint work of Oswego and Chetopa. In 1870 Chetopa was made a station, with Rev. J. W. Lowry as pastor; he was returned in 1871, and was succeeded in the spring of 1872 by Rev. G. W. Pye, who also continued two years. The next two years Rev. John Paulson was pastor. In March, 1876, Rev. Hugh McBirney became pastor, and continued in charge till March, 1879, when Rev. R. M. Scott was appointed to the work, and remained till March, 1881. Rev. J. W. Fox was then in charge of the work for a year. Rev. A. P. George came in March, 1882, and remained till August, 1883. In the following month Rev. W. W. Curnutt became pastor, and continued as such till March, 1886, when he was succeeded by Rev. C. T. Durboraw, who remained three years, and was succeeded May 1, 1890, by Rev. W. H. Mulvaney, in place of Rev. N. B. Johnson, who had been appointed to the church but failed to come. Mr. Mulvaney is still the pastor.—In the fall of 1870 a parsonage was built on a part of the church lots. In 1886 this parsonage was removed, and a new parsonage built in the north part of the city. The church was built of stone, and at the time of its dedication was considered the finest in the county, it having cost some \$6,700.—The church has had a number of revivals of marked power. In January, 1875, November and December, 1884, and the winter of 1885-86, the revival meetings resulted in large accessions to the church.—Nov. 4, 1889, an Epworth League was organized, with J. M. Cavaness as president.

Second M. E. Church: This organization was formed in 1881, and is composed of colored members. Some few years ago they built a church, and have maintained regular services most of the time. Robert Rector, W. B. Avery, Andrew Riley, Marion Bell, Thomas Allen, A. J. Lee, E. Q. Plummer, C. P. Thompson and A. R. Clarady have served as pastors. On Easter Sunday, 1892, a Y. P. S. C. E. was organized by Anna Householder and Ella Higby. The members of the other two colored churches in town join in maintaining this society.

Timber Hill Circuit.—Methodism was organized in the west part of the county nearly as soon as there were any settlers there. Joseph McCormick, the first settler in Mound Valley township, was a Methodist,

and his home became the place around which Methodism clustered. As early as 1867 a local preacher by the name of Spaugh preached at McCormick's house. Mr. Claspell writes me that "this was the first preaching I heard on Big Hill." In 1868 all of Labette county was embraced in the Oswego circuit, in charge of Rev. J. S. Harryman, with Rev. David Stanfield as an assistant, the former having been admitted into the conference on trial that spring, and the latter being a local preacher. Mr. Stanfield moved out into the western part of the county, and preached there. In March, 1869, the Westralia circuit was organized, embracing parts of Labette and Montgomery counties, and put in charge of Rev. J. S. Harryman and Rev. Sheldon Parker. In 1870 the Timber Hill circuit was formed, and put in charge of Rev. Sheldon Parker. It embraced all of the western part of Labette county and the eastern part of Montgomery. In 1871 Rev. R. P. Bukey was put in charge of this work, and stayed two years. Rev. E. M. Bussert, a local preacher, about this time commenced to render efficient aid, which has been kept up much of the time since.—During these early years (but I have found no one who is able to fix even the year) classes were formed at a number of school-houses in Osage and Mound Valley townships, several of which became permanent Methodist centers. Of these I may mention Mt. Zion, in District No. 36; Mt. Triumph, in District No. 63; St. John, in District No. 76; Harmony Grove, in District No. 30; Pleasant Hill, in District No. 77; Maple Grove, in District No. 102. In April, 1873, Rev. J. P. Hight was placed on the Timber Hill circuit, and sent back the following year. In March, 1875, Rev. W. B. Poinsett was appointed, but on account of sickness failed to go, and the charge was united for that year with Labette, under Rev. J. W. McIntosh. The next two years Rev. W. B. Poinsett was in charge, at the end of which time the Timber Hill circuit ceased to exist, the most of the appointments being merged in

The South Parsons Circuit.—This circuit was formed in March, 1878, and put in charge of Rev. W. B. Poinsett and Rev. A. S. Freed. In March, 1879, this work was reduced in size and put in charge of Rev. S. F. Harriman, who formed some new classes, among them one at Mound Valley, and at the end of this year the charge ceased to exist under that name. From this time on the classes in the extreme western part of the county have generally been in charge of a minister at Cherryvale. In the spring of 1886 a parsonage was built in the Mt. Zion district, and it became the head of the Cherryvale circuit. In 1892 this parsonage was sold, and the proceeds are to be applied toward the erection of a new church in the near future.

Mound Valley.—The Methodist class at Mound Valley was organized in the summer of 1879, by Rev. S. F. Harriman, who was then in charge

of the South Parsons circuit. About ten members composed the class at the time of its organization. In March, 1880, the Mound Valley circuit was organized, and put in charge of Rev. E. A. Graham, who continued on the work for three years. He in that time built three churches, doing a large part of the work with his own hands. The parsonage was built, and occupied in the fall of 1879 by Mr. Harryman. In the spring of 1880 a small church was completed on the southeast corner of block 15, and dedicated, free from debt, by Rev. A. T. Burris, at a cost of about \$1,200. In March, 1883, Mr. Graham was succeeded by Rev. Isaac Hill, who was followed the next spring by Rev. C. E. Creager; he remained two years. The first year of his pastorate the old church property was sold, and other lots secured in block 10, lying just south of the railroad track, and on these a fine new church was erected, and on Oct. 12, 1884, was dedicated by Rev. J. B. Ford. During the following winter union meetings were held, under the direction of W. H. Hurlbut, an evangelist, and resulted in a great revival. W. T. Freeland was appointed to the work in March, 1886, and stayed two years, during which time the old parsonage was sold, and a new one built by the side of the new church, and accepted July 6, 1887. In March, 1888, Rev. W. W. Curnutt was sent to the work, and died just at the close of his first year's services there. The next year Rev. J. B. Gibson came; and the next, Rev. W. T. York. The latter did the church a good service in raising the money to pay off the indebtedness, which had been a great burden to it. In March, 1891, Rev. R. M. Cullison was put in charge of the work, and returned to it in March, 1892.—An Epworth League was organized about Nov. 1, 1891, with Rev. R. M. Cullison president, Minnie Wallis first vice-president, William Cruzan second vice-president, Nellie O'Brien third vice-president, Eva Sanders secretary, Edgar Simpson treasurer.

Bell Mound.—An M. E. class has been maintained at the school-house in District No. 99 for several years, and has usually been supplied with preaching by the ministers in charge of the Liberty work.

Hopewell.—In December, 1871, Rev. J. P. Hight, a local preacher, held a protracted meeting in the dwelling-house of James Beggs, which resulted in several conversions, and at its close, on January 5, 1872, a class was formed, which thereafter took the name of Hopewell. Meetings were held in private houses till the completion of the Henderson school-house, in District No. 83, in the fall of that year, where the meetings were thereafter held till the completion of their church. This class formed a part of the Timber Hill and South Parsons circuits, and was ministered to by the preachers in charge of those works, till the formation of the Mound Valley circuit, in the spring of 1880, when it was put into that circuit. Since then it has formed a part of either that or the

Altamont circuit, most of the time, however, with Mound Valley. In 1882, under charge of Rev. E. A. Graham, a neat church was built on the south-east corner of section 18, township 32, range 19. There were several other classes in the neighborhood, which now form a part of this church.

Altamont.—The town of Elston having been started in the summer of 1869, a Methodist class was formed there in the fall of that year, and admitted into the Oswego work in charge of Rev. P. McNutt, pastor. H. N. Brooks, a local preacher, and E. M. Bussart, an exhorter, were members of this class. At the conference in March, 1870, the Elston circuit was formed and put in charge of Rev. R. P. Bukey, who formed classes at a number of places in the central part of the county. At the end of one year this circuit was broken up and the work combined with other circuits. Classes were maintained most of the time in several school-houses in Labette and Mount Pleasant townships. This work preceded the organization of the class at Altamont when that town started. Prior to 1885 Altamont formed a part of the Mound Valley circuit. The class at this place was organized with ten members, on June 19, 1881, in the Presbyterian church, by Rev. E. A. Graham, who on that occasion preached the first Methodist sermon in the place. In the fall of 1882 and spring of 1883, Mr. Graham built, largely with his own hands, the church, which, on July 15, 1883, was dedicated, by Rev. H. McBirney, free of debt with the exception of a small loan obtained from the Church Extension Society. Rev. Isaac Hill, in 1883, and Rev. C. E. Creager, in 1884, being in charge of the Mound Valley circuit, also preached here. At the conference in March, 1885, the Altamont circuit was formed and placed in charge of Rev. H. R. Volmer; he was reappointed the next year, but his health failed, and he resigned in December, 1886. In 1885 a parsonage was built, at a cost of about \$400. In January and February, 1886, a revival meeting resulted in the church receiving about 75 accessions to its membership. Rev. A. C. Bennett was appointed in 1887, Rev. W. H. McVeigh in 1888, and Rev. John P. Slaughter in 1889. The latter, desiring to go to school, resigned the work. In March, 1890, Rev. J. D. Skaggs was appointed to the circuit, and reappointed the following year. Rev. W. T. York has been serving the church since March, 1892. Connected with this work are appointments at several school-houses in the adjoining townships.—An Epworth League was organized April 26, 1892, of which the pastor has been president all of the time.

Angola.—A church at this point was incorporated in December, 1892, and work was commenced on the foundation for a new building. The class to be formed at this point will be composed of two or three classes heretofore located in neighboring school-houses.

Elm Grove Circuit.—In 1872 the southwest part of the county had

settled to such an extent, and there was such a call for preaching and the organization of Methodist classes, that the presiding elder appointed Thomas Summerfield, a local preacher living in Elm Grove township, to supply these points with preaching. During this time a number of classes were formed. In March, 1873, the southwest part of the county was organized into a work called the Elm Grove circuit, and Rev. Thomas Moffat was appointed preacher in charge; the next year he was also sent as a supply on the same work. During his ministry there was an extensive revival. In 1875 Rev. George W. Rigby was sent to the work, and stayed two years. In March, 1877, Rev. J. M. Boon took charge of the work, and was returned again the next year, but got into trouble during the year and was suspended. He held protracted meetings at several points, which resulted in many conversions. In September, 1878, Rev. Z. B. Hitchcock had charge of the circuit, and was returned in the spring of 1879. At the next conference, in 1880, the name was changed to that of

The Edna Circuit, and Rev. C. W. Swartz was put in charge. In March, 1881, Rev. Azor McDole was sent here, and continued to August, 1883, when he started to Evanston to school, and was succeeded by Rev. Salem Hedges, who stayed till March, 1885, at which time Rev. A. S. Freed was appointed, and stayed two years. The two years following, Rev. E. A. Grabeal was in charge. In March, 1889, Rev. Henry Carlyon was appointed, and the next spring Rev. L. N. B. Anderson. He remained but part of the year, and was succeeded by Rev. H. V. Spears, who was in March, 1891, again sent to the work, and was followed by Rev. J. H. Hubbard, in March, 1892. In the fall of 1882 a building was begun, and inclosed so that services were held in it that winter. It was not completed until 1883, and was dedicated about Nov. 1 by Rev. A. Cullison.

Valeda.—Methodist classes had been organized and maintained for several years in the "seventies" in a number of the school-houses in the southwestern part of the county, among them the Blackford school-house, District No. 6; in the Trenton school-house, District No. 67; and in the Snow Hill school-house, District No. 35; and perhaps in one or two more. A class was formed in the Dresser school-house, District No. 51, in 1878, and kept up there until the town of Valeda was started and the Congregational church moved there, in the fall of 1886. The class was then removed to Valeda, and the services held in the Congregational church. All the classes that had been held in that vicinity were now united in this one appointment. This class belongs to the Edna work, and a list of the pastors will be found given under that church.

Cecil.—In the summer of 1882 Rev. A. P. George, then in charge of the Methodist church at Chetopa, commenced preaching at the Liggett school-house, in District No. 87, and soon formed a Methodist class. Ar-

rangements were made with J. L. Jones to secure ground on the north-west corner of section 5, township 35, Hackberry township, for a church and cemetery. On October 11, 1882, the ground was formally accepted. On November 18, 1882, the corner-stone was laid, the address being made by Nelson Case. The work on the building, which was of stone, was pushed as rapidly as those interested could get the material upon the ground, so that by April 24, 1883, it was inclosed, and on that day Mr. George preached the first sermon within its walls. At the conference in March, 1883, the Cecil work was formed, and placed in charge of Rev. H. R. Volmer, who was reappointed to the charge in 1884. On May 13, 1883, just after the services had closed and the people had reached home, a cyclone came up from the southwest, and blew the church to atoms. The roof was carried about half a mile, the organ and table were crushed to splinters; the Bible lay upon a box which had been used for a pulpit, and after the storm was found just as it had been left, entirely unharmed. Steps were at once taken to rebuild; this time, however, a frame instead of a stone building. On August 19, 1883, the first sermon was preached in this new structure, by the pastor. It was dedicated (about September 1, 1883) by Rev. A. Cullison. On July 2, 1884, another storm passed over that section; the church was struck by lightning, and also torn to atoms by the wind. Some money was realized from insurance, and the brethren for a third time started to erect a church edifice. It was commenced in October, 1884, and finished during the winter, and on Feb. 22, 1885, was dedicated by the presiding elder, Rev. A. Cullison. At the conference the following month Rev. J. B. Seiss was appointed to succeed Mr. Volmer on this work. Since then this point has formed a part of the Edna circuit, and has been supplied with preaching from the ministers in charge, a list of whom will be found in connection with that work.

Bartlett.—The class at this place, while one of the newest in the county, may still, not inappropriately, be said to be one of the oldest. In the report of Rev. P. McNutt, pastor at Oswego, to the quarterly conference held at Oswego, May 15, 1869, I find the following: "On May 9th I organized another [class] at Hackberry." "I have been on Hackberry but once; found a very intelligent, wide-awake people there. I organized a class of 10, with Bro. William Payne as leader, and have great hopes of soon seeing a flourishing society there." I learn that this class was organized at the house of Mr. Horace Horton, on the southeast quarter of section 27, in Hackberry township. Among the 10 members who were taken into the class at its organization were Wm. H. Payne and wife Louisa, Samuel McMillen and wife Margaret, Thomas F. Weaver, George W. Jenkins. Mr. McNutt preached frequently during the year, and Thomas Summerfield, a local preacher, also preached for them more

or less during the next year or two. Preaching, prayer meetings and class meetings were held in a number of houses in the neighborhood— at the home of H. D. Knight, on section 33, as much, perhaps, as at any place. This class became a part of the Elm Grove circuit when it was organized. The class met for a time at the Lockard school-house, in District No. 28, and then at the Bishop school-house, in District No. 7. Preaching and class services were maintained at both of these places, sometimes at one and sometimes at the other, with a good degree of regularity, until the spring or summer of 1888, when regular services were abandoned at these points and the class was removed to Bartlett, where services were held in the school-house, and Edith Dorland was appointed class-leader. Sept. 1, 1892, work began on a new church building, which is now being erected. So far, no denominational Sunday school has been started at this place: all have taken part in the union school.

Parsons.—First Methodist Episcopal Church of Parsons: Methodism in Parsons does not know the date of its birth. The first religious services on the present site of Parsons were held in the summer of 1870, in Abraham Cary's log house on the northwest quarter of section 18, by A. W. King, a local preacher from Osage township. Mr. King continued to preach there every two or three weeks during the summer and fall. The town having been started in November, a number of buildings were on the ground by December. Among these was a two-story frame standing on lot 32, block 25, next to the southeast corner of the block, the lower part of which was occupied by Charles Hazard with a saloon. In the room over this saloon, on the evening of Dec. 15, 1870, Mr. King preached the first Methodist sermon that was delivered in the town of Parsons; it was also the first sermon preached in Parsons by any minister. In March, 1871, Rev. G. W. Pye was appointed to the New Chicago (now Chanute) work, with the understanding that he should also visit Parsons and preach occasionally. During the spring he visited Parsons, preached, organized a class, and commenced the first regular Methodist work done at this point. During the year he came about every two weeks. Services were first held in what was known as Hewes's Hall, on Forest avenue. During the spring Cary's Hall, on the northwest corner of block 42, where the opera house now stands, was built, and the upper story seated by the Methodists and Presbyterians, in which to hold services. In this room, in the month of May, 1871, the Methodist class was organized. Adam Gebert was the first to give his name and his hand to the pastor, Rev. G. W. Pye, and Abraham Cary was the second. At the conference in March, 1872, Rev. J. W. Fox was sent to the Parsons circuit, which included, besides Parsons, Montana, Spring Valley and La-

bette City appointments. His salary was estimated at \$800, and he was paid about \$600. At the first quarterly conference, on April 6, 1872, a building committee was appointed; which committee, on April 27th, adopted plans and specifications for a church building, and at once advertised for bids. On May 8th the bids were opened, and the contract awarded at \$4,753. But, owing to the pressing needs of the settlers and the financial distress generally prevailing, a meeting of the committee was held on June 10th, and it was decided to indefinitely postpone the project of building. In the fall of 1872 a small building denominated a "tabernacle" was erected on the site of the present church, at a cost of about \$700. These lots were donated to the church by the town company. The tabernacle was dedicated Nov. 3, 1872, by Rev. H. D. Fisher. In this building the church services were conducted until the fall of 1876, when it was sold to the United Brethren and removed from the lots on which it was built. In March, 1873, Rev. C. R. Rice was sent to the work, and early in the year built a small parsonage in block 47, at a cost of about \$300. Services were held quite irregularly, on account of the inability of the church to support the pastor, and in December he removed his family to Emporia and supported them with his own labors, having received less than \$200 from the church during the year. Notwithstanding all this, Mr. Rice did some very efficient work. Rev. Peter DeClark was the next pastor. He arrived from the East in April, 1874. Small-pox, grasshoppers and hard times were too much for him, and in July he resigned the work. He was followed in November by Rev. Boyd Lowe, who was returned to the work in 1875, and for his services received all that was promised, viz., \$500—the first experience of the kind the church had had. In 1876 Rev. J. F. Boone was in charge of the work, and in March, 1877, Rev. C. A. King came, and remained three years. The tabernacle having been sold the previous fall, services had to be held in halls, vacant store-rooms, and such places as could be secured. This made the church see the importance of building a house, and the pastor proceeded at once to take steps for its accomplishment. On Nov. 5, 1877, the corner-stone of the present church edifice, on the southeast corner of block 42, was laid by the Masons. The foundation was completed, and covered during the winter, and work resumed in the spring. In the fall of 1878 the church was inclosed, and opened for services by Bishop Bowman. An extensive revival followed. In March, 1880, Rev. M. H. Wilson was appointed to the work. His ways were not congenial to the membership, and after six months' trial he was allowed to depart, and was followed for the balance of the year by Rev. C. E. McClintock. In 1881 Rev. G. W. Pye was returned to the work, and in March, 1882, Rev. H. W. Chaffee came. The church and pastor

were mutually satisfied with each other, and he remained till 1885, when, under the limitation, a change was required. During his pastorate the church, which since its erection had been occupied in an unfurnished condition, was completed and furnished, and on Feb. 22, 1885, dedicated by Rev. E. C. Boaz. In March, 1885, Rev. H. A. Tucker became pastor, and continued as such for three years. The following three years, commencing with March, 1888, Rev. J. E. Brant was pastor. Rev. R. P. Hammons, the present pastor, was appointed to the charge in March, 1891.

Young People's Societies: In the fall of 1881 the young people of the church organized the Aftermath Society, and elected as its officers Mrs. Frank Curtis president, Bell Letton secretary, and Thomas Clark treasurer. Under its management the first young people's prayer meeting of the church was organized. It did much toward encouraging the social life of the church, and was also of material assistance in its financial management. This society was succeeded by the Adelpian Society, which was organized March 1, 1887, with W. J. Wirt president, Miss Frankie Reed and Miss Bertha Kaysing vice-presidents, Mertie Shannon secretary, Chas. Nordyke treasurer. This society did much toward helping in literary and normal work. In the spring of 1889 it reorganized as the Young People's M. E. Union, with Maggie Elliott president, P. W. Blake vice-president, Jennie Martin secretary, A. D. Lucas treasurer.

Epworth League: Haven Chapter of Epworth League was organized Dec. 10, 1889, with Rev. J. E. Brant president, T. R. Breese, Will J. Wirt, Miss Jennie S. Martin, J. T. Tendrum, vice-presidents, Maggie S. Elliott secretary, John W. Slegley treasurer, and a membership of 17; this has now increased to a membership of 140. All departments of the work are well in charge, and it has been a great help in the general work of the church.

THE SETTLERS' CONTEST FOR THEIR HOMES.

The contest of the settlers on the Osage Ceded Lands to secure titles to their homes was one of the most heroic struggles that has ever been made. Considering the number of parties interested, the extent and value of the subject-matter of the contest, the apparently grossly disproportionate strength of the two contestants, the length of time to which the contest was protracted before a final decision was reached, one will scarcely find in the annals of history an instance where the devotion to the principle involved, the ability displayed in working up and managing the contest, the victory achieved, was as marked as was that of the settlers on the Osage Ceded Lands in contesting with the railroad companies the right to secure from the Government a title to their homes. At the outset everything seemed to be in favor of the railroad companies — at the close they had not as much as a solitary thread left to fling forth as a banner denoting their success in the fight. When the contest commenced, on the side of the corporations we find the Secretary of the Interior, standing as head of the Land Department of the General Government; coming to his aid a little later the Attorney General of the United States; through their decision, patents from the United States signed by President Grant, conveying the legal title to all these lands to the corporations; the open treasury of two powerful corporations, by means of which they were enabled to command the best legal talent of the country, and whatever else they needed that could be procured by money: the prospect of securing 800,000 acres of land through the negotiation of the infamous Sturges treaty, by means of which it was hoped that unscrupulous legislators and Government officials could be corrupted to support the common cause of the several companies to secure from the General Government a recognition of the claims of each in these trust and ceded lands, to the robbery alike of the school fund and the actual settlers; almost the entire press of the country; and, what may possibly be regarded as one of their strongest supports, a very general local feeling that it was inexpedient to do anything that looked unfriendly to the railroads, the speedy construction of which into each community they especially desired, and the general favor of which they eagerly courted.

As opposed to this there were several hundred settlers scattered over two counties 25 by 50 miles in extent, most of whom had scarcely enough means to furnish their homes with anything like the comforts of life and provide sufficient teams and tools to cultivate their farms. They had come here from nearly every State in the Union; had no acquaintance with each other; were unfamiliar with public business; were distrustful of themselves, and more so of those in whose hands they were asked to place their interests; were slow to take the little means they had, all of which was needed to procure the actual necessities of life, and put it into a general fund to fee lawyers to prosecute a case which they heard on every hand was a hopeless one. With these surroundings and these prospects before the parties respectively, the settlers' contest opened. The corporations looked out upon a prospect full of sunlight and cheer: the settlers' vision was obscured by clouds, and mist, and apparently approaching disaster.

PRELIMINARY STEPS IN THE CONTEST.

In the negotiation of the treaty with the Osages, on Sept. 29, 1865, the settlers then on the lands for the purchase of which provision was made in the treaty felt sure of being able to purchase their lands at \$1.25 per acre. The news of the negotiation of the treaty was spread through the country, and largely on the strength of it settlers came upon these lands very rapidly. The failure to secure the ratification of the treaty for so long a time, and after its negotiation the further failure of Congress to make any provision for obtaining title, caused the settlers to become uneasy. Their rights on the land were much discussed among themselves during 1866 and 1867. It was not, however, until August, 1867, that any definite action was taken by them to induce legislation looking toward granting them relief. A few parties residing in Neosho county conceived the idea of making some demonstration, and got together as many of the settlers as they could at Canville trading-post, in August, 1867. At this meeting it was decided to petition Congress to pass a bill to secure the rights of the settlers, and to allow them to purchase their lands. A committee consisting of J. M. Bemis, T. C. Cory, D. T. Mitchell and John Johnson was appointed to prepare a petition, get signatures thereto, and forward to Congress. Immediately upon the adjournment of the meeting the committee prepared the petition, and, deeming it unnecessary to travel all over the country to secure the signatures of men who were known to be in favor of what they were asking, the committee took the liberty to attach to it the names of all the settlers on these lands, so far as they were known or could be ascertained. Most of the night having been spent in that work, they had by morning a petition of quite consid-

erable length, which was at once forwarded to Congressman George W. Julian, of Indiana, who was a personal friend of Colonel Mitchell, of the committee. Subsequently other meetings were held, and it was decided to send delegates to Washington to influence Congressional action in behalf of the settlers. Some money was raised, and Hon. Solomon Markham was sent to represent the settlers' interest. In the spring and early summer of 1868, a newspaper having been established in each of the two counties, the settlers' cause began to be discussed through the press. In the summer of 1868 conventions were held in Labette and Neosho counties, at which delegates were elected to a joint convention to be held at Fort Roach, or Ladore, on September 14th. This meeting organized by electing Joseph McCormick of Labette county chairman, and J. H. Scott secretary. Owing to a misunderstanding as to the time of meeting, it was voted to adjourn to the 26th inst. On the day last named the meeting was held, with a full attendance from both counties. In the meantime steps had been taken to secure funds to carry on the work, and reports of success were made at this meeting. It was decided to again send a delegate to Washington, and Judge Solomon Markham, who had represented them at the previous session, was again selected as their agent. This selection was not entirely satisfactory to all of the settlers, and especially to those in Labette county, and a convention was held at Oswego, December 26th, at which Col. Willoughby Doudna was selected as the special agent of the settlers of this county to go to Washington. Both Judge Markham and Col. Doudna spent the winter in Washington, and helped to secure the passage of the law giving the settlers the right to purchase their homes.

The treaty provided that those who were already upon the land should have a right to purchase a quarter-section at \$1.25 an acre. Under this provision it is said that 143 settlers in the two counties took title to their homes. All of those who went on the land subsequent to Sept. 29, 1865, were dependent upon future litigation for their rights to secure title. The settlers' efforts were first directed to securing the attention of Congress, but their most serious contest was in procuring a construction of the law by the courts in opposition to the construction that had been placed upon it by the Land Department of the General Government.

SETTLERS' MEETINGS.

A notable feature of the contest carried on by the settlers was the immense meetings which they held in various parts of the two counties for the purpose of awakening an interest and creating enthusiasm in the members. The first of these meetings which may be called their great ones was held at Jacksonville, on July 28th and 29th, 1869. This meet-

ing was really called in the interest of the settlers on the Cherokee Neutral Lands to protest against the Joy purchase and in favor of the rights of the settlers on those lands to purchase them from the Government; but it was attended as largely by the citizens on the Osage Ceded Lands as by those on the Joy lands, and was turned into a meeting in the interest of both. The Oswego brass band was present and furnished the music. Congressman Sidney Clarke and John Speer made a trip from Lawrence in a lumber wagon, taking in Major H. C. Whitney at Humboldt; they were of course doing a great deal of political work as well as looking after the settlers' interests; all of them made speeches. Fully 3,000 people from the four counties were present, and were electrified as only such a crowd can be when their homes are in peril and measures for their security are being discussed. Two sets of resolutions were adopted: one by the settlers on the Joy lands, and another by the settlers on the Osage Ceded Lands. At night Senator Pomeroy was hung in effigy, and his actions, which were believed to be inimical to the settlers' interests, were severely denounced.

From this time on, the cause of the settlers on the Osage Ceded Lands had a popularity which it had not before that enjoyed. Another meeting was called, to be held at Jacksonville, on Sept. 15, 1869. This was very much less satisfactory in its results; but seven persons were present; one of these was Major Whitney. The report of this meeting which went out did not give the numbers attending, and it had in the eye of the public an air of respectability. Nothing was accomplished excepting the call for a series of meetings to be held the first two weeks in October throughout Neosho and Labette counties, and the appointment of a committee, consisting of H. C. Whitney, T. C. Cory, and J. S. Waters, to prepare an address to be published not later than October 1st. If any of the meetings provided for at this time were held they were but small affairs, and made little impression. The next great meeting of the settlers was at Ladore on July 4, 1870. J. F. Bellamy, H. C. Whitney and John Speer made speeches. On the following day the settlers formed their protective association. On Sept. 26, 1870, in compliance with an appointment made by the association on August 26th, a convention of the settlers was held at Prairie du Chien for the purpose of nominating a Senator for the Sixteenth Senatorial district. Major H. C. Whitney was unanimously nominated for the position. Provision was at the same time made for holding meetings at Ladore on Sept. 6th, at Jacksonville on the 9th, and at Erie on the 10th. At the Ladore meeting, after addresses by Major Whitney and Judge Markham, the following platform was adopted:

“Whereas, We, the settlers on the Osage Ceded Lands, in the State of

Kansas, believe that under the treaty by which the said lands were ceded to the United States, and under the joint resolutions of Congress, April 10, 1869, actual settlers were entitled to purchase any part of said lands in tracts not to exceed 160 acres, at \$1.25 per acre, and that no corporation has acquired any vested rights therein: and whereas, certain railroad corporations are claiming certain portions of said lands: now, therefore,

“*Resolved*, 1. That we will proceed at once to test the validity of said claims, by instituting legal proceedings in the proper courts.

“2. That we respectfully request the Governor of our State to withhold all patents from said corporations for said lands until the termination of said proceedings.

“3. That we will support no candidate for county and legislative offices who is not thoroughly identified with the settlers and in sympathy with their cause.”

At the Erie meeting G. W. McMillen was chairman, and M. H. Sheldon secretary; and in addition to hearing speeches, nominations were made for nearly a full set of officers for Neosho county.

On May 1, 1871, a meeting was held at Oswego, at which Hon. William Lawrence spoke and gave an exhaustive legal discussion of the settlers' rights. On July 12, 1873, the largest meeting which had ever then been held by the settlers was had at Thayer. There were 765 wagons filled with people in the procession, and a vast number on horseback. It was estimated that from eight to ten thousand persons were in attendance. Speeches were made by Gov. Shannon, Congressman Clarke, Judge McComas, Milton W. Reynolds, W. L. Simons, and others. This was followed on October 1st by another immense meeting at Osage Mission, at which Gov. Osborn, Sidney Clarke, Stephen A. Cobb, D. R. Anthony, M. J. Salter, Judge McComas and J. H. Crichton spoke. On May 27, 1874, another great gathering was had, at Parsons. M. J. Salter was chairman, and F. B. McGill secretary. Gov. Osborn, George R. Peck, Sidney Clarke and Judge McComas spoke. Besides these great meetings which I have named, during these years innumerable local meetings were held, some of them of scarcely less importance than those named. Their effect was to keep the settlers' interest at fever heat, and to cause them to demand of their officials the exertion of every effort in their power to secure their rights.

BASIS FOR THEIR CLAIMS.

The claim of the two parties, in brief, was this: These lands were reserved to the Osage Indians by the treaty proclaimed June 2, 1825, soon after the conclusion of which the Indians moved upon and occupied them up to 1869. On March 3, 1863, an act of Congress was approved, granting land to the State of Kansas to aid in the construction of certain railroads, and among them the Leavenworth, Lawrence & Galveston. On July 26, 1866, another land grant was made to the State of Kansas, to

aid, among other roads, the building of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas. By virtue of their grants these two companies claimed alternate sections ten miles wide on each side of their respective lines of road, as finally located, through the Osage Ceded Lands.

On Sept. 29, 1865, a treaty was concluded between the United States and the Osage Indians, whereby the latter sold to the United States all the land comprising Neosho and Labette counties, to be by the Government "surveyed and sold under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior on the most advantageous terms for cash, as public lands are surveyed and sold under existing laws."

On June 26, 1866, the Senate amended this treaty by adding to the above provision the following: "Including an act granting lands to the said State of Kansas in aid of the construction of a railroad through said lands." This amendment was accepted by the Indians on Sept. 21, 1866, and the treaty as amended was proclaimed by the President on Jan. 21, 1867. It was claimed that the above Senate amendment to the treaty recognized the grant already made, if it did not in itself amount to a grant to the railroad companies.

On behalf of the settlers it was contended that the Congressional grants in aid of the construction of railroads were grants *in presenti*, and could not apply to these lands, because, by the treaty of 1825, they were "reserved lands." It was further contended that the treaty contemplates the survey and sale of these lands to actual settlers at \$1.25 per acre.

The railroad companies applied to the Commissioner of the General Land Office for a withdrawal of the lands they claimed under their respective grants from market. The Commissioner, Hon. Joseph Wilson, refused their request on April 26, 1867, and on a renewal of the application again ruled against them on May 17, 1867. From this decision the companies appealed to the Secretary of the Interior. On November 8, 1867, the Secretary, Hon. O. H. Browning, made his decision reversing Commissioner Wilson, and awarding to the railroad companies all the land by them claimed under the grants. The line of the M. K. & T. Rly. was definitely made Jan. 7, 1868; and maps showing the definite location of the lines of the two roads having been filed with the Commissioner, an order was made on Jan. 21, 1868, withdrawing the lands from market, which was forwarded to the land office at Humboldt, where it was received on Feb. 4, 1868, from which time the rights of the companies as against the settlers dated. Those who had settled on these lands previous to the last-named date were allowed to enter the same after the passage of the joint resolution of April 10, 1869. All odd sections not then settled on, and all even sections falling within the indemnity limit not then settled on, were awarded to the railroad companies.

Early in January, 1868, Congressman Clarke introduced a joint resolution for the sale of these lands to actual settlers; and all during that year efforts were made by friends of the settlers to secure legislation in their interest, but without success. The Forty-first Congress assembled on March 4, 1869. On the 15th of that month Congressman Clarke again introduced a joint resolution for the disposal of the Osage Ceded Lands, which passed the House on April 5th, the Senate on the 9th, and received the President's approval on April 10, 1869. The passage of this resolution was hailed with delight, and it was generally thought that it was so worded as to entitle settlers on any portion of the lands to enter the same at \$1.25 per acre. But when, on June 19, 1869, the Register and Receiver of the Land Office gave notice that filings would be received on and after July 20th, and proof of settlement and purchase-money on and after Sept. 2, 1869, they further stated that, under instructions from the General Land Office, under date of June 3, 1869, the right of the railroad companies to these lands under the terms of the land grants would be respected. Consternation and indignation now prevailed among the settlers, and continued to increase in proportion as the repeated rulings of the Government officials, as they were called on from time to time to further construe the law, seemed to show a disposition to ignore the settlers' rights and to place their homes more firmly within the grasp of the railroads. In different ways the question was brought before the various officers connected with the land department of the Government from time to time, and efforts were made to secure a reversal of Secretary Browning's ruling, but all to no purpose. When brought before him, Secretary Cox sustained the ruling of his predecessor, and of course the Commissioner and the land office officers were bound by the decision of their superiors.

Finally, in 1871, the Settlers' Association having employed Judge Lawrence, it was hoped to get a final decision in their favor. On an appeal taken from the decision of the Humboldt land office the question of the rights of the settlers and of the railroads was fully argued, first before Hon. William Drummond, Commissioner of the General Land Office, and then, on an appeal from his decision, before Hon. Columbus Delano, Secretary of the Interior, who called to his aid the Assistant Attorney General, Hon. W. H. Smith. The settlers' cause was argued by Hon. Wm. Lawrence, and the railroads' claims were presented by B. R. Curtis.

On Jan. 26, 1872, Secretary Delano announced his decision, fully sustaining the railroad companies' claims, and in support of his conclusion said: "If I were in doubt about it, yet in view of the former decision of my predecessor, Secretary Browning, in favor of the validity of the grants, and the refusal of Secretary Cox to reverse that decision, and the

action of the companies under it, I should hesitate long before I would disturb rights acquired under that decision." He also gave the lengthy opinion of Assistant Attorney General Smith concurring in the opinion he had reached. Following this decision, on Feb. 19, 1872, President Grant issued a patent to the M. K. & T. Rly. Co. for so much of its land as it had then selected.

THE ATTITUDE OF THE PRESS.

The positions assumed by the local press toward the settlers' cause varied at different times during the struggle. Of course different papers assumed different positions, and the same papers sometimes changed sides—at one time advising resistance to the railroad companies' claim, and again counseling compliance. I can only give two or three extracts to show these varied sentiments, but anyone who has any desire to see the many changes that took place can be gratified by consulting the files of the various papers of the two counties. On Jan. 27, 1870, the *Osage Mission Journal* says: "We think it would be folly for the settlers to spend their time and money in trying to beat the railroads out of their lands at this late day." In its issue of Feb. 7, 1872, the *Chetopa Advance*, after announcing the decision of the Secretary of the Interior in favor of the railroad companies, says: "While we could wish that the decision might have been different, we cannot say that we are disappointed in the result. Without claiming to comprehend the case fully in all its legal bearings, we have always held and expressed the opinion that the railroad title to the lands would be confirmed." And again, on Feb. 21, 1872, in a leading editorial headed "Better Compromise," the same paper says: "In the contest between the railroad and the settlers on the Osage Ceded Lands, our readers will remember that we have never encouraged them in their efforts to contest the title with the railroads. We appeal to the settlers and to the railroads to let us have peace. The former cannot afford to spend any more money in futile litigation. Whatever they so spend will be taxed back upon them when the title is finally confirmed, with interest to boot." In announcing the decision of the Secretary of the Interior the *Parsons Sun* in its issue of Feb. 3, 1872, says: "We are well aware that the above news will fall like a thunder-clap on many of the settlers whose expectations have been recently raised to the utmost by the favorable reports and opinions from Judge Lawrence; but we have endeavored to prepare them, from time to time, to expect the worst, and we now hope that the majority will bow to the decision of the Secretary of the Interior and immediately make the most favorable terms possible with the railroad companies."

Most of the papers in both counties, even those most entirely devoted

to the settlers' cause, were somewhat wavering at times in their support. In justification of their course, the papers which counseled surrender to the railroad companies and compromise with them, pointed out the delay and expense attending litigation even in the event of final success, and the damage that would necessarily result, not only to the contestants, but to all the settlers alike, in retarding immigration, preventing improvement, and embittering the feeling by a contest in the courts. So far as the metropolitan press had discussed the matter at all, it had been, as the settlers believed, from the standpoint of the railroad companies' position. To counteract such influence, and to give the public an understanding of their position, the Grand Council appointed a committee, of which T. P. Leech was one of the members, (the other names I have not been able to get,) to prepare an address to the public setting forth the settlers' cause, together with their determination to obtain a decision in the highest court of the country upon its merits, with a willingness on their part to abide by such judgment. They caused this address to be published in leading papers in Eastern cities, and thereby brought their cause into more prominence than it had hitherto attained.

SETTLERS' PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION.

Most of the settlers who attended the great meeting at Ladore on July 4, 1870, remained over until the 5th, when another meeting was held, to more practically discuss the rights and prospects of the settlers. Major H. C. Whitney and John Speer, who had been the principal orators the day previous, made speeches. Major Whitney more particularly discussed the legal aspect of the matter, and advised united action on the part of the settlers. At the conclusion of the address the following was unanimously adopted by the settlers:

“*Whereas*, By a treaty with the Osages, proclaimed in January, 1867, it was provided that the lands since known as the Osage Ceded Lands should be sold for cash, which treaty the Commissioner of the General Land Office authoritatively decided did not vest any title to lands therein in land monopolies; and whereas, a joint resolution of April 10, 1869, provided for the sale of all said lands to actual settlers at \$1.25 per acre; and whereas, said treaty and decision of the Commissioner of the General Land Office and joint resolutions have been set at naught by a mere arbitrary ruling of a late Secretary, made upon an *ex parte* application of the land monopolies, and based upon a mistaken precedent; and whereas, our right to our homes and our all is menaced by said monopolies; now, therefore, be it

“*Resolved*, That we will contest for our titles under the joint resolution aforesaid to the extreme limit of the law; and to secure this end we will organize thoroughly and with discipline so as to bring the entire material and moral force of the whole array of settlers to bear throughout the whole contest.

“*Resolved*, That the settlers are hereby solemnly warned not to squander their means in the attempted purchase of an illegal and void monopoly title to their homes, which title must sooner or later be overthrown; but they each and all are earnestly entreated to join the settlers' organization and obtain a title direct from the General Government, which shall be cheap, staunch, and unmistakable.

“*Resolved*, That we hereby appoint the following temporary executive committee, viz.: Col. W. H. Carpenter, George T. Walton, Wm. S. Irwin, Lewis A. Reese, Van Henderletter, Peter Collins, M. H. Sheldon, A. S. Spaulding, and J. M. Richardson: and they are hereby requested to form and promulgate to the settlers for their consideration, a plan of permanent executive committee; to adopt such measures as may be essential to promote the interests of the settlers; and that said executive committee is requested to prepare an address to the settlers, and to publish the same immediately.

“*Resolved*, That the settlers are hereby requested immediately to assemble in neighborhood meetings, each neighborhood to select a good and true man competent to serve as a member of the permanent executive committee. The executive committee are requested to select from said list nine members, in such manner as that all localities on the Ceded Lands shall be represented, and said selection shall be the permanent executive committee for one year from date of organization.

“*Resolved*, That from this time henceforth we mean business, and upon our efforts to save our homes we invoke the just consideration of all true men and the gracious favor of Almighty God.”

The committee appointed by the foregoing resolutions at once took steps to perfect the organization, and W. S. Irwin was elected its president. On Oct. 15, 1870, a charter for the purpose of incorporating the “Settlers' Protective Association of the Osage Ceded Lands” was prepared, and signed by William Irwin, David C. Hutchinson, George W. McMillen, J. M. Richardson, and others, which was filed in the office of the Secretary of State Oct. 1, 1870. The charter states the object of the corporation as follows: “The purpose for which this corporation is formed is the promotion of immigration to said lands, and the legal investigation and proper adjustment of the title thereto.” In the fall of 1870 subordinate councils were organized in nearly every part of the two counties.

The first regular meeting of the Grand Council after its formal organization was held at the town of Labette, on Dec. 17, 1870. At this meeting the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, J. J. Woods; secretary, Samuel R. Luke; executive committee, D. C. Hutchinson, G. W. McMillen, J. J. Woods, A. J. Campbell, J. B. Swart, J. C. Bundy, J. M. Gaston, M. H. Sheldon, James Martin. D. C. Hutchinson and G. W. McMillen were appointed financial agents, and directed to canvass both counties for funds. Early in January, 1871, the executive committee published a long and carefully prepared address to the settlers, setting forth the necessity for their standing together and

contributing of their means to a common fund in order to reach an end by all alike desired; it set forth that Major Whitney had been employed as attorney to conduct a contested case through the court, and that the case of J. M. Richardson against the railroad company had been instituted for the purpose of contesting the question of title.

The association proceeded to spread itself over the two counties, and to do much good work in the shape of enlisting the settlers in the united action for their homes. As the work progressed it became evident that a knowledge of their action on the part of the public interfered with the accomplishment of their plans, and so it was decided to form a secret organization retaining the main features of the old association, but adding to it a secret obligation and some ritualistic work. Of the introduction of this feature into the association, I will let those speak who were connected with it. Hon. T. P. Leech, of Thayer, writes me as follows:

“My individual experience and knowledge of facts connected with the Osage Ceded Lands contest involved in the history and transactions of the Settlers’ Protective Association began in 1871, when William Dick (well known and recognized all over the Ceded Lands as ‘Father Dick’) organized a subordinate council of the S. P. A. of O. C. L., in the school-house near my place. He informed us that there had been a number of old settlers’ meetings held at different places on the Ceded Lands in the past, for the purpose of organizing a legal contest with the railroad companies to test the validity of their claim to these lands, but that the work had been openly and voluntarily done, and only a portion of the old settlers had taken interest in the matter; and that at a meeting held at Ladore—earlier known as Fort Roach—it had been decided to regularly organize (as a secret organization) the Osage Ceded Land Settlers’ Protective Association, and enlist, if possible, all those whose homes were involved in the controversy, and all others who were in sympathy with them. Many subordinate councils had been formed before our neighborhood had been reached, and the work of organization was going on rapidly. And so Father Dick read to us the printed declaration of purposes, the constitution and by-laws that were to govern the association; and as it was clearly set forth that the purpose was to secure concerted action in making the strongest possible legal contest for our rights, I cast my lot with my neighbors (although my individual home was not in controversy, and neither was Father Dick’s), and I shall probably never forget the concluding paragraph of the obligation given us by Father Dick in his most impressive manner, and which was repeated by all the candidates, as follows:

“‘All of this I most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear that I will keep and perform, without any equivocation or mental reservation whatever; binding myself under no less a penalty than that of having a rope looped round my neck and I be swung in the air till life become extinct. So help me God, and keep me steadfast.’”

The following letter will give further information on this same subject:

“PARSONS, KAS., Sept. 1, 1892.

“*Hon. Nelson Case, Oswego, Kas.*—DEAR SIR: In response to your request for the facts relative to the secret organization of the Settlers’ Pro-

tective Association, I submit the following, which is of course but a brief statement of what might be indefinitely enlarged.

“The open organization, which had been in existence some time, proved very unsatisfactory in its working, and a few of us became satisfied that our purposes could only be accomplished through a secret organization. It was feared that some parties, such as the Catholics, Dunkards, Quakers, and United Brethren, would not go into a secret organization; but others argued that for the purposes contemplated all these parties could be expected to unite. The first actual steps taken toward forming the secret organization were at my house, about the first of October, 1871. My father, William Dick, and I had been to a meeting at the Catalpa school-house, in Neosho county, the proceedings of which convinced us that something must be done to bring matters more completely under the control of those really in earnest in the settlers' interest. We counseled with T. B. Smith and D. D. Lindsey, and all met at my house. We were all members of the Masonic order, and agreed to organize a Secret Settlers' Protective Association. I was to draw the constitution and by-laws, and father was to prepare the oath, and we were to meet at my house the next evening to initiate the work. We four met there as agreed; the constitution, by-laws and oath were laid on a small table, the four surrounding it with our left hands on the instruments and our right hands raised; father recited the oath, the others repeating it over after him, and then Mr. Lindsey recited the oath to father and he repeated it after him. During the whole history of the organization the oath remained the same as it was then written and used, and was never by authority put in print. Before parting it was agreed that each person present should select one person whom he could trust, and bring with him the following evening to father's house. The four selected were W. A. Starr, Wm. Findley, J. B. Swart, and James McMains. At the time appointed the eight met, and the four new members were initiated in the same manner as the first had been. It was again agreed that each one present should select one and bring with him the following night at the same place: these eight were initiated. This meeting lasted until nearly morning; the general work was mapped out, its difficulties and dangers discussed, and what was hoped to be accomplished was talked over. Before starting away it was arranged to hold the next meeting at Carpenter's school-house, in District No. 30, and that each party present should select two persons to bring with him at that meeting. The next meeting was to be held a week later, each one present to bring one additional person with him. When we came together, in addition to the forty-eight new members who were to be selected by those who had already been initiated, there were four who came along, having learned that something was to be done, and who were received along with the others, making just one hundred present at this meeting. It was now determined to form a permanent organization, and elect officers. The following were elected: Chief counselor, William Dick; vice-counselor, J. B. Swart; secretary, J. H. McGheehan; treasurer, Jas. McMains. By the first of November the organization had grown so unwieldy that it was determined to form auxiliary councils. The first one was organized in the southeast corner of Wilson county; another soon after, at what was then called the McCormick school-house, in District 19, in Labette county; another one at the Shiloh school-house, in Neosho county; and

others later at other points. Parties came for a distance of twenty miles to be initiated and learn the particulars of the organization. Dr. G. W. McMillen, of Neosho county, having been initiated, was, with Father Dick, appointed to organize new councils. About the first of January, 1872, delegates from all the secret councils met at Hughes's hall, in Parsons, and organized a grand council. The following officers were elected: Grand chief counselor, Dr. G. W. McMillen; grand vice-counselor, J. B. Swart; grand chief secretary, M. H. Sheldon; grand chief treasurer, William Dick. An executive committee of five was also elected. The work thus organized went on until the cause for which it was formed had completely triumphed. Yours truly, L. F. DICK."

At the close of 1872 Hon. M. J. Salter, of Thayer, was elected Grand Chief Counselor, which position he held most if not all the time until the final decision of the Supreme Court, and until the close of the work of the association. Mr. Sheldon likewise remained Grand Secretary and Wm. Dick Grand Treasurer during the entire time. Among those who were on the executive committee and did good work were T. P. Leech, J. B. Swart, G. W. McMillen. To mention all who were prominently connected with it would be to extend this account to a greater length than could be given in this work. The executive committee held monthly meetings, and sometimes met more frequently, and the Grand Council met as often as once a year, and it was sometimes called together on special occasions. Unflinching interest was maintained until the accomplishment of the purpose for which the association was organized.

CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The constitution of the association and the rules by which it was governed were somewhat of a growth. The following were the main provisions as finally adopted and as they were in use for several years:

"PREAMBLE OF THE S. P. A.—In consequence of an adverse claim to the settlers upon the Osage Ceded Lands, held by the Leavenworth, Lawrence & Galveston Railroad Company, the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway Company; and as it is generally believed that this claim cannot be established by law, as it is based upon fraud and misinterpretation of the treaty and the act of Congress, and in conflict with the policy of the Government. This claim being wrong, and injurious to the settlers upon these lands, who came here by the invitation of the Government and by the solicitation of the press of the State, setting forth the fact that the lands were opened for settlement by the Government, for the industrious citizens of the United States, and upon this representation and in good faith the people have settled upon these lands, and by toil and privation have made valuable improvements and homes for the support of their wives and little ones. When these lands became valuable by the improvements placed upon them by the industry and intelligence of the settlers, these companies did set up their claim, and have attempted to dispose of by sale, these lands together with the improvements, compelling in some cases the settler to purchase his own labor to prevent so great and sad a

calamity as that of having his family driven beggars from the home they had by toil and privation made :

"Now in view of all these wrongs, and many others not herein mentioned, we, the settlers upon the Osage Ceded Lands in Kansas, do organize ourselves into a select organization to be known as the S. B. of the S. P. A., for the purpose of protecting ourselves and to test these claims of these railway companies in the highest courts of our country.

"We therefore enter into the foregoing agreement, and pledge our honor to stand to and abide by the following constitution, rules and by-laws of the association :

"ARTICLE I.—*Title*.—This organization shall be known by the name, style and title of the Secret Brotherhood of the Settlers' Protective Association of the Osage Ceded Lands in Kansas, and the initials S. B. S. P. A. O. C. L. shall represent the name of the organization.

"ARTICLE II.—*Objects*.—The objects to be accomplished by this organization are as follows :

"1st. To strengthen, harmonize and preserve the feelings of the settlers upon the Osage Ceded Lands.

"2d. To make these feelings efficient in litigating and contesting our rights as actual settlers in legal tribunals of our country.

"3d. For the protection and assistance of all such settlers whose rights are invaded by monopolies and corporations.

"4th. To establish and secure the rights of the settlers on the Osage Ceded Lands by all legal, moral, social means in control.

"5th. To extend the hand of charity and brotherly love to all the honest and industrious laboring classes, and to assist them by our counsel and honest means in securing honesty in our Government, integrity in our people, and placing the honest labor of our country on a more equal footing, mentally, morally and socially.

"6th. To resist all encroachments of monopoly and pampered aristocracy, when and wherever found, to demand that honest labor shall be respected and protected all over the United States.

"ARTICLE III.—*Organization*.—The several constituted bodies of this association shall consist of—

"1st. District organizations, to be known as the S. P. A. Council No. —, of ——— County, of the State of Kansas.

"2d. The general organization be known as the Grand Council of the S. B. S. P. A. of the O. C. L. in K. N. A., page 5."

[Provision was made by Article IV for settlers and those sympathizing with them to become members of the association. Article V provided for the election of members, and Article VI for the impeachment of members.]

"ARTICLE VII.—*Officers*.—1st. The officers of each Council shall be a Chief Counselor, a Senior Vice-Counselor, a Junior Vice-Counselor, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Chief Marshal, a Junior Marshal, who shall be elected by the members semi-annually.

"2d. The officers of the Grand Council shall be a Grand Chief Counselor, Grand Senior and Grand Junior Counselor, Grand Chief, Grand Senior and Grand Junior Marshal, Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be elected by the members of the Grand Council semi-annually.

"3d. The members of the Grand Council shall consist of the repre-

representatives from each sub-council elected by the members of the subordinate Council to represent them in the Grand Council."

[Article VIII provided for the duties of the respective officers, and Article IX for the times of meeting.]

"ARTICLE X.—*Secresy*.—1st. The proceedings of the Council shall be kept a secret.

"2d. Any member who shall divulge any of the secrets shall suffer the penalty of his obligation, or such punishment as the court in his wisdom shall direct."

[Article XI provided for the fees; Article XII for the collection of arrearages; Article XIII for reports; Article XIV for charters to subordinate Councils; Article XV for the election of officers; Article XVI for representation in the Grand Council; Article XVII for by-laws; and Article XVIII for amendments.]

LEGAL MEASURES.

As soon as the settlers decided on contesting their rights in court they employed Major H. C. Whitney, of Humboldt, as their attorney. Under his advice a suit was brought in the District Court for Labette county, in the name of James M. Richardson against the M. K. & T. Rly. Co., in October, 1870, to obtain an adjudication of the rights of the settlers who had been refused entry at the land office to their lands. Some were not satisfied with Mr. Whitney's management of the settlers' matters, and in February, 1871, he withdrew as their attorney. Messrs. McComas & McKeighan, of Fort Scott, were then employed by the settlers. The suit first begun was dismissed because of some informality in its commencement, or for some other reason, and a new suit by Richardson was instituted. A suit was also commenced in the name of James Wood. These suits were instituted for the purpose of quieting the title of the plaintiffs to their lands, and to determine that the claim of the railroads thereto was without foundation. In the case in which Wood was plaintiff, the district court held that, upon the facts as stated in his petition, he had no standing in court. The case was appealed to the Supreme Court, where the judgment of the district court was affirmed. It was soon apparent to all that the real question at issue between the settlers and the railroads could not be finally determined by these individual suits to quiet title, and plans were laid to secure action on the part of the United States in the Federal courts. It was first believed that an act of Congress would be required to secure this result, and the Kansas Legislature memorialized Congress to pass a bill authorizing such action; but the matter having been brought to the attention of the executive department of the Government, the Attorney General expressed a willingness, on the application of the Senators from Kansas, to direct suit to be brought in the name of the United States without any action on the part of Congress. In addition to Messrs. McComas & McKeighan, the settlers had

in their employ Gov. Shannon, Judge Wm. Lawrence, and Hon. Jere. Black. George R. Peck had recently been appointed U. S. District Attorney for Kansas, and through him, representing the Government, and the above-named attorneys representing the settlers' association, as his assistants, two suits were commenced on Feb. 25, 1874, in the U. S. Circuit Court on the part of the United States, one against the M. K. & T. and one against the L. L. & G., for the purpose of obtaining a decree canceling the patents theretofore issued to them by the General Government. In October following, the judgment of that court was announced, fully sustaining the settlers' claim, and directing the patents that had been issued to the railroads to be canceled. The companies at once took the case in error to the Supreme Court of the United States, where it was ably and fully argued on October 20, 21, and 22, 1875. On April 10, 1876, the judgment of that court was rendered, sustaining the decision of the Circuit Court, and finally and conclusively affirming the right of the settlers to these lands. Both of these decisions were hailed with great delight by the settlers, and immense ratification meetings were held all over the said lands in honor of the event. Not only to their paid attorneys who so ably represented the settlers, but also to Hon. Geo. R. Peck, who, throughout the contest in both the Circuit and Supreme Courts, brought to their aid his best talents, were the settlers largely indebted for the victory thus won.

FURTHER LEGISLATION.

As soon as the decision was announced, steps were at once taken to procure Congressional legislation whereby the settlers could obtain title, the time in which this could be done under the joint resolution of April 10, 1869, having long theretofore expired. A bill was prepared by Gov. Shannon, approved by the Grand Council, and rapidly pushed through Congress by Hon. John R. Goodin, who then represented this district in the House, and our Senators in the Senate; and it was on August 11, 1876, approved by the President.

EXPENSES.

The expenses attending the contest in the courts were of course very great. Fees of the attorneys who were employed, two or three of whom had national reputation, were large, and many other expenses had to be borne. Nearly every settler on the Ceded Lands, whether he had or had not acquired title to his home, or whether the title was or was not involved and depended upon litigation then in progress, came to the aid of the cause by giving his note. Those whose title was not in contest gave a shorter form of note, but those whose land was in litigation gave notes which were generally in the following form:

"AGREEMENT.

"*Know all Men by these Presents:* That whereas, the undersigned, ———, has settled upon and improved the ——— quarter of section —, town —, range —, situated in the county of ——— and State of Kansas, and claims the same under the preëmption laws of the United States; and whereas, the ——— Railroad Company claim the same land, under and by virtue of the laws of the United States; and whereas, the said contending parties are about to make up test cases to submit to the judicial tribunals of the country, so as to procure a judicial determination of the question whether said land is or is not subject to preëmption, or whether the said railroad company has any right thereto or not; and whereas, the undersigned, with others holding similar preëmption rights, is desirous to secure the professional services of Hon. J. S. Black of Pennsylvania, Hon. Wm. Lawrence of Ohio, and Hon. Wilson Shannon sr. of Kansas, in the argument and management of said case and the legal questions involved therein: Now, therefore, I, ———, in consideration of said legal services, do obligate and bind myself to pay to the said J. S. Black, Wm. Lawrence, and Wilson Shannon sr., the sum of ——— dollars, so soon as the court of final resort shall determine that said railroad company is not entitled to said lands, and that the same are subject to preemption under the laws of the United States. The determination of any one case is to be considered as determining the legal questions as to all other lands similarly situated as to the legal questions involved in the case.

"Given under my hand, this — day of —, A. D. 1873.

"Attest: ——— [Seal.]"

In this way the main part of the money required to meet the expenses of the suit was raised: but in January, 1874, the Legislature passed an act appropriating \$2,500 on the part of the State to assist in this enterprise. The incidental expenses of the association were met by quarterly dues of twenty-five cents per member.

It is not improbable that many settlers spent as much in time and money in carrying on the contest as their homes would have cost them had they purchased them from the railroad companies; but taking the whole body of settlers the cost was comparatively small compared with what they would have had to pay for their title had they obtained it through the railroad companies. One thing that had a strong tendency to unite the settlers in making the contest was the exorbitant price put upon the lands by the companies when they were placed on the market and offered for sale. Had the lands, as soon as the companies obtained their patents, been offered for sale at a fair price, it is not unlikely that so large a proportion of the settlers would have purchased, that the others would have been without sufficient strength to successfully inaugurate and carry on the contest.

The settlers had a right to congratulate themselves over the result, not only because it secured them individually great personal advantages, but not less because it was a vindication of a right principle, and showed that a body of men, though poor, when banded together and determined may secure their rights even against great odds.

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